

Chapter 16

Public Order

The law and order situation in Hong Kong remained stable in 2011. The overall crime rate (number of crimes per 100 000 population) fell by 0.7 per cent while the violent crime rate fell by 4.2 per cent compared to 2010. The overall crime detection rate was 42.5 per cent. Hong Kong retained its position as one of the safest cities in the world.

Fight Crime Committee

Established in 1973 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Fight Crime Committee (FCC) provides advice and recommendations on the prevention and reduction of crime, co-ordinates crime-fighting efforts and monitors their results.

In 2011, the FCC continued to monitor the overall crime situation and the trend of various types of commercial crime. It also kept under review the progress of the 'Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme', which serves as an alternative to prosecuting young offenders.

In addition, the FCC offered its views on the implementation of the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme with a view to enhancing protection of children and mentally incapacitated persons from sexual abuse.

The Standing Committee on Young Offenders, a sub-committee under the FCC, monitored the trend of crimes involving juveniles and young persons. The sub-committee discussed factors which affect the involvement of juveniles and youths in crime and proposed preventive and remedial measures to tackle the problem.

During the year, the FCC adopted a total of four schemes for several publicity campaigns, entitled 'Beware of Telephone Deception', 'Beware of Pickpockets', 'Protect Yourself from Sexual Assault' and 'Stand Firm! Knock Drugs Out!' having regard to the crime situation in 2010 and in continued support for the territory-wide campaign against youth drug abuse carried out by the Government since June 2008.

District Fight Crime Committees (DFCCs) continued to play an important role in the battle against crime by monitoring the situation at district level 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 co-operation, the FCC and DFCCs exchanged feedback regularly on various issues discussed at their respective meetings. FCC members also took turns to attend DFCC meetings and functions to exchange views on topical crime issues and ways to combat crime.

Police Force

The Hong Kong Police Force's strong commitment to maintaining law and order ensured that Hong Kong continued to be one of the safest cities in the world for residents and visitors.

At year-end, the Police Force had an establishment of about 28 300 police officers and more than 4 700 civilian staff. The Police Force was also reinforced by some 4 000 volunteers serving in the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force. 182 inspectors and 1 073 constables were appointed during the year.

Crime

Reported crimes in 2011 totalled 75 936, a decrease of 0.04 per cent compared with 75 965 in 2010. The crime rate stood at 1 068 cases per 100 000 population, a drop of 0.7 per cent compared with 1 075 in 2010. The decrease was mainly due to a decline in serious narcotics offences, wounding and serious assault, and burglary. The number of violent crimes decreased to 13 100, a drop of 3.3 per cent compared with 13 546 in 2010.

In 2011, there were 731 robberies, a drop of 6 per cent compared with 778 in 2010. It was the fifth consecutive year that no case of robbery with genuine firearms was reported. There were three bank robberies, an increase of one compared with two in 2010. All were committed by lone robbers.

Regarding non-violent crimes, burglaries decreased from 4 543 in 2010 to 4 382, a decline of 3.5 per cent, while thefts increased from 34 343 in 2010 to 35 026, a rise of 2 per cent.

Of reported crimes, 42.5 per cent (or 32 294 crimes) were detected, resulting in the arrest of 38 327 persons. Of this number, 3 343 were juveniles aged between 10 and 15 and 4 350 were young people aged between 16 and 20. Most young persons were arrested for wounding and serious assaults, serious narcotics offences, miscellaneous thefts and shop thefts. During the year, six firearms were seized compared with three in 2010.

The number of triad-related crimes increased to 2 207 compared with 2 037 in 2010. This type of crime accounted for 2.9 per cent of all reported crimes during the year. To tackle triad activities, a large-scale tripartite anti-triad operation involving the police forces of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao was mounted in the second half of 2011 with a total of 1 081 persons arrested in Hong Kong for various crimes.

During the year, there were 890 cases of taking conveyance without authority, a drop of 7.4 per cent or 71 cases compared with 2010. The number of cases involving motorcycles increased by 20.4 per cent while those involving light goods vehicles decreased by 46.3 per cent.

Domestic Violence and Child Protection

The Police continued to prevent and combat domestic violence and child abuse by working closely with other government departments and non-governmental organisations. In collaboration with the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Education Bureau (EDB), the Police provided training in identifying and handling domestic violence and child abuse cases to concerned professionals. To address local needs, the Police also organised promotional campaigns on prevention of domestic violence and child protection at district level.

Commercial Crime

To help maintain a safe and stable business environment in Hong Kong, the Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB) continued to be responsible for the investigations into syndicated and serious commercial crimes. The number of these cases remained stable in 2011.

The CCB successfully prosecuted 58 complex and serious fraud or counterfeit cases. One notable prosecution involved a listed company, in which three directors were convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment between nine and 12 years for 'conspiracy to defraud', involving \$300 million. The CCB also continued assisting overseas jurisdictions with 61 investigations completed under the Mutual Legal Assistance Scheme.

The number of reported cases of deception perpetrated by gangs of confidence tricksters operating in the streets in 2011 increased when compared with 2010. Seven such syndicates were smashed. Crime prevention publicity campaigns were conducted on a regular basis. In respect of lottery frauds, the number of cases remained stable.

Aided by stepped up operations and effective intelligence partnerships with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies, the bureau seized 3 584 counterfeit Hong Kong banknotes during the year.

Technology Crime

The Police received 2 206 reports of technology crime during 2011 involving a total loss of about \$148.5 million. About 83 per cent of the reported cases were related to online games, e-business fraud and unauthorised access to computers.

The Technology Crime Division (TCD) of the CCB strengthened collaboration with various stakeholders including the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team, the Office of Government Chief Information Officer, as well as overseas strategic partners such as INTERPOL. A number of crime prevention seminars were organised in conjunction with the banking and financial sectors to raise public awareness and provide advice on information security.

In 2011, besides conducting seven professional certification courses on technology crime investigation techniques and computer forensic examinations, the TCD had also organised an INTERPOL Train-the-trainer Workshop on IT Crime Investigation in Hong Kong and sent an expert to Korea to train the trainers from the Asia and South Pacific Region.

Dangerous Drugs

Tackling youth drug abuse continued to be a priority of the Police Force in 2011. The Police Force strengthened its role in preventive education and anti-drug publicity. Intelligence-led operations against drug traffickers, particularly those that exploit minors and juveniles, intensified. During the year, a total of five drug traffickers had their sentences increased by the courts for employing young persons to traffic drugs.

The majority of arrests were in respect of ketamine. There was a substantial increase in the amount of cocaine seized, with some large seizures at wholesale level in two individual cases. One of the cases involved, the seizure of 567 kilogrammes of cocaine was a record for a single seizure of the drug. The large seizures are a direct result of a series of successful intelligence-led operations.

The majority of drugs manufacturing cases detected in 2011 involved the conversion of cocaine powder into what is commonly known as 'crack'. A total of 12 premises, engaged in this illicit business, was shut down.

The Narcotics Bureau (NB) continued to collaborate with its Mainland and overseas counterparts to tackle cross-boundary and transnational trafficking. These efforts led to substantial drug seizures and the dismantling of drug production sites outside Hong Kong. A total of 2 734.6 kilogrammes of illicit drugs plus 123.4 kilogrammes of precursor chemicals were seized in the Mainland and overseas. A total of 18 illicit drug manufacturing plants in the Asian region were also dismantled.

