



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK CIRCULATION COINS

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THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND TODAY (SATURDAY) RELEASED DETAILS OF THE LAST ISSUES OF COINS BEARING THE QUEEN'S EFFIGY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE SAID:

"NOW THAT A START HAD BEEN MADE ON THE COIN REPLACEMENT EXERCISE, WHICH HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 24 LAST YEAR, IT WAS FELT THAT IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST, PARTICULARLY TO COIN COLLECTORS, TO HAVE FIGURES OF THE FINAL ISSUES OF THE COINS BEING REPLACED."

ONLY THREE DENOMINATIONS - THE 10-CENT, ONE-DOLLAR AND TWO-DOLLAR - WERE MINTED IN 1992.

ALL OF THE 25 MILLION ONE-DOLLAR COINS PRODUCED AND SHIPPED TO HONG KONG WERE PUT INTO CIRCULATION.

BUT OF THE 50 MILLION 10-CENT COINS PRODUCED, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ONLY TAKEN DELIVERY OF 24 MILLION AND ALL OF THESE WERE ISSUED.

THE BALANCE OF THE ORDER FOR THIS DENOMINATION WAS BEING HELD BY THE MINT AND WOULD BE SHIPPED TO HONG KONG AS AND WHEN REQUIRED.

AS TO THE TWO-DOLLAR COIN, 14 MILLION WERE PRODUCED AND SHIPPED TO HONG KONG BUT ONLY 4.37 MILLION WERE PUT INTO CIRCULATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE BALANCE OF 9.63 MILLION UNISSUED COINS WAS RETURNED TO THE ROYAL MINT WHERE THE COINS WILL BE MELTED DOWN AND EITHER USED TO PRODUCE NEW COINS OR SOLD AS SCRAP.

"THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE SUFFICIENT STOCKS OF THE NEW DESIGN TWO-DOLLAR COINS, FEATURING A BAUHINIA FLOWER, WERE AVAILABLE TO MEET LUNAR NEW YEAR DEMAND," HE SAID.

TWENTY-CENT COINS WERE LAST PRODUCED IN 1991 AND FIFTY CENTS IN 1990. THE RESPECTIVE PRODUCTION QUANTITIES WERE 131 MILLION AND 27 MILLION.

ALL OF THE COINS HAD BEEN SHIPPED TO HONG KONG AND WERE PUT INTO CIRCULATION.

THE LAST YEAR IN WHICH FIVE-DOLLAR COINS WERE MINTED WAS 1989 WHEN 30 MILLION PIECES WERE PRODUCED AND SHIPPED TO HONG KONG.

OF THESE, ONLY 10.04 MILLION WERE ISSUED AND, AS WITH THE TWO-DOLLAR COINS, BECAUSE NEW DESIGN FIVE DOLLARS WERE AVAILABLE TO MEET 1993 LUNAR NEW YEAR DEMAND, THE UNISSUED BALANCE OF THE 1989 ORDER, 19.96 MILLION PIECES, WAS RETURNED TO THE MINT.

"THE FIVE-CENT COIN, WHICH WAS DEMONETISED ON JANUARY 1, 1989, COMPLETES THE PICTURE.

"ALTHOUGH FIVE MILLION FIVE-CENT COINS WERE PRODUCED AND SHIPPED TO HONG KONG IN 1980, NONE OF THESE WAS EVER PUT INTO CIRCULATION AS DEMAND DROPPED AND THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO THE MINT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"PRIOR TO THIS, FIVE-CENT COINS WERE MINTED IN BOTH 1978 AND 1979, THE RESPECTIVE PRODUCTION QUANTITIES BEING 10 MILLION AND FOUR MILLION.

"OF THESE 14 MILLION COINS, 9.76 MILLION WERE ISSUED, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO TELL FROM THE STOCK RECORDS WHETHER IN FACT BOTH 1978 AND 1979 DATED COINS WERE ACTUALLY PUT INTO CIRCULATION.

