



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR RETURNS FROM AUSTRALIA	1
COMPREHENSIVE CAREERS INFORMATION FOR VISITORS	3
METRIC SCALE COUNTERS SET UP IN FIVE SHOPPING CENTRES	4
CAR MARK AUCTION FETCHES \$3M	5
APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PROBATIONERS	6
EDUCATION CHIEF COMMENDS STAFF FOR DEDICATED SERVICE	7
WEATHER OF JANUARY	8
FORUM ON ARTS DEVELOPMENT CLOSES	10
WATER CUT IN NORTH POINT	11
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	11

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES ASKED NOT TO BREACH SAFETY LAWS	12
GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS OPEN TO PUBLIC	13
PAMPHLET ON EFFECTIVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT	14
LABOUR DEPARTMENT PROMOTES EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	14

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1994

- 1 -

GOVERNOR RETURNS FROM AUSTRALIA

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN AT THE KAI TAK AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM AUSTRALIA TODAY (SATURDAY):-

GOVERNOR: I HOPE YOU ALL HAD A VERY HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR. I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HOME AFTER AN EXTREMELY GOOD VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AT THE INVITATION, AS YOU KNOW, OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. I HAD VERY GOOD MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER KEATING, WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, SENATOR EVANS, WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS, WITH MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE AND WITH STATE LEADERS AS WELL. I HAD SOME SEMINARS AT UNIVERSITIES AND I ADDRESSED FOUR VERY LARGE MEETINGS, THE LAST ONE YESTERDAY, MOSTLY OF BUSINESS GROUPS AND THOSE WHO WERE INTERESTED IN OR TAKING A PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STRONG AND HEALTHY TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH AUSTRALIA. I ALSO VISITED A NUMBER OF FIRMS WHICH ARE EITHER ALREADY BASED HERE IN HONG KONG AND REGARDING HONG KONG AS A VERY GOOD JUMPING OFF POINT FOR THE REGION OR FIRMS WHICH ARE THINKING OF COMING HERE AND IT WAS, OBVIOUSLY, MY JOB TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SO. BEFORE I LEFT HONG KONG, I WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHICH IS THE SECOND LARGEST INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER IN HONG KONG, TO TELL AUSTRALIAN FIRMS THAT THEY SHOULD FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER AND COME TO HONG KONG AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT THERE ARE HERE. I KNOW THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN AUSTRALIA ABOUT HONG KONG AND THAT WAS CERTAINLY EXPRESSED DURING MY VISIT. BUT I ALSO WANTED TO REASSURE FIRMS WHO ALREADY HAVE A FOOT IN HONG KONG THAT WE ARE GOING TO HOLD FAST TO ALL THOSE INGREDIENTS THAT'VE MADE HONG KONG SO SUCCESSFUL. I WANTED TO ASSURE THEM THAT WE'LL BE WORKING FLAT OUT TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG STILL HAS A WELL-MANAGED ECONOMY, THE RULE OF LAW AND ALL THE FREEDOMS AND VALUES THAT HAVE HELPED TO MAKE IT SO SUCCESSFUL. SO, I WAS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THOSE REASSURANCES TO THE BUSINESS LEADERS THAT I MET. THAT'S A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN AUSTRALIA ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HONG KONG, A GREAT DEAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR POSITION AND I KNOW THAT BEFORE AND AFTER 1997, AUSTRALIA IS GOING TO BE ONE OF OUR BEST AND CLOSEST FRIENDS NOT ONLY IN THE REGION BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, WHEN DO WE SEE THE CONTENTS OF THE 17 ROUNDS OF TALKS...PUBLIC?

