



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Commission on remuneration for LegCo members formed

The Government announced today (Tuesday) the composition of the new Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Legislative Council.

Professor Wang Gungwu is appointed Chairman of the Commission. Members include Mr Cheng Hon-kwan, Mr Christopher Cheng Wai-chee, Dr Thomas Leung Kwok-fai, Miss Gladys Li Chi-hei and Mr Lawrence Lam Yin-ming.

Their term of appointment is one year starting from December 1.

"The function of the Commission are as recommended in the report of the former commission --- that is to carry out regular reviews of the remuneration of non-official members and to advise the Government on the interpretation of guidelines for the use of members' allowances," a Government spokesman said.

"The Commission will also advise the Government on any other issues related to the remuneration of Legco members."

Except for Miss Gladys Li and Mr Lawrence Lam, the other four appointees were members of the former Commission appointed by the Governor in July last year to review the remuneration package for members of the Legislative Council.

"We are pleased that all former members have agreed to continue to serve on the new Commission. Their presence will ensure that the new Commission contains some people who are familiar with the subject," the spokesman added.

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Legal study delegation returns to Hong Kong

A group of Hong Kong Government officials, led by the Crown Solicitor, Mr Ian Wingfield, returned to Hong Kong today (Tuesday) after an eight-day legal study visit to Peking and Shanghai.

The visit is a continuation of the programme of reciprocal legal visits started in 1988 and it is the fourth such visit made by Hong Kong officials.

During the visit, the delegation, comprising five officials from the Legal Department and one from the Constitutional Affairs Branch, had useful meetings with officials of the legal and judicial institutions in Peking and Shanghai.

Members of the delegation also learnt a great deal about the legal and judicial systems in China.

In Beijing, the delegation met senior officials of the Ministry of Justice, including the Vice-Minister Mr Zheng Seng. They also had discussions with the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and a senior judge of the Supreme People's Court.

In Shanghai, the Hong Kong team met the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Justice, Mr Miao Xiaobao, and other officials. They also met representatives of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, as well as members of the Shanghai judiciary.

During a visit to Fudan University, members of the delegation had a useful and interesting discussion with the teaching staff of the Law Department, including Professor Li Chengdao.

Mr Wingfield said on his return today: "The delegation acquired a good understanding of the work of the various legal and judicial institutions in Peking and Shanghai, and the civil, legal and judicial systems.

"There is a clear wish on both sides to increase contacts and further improve this understanding.

"In legal circles, there was a general appreciation of the need to maintain and develop recognition and enforcement of civil judgments and other forms of mutual legal assistance in civil matters between Hong Kong and China both before and after 1997," he said.

Mr Wingfield also noted that it had been suggested that a delegation from Beijing would visit Hong Kong in the near future to have detailed discussions of the practical arrangements that could be implemented.

He also said officials met by the delegation in Shanghai had expressed interest in public construction contract, city construction and planning laws, and the regulation of lawyers.

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Govt resolving lease dispute in Cheung Chau

The Government is pressing ahead with proposals to resolve the dispute between Wong Wai Tsak Tong and its sub-lessees in Cheung Chau.

A spokesman for the Planning, Environment and Lands Branch explained that the Government could not unilaterally abolish the legal position of the Tong as the Crown Lessee under the Block Crown Lease.

To address the sub-lessees' concerns regarding the renewal of their sub-leases, the payment of Government rent and fees charged by the Tong for agreeing to lease modifications and land exchanges, the Government is in the process of drafting legislation for introduction to the Legislative Council in April next year to regulate the Tong's relationship with the sub-lessees.

The proposed legislation will renew the great majority of sub-leases registered in the Land Registry, through to 2047.

The proposed legislation will also enable sub-lessees to pay Government rent directly to the Government and to allow the Tong to collect from the sub-lessees the amount specified in the sub-leases, but no other charges and fees.

Finally, the Tong will be deemed under the legislation to have given its consent for lease modifications and land exchanges sought by the sub-lessees. In return, the Tong would be allowed to charge a fee equivalent to no more than 10 per cent of the premium chargeable by the Government for the grant of a lease modification or land exchange.

The spokesman said, subject to the enactment of the legislation, implementation of these measures should largely address the concerns of the sub-lessees while taking account of the legal and other interests of both sides as far as possible.

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Design study on West Kowloon Reclamation underway

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An urban design study on West Kowloon Reclamation is being carried out by a consultancy firm on behalf of the Planning Department.

