DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN SEPTEMBER RELEASED

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 1%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 27% IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1991 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 17% IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 20% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ALL ROSE BY 2%. THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1991 WITH SEPTEMBER 1990, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 3%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 40%. TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 26%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 23%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 2%. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 1%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP FOR SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF SOME COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990, INCLUDING METAL MANUFACTURES (+37%); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+18%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+12%); CLOTHING (+11%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+11%); AND TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+3%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-42%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-30%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-26%); FOOTWEAR (-12%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-7%); AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-5%).

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990. THESE INCLUDED TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+6%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+4%); FOOTWEAR (+4%); CLOTHING (+4%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+3%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+2%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+2%); AND METAL MANUFACTURES (+1%).

/HOWEVER, DECREASES .....

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-11%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-3%); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-1%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 11% IN SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990. IN PARTICULAR, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; AND VEGETABLES.

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RICE; LIVE POULTRY; AND ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 24%. COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED FOOTWEAR; PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS; HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; AND CLOTHING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WATCHES AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 22% IN SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR MAN-MADE FIBRES; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; AND FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW COTTON AND CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS ETC, EXCEPT GLASS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 63% IN VOLUME IN SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 20% IN SEPTEMBER 1991 OVER SEPTEMBER 1990. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN TEXTILE MACHINERY; OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY (OTHER THAN TEXTILE MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY); AND SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY.

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1991 WITH SEPTEMBER 1990, THE IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FOODSTUFFS (+3%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+1%). THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS DECREASED BY 16%. THOSE OF CAPITAL GOODS WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

/COMPARING SEPTEMBER .....

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1991 WITH SEPTEMBER 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES: FUELS (+101%); CAPITAL GOODS (+45%); CONSUMER GOODS (+41%); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+36%); AND FOODSTUFFS (+13%).

THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1991 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990: FOODSTUFFS (+6%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); CAPITAL GOODS (+2%); FUELS (+2%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+1%).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND DECEMBER 14 AT $4 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 582 4918).

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING SEP 1991 WITH SEP 1990			COMPARING JAN-SEP 1991 WITH JAN-SEP 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	16	4	11	5	4	1
TEXTILE FABRICS	15	4	11	5	3	2
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	12	-1	12	4	2	2
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	7	3	3	-15	2	-16
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-41	2	-42	-11	3	-14
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	18	*	18	27	-1	28
FOOTWEAR	-9	4	-12	-30	5	-33
METAL MANUFACTURES	39	1	37	12	4	8
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-37	-11	-30	-7	-2	-5

/WATCHES AND .....

WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-28	-3	-26	-8	-1	-7
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	1	6	-5	-5	4	-9
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-5	2	-7	-1	3	-3
ALL COMMODITIES	5	2	3	3	2	1

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING SEP 1991 WITH SEP 1990			COMPARING JAN-SEP 1991 WITH JAN-SEP 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	14	3	11	15	3	12
CONSUMER GOODS	28	3	24	23	3	20
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	23	1	22	23	2	21
FUELS	37	-16	63	33	12	19
CAPITAL GOODS	20	*	20	26	3	23
ALL COMMODITIES	24	1	23	23	2	20

* LESS THAN 0.5%

/TABLE 3: .....

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING SEP 1991 WITH SEP 1990			COMPARING JAN-SEP 1991 WITH JAN-SEP 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	20	6	13	22	4	17
CONSUMER GOODS	45	3	41	32	3	29
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	37	1	36	25	1	24
FUELS	104	2	101	27	17	9
CAPITAL GOODS	47	2	45	31	2	29
ALL COMMODITIES	43	2	40	29	2	27

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HIGH COURT ADJOURNS BCCHK CASE

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AT THE CALL-OVER OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG WINDING-UP PETITION IN THE HIGH COURT TODAY, MR JUSTICE JONES, ON THE APPLICATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, ADJOURNED THE CASE UNTIL FEBRUARY 10, 1992.

