



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PENSION PROPOSALS ARE GENEROUS AND PRUDENT: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THE CONSULTATION PROPOSALS ON PENSIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE GENEROUS AND FINANCIALLY PRUDENT.

"THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF INTENDS TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSALS ARE COMPREHENSIVE AND AS GENEROUS AS POSSIBLE," HE ADDED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS THIS AFTERNOON (TUESDAY) AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 35TH INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD, THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT THE DEBATE WHICH THE CONSULTATION PROPOSALS ON PENSIONS WOULD LAUNCH WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE FOR HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS WHICH RECOGNISE THE DEBT, THE OBLIGATION WHICH THE WHOLE OF OUR SOCIETY OWES TO OUR ELDERLY CITIZENS WHO HAVE HELPED TO BUILD AND CREATE HONG KONG AND HAVE MADE THE GREAT SUCCESS WHICH IT IS.

"I THINK THERE IS A DEEP-SEEDED VIEW IN THE COMMUNITY THAT WE NEED TO DO MORE TO HELP OUR ELDERLY CITIZENS," HE SAID.

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE REMARKS BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, ON THE PENSIONS SCHEME AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 35TH INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD TODAY:

GOVERNOR: I DON'T WANT TO REPLICATE THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT'S BEEN TAKING PLACE IN CENTRAL THIS AFTERNOON BUT I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT WE HAVE TODAY PUBLISHED OUR CONSULTATION PROPOSALS ON PENSIONS. I THINK THE DEBATE WHICH THEY WILL LAUNCH IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE FOR HONG KONG. WE'VE PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS WHICH RECOGNISE THE DEBT, THE OBLIGATION WHICH THE WHOLE OF OUR SOCIETY OWES TO OUR ELDERLY CITIZENS WHO'VE HELPED TO BUILD AND CREATE HONG KONG AND HAVE MADE THE GREAT SUCCESS WHICH IT IS. THE PLANS WE'VE PUT FORWARD ARE GENEROUS AND FINANCIALLY PRUDENT. THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF INTENDS TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSALS ARE COMPREHENSIVE AND AS GENEROUS AS POSSIBLE. THE DEBATE STARTS NOW. I AM SURE THAT WHAT WE'VE PUT FORWARD WILL GET VERY CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE I THINK THERE IS A DEEP-SEEDED VIEW IN THE COMMUNITY THAT WE NEED TO DO MORE TO HELP OUR ELDERLY CITIZENS. I AM GOING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS MORE TOMORROW.

QUESTION: DID YOU GET BLESSING FROM CHINA?

GOVERNOR: I WROTE TO DIRECTOR LU PING LAST THURSDAY, INFORMING HIM OF THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSALS THAT WE WOULD BE PUTTING TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TODAY. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE CONSULTATION PAPER, AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE PUBLISHED. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT OUR PLANS, OUR PROPOSALS WILL GET A POSITIVE ENDORSEMENT FROM EVERYONE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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MATHS DISCIPLINES THE MIND

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MATHEMATICS HELPS GIVE TO THE MIND THE DISCIPLINE THAT IT NEEDS TO PERFORM TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL, JUST AS VIGOROUS TRAINING REGIMES GIVE TO THE PHYSICAL ATHLETE THE DISCIPLINE NEEDED TO RUN OR SWIM TO THE HIGHEST POTENTIAL, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 35TH INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD, MR PATTEN COMPARED THE EVENT TO SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

"THERE IS AN ATHLETICS OF THE MIND THAT GIVES TO ITS PARTICIPANTS THE SAME SPIRIT OF DELIGHT, THE SAME FEELING OF EXALTATION, THAT SENSE OF BEING MORE THAN MAN OR WOMAN, THAT COMES WITH ACHIEVING THE VERY HIGHEST EXCELLENCE," HE SAID.

MR PATTEN ALSO NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS THE FIRST CITY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA TO HOST THE EVENT.

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GOVT CONSULTATION PAPER ON OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

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A CONSULTATION PAPER CONTAINING DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME (OPS) WAS PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY) FOR PUBLIC COMMENT UNTIL THE END OF OCTOBER.

HIGHLIGHTING THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE CONSULTATION PAPER AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, SAID THE PROPOSED SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE FOUR DISTINCT ADVANTAGES. THEY ARE :-

- \* IMMEDIATE BENEFITS UPON IMPLEMENTATION;
- \* INCOME SECURITY FOR ALL ELIGIBLE ELDERLY RESIDENTS, INCLUDING LOW-INCOME EMPLOYEES, HOUSEWIVES AND RETIREES;
- \* INFLATION-PROOF INCOME SET AT A GUARANTEED BASIC LEVEL; AND
- \* A LOW CONTRIBUTION RATE.

