



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR AND EXCO MEMBERS TO MEET PRIME MINISTER

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR JOHN MAJOR, DURING A THREE-DAY VISIT TO LONDON.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT IN HIS FIRST FULL WEEK IN OFFICE THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TAKING TIME TO SEE A GROUP FROM HONG KONG WHEN HE MUST BE EXTREMELY BUSY.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BRING HIM UP-TO-DATE WITH WHAT IS GOING ON IN HONG KONG SO THAT THE CONCERNS AND THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG REGISTER IN HIS MIND," SIR DAVID SAID.

"I WOULD EXPECT THAT WITH MR JOHN MAJOR AS PRIME MINISTER SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE AS BEFORE. HE DOES KNOW A CERTAIN AMOUNT ABOUT HONG KONG FROM HIS TIME AS FOREIGN SECRETARY.

"THIS WILL BE A VERY GOOD CHANCE TO BRING HIM UP-TO-DATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE. BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE PRIME MINISTER, I AM SURE HE PERSONALLY WILL BE VERY SUPPORTIVE, BUT IT'S THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE AND I WOULD EXPECT THEM TO CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THE SAME POLICIES TOWARDS HONG KONG AND TO BE SUPPORTIVE TOWARDS HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

ASKED IF THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD VISIT HONG KONG IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "OF COURSE I WILL SAY TO HIM THAT WE WOULD WELCOME IT IF HE HAD A CHANCE TO VISIT HERE."

"I THINK I MUST ALSO EXPECT THAT HE WILL BE VERY BUSY IN HIS FIRST FEW MONTHS IN OFFICE, BUT OBVIOUSLY IF HE HAS A CHANCE TO COME HERE WE WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME IT," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WOULD WANT TO BRING MINISTERS IN GENERAL UP-TO-DATE ON HONG KONG'S PLANS FOR THE AIRPORT AS IT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF TRYING TO BUILD UP HONG KONG FOR THE LONG-TERM FUTURE AND FOR THE TERRITORY'S PROSPERITY.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE UNHCR'S PROGRAMME OF REPATRIATING VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT ACTIVELY VOLUNTEERED, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS A SLOW START AND HE WOULD MUCH HAVE PREFERRED THAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN STARTED WITH A LARGER NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

"BUT IT IS A START AND I THINK WE MUST GIVE IT A CHANCE, GIVE UNHCR A CHANCE TO SEE IF IT WILL WORK AND IF THE NUMBERS WILL INCREASE. IF YOU REMEMBER THE STRAIGHTFORWARD VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION SCHEME WAS ALSO A VERY SLOW START. SO LET'S GIVE UNHCR A CHANCE AND SEE IF THEY CAN MAKE THIS ONE PICK UP OVER TIME AS WELL," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM WAS AN IMMENSE ONE: "WE'VE GOT A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HERE WHO ARE WAITING TO BE SCREENED; WE GOT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER WHO ALREADY HAVE BEEN SCREENED OUT AS NOT BEING REFUGEES; AND THE TASK OF TRYING TO GET THOSE PEOPLE BACK TO THEIR HOMES UNDER ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS IS A VERY LARGE ONE."

/"WE'VE GOT

"WE'VE GOT TO INCH OUR WAY FORWARD. WE'VE HAD VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, NOW WE HAVE THE REPATRIATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ACTIVELY VOLUNTEERED. LET'S GIVE THAT A CHANCE BEFORE WE SEE WHAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE," SIR DAVID SAID.

SEEING THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON OFF AT THE AIRPORT WAS THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD.

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MOTOROLA'S NEW PLANT DEMONSTRATES CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG

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MOTOROLA'S ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS SILICON HARBOUR CENTRE IN HONG KONG CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES ITS CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY AS A PLACE WHERE HIGH-TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURING CAN GROW AND THRIVE, AND THE BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR DOING PROFITABLE BUSINESS HERE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MOTOROLA'S NEW FACILITY ON TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, SIR DAVID SAID THE COMPANY WAS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE ROLE OVERSEAS INVESTORS PLAYED IN BRINGING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO HONG KONG.

"I AM PLEASED TO SEE THIS NEW STRUCTURE ACCOMMODATING MOTOROLA'S ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND ITS DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING FACILITIES FOR ADVANCED SEMICONDUCTORS FOR SPECIAL APPLICATIONS," HE SAID.

