



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
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Saturday, July 27, 1996

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Clear Channel on Personal Communications Services

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The Acting Governor, Mr Donald Tsang, today (Saturday) welcomed the Joint Liaison Group's agreement to the issue of six Personal Communications Services (PCS) licences in Hong Kong.

"This is a most welcome development which will enable a significant expansion of the territory's telecommunications market," he said.

"Issue of the licences will allow the successful bidders to make investments of more than HK\$6 billion in aggregate over the next few years and will lead to the creation of more than 2,500 new jobs in the telecommunications industry."

"I am pleased to see such a boost being given to our economy at this significant point in Hong Kong's history," Mr Tsang added.

The six successful bidders are Hutchison Telephone Company Limited, Mandarin Communications Limited, New World PCS Limited, P-Plus Communications Limited, Pacific Link Communications Limited and People's Telephone Company Limited.

The Telecommunications Authority (TA) will get in touch with these companies to finalise the formalities for the issue of the licences within the next few weeks.

Also welcoming the agreement, the Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Stephen Ip, said: "For consumers, the new PCS licences will mean more choice in mobile telephony suppliers with several new companies joining the existing field of four cellular suppliers.

"With the rapid growth in the number of customers, which now exceed one million, the market requires more suppliers and we believe that this will lead to healthy competition resulting in substantial benefits to the consumers.

"Consumers would benefit in lower customer charges and improved service quality."

"The six PCS licences were hotly contested by fourteen bidders. The successful bidders have offered prices which are considerably lower than existing cellular prices and improved quality of service," he said.

"The PCS licensees will be held to meeting these commitments through large performance bonds.

"When the licences are issued by the TA in the next few weeks, they will be made public and details of the commitments made by the licensees will be available for all to see," he added.

"Undoubtedly this is very good news for the consumers as well as the telecommunications industry in Hong Kong."

End

Paper-saving study to be conducted

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Developers could sigh a relief as plans are afoot to eradicate the need to submit voluminous hard-copy building plans to the Buildings Department for consideration and approval.

The department - thanks to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for a grant of \$3 million - will appoint a consultant to carry out a feasibility study on the submission of building plans in computer diskettes.

The Assistant Director of Buildings (Structural Engineering), Mr Ng Hon-keung, said the project would lead to the implementation of an environmental-friendly scheme which required the application of advanced computer technology in the submission and processing of plans.

"We hope that eventually all the drawings and structural calculations prepared by architects or engineers can be prepared in computer diskette format and submitted to the Buildings Department for checking and record keeping via a computer retrieval system.

"The proposed scheme will make possible a considerable saving of papers and will directly benefit both the building professionals and the Government in the saving of time, storage space and transportation.

"In broader perspective, it contributes towards the building of a green and healthy environment in Hong Kong," Mr Ng said.

Mr Ng said over 15,000 sets of plans and structural calculations, or equal to a total weight of 450 tonnes of papers, were submitted to the Buildings Department every year for checking and approval.

"Saving paper is therefore no longer an extra option in the building industry, but an urgent environmental imperative for every body," he said.

End

\$12 million compensation awarded to crime victims

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The Criminal Compensation Board and the Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation (CLEIC) Board have paid out about \$12 million to victims or their dependents in 1994-95, according to their latest annual report.

These payments were made in 1,003 criminal injuries cases and three law enforcement injuries cases, bringing the total payment of grants awarded to \$95.08 million since the inception of the CLEIC Scheme in 1973.

A spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said 979 applications for criminal injuries compensation were received in the year, as compared with 869 in the preceding year.

Among them, 799 were related to assault and wounding; 130 to robbery, theft and burglary; 33 to homicide, murder and manslaughter; seven to injuries caused by falling objects; five to arson; three to sexual offences and two to others.

Regarding the source of applications, 805 of them were referred by the Police, 142 submitted by the victims themselves or their families, and the rest referred by SWD and other organisations, the spokesman said.

During the year, the largest single payment was a sum of \$1,170,354 awarded to a delivery worker who was accidentally shot by the police during a raid. The smallest amount was \$391.

The CLEIC Scheme is designed to provide financial assistance to people and to their dependents who are victims of violent crimes or are killed or injured in helping to prevent crime in Hong Kong.

The Scheme also provides for the payment of compensation where a person is killed or injured by law enforcement officers using weapons in the execution of their duties. The Scheme does not involve a means test and is non-contributory.

For enquiries, please contact CITIC Section of SWD on 2838 6079.

End

Handbook to help parents fight children's drug abuse

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A handbook to make parents more knowledgeable about drugs has been produced by the Southern District Fight Crime Committee and the Caritas Outreaching Social Work Team - Aberdeen to help them keep their children away from drugs.

The booklet listed some commonly used drugs and their effect on users, highlighted the behavioural patterns of young drug abusers and suggested ways of improving parents-children communication.

It also gave the telephone numbers of agencies which parents can turn to for help if their children have become addicted to drugs.

Copies of the handbook, printed with financial subsidy from the Southern District Board, have been sent to primary and secondary schools, children and youth centres, mutual aid committees and owners' corporations in the Southern District.

