



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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THE OPENING OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) TOWER IS A VERY VISIBLE SIGN OF HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE VTC TOWER, SIR DAVID SAID IF HONG KONG WAS TO DEVELOP AS IT SHOULD, IT NEEDED TO HAVE A VARIED AND AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

NOTING THAT MOST PEOPLE KNEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF FIRST DEGREE PLACES BY 1994, THE GOVERNOR SAID GOVERNMENTS PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE VOCATIONAL TRAINING HAD PERHAPS RECEIVED LESS PUBLICITY.

THESE PROPOSALS, SIR DAVID SAID, WOULD PRESENT THE VTC WITH NEW CHALLENGES WHICH HE EXPECTED THE COUNCIL TO MEET WITH ITS USUAL ENTHUSIASM AND EFFICIENCY.

"THE INCREASING EMPHASIS ON DEGREE COURSES IN OUR POLYTECHNICS WILL MEAN THAT THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO TAKE ON NEW COMMITMENTS IN THE PROVISION OF HIGHER DIPLOMA COURSES.

"TWO NEW TECHNICAL COLLEGES WILL BE REQUIRED TO CATER FOR THIS, THE FIRST TO BE OPENED IN 1993," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID THE PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE ALSO MEANT THE COUNCIL HAD CONSTANTLY TO INTRODUCE NEW COURSES.

IT HAD RECENTLY ESTABLISHED NEW UNITS IN SUCH AREAS AS PRECISION SHEET METAL PROCESSING AND INTEGRATED CIRCUITS DESIGN, AND HAD AGREED TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN IMPLEMENTING PLANS FOR A NEW TECHNOLOGIES TRAINING FUND, HE ADDED.

LOOKING BACK, SIR DAVID SAID IN THE EIGHT YEARS SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED, THE VTC HAD CONSTANTLY SOUGHT TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND ITS TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

"IT HAS EQUIPPED MANY THOUSANDS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WITH THE SKILLS NECESSARY FOR A USEFUL AND FULFILLING CAREER.

"THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE COUNCIL HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF," THE GOVERNOR ADDED.

NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TOWER OPENING

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (MONDAY) OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE \$131 MILLION VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) TOWER AT 27 WOOD ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, MR STEPHEN CHEONG, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MR H.R. KNIGHT, THE GOVERNOR ALSO VISITED THE BANKING TRAINING CENTRE, THE ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING TRAINING CENTRE AND THE APPLICATION SPECIFIC INTEGRATED CIRCUIT (ASIC) DESIGN TRAINING CENTRE.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR CHEONG SAID THE VTC TOWER REPRESENTED HONG KONG'S CONTINUING DETERMINATION TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING THE TRAINED MANPOWER ITS ECONOMY NEEDS.

THE 19-STOREY TOWER IS THE 12TH MAJOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION BY THE COUNCIL IN ITS SHORT EXISTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS.

THE FIRST THROUGH SIXTH FLOORS OF THE 13,800-SQUARE-METRE BUILDING FORM THE REDEVELOPED ANNEX OF THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. THE REDEVELOPMENT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS IN TEACHING FACILITIES AND STUDENT AMENITIES IN THE OLDEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN HONG KONG.

BESIDES PROVIDING PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S HEADQUARTERS, THE TOWER ALSO CONTAINS THREE TRAINING CENTRES FORMERLY ACCOMMODATED IN RENTED PREMISES - THE BANKING, INSURANCE AND ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING TRAINING CENTRES; AND TWO NEW TRAINING CENTRES - THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES TRAINING CENTRES AND THE APPLICATION SPECIFIC INTEGRATED CIRCUIT (ASIC) DESIGN TRAINING CENTRE.

THE COUNCIL'S TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVISION, INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DIVISION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR DISABLED SECTION, APPRENTICESHIP SECTION, MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF HONG KONG, AUDIO-VISUAL CENTRE, APPRENTICESHIP PLACEMENT UNIT, TECHNOLOGIST TRAINING REGISTRY, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION AND TRANSLATION SECTION ARE ALL HOUSED IN THE NEW BUILDING.

THE IDEA OF VTC HAVING ITS OWN BUILDING ORIGINATED IN 1986, HAVING CONSIDERED FACTORS SUCH AS ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE, SAVINGS IN RENTAL PAYMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT IMAGE.

CONSTRUCTION WORK STARTED IN NOVEMBER 1988, THE TOPPING OUT CEREMONY WAS HELD IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, AND THE BUILDING WAS FINALLY COMPLETED IN MAY THIS YEAR.

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE VTC WILL BE UNDERTAKING MORE MAJOR BUILDING PROGRAMMES AND ASSUMING GREATER RESPONSIBILITY STILL IN SHAPING THE TALENTS OF HONG KONG'S HUMAN CAPITAL AND EQUIPPING THEM FOR THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.

