



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1994

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/TRADE DEPARTMENT .....

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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1994

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GOVERNOR COMMENTS ON AIRPORT MEETING PROGRESS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON SAID THE GOOD PROGRESS MADE AT TODAY'S AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING INDICATED THAT BOTH SIDES WERE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT.

RESPONDING TO PRESS QUESTIONS AFTER THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ST JOHN COUNCIL FOR HONG KONG, MR PATTEN SAID: "THERE IS A BIT MORE WORK TO DO AND EXPERTS WERE STILL WORKING ON A TEXT AND I AM NOT QUITE SURE HOW LONG THAT WORK WILL TAKE BUT, OBVIOUSLY, THIS WEEK HAS SEEN SEVERAL STRIDES FORWARD BUT WE ARE NOT QUITE HOME YET.

"IT IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH SIDES TO HAVE A PIECE OF PAPER WHICH EMBODIES PRECISELY WHAT'S BEEN AGREED THAT THEY CAN USE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WE CAN USE WHEN WE ARE TALKING TO BANKERS AND TO OTHERS."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT IT WAS IN ANYONE'S INTEREST THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANY MATTER STILL UNRESOLVED.

"SO, WE WANT TO GET EVERYTHING SORTED OUT AS CLEANLY AND CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE," HE ADDED.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT AN OVERALL AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT FINANCING, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT SOON.

"WE DO WANT TO GET THIS ISSUE OFF THE TABLE. WE DO WANT TO HAVE AN OVERALL FINANCING AGREEMENT WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED BY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

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TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AFTER PRESIDING AT THE ST JOHN COUNCIL FOR HONG KONG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON:-

QUESTION: ARE YOU PLEASED WITH TODAY'S MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE, THE OUTCOME THAT WAS REACHED TODAY?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THE REPORTS THAT I RECEIVED SUGGESTED THAT GOOD PROGRESS WAS MADE AND I THINK WE ARE QUITE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT. THERE IS A BIT MORE WORK TO DO AND THERE ARE CERTAINLY WHEN I LEFT THE OFFICE A SHORT WHILE AGO, EXPERTS WERE STILL WORKING ON A TEXT AND I AM NOT QUITE SURE HOW LONG THAT WORK WILL TAKE BUT, OBVIOUSLY, THIS WEEK HAS SEEN SEVERAL STRIDES FORWARD BUT WE ARE NOT QUITE HOME YET.

QUESTION: THE TEXT THEY ARE NOW WORKING ON IS THE JOINT AGREEMENT?

GOVERNOR: THAT'S RIGHT.

/QUESTION: .....

QUESTION: CAN WE SAY THAT WE HAVE REACHED A PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT NOW ON THE AIRPORT?

GOVERNOR: I PREFER NOT TO USE WORDS LIKE AGREEMENT UNTIL EVERYTHING IS CUT AND DRY. OBVIOUSLY, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR BOTH SIDES WHO'VE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH SIDES TO HAVE A PIECE OF PAPER WHICH EMBODIES PRECISELY WHAT'S BEEN AGREED THAT THEY CAN USE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WE CAN USE WHEN WE ARE TALKING TO BANKERS AND TO OTHERS. I DON'T THINK THAT IT IS IN ANYONE'S INTEREST THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANY DOUBTS. IT IS NOT IN ANYBODY'S INTEREST THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANY MATTER STILL UNRESOLVED. SO, WE WANT TO GET EVERYTHING SORTED OUT AS CLEANLY AND CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY CONCESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IN ORDER TO REACH THE AGREEMENT? IS THERE ANY CONCESSION?

GOVERNOR: NO, WE'VE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS TO FIND AN ACCOMMODATION WHICH IS IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. I DON'T THINK IT'S A QUESTION AT THE MOMENT OF EITHER SIDE LOOKING FOR NEW CONCESSIONS. IT'S A QUESTION OF BOTH SIDES TRYING TO EXPRESS IN AN ACCEPTABLE WAY WHAT'S BEEN AGREED IN THE TALKS.

QUESTION: HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU THAT YOUR POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS WOULD BE PASSED NEXT WEEK BY LEGCO?

GOVERNOR: I BELIEVE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL PASS THE PROPOSALS THAT'VE BEEN PUT TO THEM AS THEY PASSED PREVIOUS PROPOSALS. WE ARE ARGUING VERY VIGOROUSLY FOR THAT. WE THINK THE PROPOSALS THAT WE'VE PUT FORWARD ARE INCOMPARABLY THE BEST ONES ON THE TABLE AND I THINK THAT THE SOONER WE CAN RESOLVE THIS MATTER THE BETTER. I DON'T THINK PEOPLE WANT THIS DEBATE TO DRAG ON ANY LONGER. I THINK THEY WANT TO BE GOT OUT OF THE WAY IN A WAY WHICH GIVES HONG KONG FAIR AND OPEN AND CREDIBLE ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS.

QUESTION: WOULD THE GOVERNMENT BE INTENSIFYING ITS LOBBYING TO GET THE BILL PASSED?

GOVERNOR: WE ARGUE OUR CORNER ON EVERYTHING VIGOROUSLY WHENEVER WE GOT THE OPPORTUNITY, AND WE'VE BEEN ARGUING VIGOROUSLY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS NOW.

QUESTION: CONCERNING THE AIRPORT BORROWING, IS THERE ANY FLEXIBILITY ON THE CHINESE SIDE THAT IT CAN EXCEED \$5 BILLION WITHOUT GOING TO BORROW, DOES THAT MEAN IT CAN VIOLATE THE MOU?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT YOU WOULD EXPECT ME TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT'S BEING DISCUSSED BY THE EXPERTS AT THE MOMENT. WHAT WE WANT TO DO, I REPEAT, IS TO HAVE A PIECE OF PAPER, TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT WHICH EVERYBODY WILL RECOGNISE, AND EMBODIES WHAT'S BEEN ACCEPTED ON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, AND WHICH CLEARS UP ALL THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON MATTERS LIKE EQUITY INJECTION AND THAT.

QUESTION: WHEN CAN WE EXPECT AN OVERALL AGREEMENT FOR THE AIRPORT FINANCING?

/GOVERNOR: .....

GOVERNOR: I DON'T WANT TO MAKE PREDICTIONS. I THINK IT IS DANGEROUS TO DO THAT, AS IT IS TO PROPHECY THE WEATHER. BUT I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE'LL GET AN AGREEMENT SOON. THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE BEEN VERY PATIENT FORTUNATELY. WHILE THEY'VE BEEN PATIENT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET ON WITH THE WORK OF BUILDING THE NEW AIRPORT. AND EVERYBODY INVOLVED IN THE PAA HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDINGLY GOOD JOB. WE DO WANT TO GET THIS ISSUE OFF THE TABLE. WE DO WANT TO HAVE AN OVERALL FINANCING AGREEMENT WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED BY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. THERE ARE, I THINK ALL OF US ARE AWARE OF IT, A LOT OF OTHER ISSUES THAT WE NEED TO TACKLE. THERE ARE OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS LIKE THE NEXT CONTAINER TERMINAL. THERE ARE OTHER ISSUES LIKE THE LOCALISATION AND ADAPTATION OF LAWS. ALL THOSE ARE MATTERS WHICH I HOPE WE CAN RESOLVE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT. PEOPLE SAY THAT WE'VE GOT TO DO BUSINESSES AS NORMAL, ACTUALLY WE'VE GOT TO DO BUSINESSES A GREAT DEAL MORE RAPIDLY THAN NORMAL. THERE'S ONLY JUST OVER 1,000 DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE TRANSITION TO CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY AND WE WOULD MAKE THE MOST OF THEM.

QUESTION: A CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SURVEY RESULT TODAY SHOWED THAT 90 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE INTERVIEWED DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS?

GOVERNOR: I THINK WHAT THAT SURVEY SHOWED THAT EVERYBODY'S WATCHING THE WORLD CUP VERY ENTHUSIASTICALLY. IN DOING THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE BEHAVING LIKE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD WHO AT THIS SORT OF TIME ARE, I SUSPECT, RATHER MORE INTERESTED IN WHO'S GOING TO WIN THE WORLD CUP THAN IN POLITICAL ISSUES. IT DOESN'T MEAN TO SAY THEY REGARD POLITICAL ISSUES AS UNIMPORTANT. I THINK THEY WOULD WANT TO SEE GOOD ARRANGEMENT AGREED FOR ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. BUT JUST AT THE MOMENT THE FORTUNES OF PIAGET AND SIMILAR IMPORTANT MATTERS ARE RECKONED AND TALKED ABOUT MORE AROUND THE SUPPER TABLES OF HONG KONG AND INDEED THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, AND EVERYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD THAN THE NATURE OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH AMOUNT OF MONEY WILL GOVERNMENT DONATE TO CHINESE VICTIMS, FLOOD VICTIMS?

GOVERNOR: I'M HOPING THAT WE'LL HAVE REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT FROM A COUPLE OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, THE RELIEF ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN UP TO GUANGDONG TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE PROBLEM ON THE GROUND. MEDECINS SAN FRONTIERES IS ONE OF THEM, I WAS TALKING TO THEM ON THE OTHER DAY. AND AS SOON AS WE GET THEIR REQUESTS, WE'LL RESPOND AS GENEROUSLY AS POSSIBLE. YOU HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: I'D JUST LIKE TO KNOW WHAT WOULD YOU PREDICT WHAT WOULD BE DURING NEXT WEEK'S DEBATE?