MR LAM EMPHASISED THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE BEING PUT FORWARD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AND NO DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL PUBLIC VIEWS WERE CLEAR ABOUT ITS ACCEPTABILITY.

OUTLINING THE MAIN POINTS OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME, MR LAM GAVE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS :-

BENEFITS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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THE INITIAL PENSION LEVEL WILL BE \$2,300 A MONTH AT 1994 PRICE LEVELS. IT WILL BE ADJUSTED WITH INFLATION.

THE PENSION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AGED 65 OR ABOVE WHO HAS LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF APPLICATION. APPLICANTS AGED BETWEEN 65 AND 69 WHO HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED TO THE SCHEME WILL HAVE TO DECLARE THAT THEIR TOTAL ASSETS DO NOT EXCEED \$2 MILLION.

BENEFICIARIES WILL HAVE TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG IF THEY WANT THEIR PENSION TO CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH UP TO 180 DAYS ABSENCE A YEAR WILL BE PERMITTED.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

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THE OPS CONTRIBUTION RATE WILL BE 1.5 PER CENT OF ASSESSABLE INCOME EACH FROM EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS. THE SELF-EMPLOYED WILL MEET THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTION.

THERE WILL BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON GROUNDS OF ETHNIC OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

ALL NON-LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND NON-LOCAL OWNERS OF UNINCORPORATED BUSINESSES WILL HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPS, AND WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PENSION BENEFITS, IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY AS THEIR LOCAL COUNTERPARTS.

#### IMPORTED WORKERS TO BE EXEMPT

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AN EXCEPTION WILL BE MADE TO EXEMPT WORKERS IMPORTED UNDER THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT NORMALLY ALLOWED TO STAY IN HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN SIX YEARS, AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPS.

#### ASSESSABLE INCOME FLOOR

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PERSONS EARNING A SALARY OR RECEIVING A REGULAR INCOME OF LESS THAN \$4,000 A MONTH WILL NOT HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPS, BUT WILL STILL PARTICIPATE IN IT.

THIS WILL REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP TO LOW-INCOME PARTICIPANTS.

AS THE CONCEPT OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP DOES NOT APPLY TO EMPLOYERS, THE GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS THAT THE EMPLOYERS OF THOSE PERSONS EARNING BELOW THE PRESCRIBED AMOUNT WILL STILL HAVE TO PAY THE EMPLOYERS' SHARE OF THAT OPS CONTRIBUTION.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE OPS WHICH INCLUDE -

- \* A ONE-OFF CAPITAL INJECTION OF \$10 BILLION;

- \* THE SAVINGS FROM THE EXISTING NORMAL AND HIGHER OLD AGE ALLOWANCES, AND THE STANDARD RATE PAYABLE TO ELDERLY PEOPLE UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME, AMOUNTING TO \$3.6 BILLION IN 1994;
- \* THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OPS AS AN EMPLOYER; THIS WILL BE ABOUT \$1.2 BILLION IN 1994; AND
- \* AN ANNUAL TAX REVENUE FOREGONE ON EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OPS, ESTIMATED AT \$800 MILLION AT 1994 PRICE LEVELS.

TAKING THE AGREED AND PROPOSED CONTRIBUTIONS TOGETHER, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONTRIBUTING NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF THE SCHEME'S COST INITIALLY.

#### PARTICIPANTS IN OTHER SCHEMES

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THERE WILL BE NO EXEMPTION FROM OPS PARTICIPATION BECAUSE OF MEMBERSHIP IN A STATUTORY OR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT SCHEME.

IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORKING POPULATION SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE OPS AS A FORM OF COLLECTIVE SOCIAL INSURANCE, THE GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS AGAINST EXEMPTION ON THE GROUNDS OF PARTICIPATION IN AN EXISTING SCHEME.

#### ADMINISTRATION

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ALL ASPECTS OF THE OPS WILL BE RUN BY A NEW NON-CIVIL SERVICE PUBLIC AGENCY - THE OPS ADMINISTRATION.

IT WILL BE GOVERNED BY STATUTE THROUGH A GOVERNING BOARD COMPRISING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND OTHER RELEVANT SECTORS.