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AMONG THE CURRENT TASKS IS THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITIES NEEDED TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF 6,750 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT SUB-DEGREE LEVEL PLACES FROM THE POLYTECHNICS WITHIN THE TIGHT SCHEDULE SET BY THE GOVERNMENT.

A TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX AT POK FU LAM IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION. ON COMPLETION IN MID 1992, THE COMPLEX WILL ENABLE ALL BASIC CRAFT COURSES TO BE DECANTED FROM THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, AND THE CHAI WAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO BE VACATED AND CONVERTED TO A TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

MEANWHILE, THE DESIGN OF A SECOND TECHNICAL COLLEGE ON TSING YI ISLAND IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE. THE CHAI WAN COLLEGE WILL BE COMPLETED AND THE TSING YI COLLEGE AT LEAST PARTLY COMPLETED AND READY TO ENROL STUDENTS BY SUMMER 1993.

THE LATTER WILL ALSO BE DESIGNED TO ALLOW FOR FUTURE EXPANSION SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT DECIDE LATER TO TRANSFER MORE SUB-DEGREE PLACES FROM THE POLYTECHNICS TO THE COLLEGES.

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NEW VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGIES REQUIRED TO CONTROL
VEHICLES EMISSIONS: CS

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THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT MEASURES BEING INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL VEHICLE EMISSIONS UNLESS WE HAVE ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ALTERNATIVES TO CONVENTIONAL VEHICLES, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"ELECTRIC VEHICLES ARE AMONG THE MOST EXCITING ALTERNATIVES UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

"THEY HOLD OUT THE PROSPECT OF ROAD TRANSPORT WHICH IS MUCH MORE ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY THAN THAT IN USE TODAY," SAID SIR DAVID WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE SYMPOSIUM.

NOTING THAT THE ELECTRIC CARS WERE QUIETER THAN CONVENTIONAL CARS AND OFFERED BENEFITS IN TERMS OF REDUCED AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION, SIR DAVID SAID THEY WERE ALSO MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT -- A MAJOR CONSIDERATION GIVEN CURRENT CONCERNS ABOUT ENERGY SUPPLY.

"AND THE RANGE, SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES IS IMPROVING ALL THE TIME AS FURTHER TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES ARE MADE," HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE NOT YET AT THE STAGE WHERE WIDESPREAD COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION AND GENERAL USAGE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES WAS WITHIN REACH.

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"I MUST ADMIT I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION IS TAKING SO LONG BECAUSE THE WIDESPREAD USE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES COULD MAKE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE, PARTICULARLY IN MAJOR CITIES LIKE HONG KONG," HE REMARKED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HONG KONG'S RELATIVELY SMALL LAND AREA AND INTENSE CONCENTRATION OF TRAFFIC WERE SUCH THAT THE TERRITORY COULD ONE DAY STAND TO BENEFIT VERY SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE FRUITS OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY.

ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HERE IN HONG KONG, ECONOMIC SUCCESS HAD BROUGHT WITH IT SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

HE OUTLINED TO THE CONFERENCE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL VEHICLE EMISSIONS WHICH INCLUDED :

- * FROM JANUARY 1992 ONWARDS, ALL IMPORTED LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES, WHETHER DIESEL OR PETROL ENGINED, WOULD HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE MOST STRINGENT INTERNATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS;
- * THE STANDARDS FOR HEAVIER DUTY VEHICLES WOULD FOLLOW;
- * AND FROM APRIL 1991, LEAD-FREE PETROL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO HONG KONG.

"THESE STEPS ARE IN LINE WITH THOSE BEING TAKEN ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD AND WILL GIVE US CLEANER VEHICLES AND CLEANER AIR," HE SAID.

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CS PAYS TRIBUTE TO ACHIEVEMENTS OF ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT

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ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT HAS ACHIEVED A REMARKABLE RECORD IN SERVING THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS, CATERING FOR THE NEEDS OF YOUTH, THE ELDERLY, THE HANDICAPPED, AND THE FAMILY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THE SETTLEMENT HAS ALSO PIONEERED THE PROVISION OF INTEGRATED SERVICE THROUGH WHICH IT HAS BECOME POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SERVICES UNDER THE SAME ROOF FOR PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT AGES AND DIFFERENT NEEDS," SAID SIR DAVID WHEN ADDRESSING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER OF THE ORGANISATION.

"THIS APPROACH NOT ONLY MAKES IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR PEOPLE IN NEED BUT WILL ALSO PERMIT BETTER USE OF RESOURCES," SIR DAVID SAID.

ON THE HISTORY OF THE AGENCY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY RECALLED THAT IT WAS IN 1949 THAT A MAN OF VISION, THE RT REV RONALD HALL, WHO WAS THEN THE BISHOP OF HONG KONG AND MACAU, ESTABLISHED THE SETTLEMENT TO HELP THOSE LIVING IN WAN CHAI, AN AREA WHICH WAS HEAVILY BOMBED DURING WORLD WAR II.