GOVERNOR: I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL VOTE BY A SENSIBLE MARGIN TO PUT IN PLACE THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN DEBATED FOR SO LONG, WHICH WOULD GIVE HONG KONG A GOOD, EFFECTIVE ELECTORAL SYSTEM WHICH IN DOING THAT WOULD UNDERPIN THE RULE OF LAW AND THE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. WE CAN THEN PUT THIS ARGUMENT BEHIND US AND GET ON WITH A THOUSAND AND ONE ISSUES ON WHICH WE CAN CO-OPERATE, AND WE CAN WATCH THE FINAL OF THE WORLD CUP WITH GREAT PLEASURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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FS ENCOURAGED BY AIRPORT MEETING PROGRESS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS THAT WAS MADE AT THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING THIS MORNING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, SIR HAMISH SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THE EXPERTS WERE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON TO DRAFT DOCUMENTS AS THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT.

"WE ARE IN A POSITIVE MOOD. I THINK BOTH SIDES ARE WORKING HARD TO TRY AND REACH AN AGREEMENT AND RESOLVE ANY OUTSTANDING POINTS.

"I WISH THEM EVERY LUCK. I HOPE THEY HAVE SPEEDY WORK THIS AFTERNOON," HE SAID.

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HK WELL-PLACED IN SOUTH CHINA ECONOMY

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HONG KONG PEOPLE, WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AND PUTONGHUA, WILL BE WELL-PLACED TO ACT AS THE MIDDLEMEN FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS WANTING TO PLAY A PART IN THE RISING ECONOMIC STATUS OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

TO ENSURE THAT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM CAN SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE FOR HONG KONG, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS JUST COMPLETED A STUDY OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ISSUES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, IN BRUSSELS TODAY (FRIDAY) AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE BELGIAN-HONG KONG SOCIETY.

MR LEUNG AND MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION ARE ON A TOUR OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM TO STUDY THE EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES THERE.

HE TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT BETWEEN 1983 AND 1993, THE PROPORTION OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION CLAIMING TO UNDERSTAND ENGLISH ROSE FROM 44 PER CENT TO 70 PER CENT, AND FROM 39 PER CENT TO 63 PER CENT FOR PUTONGHUA.

"IN MOST PLACES, SUCH AN ACHIEVEMENT WOULD BE APPLAUDED," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, IN HONG KONG, BECAUSE OF THE EVEN MORE RAPID RESTRUCTURING AND GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY, THE GAP BETWEEN THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY FOR LANGUAGE SKILLS, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT SKILLS, HAS ACTUALLY WIDENED DURING THE SAME PERIOD," HE POINTED OUT.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID A REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION NEXT MONTH WOULD MAKE SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING LANGUAGE LEARNING.

IT WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT PRACTICES REGARDING BILINGUAL EDUCATION ARE BASED ON SOUND EDUCATIONAL AND LINGUISTIC THEORIES.

MR LEUNG SAID HIGHER EDUCATION WOULD ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS HONG KONG NEEDED TO REMAIN OPEN TO THE WORLD AND DEVELOP CLOSER LINKS WITH CHINA IN ORDER TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN THE WORLD OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT, HAVING JUST COMPLETED A MAJOR EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, WAS NOW CONSULTING THE PUBLIC ON A REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SECTOR.

THE PUBLIC REACTION SO FAR SEEMED TO FAVOUR A SUGGESTION TO INCORPORATE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

THESE CENTRES WOULD HAVE LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FUNCTIONS AND WOULD PROVIDE HONG KONG AND CHINA WITH HIGH QUALITY BILINGUAL MANPOWER.

THEY WOULD RECRUIT STUDENTS - PARTICULARLY POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS - FROM OUTSIDE AS WELL AS INSIDE HONG KONG AND WOULD HELP DEVELOP INNOVATIVE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NOT JUST FOR HONG KONG BUT FOR CHINA TOO.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE A DECISION DURING 1995," MR LEUNG SAID.

TURNING TO BASIC EDUCATION, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN PRIORITIES AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL WERE TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TO ENABLE SCHOOLS TO GIVE MORE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION TO THEIR PUPILS.

"WE ARE PROVIDING MORE TEACHERS TO THE SCHOOLS, REDUCING THE MAXIMUM SIZE OF CLASSES AND ENCOURAGING TEACHERS TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE ALSO EMBARKED ON A MAJOR CURRICULUM REFORM, CALLED THE TARGET ORIENTED CURRICULUM, WHICH AIMS TO FOCUS ATTENTION MORE ON LEARNING THAN ON TEACHING," HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IS BEING REFORMED.

"WE ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS, IN RETURN FOR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE QUALITY OF THEIR SERVICES," HE SAID.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS JUST COMPLETED A STUDY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES IN SCHOOL EDUCATION, WHICH INCLUDES INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR ENCOURAGING ALL SCHOOLS TO PAY CONTINUAL ATTENTION TO QUALITY ISSUES.

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THE PUBLIC WILL BE CONSULTED ON THESE IDEAS LATER IN THE YEAR.

MR LEUNG ALSO TOUCHED ON HONG KONG'S "THRIVING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SECTOR."

"THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SECTOR BY PROVIDING LAND AT A NOMINAL PREMIUM TO SCHOOLS WITH DEMONSTRATED DEMAND AND A NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS POLICY," HE SAID.

THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION RECEIVES A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY BASED ON THE COST OF LOCAL SCHOOL PLACES, AND SEVERAL OTHER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS RECEIVE SOME RECURRENT FUNDING SUPPORT.

LOOKING AHEAD AT THE YEAR 1997, MR LEUNG SAID IT WOULD NOT AFFECT HONG KONG'S STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION.

"STRATEGIC PLANNING IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS A TIME HORIZON OF 10 - 15 YEARS, AND THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME IS NO EXCEPTION," HE SAID.

HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS OWN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES, INCLUDING EDUCATION POLICIES, AFTER 1997.

"SPECIFICALLY, THE BASIC LAW FOR THE POST-1997 GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FOR EDUCATION TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP ON EXISTING POLICIES AND FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY AUTONOMY AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM," HE STRESSED.

"OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION, DEVELOP LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, AND FIND A REGIONAL ROLE FOR OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ARE ALL PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," MR LEUNG SAID.

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#### PROPERTY PRICE NEWS REPORT REFUTED

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COMMENTING ON A REPORT IN ONE OF THE CHINESE NEWSPAPERS THIS MORNING, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MRS FANNY LAW, SAID IT WAS MISLEADING TO SUGGEST THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD DECIDE IN SIX WEEKS WHETHER IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE MORE DRASTIC MEASURES TO CURB SPECULATION IN THE PROPERTY MARKET.

"I MADE THE POINT THAT PRICES FOR PRE-SALE FLATS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE COME DOWN BY 5 PER CENT TO 20 PER CENT. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER PRICES ARE MOVING ON A DOWNWARD TREND.

"WE ALSO HAVE TO SEE WHETHER THE PRICE REDUCTION IN RESPECT OF PRE-SALE FLATS HAS ANY IMPACT ON THE SECONDARY MARKET. ACTUAL TRANSACTION PRICES ARE NOT KNOWN UNTIL THE SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS ARE PRESENTED FOR STAMPING AND REGISTRATION WHICH MAY BE UP TO SIX WEEKS AFTER THE TRANSACTION," SHE SAID.

/MRS LAW .....

MRS LAW RE-EMPHASISED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE MARKET SITUATION AND CONSIDER A RANGE OF FACTORS, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TO HONG KONG, IN ADDITION TO PRICE MOVEMENTS, BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE OTHER MEASURES.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT SET A TIME TABLE FOR SUCH A DECISION, SHE SAID.

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LAND REGISTRY RELEASES STATISTICS FOR MAY

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THE LAND REGISTRAR TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED THE MONTHLY STATISTICS FOR MAY ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION IN THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES.

AS THERE IS USUALLY A TIME LAG BETWEEN THE EXECUTION AND THE LODGMENT OF DEEDS FOR REGISTRATION, STATISTICS RECORDED IN MAY GENERALLY RELATE TO LAND TRANSACTIONS EXECUTED UP TO FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THEIR SUBMISSION FOR REGISTRATION.

A COMPARISON TABLE SHOWING THE RELEVANT STATISTICS FOR APRIL 1994 AND FOR MAY 1993 WAS RELEASED.

FOR SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS, A CHART SHOWING THE NUMBER RECEIVED FOR THE PAST 12 MONTHS AND ANOTHER SHOWING THE YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF CHANGE WERE ALSO RELEASED.

A TOTAL OF 12,868 SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS, WHICH INCLUDE BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, WERE RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION IN THE LAND REGISTRY DURING MAY 1994, WITH A TOTAL CONSIDERATION OF \$46.8 BILLION.