APART FROM THE CONSULTATION PAPER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PREPARED A QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOKLET WHICH CONTAINS ALL THE MAIN POINTS OF THE OPS, AND AN EXPLANATORY LEAFLET.

COPIES OF THE CONSULTATION PAPER, THE BOOKLET AND THE LEAFLET MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT OFFICES, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT DISTRICT OFFICES, LABOUR DEPARTMENT BRANCH OFFICES, HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES AND POST OFFICES.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS IN THE PAPER SHOULD BE SENT TO: THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, NINTH FLOOR, WEST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG BY OCTOBER 31.

JOINT EFFORT TO COMBAT CHOLERA

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ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE TAKING CONCERTED ACTION TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA IN HONG KONG, IN PARTICULAR TO PREVENT POLLUTED WATER FROM REACHING RESTAURANTS AND MARKETS.

THE IDENTIFIED POLLUTED WATER BLACKSPOTS ARE ALL TYPHOON SHELTERS, VICTORIA HARBOUR, DEEP BAY AND STRETCHES ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AFTER A BRIEFING TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THIS MORNING.

MRS WONG CHAIRS AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP SET UP TO IDENTIFY THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM AND TO TARGET ACTION WITH PRECISION TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE.

SHE SAID THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS WOULD FENCE OFF THE WATER FRONTAGE AT BLACKSPOTS WHERE SEA-WATER WAS DRAWN FOR SUPPLY TO RESTAURANTS.

THE DIRECTOR INTENDS TO GIVE NOTICE TO SHORT-TERM TENANCIES ON WATERFRONTS BEING USED AS SEAFOOD MARKETS.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES HAS STOPPED WHOLESALE SEAFOOD SUPPLIERS FROM DRAWING WATER FROM THE WATERFRONT INSIDE THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAS CLEARED ALL ILLEGAL FLOATING STRUCTURES AND NETS ATTACHED TO VESSELS IN WHICH FISH WERE KEPT IN ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER. HE IS ALSO CARRYING OUT A SURVEY ON ALL OTHER TYPHOON SHELTERS WHERE THE SAME ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IF ILLEGAL AND UNSAFE ACTIVITIES ARE DISCOVERED. ALSO ALL FISHING WILL BE BANNED IN ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER UNDER THE PROVISION IN THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS IDENTIFIED SITES AT LITTLE PALM, TSO WO HANG AND KO TONG HAU AT SAI KUNG AS PLACES HAVING CLEAN SEA-WATER. HE IS IDENTIFYING MORE.

MEANWHILE, RESTAURANT OPERATORS AND FRESH FOOD SUPPLIERS ARE ADVISED THAT CLEAN SEA-WATER MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AREAS ADJACENT TO THE FOLLOWING GRADE I BEACHES:

HONG KONG SOUTH

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HAIRPIN BEACH, MIDDLE BAY, REPULSE BAY, SOUTH BAY, ST  
STEPHEN'S BAY

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

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CAMPERS, HAP MUN BAY, KIU TSUI, PAK SHA CHAU, TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)

/ISLANDS DISTRICT .....

ISLANDS DISTRICT  
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CHEUNG SHA UPPER, HUNG SHING YEH, KWUN YAM WAN, TONG FUK, LO SO SHING, TUNG WAN, TUNG O

IN ADDITION, THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS HAVE BEEN INVITED ON AN URGENT BASIS TO AMEND THEIR FOOD BUSINESS BY-LAWS TO REGULATE THE QUALITY OF WATER IN FISH TANKS IN RESTAURANTS, FRESH FOOD STALLS AND MARKETS BASED ON STANDARDS TO BE SPECIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

THEY WILL ALSO ISSUE A CODE OF PRACTICE ON FISH TANK HYGIENE TO ALL FOOD OPERATORS.

ON POTABLE WATER IN HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES SAID IT IS 100 PER CENT CLEAN AND HIS DEPARTMENT CARRIES OUT 80,000 SAMPLE TESTS A YEAR. HE WILL MONITOR THIS VERY CLOSELY.

HOWEVER, HE REMINDED THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY RESTAURANT AND FISH STALL OWNERS, THAT IT WAS ILLEGAL TO USE FLUSHING WATER FOR OTHER PURPOSES. BLITZ INSPECTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON SUSPECTED PREMISES AND OFFENDERS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THESE COLLABORATIVE AND COLLECTIVE MEASURES WOULD PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA.

"IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE LONG TERM THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEWAGE MASTER PLAN," SHE ADDED.