THE SETTLEMENT STARTED WITH A CHILDREN'S CLUB, OPERATING IN A ROOM BORROWED FROM THE PAK TAI TEMPLE IN STONE NULLAH LANE.

"FROM THESE HUMBLE ORIGINS, ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT HAS GROWN TO BECOME ONE OF THE LEADING SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG WITH SOME 230 STAFF.

"ALTHOUGH THE SETTLEMENT HAS ITS ROOTS IN WAN CHAI, ITS GOOD WORK EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THAT DISTRICT," HE SAID.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE ST JAMES' MONTHLY NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED PRIMARILY FOR ELDERLY PERSONS WITH A CIRCULATION OF 20,000 PER ISSUE, IS WIDELY READ IN HONG KONG.

"ITS NEW MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE URBAN COUNCIL SHEUNG WAN COMPLEX MARKS A NEW STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT IN THE EXPANSION OF SERVICES TO AREAS OUTSIDE WAN CHAI," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID PAID TRIBUTE TO MANY LEADING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO HAD HELPED TO STEER ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT IN THE LAST 40 YEARS.

HE ALSO THANKED THOSE PUBLIC SPIRITED INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING HOUSEWIVES AND STUDENTS, WHO HAD PROVIDED INVALUABLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE, SUCH AS HELPING TO LOOK AFTER THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND THE ELDERLY.

"THE VERY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT TO HONG KONG OWE MUCH TO THE EFFORTS AND COMMITMENT OF THE DIOCESAN WELFARE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS WELL AS ITS STAFF, PAST AND PRESENT," SIR DAVID ADDED.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER PUBLISHED
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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS REGISTERED SOME DECLINE DURING OCTOBER AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF STRONG CONSECUTIVE INCREASES RECORDED IN THE FOUR MONTHS BEFORE SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

CONSISTENT WITH THIS, ALL BROADER DEFINITIONS OF HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY FELL DURING THE MONTH. TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES, ON THE OTHER HAND, RECORDED AN INCREASE DURING OCTOBER.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, DECLINED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN OCTOBER, FOLLOWING THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES OF 2.4 PER CENT AND 3.2 PER CENT IN JULY AND AUGUST RESPECTIVELY AND A SLIGHT DECLINE OF 0.2 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER.

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OF THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS ROSE BY 4.5 PER CENT WHILE SAVINGS AND TIME DEPOSITS FELL BY 2.7 PER CENT AND 0.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 18.1 PER CENT IN OCTOBER.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS ROSE BY 3.8 PER CENT IN OCTOBER, AFTER INCREASES OF 3.6 PER CENT AND 3.5 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR AND NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 0.9 PER CENT AND 6.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 31.7 PER CENT.

DURING OCTOBER, DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS ROSE BY 2.3 PER CENT WHILE THOSE WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 7.0 PER CENT AND 0.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY 26.9 PER CENT. DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS ROSE BY 32.8 PER CENT WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 12.5 PER CENT.

THE YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISONS ON DEPOSITS WITH THE LATTER TWO CATEGORIES WERE PARTLY AFFECTED BY THE UPGRADING OF FIVE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TO THE STATUS OF RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1 ROSE BY 2.5 PER CENT WHILE HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 FELL BY 0.7 PER CENT AND 0.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN SEPTEMBER WERE 1.1 PER CENT, -0.3 PER CENT AND -0.2 PER CENT.

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES ROSE BY 8.8 PER CENT, 18.3 PER CENT AND 17.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 ROSE BY 1.4 PER CENT, 2.2 PER CENT AND 1.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN SEPTEMBER WERE 3.7 PER CENT, 1.6 PER CENT AND 1.7 PER CENT.

OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 GREW BY 13.4 PER CENT, 25.9 PER CENT AND 24.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 4.2 PER CENT IN OCTOBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 6.7 PER CENT AND 4.0 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS GREW BY 1.4 PER CENT DURING OCTOBER, WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES ROSE BY 5.8 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 16.3 PER CENT AND 71.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG DECLINED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN OCTOBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.9 PER CENT AND 4.0 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 9.3 PER CENT.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 2.1 PER CENT IN OCTOBER COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 1.5 PER CENT AND 0.1 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 19.1 PER CENT.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG ROSE BY 5.0 PER CENT IN OCTOBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 13.1 PER CENT AND 8.3 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 86.9 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE MERCHANDISING TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG ROSE BY 7.2 PER CENT IN OCTOBER, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 14.9 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND A DECLINE OF 6.1 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 165 WHILE THAT OF RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS INCREASED BY ONE TO 40 AND THAT OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY TWO TO 191.