THE 12,868 FIGURE REPRESENTS A DECREASE OF 6.4 PER CENT OVER APRIL 1994 AND A DECREASE OF 5.9 PER CENT OVER MAY 1993.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS FOR BUILDING UNITS SHOWED A DECELERATION FROM AN INCREASE OF 50.1 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AND AN INCREASE OF 18.1 PER CENT IN APRIL, TO A DECREASE OF 5.9 PER CENT IN MAY.

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COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE

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COMMENCEMENT NOTICES RELATED TO THE WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1994 AND THE WASTE DISPOSAL (LIVESTOCK WASTE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994 ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THESE NOTICES SERVE TO DECLARE JULY 1, 1994 AS THE DATE WHEN THE REVISED LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME WILL COME INTO OPERATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) SAID UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL (LIVESTOCK WASTE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994, FARMS DISCHARGING LIVESTOCK WASTE WOULD HAVE TO MEET A DISCHARGE STANDARD OF 250:250 INITIALLY, AND GRADUALLY TO 50:50 OVER A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

"FARMERS ARE FREE TO CHOOSE ANY SYSTEM MOST APPROPRIATE TO THEIR SITUATION PROVIDED THAT IT CAN MEET THE DISCHARGE STANDARD," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FURTHERMORE, FARMERS ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A LIVESTOCK KEEPING LICENCE ISSUED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) (LICENSING OF LIVESTOCK KEEPING) REGULATION 1994.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ONE OF THE MAIN CRITERIA TO CONSIDER WHEN ISSUING SUCH LICENCE WAS THE INSTALLATION OF A SUITABLE WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM IN THE FARM.

"ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE REVISED SCHEME IS THE EXTENSION OF THE PROHIBITION AREA, IN WHICH LIVESTOCK FARMING ACTIVITY IS BANNED TO AVOID INCOMPATIBLE LAND USE.

"HOWEVER, EXISTING LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THE NEWLY-DESIGNATED RESTRICTION AREAS, IN WHICH NO NEW FARM IS PERMITTED, ARE ALLOWED TO STAY IN BUSINESS," HE SAID.

TO ASSIST FARMERS MEETING THE COST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM, THE LEVEL OF CAPITAL GRANT HAS BEEN RAISED SIGNIFICANTLY.

THE AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT AVAILABLE TO FARMERS WHO OPT OUT OF THE BUSINESS WAS ALSO INCREASED.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED SCHEME WILL BRING ABOUT A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE POLLUTION LOADING ON SOME OF THE MOST POLLUTED RIVERS IN THE TERRITORY.

A CODE OF PRACTICE AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TO HELP FARMERS CHOOSE A SUITABLE WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM AND AN INFORMATION BOOKLET EXPLAINING THE REVISED SCHEME WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS EARLY NEXT MONTH.

CHANGES TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES  
CONTROL LIST TAKE EFFECT

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT AMENDMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC COMMODITIES CONTROL LIST WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (STRATEGIC COMMODITIES) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 1) ORDER 1994, WHICH CONTAINS THE AMENDMENTS, WAS TABLED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 18 AFTER IT WAS GAZETTED ON MAY 13.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6B OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE HAS APPOINTED JUNE 25 AS THE DAY FOR THE ORDER TO COME INTO OPERATION BY NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

"THE AMENDMENT ORDER BRINGS HONG KONG'S REGULATIONS IN LINE WITH UPDATED CONTROLS IN CERTAIN ELECTRONICS, COMPUTERS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INTRODUCED BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROLS (COCOM) BEFORE ITS DISSOLUTION ON MARCH 31 THIS YEAR," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"UNDER THE AMENDMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, COMPUTERS THAT OPERATE UP TO 260 MILLION THEORETICAL OPERATIONS PER SECOND (MTOPS) WILL NO LONGER BE CONTROLLED; DISK DRIVE AND ITS CONTROLLER WILL NO LONGER REQUIRE ANY LICENCE.

"BESIDES, THE CONTROL LISTS OF PLANT PATHOGENS AND CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT HAVE ALSO BEEN AMENDED TO REFLECT UPDATED CONTROLS OF THE AUSTRALIA GROUP, THE INTERNATIONAL REGIME SPECIALISED IN EXPORT CONTROLS OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DUAL-USE GOODS," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, NO CHANGE HAD BEEN MADE TO SCHEDULES 2,3 AND 4 AS REGARDS GOODS IN-TRANSIT, END-USE CONTROL AND SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO ARTICLES SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 3 RESPECTIVELY.

"ANY PERSON WHO IMPORTS OR EXPORTS ANY ARTICLE SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULES WITHOUT A LICENCE IS LIABLE TO AN UNLIMITED FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SEVEN YEARS IF CONVICTED ON INDICTMENT," HE SAID.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT ORDER ARE ON SALE IN THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STRATEGIC COMMODITIES SECTION AT TRADE DEPARTMENT TOWER, 700 NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK, KOWLOON, OR BY TELEPHONE 398 5581 OR 398 5572.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO ORGANISE SEMINARS TO BRIEF TRADERS, BY INVITATION, ON THE DETAILS OF THE AMENDED SCHEDULE 1.

COMPANIES REGISTRY TO REVISE FEES  
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A NUMBER OF FEES PAYABLE TO THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES AND TO THE JUDICIARY WILL BE REVISED FROM AUGUST 1, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FEES PAYABLE TO THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES COVER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY IN RELATION TO THE REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES AND LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS, AND THE LICENSING OF MONEY LENDERS.

OTHER SERVICES INVOLVE THE FILING OF RETURNS AND THE CONDUCTING OF INFORMATION SEARCHES AS SPECIFIED IN THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE TO THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, THE SCHEDULE TO THE LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS ORDINANCE AND PART A OF SCHEDULE 1 TO THE MONEY LENDERS REGULATIONS.

THE FEES PAYABLE TO THE JUDICIARY ARE IN RELATION TO WORK UNDERTAKEN BY MONEY LENDERS' LICENSING COURTS UNDER PART B OF SCHEDULE 1 TO THE MONEY LENDERS REGULATIONS.

"FEES COLLECTED BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY AND THE JUDICIARY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FEE REVISION POLICY. IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY THAT FEES SHOULD IN GENERAL BE SET AT LEVELS SUFFICIENT TO RECOVER THE FULL COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE FEES ARE REVISED BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT, IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE IN COST FOR THIS YEAR," HE ADDED.

THESE FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN AUGUST 1993.

DETAILS OF THE FEES REVISION WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

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REFORM OF INHERITANCE LAW  
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO OVERHAUL THE LAW OF INHERITANCE BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

THE PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE ARE CONTAINED IN THE WILLS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, INTESTATES' ESTATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 AND INHERITANCE (PROVISION FOR FAMILY AND DEPENDANTS) BILL, WHICH ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD BRING HONG KONG'S INHERITANCE LAW INTO LINE WITH CURRENT DAY COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS AND REMEDY LEGAL ANOMALIES THAT HAVE ARISEN IN THE PRESENT LAW.

"THE AMENDMENTS TO THE WILLS ORDINANCE WILL RELAX THE FORMALITIES FOR MAKING WILLS AND GIVE THE COURT NEW POWERS TO VALIDATE, INTERPRET AND RECTIFY WILLS.

"CURRENTLY, THE WILLS ORDINANCE CAN BE SOMEWHAT HARSH IN ITS EFFECT. WILLS THAT ARE NOT DRAWN UP IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE FORMALITIES LAID DOWN CAN BE INVALIDATED EVEN THOUGH THEY FULLY EXPRESS THE DECEASED'S WISHES.

"THE AMENDING BILL PROVIDES FOR THE COURT TO ADMIT TO PROBATE A WILL THAT HAS NOT BEEN DRAWN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE SO LONG AS THE COURT IS SATISFIED BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT THAT IT EXPRESSES THE DECEASED PERSON'S WISHES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE MAIN EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE INTESTATES' ESTATES ORDINANCE IS TO IMPROVE THE INHERITANCE RIGHTS OF THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DECEASED WHO DIES WITHOUT A WILL.

"THE AMENDING BILL PROVIDES FOR THE SURVIVING SPOUSE TO HAVE A RIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO ACQUIRE (FOR EXAMPLE PURCHASE OUT OF HIS OR HER SHARE OF THE ESTATE) THE MATRIMONIAL HOME AND TO RECEIVE (WITHOUT PAYMENT) THE PERSONAL POSSESSIONS OF THE HOME. CURRENTLY, A SURVIVING SPOUSE ONLY HAS THE RIGHT TO ACQUIRE THE PERSONAL POSSESSIONS.

"THE AMENDMENTS ALSO PROVIDE FOR THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A PERSON WHO DIES WITHOUT A WILL TO HAVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENT. THE PROPOSED ENTITLEMENT IS \$500,000, INSTEAD OF \$50,000 AS AT PRESENT, PLUS HALF OF ANY REMAINING ESTATE, WITH SURVIVING CHILDREN RECEIVING THE REMAINDER.