THE PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID HIS TEAM AND THE HONG KONG CHINESE BANK WERE PRESSING ON WITH THE STEPS REQUIRED TO PLACE THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT BEFORE THE LARGE DEPOSITORS UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY BY ABOUT MID-JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

IF THE NECESSARY MAJORITIES WERE FORTHCOMING AT THE MEETING OF DEPOSITORS, AND OTHER MATTERS WERE SATISFACTORILY DISPOSED OF, FURTHER STEPS WOULD INCLUDE APPROVAL OF THE COURT AND ALSO LEGISLATION TO TRANSFER THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES TO THE NEW BANK.

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HONG KONG FULLY SUPPORTS UN ANTI-DRUG CALL

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HONG KONG FULLY SUPPORTS THE "UNITED NATIONS" CALL FOR INTENSIFIED ACTION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN WHILE ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S WORKSHOP ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN CHINA, HONG KONG AND MACAU.

HONG KONG IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM AND IS CO-OPERATING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS, HE SAID.

SOME 40 SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE THREE AREAS TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS TOOK PART IN THE WORKSHOP IN HONG KONG.

THE FIVE-DAY WORKSHOP WILL FORMULATE COMMON STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMME PLANNING IN THE TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, PREVENTION, EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND MANPOWER TRAINING.

MR STRACHAN SAID: "AS ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE DECADE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE TWIN AIMS OF REDUCING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND STOPPING THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING INTO, AND THROUGH, HONG KONG.

"WITH ADVICE FROM THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-DRUGS STRATEGY, ENCOMPASSING FOUR MAIN ELEMENTS - LAW ENFORCEMENT, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD ESTABLISHED CLOSE LIAISON WITH THEIR OVERSEAS COUNTERPARTS AND TOOK VIGOROUS ACTION TO SUPPRESS THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

"RECENT SUCCESSES ON THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SIDE SIMPLY REFLECT IMPROVED INTELLIGENCE, STRATEGY AND DILIGENCE," MR STRACHAN SAID.

FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE IN 1989, HONG KONG HAD IN THE PAST TWO YEARS SEIZED ASSETS WORTH OVER $310 MILLION UNDER THIS LEGISLATION, WITH ABOUT $280 MILLION, OR 90 PER CENT, ARISING FROM ORDERS MADE IN JURISDICTIONS WITH WHICH WE HAVE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS WHICH PROVIDE MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN RESPECT OF DRUG TRAFFICKING.

TALKING ABOUT THE TREATMENT PROGRAMME FOR DRUG ADDICTION, MR STRACHAN SAID HONG KONG HAD, FOR MANY YEARS, FOLLOWED A MILTI-APPROACH AND ENCOURAGED A RANGE OF PROGRAMMES THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO DRUG ABUSERS FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS.

/"WE HAVE .....

"WE HAVE ALSO DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES, TARGETTING THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR PARENTS IN PARTICULAR," HE SAID.

"HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES TO PREVENT THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS AND MONEY LAUNDERING, AS WELL AS PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES.

"WE SHALL ALSO MAINTAIN OUR EFFORTS IN TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT," HE SAID.

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LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD STUDIES WAGE PLAN TO PROTECT WORKERS

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD TODAY (MONDAY) CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO WITNESS PAYMENT OF WAGES TO WORKERS IF THERE ARE REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE EXPLOITED.

THE PROPOSAL IS AIMED AT PROTECTING IMPORTED WORKERS FROM UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION FROM WAGES OR UNDER-PAYMENT OF WAGES.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD STUDIED THE PROPOSAL FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS AND FURTHER LEGAL ADVICE WOULD BE SOUGHT.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG (AIA) WOULD RECOMMEND AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT IN EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIUMS TO COVER THE ADDITIONAL COSTS ARISING FROM VARIOUS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE ENDORSED BY THE BOARD IN JULY LAST YEAR.

THE AIA ARGUED THAT INSURERS WOULD INCUR INCREASED COSTS IN ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS TO INJURED EMPLOYEES, HIGH ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL EXPENSES, AND LOST INCOME DUE TO REDUCED CASH-FLOW.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD EXPRESSED RESERVATION ON THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN PREMIUM RATES, AND THEIR RESERVATION WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE AIA.

THE MEETING ALSO AGREED TO SEND A TRIPARTITE MISSION TO JAPAN IN MAY NEXT YEAR TO STUDY ITS RETIREMENT SECURITY SCHEMES, POLICY AND PRACTICE RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF LABOUR, AND INITIATIVES TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO JOIN THE WORKFORCE.