NOTES :

(1) BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1990, "RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS" AND "DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" WERE KNOWN AS "LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" AND "REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" RESPECTIVELY.

(2) IN THE TEXT ABOVE, TOTAL HK\$ DEPOSITS, HK\$ TIME DEPOSITS, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS. TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS AND US\$ DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS.

"SWAP DEPOSITS" ARE DEPOSITS INVOLVING CUSTOMERS BUYING FOREIGN CURRENCIES (MOSTLY U.S. DOLLARS) IN THE SPOT MARKET AND PLACING THEM AS DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL SUCH FOREIGN CURRENCIES (PRINCIPAL PLUS INTEREST) FORWARD IN LINE WITH THE MATURITY OF SUCH DEPOSITS. FOR MOST ANALYTICAL PURPOSES, THEY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS.

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - OCTOBER 1990

(HK\$mn)

	Oct 1990	Earlier months (% change to October 1990)		
		Sep 1990	Jul 1990	Oct 1989
Money Supply				
M1 - HK\$	89,728	87,520 (2.5 %)	84,980 (5.6 %)	82,441 (8.8 %)
Foreign currency	14,177	14,922 (-5.0 %)	11,220 (26.4 %)	9,178 (54.5 %)
Total	103,905	102,442 (1.4 %)	96,200 (8.0 %)	91,619 (13.4 %)
M2 - HK\$*	530,131	533,720 (-0.7 %)	517,889 (2.4 %)	448,170 (18.3 %)
Foreign currency*	651,404	622,579 (4.6 %)	584,552 (11.4 %)	490,355 (32.8 %)
Total	1,181,535	1,156,299 (2.2 %)	1,102,441 (7.2 %)	938,525 (25.9 %)
M3 - HK\$*	562,607	565,657 (-0.5 %)	550,268 (2.2 %)	480,324 (17.1 %)
Foreign currency*	694,874	669,962 (3.7 %)	625,419 (11.1 %)	529,175 (31.3 %)
Total	1,257,480	1,235,619 (1.8 %)	1,175,687 (7.0 %)	1,009,499 (24.6 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	40,457	40,394 (0.2 %)	38,925 (3.9 %)	36,565 (10.6 %)
of which held by public	35,211	35,341 (-0.4 %)	33,732 (4.4 %)	31,843 (10.6 %)
Total Deposits				
Total Demand deposits	68,694	67,101 (2.4 %)	62,468 (10.0 %)	59,776 (14.9 %)
Total Savings deposits	225,163	227,356 (-1.0 %)	204,470 (10.1 %)	179,977 (25.1 %)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	834,990	808,955 (3.2 %)	783,110 (6.6 %)	649,924 (28.5 %)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	40,976	44,069 (-7.0 %)	36,946 (10.9 %)	30,844 (32.8 %)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	33,421	33,716 (-0.9 %)	34,782 (-3.9 %)	38,196 (-12.5 %)
HK\$ deposits*	514,606	517,620 (-0.6 %)	502,780 (2.4 %)	435,883 (18.1 %)
US\$ deposits*	296,219	293,659 (0.9 %)	280,483 (5.6 %)	246,208 (20.3 %)
Other foreign currency deposits	392,419	369,918 (6.1 %)	338,514 (15.9 %)	276,626 (41.9 %)
All deposits	1,203,244	1,181,196 (1.9 %)	1,121,776 (7.3 %)	958,716 (25.5 %)
Foreign currency swap deposits	68,416	71,348 (-4.1 %)	73,188 (-6.5 %)	61,954 (10.4 %)
Total Loans and advances				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	69,872	70,202 (-0.5 %)	66,913 (4.4 %)	63,899 (9.3 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	10,112	9,430 (7.2 %)	8,744 (15.6 %)	10,066 (0.5 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	672,947	659,287 (2.1 %)	648,308 (3.8 %)	564,974 (19.1 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	852,910	812,589 (5.0 %)	663,790 (28.5 %)	456,347 (86.9 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	125,893	109,899 (14.6 %)	108,635 (15.9 %)	78,506 (60.4 %)
Loans in HK\$	590,715	582,576 (1.4 %)	576,593 (2.4 %)	507,919 (16.3 %)
Loans in foreign currencies	1,141,020	1,078,831 (5.8 %)	919,796 (24.1 %)	665,873 (71.4 %)
Total loans and advances	1,731,734	1,661,407 (4.2 %)	1,496,389 (15.7 %)	1,173,792 (47.5 %)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits

Note : 'Restricted licence banks' and 'deposit-taking companies' were known as 'licensed deposit-taking companies' and 'registered deposit-taking companies' respectively before 1 February 1990.

