



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1991

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RESULTS OF QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY FOR FOURTH QUARTER 1990 RELEASED
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FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE EXPERIENCED A STABLE BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

LOOKING AHEAD, FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR GENERALLY EXPECT A LOWER LEVEL OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990.

THESE COMPARISONS ARE, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS. AS FAR AS MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY IS CONCERNED, THE FIRST QUARTER OF A YEAR IS USUALLY A SEASONAL LOW WHILE THE THIRD AND THE FOURTH QUARTERS ARE NORMALLY MORE ACTIVE PERIODS.

IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, FIRMS IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND THE WATCHES AND CLOCKS INDUSTRIES EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, WHILE FIRMS IN THE PLASTICS, TEXTILES, AND FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES EXPERIENCED A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, BUSINESS IN OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

AS REGARDS THE SHORT-TERM BUSINESS PROSPECTS, FIRMS IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE TEXTILES, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES, EXPECT A LOWER LEVEL OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

HOWEVER, FIRMS IN THE PLASTICS AND THE FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES EXPECT THEIR BUSINESS TO REMAIN STABLE.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE FIRMS SURVEYED GENERALLY EXPERIENCED A STABLE BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 BUT EXPECT A LOWER LEVEL OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

FIRMS IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR, PARTICULARLY HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS, EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990.

THIS WAS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO SEASONAL EFFECTS. REGARDING THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES EXPECT A MILD IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS, RESTAURANTS EXPECT A STABLE BUSINESS, WHILE HOTELS ANTICIPATE A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS.

IN THE OTHER SERVICES SECTOR, WHILE BANKS EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, FIRMS IN THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES AND THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES REPORTED A STABLE BUSINESS.

/REGARDING THE

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REGARDING THE SHORT-TERM BUSINESS PROSPECTS, MOST FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR, PARTICULARLY BANKS, EXPECT A LOWER LEVEL OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

ABOUT 1,000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND TRADES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY. THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR GENERALLY ENCOUNTERED THE PROBLEMS OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS OR CONTRACTS; PRICE COMPETITION; SHORTAGE OF LABOUR, PARTICULARLY SKILLED LABOUR; HIGH WAGE RATES; AND HIGH MATERIAL PRICES.

THE PROBLEM OF HIGH MATERIAL PRICES WAS PARTICULARLY WIDESPREAD FOR FIRMS IN THE PLASTICS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, WHILE THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS OR CONTRACTS WAS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS FOR FIRMS IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY.

THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, FIRMS HAD THE PROBLEMS OF PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS IN HONG KONG; SHORTAGE OF LABOUR, PARTICULARLY SKILLED LABOUR; HIGH WAGE RATES; AND INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS OR CONTRACTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990.

THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO SUSTAIN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR AND OTHER SERVICES SECTOR, A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF FIRMS CITED PRICE COMPETITION; SHORTAGE OF STAFF GENERALLY; AND HIGH STAFF COSTS AS THEIR MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990.

IN ADDITION TO THESE PROBLEMS, HOTELS ALSO ENCOUNTERED THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS WHILE BANKS HAD THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED STAFF.

THESE SITUATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG FROM A SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVE.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD "IMPROVED", "REMAINED THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATED" IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

/THEY WERE

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO "IMPROVE", "REMAIN THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATE" IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE THEN ANALYSED AND THE SUMMARY FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN THE "REPORT ON QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, FOURTH QUARTER 1990".

MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS, AND A BREAKDOWN OF THE VIEWS OF FIRMS BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE GROUP.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT, IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PURCHASE COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$5.50 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 3223.

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PROPOSED DREDGING AT SOUTH OF MA WAN

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT DREDGING AT THE SOUTH OF MA WAN TO OBTAIN MATERIAL FOR CONSTRUCTION AND FUTURE RECLAMATION PROJECTS IN HONG KONG.