Residents can also obtain the booklet from the Southern District Office at ground floor, Mei Fung Court, 7-11 Nam Ning Street, Aberdeen.

End

Flushing water cut in Tai Po

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The flushing water supply to some premises in Tai Po North will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (July 30) to 10 am on Thursday (August 1) for checking on the flushing water supply system.

The suspension will affect all premises in Yuen Shin Road, Tin Kok Road west of Yuen Shin Road, Chuen On Road, Tung Leung Road, Tung Leung Lane, Fu Chung Lane, Fu Heng Estate, Chung Nga Court, Fu Shin Estate, Yee Nga Court, Ming Nga Court, On Po Road, On Po Lane, Sun Hing Garden, New Territories North Regional Police Headquarters, Tai Po Police Station, Tai Yuen Estate, Ting Nga Court, On Pong Road, On Tai Road, On Cheung Road, On Man Square, On Chee Road, On Ho Lane, Ting Lai Road, San Wai Tsai, Indoor Recreation Centre, Tai Po Swimming Pool, Ting Tai Road, Kau Hui Chik Street, Chui Lok Street, Wang Tau Kai, Mei Sun Lane, Ping On Lane, Chui Wo Lane, Chui Yi Street, Tai Po Tai Wo Road, Ying Pun Ha, Tai Po Sports Ground, Tai Po Tau Road, Serenity Park, Tai Po Government Offices, Tai Po Fire Station, Tai Wo Estate, KCR Tai Wo Station, Po Nga Court, San Wa On Lane, Tai Po Tau Drive, Tai Wo and Yuen Chau Tsai sections of Tai Po Road, Tai Po Garden and the Green Valley.

End

Firing practice in August

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Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on 8 days next month. The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

Date	Time
August 5 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
August 6 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
August 8 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
August 15 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
August 19 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
August 20 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
August 28 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
August 29 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,251	09:30	-291
Closing balance in the account	2,095	10:00	-291
Change attributable to:		11:00	-291
Money market activity	-291	11:30	-291
LAF today	+135		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.0 *+0.1* 27.7.96

End

Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

Following is the full text of Governor the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's "Letter to Hong Kong" this (Sunday) morning:

I'm writing this letter watching the rain slamming down on the terrace outside my window. Violent and seemingly endless. When it rains like this in Hong Kong, you tend to forget about all those glorious days, with blue skies and a gentle but warm breeze. Unfortunately you don't get too many of them in July and August, as you know, months when it's not always easy to feel chirpy about life - unless that is you're about to set off on your holidays.

Those of us who are, while making an apology to those who will stay at home, find ourselves this year in an even more curious position than is normal for about-to-be holidaymakers. A summer holiday is always a real break between one year's work and the next. More of a break in some ways than the New Year's holiday. But when we return in the autumn, we know that the count-down to the hand-over of sovereignty here in Hong Kong will have begun in earnest.

As the moments tick away in the autumn there will be some important things to decide, for instance the identity of my successor, the Chief Executive-Designate. We all hope that the process of selection will be as open, fair and broadly based as possible. If it's not, many people will wonder with some justice what all the fuss has been about. And of course, the fairer the system the more credible the winner. We all want to see a Chief Executive emerge who can command the support and loyalty of as many Hong Kongers as possible, and who can draw into the debate about our community's future every shade - every shade - of opinion. A Chief Executive will also have to appeal to the world beyond Hong Kong, demonstrating that Hong Kong's autonomy is for real, and that will be a lot easier if the international press is reporting that the selection was open and fair.

But what sort of Hong Kong will my successor govern?

A city far more successful than was predicted. More successful, for a start, economically. The economic disasters, so widely forecast, simply haven't happened. Anyone who says something like that should touch wood just in case, and I'll do that now, but I'll do it knowing that the figures still point in the right direction. Only this week we had more good figures on inflation, steady now at less than half the figure of 5 years ago. Hong Kong remains an economy on which the world is placing its bets.

Other predictions about Hong Kong have - happily - come unstuck as well. On crime, to take one important example. It used to be argued that as 1997 approached, Hong Kong would be engulfed by a crime wave. That just hasn't happened. Crime did rise in 1994 and '95 - albeit to levels which would be regarded elsewhere in the world as pretty low - but this year it's fallen sharply by 12.2 per cent and violent crime, which is particularly unsettling, has fallen by a bit more.

Do you regard Singapore as a crime ridden city? A tough and violent town? No - of course, you don't. But don't forget that crime here is about on a par with Singapore, according to Interpol: sometimes a bit better, sometimes a bit worse. By most yardsticks, Hong Kong is remarkably unthreatening, remarkably peaceful.

That isn't an endorsement of complacency. Our Commissioner of Police isn't complacent and nor am I. For the victim of crime, any criminal act is 100 per cent too much. What's more there is a worrying incidence of break-ins and robberies, often by illegal immigrants, which makes people worry about whether they can really rest secure at night. We're going to pay more attention to stamping out this sort of crime. And I don't want people to think that it's a sign of things to come. There's no reason at all why 1997 should bring more crime to Hong Kong. We will have the same superb police force, which co-operates very well at the operational level with the police across the border. Our police will continue to be answerable to the government here. We'll still have our own border, our own Fight Crime Committees, our own commitment to keeping Hong Kong safe.

