



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Government committed to press freedom

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Commenting on the second annual report on Freedom of Expression in Hong Kong published by the Hong Kong Journalists Association last Friday (June 30), a Government spokesman affirmed that freedom of expression was vital to a free society.

"The Government is fully committed to press freedom and to whatever practical measures are necessary to preserve or reinforce it," he said.

The spokesman noted that the report gave little heed to the substantial progress made in the review of laws affecting press freedom or the granting of access to Government information.

"The review has covered 53 provisions in 27 Ordinances. By the end of this Legislative Council session we expect to have dealt with 42 of these provisions and will be reporting to LegCo on the remaining laws," he said.

The spokesman said the Government firmly believed that the public should be given as much information as possible to enhance understanding of public policies. He did not accept that this could only be achieved by a statutory access to information regime.

"The Government has devised an administrative code which provides a practical and effective access to information system which is well suited to Hong Kong and no less effective than a statutory regime," he said.

The spokesman recognised the growing concern over reports of self-censorship in the media.

He said: "The Government maintains an environment in Hong Kong in which a free and active press can operate under the minimum of regulation - regulation which does not fetter freedom of expression or editorial independence.

"However, Hong Kong people also look to their journalists, editors and newspaper proprietors to stand up for the integrity of their profession now and in the future."

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Work arrangements during rainstorms urged

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Prior agreement on work arrangements and contingency measures in times of rainstorms between employers and employees is important in avoiding unnecessary misunderstanding and disputes.

Senior Labour Officer (Labour Relations Promotion) of the Labour Department, Mrs Bernadette Lai, today (Monday) reminded employers and employees to reach an agreement on work arrangements during inclement weather without delay.

"Statutory regulations of work arrangements in times of rainstorms would not be practicable because of the diversity in nature and requirements of job in various trades and industries.

"Therefore, employers are strongly advised to adopt a flexible approach in drawing up work arrangements during inclement weather. Due consideration should be given to employees' safety in workplace as well as their journey to and from work," she said.

The Labour Department has published a bilingual booklet entitled "Code of Practice in Times of Typhoons and Rainstorms" which serves as a reference guide to facilitate employers and employees to make early work arrangements for inclement weather. This publication is available at various Labour Relations Service offices throughout the territory.

An agreement on work arrangements should normally cover rules regarding report of duty, release from work, resumption of work and wages calculation.

"The agreement should also state clearly the colour code of rainstorm under which employees are not required to work and the time of issue of such signals when they are not required to report for duty," Mrs Lai said.

Noting that some industries may require employees to work under the Black Rainstorm Warning, Mrs Lai said that such a requirement should be clearly stated before the employment commences or sufficient notice should be given to the employees.

"The work arrangements should also include instructions regarding the release of employees when the Red or Black Rainstorm Warning is in force during working hours," she said.

"Employers and employees should also make prior agreements on conditions under which employees should return to work when rainstorm warnings are lowered during working hours."

However, employers are urged to adopt a flexible approach towards resumption of duty as some employees may have difficulties in returning to work.

"As rainstorms are natural calamities, due consideration should also be given to employees who are absent from or late for work so that their earnings, including attendance bonus, are not adversely affected," Mrs Lai said.

Mrs Lai said the Employees' Compensation Ordinance had been amended to provide compensation to workers who were injured while travelling between their place of residence and their place of work when the Red or Black Rainstorm Warning was issued.

Employers or employees who require assistance are welcome to approach the nearest Labour Relations Service branch office.

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Public Records Office on the move

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The Public Records Office and its archives at 2 Murray Road, Central, will move to the fifth and sixth floor of Tuen Mun Government Storage Centre, 1 San Yick Lane, Tuen Mun, starting from this week.

The Office will be temporarily closed to the public until 2 pm on July 20 to allow time for the packing and unpacking of the archival records, all of which require very careful handling, a spokesman for the Government Records Service said today (Monday).

He said members of the public could make use of the Town Reading Centre on the sixth floor of Central Government Offices, West Wing, Lower Albert Road.

"The Centre holds a good collection of the most popular archival records, and the majority of visitors are likely to be able to readily find what they need there," he said.

The move of the archives to Tuen Mun is a temporary measure pending the completion of a permanent Public Records Building in Kwun Tong in mid-1997.

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Results of the 1993 Survey of Transport

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The business receipts and other income, i.e. total receipts, generated by transport establishments in 1993 amounted to \$191.6 billion, representing an increase of 16% over 1992.