The Director of Planning, Dr Peter Pun, has recently signed a consultancy agreement on the study with Urbis Travers Morgan Limited.

A spokesman for the department said today (Tuesday) that the study was intended to provide a consolidated urban design framework and overall concept for the West Kowloon Reclamation which had an area of about 300 hectares stretching from Sham Shui Po to Yau Ma Tei.

Detailed design parameters for individual development sites within the area will also be formulated.

"The study will take on board existing land use proposals and recommend preferred height bands, built forms, building lines, visual corridors and pedestrian networks, and so on, for the West Kowloon Reclamation.

"It will also provide detailed design and development parameters, such as plot ratios, maximum building heights, set-backs and pedestrian walkways, for all commercial and residential and some selected industrial sites in the area.

"These parameters will in turn be incorporated into the lease conditions when the sites are put up for sale," the spokesman added.

In the study, environmental considerations, such as noise control and landscaping, will be taken into account. Linkages to the existing urban areas will also be carefully considered to ensure that the new developments in the West Kowloon Reclamation will function as a natural extension of the existing urban core.

The study is expected to be completed by June next year.

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School-based curriculum projects exhibition

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A total of 43 school-based curriculum projects undertaken by 36 schools will be displayed in an exhibition at the Hong Kong Teachers' Centre on Saturday (December 10) and from December 12 to 14.

These projects, involving the participation of 92 teachers, are designed to adapt the centrally designed curriculum to match the needs and abilities of their students.

A spokesman for the Education Department said: "School-based Curriculum Project Scheme organised by the department with the support of the Curriculum Development Council has been launched since 1988 to encourage the development of school-based curriculum."

The scheme not only encourages teachers to adapt the centrally designed curriculum into forms of educational experiences appropriate to the ability and specific needs of students in their schools but also helps to enhance the professionalism of teachers.

Under the 1993-94 School-based Curriculum Project Scheme, a total of 43 projects, among which three are at kindergarten level, 10 at primary level and 30 at secondary level, are of exceptionally good quality.

The Director of Education, Mr Dominic S W Wong, will present letters of appreciation to participating teachers who completed the projects with satisfactory results in an opening ceremony on Saturday (December 10).

Also attending the ceremony will be Chairman of the Curriculum Development Council, Mr Kenneth Ting; Chairman of the School-based Curriculum Project Scheme Advisory Committee, Dr Tam Man-kwan; and Chief Executive of the Curriculum Development Institute, Dr Leung Yat-ming.

The projects will be displayed at the Hong Kong Teachers' Centre, Pak Fuk Road, on December 10 (between 11 am and 6 pm) and from December 12 to 14 (between 9 am and 6 pm).

Note to Editors:

Your representatives are invited to cover the 1993-94 School-Based Curriculum Projects Exhibition opening ceremony at 10.30 am on Saturday (December 10) at the Teachers' Centre, Pak Fuk Road, North Point,

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TOC teacher training in full swing

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The majority of primary school teachers taking part in two three-day seminars on the Target Oriented Curriculum (TOC) considered that the seminars were useful to the implementation of TOC, according to an end-of-course questionnaire survey.

The seminars, which commenced on November 22 and 29 respectively, were the first two in a series organised by the Education Department for all panel chairmen in the three core subjects of Chinese, English and Mathematics in 945 primary schools in the territory.

A spokesman for the Education Department said the seminars were organised to familiarise participants with teaching, learning and assessment in TOC, and the roles of the panel chairmen in implementing the curriculum.

The spokesman said out of the 226 teachers who responded to a questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of the two seminars, 153 (68 per cent) said the contents of the seminar were useful.

Overall, about 69 per cent of the respondents found the seminars helpful for them in implementing TOC in their schools.

The spokesman said most panel chairmen participated actively in the seminars and were very enthusiastic in finding ways and means to enhance implementation of TOC in their schools.

They were eager to learn more and commented that all teachers, not just panel chairpersons, should take part in teacher education programmes on TOC.

From February next year, the department will also organise four-day school-based preparatory programmes for the 70 Phase I schools to prepare their teachers of English, Chinese and Mathematics to implement TOC in Primary 1 from September 1995.

The spokesman said the implementation of TOC would be extended to higher levels year by year and by September 2000 TOC would be adopted throughout all classes in primary schools.

The spokesman stressed that TOC addressed the imminent needs of Hong Kong's education system.