THIS OPERATION, SAID SIR DAVID, SHOULD HELP THE LOCAL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY TO MOVE INTO THE GENERATION OF MODERN CIRCUITRY AND PRODUCT MINIATURIZATION.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE TOPPING-OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LAST WEEK AND THE OPENING OF THE SILICON HARBOUR CENTRE TODAY, THOUGH MIGHT BE COINCIDENTAL IN TIMING, BOTH EVENTS WENT TO SHOW THAT HONG KONG WAS MOVING STEADILY ONWARDS AS A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN TECHNOLOGY AND MODERN INDUSTRIES.

HE NOTED THAT MOTOROLA HAD DECIDED TO SET UP THIS SILICON HARBOUR CENTRE IN HONG KONG BECAUSE OF THE TERRITORIES' ATTRACTIVE CENTRAL POSITION WITH RESPECT TO OTHER SEMICONDUCTOR CUSTOMERS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, THE AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICALLY-SKILLED STAFF AND THE TERRITORY'S PROXIMITY TO A POTENTIALLY-ENORMOUS CHINA MARKET.

"THESE SAME FACTORS HAVE INFLUENCED MANY OVERSEAS INVESTORS TO COME TO HONG KONG.

"HONG KONG'S GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, ITS FREE TRADE AND FREE ENTERPRISE POLICY, ITS HARD-WORKING AND EFFICIENT LABOUR FORCE, ITS LOW TAXATION RATE, AND ITS EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK ARE CONSTANTLY CITED BY OVERSEAS INVESTORS AS HONG KONG'S ATTRACTIONS AS A MANUFACTURING BASE, MOST RECENTLY IN THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S 1990 SURVEY OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

"THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWED THAT 67 PER CENT OF THESE OVERSEAS INVESTORS CONSIDERED HONG KONG'S OVERALL MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT TO BE FAVOURABLE," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO POINTED OUT THAT INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY SHOWED THAT OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS GROWING AT AN ENCOURAGING RATE.

"THE TOTAL VALUE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT AT THE END OF 1989 WAS JUST UNDER HK\$30 BILLION; 14 PER CENT MORE THAN IN 1988 AND NEARLY THREE TIMES AS HIGH AS IN 1984.

"THE SURVEY SHOWS THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS AS OUR LARGEST OVERSEAS INVESTOR; IT ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY A THIRD OF TOTAL OVERSEAS INVESTMENT AND OVER HALF OF THIS INVESTMENT IS IN ELECTRONICS," HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WERE EXPORT ORIENTED, SIR DAVID SAID THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, IN THE FACE OF GROWING COMPETITION, HAD MOVED TO HIGHER QUALITY AND HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS.

"TO DO SO, COMPANIES MUST EMBRACE MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO STRUCTURE THEIR PRODUCTION TOWARDS QUALITY," HE SAID.

HE REITERATED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PROMOTING INWARD INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY WHERE OVERSEAS INVESTORS INTRODUCED NEW OR IMPROVED PRODUCTS, DESIGNS, PROCESSES AND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES INTO HONG KONG.

"APPRECIATING THE LAND CONSTRAINTS WHICH EXIST IN HONG KONG, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES TO ENABLE HIGH-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES TO SET UP IN THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THAT MOTOROLA'S MAGNIFICENT CENTRE ON TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE MARKED ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE GROWTH OF MOTOROLA IN HONG KONG.

"I AM SURE ALL OF US WHO HAVE VISITED THIS IMPRESSIVE OPERATION JUST NOW WILL AGREE THAT MOTOROLA HAS TAKEN HONG KONG ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY," HE SAID.

SECOND SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD DECIDED THAT DOUBLE CASH LTD TRADING AS "METROPOLITAN BROADCASTING" SHOULD BE INVITED TO APPLY FORMALLY FOR A SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD TAKEN THIS DECISION AFTER CONSIDERING CAREFULLY THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY AND THE PROPOSALS MADE BY ALL THREE BIDDERS FOR THE SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE.

HE SAID THAT ONCE METROPOLITAN BROADCASTING'S FORMAL APPLICATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PREPARE A SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE FOR ISSUE IN THE EARLY PART OF 1991.

