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CHARGING SCHEME FOR SEWAGE SERVICES

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PROPOSALS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A SEWAGE SERVICES CHARGING SCHEME, UNDER WHICH USERS WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE COSTS OF RAPIDLY IMPROVING SEWAGE SERVICES, WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE GOVERNMENT.

DETAILS OF A PROGRAMME OF SEWAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES COSTING \$12 BILLION (ALL FIGURES ARE 1993) WERE ALSO ANNOUNCED, FOR COMPLETION BY 1997.

SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID: "THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE SEWAGE SERVICES AND CLEAN UP THE HARBOUR."

"HONG KONG HAS UNDER-INVESTED IN SEWAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PAST, AND OUR SEWAGE PROBLEMS ARE NOW CRITICAL. AS MUCH AS 50 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY'S SEWAGE GOES INTO THE HARBOUR UNTREATED, AND THIS HAS TO STOP.

"OUR IMMEDIATE PLANS WILL RAPIDLY IMPROVE HONG KONG'S SEWAGE SERVICES," HE SAID.

THEY INVOLVE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE OF ABOUT \$12 BILLION ON MAJOR SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS BY 1997 TO COVER THE FULL COSTS OF AN \$8.1 BILLION HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME (HPP), WHICH WILL CLEAN UP 70 PER CENT OF THE HARBOUR'S POLLUTION, PLUS \$4 BILLION OF PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE ON OTHER ONGOING SEWAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S FUNDS ARE, HOWEVER, NOT UNLIMITED," SAID MR EASON. "WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS RIGHT THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BEGIN TO PAY FOR THE SEWAGE SERVICES THEY USE, IN THE SAME WAY THAT THEY PAY FOR OTHER SERVICES SUCH AS WATER.

"WE THEREFORE PLAN TO START APPLYING WHAT IS CALLED THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE, WHICH INVOLVES THOSE WHO CAUSE POLLUTION CONTRIBUTING FINANCIALLY TO THE COSTS OF SEWAGE SERVICES.

"CHARGES WILL BE VERY MODEST FOR HOUSEHOLDS, WHICH MAKE ONLY LIMITED USE OF SEWAGE SERVICES. THERE WILL BE A CAREFULLY DEFINED, BUT NOT OPEN ENDED, EXEMPTION SYSTEM, IN LINE WITH ARRANGEMENTS ON WATER CHARGES.

"COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WILL PAY MORE THROUGH A TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE BECAUSE THEY CREATE MORE POLLUTION, WHICH THEY COULD CURB BY CAREFUL USE OF WATER AND SIMPLE EFFLUENT TREATMENT. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL ACT AS AN INCENTIVE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE REMEDIAL MEASURES.

"THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE, INCLUDING THE PROPOSAL THAT HEAVY POLLUTERS IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE SHOULD PAY MORE," SAID MR EASON.

"THE PRINCIPLE OF POLLUTERS PAYING HAS ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED IN MANY PLACES ABROAD, FOR EXAMPLE LOS ANGELES, SINGAPORE AND LONDON.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPITAL INJECTION, AND REVENUES FROM CHARGES, WILL BE PAID INTO A SPECIALLY CREATED TRADING FUND AND WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SEWAGE SERVICES," HE SAID.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE CHARGES WOULD TAKE EFFECT FROM AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

CHARGES WOULD BE BASED ON USERS' WATER METRE READINGS, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A FAIR ESTIMATE OF WHAT FLOWED OUT INTO THE SEWAGE SYSTEM.

ILLUSTRATING THE LEVEL OF CHARGES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID PEOPLE LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING WERE EXPECTED TO PAY AN AVERAGE OF ONLY ABOUT \$15 A MONTH WHEN CHARGES START NEXT YEAR, JUST OVER HALF THEIR COMPARABLE WATER CHARGES.

CHARGES FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USERS WOULD VARY WIDELY, DEPENDING ON INTENSITY OF WATER USAGE AND THE AMOUNT OF POLLUTION CREATED.