Financial Investigation

During the year, both the Financial Investigations Division and the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit (JFIU) under the NB carried out operations against money laundering and terrorist financing activities. A total of 96 people were convicted of money laundering. Some \$2,457 million worth of assets belonging to criminals was impounded and around \$69 million of laundered money was confiscated.

The Police continued to take part in local and international meetings on anti-money laundering. In addition to training conducted locally, officers of the JFIU joined forces with the Malaysian Financial Intelligence Unit in carrying out the Asia Pacific Group Typology Project of 'Money Laundering associated with Large-scale Transnational Frauds'. The project's objectives were to examine the scope of the issue, identify trends, indicators and enhance international co-operation, and to provide measures to counter money-laundering activities.

Illegal Immigration

In 2011, a total of 2 178 illegal immigrants were arrested, a decrease of 29.6 per cent compared with 3 092 in 2010. The number of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants arrested fell to 266, a decline of 29.4 per cent compared with 377 in 2010.

The Police Force and other government departments continued to work together in combating illegal immigration despite the marked decline in such activity. Close liaison and co-operation were also maintained with the Guangdong Border Defence Bureau to strengthen enforcement actions at the boundary.

Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Bureau (CPB) continued to enhance public awareness of the benefits of crime prevention through publicity campaigns, joint efforts with government departments, seminars for established organisations, and security equipment and Robotcop shows.

The CPB continued to work closely with the security industry to ensure that security companies, security personnel and monitored alarm systems were of the highest standard.

Forensic Support

The Identification Bureau (IB) continued to play an important role in supporting crime investigations and prosecutions by providing fingerprint collection and photography services as well as collecting DNA evidence from crime scenes. During the year, it established the criminal history of 61 357 individuals, linking 1 540 people to 1 356 criminal cases.

Led by the Security Bureau, the IB implemented the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme, providing employers with a reliable channel whereby they may ascertain whether applicants applying for work relating to children or mentally incapacitated persons have any sexual conviction records.

The Forensic Firearms Examination Bureau continued to provide professional and efficient forensic firearms examination services to Hong Kong courts. During the first quarter of the year, it was involved in the forensic investigation of the Manila hostage incident and provided expert testimony at the death inquest.

Liaison

The Liaison Bureau serves as a conduit for communication between the Police Force, and the Mainland Public Security Bureau, overseas law enforcement agencies and their liaison officers stationed in Hong Kong.

The bureau also assists the Department of Justice in handling overseas requests for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and the surrender of fugitive offenders. By the end of the year, the Government had signed bilateral agreements with 27 jurisdictions on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and 18 jurisdictions on surrender of fugitive offenders.

In 2011, the Hong Kong Police Force hosted its 19th meeting with the Ministry of Public Security of China in Beijing at which major security matters were discussed. The Police Force also co-operated closely with the Guangdong Public Security Department and Macao Police in combating cross-boundary crimes. In June 2011, the Police Force hosted the 17th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Tripartite Criminal Investigation Department Heads Meeting.

The Police Force continued to send officers on secondment to the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France, and its Regional Liaison Office in Bangkok. Attachment programmes with various overseas law enforcement agencies were also drawn up.

Police Force Search Unit

The first batch of 13 Force Search Unit officers graduated with 'Diploma in Police Search and Venue Security' in the year. The programme was accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation for Academic and Vocational Qualification at Level 3 of the Qualifications Framework.

Police Dogs

There were 113 dogs in the Police Dog Unit at year-end, assisting the police in detecting and preventing crime. During the year, police dog handlers, together with their canine partners, arrested 712 criminals.

In supporting the fight against drug abuse, nine passive alert dogs were trained and deployed in 2010 followed by another six in 2011. The 15 dogs assisted in detection of 32 drug cases.

Custody management and Detention

The Police Force is aware of people's human rights including those people in police custody. In 2008, the Police Force launched a full review of custodial management and detention. In February 2011, it embarked on a \$12 million project to standardise all 33 police detention facilities and to make them safer and more hygienic for the detainees as well as the police staff.

Police Licensing Office

The Police Licensing Office participates in various government business facilitation and licensing improvement initiatives. During the year, the office processed 63 923 security personnel permit applications, 122 massage establishment licence applications, 220 pawnbroker licence applications and 3 833 liquor licence applications.

Marine Region

A 'Versatile Maritime Policing Response' strategy was fully implemented in 2011. It involves the strategic deployment of the marine regional fleet of 123 craft which resulted in the arrest of 908 illegal immigrants and the rescue of 29 people in Hong Kong waters in 2011.

During the year, 27 high-power speedboats used by smugglers were confiscated and contraband worth \$58 million was seized.

Traffic

During the year, there were 15 339 traffic accidents involving casualties including 129 deaths, an increase of 3 per cent and 10 per cent respectively compared with 2010. The death toll from motor traffic accidents has been the lowest for more than half-a-century since 2010. The number of enforcement actions against traffic offences was 1 276 193 in 2011, or 3 per cent up on 2010. The enforcement action included 410 389 fixed-penalty tickets for moving vehicle offences, 796 802 tickets for parking offences, 65 421 summonses served for other traffic offences and 3 581 arrests for serious traffic offences.

Public Relations

The Police Public Relations Branch (PPRB) plays an important role in enlisting public support in maintaining law and order by working in partnership with the media and fostering good relations with all sectors of the community. Information about police activities is disseminated to local and overseas media round-the-clock. The PPRB also assisted the Fight Crime Committee in planning and implementing its Fight Crime Publicity Campaign 2011-12.

Police policies and operational priorities are made available to the public by Police Community Relations Officers while a Junior Police Call (JPC) Scheme and a Police School Liaison Programme serve as bridges between the Police and young people.

To keep the public abreast of crime trends and crime prevention measures, PPRB produces a number of publications entitled *Police Magazine*, *Police Report* and *Police Bulletin*. It also assists local and overseas TV broadcasters and film-production companies in producing TV dramas, documentaries and films related to police work as well as supporting the Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) office in processing applications for filming-related licences. CreateHK was set up in 2009 to promote Hong Kong's creative industry.

During the year, PPRB published a bi-weekly newspaper, *Offbeat*; a JPC monthly newsletter; and the yearbook *Hong Kong Police Review 2010*.

The Police Force also organises a 'Good Citizen Award' Scheme which gives recognition to citizens who have assisted the Police in fighting crime. The scheme is sponsored by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. During the year, 80 citizens received awards bestowed under the scheme.

Police telephone hotlines and crime information forms provide convenient channels for reporting crime. By year-end, the Police had received a total of 22 908 hotline phone calls (excluding those made to the 999 emergency hotline) and 4 258 crime information forms, resulting in 171 arrests.

Planning and Development

Construction work relating to the relocation of two police facilities started in 2011. The two facilities are: the Police Post in Hung Shing Ye Wan which is being moved to Yung Shue Wan on Lamma Island, and the Kowloon Police Vehicle Pound and Examination Centre in Sheung Shing Street in Ho Man Tin, which is being

moved to Wang Chiu Road in Kowloon Bay. The construction work is expected to be completed in 2013.

