



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,  
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Wednesday, August 7, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Acting Governor welcomes Japan Foreign Minister's visit .....	1
Changes in matrimonial proceedings recommended .....	1
Over 10,000 S6 places still available after Stage I .....	3
Inmates attain good results in HKCEE .....	4
Pre-qualification for smart card parking system .....	5
Dangerous roof-top structures to be demolished .....	6
90 per cent students got S4 and post-S3 craft course places .....	7
Transfer of VMs from Whitehead Detention Centre today .....	8
Kwai Chung lot to let .....	9
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations .....	10

Acting Governor welcomes Japan Foreign Minister's visit

\* \* \* \* \*

The acting Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Wednesday) welcomed the visit of the Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr Yukihiro Ikeda, to Hong Kong from August 28 to 29.

Mrs Chan said the visit by the Foreign Minister would further strengthen the close ties which already exist between the two places.

Japan is Hong Kong's third largest trading partner. Total Hong Kong/Japan trade last year amounted to \$303.2 billion. Japan is also the second largest external investor in the territory with realised direct investment amounting at end 1994 to \$151 billion.

There are now some 2,000 Japanese companies in Hong Kong which have a significant stake in most sectors of the local economy. Over 25,000 Japanese nationals live and work in the territory.

Mr Ikeda will call on the acting Governor on August 28. He is visiting Hong Kong on his way back to Japan from the Middle East.

End

Changes in matrimonial proceedings recommended

\* \* \* \* \*

The working group to review practices and procedures relating to matrimonial proceedings has recommended that all uncontested divorce cases shall fall under the special procedure list in the Family Court so that parties need not attend the court hearing dissolving the marriage.

This is one of the recommendations contained in the report by the working group which was appointed by the Chief Justice in November 1994 to review the practices and procedures relating to matrimonial proceedings and to make recommendations for changes where appropriate.

At present, only some of the uncontested divorce petitions fall into the special procedure list under which parties to the cases need not attend the court hearing in person.

The working group recommended that all uncontested divorces should fall under this list, no matter what the grounds of divorce are and whether or not there are children of the family. Such arrangement will save parties concerned from an emotional, embarrassing and sometimes humiliating experience.

If matters of custody, ancillary relief or costs are still to be resolved, the solicitors acting for the petitioners will be required to seek a separate private hearing date for those issues.

The proposed arrangement for uncontested cases would allow the court to focus on the substantive issue of children's welfare by having a private hearing during which that matter can be canvassed in a more informal and relaxed atmosphere.

On the duration of the maintenance orders for children, the working group noted that existing legislation stipulates a period until the children reach 16, or where the court thinks it right in the circumstances of the case, a longer period which may be specified in the order.

With the development of the education system in Hong Kong, most children now remain financially dependent at the age of 16.

As the court seldom specifies a longer duration in the maintenance order, it is necessary for applications for an extension of the duration of such orders to be lodged with additional costs on the paying party.

The working group therefore recommended legislative amendment so that the duration of maintenance orders for children would be from the date of application to the date when the children attain the age of 16 or until such time they complete full time education, whichever is the later.

Other recommendations include empowering the court to make orders for attachment of earnings in matrimonial proceedings and to order the sale of matrimonial property in cases where it deems fit.

The working group also considered a proposal to introduce mediation in family disputes.

Members of the working group strongly supported the concept of promoting mediation services as an option in contested matrimonial proceedings because mediation offers an alternative to adjudication through the court and it could help reduce the need for further litigation. This is also in line with procedures in other countries.

Since training for qualified mediators had just begun, members of the working group feels that there is probably insufficient qualified mediators to support an efficient mediation policy at this stage. Members were therefore of the view that the option should be examined again when a reasonable pool of professionally qualified mediators are available in Hong Kong.

The working group has submitted the report to the Chief Justice who has accepted the recommendations in principle.

End

#### Over 10,000 S6 places still available after Stage I

\* \* \* \* \*

Stage I of the secondary 6 admission procedure, which ended at 3.30 pm today (Wednesday), resulted in about 13,000 secondary 5 leavers being successful in acquiring S6 places.

Acting senior education officer, Mr Tang Fat-yuen, said 10,879 S6 places would be available at Stage II which would begin tomorrow.

He said a list of schools with vacancies would be displayed at all district education offices from 9 am tomorrow. Students may also obtain the information in some newspapers which will publish the list on the same day.

