

## Chapter 16

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# Public Order

*Thanks to the efforts of the disciplinary forces, and the cooperation and support of the public, Hong Kong continued to be one of the safest cities in the world.*

*In 2007, the overall crime rate fell by 1.4 per cent while the violent crime rate fell by 0.4 per cent compared to 2006.*

*The overall crime detection rate was 45.6 per cent.*

### **Fight Crime Committee**

Established in 1973 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Fight Crime Committee provides advice and recommendations on measures to prevent and reduce crime, and coordinates crime-fighting efforts and monitors their results.

During the year, the committee continued to monitor the overall crime situation and the trend of various types of commercial crime. The committee also examined the findings of a survey it commissioned on crime victimisations in Hong Kong in 2005. The survey provided an additional source of information to the Government for planning anti-crime strategies and crime prevention measures.

To enhance public awareness of thefts which continued to account for the major share of crime in Hong Kong, and the marked increase in deception cases in 2006, the committee launched a publicity campaign to draw attention to these two developments. To promote involvement of senior citizens in the fight crime effort, the committee explored the feasibility of setting up a 'Senior Police Call' scheme.

In 2007, the committee also studied the public education initiatives for young people, launched by the Correctional Services Department (CSD), to promote crime prevention and support for the rehabilitation of offenders. It supported CSD's plan to continue to undertake various publicity activities to enhance community support for the reintegration of rehabilitated offenders into society.

The committee kept under review the progress of the 'Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme', which serves as an alternative to prosecuting young offenders.

The committee was also briefed on the work of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse, which was established in October 2007 under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Justice, and offered its views on the strategies in tackling the youth drug abuse problem.

District Fight Crime Committees (DFCCs) continued to play an important role in the battle against crime by monitoring the crime situation in districts and reflecting community concerns about law and order issues. They helped foster community awareness of crime prevention and encouraged community participation in combating crime through publicity programmes carried out in the districts.

To foster closer cooperation, the committee and DFCCs exchanged feedback regularly on the various issues they discussed. Committee members also took turns to attend DFCC meetings and functions. In November, the committee hosted a Fight Crime Reception for all DFCC members. The occasion provided an opportunity for members to exchange views on crime issues and on ways to combat crime.

## **Police Force**

With the Hong Kong Police Force's strong commitment to maintaining law and order, Hong Kong continued to be one of the safest cities in the world for residents and visitors alike. The force also continued to build on partnership with law enforcement agencies elsewhere to tackle transnational crime threats.

During the year, the Police Force played a key role in providing a safe and secure environment for a number of major events in Hong Kong, including the visit by President Hu Jintao and a series of activities held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), such as the equestrian event of 'Good Luck Beijing – HKSAR 10th Anniversary Cup'. Law and order and public safety prevailed at all of these events.

At the end of the year, the Commissioner of Police published a Statement of Strategic Directions to outline his Strategic Action Plan for 2008-2010 which charts the future direction to be taken by the Police Force. The four strategic directions were – engaging the community, enhancing personal and professional qualities of force members, strengthening criminal intelligence gathering force-wide, and supporting frontline units. These are key management areas that will be crucial to the continued success of the force in fulfilling its vision of ensuring that Hong Kong remains one of the safest and most stable societies in the world.

At year-end, the Police Force had an establishment of about 27 500 police officers supported by more than 4 800 civilian staff and reinforced by some 3 800 volunteers serving in the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force. In 2007, 92 inspectors and 1 225 constables were appointed.

### *Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force*

The Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force helps the regular force to manage crowds at large-scale events as well as pre-planned operations. In 2007, it also helped out at

different events held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR.

### *Crime*

Reported crimes in 2007 totalled 80 796, a decrease of 0.4 per cent compared with 81 125 in 2006. The crime rate stood at 1 167 cases per 100 000 population, a drop of 1.4 per cent compared with 1 183 in 2006. The decrease in crimes was mainly due to a decline in robberies, burglaries and thefts.

During the year, the number of violent crimes increased to 14 934, a rise of 0.6 per cent compared with 14 847 in 2006. Criminal intimidation, wounding and serious assaults accounted for 67.2 per cent of total violent crimes in 2007. There were notable decreases in the relatively more serious violent crimes such as homicide, robbery, blackmail and arson.

In all, there were 1 216 robberies in 2007, a drop of 22.7 per cent compared to 1 574 in 2006. There were no robberies with firearms, compared with one in 2006. There were eight bank robberies, a drop of 15 compared with 23 in 2006. Most of these crimes were committed by lone robbers.

The number of burglaries decreased from 5 315 in 2006 to 4 512 in 2007, a drop of 15.1 per cent, while thefts fell from 37 089 in 2006 to 36 762 in 2007, down by 0.9 per cent.

Of the reported crimes in 2007, 45.6 per cent (or 36 823 crimes) were detected, resulting in the arrest of 42 940 people for various offences. Of this number, 4 664 were juveniles aged between 10 and 15 and 5 023 were young people aged between 16 and 20. Most of them were arrested for miscellaneous thefts, wounding and serious assaults, shop thefts and serious narcotics offences.

There were no crimes involving the use of firearms in 2007, compared with five in 2006. During the year, the Police successfully smashed a robbery syndicate in Yuen Long and seized a pistol with seven modified cartridges. Six firearms were seized during the year, compared with 10 in 2006. The Police will continue to conduct intelligence-led operations and exchange intelligence with other law enforcement agencies to prevent incidents involving the use of firearms.

There was a significant reduction in vehicle thefts. 1 398 vehicles were reported missing in 2007 compared to 1 774 in 2006, a fall of 21.2 per cent. The decrease was largely due to the stringent enforcement action taken against vehicle theft syndicates and the exchange of intelligence with other law enforcement agencies to tackle the smuggling of stolen vehicles.

The number of triad-related crimes continued its downward trend. In 2007, there were 2 259 triad-related crimes, a slight decrease of 5.7 per cent compared with 2 396 in 2006. Triad-related crimes accounted for 2.8 per cent of all reported crimes during the year. To tackle triad activities, a large-scale tripartite anti-triad operation involving Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao police was mounted in June 2007.

Enforcement action against illegal bookmaking remained a high priority. In 2007, 317 anti-bookmaking raids were conducted. 309 people were arrested and betting slips valued at \$350 million were seized. Illegal bookmaking activities remained under control.

### *Domestic Violence*

Combating domestic violence continued to be a police priority. The Commissioner of Police's 'Operational Priorities 2007' affirmed the Police's commitment to handling and investigating all reports of domestic violence.

The Police received 7 509 reports of domestic violence during the year, 2 505 of which were crime-related and 5 004 were miscellaneous cases, representing a rise of 59.6 per cent compared with 2006. The increase reflected the heightened public awareness of domestic violence as a result of the Government's publicity and education campaigns as well as people's greater readiness to seek early assistance and intervention.

The Police continued to improve measures for tackling domestic violence. To engage domestic violence cases at early stage to prevent them from escalating, officers underwent special training to be more effective in dealing with domestic violence. In addition, a Central Domestic Violence Database is being developed to give frontline officers a fuller picture of offenders, or potential offenders so that preventive action can be taken before violence occurs. The database is expected to go into operation in 2008.

### *Commercial Crime*

The Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB) continued to implement a structured intelligence-based approach in carrying out investigations into syndicated and serious frauds, counterfeit and forgery cases, as well as technology crimes.

In 2007, incidents of serious fraud, counterfeit currencies and credit card usage were kept at reasonably low levels. Offences perpetrated by street deception gangs, especially so-called 'spiritual blessing' deception, declined throughout the year. The combined effect of keeping an eye on suspects, extensive publicity campaigns and heavier penalties imposed on these street gangs resulted in a rise in detection and a drop in reported losses in 2007.

### *Technology Crime*

The number of technology crimes in 2007 was 634, a decrease of 14.4 per cent compared to 741 in 2006. Online game-related cases involving the theft of virtual weapons continued to account for the majority of reported technology crimes. However, the total loss in money terms increased by 69.6 per cent to \$10.56 million. The increase was due primarily to one detected on-line auction fraud case involving \$5.03 million.

The Technology Crime Division (TCD) of CCB continued to strengthen its links with local and regional strategic partners throughout the year. A number of cases, including the uploading of child pornography, were detected by TCD as a result of exchange of intelligence and close cooperation with its overseas counterparts.

Educating the public on information technology (IT) security awareness remained a high priority. During the year, TCD held a number of seminars, including a 'Bank Fraud Seminar' attended by 300 members of the local IT and banking industries.

### *Narcotics*

Combating illicit drugs continued to be a priority for the Police Force. Every effort was also made through publicity and education to reduce drug abuse.

The Narcotics Bureau's joint efforts with the Mainland and its overseas counterparts to interdict cross-boundary and international trafficking activities led to numerous arrests. The Police seized many large consignments of drugs, reducing market supply substantially. Of particular significance was the discovery of several large cannabis farms during the year. The number of people arrested for drug-related offences increased by 22.1 per cent compared with the number in 2006. There was a notable increase in the number of young people arrested for drugs offences.

### *Financial Investigation*

During the year, the Police participated in a number of local and international initiatives to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The Police provided training in financial investigation for local and overseas law enforcement officers and held seminars for various professions to raise their awareness about money laundering and terrorist financing.