THE DREDGING WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 93.542 HECTARES OF SEABED SOUTH OF MA WAN.

THE AREA WILL ALSO BE BACKFILLED TO A LEVEL NOT HIGHER THAN THE ORIGINAL SEABED, USING SURPLUS DREDGED MATERIAL FROM THIS SAME AREA OR DREDGED OR EXCAVATED MATERIAL FROM ELSEWHERE.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE APRIL 12.

/THE NOTICE

THE NOTICE OF SUCH OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER); AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN; AT THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRE, KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG; AND AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KWAI TSING, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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\$120M CONTRACT FOR RECLAMATION AT MA ON SHAN SIGNED

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A \$120 MILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (TDD) FOR THE RECLAMATION OF ABOUT 23 HECTARES OF LAND AT MA ON SHAN, SHA TIN.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE PROJECT MANAGER OF NORTH EAST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF TDD, MR BERNARD LAM, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTOR.

IT IS THE LAST MAJOR RECLAMATION CONTRACT TO BE LET BY TDD AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MA ON SHAN IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS COMPRISING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1.1 KILOMETRE SEAWALL, RECLAMATION WORK AND ASSOCIATED STORMWATER DRAINAGE IN THE AREA NORTH OF TAI SHUI HANG NULLAH IN MA ON SHAN.

THE LAND TO BE RECLAIMED WILL BE USED FOR RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL, GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY PURPOSES, AND DISTRICT OPEN SPACES AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A STRATEGIC PUBLIC DUMPING SITE, CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING 1.5 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF DUMPING MATERIALS IN THE AREA.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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GOVT RECEIVED MTRC INVESTIGATION REPORT ON DETRAINMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED A FULL REPORT FROM THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ON ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE DETRAINMENT INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 6 LAST YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

COMMENTING ON THE MTRC'S REPORT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT AS MONITORING AUTHORITY FOR THE SAFETY OF TRAIN PASSENGERS, WAS SATISFIED WITH THE INVESTIGATION'S FINDINGS AND IMPROVEMENT MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE CORPORATION.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO RECEIVED A SEPARATE REPORT FROM THE LOCAL RAILWAY INSPECTORATE WHICH HAS ENDORSED THESE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES ARE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALL ASPECTS OF RAILWAY SAFETY THROUGH THE LOCAL RAILWAY INSPECTORATE.

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BANKING LICENCE GRANTED TO UNIBANK A/S

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THE UNIBANK A/S HAS BEEN GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN HONG KONG. THE BANKING LICENCE OF MIDLAND BANK PLC HAS BEEN REVOKED.

"UNIBANK IS THE SECOND LARGEST BANK IN DENMARK, AND RANKS 71ST IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF CAPITAL," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IT HAS A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN HONG KONG, AND IS THE SECOND DANISH BANK LICENSED HERE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF FOREIGN BANKS IN ENTERING THE LOCAL MARKET REFLECTED HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

"GIVEN THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG'S BILATERAL TRADE WITH DENMARK, IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THE COUNTRY HAS APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION IN HONG KONG'S BANKING SECTOR," HE ADDED.

FOLLOWING ITS GLOBAL REORGANISATION, THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE MIDLAND BANK PLC CEASED OPERATING IN DECEMBER 1990.

THE BANK, WHICH WAS GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE IN 1979, HAS MAINTAINED A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN HONG KONG TO ENSURE A CONTINUITY OF ITS PRESENCE.

/THERE ARE

THERE ARE NOW 166 LICENSED BANKS OF WHICH 136 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

THE LICENCE OF UNIBANK A/S IS THE FIRST BANKING LICENCE GRANTED IN 1991.

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FIVE GOVERNMENT LOTS FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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FIVE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE IN A PUBLIC AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 12 AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE, BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM.

THE FIRST LOT, AT AP LEI CHAU WEST AND WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,500 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES, EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 25,650 SQUARE METRES SHOULD BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

THE SECOND LOT IS LOCATED AT THE REAR OF NOS. 181-205 SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, SHAU KEI WAN, HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 726.3 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING HOTEL AND GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 4,445 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1994.