"WHERE THERE ARE NO SURVIVING CHILDREN, BUT THERE ARE OTHER SURVIVING RELATIONS, THE FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENT FOR A SURVIVING SPOUSE WILL BE INCREASED FROM THE CURRENT LEVEL OF \$200,000 TO \$1,000,000, PLUS HALF OF ANY REMAINING ESTATE. THESE AMOUNTS OF ENTITLEMENT WERE LAST AMENDED IN 1983," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE INHERITANCE (PROVISION FOR FAMILY AND DEPENDANTS) BILL WILL REPLACE THE DECEASED'S FAMILY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE. LIKE THE ORDINANCE IT WILL REPLACE, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE COURT TO ORDER REASONABLE FINANCIAL PROVISION FROM A DECEASED PERSON'S ESTATE FOR APPLICANTS FROM CERTAIN CLASSES OF INDIVIDUALS.

"A KEY CHANGE IN THE BILL IS THAT IT EXTENDS THE SCOPE OF ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY CLOSE RELATIVES, AS AT PRESENT, BUT ALSO OTHER PERSONS WHO WERE DEPENDANT ON THE DECEASED. IT ALSO GIVES THE COURT GREATER POWERS WITH RESPECT TO ORDERING FINANCIAL PROVISION FROM A DECEASED PERSON'S ESTATE.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IT EMPOWERS THE COURT TO ALTER FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE DECEASED THAT ARE INTENDED TO DEFEAT APPLICATIONS UNDER THE BILL. NO SUCH ANTI-AVOIDANCE POWERS ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT SIMILAR REFORMS HAD ALREADY BEEN SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED ELSEWHERE.

THE BILLS ARE DUE TO HAVE THEIR FIRST READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 6.

NEW RABIES ORDINANCE TO BE ENACTED IN JULY

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THE NEW RABIES ORDINANCE CONTAINING A PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION AND SPREADING OF RABIES IN HONG KONG WILL BE ENACTED NEXT MONTH.

SPEAKING TODAY (FRIDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE DETAILS OF THE LEGISLATION, ACTING SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD), DR RICHARD RUBIRA SAID: "THE NEW LEGISLATION WILL MAKE ANIMAL KEEPERS AND IMPORTERS MORE RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE CONTROL OF ANIMALS IN THEIR CARE."

HE POINTED OUT THAT RABIES WAS A VIRAL DISEASE AFFECTING THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM OF WARM-BLOOD ANIMALS INCLUDING MEN. ONCE CLINICAL SIGNS DEVELOP, THE DISEASE IS USUALLY FATAL.

"RABIES IS TRANSMISSIBLE FROM INFECTED ANIMALS TO OTHER ANIMALS OR HUMAN BEINGS. DOGS ARE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CARRILRS OF RABIES, HENCE THE EMPHASIS IS ON DOG CONTROL IN THE NEW LEGISLATION," DR RUBIRA SAID.

THE NEW ORDINANCE CONSOLIDATES THE EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF RABIES, WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE DOGS AND CATS ORDINANCE AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) ORDINANCE, INTO A SINGLE PIECE OF LEGISLATION, TOGETHER WITH SOME ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES.

ALL DOGS OVER FIVE MONTHS OF AGE WILL CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES AND LICENSED ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS.

VACCINATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT KENNELS, GOVERNMENT INOCULATION CENTRES, ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (RSPCA) AND APPROVED VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS.

DOG OWNERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR DOGS ARE UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL AT ALL TIMES. DOGS SHOULD BE PUT ON A LEAD OR OTHERWISE UNDER PROPER CONTROL IN PUBLIC PLACES.

AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE AGAINST THE SPREADING OF RABIES, ALL ANIMAL BITES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE LOCAL POLICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THE ANIMAL INVOLVED TAKEN TO A GOVERNMENT KENNEL FOR OBSERVATION FOR SEVEN DAYS.

"THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL POWERS FOR AUTHORISED OFFICERS TO ISSUE WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS TO THE KEEPERS OF ANIMALS TO CONFINE THE ANIMAL OR TO PRESENT IT FOR EXAMINATION OR DETENTION, AND TO REQUEST INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMALS WHEN NECESSARY IN THE INTERESTS OF RABIES CONTROL AND PREVENTION," DR RUBIRA SAID.

"FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SUCH A DIRECTION WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE WILL CONSTITUTE AN OFFENCE AND INCUR A FINE OF \$10,000."

THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES FOR BETTER CONTROL OF STRAY ANIMALS SINCE THEIR CONGREGATION COULD ALLOW RABIES TO SPREAD MORE RAPIDLY.

THE ABANDONMENT OF ANIMALS AND THE FEEDING OF STRAY ANIMALS IN A SPECIFIED PLACE WILL IN THE FUTURE CONSTITUTE AN OFFENCE.

UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES CAN, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCOURAGING THE CONGREGATION OF ANIMALS, PROHIBIT THE FEEDING OF ANIMALS EXCEPT BY THEIR OWNERS IN SPECIFIC PLACES.

"THE DOG CONTROL TEAM OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS IN CATCHING STRAY ANIMALS.

"ALL SUCH ANIMALS CAUGHT WILL BE DETAINED IN GOVERNMENT KENNELS. IF THEY ARE NOT CLAIMED WITHIN FOUR DAYS, THEY WILL BE HUMANELY DISPOSED OF. OWNERS WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE ABANDONED THEM AND BE PROSECUTED," HE SAID.

ON THE IMPORT OF ANIMALS, ALL MAMMALS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG FROM CHINA AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES WILL, UNDER THE NEW RABIES ORDINANCE, REQUIRE AN IMPORT PERMIT FROM AFD IN ADVANCE.

ON ENTERING HONG KONG, THESE ANIMALS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED NOT MORE THAN 14 DAYS BEFORE EXPORT, STATING THAT THEY ARE FREE FROM SIGNS OF RABIES.

ON ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG, FOOD ANIMALS WILL BE DIRECTED TO AN APPROVED SLAUGHTERED HOUSE; PETS AND OTHER MAMMALS MAY BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO A PERIOD OF QUARANTINE, AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY AFD VETERINARY OFFICER.

IN ORDER NOT TO HINDER THE FLOW OF FOOD ANIMALS INTO HONG KONG, REGULAR IMPORTERS OF PIGS, CATTLE, SHEEP, GOATS AND EXOTIC FOOD ANIMALS WILL BE ISSUED WITH SPECIFIC IMPORT PERMIT IN ADVANCE.

ALL INDIVIDUAL IMPORTERS OF FOOD ANIMALS, PETS AND OTHER MAMMALS WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY IN PERSON ON A CASE-TO-CASE BASIS.

IN ADDITION, THE IMPORT AND KEEPING OF VAMPIRE BATS, WHICH CAN BE LIFELONG RABIES CARRIERS WITHOUT SHOWING ANY SYMPTOMS THEMSELVES, WILL BE BANNED.

THE ORDINANCE ALSO EMPOWERS THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES TO DECLARE A RABIES CONTROL AREA AND TO IMPOSE CONTROLS ON THE MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS WITHIN SUCH AN AREA.

DR RUBIRA POINTED OUT THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR MOST OFFENCES RELATING TO ANIMALS CONTROL HAD BEEN INCREASED BY 100 PER CENT TO \$10,000.

HEAVY PENALTIES OF UP TO \$50,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT APPLY FOR THE MORE SERIOUS OFFENCES OF ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS, KEEPING PROHIBITED ANIMALS AND VIOLATING MOVEMENT BANS IN RABIES CONTROL AREAS.

TO TIE IN WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED A PACKAGE OF PUBLICITY AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP.

THESE INCLUDE TELEVISION AND RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS, POSTER AND PUBLICITY LEAFLETS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AT THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT KENNELS.

FOR ENQUIRIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN CALL THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL 733 2235 ON RABIES CONTROL ON 733 2161 ON IMPORT MATTERS.

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CLEANER DIESEL TO BE USED IN HONG KONG

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THE GAZETTE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT FROM APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR, THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE SULPHUR CONTENT OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL FUEL WOULD BE REDUCED FROM 0.5 PER CENT TO 0.2 PER CENT.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BETTER QUALITY AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL FUEL IS MADE UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL) REGULATION AS ONE OF THE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH AIR POLLUTION PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM VEHICLE EMISSIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT SAID: "BEING THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE HIGH LEVELS OF PARTICULATE MATTER AND NITROGEN DIOXIDE IN THE AIR OF HONG KONG, DIESEL VEHICLES ARE BEING TARGETED FOR STRINGENT CONTROLS.

"THE PROPOSED CLEAN DIESEL FUEL WILL GIVE A LOWER SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSION AS WELL AS SOME REDUCTION IN PARTICULATE EMISSIONS."

"IT ALSO ENABLES THE INTRODUCTION OF LOW-EMISSION LARGE DIESEL ENGINES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO RUN ON THIS FUEL," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE REGULATION WOULD TAKE EFFECT NEXT APRIL BECAUSE IT WAS NECESSARY TO ALLOW LEAD TIME FOR THE OIL INDUSTRY AND THE MOTOR VEHICLE SUPPLIERS TO SECURE THE REQUIRED FUEL AND PROPER VEHICLE MODELS TO MEET THE NEW REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE.

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SUBMARINE CABLES TO SERVICE FLOATING RESTAURANTS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PERMITTED THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED TO LAY A 550-METRE SUBMARINE CABLE AT SHAM WAN-ABERDEEN CHANNEL TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY TO TAI PAK AND SEA PALACE FLOATING RESTAURANTS IN THE CHANNEL.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NOTICE AND ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT:

- \* THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG:
- \* THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG SOUTH, 20TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG;
- \* THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG, AND
- \* THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSONS WHO CONSIDER THAT THEIR INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WORK MAY SEND A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 24 NEXT YEAR.