Information and Communication Technology

The Central Command System (CCS) of the Versatile Maritime Policing Response Project won three Hong Kong Information and Communication Technology Awards in 2011, namely 'Award of the Year', 'Best Public Service Application Grand Award' and 'Best Public Service Application (Transformation) Gold Award'. The CCS is a new integrated command and control system for the Marine Region, placing it at the forefront of maritime policing through advanced information and communication technology applications, and thereby providing better services to the public.

Training

In April, the Police College's Management Learning Division was awarded the ISO 9001:2008 Certification, the college's third ISO certificate to date.

In October, the Hong Kong Police Force co-hosted the '6th Symposium on Police Studies of the Strait cum Hong Kong and Macao'. The meeting was held to discuss ways of combating cross-boundary crimes. Over 170 delegates, scholars and observers from four jurisdictions attended the event, entitled 'Cross Boundary Economic Crime Prevention and Police Co-operation'.

Occupational Safety and Health

A total of 222 risk assessors were trained in 2011 to assist the Police Force's risk managers in identifying health risks faced by members of the Police Force in the course of their work.

Service Quality

The Service Quality Wing continued to serve as a facilitator for the Police Force's strategic planning, and assisted its management in formulating the 'Strategic Action Plan 2012-2014', scheduled to be published in January 2012. The plan identifies the improvements the Police Force is seeking to achieve based on identified future challenges and details how to tackle them.

Since 1997, the Police Force had also been launching a series of workshops entitled 'Living-the-Values' to enhance its officers' understanding and acceptance of Police Force values. Another series of such workshops which carry the theme 'Professionalism in the Changing World', is being held and will continue until 2012.

In 2011, the Police Force won six awards, presented under the Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme which encourages civil servants to strive for continuous improvement in providing quality service to the public.

Complaints and Internal Investigations

The Complaints and Internal Investigations Branch comprises the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) and the Internal Investigations Office (IIO).

Under the statutory two-tier complaints handling system, CAPO handles all complaints lodged by the public against members of the Police Force and renders

full support to the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) in performing its statutory functions under the IPCC Ordinance to review the investigation results.

During the year, CAPO received 2 771 reportable complaints, or 15.3 per cent less than that of 2010. Of the investigation results endorsed by the IPCC, 169 were classified as substantiated and disciplinary action was taken against the officers concerned.

The Police Force's Committee on Complaints Prevention, which was set up in May 2010, examines, formulates and co-ordinates complaints prevention strategies to enlist public support and ensure confidence in the complaint handling mechanism.

The IIO continued to promote the Police Force's 'Integrated Integrity Management Framework' which oversees all policies and issues related to police integrity and ethics and to ensure its effectiveness in reinforcing the Police Force's values of integrity and honesty. The behavioural guidelines were used in various education and culture building initiatives to enhance officers' awareness and acceptance.

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC)

The IPCC is an independent body established, among other things, to:

- observe, monitor and review the Police Force's handling and investigation of reportable complaints;
- monitor actions taken or to be taken in respect of any member of the Police Force by the Commissioner of Police in connection with reportable complaints;
- identify any fault or deficiency in police practice or procedure that has led to or might lead to reportable complaints and make recommendations accordingly;
- advise the Commissioner of Police and/or the Chief Executive of its opinion and/or recommendation in connection with reportable complaints; and
- promote public awareness of the role of the council.

Its 24 members, all appointed by the Chief Executive, are drawn from a wide spectrum of society with diverse expertise. The council had 110 observers at year-end. These observers, as well as the council members, may attend interviews and observe the collection of evidence conducted by police formations in respect of reportable complaints on a pre-arranged or surprise basis, to ensure that investigations are conducted in a fair and impartial manner.

During the year, IPCC scrutinised and endorsed the findings in 3 299 investigation reports on reportable complaints received in 2011 or those carried forward from previous years, involving a total of 6 744 allegations. Of these reports, 259 allegations were found substantiated, or partially substantiated, and the Police Force has taken appropriate action against the officers involved.

Customs and Excise

The Customs and Excise Department is responsible primarily 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 5 582 staff. (See also Chapter 5).

Revenue Collection

The Customs and Excise Department is responsible for the collection of excise duties derived from dutiable commodities stipulated in the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance: liquor, tobacco, hydrocarbon oil and methyl alcohol. During the financial year 2010-11, the excise duties collected amounted to \$7.55 billion, of which 55.9 per cent was from tobacco, 40.1 per cent from hydrocarbon oil, 3.9 per cent from liquor and 0.1 per cent from methyl alcohol and other alcohol products, representing a total increase of 16.9 per cent over 2009-10.

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 2011, the department registered 132 motor traders, assessed the provisional taxable value on 63 707 vehicles and re-assessed 16 722 of them, resulting in the collection of \$7.41 billion 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

The department has stepped up enforcement actions to suppress illicit cigarette activities following the new limits on tobacco products brought into Hong Kong since August 2010 and the increase of tobacco duty since February 2011. In 2011, there were 2 425 cases involving smuggling, storage, distribution and peddling of illicit cigarettes, an increase of 12 per cent compared with 2010. A total of 103 million sticks of illicit cigarettes was seized.

In 2011, 6 681 people were fined under the Compounding Scheme for abuse of duty-free cigarette concessions, an increase of 61 per cent compared with 2010, involving 2.7 million sticks of cigarettes.

The department continued co-operating with overseas customs administrations to stamp out transnational cigarette smuggling. In 2011, by monitoring suspicious shipments and through intelligence exchange, the department's efforts led to the seizure of 56.28 million sticks of illicit cigarettes by overseas enforcement authorities.

The department took sustained action to stamp out illicit fuel activities. In 2011, it solved 228 illicit fuel cases, arrested 288 people and seized 93 000 litres of illicit fuel. The number of seizures was 37 per cent less than that of 2010.

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 co-operation and exchange of intelligence with local, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking.

In 2011, the department dealt with 185 drug trafficking cases and smashed 11 drug storage and distribution centres. A total of 329 kilogrammes of assorted dangerous drugs were seized and 416 people arrested. The department mounted a series of operations against a major ketamine trafficking syndicate in the first quarter of 2011 and seized 27 kilogrammes of ketamine and arrested seven people. Co-operation with the Mainland and overseas Customs administrations resulted in the seizure of 10.6 kilogrammes of assorted dangerous drugs and 5.3 kilogrammes of controlled chemicals in the Mainland and overseas.

As part of the Government's vigorous efforts to combat youth drug abuse, the department strengthened enforcement at boundary control points by stepping up checks on cross-boundary coaches and private vehicles, deploying more detector dogs and plainclothes officers in operations, exchanging intelligence and mounting parallel operations with its Mainland counterparts. It also collaborates with non-governmental organisations to encourage young people to stay away from drugs and to lead a healthy life.

Anti-smuggling Operations

Smuggling carried out across the Hong Kong-Mainland boundary remains an enforcement concern. In 2011, a total of 167 Hong Kong-Mainland smuggling attempts were detected with the arrest of 213 people and the seizure of \$615 million worth of smuggled goods.

Computer parts and electronic products were the main items smuggled into the Mainland. Cigarettes, which are cheaper in the Mainland, and counterfeit goods were often smuggled into Hong Kong.