THE MISSION WILL BE LED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, AND WILL INCLUDE EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BOARD.

/TODAY'S MEETING .....

TODAY'S MEETING ACCEPTED A REPORT ON HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 78TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO) CONFERENCE IN GENEVA LAST JUNE.

THE BOARD ACCEPTED A RECOMMENDATION FOR HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ILO CONFERENCE BY WAY OF A TRIPARTITE TEAM TO BROADEN CONTACT AND EXCHANGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR SCENE.

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CHINESE OFFICIAL BRIEFED ON AIRPORT-RELATED PROJECTS

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MR CHEN ZIYING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WAS TODAY (MONDAY) GIVEN A WIDE-RANGING BRIEFING ON HONG KONG'S AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROJECTS.

MR CHEN FIRST VISITED THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE IN WAN CHAI AND WAS BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR, MR RAFAEL HUI, ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE 10 CORE PROJECTS.

IT WAS FOLLOWED BY A BRIEFING SPECIFICALLY ON THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, MR RICHARD ALLEN.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR HUI AND MR ALLEN, MR CHEN THEN TOOK A HELICOPTER TOUR OF THE NEW AIRPORT SITE AT CHEK LAP KOK AND OTHER SITES INVOLVED IN THE CORE PROGRAMME, INCLUDING TUNG CHUNG, NORTH LANTAU, TSING YI ISLAND AND WEST KOWLOON.

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VALUE ADDED DATA AND FACSIMILE SERVICES EXTEND TO JAPAN

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VALUE ADDED DATA AND FACSIMILE SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN MAY NOW BE PROVIDED USING INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LEASED CIRCUITS (IPLCs), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

THIS FOLLOWS DISCUSSIONS WITH TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN JAPAN, HE SAID.

"THE SERVICES INVOLVED WILL BE PROVIDED ON IPLCs LEASED AT THE NORMAL FLAT RATES FROM HONG KONG TELECOM INTERNATIONAL LTD AT THE HONG KONG END AND FROM JAPANESE INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS AT THE JAPANESE END," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE HAVE MADE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM IN JANUARY AND JUNE THIS YEAR RESPECTIVELY, AND THE SCOPE OF SERVICES PERMITTED BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN WILL BE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THOSE COVERED IN THE U.S. AND UK ARRANGEMENTS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

/"THE EXTENSION .....

"THE EXTENSION OF SUCH SERVICES TO JAPAN WILL FURTHER OPEN UP THE COMPETITIVE PROVISION OF A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL VALUE ADDED SERVICES FOR BUSINESS USERS AT REASONABLE PRICES.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED TO DISCUSS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SAME SCOPE OF SERVICES WILL SOON BE PERMITTED BETWEEN HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

INDUSTRY ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF SERVICES COVERED BY THE ARRANGEMENT AND THE LICENSING PROCEDURES APPLICABLE IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, HONG KONG POST OFFICE, FIFTH FLOOR, SINCERE BUILDING, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

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NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR RATING AND VALUATION

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY AWARDED A CONTRACT TO INTERNATIONAL COMPUTERS HONG KONG (ICL) FOR THE PROVISION OF HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROPERTY VALUATION SYSTEM FOR BOTH STAMP DUTY AND RATING PURPOSES FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION (R&V) DEPARTMENT.

THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE OPERATIONAL BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW SYSTEM WHICH WOULD AUTOMATE THE PROCESSING OF PROPERTY SALES FOR STAMP DUTY PURPOSES WOULD SPEED UP THE SCRUTINY OF THE PRICE PAID IN PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.

THIS WILL ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE STAMP DUTY IS PAID BASED ON THE MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, HE EXPLAINED.

THE SYSTEM WILL ALSO COMPUTERISE THE CURRENT PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING PROPERTY INFORMATION, ASSESSING NEW PROPERTIES TO RATES, AND ADDING THESE TO THE TREASURY'S COMPUTER SO THAT RATES DEMANDS CAN BE ISSUED TO THE RATEPAYERS.

THE COMPUTER SYSTEM IS A UNIX-BASED OPEN SYSTEM WHICH CONFORMS TO THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE FOR MID-RANGE COMPUTERS.