THE THIRD LOT, LOCATED AT AREA 4B, SHEUNG SHUI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,759 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES, EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 5,277 SQUARE METRES SHOULD BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1994.

THE FOURTH LOT IS LOCATED AT AREA 6, MA WO, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 8,675 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 12,500 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

THE REMAINING LOT IS LOCATED AT AREA 14B, YUEN SHUN CIRCUIT, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,100 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, EXCLUDING GODOWN, RESIDENTIAL AND HOTEL.

/ACCORDING TO

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 16,878 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND SALE PLANS INSPECTED AT, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

CONDITIONS OF SALE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, TAI PO, NORTH, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

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FISHERMEN URGED TO LAND THEIR CATCHES AT FMO MARKETS

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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPEALED TO THE FISHERMEN FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS CO-OPERATION IN MARKETING THEIR CATCHES THROUGH THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION (FMO) MARKETS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARINE FISH (MARKETING) ORDINANCE.

SPEAKING AT THE FMO'S ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY AT THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET, DR LEE SAID TO ENSURE THAT THE TRADING OF FISH WAS CONDUCTED IN AN EQUITABLE MANNER AND AT FAIR PRICES, THE FMO HAD OVER THE PAST YEARS TAKEN THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO MAINTAIN GOOD MARKET ORDER IN THE VARIOUS WHOLESALE MARKETS.

"THE ORGANISATION AND THE POLICE CONTINUED TO JOIN FORCES IN ELIMINATING ILLEGAL MARKETING ACTIVITIES.

"DURING THE PAST YEAR, 122 CASES HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED WITH ALL THE OFFENDERS FINED AND THEIR CATCHES CONFISCATED. SOME OF THE OFFENDERS WERE EVEN SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS," HE SAID.

DR LEE SAID OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE LOCAL FISHING FLEET HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE RISE IN OIL PRICES, TENSION IN LABOUR SUPPLY AND THE GRADUAL DECREASE IN FISH RESOURCES AT THE CONVENTIONAL FISHING GROUNDS.

"THE LANDINGS OF THE FISHERMEN SUFFERED A SLIGHT DROP WHEN COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

"NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE HARDWORKING FISHERMEN, FISH LANDINGS SOLD THROUGH THE FMO MARKETS STILL AMOUNTED TO OVER 67,000 TONNES AT A TOTAL VALUE OF OVER \$580 MILLION," DR LEE ADDED.

/TO FURTHER

TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG AND TO HELP FISHERMEN ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY, THE FMO AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) CONTINUED TO PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO THE INDUSTRY DURING THE PAST YEAR.

"THIS INCLUDES LOANS AMOUNTING TO \$13 MILLION FROM THE FMO LOAN FUND TO MEET THE OPERATIONAL NEED OF THE FISHERMEN.

"AS REGARDS TRAINING, THE AFD CONTINUED TO ORGANISE RADIO-TELEPHONE COURSES, TRAINING CLASSES FOR COXSWAINS AND ENGINEERS, AND DEEP SEA-FISHING ENDORSEMENT COURSES FOR THE FISHERMEN TO EQUIP THEM WITH THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.

"UP TO NOW, A TOTAL OF 6,376 FISHERMEN HAVE ATTENDED THESE TRAINING COURSES," DR LEE SAID.

MEANWHILE, IN 1990, SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND LOANS AMOUNTING TO \$340,000 FROM THE MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND WERE AWARDED TO FISHERMAN CHILDREN AND STUDENTS.

THE FMO ALSO ORGANISED A STUDY TOUR TO AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE FOR LOCAL FISHERMEN LAST MONTH.

"ALL THE FISHERMEN PARTICIPANTS CONSIDERED THE VISIT HELPFUL IN BROADENING THEIR INSIGHT WHICH SHOULD PROVE BENEFICIAL TO THE LOCAL FISHING INDUSTRY IN ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT," DR LEE CONTINUED.