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#### LIVESTOCK KEEPING LICENSING BEGINS NEXT MONTH

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PHASE I OF THE LICENSING SCHEME FOR LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN THE TERRITORY WILL BEGIN FROM NEXT MONTH, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

FROM JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR, OPERATORS OF LIVESTOCK FARMS LOCATED WITHIN THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AND RESTRICTION AREAS CAN APPLY TO AFD FOR A LICENCE.

THE PHASE I AREAS DESIGNATED INCLUDE TOLO HARBOUR AND TOLO CHANNEL AREA, RIVER INDUS AREA, UPPER SHENZHEN RIVER AREA, TSUEN WAN ENVIRONS AND TUEN MUN ENVIRONS.

AN AFD SPOKESMAN SAID EACH LICENCE WOULD BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE UPON EXPIRY.

"A FEE IS CHARGEABLE TO EACH LICENCE, RANGING FROM \$750 TO \$4,500, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE FARM AND THE NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK BEING KEPT," HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE LICENCE ARE NOW OBTAINABLE IN PERSON OR BY POST FROM THE FOLLOWING OFFICES: AFD FARM LICENSING UNIT, CASTLE PEAK POULTRY BREEDING CENTRE, KEI LUN WAI, TUEN MUN; TA KWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE; AFD'S AGRICULTURAL OFFICES IN YUEN LONG AND TAI PO; AS WELL AS THE AFD HEADQUARTERS ON 12TH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

COMPLETED FORMS, TOGETHER WITH TWO COPIES OF THE PLAN FOR THE LIVESTOCK FARM, SHOULD BE SENT TO ANY ONE OF THE ABOVE ADDRESSED IN PERSON, OR BY REGISTERED POST TO THE FARM LICENSING UNIT.

/APPLICANTS SHOULD .....

APPLICANTS SHOULD ALSO GIVE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PLAN OF THE FARM AND WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM TO BE USED. OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOR THE APPLICANT AND HIS FARM SHOULD ALSO BE ATTACHED.

ON LIVESTOCK WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID FARMERS COULD CHOOSE OR MAKE REFERENCE FROM THE GUIDE PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD). THE TECHNICAL GUIDELINE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS EARLY NEXT MONTH.

HE STRESSED THAT THE LICENSING SCHEME WAS NECESSARY FOR THE REGULATION OF LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AND RESTRICTION AREAS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SECOND PART OF PHASE I LICENSING APPLICATION WHICH COVERS RESTRICTED AREAS 16R, 18R, 19R, 21R, 23R, 24R AND 25R WILL BEGIN FROM JANUARY 1, 1995.

AS FOR PHASE II OF THE LICENSING SCHEME WHICH COVERS AREAS IN YUEN LONG ENVIRONS, TUEN MUN ENVIRONS AND KAM TIN RIVER AREAS, APPLICATION FOR LIVESTOCK KEEPING LICENCES WILL BEGIN FROM JULY 1, 1995.

THE FINAL PHASE WHICH COVERS THE REMAINING CONTROL AREAS WILL BEGIN ON JULY 1, 1996.

LARGE SCALE MAPS, FROM WHICH A FARMER CAN IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF HIS FARM, ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE LAND REGISTRY AND EPD'S LOCAL CONTROL OFFICES IN TAI PO, TSUEN WAN, KWUN TONG AND WAN CHAI.

HE REITERATED THAT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) (LICENSING OF LIVESTOCK KEEPING) REGULATION, ANY PERSON OPERATING A LIVESTOCK FARM WITHOUT A LICENCE WOULD BE LIABLE TO \$50,000 FINE FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE PLUS A DAILY FINE OF \$1,000 DURING THE OFFENCE PERIOD. THE FINE FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE IS \$100,000.

A PAMPHLET OUTLINING THE LICENSING PROCEDURE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT LOCAL OFFICES OF AFD AND AT DISTRICT OFFICES AND LOCAL OFFICES OF EPD FROM EARLY JULY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON LICENSING CAN BE DIRECTED TO AFD'S FARM LICENSING UNIT ON TEL 462 7422 OR 462 7443.

TRADE DEPARTMENT DELEGATION ATTENDS  
TEXTILES CONFERENCE IN PERU

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A TRADE DEPARTMENT DELEGATION LED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE MR THOMAS YIU TODAY (FRIDAY) LEFT FOR AREQUIPA, PERU, TO ATTEND THE 19TH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TEXTILES AND CLOTHING BUREAU (ITCB).

ITCB, THE GENEVA-BASED ORGANISATION OF TEXTILES-EXPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, PROVIDES THE FORUM FOR ITS 22 MEMBERS, INCLUDING HONG KONG, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND CO-ORDINATE ACTIONS ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

"THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE MEETING, TO BE HELD FROM JUNE 27 TO JULY 1, ARE TO EVALUATE THE AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING CONCLUDED ON DECEMBER 15, 1993 AS PART OF THE URUGUAY ROUND PACKAGE, AND TO DISCUSS ITS IMPLEMENTATION," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"THE OPPORTUNITY WILL ALSO BE TAKEN TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE ITCB AND, IN PARTICULAR, ITS ROLE IN RELATION TO THE FUTURE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION," HE ADDED.

OTHER DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE MEETING INCLUDE THOSE FROM ARGENTINA, BANGLADESH, BRAZIL, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAMAICA, KOREA, MACAU, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, PERU, SRI LANKA AND URUGUAY.

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PERFORMANCE PLEDGE BY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

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THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT (IPD) TODAY (FRIDAY) PLEDGES ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING QUALITY, COST EFFECTIVE AND TIMELY SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, MISS AVERIL WATERS, SAID SINCE THE IPD WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1990, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF TRADEMARKS HAD INCREASED BY ABOUT 50 PER CENT FROM 9,865 IN 1990/91 TO 14,892 IN 1993/94 AND THAT FOR PATENTS HAD INCREASED BY 30 PER CENT FROM 1,067 TO 1,441.

THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR THESE SERVICES SERVED AS AN IMPETUS TO THE DEPARTMENT TO STRIVE FOR MORE EFFICIENT AND STREAMLINED PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO BETTER MEET CUSTOMERS' EXPECTATIONS, SHE SAID.

"ON THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR TRADEMARK REGISTRATION, WE PLEDGE TO ISSUE THE FIRST RECEIPT FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IN SEVEN WORKING DAYS.

/"WE WILL .....

"WE WILL ISSUE THE FIRST REPORT ON THE REGISTRABILITY OF A TRADEMARK IN 13 MONTHS FOR 70 PER CENT OF ALL APPLICATIONS AND WE WILL CONSIDER AND REPLY TO APPLICANTS' OBJECTIONS TO OUR FIRST REPORT IN FOUR MONTHS FOR 70 PER CENT OF SUCH OBJECTIONS," MISS WATERS SAID.

"A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION WILL BE ISSUED IN THREE MONTHS FOR 70 PER CENT OF CASES AFTER THE MARK HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHERE NO OBJECTIONS ARE RAISED BY THIRD PARTIES," SHE ADDED.

IN RESPECT OF THE MAINTENANCE OF THE REGISTER, 80 PER CENT OF CASES REQUESTING A CHANGE OF NAME AND 75 PER CENT OF ASSIGNMENT CASES WILL BE RECORDED IN FOUR MONTHS.

MISS WATERS SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC SEARCH SERVICE FOR TRADEMARKS WOULD BE COMPUTERISED NEXT MONTH.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN COME TO THE PUBLIC SEARCH AREA OF THE TRADE MARKS REGISTRY AND BY USING ON-LINE COMPUTER FACILITIES SEARCH THE REGISTER AND THE LIST OF APPLICATIONS.

"THIS SHOULD PROVE TO BE A MORE EFFECTIVE METHOD OF SEARCH THAN THE CURRENT MANUAL SYSTEM AND IT WILL ASSIST IN SPEEDING UP THE TIME TO ISSUE CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE REGISTER TO 10 WORKING DAYS OR LESS," SHE SAID.

AS THERE IS NO ORIGINAL GRANT OF PATENTS IN HONG KONG, MISS WATERS SAID THE PATENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM ONLY REQUIRED THE REGISTRAR TO CARRY OUT A FORMALITY SEARCH TO SEE THAT THE DOCUMENTATION WAS IN ORDER BEFORE ENTERING IT ON THE REGISTER.

"IN THIS RESPECT, WE WILL REGISTER ALL APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS WITHIN TWO MONTHS AND RECORD ASSIGNMENTS AND CHANGES OF NAME WITHIN ONE MONTH," SHE SAID.

AS FAR AS NON-CASE-RELATED ENQUIRIES ARE CONCERNED, THE DEPARTMENT WILL ARRANGE FOR TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES TO BE HANDLED BY A SUITABLE OFFICER WITHIN ONE DAY AND WILL GIVE A FULL REPLY TO A WRITTEN ENQUIRY WITHIN 14 DAYS.

MISS WATERS SAID THESE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES HAD BEEN AGREED WITH THE COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF TRADEMARK AGENTS WHICH REPRESENTED THE DEPARTMENT'S MAJOR CUSTOMERS.

THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WILL ALSO CAREFULLY MONITOR THE PLEDGES AND WILL PUBLISH THE RESULT ANNUALLY.

"WE WELCOME SUGGESTIONS AND INVITE WRITTEN OR TELEPHONE COMMENTS ON THE WAY IN WHICH OUR SERVICES ARE DELIVERED," MISS WATERS SAID.

"WE HAVE ALSO SET UP A SYSTEM TO CONSIDER COMPLAINTS IF OUR PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ARE NOT MET AND THERE IS A RIGHT OF APPEAL TO THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY," SHE ADDED.

THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES AND A NUMBER OF LEAFLETS AND PAMPHLETS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN HONG KONG ARE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION AT THE PUBLIC SEARCH AREA OF THE TRADE MARK REGISTRY AT 24TH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT PLEDGES FOR BETTER SERVICE

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT ITS PERFORMANCE IN 1993/94 IN DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WELL EXCEEDED THE TARGETS LAID DOWN IN ITS INITIAL PLEDGE PUBLISHED IN APRIL LAST YEAR.

"IN VIEW OF THIS ACHIEVEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT CONFIDENTLY SETS IMPROVED PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 1994/95," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR 1993/94 FOR THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF WORK HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE 1994/95 BOOKLET.

THE BOOKLET, WHICH ALSO OUTLINES THE TARGETS AND PLANNED SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS FOR 1994/95, IS AVAILABLE FROM TODAY, AT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICES, OR FROM DISTRICT OFFICES.

PLANNED SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE THE EARLY ALLOCATION OF BUILDING NUMBERS TO NEW BUILDINGS, THE INSTALLATION OF A 24-HOUR TELEPHONE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON MAJOR ASPECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK, AND THE PROVISION OF RENTAL INFORMATION TO PARTIES TO RENTAL DISPUTES BEFORE THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

"WE ARE AS COMMITTED AS EVER TO PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO REPORTING ON FURTHER SUCCESSES IN DUE COURSE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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MORE PLACES FOR THE DISABLED IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS URGED

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DISABLED PERSONS SHOULD BE PROVIDED HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES, MRS PATTEN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BRADBURY SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRE RUN BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF.

MRS PATTEN NOTED RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THE REHABILITATION FIELD IN THE PAST DECADE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE SERVICE.

SHE SAID IN RECENT YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD GREATLY INCREASED THE ACCESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO LOCAL TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

"BUT MORE NOW NEEDS TO BE DONE TO HELP YOUNG DISABLED PERSONS, INCLUDING THE DEAF TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SUCH INSTITUTIONS," SHE SAID.

/MRS PATTEN .....

MRS PATTEN SAID THESE INSTITUTIONS WERE CONSIDERING FURTHER MEASURES, SUCH AS FLEXIBILITY IN ADMISSION PRACTICE AND THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL AIDS AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, TO HELP OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES AT PRESENT EXPERIENCED BY DISABLED STUDENTS, INCLUDING THE HEARING IMPAIRED.

"IF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS CAN GET TOGETHER AND DISCUSS THE PROBLEM IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CHANCES OF DISABLED PEOPLE RECEIVING HIGHER EDUCATION WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED," SHE SAID.

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#### MORE ACCESS TO HK ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

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THE PUBLIC CAN NOW HAVE MORE READY ACCESS TO VITAL INFORMATION ON HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT WITH THE OPENING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT'S VISITORS CENTRE TODAY (FRIDAY).

OFFICIATING AT ITS OPENING CEREMONY WAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MS CHRISTINE LOH.

SITUATED ON THE 33RD FLOOR OF REVENUE TOWER IN WAN CHAI, THE CENTRE IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO INCREASE COMMUNITY'S AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

THE CENTRE FOCUSES ON ENVIRONMENTAL WORK BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH EXISTING POLLUTION PROBLEMS AND TO PREVENT FUTURE PROBLEMS.

THERE ARE DISPLAY PANELS SHOWING A WIDE RANGE OF INFORMATION, WHICH INCLUDES VARIOUS ANTI-POLLUTION LEGISLATION ENFORCED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT.

APART FROM THE PANELS, THERE ARE SEVERAL INTERESTING MODELS ON DISPLAY.

THESE INCLUDE A MODEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT'S MARINE WATER MONITORING VESSEL "DR CATHERINE LAM", A FLOOR MODEL SHOWING DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME AND MODELS SHOWING THE CORRECT PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS.

COLUMNS ARE AVAILABLE TO ILLUSTRATE THE AMOUNTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF WASTE RECOVERED IN HONG KONG FOR RECYCLING COMPARED WITH ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.

VISITORS CAN OBTAIN INFORMATION SUCH AS THE REAL TIME AIR QUALITY IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS AND HONG KONG'S MARINE WATER QUALITY FROM THE COMPUTER SIMULATION MODELS AVAILABLE FOR USE IN THE CENTRE.

ALSO ON DISPLAY IS A TOUCH-SCREEN SYSTEM, PROVIDING BILINGUAL INFORMATION ON GLOBAL AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AS WELL AS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WORK IN HONG HONG.

ADMISSION TO THE CENTRE IS FREE, BUT ONLY THROUGH APPOINTMENTS. GUIDED VISITS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS GROUPS THROUGH APPOINTMENTS ON TEL 594 6013.

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## RESEARCH GRANTS FOR THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FOR 1994/95

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THE RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL (RGC) TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED ITS DECISIONS ON THE ALLOCATION OF \$260 MILLION IN RESEARCH GRANTS TO THE SEVEN UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC)-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS IN 1994/95.

THE RGC CONSIDERED 703 APPLICATIONS FOR A TOTAL OF \$740 MILLION FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROJECTS IN A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECT DISCIPLINES.

EACH APPLICATION WAS INITIALLY SCREENED BY ONE OR MORE OF FOUR SUBJECT PANELS - PHYSICAL SCIENCES; ENGINEERING; BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE; AND HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - WITH THE HELP OF REPORTS FROM SPECIALIST ASSESSORS/REFEREES.

THE PANELS' RECOMMENDATIONS WERE THEN CONSIDERED BY THE FULL RGC MEETING ON JUNE 18.

THIS YEAR THE RGC AGAIN DECIDED TO ALLOCATE \$57.6 MILLION (22 PER CENT OF THE FUNDS AVAILABLE) TO THE INSTITUTIONS DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT PROJECTS COSTING LESS THAN \$200,000.

OF THE BALANCE OF \$202.4 MILLION, SOME \$9.4 MILLION WAS RESERVED FOR CENTRAL ALLOCATION AND \$193 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED FOR PROJECTS IN RESPONSE TO COMPETITIVE BIDS FROM THE INSTITUTIONS.

DETAILS OF THE PROJECTS SUPPORTED, BY PANELS AND BROAD SUBJECT AREAS, ARE GIVEN BELOW:

SUBJECT PANEL	SUBJECT AREA	NO. OF PROJECTS	FUNDING SUPPORTED \$ MILLION
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	PHYSICAL SCIENCES	60	30.368
	PURE MATHEMATICS	9	3.145
	SUB-TOTAL	69	33.513
ENGINEERING	CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	5	2.711
	CIVIL ENGINEERING, SURVEYING, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION	28	14.222
	COMPUTING SCIENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS	45	18.868
	ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING	46	23.153

/MECHANICAL, PRODUCTION .....

	MECHANICAL, PRODUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING	19	9.082
	SUB-TOTAL	143	68.036
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BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE	BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	51	34.019
	MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH	31	20.033
	SUB-TOTAL	82	54.052
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HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	ARTS AND LANGUAGES	11	6.924
	ADMINISTRATIVE, BUSINESS AND SOCIAL STUDIES	55	24.656
	EDUCATION	8	4.184
	LAW, ARCHITECTURE, TOWN PLANNING AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STUDIES	3	1.491
	SUB-TOTAL	77	37.255
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	TOTAL	371	192.856
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IN SELECTING PROJECTS FOR FUNDING SUPPORT, THE RGC HAS REGARD FOR THE PROJECTS' ACADEMIC MERIT/INTEGRITY, THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO THE NEEDS OF THE INSTITUTIONS AND HONG KONG'S OVERALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THIS WAS THE FOURTH RESEARCH GRANT ALLOCATION EXERCISE UNDERTAKEN BY THE RGC SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY 1991.

PROF PING K KO, WHO REPLACED PROF DAVID TODD AS CHAIRMAN OF THE RGC EARLIER THIS YEAR, SAID: "THE FUNDING AVAILABLE TO THE RGC THIS YEAR INCLUDED \$210 MILLION AS ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND AN ADDITIONAL \$50 MILLION MADE AVAILABLE BY THE UPGC RECENTLY.

"THE ENHANCED LEVEL OF FUNDING THIS YEAR AS COMPARED WITH 1993/94 HAS ENABLED US TO SUPPORT, FULLY OR PARTIALLY, 371 PROJECTS AS COMPARED WITH 193 LAST YEAR.

"THE RGC IS GRATEFUL TO THE UPGC FOR MAKING AVAILABLE THE ADDITIONAL \$50 MILLION. THIS HAS ENABLED US TO FUND MORE WORTHWHILE PROJECTS.