In November, the Narcotics Bureau's Financial Investigation Division assisted in coordinating the on-site phase of the mutual evaluation of Hong Kong's anti-money laundering regime by the inter-governmental policy-making body, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering.

### *Illegal Immigration*

During the year, 3 007 illegal immigrants from the Mainland were arrested by the Police, a decrease of 5 per cent compared to 3 173 in 2006. A total of 2 041 Vietnamese illegal immigrants and other non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants were arrested, representing an increase of over 130 per cent compared with 2006. The increase was attributable to the successful joint operations carried out by the Police, Immigration Department and their Mainland counterparts. Close liaison with the Guangdong Border Defence Bureau through regular meetings and exchange of intelligence was maintained.

### *Crime Prevention*

The Crime Prevention Bureau plays a key role in keeping the general public fully informed of how to better protect themselves.

In 2007, the bureau provided a full schedule of mobile displays for the general public at housing estates, and 'Robotcop' shows at schools for young people. In addition to the various seminars held for government departments, schools and commercial organisations, the Bureau introduced new crime prevention courses for staff of the Police Community Relations Office and for trainee detectives.

In 2007, telephone deception and miscellaneous thefts were the themes of publicity drives. Leaflets were handed out to tourists from the Mainland at boundary crossing points to help them make their stay in Hong Kong a safe one.

Close ties were maintained with the security industry through the bureau's annual inspection of licensed companies and regular liaison meetings with representative bodies.

### *Forensic Support*

The Identification Bureau plays a significant role in supporting crime investigations and prosecutions by providing a professional fingerprint and photographic service and by collecting DNA evidence from crime scenes. The high-tech latent fingerprint recovery service provided supporting evidence for the solving and subsequent proving of numerous major crimes. In 2007, the bureau compiled the criminal history of 38 892 individuals, linking 1 340 people to 1 188 criminal cases.

Replacement of the existing Computer Assisted Fingerprint Identification System Project was in progress. The new system, to be implemented in 2008, will provide the Police Force with the latest technology and greater ability to identify unsolved cases which could not otherwise be done through manual search means. This would enhance substantially the fingerprinting service which is becoming an increasingly indispensable tool in carrying out crime investigation.

The Forensic Firearms Examination Bureau continued to provide quality and efficient forensic firearms examination service to Hong Kong courts. It was involved in the forensic investigation of a number of high profile firearms-related cases and provided expert testimony at court proceedings. The bureau is preparing to acquire a state-of-the-art Ballistics Identification System which would replace the existing system in December 2008. It will greatly enhance the bureau's ballistic screening capability.

### *Liaison*

The Liaison Bureau continued to function as a conduit between the Hong Kong Police Force and other policing agencies, including the Mainland Public Security Bureau, Macao Unitary Police Service, overseas law enforcement organisations and their local consulate officials.

In 2007, the bureau joined forces with the Mainland and Macao to combat cross-boundary crimes, further cementing the ties created at the 13th Hong Kong-Guangdong-Macao Tripartite Criminal Investigation Department Heads Meetings in April. To further enhance cooperation, the 16th bilateral meeting between the Hong Kong Police and the Mainland public security authorities was held in Hong Kong in December.

During the year, the Police continued to send officers on secondment to the Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon, France, and its Regional Liaison Office in Bangkok, Thailand. This arrangement facilitated liaison with the international law enforcement bodies and at the same time broadened the Police's vision and perspective of related global issues.

The Interpol China National Central Bureau will host the 20th Asia Regional Conference of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) in Hong Kong in March 2008. As a sub-bureau of the China National Central Bureau, the Police will co-host the biennial event.

### *Explosive Ordnance Disposal*

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau is responsible for all bomb disposal work in Hong Kong. It is also responsible for dealing with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents. The bureau provides a round-the-clock service throughout the year. The bureau is an essential part of the Police's counter-terrorism and internal security response capability.

### *Police Dogs*

There were 120 police dogs serving in the Police Dog Unit in 2007. The dogs are deployed regularly to assist in police operations across the territory. Specialist search dogs, kept at two operational bases, are used for searching dangerous drugs, explosives and firearms, as well as for tracking objects or people.

Police dogs also play an important role in many police operations. In 2007, the unit deployed a large number of police dogs for major policing and security operations such as the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and 'Good Luck Beijing – HKSAR 10th Anniversary Cup'. The unit will increase the number of explosive search dogs to cope with similar major operations such as the coming 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events.

### *Public Order*

To maintain public order in Hong Kong, the Police Force continued to provide all officers with training in internal security, public order and crowd management, enabling them to perform a wide range of duties in an efficient and professional manner. In 2007, the Police handled a number of public order incidents, which required deploying specialist officers such as police negotiators and abseiling officers.

### *Police Licensing Office*

The Police Licensing Office is responsible for issuing various types of licences and permits. In 2007, upon review, a number of its application forms and guidelines were revised to improve efficiency and to make the licensing system more user-friendly. During the year, it processed 3 629 applications for liquor licences and made recommendations to the Liquor Licensing Board accordingly. At year-end, there were 170 licensed massage establishments, 190 licensed pawnbrokers, 5 303 liquor licensed premises, 279 979 security personnel permit-holders and 763 licensed money-lenders in Hong Kong.

The Police Licensing Office is also responsible for processing notifications of public order events. During the year, 1 431 notifications of public order events were processed.

### *Marine Region*

The Versatile Maritime Policing Response strategy was implemented in 2007. Two barge platforms, six medium patrol launches and six divisional fast patrol crafts were delivered in late 2007 and will be fully operational in early 2008. The new fleet is a welcome addition to enhance the Marine Police's capability in combating illegal activities in Hong Kong waters. It will be complemented by a new Central Command System which consists of day-and-night cameras integrated into the existing radar system. The new system is expected to be operational in 2009.

In 2007, Marine Region played a very active part in contributing to sea safety in Hong Kong. A multi-agency approach was adopted in organising a 'Safety Afloat' campaign to promote safety at sea and safety during recreation activities at sea. The number of deaths occurring during recreation at sea fell to six in 2007 compared with 12 in 2006.

Marine Region also continued interdicting smuggling activities with the full cooperation of the local and the Mainland law enforcement agencies. During the year, the Marine Region seized \$209 million worth of contraband.

### *Traffic*

In 2007, there were 15 315 traffic accidents involving casualties, representing an increase of 3.1 per cent compared with 2006 and 153 fatal traffic accidents, representing an increase of 13.3 per cent compared with the previous year's figure. During the year, 483 912 fixed-penalty tickets for driving offences were issued, an increase of 7.5 per cent compared with 2006 figures. Police officers and traffic wardens issued a total of 704 860 tickets for parking offences, 11.6 per cent up on 2006. A total of 65 363 summonses were served on traffic offenders, 18.2 per cent more than in 2006.

### *Public Relations*

The Police Public Relations Branch (PPRB) plays an important role in keeping the public informed of the work of the Police Force and maintaining good relations with all sectors of the community to enlist public support for maintaining law and order.

Details of police policies and operational priorities were disseminated to the public by Police Community Relations Officers, while the Junior Police Call (JPC) Scheme and the Police School Liaison Programme (PSLP) serve as bridges between the Police and young people.

The PPRB worked with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and Cable TV during the year to produce a number of television programmes which included the *Police Magazine*, *Police Report* and *Police Bulletin* to keep the public abreast of crime trends and crime prevention measures.

Assistance was also given to film companies and television stations producing dramas and documentaries related to police work, and to the Films Services Office of Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority in processing applications for filming licences.

Information about police activities is disseminated to local and overseas media organisations round the clock. PPRB also produced a number of publications, including a biweekly newspaper called *Offbeat*, a JPC monthly newsletter and a yearbook called *Hong Kong Police Review 2006*. The review won a Citation for Achievement in Design in the 2007 Best Annual Reports Awards organised by the Hong Kong Management Association. PPRB also assisted the Fight Crime Committee in planning and implementing the Fight Crime Publicity Campaign 2007-08.

In 2007, 80 citizens who had assisted the Police in their fight against crime were bestowed awards under the Good Citizen Award Scheme organised by the Police Force and sponsored by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Police telephone hotlines and crime information forms provide convenient channels for reporting crime. A total of 21 086 hotline phone calls, excluding those made to the 999 emergency hotline, and 1 572 crime information forms sent to the Police were recorded by year-end, resulting in 499 arrests.

### *Planning and Development*

Construction work on the police station for the new Central District Headquarters and Central Division (CDIV) commenced in April 2007 and is scheduled for completion in late 2009. Upon completion, CDIV will amalgamate with Water Front Division to achieve better use of resources with higher cost-effectiveness. The project will also enable Wan Chai District Headquarters and Wan Chai Division to move to the Arsenal House Complex.

The Police continued to participate actively in the development and implementation of boundary crossing facilities built to cope with the rapid growth in cross-boundary visitors and logistical movements. The boundary crossing facilities at the Shenzhen Bay Port went into operation in July. Construction of this control point was based on a novel co-location concept. Another project now in hand is the police facilities at the customs-immigration-quarantine point at the new Kai Tak Cruise Terminal.