The department continues to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to combat smuggling activities through exchange of intelligence and the mounting of parallel operations.

The department works closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for the detection and prevention of smuggling of food and animals.

Narcotics Division

The Narcotics Division (ND) of Security Bureau co-ordinates anti-drug policies and measures, particularly those against youth drug abuse, which has been a concern to society in recent years. It also oversees anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing in respect of non-financial sectors.

Overall Strategy and Co-ordination

The Government adopts a five-pronged strategy in the fight against drug abuse, as embodied in the report of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse led by the Secretary for Justice. The strategy involves preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and law enforcement, external co-operation, and research.

The Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN), a non-statutory body comprising professionals in the medical, youth service, education, media, community service, legal and anti-drug fields, advises the Government on anti-drug strategies. Chaired by a non-official, ACAN has 17 non-official members and five official members, namely Commissioner for Narcotics and representatives from the EDB, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Department of Health (DH) and the SWD. Under an arrangement between Singapore and Hong Kong, the Director of Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau also sits on the committee. The ACAN is underpinned by two subcommittees on preventive education and publicity and on treatment and rehabilitation. The subcommittees comprise members with diverse backgrounds and expertise.

Preventive Education and Publicity

Over the past few years, efforts had been made to step up the anti-drug campaign. The ND continued to use the theme 'Stand Firm! Knock Drugs Out!' in the 2011 territory-wide publicity campaign to disseminate anti-drug message to young people and strengthen their resolve to refuse drugs. The department also continued to make use of social media network, as well as mobile and on-line communication platforms to promote anti-drug messages among youths. Three sets of Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) and posters were launched to highlight the harmful effects of cocaine, ice and ketamine, and promote community acceptance of treatment and rehabilitation facilities. Large outdoor banners, SMS messages and advertisements at public transport stations, in karaoke clubs, upstairs bars and on the internet had also been used to disseminate anti-drug messages to the youths.

To rally community support for the anti-drug cause and in support of the annual International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a large-scale anti-drug event was held at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium on June 25.

Schools play an important role in preventing drug abuse among young people. In this regard, the ND continued to support the EDB in promoting the institutionalisation of a school-based 'Healthy School Policy' with an anti-drug element. Support for schools continued to be strengthened with structured professional training for school personnel to equip them with drug knowledge and

practical skills to identify and offer assistance early to at-risk students. The ND also continued to commission non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to conduct drug education programmes for students at Primary Three and above in local primary and international schools.

A series of measures was implemented to enhance support services for parents, including district-based parent seminars, train-the-trainer sessions, on-line discussion platform for parents, in-depth programmes for social workers, publication of anti-drug educational materials, and telephone support service manned by social workers through the ND's telephone service '186 186'.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre continued to be a platform for promoting anti-drug education. In 2011, it received 35 000 visitors, including students, youth groups, district bodies, community organisations, overseas delegations, parent-teacher associations and uniformed groups.

Drug Testing

With the successful completion of the 'Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing' in Tai Po District in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years, the Government started to encourage other schools to pursue the Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component (HSP(DT)) as a preventive measure. In the school year 2011-12, more than 40 secondary schools introduced the programme.

The Government Laboratory obtained accreditation for its hair drug testing technology. It provided free hair drug testing services to NGOs.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

A variety of treatment and rehabilitation services is available to drug abusers with different needs. The major services include a compulsory drug treatment programme run by the Correctional Services Department, 40 voluntary residential programmes run by the NGOs, a voluntary methadone outpatient treatment programme operated by the DH, substance abuse clinics at all seven hospital clusters of the Hospital Authority, as well as 11 counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers run by the NGOs.

The Government provided additional resources to increase the manpower of school social work services by 20 per cent in 2011 for carrying out focused anti-drug work at schools. The ND also continued to work closely with stakeholders to implement a fifth three-year plan on drug treatment and rehabilitation services covering 2009 to 2011. Its key recommendations included strengthening collaboration of various service modes across different disciplines, provision of training for anti-drug workers and enhancing treatment and rehabilitation programmes in terms of capacity and sophistication.

Legislation and Enforcement

The ND and relevant departments monitor closely the changing drug scene. Existing laws are reviewed regularly to cope with any emerging threat. In 2011, the ND took forward a legislative exercise to bring three types of synthetic substances (i.e. derivatives of piperazine, synthetic cannabinoids and derivatives of cathinon)

and a precursor chemical (i.e. hydroxylimine) to regulation under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance and the Control of Chemicals Ordinance to deter their trafficking and abuse.

The Police Force, the Customs and Excise Department and the DH spare no efforts in taking action against drug crimes. A total of 1 249 kilogrammes, eight litres and 105 785 tablets of dangerous drugs were seized in 2011 and 5 593 persons were arrested for drug-related offences.

Drug Abuse, Statistics and Trends

The Central Registry of Drug Abuse compiles statistics on drug abuse, collating information about drug abusers from a wide network of reporting agencies, including law enforcement departments, youth outreaching teams, treatment and rehabilitation agencies, hospitals and clinics.

In 2011, some 11 469 drug abusers were recorded in the registry, of which 28 per cent were new cases, 17 per cent were aged under 21, and 81 per cent were males. Heroin continued to be the most commonly abused drug in Hong Kong, with 52 per cent of drug abusers recorded in the registry being heroin abusers. The proportion of psychotropic substance abusers among all reported drug abusers has grown greatly over the years, reaching 60 per cent in 2011. Ninety-eight per cent of reported drug abusers under the age of 21 abused psychotropic substances. Commonly abused psychotropic substances by all age groups included ketamine (31 per cent), ice (13 per cent) and triazolam/midazolam/zopiclone (11 per cent). In 2011, about 21 per cent of drug abusers were reported to have abused more than one drug.

Seven per cent of drug abusers were reported to have taken drugs in the Mainland, mostly in Shenzhen. 49 per cent were reported to have taken drugs only in their own homes or in friends' homes, another 31 per cent at both homes and other places such as recreation areas, public gardens, public toilets and discos or karaoke halls. The remaining 20 per cent took drugs wherever convenient.

External Co-operation

Hong Kong supports international and Mainland actions against drug abuse and drug trafficking and participates in a number of regional and international meetings and seminars concerned with anti-drug policies, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, and preventive education. Three international anti-drug conventions, which provide a treaty-based framework for international co-operation to address drug problem, apply to Hong Kong. They are the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the Protocol of 1972, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

In March, representatives from the ND, the Police Force, the Customs and Excise Department, the DH and the SWD took part in the 54th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna as members of the Chinese delegation.

Research

Findings from drug-related research studies provide useful evidence-based references for the Government's formulation of anti-drug strategies and programmes. A 'Survey of Drug Use among Students', covering students from upper primary to university, was launched in the school year of 2011-12. This survey will provide valuable information on characteristics of students who take drugs, their attitudes towards and knowledge of drug abuse, and other related variables, such as attitudinal, behavioural, school, and family factors associated with drug use.

Four new research projects were launched in 2011:

- 'Surveillance of emerging drugs of abuse in substance abusers';
- 'A targeted urological treatment programme for secondary school students abusing psychotropic substance and a territory-wide school-based survey of bladder dysfunction symptoms associated with psychotropic substance abuse';
- 'A community study of uro-psycho-physical changes in young adults using ketamine'; and
- 'Evidence of brain damage in chronic ketamine users — a brain imaging study'.