/GOVERNOR:

- 2 -

GOVERNOR: I SAID TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE WHEN I ADDRESSED THEM IN LONDON THAT WE WANTED, OF COURSE, TO SEE CHINA COME BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. BUT, IF CHINA DECLINED TO DO SO AND WE WERE OBLIGED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE LAST STAGE OF LEGISLATION FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS, THEN WE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO TELL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND TO TELL THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT WHY IT HADN'T BEEN POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT, WHY WE HAD TO GO AHEAD WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OUR OWN WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT. AND THAT IS STILL OUR POSITION. I IMAGINE IT'S A POSITION WHICH IS WELCOMED BY CHINESE OFFICIALS BECAUSE SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS IN DECEMBER PRESSED US TO DO THAT, DARED US TO DO THAT, CHALLENGED US TO DO THAT ON TELEVISION, I THINK I AM RIGHT IN SAYING. SO, WE HAVE ALL SEEN THIS PRESSURE FROM CHINESE OFFICIALS FOR US TO TAKE THIS ACTION AND, OF COURSE, IT IS ALSO THE CASE THAT THE CHINESE SIDE HAVE BEEN PUTTING OUT THEIR OWN VERSION OF EVENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, A LONG ARTICLE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY. SO, I IMAGINE THAT IF WE WERE TO TAKE THIS COURSE OF ACTION IN THE EVENT OF IT NOT BEING POSSIBLE TO RESUME TALKS, WE'LL GET THE WARM APPROVAL OF CHINESE OFFICIALS.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THERE WILL BE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE DETAILS OF THE TALKS?

GOVERNOR: IT'S CONCEIVABLE THAT THERE MAY BE SOME DIFFERENCES IN EMPHASIS. BUT IT WILL BE A MATTER WHICH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL WANT TO MAKE THEIR MINDS UP ABOUT AND I GUESS THAT THAT IS AN ARGUMENT FOR THE RECORD BEING SET OUT IN AN AS OBJECTIVE AND BALANCED WAY AS POSSIBLE IF THAT IS IT NEEDS TO BE SET OUT. BUT IT REMAINS MY POSITION AND I KNOW, REMAINS THE POSITION OF THE WHOLE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT STILL, EVEN THOUGH TIME IS VERY SHORT, THE BEST WAY FORWARD WOULD BE FOR RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS. ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, DO YOU MEAN THAT THE FORMAL DECLARATION OF THE RELEASE OF THE DETAILS OF THE TALKS MEANS THE FORMAL END TO THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN HONG KONG'S POLITICAL FUTURE?

GOVERNOR: NO. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANY QUESTION OF ENDING CO-OPERATION ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE, NOT EVEN HONG KONG'S POLITICAL FUTURE. WE HAVE AN OPEN DOOR. WE WANT TO CO-OPERATE. THAT'S WHY WE PRESS FOR TALKS FROM OCTOBER 1992 ONWARDS. I AM SORRY THAT IT TOOK UNTIL APRIL 1993 FOR THE CHINESE SIDE TO AGREE TO TALKS. MAYBE IF WE STARTED TALKING IN OCTOBER, WE WOULD HAVE MORE TIME THAN WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO ARRIVE AT A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION. NICE TO SEE YOU ALL.

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COMPREHENSIVE CAREERS INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

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HONG KONG'S YOUNG PEOPLE AND WORKING ADULTS WILL BE ABLE TO COLLECT THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AND COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON CAREERS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE FOURTH EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK.

"HONG KONG IS A DYNAMIC SOCIETY WHICH IS HIGHLY RESPONSIVE TO THE CHANGING DEMANDS OF THE WORLD MARKET AND PROVIDES LOTS OF CHOICES AND CHALLENGES TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER, MRS CLARE SIU, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

WITH SOME 170 EXHIBITORS FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF TRADES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AS WELL AS LOCAL AND OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTES, SHE HOPES THAT THE EXPOSITION COULD GIVE VISITORS AN OVERVIEW OF THE VARIOUS EDUCATION AND CAREERS OPTIONS OPEN TO THEM BEFORE THEY MAP OUT THEIR FUTURE.

"THIS WILL BE DONE THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS, SUCH AS THE DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS, CHARTS, GRAPHS AND MODELS, THE USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS AND MICRO-COMPUTERS, DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS AND THE PROVISION OF ON-THE-SPOT ENQUIRY SERVICE," SHE ADDED.

MRS SIU NOTED THAT THE EXPOSITION WAS MADE UP OF A CAREERS EXHIBITION STAGED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND AN EDUCATION EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

IN THE CAREERS SECTION, THERE WILL BE 64 EXHIBITORS PRESENTING A LARGE VARIETY OF JOB INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF WORK, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, RECRUITMENT CHANNELS, APPLICATION PROCEDURES, TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT PROSPECTS.