IN THE MEANTIME, SHE APPEALS TO THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE PERSONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD HYGIENE, NOT ONLY IN PREPARING SEAFOOD BUT FOR ALL KINDS OF FOOD AND PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY TRAVEL OVERSEAS.

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CONSULTATION ON BRIDGING OVER ARRANGEMENTS  
FOR LECTURING STAFF

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD CONDUCT A THREE-MONTH CONSULTATION WITH LECTURING STAFF OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION ON THE PROPOSED BRIDGING OVER PACKAGE TO FACILITATE THEIR TRANSFER TO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION.

THE BRIDGING OVER TERMS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO ENABLE EXISTING LECTURING STAFF TO RETAIN CIVIL SERVANTS BENEFITS, PRINCIPALLY PENSION AND HOUSING BENEFITS, WHEN THEY BECOME EMPLOYEES OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION.

THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WILL LAST FROM JULY TO OCTOBER. STAFF ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR COMMENTS BEFORE END OCTOBER TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

/IN ADDITION .....

IN ADDITION TO ISSUING LETTERS AND QUESTION-AND-ANSWER BRIEFS ON THE PROPOSED PACKAGE TO ALL LECTURING STAFF, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO ORGANISE MEETINGS AND OPEN FORUMS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH STAFF ON THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS.

PROPOSED IN THE BRIDGING OVER PACKAGE ARE, AMONGST OTHE THINGS, ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFERRED LECTURING STAFF TO RETAIN AND CONTINUE TO EARN PENSION BENEFITS AND FOR THEM TO CONTINUE DRAWING HOUSING ALLOWANCES INCLUDING HOME FINANCE, HOME PURCHASE AND PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCES. ALL ACCRUED LEAVE WILL ALSO BE PROTECTED.

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### MARCH EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES STATISTICS

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COMPARING MARCH 1994 WITH MARCH 1993, THERE WAS CONTINUED GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE VARIOUS SERVICES SECTORS, BUT EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECLINED FURTHER.

THIS MAINLY REFLECTED THE CONTINUED RE-ORIENTATION OF THE ECONOMY TOWARDS SERVICES, ALONG WITH THE RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TO CHINA. MEANWHILE, EMPLOYMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES FELL.

VACANCIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FELL FURTHER COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER. BUT VACANCIES IN VARIOUS SERVICES SECTORS AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES REGISTERED INCREASES OF VARIOUS MAGNITUDES.

ACCORDING TO THE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THERE WERE 455,900 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN MARCH 1994, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 14.3% FROM MARCH 1993.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 997,800 IN MARCH 1994, WAS 9.5% HIGHER THAN IN MARCH 1993.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 349,400, WAS UP BY 11.3% OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES (MANUAL WORKERS ONLY), AT 58,000, WAS 3.4% LOWER THAN IN MARCH 1993.

THE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR MARCH 1994 IN SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR MARCH 1993 AND DECEMBER 1993, ARE AS FOLLOWS :

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTOR	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT)			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	MAR 93	DEC 93	MAR 94	MAR 94 OVER MAR 93	MAR 94 OVER DEC 93
MANUFACTURING	531,900	483,600	455,900	-14.3	-5.7

/CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL .....

CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	60,000	55,900	58,000	- 3.4	+3.8
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	911,300	948,900	997,800	+ 9.5	+5.2
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	313,900	338,100	349,400	+11.3	+3.3

THE ABOVE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS IN MARCH 1994 WERE DERIVED FROM THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES AND THE QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

IN THE FORMER SURVEY, EMPLOYMENT IN THE RETAIL TRADE EXCLUDED HAWKERS AND PERSONS WORKING AT RETAIL PITCHES BUT INCLUDED THOSE WORKING IN MARKET STALLS.

THE TWO SURVEYS MENTIONED ABOVE ALSO PROVIDE THE VACANCY STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS. THE VACANCY FIGURES, TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR MARCH 1993 AND DECEMBER 1993, ARE AS FOLLOWS :

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTOR	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	MAR 93	DEC 93	MAR 94	MAR 94 OVER MAR 93	MAR 94 OVER DEC 93
MANUFACTURING	18,490	11,890	14,890	-19.5	+25.3
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	420	540	440	+ 6.7	-17.0
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	35,720	27,500	42,100	+17.9	+53.1
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	11,010	10,440	14,550	+32.2	+39.4

/COMPARING MARCH .....