THEY WOULD HAVE ONLY A VERY MODEST IMPACT ON OPERATING COSTS, RANGING FROM 0.02 PER CENT TO 0.5 PER CENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CHARGES WOULD BE LEVIED ON ALL WATER USERS WHO USED SEWAGE SERVICES, APART FROM THOSE WHO USED LESS THAN 13 CUBIC METRES IN A FOUR-MONTH PERIOD (ABOUT 17 PER CENT OF DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLDS) AND WERE CONSEQUENTLY EXEMPTED FROM PAYING WATER CHARGES.

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE ABOUT 1.6 MILLION USER ACCOUNTS.

CHARGES WOULD BE BASED ON THREE COMPONENTS: A FIXED CHARGE RELATING TO FIXED COSTS OF SEWAGE SERVICES; A VARIABLE CHARGE TO RECOVER OPERATING COSTS; AND A TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USERS TO REFLECT THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF TREATING THEIR MORE HEAVILY POLLUTED DISCHARGES.

A SEPARATE SEWAGE CHARGE ITEM WOULD BE INCLUDED IN WATER BILLS, AND THE WATER AND SEWAGE CHARGES WOULD BE PAID JOINTLY TO THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES. THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD MINIMISE ADMINISTRATION CHARGES.

FOLLOWING A CONSULTATION PERIOD LASTING TILL MID-NOVEMBER, LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE CHARGING ARRANGEMENTS AND THE BILLING AND COLLECTION SYSTEMS.

IT WAS PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH A TRADING FUND BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGCO UNDER THE TRADING FUNDS ORDINANCE.

THE SEWAGE CHARGES WOULD BE PAID INTO THE FUND AND WOULD BE USED TO COVER THE PROVISION OF SEWAGE SERVICES.

THE FUND WOULD ALSO HOLD AND MANAGE THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION AND MEET THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON THE HPP PROJECTS.

THE HPP COMPRISED A DEEP TUNNEL SEWERAGE SYSTEM RUNNING FROM HONG KONG ISLAND EAST TO TSEUNG KWAN O AND TSUEN WAN, WITH TREATMENT WORKS ON STONECUTTERS PLUS IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSOCIATED LOCAL SEWAGE NETWORKS.

THE ONGOING SEWAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES COMPRISED MORE THAN 30 SCHEMES FUNDED UNDER THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

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HK'S CONTAINER THROUGHPUT INCREASES

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THE AVERAGE OVERALL GROWTH RATE OF 17.1 PER CENT IN HONG KONG'S CONTAINER THROUGHPUT FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR INDICATES A LEVELLING OFF OF SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES OVER THE PERIOD MARCH TO JUNE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR IAN DALE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ANNOUNCING THE LATEST CONTAINER THROUGHPUT FIGURES, MR DALE SAID HONG KONG HANDLED 4,177,908 TEUS (TWENTY-FOOT ENQUIVALENT UNITS) IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED TO 3,567,664 OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

KWAI CHUNG TERMINALS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 13.1 PER CENT, STREAM HANDLING 17.5 PER CENT, AND THE RIVER TRADE 68.3 PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE CONTAINER HANDLING CAPACITY, MR DALE SAID: "ACTUAL GROWTH RATES WERE GENERALLY IN LINE WITH FORECASTS, WHICH UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR OUR PLANNED TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT TO PROCEED ON SCHEDULE."

TERMINAL 8 CONSTRUCTION IS WELL WITHIN THAT SCHEDULE, WITH ITS FIRST BERTH ALREADY IN OPERATION, BUT ANY FURTHER DELAYS TO THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME FOR TERMINAL 9, COULD WELL BE A DISADVANTAGE FOR THE PORT'S FUTURE, HE ADDED.