A SERIES OF CAREERS VIDEO SHOWS, INTRODUCING A WIDE RANGE OF CAREERS AND THE WORK OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES, WILL BE PRESENTED THROUGHOUT THE FOUR-DAY EVENT TO FURTHER ENHANCE VISITORS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD OF WORK.

"TO ENCOURAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO VISIT THE EXPOSITION AND COLLECT CAREERS INFORMATION ACTIVELY, WE HAVE ARRANGED A SERIES OF GROUP VISITS FOR MORE THAN 10,000 STUDENTS FROM 97 SCHOOLS."

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE IS ALSO RECEIVED ON THE 16 CAREERS SEMINARS TO BE CONDUCTED BY EXPERTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS, MRS SIU ADDED.

THE FOURTH EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO WILL BE HELD ON LEVEL 5 OF THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI BETWEEN FEBRUARY 24 AND 27.

/ADMISSION IS

- 4 -

ADMISSION IS FREE.

THE OPENING HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FEBRUARY 24 (THURSDAY)	10.30 AM - 7 PM
FEBRUARY 25 (FRIDAY)	10 AM - 7 PM
FEBRUARY 26 (SATURDAY)	10 AM - 7 PM
FEBRUARY 27 (SUNDAY)	10 AM - 6 PM

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METRIC SCALE COUNTERS SET UP IN FIVE SHOPPING CENTRES

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SHOPPERS, IN PARTICULAR, YOUNG FAMILIES WERE TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED TO USE METRIC UNITS AT A DEMONSTRATION COUNTER SET UP BY THE METRICATION COMMITTEE IN LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE PHASE I, WANG TAU HOM.

THEY WERE INVITED TO USE THE METRIC WEIGHING SCALES, AND WERE GIVEN CONVERSION TABLES, FACT SHEETS AND MAGNETIC MEMO HOLDERS WITH THE "GO METRIC, IT IS EASIER" MESSAGE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE, MR K Y TONGSON, TODAY JOINED MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL WHO ACTED AS METRICATION AMBASSADORS AND MANNED THE COUNTER.

FOUR METRIC SCALE DEMONSTRATION COUNTERS WILL BE SET UP ON THE SPECIFIED DATES FROM 11 AM TO 4.30 PM IN THE FOLLOWING SHOPPING CENTRES MANAGED BY THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY:

DATE	VENUE
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FEBRUARY 20 (SUNDAY)	OI MAN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, HO MAN TIN
FEBRUARY 27 (SUNDAY)	WO CHE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, SHA TIN
MARCH 5 (SATURDAY)	TSUI LAM SHOPPING CENTRE, TSEUNG KWAN O
MARCH 6 (SUNDAY)	BUTTERFLY SHOPPING CENTRE, TUEN MUN

THE DEMONSTRATION COUNTER SCHEME, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN 1983, HAS DRAWN FAVOURABLE RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC, MR TONGSON SAID.

THE METRICATION COMMITTEE AIMS TO EXTEND THE COUNTER SCHEME TO PRIVATE SHOPPING ARCADES AND LARGE-SCALE FAIRS OR EXHIBITIONS TO FURTHER PROMOTE METRICATION AMONG ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN THE TERRITORY.

- 5 -

"AS YOUNGSTERS ARE ALSO OUR TARGET AUDIENCE, WE ARE MAKING CONTACTS WITH SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS TO SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT IN PARTICIPATING IN THE METRICATION AMBASSADORS SCHEME," HE ADDED.

AMONG THE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE METRICATION COMMITTEE THIS YEAR IS A CHINESE CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION AMONG SCHOOL STUDENTS. THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS MARCH 25, AND THE RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY MAY.

ENQUIRIES ON DETAILS OF THE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES CAN BE MADE TO THE METRICATION COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT ON TEL 810 3013.

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CAR MARK AUCTION FETCHES \$3M

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ONE HUNDRED VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WERE SOLD IN AN AUCTION TODAY (SATURDAY) FOR A TOTAL OF \$3,492,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION MARK 1881 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$550,000.