### *Information and Communication Technology*

Implementation of the Versatile Maritime Policing Response strategy will be completed in 2008 with the delivery of the new Command and Control System as well as a fleet of smaller and more versatile marine craft. The new system will integrate with the existing radar system and will provide enhanced equipment to enable police officers in the control room to monitor the 191 kilometres sea boundary to maintain law and order at sea. New Marine Police vessels are being equipped with state-of-the-art electronic navigational and communication equipment, which includes radios, radars, electronic chart displays, differential global positioning systems, depth sounders and satellite compasses. The Police Force will continue to exploit new information and communication technology to enhance its service.

### *Training*

The Hong Kong Police College, established in 2006, provides professional training to help police officers discharge their duties effectively, providing quality service to the public.

During the year, the college completed the preparatory work for its online Training Management System, which will be implemented throughout the force in 2008. The system enables the training administration process to become fully automated, facilitating more systematic analysis of training data to help formulate training policies.

The Scenario-based Interactive Multimedia Simulation (SIMS) System, an electronic training system developed in-house, won two international awards, including the first runner-up prize in the 'Communication and Collaboration' category of Adobe MAX Awards 2007 and the 'Project of the year 2007' in the 'Soft Skills/Business Simulation' category of Training Technology in Action Awards organised by the international *Training* magazine. The interactive simulation system enables trainees to receive decision-making, coordination and leadership training in a virtual environment. In addition to reducing training cost, SIMS also enhances training effectiveness significantly.

### *Occupational Safety and Health*

A key feature of the Force Safety Management System, which is designed to meet internationally recognised standards, is the product of a risk aware working culture as opposed to a risk-averse culture. The officers responsible for safety management are all experienced operational police officers.

The system is being enhanced through greater use of technology. A fully computerised version of the system is in the final design stage and is undergoing tests. The force has also embarked on a knowledge management project to enable officers to refresh their risk management skills.

### *Service Quality*

In 2007, the Police Force released its fourth Strategic Action Plan for 2008-2010. It contains 17 key projects that support the four strategic directions, which will be the main management areas in the years to come.

To continue encouraging officers to live by the force's values, the force launched a sixth round of its 'Living-the-Values' workshop under the heading 'Fairness in all our Dealings' in September.

### *Complaints Against Police*

The Complaints and Internal Investigations Branch, which is independent of other parts of the Police Force, comprises the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) and the Internal Investigations Office (IIO).

CAPO investigates public complaints against members of the Police Force. The investigations of complaints are monitored by Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC). In 2007, CAPO received 2 569 complaints, an increase of 2.3 per cent,

compared to 2 511 in 2006. During the year, IPCC endorsed the investigation results of 2 509 complaints, involving 4 341 allegations. Complaints of a trivial nature are dealt with by informal resolution, a method used in dealing with 21 per cent of the complaints. Disciplinary action was taken against 10 police officers as a result of public complaints.

In 2007, IIO continued to coordinate various anti-corruption initiatives within the force. Corruption-related complaints against police officers were at a historic low in 2007, accounting for nine per cent of corruption complaints for the whole of Hong Kong.

In 2007, the Complaints Prevention Committee organised a contest called 'Complaints Prevention Lyric Writing and Song Composing Contest'. Similar campaigns to promote awareness of complaint prevention will continue to be held.

### **Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC)**

IPCC is responsible for monitoring and reviewing investigations carried out by CAPO into public complaints against members of the Police Force. The council is an independent body comprising members appointed by the Chief Executive. To enhance public confidence in the police complaints system, the Government introduced the Independent Police Complaints Council Bill into the Legislative Council in July to turn the existing IPCC into a statutory body.

The council had 70 lay observers as at year-end. They attend CAPO interviews and site visits on a scheduled or unannounced basis to ensure that investigations are conducted in a fair and impartial manner.

### **Customs and Excise**

The Customs and Excise Department is primarily responsible for the collection of revenue on dutiable goods, prevention of duty evasion, suppression of drug trafficking and abuse, prevention and detection of smuggling of contraband, and protection of intellectual property rights. The department also enforces legislation to protect consumer interests, safeguard and facilitate legitimate trade and industry, uphold Hong Kong's trading integrity and fulfil relevant international obligations. At year-end, it had an establishment of about 5 600 staff. (See also Chapter 5).

#### *Revenue Collection*

The department is responsible for the collection of excise duties derived from dutiable commodities stipulated in the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance, namely liquor, tobacco, hydrocarbon oil and methyl alcohol. During the financial year 2006-07, the excise duties collected amounted to \$7.02 billion, of which 47.3 per cent was from hydrocarbon oil, 39.4 per cent from tobacco, 13.2 per cent from liquor and 0.1 per cent from methyl alcohol, representing a total increase of 9.3 per cent over 2005-06.

The department also assesses the taxable values of motor vehicles under the Motor Vehicles (First Registration Tax) Ordinance for the purpose of levying first registration tax. In 2007, the department registered 74 motor traders, assessed the

provisional taxable value on 48 754 vehicles and re-assessed 9 946 of them, resulting in the collection of \$5.22 billion in first registration tax by the Transport Department.

### *Revenue Control*

The department administers a licensing and permit system to control the manufacture, import, export, storage and movement of dutiable commodities. It ensures that no dutiable commodities, whether imported or locally manufactured, are released for local consumption unless full duty has been paid.

### *Revenue Protection*

In 2007, the department detected 5 906 cases of abuse of duty-free concessions, involving 2.25 million sticks of cigarettes, representing a decrease of 38 per cent and 21 per cent respectively compared with 2006.

In 2007, a total of 7 106 offenders were arrested and 119 million sticks of illicit cigarettes seized, a decrease of 34 per cent and an increase of 51 per cent respectively over 2006.

The department continued its commitment to stamping out transnational cigarette smuggling through cooperation with overseas customs administrations. In 2007, by monitoring suspicious shipments and through intelligence exchange, 105.4 million sticks of illicit cigarettes were seized in Europe, the United States and South America.

Due to high oil prices, illicit fuel activities involving marked oil, commonly known as 'red oil', and illicit motor spirit remained a concern. The department took sustained enforcement action to shut down illicit filling stations and clear illegal fuel offloading and storage spots. To deter the use of illicit fuel, the department launched a publicity campaign to warn drivers against using illicit fuel and conducted high-profile surprise checks on vehicle fuel tanks. Enforcement action was also stepped up at sea and at land boundaries to prevent the smuggling of illicit fuel.

In 2007, 841 offenders were arrested and 950 000 litres of illicit fuel seized. The amount of illicit oil seized in 2007 was about 6 per cent more than that of 2006.

### *Anti-narcotics Operations*

The department continues to take vigorous enforcement action to prevent and suppress the unlawful manufacture, distribution and trafficking of dangerous drugs; to trace, confiscate and recover drug proceeds from illegal drug activities; and to prevent the diversion of chemicals used for the illicit manufacture of dangerous drugs. It also maintains close cooperation and exchange of intelligence with local and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking.

In 2007, the department dealt with 119 drug trafficking cases and neutralised five drug storage and distribution centres. It seized 26.7 kilogrammes of heroin, 26.3 kilogrammes of ketamine, 263 kilogrammes of cannabis, 182.4 kilogrammes of cocaine, 42 kilogrammes of methamphetamine, 2 427 tablets of MDMA (commonly known as 'ecstasy') and 27 032 tablets of other psychotropic drugs. A total of

627 people were arrested. Through cooperation with the Mainland customs, six kilogrammes of heroin were seized and eight people arrested.

### *Boundary Control*

The department started providing a customs clearance service at the two new control points commissioned in 2007. The Shenzhen Bay Control Point commenced operation on July 1 and is the first land boundary control point where Hong Kong's customs and immigration clearance facilities are located next to those of the Mainland. On the Hong Kong side, one-stop service is provided for vehicles at combined kiosks for immigration and customs clearance. The new mode of service helps to smooth and speed up the flow of cross-boundary passengers and vehicles. The Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point commenced operation on August 15. The Spur Line is the second cross-boundary railway linking Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

### *Anti-smuggling Operations*

Smuggling carried out across the Hong Kong-Mainland boundary remains an enforcement concern. In 2007, a total of 172 smuggling attempts were detected, resulting in the arrest of 352 people and about \$435 million worth of smuggled goods seized. Evasion of tariff or duty as well as other import and export regulatory controls was the major motive for smuggling.

Computer parts, electrical and electronic appliances, optical discs and precious metals remained the common items smuggled from Hong Kong to the Mainland. As a result of rising living standards on the Mainland, the demand for luxurious items such as high-end computer products, Chinese tonics, leather and fur has greatly increased. On the other hand, cigarettes, counterfeit goods, meat and poultry which are cheaper on the Mainland were smuggled from there to Hong Kong.

The department continues to liaise closely with both local and overseas law enforcement agencies which together make concerted efforts to combat smuggling activities. Enhanced cooperation with the Mainland authorities by exchanging intelligence and mounting parallel operations at the land boundary control points and at sea yielded satisfactory enforcement results.

### *Customs Headquarters Building*

The construction of a 34-storey Customs Headquarters Building in North Point commenced in April 2007 and is scheduled for completion in 2010. It will house the currently dispersed offices of the department under one roof and provide new facilities to support various operational needs. It will enhance efficiency and security in customs enforcement activities. It will also mean greater convenience for members of public who will be provided with centralised one-stop customs services.