CONTAINER HANDLING IN THE STREAM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO ABSORB SOME SHORTFALL IN TERMINAL CAPACITY, BUT THIS IS LIMITED BY THE SIZE OF VESSEL THAT CAN UTILISE THIS SYSTEM, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF WATERFRONT LAND TO HANDLE CONTAINER LIGHTERS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE TERMINAL 9 PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY, HE SAID.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TABLE FOR THE COMPARATIVE CONTAINER STATISTICS IN TEUS:

/FIRST SIX

	FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1992	FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1993	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINALS	2,285,123	2,584,398	+13.1%
STREAM AND ELSEWHERE	1,134,810	1,333,380	+17.5%
RIVER TRADE	155,780	262,100	+68.3%
TOTAL	3,567,664	4,177,908	+17.1%

NOTE: TO AVOID DOUBLE COUNTING, FIGURES ARE ADJUSTED DOWNWARDS BY 8,049 IN 1992 AND 1,970 IN 1993 BEING TEUS HANDLED BY TERMINAL VESSELS CONTRACTED TO WORK IN THE STREAM.

HONG KONG IS THE BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD, HANDLING A RECORD OF 7.97 MILLION TEUS LAST YEAR. IT IS ALSO ONE OF THE BUSIEST IN TERMS OF VESSEL ARRIVALS AND CARGO AND PASSENGER THROUGHPUT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

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

THREE NEW COINS PUT INTO CIRCULATION

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NEW-DESIGN \$1, 50-CENT AND 20-CENT COINS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO GENERAL CIRCULATION ON OCTOBER 11 TO REPLACE EXISTING COINS.

"THIS IS PART OF THE PHASED PROGRAMME TO REPLACE AND WITHDRAW FROM CIRCULATION EXISTING COINS BEARING REFERENCES THAT WILL BECOME INAPPROPRIATE TO THE STATUS OF HONG KONG AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

LIKE THE NEW \$5 AND \$2 COINS INTRODUCED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, THE DESIGNS FEATURE A BAUHINIA FLOWER, AND "HONG KONG" IN CHINESE CHARACTERS AND ENGLISH ON THE OBVERSE.

THE REVERSE FEATURES THE DENOMINATION IN CHINESE CHARACTERS AND ENGLISH WITH A LARGE ARABIC NUMERAL IN THE CENTRE AND THE YEAR OF ISSUE IMMEDIATELY BELOW IT.

THE METAL COMPOSITIONS OF THE NEW COINS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE EXISTING ONES TO FACILITATE SORTING AND WITHDRAWAL OF THE EXISTING COINS BY MACHINE.

SMALL QUANTITIES OF THE NEW COINS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO PUBLIC UTILITY AND TRANSPORT COMPANIES AND VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS THAT OPERATE COIN VENDING MACHINES FOR TESTING AND CALIBRATION TO ENSURE THAT THEY CAN BE USED IN THESE MACHINES WITH MINIMAL DISRUPTION.

THE FINAL TYPES OF COINS IN THE SERIES, THE 10-CENT COIN AND THE NEW \$10 COIN, ARE LIKELY TO BE INTRODUCED DURING 1994.

"BECAUSE OF THE OVERWHELMING DEMAND FOR THE 1993 COMMEMORATIVE COIN SETS FEATURING THE NEW-DESIGN COINS FROM 10-CENT TO \$10, ADDITIONAL SETS OF THE UNCIRCULATED VERSION WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN JULY.

"THESE CAN STILL BE BOUGHT AT THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON MAIN BRANCHES OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ORDERS-ON-HAND OF MANUFACTURERS IN JULY

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THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS DECREASED SLIGHTLY BY 1% IN JULY THIS YEAR OVER A YEAR EARLIER, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS THAT MANUFACTURERS WILL REQUIRE TO COMPLETE THE ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, THE ORDERS POSITION IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY DECREASED BY 7%. THE WEARING APPAREL AND THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES BOTH REGISTERED A DECREASE OF 4%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY (9%) AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY (4%).

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, ORDERS FOR ALL THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED DECREASED SLIGHTLY BY 2%.

THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY REPORTED A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE OF 14% AND THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY REPORTED A DECREASE OF 6% OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH. SLIGHT DECREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, BY 3% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY.