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PENSIONS FOR EX-POW'S

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO AWARD PENSIONS TO BENEFICIARIES OF THE HONG KONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND (HKWMF).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (MONDAY), THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS HELEN YU, SAID THIS MEANT THAT THE PRESENT INCOME THRESHOLD REQUIREMENT FOR RECEIVING GRANTS FROM THE FUND WOULD BE REMOVED AND EX-PRISONERS OF WAR IN HONG KONG AND OTHERS WHO SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THE WAR WOULD RECEIVE PENSIONS AS A STATUTORY RIGHT.

MRS YU SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE AFTER CONSIDERING REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE HKWMF COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE GROWING BODY OF EVIDENCE ON THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF BEING HELD AS A PRISONER OF WAR.

"THROUGH THE AWARD OF PENSIONS, WE WISH TO PROVIDE RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL DEBT OWED TO BENEFICIARIES OF THE FUND FOR THEIR WAR-TIME SUFFERING AND THE LONG-TERM PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF BEING HELD IN CAPTIVITY," MRS YU EXPLAINED.

AS WITH EXISTING BENEFITS, PENSIONS WILL BE PAID TO PERSONS WHO, WHILE SERVING IN SPECIFIED UNITS, WERE INJURED IN THE DEFENCE OF HONG KONG OR HELD IN CAPTIVITY BY THE ENEMY AND TO THE DEPENDANTS OF THOSE WHO WERE KILLED DURING THE FIGHTING OR WHO DIED IN SUBSEQUENT CAPTIVITY.

CIVILIANS WHO WERE TORTURED AND THE DEPENDANTS OF THOSE EXECUTED BY THE JAPANESE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PENSION ARRANGEMENTS.

MRS YU SAID AS THE AWARD OF PENSIONS CONSTITUTED A DIFFERENT PRINCIPLE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THAT ON WHICH THE EXISTING FUND RESTED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REPEAL THE HKWMF ORDINANCE AND REPLACE IT WITH NEW LEGISLATION.

SHE ADDED THAT AS THE PENSIONS WOULD BE PAID DIRECTLY FROM PUBLIC FUNDS, IT WOULD NO LONGER BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE HKWMF COMMITTEE TO ADMINISTER THE FUND, ALTHOUGH IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE AS AN ADVISORY BODY.

"WE WILL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COMMITTEE IN DRAFTING NEW LEGISLATION WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING THE CHANGES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN 1991," MRS YU SAID.

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SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION MEETING ON WEDNESDAY
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THE TWO SIDES OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HAVE AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION'S 21ST MEETING WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 5 AT 9.30 AM.

THE MEETING WILL REVIEW THE 1990-91 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME.

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PLANNING HEAD LEADS DELEGATION TO CHINA
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A 12-MEMBER DELEGATION LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, MR ROBERT UPTON, TODAY (MONDAY) LEFT FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT TO SHEKOU AND SHENZHEN.

THE FACT-FINDING VISIT WILL COVER DEVELOPMENTS IN AREAS SUCH AS SHEKOU PORT, CHIWAN PORT, MAWAN PORT, HUANGTIAN AIRPORT, HUANGGANG PORT AND HARBOUR, AND THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF YANTIAN PORT.

THE DELEGATION COMPRISES OFFICIALS FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH AND THE HONG KONG PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

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TALKS BETWEEN HK AND CHINESE POLICE
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A POLICE SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

TALKS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS BETWEEN SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS FROM HONG KONG AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

A DELEGATION OF OFFICERS FROM THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU LED BY MR LIU WEN, DIRECTOR OF CID AND INTERPOL NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU CHINA, MET WITH SENIOR OFFICERS FROM HONG KONG LED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA.

THE AGENDA FOR THE TALKS INCLUDED COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY, COMMERCIAL FRAUD, NARCOTICS, ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, THE ILLEGAL IMPORT AND USE OF FIREARMS, VEHICLE THEFT AND SMUGGLING.

THE TALKS WERE CARRIED OUT IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND WERE DESCRIBED AS EXTREMELY USEFUL.

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ACTING SHW MEETS REPRESENTATIVES ON DRAFT WHITE PAPER

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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS ISSUED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS HELEN YU, TODAY (MONDAY) IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES:

"THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS HELEN YU, MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM 17 ORGANISATIONS THIS MORNING TO LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE.

"TODAY'S MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED TWO WEEKS AGO FOLLOWING A REQUEST BY THE 17 ORGANISATIONS. THEY WANTED TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER.

"AT THE MEETING TODAY, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SERVICES, THE REPRESENTATIVES PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE WHITE PAPER. THEIR VIEWS WOULD BE PASSED TO THE WORKING PARTY FOR CONSIDERATION.

"THE WORKING PARTY HAS PRODUCED THE WHITE PAPER IN DRAFT FORM EXPRESSLY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION. SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED DURING THE THREE-MONTH CONSULTATION PERIOD WHICH ENDS ON DECEMBER 17 WILL BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT WHEN THE WORKING PARTY RE-EXAMINES THE DRAFT.