### **Narcotics Division**

The Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau is tasked with coordinating policies and ways to fight drug abuse, money laundering and terrorist financing.

### *Overall Strategy and Coordination*

The Government adopts a five-pronged approach to fighting drug abuse. The strategy involves legislation and law enforcement, education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, research, and international cooperation.

The Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) advises the Government on the formulation of anti-drug strategies. It is a non-statutory body composed of professionals in the medical, youth service, educational and anti-drug fields. Headed by a chairman, it has 14 unofficial members and two official members. The officials are the Commissioner for Narcotics and a representative from the Department of Health. Under an arrangement between Singapore and Hong Kong, the Director of Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau also sits on the committee.

As a result of the rise in drug abuse by young people in recent years, the Chief Executive in his 2007-08 Policy Address announced the appointment of the Secretary for Justice, who is Deputy Chairman of the Fight Crime Committee (FCC), to head a high level inter-departmental task force to combat drug abuse among young people. The task force will make use of the existing anti-crime and anti-drug networks, including ACAN and FCC, to consolidate strategies from a holistic perspective, spearhead cross bureaux and inter-departmental efforts, and enhance collaboration among non-governmental organisations, stakeholders and the community in promoting the anti-drug battle.

### *Legislation*

Regular reviews are conducted to see whether amendments or revisions to the existing ordinances are needed to deal with changes in the drugs world.

### *Treatment and Rehabilitation*

The Narcotics Division works with its anti-drug partners to provide a variety of treatment and rehabilitation services to help drug abusers from different backgrounds. The major services include the running of a compulsory drug treatment programme by the Correctional Services Department, a voluntary methadone outpatient treatment programme provided by the Department of Health, and voluntary residential programmes run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Medical and psychiatric treatment for psychotropic substance abusers is provided by five substance abuse clinics under the Hospital Authority. In addition, the five Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers, operated by NGOs and subvented by the Social Welfare Department, provide community-based services to psychotropic substance abusers.

Under the Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance, centres offering voluntary in-house treatment to four or more people need to be licensed by the Social Welfare Department to make sure that the centres meet present-day safety and management requirements. By year-end, 12 centres were operating with a valid licence, and Certificates of Exemption were issued to another 27 centres that were operating before the ordinance came into effect.

In view of the rising trend of psychotropic substance abuse in recent years, there was a need to update frontline workers on the latest development of service modalities to help abusers. A workshop on practical skills for handling psychotropic substance abusers was held in May 2007, attended by more than 270 people. The participants were also taught how to better encourage abusers to seek treatment.

The ND continued to work closely with other stakeholders on implementing the recommendations of the fourth three-year plan (2006-08) for drug treatment and rehabilitation in Hong Kong. Its key recommendations include strengthening cooperation between medical practitioners and NGOs to address the medical needs of drug abusers and to extend the scope for early intervention.

### *Preventive Education and Publicity*

In 2007, the ND provided 470 schools with drug education programmes to some 53 900 students attending Primary 4, 5, and 6 schools, as well as students attending English Schools Foundation and international schools. Workshops and seminars were also organised for teachers and parents. Three seminars were held separately for teachers of primary and secondary schools. Since parents play a vital role in drugs preventive education, the ND organised three seminars for them in June, August and December. The ND worked with the Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co Ltd, to broadcast two radio programmes during the period between December 2006 and March 2007 to give parents a better understanding of the drug problem to enable them to communicate more effectively with their children.

A new Drug Education Kit was produced for students in primary and secondary schools to help them stay away from drugs. A series of 10 one-minute episodes was also broadcast on TV to help parents better tackle any drugs problems their children might have.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre continued to serve as a platform for promoting anti-drug messages among different sections of the community. During the year, 25 200 visitors, comprising 13 000 students, 3 300 members of youth groups, community organisations and rehabilitation centres, 260 principals, teachers and school social workers, 900 groups and 7 740 walk-in visitors, visited the centre.

A competition in Hip Hop dance and band sound jointly organised with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), was launched in June. RTHK also organised schools tours and special radio programmes to encourage more teenagers to join the competition and spread the anti-drug messages among fellow-students. In addition, a mobile phone game for young people to play was launched in July. It carried the themes 'Ketamine is a dead end' and 'Ecstasy is a dead end'.

### *Drug Abuse, Statistics and Trends*

Statistics on drug abuse are compiled by the Central Registry of Drug Abuse. It collates information on drug abusers obtained from a wide network of reporting agencies, including law enforcement departments, treatment and welfare agencies, hospitals and clinics.

In 2007, 13 491 drug abusers were recorded in the registry, 30 per cent were new cases, 22 per cent were aged under 21, and 82 per cent were males. Heroin remained the most commonly abused drug in Hong Kong, with 55 per cent of drug abusers recorded in the registry being heroin abusers. The proportion of psychotropic substance abusers has increased noticeably over the years reaching 58 per cent in 2007. Psychotropic substances commonly abused included ketamine (30 per cent), triazolam/midazolam/zopiclone (14 per cent) and ice (8 per cent). About 26 per cent of drug abusers in 2007 were reported to have abused more than one drug. Some 11 per cent of drug abusers were reported to have taken drugs in Mainland China (mostly in Shenzhen). 41 per cent of drug abusers were reported to have taken drugs at home/friends' home only, another 32 per cent at home/friends' home and other localities (such as recreation area/public garden/public toilet and disco/karaoke) and the remaining 27 per cent at other localities only.

### *Research*

Findings from drug-related research studies provide useful reference materials to facilitate the Government's formulation of anti-drug strategies and programmes. During the year, a study on reviewing the clinical trials for applying acupuncture therapy in treatment of heroin dependence was completed. Furthermore, phase one of another study on engagement of parents in anti-drug work was also completed.

Acupuncture is a commonly used therapy for drug addiction. The study on meta-analysis of acupuncture therapy reviewed the clinical trials for applying acupuncture therapy in treatment of heroin dependence. It suggested that acupuncture therapy (AT) was statistically more favourable than medication therapy (MT) in relieving heroin withdrawal syndrome, and AT combined with MT may be more effective in clinical application. Moreover, AT is safe for treating patients clinically. AT therefore should be an effective and safe way for heroin detoxification. However, more clinical trials should be conducted to further verify the findings of the study.

Another study on the engagement of parents in anti-drug work is progressing. The study is to assess the extent to which parents are involved in existing drug prevention activities in Hong Kong, and to examine the reasons that motivate or discourage parents from getting involved. The research has also helped in the development of preventive education programmes that better equip parents, in particular parents of vulnerable youth, with the necessary knowledge and skills to advise and help their children to deal with drug-related problems. These programmes are being implemented and their effectiveness are being evaluated. The study will be completed in 2008.

This year, three new research projects were launched, namely 'Study of cocaine abuse in Hong Kong', 'Study of patterns of drugs of abuse using conventional and new technologies', 'Short-term and long-term effects of Chinese herbal medicine in drug detoxification – a series of meta-analysis'.

To gauge public view on anti-drug publicity activities and the reference of drug abuse in Chinese – '濫藥' and '吸毒' – to provide information for further improving

anti-drug publicity campaigns, a public opinion survey on anti-drug publicity was conducted and completed in September.

### *International Action and Regional Cooperation*

The Government continued to participate actively in international forums against drug abuse, drug trafficking and money laundering. Apart from fulfilling its obligations under the three major United Nations (UN) conventions concerning narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, it also maintains close links with the UN, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), and the World Customs Organisation, to ensure that Hong Kong's anti-drug and anti-money laundering work is in step with current international standards and requirements. The Government keeps in touch with various jurisdictions to share Hong Kong's experience with them and to foster closer working ties. The Police Force and Customs and Excise Department have also established cooperative arrangements with their Mainland and overseas counterparts on intelligence exchange, joint operations and experience-sharing.

In March, representatives from the ND attended the 50th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna, as members of the Chinese delegation.

To promote better communication and cooperation among Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao in tackling drug abuse and trafficking, tripartite activities in the form of conference and thematic workshops were organised. Following the three-way exchange programme which was carried out between December 2006 and January 2007, a sharing session-cum-discussion forum was convened in July 2007 in Hong Kong. Representatives of the three places shared their experience gained during the exchange programme and their understanding of the latest approach to tackling the drugs problem.

### *The Beat Drugs Fund*

To promote community efforts in tackling the drug abuse problem, the Government set up a Beat Drugs Fund in 1996 with a capital of \$350 million. In 2007, a total of \$8.66 million was allocated to 22 projects. These included a project that serves 'at-risk' working youth and occasional drug abusers and their family members with the support of family members of rehabilitated young drug abusers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals. Another project was funded for organising an inter-school anti-drug drama competition for 20 primary schools. The event was filmed for showing on television.

### *Volunteer Scheme*

The Anti-drug Volunteer Group comprised 208 members of the public and 91 corporate or institution representatives in 2007. They participated in 19 anti-drug community and publicity activities, including district carnivals, exhibitions and seminars. The group organised a football competition in December to promote healthy lifestyle and the anti-drug message.

### *Action Against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism*

Maintaining an effective anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) regime is of great importance to Hong Kong as an international financial centre. The Government adopts a five-pronged approach to combating money laundering and terrorist financing. It includes a legal framework, supervision by financial regulators, vigorous law enforcement, international cooperation, and public education and capacity building.