Students with 14 points or more from the best six subjects in one sitting of the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) may apply to one or more of these schools before 1 pm tomorrow.

Prevocational school students who satisfy minimum A-level entry requirements may apply to their own or other prevocational schools. If they have obtained 14 points or more, they may apply to other schools as well.

Mr Tang said private and evening school students candidates with 14 points or more could apply to PLK Vicwood K T Chong Sixth Form College or any other school.

Schools with vacancies may offer S6 places to eligible applicants instantly. Some of them, however, may notify the applicants of the results by 2.30 pm. Successful applicants should register with only one school before 4.30 pm.

The Education Department has received four complaints today about schools not following the admission procedure.

Meanwhile, the department's central hotline, 2782 7037-9 and 2782 7340 and the 19 district education offices handled about 230 and 257 enquiries respectively on the admission procedure today.

The hotline will continue to operate from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm on weekdays and 9 am to noon on Saturdays.

The department's Careers Education Centre had received 372 visitors and handled 208 telephone enquiries on matters relating to the release of HKCEE results up to 5.30 pm today.

The centre at Room 206 of the Mong Kok Government Offices at 30 Luen Wan Street, Mong Kok, provides students with materials on opportunities for further studies and training and information on various professions.

Students are reminded that the centre will extend its opening hours without a break from 8.45 am to 5.30 pm until August 12 and that an educational counsellor can be reached on 2712 7958 during that period.

End

#### Inmates attain good results in HKCEE

\* \* \* \* \*

Inmates from six correctional institutions who worked hard at their studies have obtained good results in this year's Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE).

A total of 48 inmates, aged between 17 and 44, took a total of 143 papers in 20 subjects and gained a pass rate of 65.73 per cent.

Seventeen credits and 77 passes were obtained. They performed best in the subjects of mathematics and principles of accounts.

The majority of inmates who sat for this year's HKCEE are from Pik Uk Correctional Institution, with 34 inmates, the rest are from Stanley Prison, Tung Tau Correctional Institution, Lai King Training Centre, Cape Collinson Correctional Institution and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution.

A spokesman for the Correctional Services Department said: "It is always the department's policy to encourage and to assist inmates to sit for the HKCEE and other public examinations.

"Since 1985, some 352 inmates have been arranged to sit for HKCEE and the pass rate is always encouraging although it varies every year."

End

#### Pre-qualification for smart card parking system

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government is inviting interested parties to apply for inclusion in a pre-qualification list to tender for the supply and installation of a Smart Card operated parking system (SCOPS) in Hong Kong.

A notice on the invitation will be published in the Government Gazette on Friday (August 9).

The Government is going to replace by phases in three years from 1997 all street mechanical parking meters with electronic parking devices to be activated by pre-paid contact type smart cards.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said today (Wednesday) that only those who had been shortlisted in the pre-qualification exercise would be invited to tender for the contract.

The successful tenderer for the contract will be required to undertake the design, manufacture, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning, documentation and maintenance of all electronic parking devices, electronic payment terminals, smart cards, ancillary equipment and associated software forming SCOPS.

By producing a company letter indicating their interest in bidding the contract, interested parties including joint ventures may obtain the pre-qualification booklet during office hours from:

- \* Procurement Division, Government Supplies Department at 12 Oil Street, North Point, Hong Kong;
- \* Central and Western District Office, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong; and
- \* Yau Tsim Mong District Office, Mong Kok Government Offices, ground floor, 30 Luen Wan Street, Kowloon.

Application should be prepared in accordance with the requirements stated in the booklet and addressed to the Chairman of the Central Tender Board.

It should be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box at the lift lobby of the lower ground floor of the Central Government Offices, East Wing, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, by noon on October 4.

Late submission will not be accepted.

End

#### Dangerous roof-top structures to be demolished

\*\*\*\*\*

The Buildings Department today (Wednesday) announced that three unauthorised roof-top structures at No 89 to 99 Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, would be demolished for public safety.

A notice of intention was issued to the occupants this morning informing them that a closure order would be obtained from Hong Kong District Court on December 11.

The department's Chief Building Surveyor (Control and Enforcement), Mr Tong Kam-man, said the means of escape leading to the roof of the building was completely blocked by the illegal structures.