Net of operating expenses and compensation of employees, the gross surplus accounted for 13.9% of the total receipts. This was 0.7 percentage point higher than the figure for 1992.

The value added, which is a measure of the sector's contribution to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product, grew by 11%, from \$48.0 billion in 1992 to \$53.2 billion in 1993.

These are some of the major findings of the 1993 Survey of Transport and Related Services released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department. The survey was conducted from May 1994 to early 1995.

All value figures in this press release are expressed in current price terms. Percentage changes derived from these figures have not been adjusted for price changes. Caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the survey results.

The operating expenses incurred by transport establishments in 1993 accounted for 72.3% of the total receipts. Compared with 1992, this decreased by 0.6 percentage point.

The compensation of employees accounted for 13.8% of the total receipts. This remained virtually unchanged at the 1992 level.

The survey results showed that some 42,000 transport establishments were in operation in 1993, an increase of 5% over 1992.

Within the transport sector, air transport and land passenger transport accounted for the largest share of value added in 1993, both accounting for 22% of the sector's total. These were followed by ocean and coastal water transport (18%), services incidental to transport (13%) and land freight transport (13%). Supporting services to water transport, inland water transport and supporting services to land transport accounted for the remaining 12%.

Compared with 1992, the share attributed to land freight transport rose by 0.9 percentage point, representing a percentage increase of 7%. This was due to the continued growth in cross-border transport of goods vehicles.

The share of total value added attributed to ocean and coastal water transport and services incidental to transport increased by 0.6 and 0.4 percentage point over 1992 respectively. These were mainly brought about by the operation of the first berth of Container Terminal No. 8 since mid 1993 and the continued growth in the business of cargo forwarders.

For inland water transport and supporting services to water transport, both their shares of total value added went up by 0.3 percentage point over 1992. Although these increases in absolute terms were not large, there was considerable percentage growth of 12% and 5% respectively. This was largely contributed by the thriving business of inland water freight transport and haulage of containers.

On the other hand, the share of total value added for air transport decreased by 2.4 percentage points and that for land passenger transport by 0.2 percentage point. The percentage for supporting services to land transport remained generally unchanged.

The attached table compares some selected principal statistics by major transport group for 1992 and 1993.

More detailed results together with the background and methodology of the survey will be given in a full survey report to be published in around August 1995. This report will be on sale in August at the Government Publications Centre of the Information Services Department, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong; and the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding the survey results may be directed to the Transport and Miscellaneous Services Statistics Section (Tel 2802 1277).

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COMPARISON OF SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS
IN THE TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES SECTOR BETWEEN 1992 AND 1993

MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP		NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS	NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	COMPENSA-	OPERATING EXPENSES	BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME	GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS	VALUE ADDED	GROSS SURPLUS
					TION OF EMPLOYEES		(\$Mn)	(\$Mn)		(\$Mn)
LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT	1993	18 216	51 180	31 635	4,728	7,727	18,013	3,956	11,603	5,558
	1992	18 092	51 022	31 343	4,190	6,846	15,171	2,121	10,578	4,135
	% change	+1	*	+1	+13	+13	+19	+87	+10	+34
LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT	1993	14 868	45 583	29 771	3,428	8,214	14,292	903	6,910	2,651
	1992	14 081	46 556	30 059	2,843	6,393	11,302	1,211	5,811	2,066
	% change	+6	-2	-1	+21	+28	+26	-25	+19	+28
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT	1993	139	3 836	3 793	438	1,762	2,877	79	1,270	678
	1992	125	3 425	3 371	328	1,303	2,305	62	1,128	674
	% change	+11	+12	+13	+34	+35	+25	+27	+13	*
OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT	1993	517	17 643	17 625	3,618	9,809	19,297	2,825	9,731	5,870
	1992	418	16 729	16 699	3,133	10,803	19,145	1,646	8,470	5,209
	% change	+24	+5	+6	+15	-9	+1	+72	+15	+13
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT	1993	944	7 105	6 446	829	2,295	4,017	529	1,577	894
	1992	862	6 938	5 887	698	1,659	2,941	151	1,271	584
	% change	+10	+2	+9	+19	+38	+37	+249	+24	+53
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT	1993	2 755	13 888	11 293	1,711	6,286	9,188	641	3,334	1,191
	1992	2 442	12 171	9 977	1,387	5,184	7,584	898	2,857	1,014
	% change	+13	+14	+13	+23	+21	+21	-29	+17	+17
AIR TRANSPORT	1993	63	22 333	22 333	6,600	18,851	33,103	4,150	11,711	7,652
	1992	59	21 229	21 229	6,124	17,093	29,510	4,468	11,709	6,293
	% change	+7	+5	+5	+8	+10	+12	-7	*	+22
SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT	1993	4 149	40 338	39 448	4,999	83,609	90,794	835	7,080	2,185
	1992	3 576	37 080	35 535	4,168	71,500	77,656	948	6,171	1,988
	% change	+16	+9	+11	+20	+17	+17	-12	+15	+10
ALL TRANSPORT GROUPS	1993	41 650	201 906	162 343	26,352	138,551	191,581	13,917	53,216	26,678
	1992	39 655	195 151	154 100	22,870	120,781	165,614	11,506	47,996	21,963
	% change	+5	+3	+5	+15	+15	+16	+21	+11	+21
GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT	1993	2	982	982	377	540	3,139	430	2,600	N.A.
	1992	3	1 313	1 313	380	544	2,976	928	2,435	N.A.
	% change	-33	-25	-25	-1	-1	+5	-54	+7	(-)