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HK'S POSITION IN DIVERSIFYING INTO MORE ADVANCED INDUSTRIES

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HONG KONG IS IDEALLY PLACED TO SATISFY THE STRONG DEMAND FOR SERVICES, MATERIALS, COMPONENTS, SUB-ASSEMBLIES AND PRODUCTION TOOLING CREATED BY THE SHIFT OF ITS LABOUR INTENSIVE ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS INTO SOUTH CHINA AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES WHICH CANNOT BE SUPPLIED FROM WITHIN THESE ECONOMIES.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID THIS TODAY (MONDAY) WHEN SPEAKING AT THE 12TH SPEECH DAY OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL AT SHAM SHUI PO.

"WE HAVE A NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES OVER OTHER SUPPLIERS," HE SAID.

HONG KONG'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION ALLOWED TRADERS AND TECHNICIANS TO TRAVEL EASILY WITHIN THE REGION.

GOOD AND RESPONSIVE AFTER-SALES SERVICE AS WELL AS TRAINING OF USERS WERE OFTEN PROVIDED.

ALTHOUGH HONG KONG'S MACHINERY WAS NOT YET THE MOST ADVANCED OR SOPHISTICATED IN TERMS OF ENGINEERING DESIGN, IT WAS CONSIDERED SUPERIOR TO MOST OTHER LOCAL PRODUCTS IN THE REGION.

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"AND, OF COURSE, IN THE CASE OF CHINA, TRADITIONAL AND CULTURAL LINKS, INCLUDING A COMMON LANGUAGE, ENABLE A CLOSER PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO BE DEVELOPED BETWEEN BUSINESS PARTNERS THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE POSSIBLE," MR WONG SAID.

INDEED, HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY GENERALLY HAD A GOOD REPUTATION IN CHINA, PARTICULARLY IN GUANGDONG, WHICH ABSORBED A SIZEABLE SHARE OF THE INDUSTRY'S EXPORTS.

WITHIN HONG KONG ITSELF, HE SAID, THE NEED TO DIVERSIFY INTO HIGHER VALUE-ADDED AND BETTER ENGINEERED PRODUCTS DEMANDED THE USE OF MORE AUTOMATED AND FLEXIBLE MANUFACTURING METHODS.

MOULDS FOR THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD NOW BE DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED QUICKLY WITH THE HELP OF COMPUTERISED WORKSTATIONS.

SIMILARLY, MANUFACTURERS OF HAND-HELD OR LAP-TOP OFFICE EQUIPMENT COULD DESIGN CUSTOMISED ELECTRONIC CIRCUITRIES AND ASSEMBLE AND TEST CIRCUIT BOARDS FAR MORE QUICKLY WITH SURFACE MOUNTING EQUIPMENT THAN BY CONVENTIONAL MEANS.

"ALTHOUGH TECHNOLOGY IS IMPORTANT IN THIS PROCESS OF CHANGE, THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IS THE HUMAN ONE," MR WONG SAID.

"HONG KONG POSSESSES ONLY ONE BASIC RESOURCE, THE SKILL AND MOTIVATION OF ITS WORKFORCE.

"I SEE THE 1990'S AS A DECADE IN WHICH THE CONTINUED SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY OF OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WILL INCREASINGLY BE DEPENDENT ON HONG KONG'S TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY, THE AVAILABILITY OF A POOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND ENGINEERING EXPERTISE AND A SKILLED AND WELL TRAINED WORKFORCE," HE SAID.

AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE BOOMING ECONOMY IN RECENT YEARS, THE LABOUR MARKET WAS TIGHT, WITH UNEMPLOYMENT RUNNING AT ONLY 1.7 PER CENT.

IN ADDITION, OUR MANUFACTURERS WERE FACING STIFF COMPETITION FROM THE SERVICE SECTOR FOR MANPOWER.

THERE WAS A FURTHER SHORTFALL DUE TO PEOPLE PURSUING STUDIES ABROAD AND EMIGRATING.

"WHILE MEASURES SUCH AS IMPORTING LIMITED NUMBERS OF LABOURERS MAY HELP TO EASE THE SITUATION IN THE SHORT TERM, THE ONLY LONG TERM SOLUTION IS TO DEVELOP THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FACILITIES OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG TO PREPARE THEM TO PLAY THEIR PART IN THIS PROCESS OF CHANGE FROM SIMPLE LABOUR INTENSIVE OPERATIONS TO HIGHER TECHNOLOGY PROCESSES REQUIRING SMALLER NUMBERS OF - BUT MUCH MORE HIGHLY SKILLED - TECHNICIANS AND CRAFTSMEN."