ANOTHER REGISTRATION MARK 803 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$320,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 EACH FOR FP459, FP8421, DJ3408 AND CY1650.

FOLLOWING ARE RESULTS OF THE MORNING SESSION AUCTION:

	\$		\$		\$		\$
FR668	72,000	FP2232	4,000	FR188	46,000	FN938	24,000
FP1983	8,000	FN6686	6,000	XX192	56,000	FP338	62,000
*CY50	30,000	*540	85,000	*AS28	90,000	*1881	550,000
FP1008	11,000	FP147	2,000	FP8183	4,000	FP3080	4,000
AL722	26,000	FP3238	10,000	FR861	10,000	CL1216	2,000
FP3998	8,000	BB190	30,000	AW360	22,000	FP8885	4,000
FR330	14,000	FP8268	4,000	FP821	12,000	FR8088	12,000
*AS9	60,000	*DK22	110,000	*FL6	80,000	*DD95	90,000
FR9788	4,000	FR185	7,000	FP842	6,000	FP541	W/D
FP902	2,000	FP3400	2,000	FR512	160,000	FN7898	3,000
FP459	1,000	CT216	4,000	*FK15	30,000	AC8689	16,000
FP8421	1,000	DB1227	5,000	BY256	11,000	*BC1212	45,000
FP7835	W/D	DJ3408	1,000				

/FOLLOWING ARE

FOLLOWING ARE RESULTS OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION AUCTION:

FR348	\$ 41,000	FM4898	\$ 2,000	FR168	\$ 90,000	FR8163	\$ 3,000
FS8382	17,000	FR130	22,000	AH370	13,000	CL802	18,000
*1959	105,000	*FK17	42,000	*FM393	29,000	*803	320,000
FR339	25,000	FS336	24,000	FR1230	10,000	FR318	30,000
FP328	62,000	EC715	7,000	DL180	35,000	AW1386	10,000
AW361	6,000	FR3368	9,000	FP108	28,000	FR2300	7,000
FR6663	15,000	DD8138	14,000	FS2382	10,000	FR365	7,000
*DL222	95,000	*9680	92,000	*AS88	257,000	*FA141	8,000
FR8182	9,000	FS283	19,000	FR468	4,000	FR216	7,000
FS220	41,000	FR3987	W/D	FR1498	3,000	FR235	2,000
FR913	7,000	HK4418	22,000	*DD7007	20,000	FR8161	2,000
AL1428	15,000	FN8885	16,000	CY1650	1,000	*FU2626	19,000
FR8256	2,000	EE3413	W/D				

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)
W/D WITHDRAWN

THERE WERE NO BIDDERS FOR FP541, FP7835, FR3987 AND EE3413. THESE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANTS.

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

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

TODAY'S SALE, THE 214TH AND 215TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO \$269,819,905.

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APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PROBATIONERS

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ANTHONY CHAN, TODAY (SATURDAY) APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS (VSP).

SPEAKING AT THE CERTIFICATE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE VSP, MR CHAN SAID THE SCHEME WAS A COMPLEMENTARY SERVICE TO PROMOTE THE AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC IN HELPING OFFENDERS.

"MORE THAN 540 VOLUNTEERS HAD TAKEN PART IN THE SCHEME SINCE IT WAS LAUNCHED IN 1976.

"IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE CONTINUOUSLY IN THE MEANS OF RECRUITMENT, SCOPE OF SERVICE AND ANNUAL VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES WITH AN AIM TO GAIN WIDER SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY."

/THE VOLUNTEERS

THE VOLUNTEERS HELP PROBATIONERS WITH THEIR SCHOOLWORK, GUIDE THEM IN THE PROPER USE OF LEISURE TIME, HELP THEM DEVELOP INTERESTS, PROVIDE SUPPORT AND OFFER PRACTICAL ADVICE IF NECESSARY.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE, MR GERARD PAUL MUTTRIE, SAID THE ASSISTANCE OF SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS VOLUNTEERS WAS NOT ONLY OF BENEFIT TO PROBATIONERS.