- Notes :
- (1) Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.
 - (2) Individual items may not add up to the corresponding total due to rounding.
 - (3) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product. The definition can be found in the "Report on 1993 Survey of Transport and Related Services".
 - (4) * denotes % change less than $\pm 0.5\%$.

ED staff awarded for good customer services

The Director of Education, Mr W K Lam, had recently presented Staff Incentive Awards to five staff members of the Education Department for their outstanding customer services.

The recipients were Mr Wu Pak-keung, Mr Lee Yeuk-hon, Mrs Tam So Man-hung, Ms Lo Kit-yee and Miss Szeto Lai-kuen.

The awards comprised a meritorious certificate and a watch embossed with the department's logo.

In presenting the awards, Mr Lam praised the recipients for their outstanding performance and the efforts they made to serve the public.

Mr Wu is a Senior Assistant Master at Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School. He was awarded not only for his devotion in teaching, but also for his love and care for his students.

His caring clearly illustrated in a recent incident in which a student's father died suddenly and his mother was taken to hospital for a heart attack. He also contributed \$2,500 and helped the boy to raise money for his father's funeral.

Mr Wu is named 'Father of the Scouts' by his colleagues and students for his fatherly love towards the scouts and his willingness to devote most of his leisure time to scout activities.

He is the Scout Master of the 81st Hong Kong Group, a large patrol unit with over 80 boy scouts. Under his leadership, the scouts are well-disciplined and well-received by parents and the public.

Mr Lee, a Clerical Officer at Yau Tsim District Education Office, was awarded for his alertness in identifying customers' needs, promptness in offering help and tactfulness in handling enquiries from members of the public.

Mrs Tam, an Assistant Inspector at the Audiological Services Section, was commended for her unpretentious and initiative at work. She is always ready to help, not only to children, but also to their parents and her colleagues.

Another recipient, Ms Lo, is a Clerical Officer at Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (Sookunpo). She has done exceedingly well in providing customer services to clients in the front-line.

She received English speaking customers courteously, mobilised minor staff to maintain a very clean and tidy school environment and inspired her colleagues to adopt a polite and helpful attitude towards clients.

Miss Szeto, Clerical Assistant with the Visual Education Section, was nominated for her initiative to rearrange the index, filing and storage system of the Audio-visual Resources Library, patience in handling requests and enquiries, and willingness and sincerity in providing services to her clients.

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Water storage figure

Water storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 67.3 per cent of capacity or 394.600 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 417.288 million cubic metres of water, representing 71.2 per cent of capacity.

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Fresh water cut in Kowloon Tong

Fresh water supply to some premises in Kowloon Tong will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Thursday (July 6) to 7 am the following day to facilitate water mains connection.

The affected areas will include Chak On Estate, 2-24 Beacon Hill Road, the section of Cornwall Street from Beacon Hill Road to Nam Cheong Street and the staff quarters of the City University of Hong Kong.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,623	0930	+888
Closing balance in the account	1,499	1000	+888
Change attributable to :		1100	+898
Money market activity	+898	1200	+898
LAF today	-1,022	1500	+898
		1600	+898

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.3 *+0.0* 3.7.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.31	2 years	2705	6.40	100.90	5.97
1 month	5.37	3 years	3804	6.90	101.79	6.29
3 months	5.46	5 years	5006	6.60	99.01	6.95
6 months	5.51	5 years	M501	7.90	102.50	7.41
12 months	5.62					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$13,600 million

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