THE PLANNED EXTENSION OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION TO PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN 1992, THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN UNDERGRADUATE NUMBERS UNDERTAKING TERTIARY EDUCATION AND THE GROWTH OF VTC TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES ARE ALL PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE, HE SAID.

LEGISLATORS TO ASK 10 QUESTIONS ON WEDNESDAY'S COUNCIL MEETING

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 10 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER A BILL AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 5)

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 IS DUE TO BE GIVEN A SECOND READING, AND THEN TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

ALSO, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE, WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE, AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE WEAPONS ORDINANCE.

IN ADDITION, THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET OF HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 1990 AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) ANNUAL REPORT 1989/90 WILL BE TABLED. MR STEPHEN CHEONG WILL MAKE AN ADDRESS ON THE VTC REPORT.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

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INT'L LANGUAGE CONFERENCE TO HOLD WORKSHOPS ON ECR 4

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A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH WILL HAVE A BEARING ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION POLICIES RECOMMENDED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 (ECR 4) WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 20.

PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE STUDIES AND TRAINING WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS.

ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "WHERE FROM HERE" WILL BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 17 TO DECEMBER 19 TO EXAMINE KEY ISSUES RELATING TO THE PLANNING, MANAGING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LANGUAGE TEACHING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN THE 1990'S.

THE WORKSHOPS, IN THE FORM OF A CONFERENCE EXTRA, WILL FOCUS ON SIX HONGKONGBANK FOUNDATION LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN RELATION TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 (ECR 4).

IT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PROJECT LEADERS, PROJECT STAFF AND INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS TO EXPLORE IN DEPTH ISSUES RELATING TO THE VARIOUS PROJECTS.

/PROJECT LEADERS

PROJECT LEADERS AND/OR STAFF WILL OUTLINE WHAT THEY PROPOSE TO DO AND WILL SEEK INFORMATION, CONTRIBUTION AND FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS TO GUIDE THEM IN THE INITIAL FORMATIVE PERIOD OF THEIR WORK.

"THE CONFERENCE EXTRA WILL BEGIN WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION, DR V. BICKLEY, TO THE HONGKONGBANK FOUNDATION LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND'S PROJECTS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO THE ECR 4," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS ON:

- * TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENTS IN ENGLISH AT PRIMARY 3, PRIMARY 6 AND SECONDARY 3;
- * PRIMARY TO SECONDARY BRIDGING COURSE;
- * POST-SCHOOL PRE-EMPLOYMENT LANGUAGE NEEDS ANALYSIS AND BRIDGING PROGRAMMES;
- * MINIMUM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS AND ENGLISH COURSES FOR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION TRAINEE TEACHERS;
- * MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS OF PUTONGHUA AND THE DESIGN OF PUTONGHUA COURSES AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS; AND
- * SECONDARY TO TERTIARY BRIDGING PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH FOR CHINESE-MEDIUM STUDENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CAN ENROL FOR THE CONFERENCE EXTRA FREE OF CHARGE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE CONFERENCE EXTRA SHOULD ENROL NOW.

THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IS \$400 WHICH WILL INCLUDE ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE, TWO BOUND VOLUMES OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE EXTRA.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR REGISTERED TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE A REFUND OF ABOUT \$280 OF THEIR REGISTRATION FEES.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION AT THE PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 56 DUNDAS STREET, 21ST FLOOR, KOWLOON, AND FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 771 9418.

LAUNCHING OF SCHOOLS ENGLISH DRAMA PROJECT

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, MR CHEUNG NIN-PING, WILL JOINTLY LAUNCH THE 1990 SCHOOLS ENGLISH DRAMA PROJECT ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 6).

THIRTY-THREE SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S PROJECT WHICH IS TO AROUSE INTEREST IN ENGLISH LEARNING AND TO ENCOURAGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DRAMA AS AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY IN SCHOOL.

DURING THE CEREMONY, MR CHEUNG WILL PRESENT A \$200,000 CHEQUE TO MR LI AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE PROMENADE, LEE GARDENS HOTEL, FIRST FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY, AT 3 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 6).

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1990 HONG KONG YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL

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THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL BE BRINGING A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS TO THE PUBLIC WITH PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MUSICIANS IN THE 1990 HONG KONG YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FROM DECEMBER 21 TO 31.

THE YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL HAS BEEN ORGANISED ANNUALLY BY THE MUSIC OFFICE SINCE 1979 TO PROMOTE BAND MUSIC AND TO ENCOURAGE CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS YOUNG MUSICIANS.

OVER 2,500 PARTICIPANTS FROM 40 SCHOOLS WILL PRESENT AN ARRAY OF BAND MUSIC THIS YEAR IN A SERIES OF CONCERTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ALL-STAR BAND WILL JOIN THE FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR.