MEANWHILE, THE ORDERS POSITION SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

THE MONTHLY SURVEY OF ORDERS-ON-HAND COVERS A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT AS THE SURVEY SAMPLE COVERED ONLY THE LARGE COMPANIES, THE SURVEY RESULTS MIGHT NOT BE FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

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NEVERTHELESS, THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF SHORT-TERM DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECTOR, HE SAID.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JULY 1993, AT \$5.5 A COPY, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE 805 6441.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND:

ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	AS AT THE END OF	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	JULY 1993	JUNE 1993	JULY 1992
	(MONTHS)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	4.38	-2	-1
WEARING APPAREL	4.57	-3	-4
TEXTILES	2.02	-6	-7
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3.30	-14	+9
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.40	-1	-4
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.88	*	+4
OTHERS	3.82	-1	-4

* CHANGES WITHIN +/-0.5%

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EXAM SYSTEM FOR LICENSING PLUMBERS TO BE ABOLISHED

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL ABOLISH THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM FOR LICENSING PLUMBERS, WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 2, FOLLOWING THE GAZETTING OF THE WATER REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) 1992 LAST SEPTEMBER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID A QUALIFICATION SYSTEM, WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING IN PARALLEL WITH THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM SINCE 1989, WILL BE THE ONLY RECOGNISED SYSTEM IN THE FUTURE, REPLACING THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM.

UNDER THE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM, ANYONE POSSESSING THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE ISSUED A PLUMBER'S LICENCE:

- * CRAFT CERTIFICATE IN PLUMBING AND PIPE-FITTING COURSE ISSUED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AFTER 1987; OR
- * PLUMBING CRAFT CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON; OR
- * A FELLOW OR MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTION OF PLUMBING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND
- * CERTIFICATE IN PLUMBING SERVICES (HONG KONG) COURSES ISSUED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM NOT ONLY PROVIDED AN ASSURANCE WITH REGARD TO THE QUALITY AND STANDARD OF THE LICENSED PLUMBERS IN SERVING THE PUBLIC, BUT ALSO MADE THE ADMINISTRATION PROCESS FOR LICENSING FASTER AND SIMPLER.

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LEGCO MEMBERS BRIEFED ON ACP WORKS PROGRESS

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A GROUP OF 14 LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCING OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP), WERE BRIEFED TODAY (MONDAY) ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE 10 CORE PROJECTS.

DURING A FOUR-HOUR BOAT TOUR, THE MEMBERS SAW THE PROGRESS ON PROJECTS SUCH AS THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, THE TSING MA AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGES, THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, THE TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN RECLAMATION AND THE AIRPORT SITE AT CHECK LAP KOK.

THEY WERE ADDRESSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE AND BRIEFED ON THE OVERALL PROGRESS OF THE ACP BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, MR BILLY LAM.

THE MEMBERS ALSO VISITED CHEK LAP KOK FOR A CLOSE-UP VIEW OF THE WORKS THERE. THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE VAST AMOUNT OF EXCAVATION AND RECLAMATION WORKS UNDERWAY ON AND AROUND THE ISLAND BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

MR BLAKE INFORMED THE MEMBERS THAT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF OVER \$44 BILLION HAD BEEN AWARDED ON THE ACP. THEY INCLUDED 27 MAJOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AT A VALUE OF NEARLY \$29 BILLION.

"THIS \$29 BILLION REPRESENTS 69 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF ALL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR THE ACP," HE SAID.

FOUR MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AMOUNTING TO \$9.7 BILLION HAVE BEEN LET BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY. THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING FRANCHISEE HAS AWARDED A MAJOR CONTRACT WORTH \$5.7 BILLION.

MR BLAKE SAID ALL THE CONTRACTS WERE WITHIN BUDGET AND WORK WAS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

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JOB BAZAAR IN TSIM SHA TSUI

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A JOB BAZAAR WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN TSIM SHA TSUI TO HELP WORKERS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS LOOK FOR JOBS UNDER THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SCHEME (OJT) SET UP BY THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD (ERB).

ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES), THE BAZAAR AIMED AT PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYERS AND POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT AND DISCUSS ABOUT JOB VACANCIES AND EMPLOYMENT.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (EMPLOYMENT SERVICE), MR RAYMOND CHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY):

SUCH EVENTS WERE HELPFUL TO JOB-SEEKERS WISHING TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE OJT AND THOSE WHO WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SCHEME," MR CHAN SAID.