These were in addition to seven ongoing projects:

- 'A review of estimation method on prevalence of drug abuse population in Hong Kong';
- 'Study of the drug abuse situation and service needs of non-engaged youth in Hong Kong';
- 'Psychiatric comorbidity and cognitive dysfunction in primarily ketamine users — a closer look';
- 'Prospective observational study of urinary symptoms, sexual behaviors and psychiatric symptoms in ketamine misusers';
- 'Clinical profile of lower urinary tract changes and urinary marker measurements in young adults using ketamine';
- 'Socioeconomic and health impacts of psychoactive drug abuse in Hong Kong — a longitudinal study'; and
- 'The detrimental effects of long term ketamine with alcohol abuses in mice and its use in an educational programme'.

'Path Builders'

'Path Builders', an initiative launched by the ACAN and the ND in September 2008 to mobilise community support for young people, provides a platform from which community resources is channelled to programmes and initiatives for young persons' healthy development. Businesses, professional organisations and individuals are encouraged to contribute in various ways, such as providing internship or

vocational training opportunities, partnering schools and the NGOs in organising mentorship schemes, or making donations to youth programmes.

The Beat Drugs Fund

The Government set up a 'Beat Drugs Fund' in 1996 with a capital of \$350 million to support community efforts in combating drug abuse. An injection of \$3 billion into the fund was made in 2010 to generate more income and resources for supporting anti-drug projects, such as assisting drug treatment and rehabilitation centres (DTRCs) to meet the licensing requirements stipulated in the Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance and supporting schools to implement the HSP(DT). In 2011, about \$48 million was approved by the fund for carrying out 29 projects.

Volunteer Scheme

During the year, the 'Anti-drug Volunteer Group' comprising 106 companies and institutions and 290 individuals took part in or helped to organise 22 anti-drug community and publicity activities. These included district anti-drug and fight crime carnivals, exhibitions, sports competitions, cooking class for inmates of DTRCs and visits to DTRCs on festive occasions.

Action Against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

Hong Kong is committed to the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing and has in place a robust system to combat these activities. Hong Kong has since 1990 been a member of the Financial Action Task Force, the international anti-money laundering/counter financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) standard setter, and is a founding member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering. The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau co-ordinates the overall AML/CFT policies, while ND continues to promote compliance with the international standards in designated non-financial sectors including lawyers, accountants, estate agents, dealers in precious metals and precious stones and trust and company service providers.

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Hong Kong upholds its reputation as one of the world's most corruption-free places. In the Corruption Perceptions Index 2011 released by the Transparency International (TI), the city ranked in the 12th least corrupt position amongst 183 countries and territories polled. The TI is a Germany-based non-governmental global civil society organisation.

Through a holistic strategy of enforcement, prevention and education, corruption is kept well under control. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) continues to fight corruption effectively without fear or prejudice. Its independent status is guaranteed under the Basic Law.

Amongst the 4 010 corruption reports received in 2011, 66 per cent involved the private sector while government departments and public bodies respectively took up 28 and 6 per cent. Over 70 per cent of complainants revealed their identities, reflecting strong public confidence in the commission. The anti-corruption agency

earned the support of 98 per cent of respondents, according to an annual opinion survey.

To keep various public elections held in the year clean and fair, the ICAC introduced a series of comprehensive education and publicity programmes to remind candidates, their agents and electors to abide by relevant laws and regulations. The commission received 653 election-related reports in 2011.

Arising from the 2011 District Council Election, there were huge public concerns over vote-rigging allegations. The commission was quick to respond by establishing a dedicated task force within its Operations Department to undertake substantive investigations.

Hong Kong continued to play an active role in the global campaign against corruption. Entrusted by the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, the commission hosted an international anti-corruption public announcement video competition and workshop in December. A global rendezvous was thus provided for over 200 graft busters, media experts and academics from around the world to share experience in using the media to engage the public in the anti-corruption drive.

Law enforcement

The commission faced a substantial workload on the law enforcement front. At year's end, 2 250 cases, including 464 related to elections, were under investigation. During the year, 283 people were prosecuted for corruption and related offences while 54 were cautioned for minor offences on the advice of the Department of Justice. Of the completed prosecutions, 84 per cent resulted in convictions.

Apart from allegations of corruption and misconduct involving public servants, the ICAC also investigated suspected cases of commercial fraud and listing improprieties facilitated by bribery. Prompt actions were taken to tackle corrupt activities arising from the sale of high-demand goods such as smart phones, tablet computers and baby milk powder.

Prevention and education

In the year, comprehensive corruption prevention guides were tailor-made to address issues of public concern, including the management of obstetric services at private hospitals, the administration of public funding schemes and governance of national sports associations.

A joint working group with representatives of 11 tertiary education institutions (TEIs) was formed to consider measures to further strengthen governance at TEIs. A consolidated guidebook covering administration of donations, technology transfer and commercialisation, outside practice, procurement, and financial reporting was compiled for the reference of these institutions.

A total of 71 detailed studies were conducted for government departments and public bodies to help them strengthen internal controls and reduce opportunities for abuses in different areas. In parallel, expeditious advice was given to these

organisations on 539 occasions during the formulation of new policies, laws and procedures. Free and confidential advice was offered to private organisations upon request on 397 occasions.

To reinforce the anti-corruption message in the community, the commission collaborated with the Radio Television Hong Kong to produce a new TV drama series, *ICAC Investigators 2011*, adapted from real corruption cases. Each episode attracted an average of 1.18 million viewers. The drama series is scheduled to hit the Mainland TV in 2012.

The commission embraced new approaches to bolster integrity education targeted at young people. It developed personal ethics modules for tertiary students to explore solutions for ethical dilemmas encountered in real life, which had been incorporated into the learning programmes of seven TELs. During the year, the ICAC Ambassador Programme continued to attract impassioned students ready to organise campus activities on their own for promoting positive values.

To foster regional exchanges, the ICAC joined hands with the Ministry of Supervision and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao to host a conference on civil service integrity in Hong Kong. Under the Ethical Leadership Programme jointly launched with the Civil Service Bureau, continuous training on staff integrity management was provided to 150 ethics officers from 81 policy bureaux and departments.

The commission also partnered with anti-corruption authorities in Guangdong and Macao to run a seminar to acquaint businessmen of small and medium enterprises with the latest developments in the Pearl River Delta Region and anti-corruption laws in the three places.

Checks and balances

Besides judicial supervision, the work of the ICAC is subject to the scrutiny of 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. The committee chairmen host an annual press conference to account for their work in overseeing the ICAC.

An independent ICAC Complaints Committee, chaired by a member of the Executive Council and comprising legislators and prominent citizens, monitors complaints of non-criminal nature against the ICAC and its staff.

Government Laboratory

The Forensic Science Division of the Government Laboratory provides a comprehensive forensic service to the criminal justice system in Hong Kong. It has two operational groups, the Drugs, Toxicology and Documents Group and the Criminalistics and Quality Management Group.