To fulfil its international obligations under the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Hong Kong enacted the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance in 1989 and the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance in 1994 which provide for the tracing, freezing, confiscation and recovery of proceeds from drug trafficking and other serious crimes. To give effect to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 and some of the measures stipulated in the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) Special Recommendations, the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated in 2004. It provides for, among other things, the power to freeze the non-fund property of terrorists and terrorist organisations. In order to fulfil another FATF Special Recommendation, section 24C(1) and schedule 6 of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance was amended in January to require remittance agents and money changers to verify customers' identity and to keep records of transactions of \$8,000 or more, instead of the previous threshold of \$20,000 or above.

Since the enactment of the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance and the relevant sections of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance, assets valued at \$462 million have been confiscated and handed to the Government. As at December 31, 2007, assets worth \$88 million were to be confiscated. A further sum of \$2,613 million was put on hold pending confiscation proceedings under the two ordinances.

On public education and capacity building for the practitioners, the Narcotics Division collaborated closely with the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit (JFIU) and co-organised a total of 13 training seminars for financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) in June. At the request of the trade, a sector-specific seminar was organised for precious metals and stones dealers in November, and another for the trust and company service providers in December. Two training seminars and workshops were also organised for the charities sector and relevant government officers to raise their awareness of terrorist financing.

An interactive training kit was produced to raise awareness among estate agents, precious stones and precious metals dealers, remittance agents and money changers and money lenders, and to guide them in making reports on suspicious transactions. In addition, thematic Announcements in the Public Interest, 'Be a Gatekeeper for Hong Kong', and related publicity materials were produced for raising anti-money laundering awareness among the DNFBPs and the public. The ND had also formed focus groups in four of these sectors to discuss issues related to the implementation of the FATF recommendations.

Hong Kong participated in the activities of FATF and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), an FATF-style regional inter-governmental organisation. Hong Kong participated in all the working group meetings and plenary meetings of FATF and annual meeting of APG. Staff from the Police, Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and ND attended the FATF/APG Annual Typologies Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, in November. In addition, a legal expert from the Department of Justice (DoJ) attended the Expert Meeting on Asset Forfeiture in Vienna, organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in December.

Apart from taking part in the discussion on policy formulation in the FATF, Hong Kong also sent experts from different departments to participate in the Mutual Evaluations on other jurisdictions as assessors. During the year, a financial expert from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority participated in the Joint FATF/APG Mutual Evaluation of Canada (March), while a legal expert from DoJ took part in the APG Mutual Evaluation of Indonesia (October/December), and a law enforcement expert from JFIU participated in the Joint World Bank/APG Mutual Evaluation of Cambodia (February/March).

This year, it was Hong Kong's turn to be the subject of a Joint FATF/APG Mutual Evaluation. The ND coordinated and submitted a detailed response to a very exacting Mutual Evaluation questionnaire to the FATF/APG Secretariat in September. A team of assessors visited Hong Kong in mid-November to conduct an on-site evaluation which lasted two weeks. The Mutual Evaluation Report on Hong Kong will be discussed at the FATF Plenary and APG Annual Meeting in mid-2008.

Hong Kong played host to the FATF Mutual Evaluations Assessors' training workshop in January. Colleagues from the DoJ, Police, C&ED, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Securities and Futures Commission, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and ND attended the training. Colleagues from various departments also attended training workshops or seminars overseas to keep abreast of the latest AML/CFT developments and standards. In May, a legal expert from DoJ attended the Mutual Evaluation Assessors' training workshop organised by MONEYVAL, another FATF-style regional body in Strasbourg, France. In July, a C&ED officer participated in the APG Forum on Technical Assistance held in Perth, Australia.

During the year, representatives of the Police and the JFIU attended the EGMONT Plenary in Bermuda. In September and October, the JFIU organised two anti-money laundering and financial investigation courses for overseas and local law enforcement agencies. Participating countries and territories included Australia, Korea, China, Macao, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. The head of JFIU spoke at the second training course on 'Investigation in Anti-Drug Money Laundering for ASEAN Law Enforcement Officers' in Singapore in December.

International cooperation is vital in combating transnational crimes such as money laundering. Different government departments continued to facilitate the granting of legal assistance to other jurisdictions in accordance with bilateral agreements. By year-end, Hong Kong had concluded 22 mutual legal assistance agreements and 17 surrender-of-fugitive-offenders agreements.

## **Independent Commission Against Corruption**

Hong Kong continues to be recognised around the world as one of the most corruption-free places, particularly for its clean civil service and level playing field for businesses.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), an anti-graft agency independent of the civil service, fights corruption without fear or favour.

Its independence is guaranteed by the Basic Law. The agency's commissioner is directly accountable to the Chief Executive of the HKSAR.

The anti-corruption body's professionalism and track record in combating graft through enforcement, prevention and education is an inspiration to the public.

The latest annual opinion survey, conducted by an independent research company, showed nearly 99 per cent of respondents expressing support for the agency. This confidence in the ICAC was further reflected in the large number of people (73 per cent) revealing their names in their corruption reports to the agency.

The year also saw the completion of the agency's custom-built building, which is equipped with the latest facilities for training and carrying out anti-graft operations.

Following the signing of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) by the Central People's Government, the ICAC, as Hong Kong's anti-corruption agency, has further enhanced its already active participation in the international anti-corruption campaign.

### *Corruption Situation*

The ICAC received 3 600 corruption reports in 2007, eight per cent more than in 2006. But complaints against the government sector fell nine per cent. The largest number or 66 per cent of all complaints received by the ICAC was against individuals or organisations in the private sector. Complaints against government departments and public bodies accounted for 27 per cent and seven per cent respectively of all complaints made to the ICAC.

The ICAC also received 913 reports relating to public elections held in 2007, including the Chief Executive Election, District Council Elections, Village Representative Elections, Rural Committee Elections, and the Legislative Council By-election. Most of the allegations were of a relatively minor nature.

### *Investigation*

The Operations Department is empowered by law to investigate every pursuable report of corruption in both the public and private sectors. To keep corruption under tight control, the department adopts a strategy to flush out hidden cases and to continuously upgrade its investigative capability. Its investigative work is conducted in strict compliance with the law, including the Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance (ICSO) enacted in 2006.

During the year, the department handled some major corruption-related cases involving fraudulent insurance claims, listing improprieties and bank loan frauds as

well as illegal commission scams in the catering service industry. The department also investigated allegations of corruption and misconduct against public officers, such as abuses in awarding government contracts.

At year-end, the number of cases under investigation stood at 2 255, including 711 election-related cases. During the year, 353 people were prosecuted and 49 cautioned in accordance with the advice of the Department of Justice.

Despite challenges arising from the increased complexity of corruption cases and the evolving legal environment, the ICAC achieved a highly satisfactory case-based conviction rate of 85 per cent in 2007.

### *Prevention*

The Corruption Prevention Department is authorised by law to examine the systems and procedures of government departments and public bodies to minimise corruption risks. The department accords priorities to vulnerable areas discovered in the course of corruption investigations or identified through consultation with the organisations involved.

During the year, the department conducted 92 corruption prevention reviews for government departments and public bodies, covering a wide range of subjects, such as food safety, land control and procurement of medical products. Public-private partnership projects, including the heritage tourism development project and the new cruise terminal, were also reviewed. In addition, the department also helped public sector organisations on 325 occasions to put in place corruption prevention measures in new policies, laws or procedures.

The department's Advisory Services Group (ASG) offers free and confidential advice to help private sector organisations strengthen their internal control systems. In 2007, the group rendered such service on 364 occasions.

During the year, the ASG produced two tailor-made 'Best Practice Modules' for the catering sector and supermarkets to strengthen corruption prevention in procurement, inventory control and other vulnerable areas.

### *Community Education*

The Community Relations Department has a statutory responsibility to educate the public against the evils of corruption and to enlist their support for anti-corruption work. The department pursues these goals through the mass media, direct liaison with the public and programmes tailor-made for specific trades and professions.

During the year, the department organised more than 280 activities jointly with community organisations to disseminate anti-corruption messages across Hong Kong, reaching over 400,000 people.

To entrench a probity culture in the civil service, the department and the Civil Service Bureau jointly launched an ethical leadership programme in all bureaux and departments. Under the programme, senior officers were appointed as ethics officers to take charge of the planning and implementation of integrity building initiatives.

To help strengthen ethical governance in listed companies and the business community, the department partnered with regulators, professional bodies and major chambers of commerce to launch an integrity training programme for company directors. More than 150 company directors and corporate executives took part in a forum held in September to launch the programme. The department will continue to organise regular training seminars to sustain the programme's impact.

The department is working with the Mainland's anti-corruption authorities to produce a guidebook on corruption prevention for small- and medium-sized enterprises engaged in cross-boundary business which continues to grow in the wake of further economic integration with the Mainland. The guidebook is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2008.

To strengthen young people's integrity, the department also embarked on various programmes. During the year, it organised a 'summit' meeting on corporate ethics for university students, which was attended by 500 participants from Hong Kong, Mainland and overseas institutions. The department also launched a pilot 'ICAC Ambassador' programme at a local university to recruit volunteers to help promote integrity on campus.