THEY ATTRACTED MORE THAN 3,700 JOB-SEEKERS RESULTING IN ABOUT 1,700 REFERRALS BEING MADE ON THE SPOT.

THE BAZAAR WILL BE HELD FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM AT THE EXHIBITION GALLERY OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

REPRESENTAIVES FROM 18 PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS FROM VARIOUS TRADES INCLUDING HOTEL, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION, BANKING, LAUNDRY, TRADING AND RETAIL SALES, WILL BE THERE TO BRIEF INTERESTED PEOPLE ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

"THEY WILL BRIEF JOB-SEEKERS ABOUT THEIR TRADES AND CONDUCT ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS OR ARRANGE INTERVIEWS ON OTHER DATES," HE SAID.

SOME EMPLOYERS WILL ALSO GIVE TALKS ON RELATED TRADES.

MEANWHILE, VACANCIES OF THE 242 EMPLOYERS PARTICIPATING IN OJT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LES STAFF TO HELP JOB-SEEKERS SELECT THEIR PREFERRED JOBS.

"LES STAFF WILL ALSO CONDUCT GROUP COUNSELLING SESSION FOR THE POTENTIAL RETRAINEES," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID APPLICANTS FOR THE OJT SHOULD BE HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO WERE 30 YEARS OLD OR ABOVE AND HAD WORKED IN A PARTICULAR TRADE FOR NOT LESS THAN TWO YEARS.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

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RECRUITMENT OF MUSIC OFFICE TRAINEES STARTS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH TODAY (MONDAY) INVITES YOUNG PEOPLE AGED FROM SIX TO 23 TO ENROL ON ITS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME.

THE SCHEME HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE SINCE 1977 WITH THE AIM OF PROMOTING MUSIC IN HONG KONG.

CLASSES OF WESTERN AND CHINESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS INCLUDING VIOLIN, ER-HU, PIPA, TRUMPET AND FLUTE WILL BE OFFERED.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ONE-HOUR TRAINING SESSIONS WEEKLY IN EITHER THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, KWUN TONG, MONG KOK, SHA TIN OR TSUEN WAN MUSIC CENTRES.

CANDIDATES WITH NO PREVIOUS INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING COULD APPLY FOR THE BEGINNERS' COURSE AT ELEMENTARY LEVEL WHILE THOSE WITH APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENTAL MUSICAL STANDARD COULD SLOT INTO EXISTING CLASSES.

WHEN REACHING HIGHER GRADES, STUDENTS WOULD ALSO RECEIVE AURAL/THEORY TRAINING AND ORCHESTRAL/ENSEMBLE TRAINING.

MONTHLY TUITION FEES, FOR THIS YEAR, ARE \$100, \$150, AND \$200 FOR THE ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE, HIGHER LEVELS.

STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES CAN APPLY FOR FEE REMISSION.

APPLICANTS WILL HAVE TO ATTEND A HANDS AND MOUTH INSPECTION EXERCISE AND SIMPLE VOICE TEST IN THE MUSIC CENTRES IN OCTOBER.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL REGIONAL MUSIC CENTRES.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM SHOULD BE SENT TO RELEVANT MUSIC CENTRES ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 14.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 582 5314 (HEADQUARTERS), 802 0657 (HONG KONG), 796 2893 (KWUN TONG), 399 2200 (MONG KOK), 417 6429 (TSUEN WAN) OR 606 5731 (SHA TIN).

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TRAINING COURSE FOR HEALTH WORKERS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS INVITING SERVING HEALTH WORKERS IN PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR NURSING OR MEDICAL TRAINING IN HONG KONG TO ENROL ON AN 11-WEEK TRAINING COURSE.