The Drugs, Toxicology and Documents Group examined cases in three areas:

- (1) the examination of abused drugs, of which the number of examined cases remained high in 2011, with ketamine continuing to be the most encountered drug, followed by heroin, amphetamine type stimulants, cocaine, benzodiazepines and cannabis;
- (2) the toxicology service performs urinalysis and toxicological examination. The demand of urinalysis service remained high during the year. In addition to providing drug testing in monitoring known drug abusers, the service also supported more frequent drug testing for young drug offenders under an enhanced probation scheme. The toxicological examination service seeks to ascertain the presence or otherwise of drugs and poisons in suspicious deaths and in criminal offences where they are implicated. Besides the routine service, it also provided analytical support to other government departments and bureaux. For instance, technical advice and support were contributed to the School Drug Testing programme, a pilot scheme on hair drug testing (hair samples were taken from drug users monitored by organisations in the drug treatment and rehabilitation sector), and the legislative amendments of the Road Traffic Ordinance for implementation of a package of measures to combat drug driving; and
- (3) the routine examination of handwriting and documents. The group also offers technical advice and testing to the Immigration Department in respect of the quality of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) e-passports and identity cards. During the year, the Hong Kong Identity Card continued to be the most commonly forged document, followed by Mainland travel documents and foreign travel visas. The number of forged credit cards submitted for examination also showed a considerable increase.

The Criminalistics and Quality Management Group provides a wide range of support services to the law enforcement departments. Services provided include chemical analysis of trace evidence, physical examination of toolmarks and shoeprints, investigation of suspicious fires and traffic accident reconstruction. In addition, the group handles forensic biological samples and performs DNA analysis of exhibits seized from crime scenes. At the same time, DNA profiles of convicted offenders, suspects and volunteers are compared with outstanding DNA profiles of crime scene exhibits in unsolved cases. Comparisons are also performed among outstanding DNA profiles of exhibits from different unsolved cases for possible connection. During the year, matching results from the DNA comparisons continued to provide important investigative leads for law enforcement agencies. In addition, the group deals with cases from the Immigration Department pertaining to right of abode applications that require genetic tests. During the year, an expert from the group gave evidence at the Coroner's Court on the fatal shooting of eight Hong Kong citizens in a tourist coach in Manila on August 23, 2010. Officers in the group also continued to work closely with the police in numerous major scene investigations, including fire outbreaks which claimed the lives of a number of citizens in two residential buildings at To Kwa Wan in June and in Fa Yuen Street in November.

Immigration Department

Immigration Control

The Immigration Department plays an important role in maintaining law and order by controlling entry into Hong Kong. Through checks at control points and the vetting of entry applications, immigration officers detect undesirable people, including international criminals and dubious visitors. In 2011, a total of 23 876 undesirable people were refused permission to enter Hong Kong.

Detection of Forged Travel Documents

Strict measures are taken to guard against the use of forged travel documents. The department discovered 829 forged travel documents during the year, compared with 1 299 in 2010. The department maintains close contact with local, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies and consulates, and exchanges information about these documents with them. Special operations were carried out by the department against forgery syndicates.

Interception of Target or Wanted Persons

In 2011, a total of 318 156 targeted or 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 to serious crimes.

Illegal Immigration and Unlawful Employment

During 2011, a total of 1 748 Mainland illegal immigrants were intercepted and sent back across the boundary, compared with 2 479 in 2010.

The Immigration Department has an Anti-Illegal Workers Combat Squad, a nimble and robust force, that combats illegal employment. Its main tasks involve conducting undercover patrols at illegal worker black spots.

In 2011, a total of 5 621 illegal workers were arrested in 11 463 raids, including 156 persons arrested under section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, compared with 6 518 arrested in 11 203 raids in 2010. The vast majority of illegal workers were visitors who had breached their conditions of stay.

Illegal workers are fined and/or jailed before being sent back to their places of origin. Their employers are also liable to be prosecuted. In 2011, a total of 359 charges were laid against employers of illegal workers.

Deportation and Removal

The Immigration Department processes deportation and removal orders. During the year, some 7 295 people convicted of offences punishable with imprisonment for not less than two years were considered for deportation, of which 637 were deported. Another 786 were removed from the HKSAR. They comprised 112 illegal immigrants and 674 people who had breached their conditions of stay.

Investigation and Prosecution of Immigration Offenders

During 2011, a total of 7 084 charges were laid against people who had committed various immigration offences. These included remaining illegally in Hong Kong, breaching conditions of stay, making false statements or representations, and using or possessing forged travel documents.

The Immigration Ordinance was amended in November 2009 to include a new section 38AA to prohibit illegal immigrants or persons subject to removal or deportation orders from taking up employment, whether paid or unpaid. In October 2010, the Court of Appeal handed down the sentencing guideline in respect of section 38AA stating that 15 months' imprisonment should be imposed on a person convicted of an offence under the section. A total of 129 people were prosecuted under that provision in 2011.

Fire Services

The Fire Services Department (FSD) 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 9 171 uniformed and 636 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 34 188 fire calls, 27 159 special service calls and 690 114 ambulance calls in 2011.

Fire-fighting and Rescue

Of the 34 188 fire calls received in 2011, 19 were classified as major fires of No. 3 alarm and above. Careless handling or disposal of lighted materials, such as cigarette ends, matches and candles, was the major cause of fires, accounting for a total of 1 674 cases in 2011, accidents occurring during the preparation of foodstuffs caused 1 672 fires, while electrical faults caused 712 fires. Unwanted alarms, triggered mainly by faulty automatic alarm systems, contributed to about 70 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, shipwrecks, people 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 27 159 of such special service calls in 2011.

Ambulance Services

The Ambulance Command handled 690 114 calls during the year, or on average 1 891 calls per day.

The department's ambulance fleet is fully equipped and manned at paramedic level. All emergency ambulances and emergency medical assistant motorcycles are

equipped with automated defibrillators and selected drugs for illness such as diabetes, shock, heart attack, shortness of breath and drug overdose.

Since May 2011, the department has been providing simple Post Dispatch Advice (PDA) to callers of three easily identified injuries, namely bleeding, bone fractures/dislocation to limbs and burns after dispatching the ambulance to the scene. The PDA includes simple first-aid and time-saving advice to facilitate the provision of prompt medical assistance to the patients.

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 on their way to the scene. During the year, first responders dealt with 44 221 cases.

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 co-ordinator for other government departments and public utilities during large-scale emergencies or major calamities.

The centre is equipped with the Third Generation Mobilising System to enhance the efficiency of mobilising fire and ambulance resources.

To achieve and maintain effective and efficient radio communication at scenes of incidents, the department introduced the new Digital Trunked Radio System in July 2011 and operated it in parallel with the Analogue Trunked Radio System for a thorough testing of the new system. The new system will commence in full operation in February 2012 and the old system will be decommissioned by then.

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 efforts to upgrading arrangements and procedures to protect old buildings from fire and to raise people's awareness of fire safety.

The Command's two Building Improvement Divisions are responsible for enforcing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and to investigate reports of fire risks in buildings. A Special Enforcement Unit conducts proactive inspections of old buildings and takes enforcement actions against irregularities.

To enhance public awareness of the importance of fire safety in buildings, a Building Fire Safety Envoy Scheme has been launched to train owners or occupiers of buildings and staff of property management companies to become envoys to help promote fire safety in buildings. At the end of 2011, a total of 1 626 envoys were trained.