"IT MAY BE OF BENEFIT TO THE VOLUNTEERS THEMSELVES WHO CAN FEEL SOME SATISFACTION IF THEY ASSIST WRONG-DOERS TO REFORM."

ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN REHABILITATION LIES IN CONVINCING SOCIETY THAT AN OFFENDER MAY BE REHABILITATED, HE ADDED.

AS THE VOLUNTEERS KNOW MORE ABOUT THE OFFENDERS, THEY COULD HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND THAT OFFENDERS MIGHT BECOME ASSETS RATHER THAN LIABILITIES TO SOCIETY, HE SAID.

MR MUTTRIE AND MR CHAN TODAY PRESENTED CERTIFICATES TO 58 VOLUNTEERS IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS.

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EDUCATION CHIEF COMMENDS STAFF FOR DEDICATED SERVICE

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (SATURDAY) PRESENTED LONG SERVICE AWARDS TO 361 MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE RECIPIENTS RANGED FROM WORKMAN II TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

MOST OF THEM ARE TEACHING STAFF AT GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, SOME OF THEM BEGAN THEIR CAREER IN 1956.

AMONG THEM, 234 WERE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE FOR 30 YEARS AND 127 FOR 20 YEARS.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (BUILDING AND SYSTEMS), MR HSU SHOW-HOO, AND CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MR HO CHE-LEUNG, WERE AMONG THE RECIPIENTS RECEIVING THE 30-YEAR-OLD LONG AND MERITORIOUS SERVICES CERTIFICATES.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MR WONG PAID TRIBUTE TO THE RECIPIENTS WHO HAD MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN PROMOTING EDUCATION.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1994

- 8 -

WEATHER OF JANUARY

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WITH RELATIVELY FEW OUTBREAKS OF COLD CONTINENTAL AIR TOWARDS THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS, JANUARY THIS YEAR WAS UNUSUALLY WARM AND HUMID IN HONG KONG.

A SPELL OF MILD AND MISTY WEATHER PREVAILED IN THE FIRST 13 DAYS OF THE MONTH.

DESPITE THE HIGH HUMIDITY, RAIN WAS NONETHELESS SCARCE.

ONLY TRACES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, BARELY FRACTIONS OF THE JANUARY NORMAL OF 23.4 MILLIMETRES. THIS MADE JANUARY ONE OF THE SIX SECOND-DRIEST MONTHS OF JANUARY ON RECORD.

A MODERATE EASTERLY AIRSTREAM PREVAILED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

THE WEATHER WAS MAINLY FINE BUT HUMID WITH POOR VISIBILITY. IT WAS SUNNY OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS BUT REDUCED VISIBILITY OCCURRED AGAIN ON JANUARY 4.

WITH INCREASING RELATIVE HUMIDITY, MIST FORMED EARLY IN THE MORNING ON JANUARY 5. A SPELL OF MILD WEATHER WITH OCCASIONAL MIST AND HAZE CONTINUED FOR THE NEXT SIX DAYS.

ON JANUARY 6, TEMPERATURES REACHED THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 24.3 DEGREES.

AFTER A FINE DAY ON JANUARY 12, IT WAS CLOUDY FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS WITH A MINOR SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVING THE COASTAL AREAS OF GUANGDONG ON JANUARY 13.

THE MIXING OF A COOLER AIR MASS FROM THE NORTH WITH THE EXISTING MOIST AIR LED TO THE FORMATION OF MIST THAT MORNING.

AS THE NORTHERLIES FRESHENED THE NEXT DAY, LIGHT RAIN BECAME FREQUENT AND LASTED ALMOST THE WHOLE DAY. FRESH EASTERLY WINDS SET IN EARLY ON JANUARY 15 AND PERSISTENT LIGHT RAIN RETURNED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

AS RAIN CEASED IN THE EARLY HOURS AND WINDS MODERATED, THE SKIES BRIGHTENED UP DURING THE DAY ON JANUARY 16.

WITH TEMPERATURES ON THE RISE, CONDITIONS WERE RATHER WARM BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF A COLD FRONT EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON ON JANUARY 18.