"It is necessary to remove the structures because they have posed an imminent danger to all the residents of the building in case of fire.

"Government contractor will carry out the demolition work once the closure order is obtained," he said.

The Housing Department would arrange rehousing to the affected occupants according to their eligibility. The Social Welfare Department and Tsuen Wan District Office would also offer assistance to them if necessary, Mr Tong added.

End

#### 90 per cent students got S4 and post-S3 craft course places

\* \* \* \* \*

Over 90 per cent students had been allocated subsidised secondary 4 and post-secondary 3 craft course places this year, Senior Education Officer, Mrs Doris Ho, said today (Wednesday).

A total of 80,470 students participated in the junior secondary education assessment system this year. Apart from 653 students who have opted out during the year, 67,468 students have been allocated subsidised secondary 4 places. Among them, 58,861 students have been promoted to their own schools.

In addition, 4,432 students have been allocated full-time post-secondary 3 craft course places.

"Students should return to their original schools to check the allocation results tomorrow (Thursday)," Mrs Ho said.

Those students who have been allocated to other schools or technical institutes/industry training centres will be given a registration form which must be given to the allocated school during registration on Friday (August 9), she said.

If a student is unable to collect the registration form tomorrow or register on Friday, the parent should authorise, in writing, a representative to collect the form or register at the allocated school.

The letter of authorisation for registration must have been endorsed by the original school, she added.

For registration, a student must bring the following documents:

- (a) registration form;
- (b) his/her Hong Kong Identity Card; and
- (c) two recent passport-size photographs and money for paying one month's school fees which may be required by the school.

If a student fails to register on August 9, he/she would be deemed to have given up the subsidised school place.

Students who have not been allocated subsidised secondary 4 or post-secondary 3 craft course places will be provided with information sheets on the post-secondary 3 craft courses and alternative opportunities open to them.

Meanwhile, a small number of secondary 4 places are available in the government evening secondary school operated by the Adult Education Section of the Education Department.

Applicants should apply in person to the section at Room 1106, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, on August 8 and 9.

They should bring along the student's particulars slip issued by the department's education records and Junior Secondary Education Assessment (ER and JSEA) Section and a photocopy of the slip for retention by the Adult Education Section.

For information regarding the other courses operated by the adult education centres, please call 2892 6669.

Enquiries concerning the allocation results should be directed to the ER and JSEA Section on 2832 7770.

End

Transfer of VMs from Whitehead Detention Centre today

\* \* \* \* \*

A group of about 650 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) will be transferred from Section 6 of Whitehead Detention Centre (WHDC) to Victoria Prison (VP) today (Wednesday) in preparation for their return to Vietnam under the Orderly Repatriation Programme.

They will join a small group of VMs in VP for pre-flight documentation and medical checks.

A total of about 670 VMs will be repatriated to Vietnam in six flights on August 12, 15 and 22.

Meanwhile, about 540 VMs were transferred from Section 6 to Section 5 of WHDC yesterday, and another group of about 1,000 VMs will be transferred to High Island Detention Centre (HIDC) today. After these transfers, Section 6 of WHDC will be vacated.

The transfers to VP and HIDC will be observed by independent monitors.

End

Kwai Chung lot to let

\* \* \* \* \*

The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the short-term tenancy of a piece of government land at Container Port Road South, Kwai Chung.

The lot, with an area of about 44,700 square metres, is intended for use as a fee-paying public car park for the parking of goods vehicles, container tractors and trailers.

The tenancy is for one year, renewable monthly.

The closing date for submission of tenders is noon on August 23.

Tender form, tender notice and conditions can be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, and the district lands offices of Kowloon and Kwai Tsing.

Tender plan can also be inspected at these offices.

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	1,835	0930	+123
Closing balance in the account	1,924	1000	+123
Change attributable to :		1100	+123
Money market activity	+124	1200	+127
LAF today	- 35	1500	+127
		1600	+124

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.9 \*+0.2\* 7.8.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.98	2 years	2805	6.30	100.51	6.07
1 month	5.04	3 years	3907	6.80	101.03	6.51
3 months	5.15	5 years	5106	7.23	101.06	7.09
6 months	5.27	7 years	7305	7.60	101.71	7.41
12 months	5.63	5 years	M502	7.30	100.53	7.28

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$22,086 million

Closed August 7, 1996

End