The New Projects Division, in collaboration with the Buildings Department and other departments, is responsible for vetting new and amended building plans including those for the mass transit system, tunnels, bridges and the airport. It also defines the fire protection needs of certain premises. In 2011, the division vetted a total of 12 849 buildings plans.

The Railway Development Strategy Division scrutinises the fire safety requirements of new railway infrastructure projects. It also carries out acceptance inspections of fire service installations of new railway projects. The division participated in the planning and designing of five new railway projects: the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Hong Kong Section), the West Island Line, the South Island Line (East), the Kwun Tong Line Extension and the Sha Tin to Central Link.

The Support Division is responsible for formulating, reviewing and updating departmental policies on improving fire safety in buildings and strengthening public understanding of the need for fire safety. The division collaborated with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in producing eight episodes of a TV drama, *Elite Brigade*, which were broadcast weekly between early December 2010 and end January 2011, promoting the importance of fire safety and judicious use of emergency ambulance services. A weekly radio programme, *Happy Daily*, was also produced by RTHK and the Support Division and launched in April 2011 to enhance public knowledge of fire and ambulance services.

At the end of 2011, a total of 119 743 people were trained as Fire Safety Ambassadors (FSA) and 331 community leaders were appointed as FSA Honorary Presidents.

The Licensing and Certification Command formulates and enforces fire safety policies and regulations. It 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 support the Government's 'Be the Smart Regulator' Programme to improve business friendliness, efficiency and transparency without compromising fire safety. It has also stepped up law enforcement action against fire hazards in premises including restaurants, bars and karaoke establishments.

The Fire Service Installations Task Force has further stepped up the monitoring of fire safety in buildings and continued to strengthen public awareness of the need to maintain fire service installations (FSI) and equipment in buildings. A total of 102 369 inspections were made in 2011 with 2 036 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued. Legal action was taken against 20 owners of defective FSI and five contractors for contravening relevant regulations.

The department adopted in 2008 a four-pronged approach to improve fire safety in old buildings. It enlisted the help of the District Fire Safety Committees, FSA and FSA Honorary Presidents to promote fire safety in old buildings; stepped up inspections of old buildings to eradicate potential fire hazards; revisited buildings that were found to have potential fire hazards before; and encouraged the Building

Fire Safety Envoys to carry out frequent checks on buildings to ensure there are no irregularities. In 2011, 44 buildings had completed the four-pronged approach. Up to the end of 2011, a total of 102 target buildings had completed the four-pronged approach.

A fire in Parkes Street, in Jordan District on November 4, 2011 raised public concern about fire safety in old composite buildings. In response to this, FSD conducted special fire safety inspections of 209 old composite buildings in mid-November 2011 and issued 47 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices to residents/occupier for removing fire hazards such as obstructions to means of escape. The department also referred 233 cases of unauthorised building works to the Buildings Department for follow-up action. In addition, in the light of the No. 4 alarm fire at the hawker stalls in Fa Yuen Street on November 30, 2011, FSD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) carried out a number of joint inspections at about 40 locations where hawker stalls were found adjacent to composite/residential buildings. Potential fire hazards were inspected and hawkers were reminded about fire safety issues. The FEHD also took enforcement action against hawkers who contravened relevant regulations where appropriate.

The department continues to promote fire prevention to raise fire safety awareness among owners, occupiers and property management staff of industrial buildings. It continues to take enforcement actions to enhance fire safety in industrial buildings.

Appliances and Equipment

In 2011, the department had 924 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 to cope with the city's continuing development and growing service needs, and to adhere to the Government's policy of providing the fastest response possible to emergencies. In September 2011, the training ground for Urban Search and Rescue Team in Sheung Shui was put into commission. It provided a realistic training environment for operational staff to get themselves familiarised with specialised urban search and rescue techniques.

Public Liaison Group

A public liaison group was set up in 2011 to encourage public participation in monitoring and improving the delivery of emergency fire and ambulance services. It comprises 30 members of the public from different walks of life.

Correctional Services

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) runs a comprehensive range of programmes for adult and young persons in custody under two broad headings: prison management and rehabilitation of offenders.

In 2011, the CSD managed 29 correctional facilities with 6 588 staff looking after a daily average of 9 702 persons in custody and 2 438 persons under supervision after discharge.

Offenders sentenced to imprisonment are assigned to correctional 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 persons in custody receive proper care. Their diet follows approved scales of nutritional values with regard to their health, religious and dietary requirements. All convicted adult offenders, 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 earnings, which may be used for buying approved articles and canteen 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.

Correctional Facilities

The CSD manages 10 correctional institutions of different security grading for adult males and two correctional institutions for adult females. For young male offenders, the department operates two correctional institutions, one training centre and two rehabilitation centres. Young females are accommodated at one correctional institution and two rehabilitation centres. Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre, Lai Sun Correctional Institution and Nei Kwu Correctional Institution accommodate convicted drug addicts. Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre is a specific correctional facility which separately houses male and female offenders of all categories who require psychiatric observation, treatment or assessment. Among the above, six correctional facilities cater for remanded males and females of different age groups. Each penal institution normally has dormitories, kitchens, dining rooms, laundries, workshops, areas for exercise and recreation, a library and a hospital. The CSD also manages two custodial wards in public hospitals for persons in custody who require intensive medical care or surgical operations.

In addition, the CSD operates three halfway houses to help offenders, who are released under supervision, to reintegrate into society. The residents may go out to work or attend school during daytime.

Penal Population

The penal population in 2011 decreased slightly compared with 2010. While overcrowding still existed in some institutions, the average occupancy rate of all penal institutions was 87 per cent.

During the year, 12 149 adults, comprising 8 451 men and 3 698 women, were sentenced to prison and 6 761 adults (5 215 men and 1 546 women) on remand

were taken into custody. The number of young offenders sentenced to imprisonment totalled 398, comprising 285 males and 113 females, and 588 young persons on remand (507 males and 81 females) were taken into custody. In addition, 371 young offenders (334 males and 37 females) were sentenced to detention in training centres, rehabilitation centres or the detention centre, and 1 211 offenders (951 males and 260 females) were placed in drug addiction treatment centres; while 2 595 offenders (2 202 males and 393 females) were remanded pending reports on their suitability for sentencing to one of these centres.

The CSD has been looking for opportunities to improve correctional facilities, update ageing institutions and relieve the overcrowding problem in some institutions. Work on converting the Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution into an annex facility of Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre commenced in 2011 and is scheduled to be completed in early 2012. The annex facility will provide 400 additional penal places to alleviate the reception centre's overcrowding problem. The department plans also to apply for funding for an *in-situ* partial redevelopment of the Tai Lam Centre for Women in 2012. Subject to approval of funding, the project is expected to commence in phases from the second half of 2012. The institution's number of penal places will increase to 371 upon completion of the redevelopment. The department will continue to explore other possible redevelopment projects and improvement works.

Assessment Services

Young offenders and offenders with drug addiction problems 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 various types of correctional facilities. Young people aged between 14 and 20 may be admitted to a training centre, rehabilitation centre, detention centre or drug addiction treatment centre; young men aged between 21 and 24 may be admitted to a detention centre and offenders aged 21 or above with drug addiction problems may be admitted to a drug addiction treatment centre.

