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Adoption of permanent summer time under study

THE adoption of summer time as a permanent one-time system for Hongkong will not be decided by the Government but by the community.

The Secretary for Economic Services, Mr D. Jones, said the time system to be adopted has not yet been decided.

The Government is gathering opinions from the public through City District Offices, the New Territories Administration and the Government Information Services, he said.

But, Jones said, summer time is a most favourable time system for the mass, because it enables people to enjoy extra sunlight in the late afternoon.

If summer time is adopted as a permanent time system, a large number of the public will benefit, he said.

MARKETS

He said summer time as a permanent time system would not hurt the economy, because businessmen and people in exchange markets could adapt to it sooner or later.

Summer time was proposed as a permanent Hongkong time by the Government. It is nine hours ahead of the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

A leading businessman who declined to be identified said summer time would lengthen further the trading time gap between Hongkong and other markets, particularly London.