COMPARING MARCH 1994 WITH MARCH 1993, VACANCIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FELL BY 19.5%. HOWEVER, VACANCIES IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR INCREASED BY 17.9% WHILE THOSE IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR INCREASED BY 32.2%. VACANCIES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ALSO RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 6.7% IN MARCH 1994 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, MARCH 1994 AND THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, MARCH 1994. THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT \$24 PER COPY AND \$13 PER COPY RESPECTIVELY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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#### INCREASE IN CONTAINER THROUGHPUT CONTINUES

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HONG KONG HANDLED MORE THAN 2.3 MILLION 20-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS (TEUS) IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, 20.5 PER CENT MORE THAN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR IAN DALE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ANNOUNCING THE CONTAINER THROUGHPUT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994, MR DALE SAID CONTAINER TERMINALS IN KWAI CHUNG INCLUDING THE TWO NEWLY COMMISSIONED BERTHS IN CONTAINER TERMINAL 8 HANDLED A TOTAL OF 1,499,993 TEUS, OR 27 PER CENT MORE THAN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

"WHILE THE THROUGHPUT IN THE STREAM SECTOR AT 1.1 PER CENT IS NEGLIGIBLE, THE RIVER TRADE SECTOR CONTINUED TO GROW SIGNIFICANTLY AND RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 54.3 PER CENT.

"THE CONSOLIDATED THROUGHPUT FIGURES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WERE HIGHER THAN OUR PROJECTIONS," MR DALE SAID.

"THEY SHOW THE PORT'S CURRENT ABILITY TO SERVICE THAT DEMAND BUT THEY ALSO UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR STARTING WORK ON CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

THE COMPARATIVE CONTAINER STATISTICS IN TEUS ARE:

	FIRST QUARTER 1993	FIRST QUARTER 1994	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
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KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINALS	1,180,717	1,499,993	27.0%

/STREAM AND .....

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STREAM AND ELSEWHERE	611,901	618,674	1.1%
RIVER TRADE	122,554	189,129	54.3%
TOTAL	1,914,862	2,307,623	20.5%

NOTE: TO AVOID DOUBLE COUNTING FIGURES ARE ADJUSTED DOWNWARD BY 310 TEUS IN 1993 AND 173 TEUS IN 1994 RESPECTIVELY HANDLED BY TERMINAL VESSELS CONTRACTED TO WORK IN THE STREAM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION ON TEL 852 4425 AND 852 4423 DURING OFFICE HOURS OR 9493 8262 OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS.

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Comparative Container Statistics for March 1994

	First 3-month 1993	First 3-month 1994	Change %
<u>KWAI CHUNG TERMINALS</u>			
Loaded Full (T.E.U.)	587 786	726 697	23.6
Discharged Full (T.E.U.)	416 221	566 916	36.2
Loaded Empty (T.E.U.)	40 940	58 037	41.8
Discharged Empty (T.E.U.)	135 770	148 343	9.3
Throughput			
a) T.E.U.	1 180 717	1 499 993	27.0
b) Actual	753 210	967 179	28.4
c) Ratio	1.57	1.55	
% of T.E.U. throughput being empty	14.97%	13.76%	
% of T.E.U. throughput being transshipment	17.00%	20.41%	
Container Tonnage (Tonnes)			
a) Loaded	3 748 215	4 860 374	29.7
b) Discharged	3 911 804	5 415 136	38.4
c) Total	7 660 019	10 275 510	34.1
Average Weight per full T.E.U. (Tonnes)			
a) T.E.U. Loaded	6.38	6.69	
b) T.E.U. Discharged	9.40	9.55	
c) T.E.U. Total	7.63	7.94	

\* STREAM AND ELSEWHERE

Loaded Full (T.E.U.)	245 068	241 728	-1.4
Discharged Full (T.E.U.)	299 166	301 256	0.7
Loaded Empty (T.E.U.)	38 170	41 313	8.2
Discharged Empty (T.E.U.)	29 497	34 377	16.5
Throughput (T.E.U.)	611 901	618 674	1.1

RIVER TRADE (Other than those handled at Kwai Chung Terminals)

Loaded Full (T.E.U.)	44 131	70 338	59.4
Discharged Full (T.E.U.)	36 036	60 032	66.6
Loaded Empty (T.E.U.)	18 086	27 303	51.0
Discharged Empty (T.E.U.)	24 301	31 456	29.4
Throughput (T.E.U.)	122 554	189 129	54.3

# THROUGHPUT (Kwai Chung Terminals + Stream & Elsewhere + River Trade)

Loaded Full (T.E.U.)	876 985	1 038 688	18.4
Discharged Full (T.E.U.)	751 253	928 106	23.5
Loaded Empty (T.E.U.)	97 196	126 653	30.3
Discharged Empty (T.E.U.)	189 428	214 176	13.1
Throughput (T.E.U.)	1 914 862	2 307 623	20.5

\* Figures include a total of 310 T.E.U. in 1993 and 173 T.E.U. in 1994 respectively handled by terminal vessels contracted to work in the stream.