In 2011, the Rehabilitation Unit prepared a total of 3 714 suitability reports for the courts, and recommended 709 males and 95 females suitable for admission to a rehabilitation centre, training centre or detention centre, and 1 212 males and 342 females suitable for a drug addiction treatment centre.

Young Offender Assessment Panel

The Young Offender Assessment Panel (YOAP), comprising representatives from the CSD and the SWD, makes recommendations to magistrates and judges on the most appropriate rehabilitation programmes for remanded males aged between 14 and 24 and females aged 14 to 20. In 2011, 156 cases were referred to the YOAP by the courts for assessment.

Training Centres, Detention Centres and Rehabilitation Centres

Training centres provide correctional training for young offenders for periods ranging from six months to three years, which includes half-day educational classes and half-day vocational training. They also receive character development training in the form of scouting, guiding or outward bound training. Upon release, these young

offenders shall have suitable employment, education or vocational training and are subject to statutory supervision lasting for three years.

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

Rehabilitation centres provide a 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. Young offenders are subject to statutory supervision for one year after release.

Education

Young offenders 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.

Offenders seeking an education may obtain financial assistance from the Prisoners' Education Trust Fund, the New Life Foundation, the Prisoners' Education Subsidy Fund and the Care of Rehabilitated Offenders Association Foundation, which are all set up with charitable donations.

Vocational Training

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

For eligible adult offenders¹ wishing to participate in the programmes, the CSD provides them with pre-release vocational courses. Full-time courses are provided at the Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution, the Lo Wu Correctional Institution, the Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution, the Pik Uk Prison, the Tong Fuk Correctional Institution and the Tung Tau Correctional Institution. Part-time courses are also held in the above institutions and another six institutions.

Correctional Services Industries

The CSD provides work for adult offenders as required by law to keep them gainfully employed and to help them develop good working habits, sense of responsibility and self-confidence. Through the training received at work, offenders can also cultivate work skills to facilitate their reintegration into society.

¹ 'eligible adult offender' means an adult offender who is allowed to be employed or work and is not subject to any condition of stay in Hong Kong after discharge.

In 2011, a daily average of about 5 099 offenders were engaged in productive work, providing government departments and subvented bodies with a wide range of goods and services. These include office furniture, uniforms, leather products, hospital linen, filter masks, fibreglass litter containers, traffic signs, precast concrete products and metal products, laundry services for hospitals and clinics, book binding for public libraries, printing work, file jackets and envelopes. The market value of these goods and services, together with other domestic work and services provided for the CSD, was \$422 million in 2011.

Welfare and Counselling Services

Rehabilitation Officers look after the welfare of persons detained in custody, and help them deal with personal problems and difficulties arising from their detention or imprisonment. They conduct individual and group counselling sessions and assist in running various rehabilitation programmes and services such as pre-release reintegration orientation courses, making arrangements for the persons in custody 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 offenders are accommodated at Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre and Lai Sun Correctional Institution, whereas females are accommodated at Nei Kwu Correctional Institution. Young addicts aged between 14 and 20 are accommodated separately from the adults. The programme includes two to 12 months in-centre treatment, followed by one-year statutory supervision.

Medical Services

Every institution has a hospital to provide persons in custody with primary medical treatment, health care and dental services. Persons in custody who need specialist treatment are referred to visiting specialists or specialist outpatient clinics of the Hospital Authority or the DH. Pregnant persons in custody are referred to public hospitals for related ante-natal care services and delivery.

Psychological Services

Psychological services are provided to offenders to improve their psychological well-being and to change their offending behaviour. Clinical psychologists and trained officers provide special treatment programmes for sex offenders, violent offenders, offenders with drug addiction problems, young offenders and offenders who are in need of psychological service/treatment. They also provide assessment reports to the courts, review boards and institutional management on request. The CSD has adopted an empirically-based protocol and clinical measures for assessing the offender's risk of re-offending upon discharge.

Supervision Services

Statutory supervision is provided to discharged young prisoners, people discharged from training, rehabilitation, detention and drug addiction treatment

centres, and offenders discharged under the Release Under Supervision, Pre-release Employment and Post-release Supervision schemes, as well as offenders 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-offenders being recalled for a further period of training, treatment or imprisonment.

In 2011, 2 138 offenders were discharged under supervision. They, together with those discharged in previous years and who had yet to complete their supervision period, numbered 2 323 people under the CSD's supervision at the end of the year. During the year, 1 285 people were recalled for breach of supervision conditions.

Community Support

Community acceptance and support are of paramount importance to an offender's rehabilitation and reintegration into 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 as well as strategies on reintegration and publicity. It comprises community leaders and professionals from various sectors of society and representatives of non-governmental organisations and government departments. The CSD also organises a variety of publicity activities to appeal for public support for rehabilitated offenders.

Information Technology and Management Services

The CSD makes continuous efforts to enhance the quality and efficiency of prison management and offender rehabilitation services through the use of new technologies.

Visiting Justices

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

Quality Assurance

To uphold the service standard of the department and strive for continuous improvement, the department initiates enhancements through regular inspections and management studies.

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. Offenders may also lodge complaints with any senior officer or duty officer of the CSD, or through other channels such as the visiting Justices of the Peace, The Ombudsman and Legislative Councillors.

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 serious 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 Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, Vice-President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, as the commissioner. 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 that 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 objects of the ordinance and the provisions of 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 annual report for 2010, covering the period from January 1 to December 31, 2010, was submitted to the Chief Executive in June 2011 and tabled in the Legislative Council in November 2011.

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 102 civil servants.

CAS members are trained to perform emergency duties during typhoons, floods and landslides; to search for and rescue people in distress in mountains; to help evacuate or rescue victims trapped under collapsed buildings or buried in landslides; and to combat vegetation fires and oil pollution at sea. In 2011, CAS members carried out one rescue operation during a tropical cyclone, 69 mountain search and rescue operations, and 14 vegetation fire-fighting operations.

During the passage of Typhoon Nesat in September 2011, CAS members were mobilised to stand by at various operational bases. In November 2011, the CAS rendered assistance to the victims of the No. 4 alarm fire in Fa Yuen Street, Mong Kok.

During the year, the CAS assisted in crowd management in many large-scale events, including the District Council Election and the Election Committee Subsector Elections.

The CAS endeavours to develop leadership potential and cultivate civic and national awareness among young people by recruiting those aged 12 to 17 into the CAS Cadet Corps. Besides participating in recreational activities, CAS cadets are taught various disciplines and skills, including foot drill, basic emergency rescue, crowd management, first aid, rock climbing and expeditions.

Government Flying Service

The Government Flying Service (GFS) is a disciplined service department. It provides 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 169 disciplined and 58 civilian staff, and operates a fleet of three fixed-wing aeroplanes and seven helicopters. In 2011, it flew a total of 6 199 hours, assisted in 391 search and rescue operations and transported 1 682 people to hospitals by helicopter. It also flew 9 872 government officers and official visitors in the course of their duties or programmes. In addition, auxiliary flying doctors and nurses flew a total of 405 hours in 573 operations.

Websites

Security Bureau: www.sb.gov.hk (links to Disciplined Services)

Independent Commission Against Corruption: www.icac.org.hk

Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance:
www.sciocs.gov.hk