Those who worry about crime, also worry very often about a surge in corruption. That, too, is not some inevitable consequence of next year's handover. There's every reason for China and Hong Kong to co-operate vigorously in stamping out corruption. Don't forget that corruption isn't "one way traffic". People or companies from Hong Kong shouldn't behave corruptly in China, nor mainland companies or individuals corruptly here.

Again, if we keep our institutions, and keep the teams that run them as intact as possible, we should be able to keep corruption at bay.

That matters very much if we are to stay successful, a good city in which to live, work and raise a family.

I'm determined so long as I have responsibility in this community to stand resolutely behind every effort to maintain our standards, and to hold at bay threats to undermine them.

We have to retain the integrity of our public services, especially those in the most sensitive areas and in those parts of public administration which have a direct bearing on our autonomy and on how the world sees us. We have to be equally resolute in seeing that the law is applied vigorously without fear or favour, and that the highest standards of commercial probity are set and maintained. That may from time to time produce unhelpful headlines. But it's far better to be seen insisting on the proper regulation of commercial life than standing by while standards slip and slide. If we want to be regarded as a great international business centre, then we have to act like one.

Some of you may detect a familiar theme starting to emerge. As ever, I'm convinced that the most important condition for Hong Kong's future success is belief in ourselves.

Will we have a censored press and television? Not if the press don't censor themselves, changing their editorial lines 180 degrees in response to what they imagine is today politically correct.

Will we have a continuation of democratic development, after perhaps some grinding of gears and the occasional puncture? Yes, we will - if people don't shrug their shoulders and resign themselves to losing one of the most precious rights of citizenship.

Will we have an incorrupt, accountable, well-served government operating under the rule of law. Yes, if we show how much these things matter to us.

Hong Kong doesn't have to be crime-ridden. Doesn't have to be corrupt. Doesn't have to watch standards slither. Doesn't have to acquire a reputation for financial skulduggery. Doesn't have to lose the qualities that have made it a great city.

It's the people of Hong Kong who can and will make the difference. All the difference. And that will be true as the hands of the clock move inexorably towards midnight on the 30th June next year, and more to the point it will be even more true afterwards.

We really mustn't forget that - not even on holiday!

End

Leaflet on small house grant published

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The Lands Department has published a pamphlet on how to apply for a small house grant in accordance with the New Territories small house policy.

A spokesman for the department said the pamphlet served to inform how an indigenous villager in the New Territories could, under the Government's current policy and practice, apply for a small house grant.

"The pamphlet gives detailed explanations on the definitions of 'indigenous villager' and eligibility criteria. It also contains information on method of application and procedures, building covenant and certificate of compliance, and channels for enquiries and appeals," he said.

The spokesman said the pamphlet was not intended to create any legal rights or obligations and served only to explain the key features of current government New Territories small house policy.

"The New Territories small house policy, implemented since December 1972, is designed to allow an indigenous villager to apply for permission to erect for himself during his lifetime a small house within his own village," he said.

Free copies of the pamphlet can be obtained from all district lands offices of the Lands Department.

End

Guidance on further studies and careers for S5 leavers

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Extended service on careers advice for Secondary Five school leavers will be available at the Careers Education Centre of the Education Department at Room 206, second floor, Mong Kok Government Offices at 30 Luen Wan Street, Mong Kok.

Upon release of the results of the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination on August 7, the centre will extend its opening hours from 8.45 am to 5.30 pm without lunch break on August 7 (Wednesday), August 8 (Thursday), August 9 (Thursday) and August 12 (the following Monday).

An educational counsellor will also be present to provide assistance to students with emotional problems during the opening hours of the centre from August 7 to August 12. Students can also contact the educational counsellor on 2712 7958.

Students can get access to materials on opportunities for further studies and training, and information on various professions. Officers will also be available at the centre to give careers guidance.

Normal opening hours of the centre are between 8.45 am to 12.45 pm and 2.15 pm to 4.45 pm from Mondays to Fridays, and 9.15 am to 11.45 am on Saturdays.

For enquiries regarding the Careers Education Centre, please dial 2399 2184.

End

Fund-raising schedule for August

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Thirteen organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next month, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

He also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
August 3	Yan Chai Hospital
August 10	The Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod
August 17	The Road Safety Association Ltd
August 24	ReHabAid Society
August 31	World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong

Subscription

<u>Event Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
August 1, 2, 4 & 5	Hong Kong Southern District Community Association Ltd
August 1, 2 & 5 - 25	Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF
August 3, 4 & 9 - 26	World Vision Hong Kong

August 3, 10, 17 & 31	Shepherd Community Church
August 4, 11, 18 & 25	Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd
August 10 & 11	Raleigh International Hong Kong
August 18	Sowers Action
August 30 & 31	Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd

End