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TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL

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APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THE PACKAGE OF BRIDGING-OVER ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL BE OFFERED TO CIVIL SERVANTS WISHING TO TRANSFER TO THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC).

THERE ARE 613 DEPARTMENTAL GRADE STAFF IN THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT (TEITD), INCLUDING 471 OFFICERS CURRENTLY SECONDED TO THE VTC.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) ALL THOSE OFFICERS COULD CHOOSE EITHER TO TRANSFER TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VTC OR TO REMAIN AS CIVIL SERVANTS IN THEIR PRESENT POSTINGS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PACKAGE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WAS ARRIVED AT AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE VTC AND STAFF CONCERNED AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH HAVING CIVIL SERVANTS WORKING ALONGSIDE THE COUNCIL'S OWN STAFF.

"ALL BUT ONE OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN RETAINED IN THE PACKAGE, WHICH NOW INCLUDES ADDITIONAL AND IMPROVED BRIDGING-OVER TERMS," HE EXPLAINED.

THE BASIC FEATURES OF THE BRIDGING-OVER ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- A THOSE WHO OPT TO ACCEPT THE VTC EMPLOYMENT TERMS AND BECOME FULL-TIME STAFF OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE GRANTED SPECIAL NO PAY LEAVE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

/THESE OFFICERS

THESE OFFICERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR EARNED PENSION ON RETIREMENT FROM THE VTC. THEY WILL RETAIN THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR HOUSING BENEFITS THAT ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO CIVIL SERVANTS IF THESE ARE NOT PROVIDED BY THE VTC.

- B ALTERNATIVELY, OFFICERS WHO TRANSFER TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE VTC CAN OPT FOR A MIXED SERVICE PENSIONS SCHEME UNDER WHICH THEY WILL CONTINUE TO EARN PENSION ENTITLEMENTS AS IF THEY WERE CIVIL SERVANTS.

THEY WILL ALSO BE GIVEN SPECIAL PERMISSION TO RETAIN THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR CIVIL SERVICE HOUSING BENEFITS IF THESE ARE NOT PROVIDED BY THE VTC.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT THE TEITD WOULD NOT BE DISESTABLISHED AND AS THE CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT OF ALL STAFF WAS NOW GUARANTEED, THE EARLIER OPTION OF ABOLITION OF OFFICE TERMS WAS NO LONGER APPLICABLE.

"HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT STAFF DO NOT LOSE OUT IN THE TRANSFER, SEVERAL FEATURES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO MAKE THE PACKAGE MORE ATTRACTIVE," THE SPOKESMEN SAID.

IN THE CASE OF FROZEN PENSION, THE CALCULATION WILL BE BASED ON THE SALARY POINT AT THE TIME OF TRANSFER, INSTEAD OF FREEZING THE PENSION AT THE LAST SALARY AMOUNT AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED.

"THIS MEANS THAT THE PENSIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS WILL BENEFIT FROM SUBSEQUENT INCREASES IN CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

ADDITIONALLY, STAFF WHO OPT TO TRANSFER TO THE VTC UNDER EITHER OF THE TWO PENSION SCHEMES WILL RECEIVE A SIGN-UP BONUS EQUIVALENT TO THREE MONTHS' SUBSTANTIVE SALARY.

IN ORDER TO MEET THE STAFF'S CONCERN THAT THEIR FUTURE PROMOTION PROSPECTS SHOULD BE PRESERVED, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT A SHADOW PROMOTION SYSTEM SHOULD BE INTRODUCED. THIS WILL ALSO ENHANCE THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS OF BOTH THOSE WHO TRANSFER TO THE VTC ON FROZEN PENSION AS WELL AS THOSE WHO REMAIN AS CIVIL SERVANTS.

"AS A RESULT, SOME 120 OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTING IN HIGHER RANK POSTS IN THE VTC WILL BE SUBSTANTIVELY PROMOTED BEFORE TRANSFER TO VTC," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"IN FUTURE, WHEN CIVIL SERVANTS ARE PROMOTED IN THE VTC HIERARCHY, CORRESPONDING CIVIL SERVICE SHADOW POSTS WILL BE CREATED TO ENABLE THEIR PROMOTION WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE," HE ADDED.

SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, FORMAL OFFERS WILL BE MADE TO STAFF AS SOON AS THE SHADOW PROMOTION ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN FINALISHED. THEY WILL BE GIVEN THREE MONTHS TO EXERCISE THEIR OPTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW ROLE OF THE TEITD, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE REORGANISED.

"AS SOME STAFF MAY CHOOSE TO REMAIN AS CIVIL SERVANTS, THE TEITD WILL RETAIN ITS PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS BUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR THE DISABLED AND THE STATUTORY APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE VTC," HE SAID.

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GOVT STATEMENT ON 'SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT'

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON A SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT AT DAYA BAY, THE HONG KONG NUCLEAR INVESTMENT COMPANY, CHINA LIGHT & POWER CO. LTD AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED THAT THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY PROPOSAL THAT CHINA WILL BUILD ANOTHER NUCLEAR PLANT AT DAYA BAY.

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STATEMENT ON RECRUITMENT OF SECRETARY FOR WORKS

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COMMENTING ON PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE RECRUITMENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS POST, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (TUESDAY):

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SPECIFIED THAT THE POST MUST BE FILLED BY AN EXPATRIATE OF ANY NATIONALITY NOR WHETHER THE APPOINTEE SHOULD COME FROM INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT OR HONG KONG. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND THE BEST PERSON FOR THE POST.

"ON THE QUESTION OF THE SECRETARY'S FUNCTION WITH REGARD TO THE COMMISSIONING OF CONSULTANTS AND THE APPLICATION OF FUNDS, LIKE ALL SENIOR OFFICERS, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS IS NOT THE SOLE AUTHORITY IN THESE MATTERS. DECISIONS OF THIS NATURE ARE TAKEN BY VARIOUS PROPERLY CONSTITUTED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES SUCH AS THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, WHICH COMPRISES SEVERAL BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WITH REGARD TO THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PADS PROJECT, IT HAS ALREADY BEEN STATED CLEARLY THE SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS WILL BE BASED ON THE MERITS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL PROPOSAL."

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ECR PROPOSALS WOULD RESOLVE LANGUAGE PROBLEM

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THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS OFFER THE BEST HOPE OF A RESOLUTION OF THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION PROBLEM, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE JOINT SECONDARY SCHOOLS SPEECH DAY OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR YEUNG SAID SOME PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION COULD ONLY BE SOLVED BY MANDATING EITHER MOTHER-TONGUE EDUCATION OR EDUCATION THROUGH THE ENGLISH MEDIUM.

"ONLY IN THIS WAY, THEY ARGUE, CAN THE PROBLEM OF PARENTAL PRESSURE FOR ENGLISH BE OVERCOME," HE SAID.

"LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT COERCION IS NOT THE WAY IN WHICH WE USUALLY DO THINGS HERE IN HONG KONG," MR YEUNG SAID, ADDING THAT IT WAS NOT IN KEEPING WITH HONG KONG'S CONSENSUAL STYLE OF GOVERNMENT.

THE INTRODUCTION OF ATTAINMENT TARGETS AND RELATED ASSESSMENTS WILL GIVE PARENTS EXPLICIT EVIDENCE WHETHER OR NOT THEIR CHILDREN CAN COPE IN AN ENGLISH MEDIUM EDUCATION, MR YEUNG POINTED OUT.

"ONLY AN IRRESPONSIBLE PARENT WOULD INSIST ON AN ENGLISH MEDIUM EDUCATION IF IT WAS CLEAR HIS CHILD COULD NOT COPE," HE SAID.

"FURTHER INCENTIVES FOR PARENTS TO CHOOSE A CHINESE-MEDIUM EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN WILL COME ABOUT THROUGH THE WIDENING OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION.

"WE ARE BROADENING THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM, INTRODUCING ADVANCED LEVELS COURSES IN CHINESE THIS YEAR, AND CHINESE ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVELS IN 1992.

"WE WILL BE DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF FIRST DEGREES PLACES BY 1994," MR YEUNG SAID.

GIVEN THE FACT THAT OUR TERTIARY EDUCATION REQUIRES A MODICUM OF COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN ORDER THAT OUR FIRST DEGREES CAN MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION, I SHALL SOON BE TALKING TO THE HEADS OF OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ABOUT THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ATTAINMENT THEY EXPECT OF OUR MATRICULANTS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF DEGREE COURSES, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE WHO TAKE CHINESE LANGUAGE ADVANCED LEVEL AND ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL PAPERS," HE SAID.