The department further stepped up its educational programme on corruption prevention for the building management sector as a result of the large number of corruption complaints in that industry. It is working closely with other government departments, the Hong Kong Housing Society and professional bodies to implement the programme. During the year, the department recommended corruption prevention measures to over 850 owners' incorporations. Other initiatives such as the production of a corruption prevention tool kit, the setting up of an enquiry hotline and a special website on clean building management are in the pipeline.

To ensure that public elections are conducted in a clean and fair manner, the department mounted extensive educational and publicity campaigns for elections held during the year. The department drove across the 'support clean elections' message to the public with the help of TV and radio advertisements, exhibitions, publicity leaflets and a dedicated website. It also organised briefings and produced booklets to acquaint candidates and election agents in particular with the major provisions of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance. An enquiry hotline was set up to offer advice on 'dos' and 'don'ts' in taking part in different elections held in Hong Kong.

The department continued to make extensive use of the mass media to enhance the transparency of ICAC's work and to increase public awareness of the evils of corruption. A five-episode TV drama series adapted from real ICAC cases was broadcast in 2007. The series proved to be very popular, with each episode attracting an average audience of 1 million. In addition, a new advertising campaign was launched to encourage the public to report corruption to the ICAC.

### *International Cooperation*

As a signatory to the UNCAC, the Central People's Government has designated the ICAC as an authority to assist other signatory parties to implement

the convention's corruption prevention measures. Noting that Hong Kong's anti-corruption regime reflects the principles and provisions of the UNCAC, over 470 overseas representatives visited the ICAC during the year to study its operation and strategies. In November, the commissioner led a high-level delegation to an international conference held in Indonesia in support of the UNCAC.

During the year, the ICAC also maintained close contact with representatives of various agencies from different jurisdictions, including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

### *Cross-boundary Liaison*

The ICAC and Mainland procuratorates continued to assist each other in the investigation of corruption cases under the Mutual Case Assistance Scheme established since 1988. The two jurisdictions interviewed 63 witnesses in 2007.

During the year, the commissioner visited the Mainland's anti-corruption authorities to explore ways to strengthen cooperation in prevention and education. Plans were drawn up for corruption prevention seminars to be held jointly by Hong Kong, the Mainland and Macao in 2008. The ICAC also briefed more than 6 000 visiting Mainland officials on Hong Kong's anti-corruption work in 2007.

### *Checks and Balances*

ICAC operations are subject to a stringent system of checks and balances. Apart from judicial supervision, the commission's work is scrutinised by four independent committees – the Advisory Committee on Corruption, the Operations Review Committee, the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations.

An independent ICAC Complaints Committee, comprising members of the Legislative Council and prominent citizens, monitors the handling of non-criminal complaints against the ICAC and its officers.

## **Government Laboratory**

The Forensic Science Division (FSD) of the Government Laboratory provides the criminal justice system in Hong Kong with a comprehensive forensic service. FSD is divided into two operational groups. In 2007, it examined a total of 515 crime scenes.

The Drugs, Toxicology and Documents Group comprises two Controlled Drugs Sections, two Forensic Toxicology Sections (FTSs) and the Questioned Documents Section. There was a steady increase in the number of cases examined by the Controlled Drugs Sections in 2007, with a high proportion involving ketamine and heroin. Urinalysis and toxicological examination are the main areas of work of the two FTSs. In 2007, a review paper on the progress and future developments in toxicology was presented at the 15th Interpol International Forensic Science Symposium and was well received. In addition to carrying out routine examinations of handwritings and documents, the Questioned Documents Section assisted the

Immigration Department in developing and testing the new HKSAR Electronic passport.

The Criminalistics and Quality Management Group comprises seven sections covering six major areas of work. The two Biochemical Sciences Sections (BSSs) handle forensic biological samples and conduct DNA analysis of exhibits seized from crime scenes. The BSSs receive regularly DNA profiles of convicted offenders, suspects and volunteers from the DNA Database Section for comparison with outstanding DNA profiles of crime scene exhibits of unsolved cases. Comparisons are also made among outstanding DNA profiles of exhibits from different unsolved cases for possible connection. In 2007, there were 146 and 19 pairs of matches in the two types of comparisons respectively, providing the Police with important investigative leads.

The Parentage Testing Section deals mainly with cases concerning right of abode applications referred to it by the Immigration Department, for which genetic tests are required. The matched percentage rate was about 95 per cent of all cases submitted.

The Chemical Sciences Section works mainly on cases requiring chemical analysis of trace evidence and investigation of suspicious fire cases. The Physical Sciences Section plays an important role in traffic accident reconstruction and works on cases involving physical examination of toolmarks and shoeprints. Apart from conducting crime scene investigation, the Scene of Crime and Quality Management Section maintains and develops the Forensic Science Division's quality system in accordance with the prescribed quality requirements.

## **Immigration Department**

### *Immigration Control*

The Immigration Department plays an important role in maintaining law and order by controlling entry into Hong Kong. Through close checks at control points and the vetting of entry applications, undesirable persons including international criminals and terrorists are detected and denied entry. In 2007, some 26 197 such people and 13 311 others not in possession of proper documents were refused permission to enter Hong Kong, while 2 663 applications to enter the city were rejected.

### *Detection of Forged Travel Documents*

Strict measures are taken to guard against the use of forged travel documents. Officers detected 1 598 forged travel documents during the year, compared with 2 387 in 2006. Frequent contact with local, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies and consulates was maintained to exchange information and intelligence on such documents. Special operations were carried out against forgery syndicates.

### *Interception of Target/Wanted Persons*

In 2007, a total of 300 189 target/wanted persons were intercepted at immigration control points and other offices. They were suspected of being

connected with offences or court orders ranging from failure to settle outstanding fines on time to serious crimes.

### *Illegal Immigration and Unlawful Employment*

During the year, 3 175 illegal immigrants from the Mainland were apprehended and sent back, compared with 3 151 in 2006.

The Immigration Department set up an Anti-Illegal Workers Combat Squad in January 2005, a fast moving and robust force to deal with the problem of illegal workers and the people who employ them. Its main duties involve conducting undercover patrols at illegal worker black spots. A tactical squad, also set up in January 2005, assists in both passenger clearance at Lo Wu and other control points and in operations against immigration offenders.

In 2007, some 6 399 illegal workers were arrested in 9 606 raids, compared with 10 325 arrested in 9 183 raids in 2006. The vast majority of illegal workers were visitors who had breached their conditions of stay.

Illegal workers were either fined or jailed before being repatriated to their places of origin. Their employers were also prosecuted. In 2007, a total of 336 charges were laid against employers of illegal workers.

### *Deportation and Removal*

The Immigration Department processes deportation and removal orders. During the year, some 7 958 people convicted of offences punishable with imprisonment for not less than two years were considered for deportation and 427 such persons were deported. Another 339 were removed from the HKSAR. They comprised 46 illegal immigrants and 293 people who had breached their conditions of stay.

### *Investigation and Prosecution of Immigration Offences*

During the year, a total of 12 042 charges were laid against people who had committed various immigration offences. These included people remaining in Hong Kong illegally, people who breached conditions of stay, people who made false statements or representations or who used or possessed forged travel documents.

## **Fire Services**

The Fire Services Department fights fires, protects life and property in the event of fires and other calamities. It also provides emergency ambulance services, and gives fire protection advice to the public.

The department has 8 720 uniformed and 594 civilian members and is one of the world's finest fire brigades with well-trained personnel, advanced communications systems, and modern equipment and appliances.

The department responded to 31 638 fire calls, 22 083 special service calls and 611 707 ambulance calls in 2007.

### *Fire-fighting and Rescue*

Of the 31 638 fire calls received in 2007, eight were classified as major fires (No.3 alarm and above). Careless handling or disposal of smoking materials was the major cause of fires in 2007 accounting for a total of 2 000 fires. Accidents occurring during the preparation of foodstuffs caused 1 941 fires, and electrical faults, 781 fires. False alarms, caused mainly by faulty automatic alarm systems or poor positioning of such systems, contributed to about 65 per cent of the total number of fire calls.

The department also provides a wide range of rescue services for incidents such as traffic accidents, people being trapped in lifts or locked in rooms, gas leaks, house collapses, flooding, landslides, industrial accidents and attempts by people to jump from heights. The department handled 22 083 of such special service calls in 2007.

### *Ambulance Services*

The Ambulance Command handled 611 707 calls during the year, or on average 1 676 calls per day. Its fleet of ambulances is fully equipped and manned at paramedic level.

The department continues to train front-line firemen to become first responders to provide basic life saving support to casualties and patients while ambulance crews are making its way to the scene. During the year, first responders dealt with 38 917 cases in which people needed urgent help.

### *Communications*

The Fire Services Communications Centre, manned round the clock, is responsible for mobilising all fire-fighting and ambulance resources to provide timely fire and ambulance services to the community. The centre is also responsible for receiving complaints about fire hazards and dangerous goods. It acts as an emergency coordinator for other government departments and public utilities during large-scale emergencies or major calamities.

The centre is equipped with a sophisticated telecommunication and computer integrated mobilising system – the Third Generation Mobilising System – to enhance the efficiency of mobilising fire and ambulance resources.