HE SAID THE RGC HAD ALSO FUNDED 25 PROJECTS STUDYING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA AND INVOLVING, TO VARYING DEGREES, COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMICS IN CHINESE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

"THE QUALITY OF THE BIDS WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH AND, DESPITE THE ENHANCED FUNDING, THERE WERE A FURTHER 115 FUNDABLE PROJECTS WHICH COULD NOT BE SUPPORTED.

"THIS INDICATES THE INCREASING DEPTH AND BREADTH OF RESEARCH CAPABILITY IN THE UPGC-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS.

"THE RGC IS LOOKING FORWARD TO FURTHER INCREASES IN THE LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN THE FUTURE. THIS SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER THE RESEARCH BASE IN HONG KONG'S HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR," HE SAID.

APART FROM DISBURSING AND MONITORING GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH, THE RGC IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE UPGC, ON THE NEEDS OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG IN THE FIELD OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN ORDER THAT A RESEARCH BASE ADEQUATE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ACADEMIC VIGOUR AND PERTINENT TO THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG MAY BE DEVELOPED.

"A DETAILED REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1993 IS GIVEN IN THE RGC ANNUAL REPORT 1993 WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN PUBLISHED," PROF KO SAID.

"I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ONCE AGAIN TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MY PREDECESSOR AS RGC CHAIRMAN, PROF DAVID TODD.

"I HAVE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE TO TAKE OVER A COUNCIL WHICH THANKS TO HIS LEADERSHIP SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1991, IS WELL-ESTABLISHED AND OPERATING EFFECTIVELY," HE ADDED.

THE SEVEN INSTITUTIONS ARE: CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE; HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC; LINGNAN COLLEGE, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG; THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

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#### FOUR RURAL OUTLINE ZONING PLANS OPEN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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FOUR DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLANS (OZPS) HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED FOR THE RURAL AREAS IN SAN TIN AND NGAU TAM MEI IN NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AS WELL AS FU TEI AU, SHA LING AND KAU LUNG HANG IN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PLANS COVER A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 2,250 HECTARES.

/"THEY REPLACE .....

"THEY REPLACE THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (DPA) PLANS COVERING THE SAME AREAS. THEY INDICATE DEFINITE AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE ZONES TO GUIDE AND CONTROL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREAS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD SAID.

"SIMILAR TO DPA PLANS, UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE OZPS ARE SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

UNDER THE SAN TIN OZP (NO. S/YL-ST/1), ABOUT 412 HECTARES ARE DESIGNATED AS "CONSERVATION AREA" TO GIVE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO THE NEARBY MAI PO NATURE RESERVE.

WITHIN THE ZONE, USES RELATED TO CONSERVATION SUCH AS FIELD STUDY, EDUCATION AND VISITOR CENTRES ARE PERMITTED.

USES THAT WOULD HAVE INSIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COULD BE PERMITTED UPON APPROVAL BY THE BOARD.

MEANWHILE, ABOUT 67 HECTARES OF LAND TO THE SOUTHWEST OF THE LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT HAVE BEEN ZONED FOR "OTHER SPECIFIED USES (CONTAINER BACK-UP USES)" TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING CROSS-BORDER FREIGHT TRANSPORT.

AND 18 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE ALSO BEEN ZONED FOR "OTHER SPECIFIED USES (SERVICES STATIONS)" TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC AND CONTAINER-RELATED FACILITIES.

SIMILARLY, A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ABOUT 260 HECTARES HAVE BEEN ZONED "CONSERVATION AREA" ON THE NGAU TAM MEI OZP (NO. S/YL-NTM/1) TO GIVE ADDED PROTECTION TO THE LAM TSUEN COUNTRY PARK.

IN ADDITION, ABOUT 310 HECTARES HAVE BEEN ZONED "GREEN BELT" TO PROTECT THE NATURAL FEATURES FROM URBAN SPRAWL AND TO PROVIDE PASSIVE RECREATIONAL OUTLETS.

ABOUT 43 HECTARES ON THE PLAN HAVE ALSO BEEN ZONED "RECREATION" WITH A DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTION OF A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF 0.2, SITE COVERAGE OF 20 PER CENT AND BUILDING HEIGHT OF TWO STOREYS.

MEANWHILE, TWO SITES OF ABOUT 29 HECTARES HAVE BEEN ZONED "COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AREA" TO FACILITATE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO FORM A LOCAL CENTRE.

DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE ZONE ARE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM GROSS FLOOR AREA OF 39,000 SQUARE METRES TO 79,000 SQUARE METRES AND BUILDING HEIGHT OF THREE STOREYS INCLUDING CARPORT.

THERE ARE ALSO THREE SITES OF ABOUT 33 HECTARES DESIGNATED FOR "OPEN STORAGE" TO MEET DEMAND.

TO MEET THE NEED FOR THE OPERATION AND EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING RURAL INDUSTRIES, ABOUT EIGHT HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN ZONED "INDUSTRIAL (GROUP D)".

NEW INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM SITE COVERAGE OF 80 PER CENT, PLOT RATIO OF 1.6, BUILDING HEIGHT OF 13 METRES AND THE MINIMUM PROVISION OF ONE LORRY OR VISITOR PARKING SPACE PER ESTABLISHMENT OR ONE PARKING SPACE FOR EVERY 900 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH THE FU TEI AU AND SHA LING OZP (NO. S/NE-FTA/1) AND THE KAU LUNG HANG OZP (NO. S/NE-KLH/1) ARE AIMED AT RETAINING THE RURAL CHARACTER OF THE AREAS.

ABOUT 190 HECTARES OF LAND IN FU TEI AU AND SHA LING AND 104 HECTARES IN KAU LUNG HANG HAVE BEEN ZONED "AGRICULTURE" TO KEEP GOOD AGRICULTURAL LAND.

TO CATER FOR THE DEMAND FOR OPEN STORAGE SITES AND USES SERVING THE CROSS-BORDER TRADE NEAR MAN KAM TO, ABOUT EIGHT HECTARES IN FU TEI AU AND SHA LING AND FOUR HECTARES IN KAU LUNG HANG HAVE BEEN ZONED FOR "OPEN STORAGE".

ON THE FOUR OZPS, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF LAND HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

ABOUT 43 HECTARES EACH ON BOTH THE SAN TIN OZP AND THE NGAU TAM MEI OZP AND THREE HECTARES ON THE KAU LUNG HANG OZP HAVE BEEN ZONED "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP D)" TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING TEMPORARY DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATIONS.

WITHIN THE ZONES, REPLACEMENT HOUSING FOR TEMPORARY STRUCTURES IS RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM BUILDING AREA OF 37.2 SQUARE METRES AND BUILDING HEIGHT OF TWO STOREYS (SIX METRES).

CONSTRUCTION OF A HOUSE OTHER THAN A NEW TERRITORIES EXEMPTED HOUSE IS RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF 0.2, SITE COVERAGE OF 20 PER CENT AND BUILDING HEIGHT OF TWO STOREYS.

"VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT" ZONE HAS ALSO BEEN DESIGNATED ON THE OZPS FOR SMALL HOUSE AND VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENTS - 70 HECTARES IN SAN TIN, 38 HECTARES IN NGAU TAM MEI, 13 HECTARES IN FU TEI AU AND SHA LING, AND 57 HECTARES IN KAU LUNG HANG.

IN ADDITION, A 38-HECTARE "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C)" ZONE HAS BEEN EARMARKED ON THE NGAU TAM MEI OZP. DEVELOPMENTS ARE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF 0.4, SITE COVERAGE OF 20 PER CENT AND BUILDING HEIGHT OF THREE STOREYS (NINE METRES) INCLUDING CARPORT.

THERE ARE ALSO AREAS ZONED FOR "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY", "GREEN BELT", "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" AND "UNDETERMINED".

THE FOUR OZPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL AUGUST 24 IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE DRAFT PLANS FOR SAN TIN AND NGAU TAM MEI ARE AVAILABLE AT:

- \* TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE,  
LEVEL 11, METROPLAZA TOWER 1,  
223 HING FONG ROAD,  
KWAI FONG,  
NEW TERRITORIES; AND

- \* YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE,  
GROUND FLOOR, YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICES BUILDING,  
269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD,  
YUEN LONG,  
NEW TERRITORIES.

THE REMAINING TWO PLANS CAN BE SEEN AT:

- \* SHA TIN AND NORTH EAST DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICES,  
GROUND FLOOR, SHA TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES,  
6 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD,  
TAI WAI, SHA TIN,  
NEW TERRITORIES;
- \* NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE,  
THIRD FLOOR, NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES,  
3 PIK FUNG ROAD,  
FANLING,  
NEW TERRITORIES  
(FOR DRAFT FU TEI AU AND SHA LING OZP ONLY); AND
- \* TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE,  
SECOND FLOOR, TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING,  
1 TING KOK ROAD,  
TAI PO,  
NEW TERRITORIES.  
(FOR DRAFT KAU LUNG HANG OZP ONLY).

ANY PERSONS AFFECTED BY THE DRAFT PLANS MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN OBJECTIONS BEFORE AUGUST 24 TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING.

