



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
COMPUTERS PLAY BIGGER ROLE IN HK INDUSTRY	1
LONG SERVICE PAYMENT PROTECTION IN FORCE	4
GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED	5
SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL TO START	6
HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME WIDELY APPRECIATED	6

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- 1 -

COMPUTERS PLAY BIGGER ROLE IN HK INDUSTRY
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HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS ARE REALISING THE VALUE THAT COMPUTERS CAN OFFER IN SIMPLIFYING DESIGN AND PRODUCTION TO MAXIMISE PROFITABILITY.

COMPUTERS HELP A DESIGNER TO PLAN A PRODUCT, EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OR DESIGNS AND TO DO SO WITHOUT THE NEED FOR LONG AND TEDIOUS CALCULATIONS EACH TIME A CHANGE IS MADE.

FOR INSTANCE, WITH A COMPUTER ASSISTED DESIGN SYSTEM ALL THE DESIGNER HAS TO DO IS TO MAKE THE INITIAL CHANGE AND THE MACHINE WILL QUICKLY CARRY OUT ALL THE DOWNSTREAM WORK. WHAT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN MONTHS TO COMPLETE CAN BE ACHIEVED IN A MATTER OF WEEKS OR SOMETIMES EVEN DAYS.

AND IN THE WORKPLACE, COMPUTERS ARE ALREADY PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN MANUFACTURING, REDUCING COSTS, IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY AND MAINTAINING EFFICIENT QUALITY CONTROL.

THE NEED FOR HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS TO MOVE UP THE INDUSTRIAL LADDER TO MODERN PRODUCTS WITH GREATER VALUE ADDED HAS BECOME AN ESTABLISHED DOCTRINE.

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THESE COMPUTERISED 'TOOLS' WILL PLAY IN HELPING INDUSTRY MEET THE CHALLENGES OF PRODUCING BETTER QUALITY, MORE INNOVATIVE, GOODS WITH HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY, SAYS DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY.

IT IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG INDUSTRY MUST KEEP PACE WITH THE ADVANCED DESIGN AND PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN MANY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES, OR FACE THE RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND.

ENCOURAGING MANUFACTURERS TO EXPLOIT THE ADVANTAGES OF COMPUTER ASSISTED DESIGN - OR CAD - AND COMPUTER ASSISTED MANUFACTURE - CAM - TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN A GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR SOME YEARS.

A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT TO ACHIEVE THIS.

THE FIRST IS THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB) WHICH IS CHARGED WITH ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL MATTERS RELATED TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE SECOND APPROACH IS THROUGH CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL IN ITS EFFORTS TO HELP MANUFACTURERS IN THE APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.

AND FINALLY, TWO RESEARCH PROJECTS RELATED TO CAD-CAM TECHNOLOGY ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

/TO MONITOR

TO MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAD-CAM TECHNOLOGY, THE IDB IN 1984 SET UP A CAD-CAM SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY MR YAXLEY.

AT AN INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN SOME MEMBERS OF THE CAD-CAM SUB-COMMITTEE, INDUSTRIALISTS AND CAD-CAM EQUIPMENT VENDORS HELD IN APRIL 1985, ONE OF THE POINTS THAT EMERGED WAS THE FEELING THAT THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE IS STILL NOT WELL INFORMED ON THE NEW ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND ITS POTENTIAL.

AS A RESULT OF THAT MEETING AND IN A BID TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR WIDER APPLICATION OF CAD-CAM TECHNOLOGY, THE SUB-COMMITTEE AGREED TO TWO RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE FIRST WAS FOR REGULAR APPRECIATION SEMINARS TO BE HELD TO FAMILIARISE MANUFACTURERS WITH CAD-CAM TECHNOLOGY.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT REGULAR COMMUNICATION CHANNELS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY VENDORS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED BODIES.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS LED TO THE HOLDING OF A HALF-DAY APPRECIATION SEMINAR ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 8 WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 100 INDUSTRIALISTS, MAINLY FROM SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FACTORIES. THE SEMINAR EXAMINED THE BENEFITS, LIMITATIONS, POTENTIAL APPLICATION AREAS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT TRENDS OF CAD-CAM TECHNOLOGY.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING OF THE TWO PROJECTS AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

THE FIRST PROJECT, ON COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, IS AIMED AT DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING THE APPLICATION OF CAD-CAM TECHNIQUES IN THE LOCAL ELECTRONICS SECTOR. IT IS HOPED THAT THE NEW TECHNOLOGY WILL HELP THE INDUSTRY DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE GOODS OF GREATER SOPHISTICATION AND VARIETY, BETTER QUALITY AND RELIABILITY, WITH A SHORTER PRODUCTION CYCLE, FASTER RESPONSE TO MARKET CHANGES AND BETTER INTEGRATION BETWEEN DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE.