THE PASSAGE OF THE FRONT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MIST AND DRIZZLE. CONDITIONS REMAINED CLOUDY OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AS A REPLENISHMENT OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED. NORTHERLY WINDS BECAME OCCASIONALLY STRONG OFFSHORE ON JANUARY 20 AND TEMPERATURES CONTINUED TO FALL.

/THE LOWEST

THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE IN THE MONTH, 7.9 DEGREES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, WAS RECORDED IN THE EARLY MORNING ON JANUARY 21, A FALL OF ABOUT 16 DEGREES IN THREE DAYS.

ON HIGH GROUNDS, TEMPERATURES WERE DOWN TO ABOUT 1 DEGREE AT TATE'S CAIRN AND -3 DEGREES AT TAI MO SHAN.

THE ARRIVAL OF A CONTINENTAL AIR MASS BROUGHT A CLEAR AND DRY DAY ON JANUARY 21. IT WAS CLOUDY ON JANUARY 22 AS MOISTURE INCREASED IN THE MID-LEVELS OF THE ATMOSPHERE. THIS PROVED TO BE SHORT-LIVED AS FINE WEATHER SOON RETURNED THE NEXT DAY.

WINDS MODERATED ON JANUARY 25 AND FINE AND MILD CONDITIONS SET IN. THIS FINE SPELL WAS ONLY BROKEN BY A STRONG EASTERLY AIRSTREAM WHICH GAVE RISE TO A COOL AND CLOUDY DAY ON JANUARY 30 WITH OCCASIONAL DRIZZLE IN THE AFTERNOON.

FINE AND MILD CONDITIONS WERE SOON RESTORED THE NEXT DAY AS THE EASTERLIES WEAKENED.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE TROPICAL CYCLONE OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN JANUARY.

DURING THE MONTH, NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

DETAILS ON THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1. MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR JANUARY ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN JANUARY 1994

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME
STRONG MONSOON SIGNALS	JAN 20 : 1730 - JAN 21 : 1100 JAN 29 : 2230 - JAN 30 : 1330
FIRE DANGER WARNINGS	
YELLOW	JAN 1 : 0615 - JAN 3 : 0600 JAN 29 : 0930 - JAN 30 : 2305
RED	JAN 21 : 0600 - JAN 24 : 1800 JAN 25 : 1200 - JAN 29 : 0930
GAS HEATER ALERTS	JAN 14 : 1630 - JAN 15 : 1600 JAN 20 : 1630 - JAN 24 : 1630

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - JANUARY 1994

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	154.1 HOURS ; 2.1 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	10.17 MJ/SQM; 1.46 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	TRACE ; 23.4 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	52 PER CENT; 6 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	72 PER CENT; 1 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	19.3 DEGREES CELSIUS; 0.7 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	17.0 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	15.1 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	11.8 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.6 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	61.8 MM; 35.7 MM BELOW NORMAL

REMARKS: ALL MEASUREMENTS WERE MADE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY EXCEPT SUNSHINE, SOLAR RADIATION AND EVAPORATION WHICH WERE RECORDED AT KING'S PARK.

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FORUM ON ARTS DEVELOPMENT CLOSES

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THE LAST IN A SERIES OF FIVE PUBLIC FORUMS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WORKING GROUP WAS HELD TODAY (SATURDAY) IN THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBER.

THE PURPOSES OF THE FORUMS ARE TO EXPLAIN THE PROGRESS BEING MADE BY THE WORKING GROUP SINCE IT WAS APPOINTED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR AND TO GATHER OPINIONS FROM BOTH THE ARTS COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC ON HOW THE ARTS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE 1990'S AND BEYOND.

TODAY'S FORUM WAS AIMED MAINLY TO GAUGE VIEWS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE ARTS, REPRESENTATION OF THE ARTS COMMUNITY ON THE HONG KONG ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND MASS MEDIA'S ROLE IN ARTS.

/THE SPEAKERS

- 11 -

THE SPEAKERS INCLUDED SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP, DR LO CHI-KIN, DR STEPHEN SZE MAN-HUNG, DR MATHEW TURNER, MR JASON YUEN AND MR WONG LUEN-KIN.

PARTICIPANTS ALSO GAVE THEIR RESPONSES TO RELEVANT TOPICS.