He said: "Apart from making learning a more pleasurable experience through pupil-centred activities, TOC helps pupils to relate learning to their daily experience, to learn how to learn, and to enhance their verbal and written abilities.

"It also facilitates early identification of their weaknesses and problems for immediate remedy before these are carried to higher levels. Tryouts at Primary 4 and 5 have given evidence of these functions of TOC.

"The introduction of TOC at Primary 1 also synchronises nicely with the teaching methodology common in kindergartens, that is, using themes, games and activities to aid learning, thus making the transition from pre-primary to primary education more natural and removes the adaptation problem of the very young pupils," the spokesman said.

The spokesman appealed to school heads, teachers, pupils, parents, teacher associations, tertiary institutions and publishers to work with the Education Department to make the implementation of TOC a success.

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Seminar on open employment for the disabled

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The Selective Placement Division of the Labour Department will organise a seminar on open employment for the disabled tomorrow (Wednesday).

The aim of the seminar is to promote employers' awareness of the employment needs of the disabled through better understanding of their working abilities.

There will be panel discussions, work demonstrations by the disabled, a video show and an exhibition.

The seminar is co-organised with the Rehabilitation Development Co-ordinating Committee Employment Subcommittee, major employers' associations and personnel managers' associations in Hong Kong.

Attention News Editors:

The opening ceremony of the Seminar on Open Employment for the Disabled will be held at 9.30 am tomorrow (Wednesday) in Room 401, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Officiating at the ceremony will be the Commissioner for Labour, Mr Yiu Yan-nang, and Chairman of Rehabilitation Development Co-ordinating Committee Employment Sub-committee, Mr Vincent Cheng.

You are invited to send representatives to cover the event.

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Post Christmas cards early

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The Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, announced today (Tuesday) that the latest date for posting Christmas cards for local delivery before Christmas was December 19 (Monday). "Postings after this date might run the risk of not being delivered in time because of anticipated seasonal pressure of work," he said.

He advised members of the public to post as early as possible to avoid a last-minute rush.

Mr Pagliari also announced that a special mail delivery would be provided on December 18 (Sunday) and on December 27 (Tuesday).

A special collection service for posting boxes would also be provided on December 18.

No delivery would be made on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and the New Year holiday.

All post offices would be closed during the Christmas and the New Year holidays.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Tender Date | 6 Dec 94 | 6 Dec 94 |
| Paper on Offer | EF Bills | EF Bills |
| Issue Number | Q449 | H479 |
| Amount Applied | HK\$3,530 MN | HK\$2,050 MN |
| Amount Allotted | HK\$1,500 MN | HK\$800 MN |
| Average Yield Accepted | 5.65 PCT | 6.08PCT |
| Highest Yield Accepted | 5.69 PCT | 6.12 PCT |
| Pro Rata Ratio | About 9 PCT | About 20 PCT |
| Average Tender Yield | 5.68 PCT | 6.16 PCT |

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 12 Dec 94 -

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Tender Date | 13 Dec 94 |
| Paper on Offer | EF Bills |
| Issue Number | Q450 |
| Issue Date | 14 Dec 94 |
| Maturity Date | 15 Mar 95 |
| Tenor | 91 Days |
| Amount on Offer | HK\$1,500 MN + 300 MN |

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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| | <u>\$ million</u> | <u>Time (hours)</u> | <u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Opening balance in the account | 1,544 | 0930 | -5 |
| Closing balance in the account | 1,424 | 1000 | -5 |
| Change attributable to : | | 1100 | -25 |
| Money market activity | -78 | 1200 | -24 |
| LAF today | -42 | 1500 | -44 |
| | | 1600 | -78 |

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 121.9 *-0.1* 6.12.94

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

| EF bills | | EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Terms | Yield | Term | Issue | Coupon | Price | Yield |
| 1 week | 4.58 | 18 months | 2605 | 6.35 | 99.18 | 7.07 |
| 1 month | 5.14 | 24 months | 2611 | 6.90 | 99.27 | 7.44 |
| 3 months | 5.59 | 29 months | 3704 | 6.15 | 97.07 | 7.65 |
| 6 months | 6.04 | 35 months | 3710 | 7.25 | 98.82 | 7.86 |
| 12 months | 6.71 | 58 months | 5909 | 7.45 | 97.06 | 8.37 |

Total turnover of bills and bonds - 21,576 million

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