THE BAND COMPRISES 25 MEMBERS AGED 17 TO 26, REPRESENTING THE BEST YOUNG JAZZ MUSICIANS FROM THE CANADIAN PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE MUSIC OFFICE HAS ALSO INVITED THE 50-STRONG AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL YOUTH BAND TO TAKE PART.

/THE PROGRAMME

THE PROGRAMME OF THE FESTIVAL INCLUDES A FESTIVAL CONCERT AND THE GALA FINALE TO BE HELD AT THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN THE EVENINGS OF DECEMBER 26 AND 30 RESPECTIVELY.

VARIOUS KINDS OF BAND MUSIC INCLUDING JAZZ, ROCK, CLASSICAL, AND THEME SONGS FROM MOVIES WILL BE PERFORMED.

THE TWO GUEST BANDS TOGETHER WITH THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND, THE TOM LEE JAZZ BAND AND THE MUSIC OFFICE YOUTH CHOIR WILL PRESENT A SERIES OF JAZZ MUSIC AT THE "BIG BAND INTERFLOW" AT SHA TIN TOWN HALL ON DECEMBER 28. ADMISSION TO THIS CONCERT IS FREE.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE FIVE OTHER CONCERTS STAGED AT THE KWAI CHUNG HOSPITAL, COMMUNITY CENTRES AND SHOPPING ARCADES DURING THE FESTIVAL, AS WELL AS SYMPHONIC BAND AND MARCHING BAND CONTESTS FOR THE 40 PARTICIPATING SCHOOL BANDS.

TICKETS FOR THE FESTIVAL CONCERT AND THE GALA FINALE, AT \$20, \$30 AND \$40 EACH, ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL URBIX OUTLETS. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 796 2873.

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BLITZ AGAINST ILLEGAL BILL AND POSTER DISPLAY
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A TOTAL OF 34 SUMMONSES WERE ISSUED DURING A TWO-DAY TERRITORY-WIDE BLITZ OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL DISPLAY OF BILLS AND POSTERS OVER THE WEEKEND.

"BILLS AND POSTERS ARE OFTEN DISPLAYED ILLEGALLY AT PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PLACES OVER WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS AND AFTER OFFICE HOURS, AFFECTING THE OVERALL TIDINESS AND CLEANLINESS OF THE CITY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION, BLITZ OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON A REGULAR BASIS. THE LATEST OPERATION ENDED YESTERDAY.

"WE HOPE THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY ADVERTISING COMPANIES, WOULD EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE IN HANDLING THEIR OUTDOOR PUBLICITY POSTERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"PERSONS WHO DISPLAY BILLS AND POSTERS IN PRIVATE PLACES WITHOUT OWNERS' CONSENT OR AT PUBLIC PLACES WITHOUT AUTHORISATION ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000," HE SAID.

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ACTION ON AN ILLEGAL STRUCTURE IN SHAM SHUI PO
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE ON THE ROOF TOP OF 137 KIU KIANG STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON, SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR THE PUBLIC.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 16, 1991, WAS POSTED ON THE STRUCTURE TODAY (MONDAY).

UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, A CLOSURE ORDER IS REQUIRED BEFORE DEMOLITION CAN BE CARRIED OUT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE DEMOLITION WORK WILL START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS GRANTED.

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BLANKETS FOR STREET SLEEPERS IN URBAN AREA
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF 360 BLANKETS AND SLEEPING BAGS TO 336 STREET SLEEPERS IN THE URBAN AREA LAST NIGHT (SUNDAY).

OF THESE, 122 ITEMS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO 112 STREET SLEEPERS ON THE HONG KONG ISLAND, 43 WERE DISTRIBUTED TO 47 BENEFICIARIES IN EAST KOWLOON AND 195 WERE DISTRIBUTED TO 182 BENEFICIARIES IN WEST KOWLOON.

SEVENTY-NINE FIELD STAFF WERE MOBILISED IN THE OPERATION.

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INSTALLATION OF PARKING METERS IN KOWLOON CITY
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT PARKING METERS WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE PARKING SPACES IN FUK LO TSUN ROAD BETWEEN CARPENTER ROAD AND NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, IN KOWLOON.

THE PARKING METERS WILL BE IN OPERATION FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 5).

THE PARKING SPACES ARE OF TWO-HOUR METERED TYPE FOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, BUSES, MOTORCYCLES AND PEDAL CYCLES.

THE PARKING METERS WILL OPERATE FROM 8 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. THE CHARGE IS \$2 FOR EACH 30 MINUTES.

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FLUSHING WATER SUSPENSION IN NORTH POINT
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SUPPLY OF FLUSHING WATER TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY KING'S ROAD, MERLIN STREET, WATSON ROAD, THE SEAFRONT AND HING FAT STREET.

IT ALSO INCLUDES PREMISES AT 25 TO 145, 52 TO 68 AND 250 TO 276 KING'S ROAD AND 1 TO 9 COMFORT TERRACE.

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