"THE MINTING OF COINS BEARING THE QUEEN'S EFFIGY MAY HAVE COME TO AN END, BUT THERE IS STILL AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THE 1988 SETS COMPRISING SEVEN COINS RANGING FROM THE FIVE-CENT TO THE FIVE-DOLLAR COIN", THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

LIMITED QUANTITIES OF BOTH THE PROOF AND BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED 1988 COIN COLLECTION ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT DESIGNATED BRANCHES OF THE HONGKONGBANK AND THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK.

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#### ACTION IN HAND ON CAISSON SAFETY

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES REGARDING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CONSULTATION ON HAND-DUG CAISSONS, A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION STARTED IN NOVEMBER 1992.

LETTERS INVITING VIEWS ON HAND-DUG CAISSONS WERE SENT TO THREE EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS, EIGHT PROFESSIONAL BODIES, THREE EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS, AND TWO CONCERN GROUPS OF CAISSON WORKERS INCLUDING THE CONCERN GROUP ON PNEUMOCONIOSIS AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS VICTIMS.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ALSO MET TWO DELEGATIONS LISTENING TO THEIR VIEWS ON HAND-DUG CAISSONS.

AS THE SUGGESTION TO BAN HAND-DUG CAISSONS INVOLVES A TERRITORY-WIDE IMPACT ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF CAISSON WORKERS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO WORK OUT A LONG-TERM STRATEGY ON PRACTICABLE STEPS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

FOLLOWING LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS ENDORSED THE RESTRICTION OF USE OF HAND-DUG CAISSONS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

THE WORKS BRANCH HAD ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION TO REPLACE HAND-DUG CAISSONS BY MACHINERY EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE THE USE OF MANUAL WORKERS IS SAFER THAN USING MACHINERY.

IN ADDITION, A DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON HAND-DUG CAISSON SAFETY, PREPARED BY A TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE, IS NOW BEING FINALISED.

/AS REGARDS .....

AS REGARDS CRITICISMS THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS SHEDDING ITS ENFORCEMENT AND TRAINING RESPONSIBILITIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION THIS YEAR WAS TO CONTINUE STRICT ENFORCEMENT ON HAND-DUG CAISSON SAFETY BY MOUNTING SPECIAL INSPECTION CAMPAIGNS IN ADDITION TO ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING A TWO-PHASE SPECIAL INSPECTION CAMPAIGN ON CONSTRUCTION SITES LAST YEAR, FACTORY INSPECTORS INSPECTED A TOTAL OF 422 CONSTRUCTION SITES INCLUDING 39 CAISSON SITES.

AS A RESULT, 475 SUMMONSES WERE ISSUED INCLUDING 30 AGAINST 19 CAISSON SITES.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO ORGANISE FREE TRAINING COURSES ON CAISSON SAFETY.

IN FACT, THREE ADDITIONAL TRAINING COURSES WERE ARRANGED LAST AUGUST TO MEET THE OVERWHELMING ENROLMENT.

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MERGER IS GOOD FOR YAU TSIM AND MONG KOK: DO  
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THE PROPOSED MERGER OF THE MONG KOK AND YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH DISTRICTS, YAU TSIM/MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BART IRELAND, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE MONG KOK DISTRICT SPRING RECEPTION, MR IRELAND SAID THE NEW, LARGER DISTRICT BOARD WOULD BECOME EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE AS IT WOULD COMBINE THE EXPERIENCE AND DEDICATION OF MEMBERS FROM BOTH DISTRICTS.

DESPITE THE MERGER, HE STRESSED THAT FUNDS WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM AS AN ADDITIONAL 50 PER CENT OR \$6 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE DISTRICTS' 11 AREA COMMITTEES.

"I SHALL STILL APPOINT THE MEMBERS AND YOU WILL CONTINUE TO ELECT YOUR OWN CHAIRMAN. YOU WILL STILL HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, IN TACKLING AND RESOLVING ISSUES WITHIN YOUR AREA WITH THE SAME DEDICATION AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN."

MR IRELAND ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS ON DRAFT LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PACKAGE SET OUT BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY SPEECH AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER.

"THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS NOW CONSIDERING THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A STATUTORY BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR ON GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES, ORGANISING AND OVERSEEING THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS TO THE THREE TIERS OF OUR REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT THE NEXT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER 1994, HE HOPED THAT THIS PARTICULAR LEGISLATION WILL BE ENACTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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GREEN FUND FOR EASTERN  
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A TRUST FUND TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITY IN EASTERN DISTRICT WILL BE SET UP.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY TODAY (SATURDAY), EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, SAID THE EASTERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY GREENING FUND LIMITED WILL COMPLEMENT THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENTAL WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

"IT WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

THE FUND COMPANY WILL RECEIVE DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE SPONSORS TO CARRY OUT PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON GREENING ACTIVITIES AND WILL PERFORM ALL THE NECESSARY TENDERING, PREPARATION OF CONTRACTS, SUPERVISION AND PAYMENT OF CONTRACTOR.

DURING THE YEAR 1992/93, HE ADDED, THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS PLANTED OVER 400 ON-STREET TREES AND A SIMILAR NUMBER WILL BE PLANTED IN THE COMING YEAR.

HE CALLED ON PRIVATE COMPANIES AND THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN SPONSORING GREENING PROJECTS TO CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

"WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO ASSIST AND TO ADVISE THEM ON THE BEST WAY TO TURN THEIR IDEAS INTO PRACTICE," HE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN, MR FU YUEN-CHEUNG, SAID A NUMBER OF TREES HAD BEEN PLANTED ALONG LEI KING ROAD, HEALTHY STREET CENTRAL, PAK FUK ROAD AND SHING TAI ROAD OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

"THEY HAVE ADDED VIGOUR TO THE BUSY STREETS IN ADDITION TO REDUCING AIR POLLUTION AS WELL AS THE GREENHOUSE EFFECTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE," HE SAID.

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MARKING THE CEREMONY, TWO THREE-METRE-TALL SILK OAK TREES WERE PLANTED AT THE JUNCTION OF LEI KING ROAD AND TAI ON STREET, SAI WAN HO.

A BUS PARADE WAS ALSO ORGANISED ALONG SIX DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WHERE THE STAFF ON BOARD HANDED OUT FREE PACKETS OF PLANT SEEDS AND INFORMATION BOOKLETS.

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LUCKY VEHICLE MARKS SOLD FOR CHARITY

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FORTY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WERE SOLD IN AN AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,172,000.

THE SUM WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION MARK 3311 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$320,000.

ANOTHER REGISTRATION MARK CK7 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$160,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 EACH FOR FB4700 AND FB8144.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF THE AUCTION:

FB375	\$ 3,000	FB1018	\$ 2,000	FB6686	\$ 8,000	FB1398	\$ 20,000
BC7960	WITHDRAWN	*CK7	160,000	*3311	320,000	AS4168	7,000
FB9789	3,000	FB637	4,000	FA8881	14,000	FB1007	36,000
*FF9000	21,000	FA911	10,000	FB182	25,000	*FF54	30,000
FB3168	3,000	*FF878	82,000	*FG58	19,000	FB520	3,000
AA449	23,000	FB896	30,000	FB8183	7,000	AW557	10,000
FB690	5,000	FA1228	17,000	EZ9369	2,000	FB4700	1,000
*BX16	34,000	*ER5	122,000	*FF2000	37,000	*FF567	24,000
FB2880	5,000	FB8488	10,000	FB2218	18,000	FB8144	1,000
FA528	1,000	FA366	45,000	FA352	8,000	FB1274	WITHDRAWN

\* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

/TODAY'S SALE .....

TODAY'S SALE, THE 188TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO \$170,190,905.

THERE WAS NO BIDDER FOR BC7960 AND FB1274, THESE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANTS.

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RESIDENTS URGED TO SUPPORT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL WONG, TODAY (SATURDAY) CALLED ON KWUN TONG RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME AND TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

OFFICIATING AT THE KWUN TONG ARTS FESTIVAL, HE ENCOURAGED THEM TO EXPRESS VIEWS THROUGH THEIR DISTRICT BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE, AREA COMMITTEES AND LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

"ONLY WITH BETTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND RESIDENTS CAN BETTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BE ACHIEVED," MR WONG SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THROUGH THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION OF THESE BODIES, THERE HAD BEEN GREAT IMPROVEMENTS IN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, QUALITY OF LIFE AND PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION IN KWUN TONG.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-200
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,950
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	

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