THE HARDWARE MAINLY CONSISTS OF A DRS6000 LEVEL 65 CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT AND A SUN SPARC TWO WORKSTATION. SOFTWARE INCLUDES ORACLE RELATIONAL DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RDBMS) WITH TRANSACTION PROCESSING OPTION AND SAS STATISTICAL PACKAGE. THE CAPITAL COST OF THE SYSTEM IS $4.63 MILLION.

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AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS STAFF SAVINGS TO BE ACHIEVED.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE SYSTEM CAN BE EXPANDED TO ACCOMMODATE OTHER FUNCTIONS IN THE FUTURE.

AN INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY STUDY IS SCHEDULED TO BE CONDUCTED FOR THE R&V DEPARTMENT IN THE COMING MONTHS TO PLAN FURTHER COMPUTER APPLICATIONS, HE ADDED.

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CONTRACT FOR TSUEN/KWAI SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT AWARDED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A $68 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT ADJACENT TO TSING YI BRIDGE WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE CENTRALISED PRELIMINARY SEWAGE TREATMANT FACILITIES FOR TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG DISTRICTS.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR TSE HON-SUM, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHINA ROAD AND BRIDGE ENGINEERING CO WHICH HAS BEEN AWARDED THE CONTRACT.

WORKS ON THE PROJECT INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERIES OF SCREEN CHAMBERS FOR VARIOUS STAGES OF SCREENING, A SOLID HANDLING ROOM AND A PUMP CHAMBER.

TO MINIMISE THE ODOUR PROBLEMS, MOST OF THE TREATMENT UNITS WILL BE HOUSED IN A SINGLE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED ALSO UNDER THE CONTRACT WITH ALL TREATMENT UNITS WHICH WILL BE EITHER ROOFED OR COVERED.

MR TSE SAID THE FULLY COMMISSIONED PLANT CAN PROVIDE PRELIMINARY TREATMENT TO A MAXIMUM OF OVER 865,000 CUBIC METRES SEWAGE DAILY, EQUIVALENT TO THE SEWAGE GENERATED BY A POPULATION OF ABOUT 1.2 MILLION.

AT PRESENT, THE SEWAGE FROM TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG IS ONLY SERVED BY A TEMPORARY COARSE SCREENING DEVICE BEFORE IT IS DISCHARGED INTO THE RAMBLER CHANNEL THROUGH A TWIN SUBMARINE OUTFALL, HE NOTED.

"AFTER COMPLETION OF THE CONTRACT, THE SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT WILL PROVIDE REMOVAL OF ALL GROSS SOLIDS ABOVE 6 MM FROM THE SEWAGE BEFORE THE SEWAGE IS DISCHARGED INTO THE SEA WHICH WILL GREATLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WATER ALONG THE TSUEN WAN SHORELINE.

"IN ADDITION, THE PUMPING FACILITIES INCORPORATED INTO THIS PLANT WILL SOLVE THE CURRENT SEWER OVERLOAD PROBLEM IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG," HE SAID.

WORKS ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START LATER THIS MONTH AND BE COMPLETED IN EARLY APRIL 1994.

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SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND'S EFFORTS PRAISED

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LADY WILSON TODAY (MONDAY) PRAISED THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND FOR THEIR POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE EFFORTS IN HELPING CHILDREN IN HONG KONG AND AROUND THE WORLD.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "FESTIVAL OF THE TREES" TO BENEFIT SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND, LADY WILSON SAID THE WORK THEY HAD DONE IN MAJOR RELIEF PROJECTS THIS YEAR WAS ENORMOUSLY APPRECIATED AND DESERVED CONTINUED SUPPORT.

LADY WILSON SAID THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CHILDREN IN HONG KONG WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE LOVING PARENTS WHO TOOK GOOD CARE OF THEM. HOWEVER THERE WERE STILL MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD WHO NEEDED HELP.

"THEIR PROBLEMS MAY BE HOMELESSNESS, MALNUTRITION, LACK OF BASIC HEALTH CARE OR ILLITERACY.

"DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THESE NEEDY CHILDREN BECAUSE EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHANCE IN LIFE," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON SAID SHE WAS HAPPY TO SHARE THOUGHTS OF PEOPLE, AND CHILDREN IN PARTICULAR, WHO WERE LESS FORTUNATE.

"THIS, I THINK, IS WHAT THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS ALL ABOUT," SHE SAID.

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FESTIVE LIGHTING IN SHA TIN

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SHA TIN DISTRICT WILL BE ILLUMINATED WITH FESTIVE LIGHTING DURING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASON.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN FESTIVE LIGHTING ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR LI PO-MING, SAID THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S LIGHTING WOULD BE LIGHTING UP SHA TIN WITH JOY.

HE SAID THE ILLUMINATIONS WOULD BE MADE UP OF MORE THAN 20,000 LIGHT BULBS PUT UP ALONG SHING MUN RIVER, ON THE THREE BRIDGES ACROSS THE RIVER, IN SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK, ALONG TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ON HENG HONG STREET IN MA ON SHAN.

LARGE GRAPHIC DECORATIONS CONVEYING GREETING MESSAGES WILL BE PUT UP ON THE SAND MARTIN AND BANYAN BRIDGES.

ANOTHER ATTRACTION WILL BE THE ERECTION OF MOVABLE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK, FEATURING ANIMALS AND SANTA CLAUS.

/THE LIGHTS .....

THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON DAILY FROM 6.30 PM TO MIDNIGHT BETWEEN DECEMBER 20 AND FEBRUARY 20, AND FROM 6.30 PM TO 6.30 AM THE NEXT DAY DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIODS.

A SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY, TO BE OFFICIATED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, WILL BE HELD IN THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 20.

THE CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ENTERTAINMENTS, INCLUDING A "SAMBA" DANCING PERFORMANCE.

TO ADD COLOUR TO THE FESTIVALS, A FESTIVE LIGHTING PHOTOGRAPHY AND A PAINTING COMPETITION ARE HELD.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES IS FEBRUARY 18 AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ALL THE COMMUNITY HALLS AND CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE BUDGET OF THE LIGHTING IS $800,000, AND IT IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD AND SOME LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

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TERRITORY-WIDE SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT

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A TERRITORY-WIDE SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT WILL BE HELD AT THE LECTURE HALL OF THE HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST ON JANUARY 19, FROM 1.30 PM TO 5 PM.

THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR - PERSPECTIVE AND PARTICIPATION II, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) AND THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GOOD BUILDING MANAGEMENT, A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

HE URGED MEMBERS OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS COMMITTEES, AS WELL AS OWNERS OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME FLATS, TO JOIN THE SEMINAR WHICH IS FREE.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT," HE SAID.

RENOWNED PROFESSIONALS IN TRADES RELATING TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT WILL GIVE TALKS DURING THE SEMINAR.

THEY INCLUDE AN ENGINEERING CONSULTANT, DR RAYMOND HO CHUNG-TAI; A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, DR CHIU WING-YEE; A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, MR STEPHEN YUEN; A MANAGING DIRECTOR OF AN INSURANCE COMPANY, MR ANTHONY YUEN; AND AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR MOK YIU-KWONG.

/THE TOPICS .....

THE TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE BUILDING SAFETY, PARTICIPATION OF OWNERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS, PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS, COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OWNERS AND TENANTS COMMITTEES AND BUILDING MANAGERS, AND INSURANCE IN RELATION TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JONES LANG WOOT ON LIMITED, MR LEUNG CHUN-YING, WILL CHAIR THE DISCUSSION SESSION.

AN EXHIBITION ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT WILL ALSO BE STAGED AT THE VENUE.

ENROLMENT FORMS FOR THE SEMINAR ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS DECEMBER 30. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 835 1496 AND 835 1497.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 37.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 220.352 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 234.075 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 39.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	$ MILLION
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	7.12.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	9.12.91	+1
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-1
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.3 *+0.1* 9.12.91

/HONG KONG .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

TERMS	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.16 PCT
1 MONTH	3.73 PCT
3 MONTHS	3.82 PCT
6 MONTHS	3.96 PCT
12 MONTHS	4.64 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
24 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.82	5.32

TURNOVER - BILLS 5,377 MN, BONDS 62 MN

CLOSED 9 DECEMBER 1991

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