THE PROJECT COSTING \$1 790 000 BEGAN IN JANUARY 1983 AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS.

A SECOND GOVERNMENT-FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THE TARGET IS TO INTRODUCE CAD-CAM TECHNOLOGY TO LOCAL INDUSTRY INCLUDING MANUFACTURERS OF ELECTRONICS, TOYS AND OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS WHICH RELY HEAVILY ON PRECISION AND SPEED IN THE PRODUCTION OF DIES AND MOULDS. THE PROJECT STARTED IN JULY 1985 AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE. THE TOTAL COST IS \$1.64 MILLION.

THE INCREASING APPEARANCE OF CAD-CAM SYSTEMS ON THE FACTORY FLOOR BOTH LOCALLY AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD HAS TRIGGERED A SURGE OF INTEREST IN THE LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE PLACING GREAT EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD.

ONE NOTABLE EXAMPLE IS THE WORK BEING DONE AT THE INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WHICH HAS ACQUIRED SEVERAL CNC (COMPUTER NUMERICAL CONTROL) MACHINES AND INDUSTRIAL ROBOTS. RESEARCH IS BEING DONE ON LINKING THEM TOGETHER TO STIMULATE A FLEXIBLE MANUFACTURING SYSTEM.

ANOTHER INTERESTING PROJECT BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE INDUSTRIAL CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC SINCE 1982 IS GEARED TO EXPLORING THE USES OF MICRO-COMPUTERS IN CAD-CAM.

CAD-CAM TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT COME CHEAP AND MANY OF THE IMPORTED SYSTEMS CARRY PRICE TAGS OF WELL OVER \$1 MILLION. FOR HARD-HEADED INDUSTRIALISTS, THE BOTTOM-LINE IS COST AND MANY ARE FINDING THE PRICES OF CAD-CAM SYSTEMS PROHIBITIVE.

TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, HAS DEVELOPED TWO AFFORDABLE CAD SYSTEMS FOR THE CLOTHING AND THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES TO BRING THE BENEFITS OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WITHIN THE REACH OF HONG KONG'S MANY SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FACTORIES.

ONE IS FOR PATTERN GRADING IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY. PATTERN GRADING IS A CRUCIAL PROCESS IN GARMENT PRODUCTION WHICH DICTATES THE STANDARD OF THE FINISHED PRODUCT. TRADITIONALLY A TIME CONSUMING AND LABORIOUS EXERCISE, PATTERN GRADING RELIES HEAVILY ON INDIVIDUAL EXPERTISE AND PERSONAL JUDGEMENT. THIS DEPENDENCE ON VARIABLE HUMAN FACTORS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HEADACHE FOR GARMENT MANUFACTURERS WHO CAN NEVER BE CERTAIN OF MEETING STRINGENT DEADLINES AND STANDARDS OF CLIENTS.

THE NEW LOW-COST SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY AND TO PROVIDE A CONVENIENT MEANS OF CHECKING MARKER EFFICIENCY TO FREE MANUFACTURERS FROM THEIR RELIANCE ON THE PERSONAL SKILLS OF PATTERN GRADERS.

THE SECOND CAD SYSTEM IS FOR PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD DESIGN IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY. PCB IS A KEY COMPONENT IN ALMOST ALL ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS BUT ITS DESIGN HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TEDIOUS AND ERROR-PRONE TASK. THE COUNCIL HAS ALSO DEVELOPED A PHOTOPLOTTER TO SUPPORT THE CAD SYSTEM.

THIS CAD SYSTEM OFFERS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN PRODUCTIVITY OVER THE MANUAL APPROACH AND REDUCES THE AVERAGE TURNAROUND TIME BY AT LEAST 80 PER CENT.

THE PROTOTYPES OF THESE TWO SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND INTRODUCED TO LOCAL MANUFACTURERS SINCE THE SUMMER OF 1984.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1986

- 4 -

LONG SERVICE PAYMENT PROTECTION IN FORCE
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THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1985, WHICH PROVIDES FOR A LONG SERVICE PAYMENT TO WORKERS DISMISSED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS, COMES INTO OPERATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, A LONG SERVICE PAYMENT CALCULATED ON YEARS OF SERVICE, SHOULD BE MADE BY AN EMPLOYER TO AN EMPLOYEE WHOSE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT IS TERMINATED FOR REASONS OTHER THAN SUMMARY DISMISSAL, REDUNDANCY OR RESIGNATION.

AN EMPLOYEE MUST SATISFY A MINIMUM QUALIFYING YEARS OF SERVICE BEFORE HE IS ENTITLED TO THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT. THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE IS RELATED TO THE EMPLOYEE'S AGE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>YEARS OF SERVICE REQUIRED</u>
LESS THAN 41	10
41	9
42	8
43	7
44	6
NOT LESS THAN 45	5

THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT WILL AMOUNT TO TWO-THIRDS OF A MONTH'S WAGES FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE, UP TO A MAXIMUM LIMIT OF 12 MONTHS' WAGES.