SCHEDULED TO START ON NOVEMBER 1, THE COURSE AIMS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE IN THESE HOMES.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

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"LEGISLATION TO CONTROL RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IS TO BE INTRODUCED SOON," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, NO ONE SHALL BE QUALIFIED TO BE REGISTERED AS A HEALTH WORKER FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYMENT AT A RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME WITHOUT HAVING COMPLETED A COURSE OF TRAINING APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

THE COURSE IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, HONG KONG, AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

IT INCLUDES BASIC SKILLS IN LOOKING AFTER THE ELDERLY, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL CHANGES OF THE ELDERLY, INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS AND BASIC PRINCIPLES IN RUNNING A HOME FOR THE ELDERLY.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF THEIR QUALIFICATION. THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ELDERLY HOMES IN WHICH THEY ARE SERVING WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY.

COPIES OF INVITATION HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO PRIVATE HOME OPERATORS INVITING THEM TO RECOMMEND SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE COURSE.

INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO TAKE UP A JOB IN THESE HOMES MAY ALSO FORWARD THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S REGISTRATION OFFICE OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, SEVENTH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 23) AND THE COURSE FEE IS \$2,000.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 834 7414 OR 892 5187.

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SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON
STRUCTURAL CHANGES OF VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

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THE JULY 1993 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES OF THE STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES INDUSTRIES (1987 - 1991)".

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS ANNUAL SURVEYS TO COLLECT ECONOMIC STATISTICS ON THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES.

BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THESE SURVEYS, THE ARTICLE ANALYSES THE RECENT STRUCTURAL CHANGES OF THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES IN TERMS OF DISTRIBUTION BY SIZE OF ESTABLISHMENT; COST STRUCTURE AND PROFITABILITY; OUTPUT PER PERSON ENGAGED AND OUTPUT PER ESTABLISHMENT.

/THE HONG

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$48 A COPY.

PURCHASES CAN BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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FINE AND HOT IN AUGUST

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AUGUST WAS GENERALLY FINE AND HOT WITH THE MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 26.8 DEGREES BEING THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

EVEN THOUGH CONDITIONS WERE RATHER HUMID, THE MONTHLY RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO 182.8 MILLIMETRES ONLY, 47 PER CENT OF THE AUGUST NORMAL OF 391.4 MILLIMETRES.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT DURING THE MONTH WAS THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON TASHA ON AUGUST 20 WHICH NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNAL NO. 8 FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 WAS 1,439.9 MILLIMETRES, 16 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 1,707.4 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

AUGUST BEGAN IN A MIXTURE OF SUNSHINE AND RAIN. FRESH SOUTHERLY WINDS OFFSHORE WERE ACCOMPANIED BY ISOLATED HEAVY SHOWERS ON AUGUST 1 AND 2.

WITH THE ONSET OF A MODERATE SOUTHWESTERLY AIRSTREAM, SHOWERS GRADUALLY CEASED ON AUGUST 3.

SUNNY AND HOT WEATHER PREVAILED FOR THE NEXT FIVE DAYS. WITH LONG PERIODS OF SUNSHINE, TEMPERATURES STEADILY CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 33.4 DEGREES ON AUGUST 5.

OWING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNSETTLED WEATHER IN THE VICINITY OF HONG KONG, THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDY ON AUGUST 9. SHOWERS INCREASED THE NEXT DAY AND BECAME HEAVY AND THUNDERY IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN WINDS TURNED SOUTHERLY.

MORE THAN 30 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN FELL WITHIN AN HOUR OVER THE TERRITORY.

AN OUTBREAK OF ISOLATED HEAVY SHOWERS ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 11 WAS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER SHOWERY DAY ON AUGUST 13.

AFTER A LULL ON AUGUST 14, SHOWERS INCREASED AGAIN THE NEXT DAY AS AN AREA OF LOW PRESSURE DEVELOPED NEAR BEIBU WAN.

SCATTERED THUNDERY SHOWERS AFFECTED HONG KONG AND THE UNSETTLED WEATHER LASTED TILL AUGUST 17.

MEANWHILE, A TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMED TASHA ENTERED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ON AUGUST 18. ITS CIRCULATION DREW IN DRY CONTINENTAL AIR FROM THE NORTH. RAIN CEASED AND THE WEATHER BECAME FINE AND HOT.