### *Fire Safety*

The Fire Safety Command draws up fire safety policies and formulates fire safety measures for buildings and mass transit systems. It also devotes much of its effort to upgrading arrangements and procedures to protect old buildings from fires and to raise people's awareness of fire safety.

The Commercial Buildings and Premises Division enforces the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance with the aim of upgrading fire safety measures in prescribed commercial premises and specified commercial buildings. A total of 11 455 building inspections were conducted in 2007, and 804 Fire Safety Directions and 4 705 Fire Safety Improvement Directions were issued to 5 509 owners or occupiers of these premises and buildings.

The Building Improvement and Support Division is responsible for the enforcement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance which came into effect on July 1, 2007 to step up fire safety measures for pre-1987 domestic buildings and composite buildings.

A Building Safety Loan Scheme, administered by the Director of Buildings, was established to provide financial assistance to owners to carry out building safety and fire safety improvement works, either on a voluntary basis or as required by law. A total of 3 764 applications for such aid have been approved.

The New Projects Division, in cooperation with the Buildings Department and other departments, is responsible for vetting new building plans including those for mass transit systems, tunnels, bridges and at the airport. It also defines the fire protection needs of a particular premises. A total of 12 683 building plans were vetted during the year.

The Railway Development Strategy Division defines and scrutinises the fire safety requirements of new railway infrastructure projects. Submissions in respect of the South Island Line, the Sha Tin-to-Central Link and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link have been processed.

The Community Relations Section is responsible for improving the public's knowledge of fire safety and for coordinating publicity about fire prevention in collaboration with other government departments and the District Fire Safety Committees. In 2007, a total of 1 359 fire drills and 4 476 fire safety talks and seminars were conducted by the section and fire stations.

A total of 10 816 people were trained as Fire Safety Ambassadors during the year. In addition, Fire Safety Ambassador Honorary Presidents' Associations have been set up in 18 districts across the territory with 264 community leaders appointed as honorary presidents.

A major fire prevention campaign focusing on 'building fire safety' was launched on November 4, featuring a series of publicity activities, including dissemination of fire safety messages on television and radio, and fire station open days.

The Licensing and Certification Command determines the fire safety needs of various types of licensed premises, as well as dangerous goods stores and vehicles, to ensure proper protection for the public. The command continued to work with the Efficiency Unit and Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit to further streamline the licensing process.

Fire Services personnel conducted 172 492 fire safety inspections and issued 2 996 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices. There were 597 prosecutions for contravention of the Fire Services Ordinance, the Dangerous Goods Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, which resulted in fines totalling \$1.3 million. Direct prosecutions for obstructing fire escape routes in buildings resulted in 47 convictions and fines totalling \$188,700. Prosecutions for illicit fuel activities resulted in 92 convictions.

The Fire Service Installations Task Force has stepped up monitoring efforts to improve fire safety in buildings and heightened public awareness of the need to maintain fire service installations and equipment in buildings. A total of 58 643 building inspections were made during the year. The task force also monitors the performance of registered fire service installation contractors and made 500 surprise checks. Legal action has been taken against 36 contractors who were charged with having contravened the regulations.

### *Appliances and Equipment*

In 2007, the department had 852 fire appliances, ambulances and supporting vehicles. A fleet of 22 fireboats provided fire protection and rescue services within Hong Kong waters.

### *New Stations and Depots*

The department continued to plan and build fire stations and ambulance depots at strategic locations to cope with the city's growing development and service needs and to adhere to the Government's policy of providing the fastest response possible to emergencies. During the year, a new fire station at Shenzhen Bay Control Point and a new ambulance post at Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Terminal were commissioned. The West Kowloon Rescue Training Centre, which is equipped with advanced fire fighting and rescue training facilities, was officially opened in October 2007.

### *Public Liaison Group*

The Public Liaison Group was set up to encourage public participation in monitoring and improving the delivery of emergency fire and ambulance services. Among the 63 applicants from all walks of life, a total of 30 people were chosen randomly to form the group for 2007.

## **Correctional Services**

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) runs a comprehensive range of services for adult and young offenders, drug addicts and offenders with psychiatric problems. Its services fall broadly under two headings: prison management and rehabilitation of offenders.

In 2007, the CSD managed 23 correctional institutions, three halfway houses, four rehabilitation centres, two custodial wards in public hospitals and one immigration centre for the Immigration Department. In all, 6 622 staff were looking after a daily average of 11 226 inmates, 375 detainees and 2 780 people under supervision after discharge from custody.

Offenders sentenced to imprisonment are assigned to institutions according to their gender, age and security ratings. Separate institutions are provided for males and females, and for adults and young offenders. Male and female young offenders aged between 14 and 20 may be admitted to a training centre or a rehabilitation centre. A detention centre programme is available for male offenders aged between 14 and 24. Drug addicts found guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment may be placed in a drug addiction treatment centre.

All inmates receive proper care. Their diet follows approved scales of nutritional values with regard to their health and religious requirements. All adult inmates, unless certified physically unfit, are required to work six days a week. They are assigned to different work posts according to their fitness and security ratings, personal background and balance of sentence. They receive payments for their work, which may be used for buying approved personal items. They can watch television and have access to newspapers and library books. They may send and receive letters, receive visits and participate in religious services.

### *Penal Institutions*

CSD manages 12 prisons for adult males, consisting of three maximum, four medium and five minimum security institutions. Adult female prisoners are accommodated in four prisons. For young male offenders, the department operates one maximum security institution, two training centres and one detention centre. A training centre section is provided in Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution, a multifunction institution for young females. Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre and its Annex accommodate male and female drug addicts respectively. Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre is a maximum security prison which houses separately male and female prisoners of all categories and detainees who require psychiatric observation, treatment or assessment. Five of the institutions cater for remanded males and females of different age groups. Facilities in a penal institution normally include dormitories, kitchens, dining rooms, laundries, workshops, exercising and recreational areas, library and a hospital.

CSD operates three halfway houses to help inmates released under supervision to reintegrate into society. Group counselling sessions and other activities are organised and the residents can go out to work or attend school during the daytime.

### *Penal Population*

The penal population was large in 2007. Overcrowding occurred mostly in prisons accommodating female adults. The average number of women in prison in 2007 was 2 196 and they occupied 109 per cent of total prison living space. Despite the overcrowding situation, the department continued to implement its correctional programmes effectively.

During the year, 16 044 adult offenders, comprising 10 783 men and 5 261 women, were sentenced to prison and 8 679 adults (6 649 men and 2 030 women) on remand were taken into custody. The number of young offenders sentenced to imprisonment totalled 707, comprising 332 males and 375 females, and 768 young people on remand (609 males and 159 females) were taken into custody. In addition, 751 young offenders (679 males and 72 females) were sentenced to detention in training centres, rehabilitation centres or the detention centre, and 1 372 offenders (1 130 males and 242 females) were placed in drug addiction treatment centres; while 3 919 offenders (3 373 males and 546 females) were remanded pending reports on their suitability for sentencing to one of these centres.

### *Assessment Services*

Young people aged between 14 and 20, who are convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment, may be remanded in custody for a period not exceeding three weeks for assessment of their suitability for admission to a training centre, rehabilitation centre, detention centre or drug addiction treatment centre. Young men aged between 21 and 24 may be similarly remanded for admission to the detention centre.

The Rehabilitation Unit (Assessment) makes recommendations to the courts on the suitability of offenders for detention at one of the four types of inmate centres mentioned above. In 2007, a total of 5 409 suitability reports were prepared, and assessment officers found 1 213 males and 160 females suitable for admission to a rehabilitation centre, a training centre or detention centre, and 1 369 males and 308 females suitable for a drug addiction treatment centre.

### *Young Offender Assessment Panel*

The Young Offender Assessment Panel, comprising representatives from the CSD and the Social Welfare Department, makes recommendations to magistrates and judges on the most appropriate rehabilitation programmes for young male offenders aged between 14 and 24 and females aged 14 to 20.

### *Training Centres, Detention Centre and Rehabilitation Centres*

Training centres provide correctional training for young offenders for periods ranging from a minimum of six months to a maximum of three years. These offenders attend half-day educational classes and receive half-day vocational training. They also receive character development training in the form of scouting, or guiding or Outward Bound training. Upon release, inmates must have suitable employment, education or vocational training and are subject to a statutory period of supervision lasting three years.

A detention centre programme is carried out at Sha Tsui Detention Centre for young male offenders aged between 14 and 20, and young male adults aged between 21 and 24. It emphasises strict discipline, strenuous training, hard work and a vigorous routine. The detention period for young males and young adults are one to six months and three to 12 months respectively. After release, detainees are placed under a one-year statutory supervision for one year.

In operation since July 2002, the rehabilitation centres provide an additional sentencing option for the courts to deal with young offenders aged between 14 and 20 who are in need of a short-term residential rehabilitation programme.

### *Education*

Inmates under 21 are required to attend educational classes conducted by qualified teachers. They are encouraged to take part in both local and overseas public examinations.

A Prisoners Education Trust Fund, set up with charitable donations in 1995, provides financial assistance to prisoners seeking an education. Grants are given from the fund to cover course or examination fees and cost of reference materials.

### *Vocational Training*

To help young offenders reintegrate smoothly into society as law-abiding citizens, the CSD provides vocational training programmes for inmates under 21 years of age to enable them to acquire job skills, obtain accreditation and develop work habits.