FOR DAILY-RATED OR PIECE-RATED EMPLOYEES, THE AMOUNT WILL BE CALCULATED AT THE RATE OF 18 DAYS OF WAGES FOR EVERY YEAR OF SERVICE.

THE AMOUNT OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENT PAYABLE WILL BE REDUCED PROPORTIONALLY IN THE CASE OF YOUNGER EMPLOYEES, AS FOLLOWS:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENT PAYABLE</u>
NOT LESS THAN 40 YEARS	100 %
36 YEARS OR MORE BUT LESS THAN 40 YEARS	75 %
LESS THAN 36 YEARS	50 %

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UNDER THE ORDINANCE, A CUT-OFF DATE FOR RECKONABLE SERVICE HAS BEEN SET, INITIALLY AT JANUARY 1, 1980 BUT WILL RETROGRESS AT THE RATE OF ONE YEAR PER YEAR UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1977.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS AT THE SAME TIME ENTITLED TO BOTH LONG SERVICE PAYMENT AND TO A GRATUITY BASED ON LENGTH OF SERVICE OR A PROVIDENT FUND, THE AMOUNT OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENT WILL BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF GRATUITY OR BY THAT PART OF THE PROVIDENT FUND PAYMENT WHICH IS NOT CONTRIBUTED BY THE EMPLOYEE HIMSELF.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SHOULD BE PAID BY THE EMPLOYER, TOGETHER WITH OTHER SUMS DUE SUCH AS ARREARS OF WAGES OR WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IN ANY CASE NOT LATER THAN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF TERMINATION OF A CONTRACT.

HE SAID THE EMPLOYER SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE EMPLOYEE WITH A WRITTEN STATEMENT ON THE CALCULATION OF THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT.

EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE QUERIES ABOUT THE PROVISIONS ON THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT MAY CONTACT THE OFFICES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE IN THEIR DISTRICT.

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GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN JANUARY TO MARCH.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED MONTHLY SINCE AUGUST 1981, COLLECTS INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE GENERAL SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

ABOUT HALF OF HOUSEHOLDS INTERVIEWED THREE MONTHS AGO, WILL BE SURVEYED AGAIN TO MEASURE MORE ACCURATELY THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED.

SOME 5 000 HOUSEHOLDS ARE SELECTED AT RANDOM EACH MONTH FROM ALL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY.

AN OFFICIAL LETTER, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, HAS BEEN SENT TO THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY AND TO SEEK THEIR COOPERATION.

ASSISTANT CENSUS AND SURVEY OFFICERS, EACH CARRYING AN IDENTITY CARD ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WILL VISIT THESE HOUSEHOLDS TO COLLECT INFORMATION.

ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY AND WILL NOT BE REVEALED TO ANY PERSON OR ORGANISATION OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1986

- 6 -

SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL TO START
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OVER 3 600 STUDENTS FROM 251 SCHOOLS WILL TAKE PART IN THE 22ND SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL STARTING MONDAY (JANUARY 6).

THE FESTIVAL, PRESENTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WILL BE HELD BETWEEN JANUARY 6 AND 25.

A TOTAL OF 376 TEAMS WILL PERFORM IN THE FESTIVAL -- 165 TEAMS FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 192 FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND THE REMAINING 19 FROM SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

FOUR DANCE ITEMS, INCLUDING WESTERN FOLK DANCE, CHINESE DANCE, ORIENTAL DANCE AND CREATIVE DANCE, WILL BE PRESENTED AT TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, THE CLEMENTI MIDDLE SCHOOL IN NORTH POINT AND THE HONG KONG SZE YAP COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION WONG TAI SHAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT NAM CHEONG STREET.

THE OVERALL CHALLENGE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE ATTAINED THE HIGHEST AGGREGATE SCORE IN THE FESTIVAL.

SCHOOLS WINNING THE HONOURS OR HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS IN THE FESTIVAL WILL BE INVITED TO PERFORM AT THE WINNERS PERFORMANCES AND PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT CITY HALL CONCERT HALL BETWEEN APRIL 15 AND 19, AND AT YUEN LONG LUT SAU HALL AND TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL ON APRIL 26 AND MAY 3 RESPECTIVELY.

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HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME WIDELY APPRECIATED

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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME HAS GONE A LONG WAY IN +GREENING+ SOME OF THE BARE ROADSIDES IN HONG KONG SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION IN 1979 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

A TYPICAL EXAMPLE IS PROVIDED BY THE PICTURE ATTACHED WHICH SHOWS BUSES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, TAXIS AND EVEN A MTR TRAIN PASSING BY THE GREENERY STRIP ALONG KWUN TONG ROAD.

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