AT TODAY'S CEREMONY, PRIZES WERE AWARDED TO 23 CHAMPION FISHERMEN OF THE YEAR. TEN FISHERMEN WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES TO SAVE OTHERS AT SEA WERE COMMENDED FOR THEIR GALLANTRY WHILE 17 GRADUATES OF THE LOCAL MASTERS AND ENGINEERS TRAINING CLASS WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES.

TWO FMO STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WERE PRESENTED LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES.

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BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME HOTLINE MANNED DURING HOLIDAYS

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THEIR SPECIAL HOTLINE FOR THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME -- 802 3300 -- WILL REMAIN MANNED DURING OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY PERIOD (FEB 14 - 17).

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO A SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CALLING UP THE HOTLINE.

"THE NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED BY THE HOTLINE IN THE PAST TWO DAYS AVERAGED MORE THAN 1,000 A DAY, COMPARED WITH ABOUT 400 A DAY PREVIOUSLY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE HOTLINE IS MANNED BY SENIOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WHO ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ON THE SCHEME.

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OPENING HOURS OF MARINE DEPT OFFICES DURING HOLIDAYS

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT ALL PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 5 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY), THE FIRST DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THEY WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 15 AND 16), AND WILL RESUME NORMAL OPERATION AT NOON ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 17).

THE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS ARE AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT, SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CHAI WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, CHA KWO LING, TSUEN WAN AND RAMBLER CHANNEL.

MEANWHILE, TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 16) THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE AND PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE -- BOTH LOCATED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL -- WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM TO FACILITATE ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE FOR SHIPS.

THE PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE WILL ALSO HANDLE APPLICATION FOR PERMITS NORMALLY ISSUED BY THE OFFICE.

DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, THE VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTRE AND MACAU FERRY TERMINAL WILL REMAIN OPEN CONTINUOUSLY WHILE THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL FROM 6 AM TO 10 PM DAILY.

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DB ELECTION PUBLICITY IN NORTH DISTRICT

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AN EXHIBITION ON NORTH DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATIONS FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL THE ELECTION DAY ON MARCH 3, PROVIDES INFORMATION ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD, THE LOCATION OF THE POLLING STATIONS, AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

A LEAFLET CONTAINING SIMILAR INFORMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT, THE SHA TAU KOK COMMUNITY HALL, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES IN FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI AND TIN PING ESTATE.

THE EXHIBITION AND LEAFLET ARE PART OF THE ELECTION PUBLICITY PROGRAMME CONDUCTED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE.

/IN ADDITION

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IN ADDITION, ELECTION PUBLICITY BANNERS HAVE BEEN DISPLAYED IN KEY SPOTS IN THE DISTRICT, AND A BUS WILL TOUR THE DISTRICT ON ELECTION DAY TO URGE REGISTERED ELECTORS TO VOTE.

A SERIES OF FORUMS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN FEBRUARY 19 AND 23 FOR CANDIDATES TO INTRODUCE THEIR PLATFORMS. DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DATE -----	TIME -----	CONSTITUENCY -----	VENUE -----
FEBRUARY 19 (TUESDAY)	7.30 PM - 8.15 PM	LUEN WO HUI	PUI LING PRIMARY SCHOOL
	8.30 PM - 9.15 PM	CHEUNG WAH	CHEUNG WAH COMMUNITY HALL
	9.30 PM - 10.15 PM	WAH MING	LIU YUN SUM PRIMARY SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 20 (WEDNESDAY)	7.30 PM - 9.30 PM	CHOI YUEN	BUDDHIST CHAN SHI WAN PRIMARY SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 23 (SATURDAY)	7.30 PM - 8.30 PM	TIN PING	TIN PING SHOPPING CENTRE
	9 PM - 9.45 PM	SHEK WU HUI	NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL

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