For adult prisoners, the CSD also provides pre-release vocational training for local adult offenders who wish to participate on a voluntary basis. Such vocational training is provided on a full-time basis at Lai Sun Correctional Institution Vocational Training Centre and on a part-time basis in other institutions.

### *Correctional Services Industries*

The Correctional Services Industries (CSI) provides work for adult prisoners as required by law. Apart from keeping the inmates gainfully occupied in purposeful work, CSI helps them develop good working habits and a sense of responsibility, build up self-confidence, and cultivate employability skills to facilitate their reintegration into the society.

In 2007, a daily average of about 5 856 prisoners were engaged in CSI, which provides a wide range of goods and services for government departments and subvented bodies. Products made by the inmates under the CSI programme include furniture, uniforms, leather goods, hospital linen, protective filter mask, fibreglass litter containers, traffic signs and precast concrete products. Prisoners also provide laundry services for hospitals, clinics and ambulance depots, and they also bind books for public libraries, undertake printing work and make file jackets and envelopes. Products and services provided by CSI were worth \$455 million in 2007.

### *Welfare and Counselling Services*

Programme Officers look after the welfare of detainees and prisoners, and help them deal with personal problems and difficulties arising from their detention or imprisonment. Apart from conducting individual and group counselling sessions, the officers would also assist in the running of various rehabilitation programmes and provide services such as organising pre-release re-integration orientation courses, making arrangements for the prisoners to meet their family members and supplying them with information on community resources.

### *Drug Addiction Treatment*

The CSD runs a compulsory treatment programme for convicted drug addicts, which provides the courts with an alternative to imprisonment. Male and female inmates are accommodated at Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre and its Annex respectively. Young addicts aged between 14 and 20 are accommodated separately from the adults. An inmate undergoes in-centre treatment for a period of two to 12 months, followed by one year of statutory supervision. The programme is

based on therapeutic treatment, discipline, work programmes, outdoor physical activities and comprehensive supervision services.

### *Medical Services*

Hospitals are set up in every institution to provide inmates with basic medical treatment, health care and dental services. Inmates who need specialist treatment are either referred to visiting specialists or to specialist outpatient clinics in public hospitals. Pregnant prisoners are referred to public hospitals for delivery and related services.

### *Psychological Services*

Psychological services are provided to inmates and prisoners to improve their psychological well-being and to change their offending behaviour. Clinical psychologists and trained officers provide special treatment programmes for inmates such as sex offenders, violent offenders, inmates with addiction problems and young offenders. They also provide assessment reports to the courts, review boards and institutional management on request. CSD took steps during the year to further improve the running of rehabilitative services provided for offenders after they have been discharged. It has adopted an empirically-based protocol and clinical measures for assessing the offenders' risk of re-offending after they have been discharged.

### *Supervision Services*

Statutory supervision is provided to discharged young prisoners, people discharged from training, rehabilitation, detention and drug addiction treatment centres, and prisoners discharged under the Release Under Supervision, Pre-release Employment and Post-release Supervision Schemes, as well as prisoners discharged under a conditional release order or post-release supervision order. The aim of supervision services is to help ex-offenders reintegrate into society. Any breach of the supervision conditions may result in these ex-inmates being recalled for a further period of training, treatment or imprisonment.

Under the Release Under Supervision and Pre-release Employment Schemes, successful applicants may be discharged from prison for supervision or permitted to go out to work and live in a hostel with supervision services. Both schemes aim at enabling suitable, eligible and motivated prisoners to serve their sentences in an open environment while under supervision.

The Post-release Supervision Scheme provides supervision for certain categories of adult prisoners to facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Prisoners with indeterminate sentences may, before the Long-term Prison Sentences Review Board makes recommendations as to whether their indeterminate sentences should be converted to determinate ones, be conditionally released under supervision for a specific period to test their determination and ability to lead a law-abiding life. Prisoners whose indeterminate sentences have been converted to determinate ones may also be ordered by the board to be placed under post-release supervision.

In 2007, 2 769 offenders were discharged under supervision. They, together with those discharged in previous years and who had yet to complete their supervision

period, added up to a total of 2 899 persons under the CSD's supervision at the end of 2007. During the year, 886 persons were recalled for breach of supervision conditions.

### *Community Support*

Community acceptance and support are of paramount importance to the rehabilitation of offenders and their reintegration into society. Comprising representatives of non-governmental organisations, government departments and professionals from various sectors of society, the Committee on Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders is a non-statutory advisory body appointed by the Commissioner of Correctional Services to advise on rehabilitation programmes and publicity strategies.

All along, CSD has organised a variety of publicity activities to appeal for public support for rehabilitated offenders.

### *Information Technology and Management Services*

Information technology is used extensively in CSD to improve its efficiency in institutional management, the industries, rehabilitation services, human resources management, staff training and general administration. Continuous efforts are being made to enhance the quality and efficiency of prison management and various services through the introduction of new technologies.

### *Visiting Justices*

Each penal institution is visited by Justices of the Peace fortnightly or monthly, depending on the type of institutions. The Justices of the Peace receive and investigate complaints from prisoners, inspect diets and examine living and working conditions.

### *Complaints*

The Complaints Investigation Unit is responsible for handling and investigating complaints in relation to the department's work. All investigation reports are subject to the scrutiny of the Correctional Services Department Complaints Committee. Inmates may also lodge complaints with any senior officers or duty officers of the CSD, or utilise other channels such as the visiting Justices of the Peace, The Ombudsman and the Legislative Council for redress of grievances.

### **Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance**

The Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance, which came into effect on August 9, 2006, provides a new statutory regime for the authorisation and regulation of interception of communications and covert surveillance conducted by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime and protecting public security. The ordinance provides for the appointment of a Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance as an independent oversight authority. On the recommendation of the Chief Justice, the Chief Executive appointed Justice Woo Kwok-hing, Justice of Appeal of the Court of

Appeal, as the commissioner for a period of three years. The commissioner is assisted by a secretariat in performing his functions under the ordinance.

The main duties of the commissioner are to oversee and conduct reviews on the compliance by LEAs and their officers with the relevant requirements under the ordinance; carry out examinations upon applications from people who suspect they are subjects of interception or covert surveillance conducted by LEAs; give notifications to those affected in cases of interception or covert surveillance without the authority of a prescribed authorisation; and make recommendations to the Secretary for Security on the code of practice issued under the ordinance and to the heads of LEAs to better carry out the aims of the ordinance and the code of practice.

The commissioner is required to submit annual reports to the Chief Executive with statistical information and his assessment on the overall compliance with the relevant requirements under the ordinance during the report period. The first annual report, covering the period from the commencement of the ordinance to December 31, 2006, was submitted to the Chief Executive in June 2007. The report was tabled in the Legislative Council in October 2007.

### **Civil Aid Service**

The Civil Aid Service (CAS) is a government auxiliary emergency service established under the Civil Aid Service Ordinance. It has an establishment of 3 634 adult members, 3 232 cadets and 106 civil servants.

The primary duty of the CAS is to provide civil support services during emergencies. Members of the service are trained to perform emergency duties during typhoons, flooding and landslips; search for and rescue people in distress in mountains; help evacuate or rescue victims trapped under collapsed buildings or buried in landslips; and combat vegetation fires and oil pollution at sea. In 2007, CAS members were mobilised for one typhoon rescue operation, 73 mountain search and rescue duties, and 35 vegetation fire-fighting operations.

The CAS members continued to patrol hiking trails and country parks on Sundays and public holidays to assist people on outings who need help. During the dry season, members were on standby for fire-fighting duties. CAS participated in various events held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. The CAS also helped organise several youth exchange programmes in Beijing, entitled 'Youth Patriots Express — A Celebration of Ten Legendary Years' and 'Youth Exchange Visit In Beijing'. It also provided crowd management services at 208 public events during the year.

On another front, the CAS helps young people to develop leadership potential and civic awareness, and runs a recruitment programme for youngsters aged between 12 and 17 to join the CAS Cadet Corps. Apart from participating in recreational activities, the cadets are trained in a wide variety of disciplines and skills including foot drill, basic emergency rescue, printing and binding, fibreglass moulding, rock climbing and explorations. Cadets aged over 13 are also encouraged

to take part in crowd management at major community events and in hiking trail and country park patrols.

### **Government Flying Service**

The Government Flying Service (GFS) is a disciplined service department. It provides the community of Hong Kong with a wide range of flying services, including round-the-clock search and rescue coverage, casualty and medical evacuation, fire fighting and support for law enforcement agencies and other government departments.

The GFS has an establishment of 166 disciplined and 57 civilian staff and operates an aircraft fleet of two-fixed wing aeroplanes and seven helicopters. In 2007, it flew a total of 5 588 hours, assisted in 343 search and rescue operations and transported 1 400 patients to hospitals by helicopter. Auxiliary flying doctors and nurses flew a total of 381 hours in 495 operations. The GFS also flew 5 962 government officers and official visitors in the course of their duties or programmes.

#### *Websites*

Security Bureau: [www.sb.gov.hk](http://www.sb.gov.hk) (links to Disciplined Services)

Independent Commission Against Corruption: [www.icac.org.hk](http://www.icac.org.hk)

Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance:  
[www.sciocs.gov.hk](http://www.sciocs.gov.hk)