COPIES OF THE PLANS CAN BE BOUGHT AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, AND KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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#### YOUTH URGED TO JOIN SUMMER PROGRAMME

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PARENTS ARE TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY AND SEPTEMBER.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME COMMITTEE, MR NORMAN LO, SAID MORE THAN 14,600 ACTIVITIES WOULD BE LINED UP IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

THE PROGRAMME IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE.

THROUGH FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS, THE COMMITTEE HAS ENCOURAGED ORGANISATIONS TO ARRANGE SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WHILE HAVING FUN.

/THE ACTIVITIES .....

THE ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE SUMMER CAMPS, EDUCATIONAL VISITS, BARBECUE PARTIES, SPORTS COMPETITIONS, PICNICS, CARNIVALS, VARIOUS TRAINING COURSES AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES.

WITH THE THEME "SHARE THE FUN, SERVE THE COMMUNITY", THE ACTIVITIES WOULD MOST CERTAINLY ATTRACT YOUNGSTERS TO PARTICIPATE AND ENABLE THEM TO SPEND A MEANINGFUL SUMMER HOLIDAY, MR LO SAID.

"IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MORE YOUNGSTERS TO TAKE PART IN PLANNING AND PROMOTING THE ACTIVITIES AS VOLUNTARY WORKERS, THE COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO THOSE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE MADE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACTIVITIES," HE ADDED.

IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, MORE THAN 200 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO PARTICIPATE IN BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL OUTWARD BOUND LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES.

MR LO SAID THE TOTAL FUNDING NEEDED FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME WAS ESTIMATED AT \$45 MILLION. THIS WILL BE MET BY A \$14.6 MILLION DONATION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICT BOARDS AND PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS HONG KONG TELECOM, THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST AND SWIRE BOTTLERS LTD.

TO LAUNCH THE ACTIVITIES, AN OPENING CEREMONY CUM VARIETY SHOW ENTITLING "SWINGING SUMMER" WILL BE STAGED AT THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS ON JULY 2 (SATURDAY).

IN ADDITION, A DISTRICT FUN DAY WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 7 TO HIGHLIGHT THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO ANY DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

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#### POSTER CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE FAMILY YEAR

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SOME 1,300 COMMERCIAL OUTLETS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL PARTICIPATE IN A POSTER CAMPAIGN TODAY (FRIDAY) TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE MESSAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY (IYF).

THE POSTER CAMPAIGN, ORGANISED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTHEAST, IS ONE OF THE LATEST PUBLICITY EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN A HIGHER AWARENESS LEVEL OF THE IYF AND TO AROUSE MORE INTEREST AND CONCERN TOWARDS THIS MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN.

THE OUTLETS, INCLUDING BANKS, CONVENIENT STORES, RETAILING SHOPS AND HAIR SALONS, WILL PUT UP THE OFFICIAL IYF POSTERS BEARING A TRANSPARENT STICKER WITH WORDS "ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTHEAST SUPPORTS THE IYF" FROM TODAY ONWARDS.

THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON IYF, MRS PATRICIA CHU, SAID THE POSTER CAMPAIGN DEMONSTRATED AN ENLISTMENT OF GREATER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FROM THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR TO SUPPORT THE IYF.

"WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INSPIRE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO TAKE THE FAMILY SERIOUSLY AND TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS," MRS CHU SAID.

THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON IYF IS JOINTLY SET UP BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE FOLLOWING THE PROCLAMATION OF 1994 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

SINCE THE TERRITORY-WIDE KICK-OFF CEREMONY IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, THE COMMITTEE HAS ORGANISED HUNDREDS OF ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE THEME AND MESSAGE OF THE IYF.

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#### SEWERAGE SYSTEMS FOR TAI PO VILLAGES

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BUILD A NETWORK OF SEWERAGE SYSTEMS IN 10 UNSEWERED VILLAGES IN TAI PO TO IMPROVE THEIR SANITARY CONDITION.

THE VILLAGES ARE HA HANG, TIN SAN, YUE KOK, NAM HANG, YING PUN HA, SHUI WAI, KAM SHAN, PAN CHUNG SAN TSUEN, SHEUNG WUN YIU AND SAN UK KA.

THE SYSTEMS WILL ALSO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY IN TOLO HARBOUR.

A NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR THE WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVITY SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, PUMPING STATIONS AND AN INTERCEPTOR CHAMBER.

THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 1996.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM HALCROW-FRAENKEL, 3201 CENTRAL PLAZA, 18 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE TENDER CLOSING DATE IS NOON ON JULY 22.

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#### TENDERS INVITED FOR THREE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TSUEN WAN SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX AND A PENG CHAU FIRE STATION.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO INVITES TENDERS FOR THE REPROVISIONING OF THE MARINE POLICE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN SAI WAN HO.

/THE SWIMMING .....

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1994

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THE SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, TO BE BUILT AT TEXACO ROAD NORTH, WILL HAVE A DIVING POOL AND A SPECTATOR STAND FOR 1,000 PEOPLE IN ITS INDOOR SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX.

ITS OUTDOOR COMPLEX WILL HAVE A TEACHING POOL, A LEISURE POOL, A TRAINING POOL, WATER SLIDES, WATER PLAY EQUIPMENT, SUNBATH AREAS AND ARTIFICIAL ROCKSCAPPED DECK AREAS.

THIS PROJECT AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-STOREY FIRE STATION IN PENG CHAU WILL BOTH START THIS AUTUMN FOR COMPLETION IN MARCH 1996.

THE REPROVISIONING PROJECT, ON THE OTHER HAND, INVOLVES ALTERING AND EXTENDING TWO EXISTING PIER BUILDINGS AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTING A SINGLE-STOREY ANCILLARY BUILDING AND A FOUR-STOREY LIFT TOWER IN THE MARINE POLICE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN SAI WAN HO.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

TENDER OFFERS FOR THE THREE PROJECTS WILL CLOSE NEXT MONTH.

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#### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING BAD WEATHER URGED

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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED SITE PERSONNEL TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ON WORKS THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTED DURING TYPHOONS OR WHEN THE RAINSTORM WARNING SIGNAL "RED" WAS ABOUT TO BE HOISTED.

"CRANES SHOULD NOT BE USED WHEN THE WEATHER CONDITION IS LIKELY TO ENDANGER ITS STABILITY. GOOD HOUSE KEEPING, PROPER STACKING OF MATERIALS, SUITABLE PROTECTION OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENTS ARE ALSO NECESSARY DURING BAD WEATHER," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, STABILITY OF LIFTING APPLIANCES AND SCAFFOLDS SHOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY WALL-TIES, BALLASTING, LASHING OR GUY ROPES."

HE ALSO URGED SITE PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON SAFETY MEASURES TO WORKERS WHO WERE REQUIRED TO WORK AT HEIGHT.

NOTING THAT THE STABILITY OF LIFTING APPLIANCES, SCAFFOLDS AND EXCAVATIONS MIGHT BE AFFECTED AFTER EXPOSURE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE SPOKESMAN ASKED CONTRACTORS TO ASSIGN COMPETENT PERSONS TO RE-EXAMINE THESE AREAS OF WORK TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE STABLE, SECURE AND SAFE.

/UNDER THE .....

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1994

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UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, EMPLOYERS WHO FAIL TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$200,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

WORKERS WHO BREACH THE LAW WILL FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

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PUBLIC WORKS ON DISPLAY AT HARBOUR CITY

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THE ROVING EXHIBITION ON HONG KONG'S PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME THAT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY HELD IN WONG TAI SIN, QUARRY BAY AND CENTRAL WILL MOVE TO THE HARBOUR CITY OCEAN GALLERIES, TSIM SHA TSUI TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 11.30 AM TO 8 PM TOMORROW, AND FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM THE NEXT DAY.

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WORKS BRANCH AND THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW HONG KONG HAS TRANSFORMED FROM A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE 150 YEARS AGO INTO AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

PANELS WITH CHARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE PUT UP, SHOWING THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORKS BRANCH, THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, AND SEVEN WORKS DEPARTMENTS - ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, CIVIL ENGINEERING, DRAINAGE SERVICES, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, HIGHWAYS, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT AND WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENTS.

SHORT FILMS WILL BE SHOWN TO ILLUSTRATE HOW PUBLIC MONEY IS SPENT ON BUILDING NEW TOWNS, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, PARKS, ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS TO IMPROVE RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS IS A SET OF FIVE PANORAMIC-VIEW PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING THE CHANGES TO THE SKYLINE OF KOWLOON PENINSULA AND HONG KONG ISLAND OVER THE PAST 150 YEARS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

AN OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE HARBOUR CITY OCEAN GALLERIES, TSIM SHA TSUI AT 11.30 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, DR EDWARD BRAND, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR LEE SHING-SEE, THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH, AND THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BART IRELAND.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,495	0930	-350
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,939	1000	-450
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-501
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+1,474	1200	-499
LAF TODAY	-30	1500	+1,474
		1600	+1,474

LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER TWI 123.4 \*-0.4\* 24.6.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.94	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.89	5.80
1 MONTH	4.07	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.29	6.28
3 MONTHS	4.21	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.02	6.63
6 MONTHS	4.68	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.11	6.80
12 MONTHS	5.30	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.33	6.92

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 23,138 MN

CLOSED 24 JUNE 1994

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