AS TASHA APPROACHED, WINDS FRESHENED FROM THE NORTHEAST EARLY ON AUGUST 19. CLOUDINESS INCREASED AND INTERMITTENT SQUALLY SHOWERS BEGAN TO AFFECT THE TERRITORY THAT AFTERNOON.

THE WEATHER DETERIORATED FURTHER ON AUGUST 20 AS TASHA MOVED CLOSER.

WIND REACHED GALE FORCE OFFSHORE IN THE AFTERNOON AND THE STORMY WEATHER PERSISTED INTO THE NIGHT.

THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 25.0 DEGREES RECORDED ON THE DAY WAS THE LOWEST IN AUGUST.

WINDS GRADUALLY DIED DOWN THE NEXT DAY BUT THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY WITH SQUALLY SHOWERS AND PERIODS OF RAIN. THE PASSAGE OF TASHA BROUGHT ABOUT 40 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN TO THE TERRITORY.

AS TASHA MOVED OVER LAND AND WEAKENED, THE WEATHER IMPROVED RAPIDLY ON AUGUST 22.

THIS MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A SPELL OF GENERALLY FINE AND HOT WEATHER IN THE LATTER PART OF AUGUST THOUGH THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF CLOUDINESS TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH.

DURING THE PERIOD, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN SMOG AND HAZE FORMED AS A RESULT OF LIGHT WINDS. VISIBILITY WAS PARTICULARLY POOR ON AUGUST 25, DROPPING TO 3,500 METRES INSIDE THE HARBOUR.

THERE WERE ALTOGETHER SEVEN TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN AUGUST.

DURING THE MONTH, SEVEN AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED BECAUSE OF ADVERSE WEATHER. DETAILS OF THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR AUGUST ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN AUGUST 1993

WARNINGS / SIGNALS		EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME	

TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS			
NAME	SIGNAL NO.		
TASHA	1	AUG 18 1615	- AUG 19 1045
	3	AUG 19 1045	- AUG 20 1600
	8 SE	AUG 20 1600	- AUG 21 0030
	3	AUG 21 0030	- AUG 21 0940
WINONA	1	AUG 25 2230	- AUG 26 1545

FLOOD WARNING		AUG 10 1320	- AUG 10 1500
		AUG 16 2300	- AUG 17 0015

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS		JUL 31 2330	- AUG 1 0730
		AUG 3 0515	- AUG 3 0715
		AUG 8 0945	- AUG 8 1145
		AUG 9 0710	- AUG 9 1030
		AUG 9 1315	- AUG 9 1615
		AUG 10 0205	- AUG 10 0700
		AUG 10 1025	- AUG 10 1625
		AUG 15 1005	- AUG 15 1205
		AUG 17 1505	- AUG 17 1705
		AUG 21 1145	- AUG 21 1900
		AUG 31 2230	- SEPT 1 0030

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - AUGUST 1993

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	211.5 HOURS ; 4.5 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	16.47 MJ/SQM ; 1.14 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	182.8 MM ; 208.6 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	63 % ; 3 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	82 % ; 1 % ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	31.2 DEGREES ; 0.1 DEGREE BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	28.6 DEGREES ; 0.2 DEGREE ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	26.8 DEGREES ; 0.5 DEGREE ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	25.1 DEGREES ; 0.3 DEGREE ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	123.5 MM ; 33.4 MM BELOW NORMAL

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

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FRESH WATER CUT IN YAU MA TEI

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 22) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY SAIGON STREET, SHANGHAI STREET, JORDAN ROAD AND NATHAN ROAD.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 81.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 474.845 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 503.212 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 85.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,950
REVERSAL OF LAF	+50
BALANCE AFTER REVERSL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-120
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,880
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.0 *+0.0* 20.9.93	

/HONG KONG

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.70 PCT	14 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.43	3.38
1 MONTH	2.73 PCT	17 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.66	3.56
3 MONTHS	2.81 PCT	20 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.99	3.79
6 MONTHS	2.98 PCT	23 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.37	3.91
12 MONTHS	3.25 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 6,494 MN

CLOSED 20 SEPTEMBER 1993

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