THE WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF VIEWS GIVEN TO MAP OUT THE FUTURE PLANS FOR DEVELOPING ARTS IN HONG KONG.

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WATER CUT IN NORTH POINT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 21) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE DETECTION OF WATER MAINS LEAKAGE.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BETWEEN 662-888 KING'S ROAD, BETWEEN 180-208 AND 187-227 TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD, 15 PAK FUK ROAD, 12-14 AND 21-29 HEALTHY STREET EAST, 15-39 MANSION STREET AS WELL AS MODEL LANE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,260
REVERSAL OF LAF	+700
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,960
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-580
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,380

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 125.7 **+0.0* 19.2.94

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CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES ASKED NOT TO
BREACH SAFETY LAWS

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NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY TO CARRY OUT SIMPLE SAFETY PRECAUTION MIGHT RESULT IN LOSS OF LIFE OF THE WORKER AND MIGHT RECEIVE SEVERE PUNISHMENT UNDER EXISTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS.

THIS REMINDER IS ISSUED BY THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING TODAY (SUNDAY).

A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY HAS RECENTLY BEEN FINED BY THE COURT A TOTAL OF \$100,000 FOR TWO SUMMONSES ISSUED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY REGULATIONS.

IT WAS A SECOND COURT CASE IN FIVE WEEKS IN WHICH THE OFFENDER WAS GIVEN THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR VIOLATING SAFETY LAWS.

IN THE FIRST CASE HEARD ON JANUARY 11, A MAGISTRATE IMPOSED A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AFTER A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WAS CONVICTED OF FAILING TO PROVIDE SUITABLE GUARD-RAILS TO A TWIN LIFT SHAFT OPENINGS.

THE LATEST PROSECUTION RESULTED FROM AN INSPECTION BY FACTORY INSPECTOR (I) MR TSANG HIN-CHEUNG OF THE BUILDING ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES NORTH AND TAI PO REGION TO A WORK SITE AT FANLING AREA 39A ON SEPTEMBER 16 LAST YEAR.

MR TSANG FOUND ONE FLOOR EDGE AND ONE FLOOR OPENING ON THE 16TH FLOOR OF A BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION HAD NO SUITABLE GUARD-RAILS.

FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATIONS RESULTED IN THE PROSECUTION OF SUNG FOO KEE LIMITED UNDER SECTION 38P(1) OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

UPON CONVICTION AT THE FANLING MAGISTRACY ON FEBRUARY 15, THE COMPANY WAS FINED THE MAXIMUM OF \$50,000 FOR EACH SUMMONS, MAKING A TOTAL FINE OF \$100,000.

THE LAW STATES THAT THE CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR A CONSTRUCTION SITE SHALL ENSURE THAT EVERY OPENING, EDGE OR OTHER DANGEROUS PLACE THROUGH OR FROM WHICH ANY PERSON ON THE SITE IS LIABLE TO FALL A DISTANCE OF MORE THAN TWO METRES IS PROVIDED WITH EITHER SUITABLE STRONG GUARD-RAILS OR COVERINGS SO CONSTRUCTED AS TO PREVENT THE FALL OF PERSONS, MATERIALS AND ARTICLES.

"RECENT SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS SHOW THAT THE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY REGULATIONS ARE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AGAINST THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO IGNORE THEIR LAWFUL DUTIES TO PROTECT WORKERS' SAFETY," MR CHAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PUTTING UP GUARD-RAILS TO DANGEROUS OPENINGS WAS SIMPLE.

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"IT IS A FAIRLY SIMPLE JOB AND SHOULD BE ACHIEVABLE WITHIN A SHORT TIME IN MOST CASES, BUT IT WILL SERVE TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM FALLING FROM HEIGHT. THE PRESENT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS ARE VERY EXPLICIT ON THIS."

CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS INVOLVING FALLING FROM HEIGHT USUALLY RESULT IN DEATHS OR SERIOUS INJURIES, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO URGED THOSE CONTRACTORS WHO HAD NOT BEEN TAKING SAFETY IN THEIR HAND SHOULD DO IT AS SOON AS THEY CAN.