# To avoid double counting figures are adjusted downwards by 310 T.E.U. in 1993 and 173 T.E.U. in 1994 respectively handled by terminal vessels contracted to work in the stream.

## TEMPORARY RESTRICTED AREA OFF EDINBURGH PLACE ESTABLISHED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEMPORARY RESTRICTED AREA IN THE APPROACHES TO STAR FERRY PIERS AT EDINBURGH PLACE, CENTRAL.

A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, NO VESSELS EXCEPT FRANCHISED FERRY VESSELS, DISCOVERY BAY FERRY VESSELS AND WORKS CRAFT ASSOCIATED WITH THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION WORKS AT THE EAST BUND SHOULD ENTER THE AREA BOUNDED BY STRAIGHT LINES JOINING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:-

LATITUDE -----	LONGITUDE -----
22 DEGREE 17.117'N	114 DEGREE 09.441'E
22 DEGREE 17.157'N	114 DEGREE 09.454'E
22 DEGREE 17.219'N	114 DEGREE 09.515'E
22 DEGREE 17.276'N	114 DEGREE 09.569'E
22 DEGREE 17.376'N	114 DEGREE 09.614'E
22 DEGREE 17.290'N	114 DEGREE 09.670'E
22 DEGREE 17.085'N	114 DEGREE 09.512'E

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TEMPORARY AREA WAS TO INCREASE MARINE SAFETY, AND TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC FERRIES USING THE AREA WERE NOT CONSTRAINED OR OBSTRUCTED BY OTHER VESSELS.

ONLY WORKS BARGES AND CRAFT DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION WORKS MIGHT, IF NECESSARY, PASS THROUGH THE RESTRICTED AREA IN ORDER TO GO TO THE ADJACENT WORKS AREA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ANY OTHER CRAFT, INCLUDING PLEASURE AND FISHING VESSELS, WHICH ENTER THE TEMPORARY RESTRICTED AREA MAY BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION," HE SAID.

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## FOOTBRIDGE IN TSUEN WAN TO BE WIDENED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO WIDEN AND TO COVER THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE BETWEEN TSUEN WAN TOWN SQUARE AND TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING IN TSUEN WAN.

THE PROPOSED WORKS INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FOOTBRIDGE ADJOINING THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE, RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE DECK AND RAMP, AND THE PROVISION OF A COVER TO THE FOOTBRIDGE DECK AND RAMP.

PEDESTRIAN FLOW ACROSS THE FOOTBRIDGE WILL BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE.

THE PLAN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED WORKS TOGETHER WITH A SCHEME DESCRIPTION CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- \* THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- \* THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES; AND
- \* THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH, IS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 6.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
TENDER RESULTS

\* \* \* \* \*

TENDER DATE	12 JUL 94	12 JUL 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q428	Y491
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$5,580 MN	HK\$1,540 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$500 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	4.32 PCT	5.46 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	4.33 PCT	5.49 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 24 PCT	ABOUT 35 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.38 PCT	5.52 PCT

/HONG KONG .....

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## HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 18 JUL 1994-

TENDER DATE	19 JUL 94	19 JUL 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q429	H469
ISSUE DATE	20 JUL 94	20 JUL 94
MATURITY DATE	19 OCT 94	18 JAN 95
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,500 + 300 MN	HK\$800 + 160 MN

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,284	0930	-764
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,142	1000	-817
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-817
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-817	1200	-817
LAF TODAY	+675	1500	-817
		1600	-817
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER	TWI 122.0	*-0.6*	12.7.94

/HONG KONG .....

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY \*

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.01	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.80	5.93
1 MONTH	4.05	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.02	6.43
3 MONTHS	4.32	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	94.70	6.84
6 MONTHS	4.72	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	94.69	7.03
12 MONTHS	5.42	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.67	7.20

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 20,616 MN

CLOSED 12 JULY 1994

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