OTHERWISE, THEY WILL RECEIVE EVEN HARSHER PUNISHMENT AS THE INCREASE IN MAXIMUM FINE UNDER THE PRESENT LAW HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CONTRACTORS MAY FACE A FINE UP TO \$200,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS IF THEY FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, HE SAID.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS OPEN TO PUBLIC

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RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 27 (SUNDAY) TO ENJOY THE AZALEAS IN FULL BLOOM IN THE GARDENS.

ALSO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM ON THAT DAY ARE THE DINING ROOM AND THE DRAWING ROOM IN THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE.

THOSE WISHING TO VISIT GOVERNMENT HOUSE DURING THE OPENING HOURS SHOULD ENTER BY THE EAST GATE, WHICH IS LOCATED ON UPPER ALBERT ROAD FACING THE AMERICAN CONSULATE.

THEY CAN LEAVE BY THE MAIN GATE ON UPPER ALBERT ROAD OR THE WEST GATE ON ALBERT PATH.

AS A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO TURN UP ON THAT DAY, RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO TRAVEL TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE BY PRIVATE CAR OR TAXI.

IF THEY DO COME BY CAR OR TAXI, THEY ARE ADVISED NOT TO ALIGHT ON UPPER ALBERT ROAD.

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PAMPHLET ON EFFECTIVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT

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A PAMPHLET ON HOW TO FORM AN OWNERS' CORPORATION AND TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE PAMPHLET, PUBLISHED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, SERVES AS A GUIDE TO THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND MANAGERS TO OPERATE.

IT COVERS TOPICS LIKE THE PROCEDURES FOR FORMING AN OWNERS' CORPORATION, THE APPOINTMENT OF A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES, GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE MANAGER AND OWNERS' CORPORATION.

THE PAMPHLET ALSO CONTAINS THE SECOND, THIRD, FIFTH, SIXTH AND SEVENTH SCHEDULES OF THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE ON THE COMPOSITION AND PROCEDURE OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, MEETINGS AND PROCEDURE OF CORPORATIONS, ANNUAL BUDGETS, ACCOUNTS AND MANDATORY TERMS IN DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANTS (DMCS).

CHINESE AND ENGLISH COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, AFTER AMENDMENTS LAST YEAR, HAS CHANGED ITS TITLE TO THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE TO REFLECT ITS PURPOSES AND APPLICATIONS.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE ORDINANCE INCLUDE FACILITATING THE CREATION OF OWNERS' CORPORATION, INCREASING CONTROLS OVER THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF AN OWNERS' CORPORATION AND INTRODUCING MEASURES RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS, SUBJECT TO DMCS.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT PROMOTES EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISIONS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME JOINTLY TAKE PART IN THE FOURTH EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO ON THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 24).

THE THEME IS "TOGETHER WE DEVELOP OUR ABILITIES".

THE AIM OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IS TO CONVEY TO THE PUBLIC THE COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES THEY ARE PROVIDING TO BOTH THE ABLE-BODIED AND THE DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS, A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

/"THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHIC

"THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHIC AND CARTOON DISPLAYS, AND VIDEO PRESENTATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT CASES, WE HOPE VISITORS COULD HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE JOB-SEEKERS, WHETHER ABLED OR DISABLED.

"WE ALSO HOPE TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO WORK WITH US IN INTEGRATING DISABLED PERSONS INTO THE COMMUNITY, SO THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE THE GOAL 'TOGETHER WE DEVELOP OUR ABILITIES'," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

INFORMATION MATERIALS AS WELL AS ON-THE-SPOT ENQUIRY SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE EXHIBITION BOOTH TO REMIND JOB-SEEKERS, ESPECIALLY SUMMER JOB STUDENTS, OF EMPLOYMENT TRAPS AND WORK SAFETY.

TO AROUSE THE INTERESTS OF VISITORS IN THE FREE EMPLOYMENT AND RECRUITMENT SERVICES BEING PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, A QUIZ WILL BE ARRANGED DURING THE EXHIBITION AND THE WINNERS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SOUVENIRS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM FEBRUARY 24 TO 27 ON LEVEL 5 OF THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

ADMISSION IS FREE.