"THIS WILL NOT ONLY GIVE PARENTS A MEASURE OF ASSURANCE THAT THE CHOICE OF THE CHINESE MEDIUM IS A VIABLE PROPOSITION, BUT ALSO HELP US IN THE PLANNING OF VARIOUS BRIDGING COURSES," HE ADDED.

HE STRESSED THAT THE CHOICE OF CHINESE AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WOULD NOT CREATE A HANDICAP OR DISADVANTAGE FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT.

THE CHINESE LANGUAGE IS GROWING IN IMPORTANCE IN OUR COMMUNITY, MR YEUNG SAID.

/"FOR EXAMPLE

"FOR EXAMPLE, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A GOOD COMMAND OF CHINESE IF YOU WANT TO GET INTO POLITICS OR THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT, OR ENGAGE IN TRADE WITH OR INVESTMENT IN CHINA.

"YOU CANNOT JOIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OR EXECUTIVE GRADES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE UNLESS YOU HAVE A GOOD COMMAND OF CHINESE," HE SAID.

"THUS, AS CHINESE IS INCREASINGLY PLACED ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH ENGLISH FOR LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES, AS THE CIVIL SERVICE AND SOME SECTORS OF THE BUSINESS WORLD BECOME INCREASINGLY LOCALISED AND AS THE AWARENESS OF A CHINESE IDENTITY IS ENHANCED, PARENTAL VIEWS WILL CHANGE," HE SAID.

"THEREFORE, IT IS NOT NECESSARILY THE COMMISSION'S LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION PROPOSALS ON THEIR OWN THAT WILL WIN THE DAY, BUT RATHER THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 AS A PACKAGE TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE TRENDS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE," HE ADDED.

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GOVT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP

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THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL WELFARE AGENCIES IS IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS FOR WELFARE SERVICES INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY):

"I BELIEVE IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT IF THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SERVICES IS ACCEPTED, ITS SUCCESS IN IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE IN NO SMALL WAY DUE TO THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY."

MRS WONG WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A SEMINAR ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

SHE SAID WHILE SHE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN HONG KONG WAS UNIQUE, IT WAS CERTAINLY UNUSUAL, AND SOMETHING OF WHICH BOTH SIDES COULD BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD.

"THIS RELATIONSHIP IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A PARTNERSHIP. IT IS THE SORT OF PARTNERSHIP WHERE EACH SIDE VALUES THE OTHER'S VIEWS AND EACH COMPLEMENTS THE INADEQUACIES OF THE OTHER."

"I MIGHT ADD, HOWEVER, THAT PARTNERSHIP SOMETIMES IMPLIES THE RIGHT TO CRITICISE, WHICH SERVES TO STIMULATE ACTION AND REACTION.

"I THEREFORE FEEL THAT IT IS VERY VALUABLE TO HAVE A PARTNERSHIP OF THIS NATURE," SHE SAID.

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PROPOSALS ON REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF LOCAL CRAFT

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS TO REFINE THE IDEAS IN THE LOCAL CRAFT REVIEW INTO A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS TO REFORM THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF THE LOCAL FLEET OF 20,000 VESSELS.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, SAID THIS AT THE INSTITUTE OF SEATRANSPORT LIMITED ANNUAL DINNER PARTY TONIGHT (TUESDAY).

MR SZE SAID: "THE DEPARTMENT IS USING A GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF LOCAL VESSELS TAKING A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE WAY THEIR VESSELS ARE MAINTAINED AND OPERATED.

THIS WILL RESULT IN A LESS RIGID AND SIMPLER REGULATORY SYSTEM WITHOUT ANY COMPROMISE ON THE HIGH STANDARDS OF SAFETY WE DEMAND AND ARE USED TO IN HONG KONG.

"INDEED ENHANCED SAFETY STANDARDS ARE A COMPONENT OF MANY OF THE PROPOSALS.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS PROPOSING THAT THE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR THOSE CLASSES OF PASSENGER LAUNCHES AND FERRIES OPERATING OUTSIDE OF VICTORIA HARBOUR BE HARMONISED AND THAT ANY VESSEL CARRYING MORE THAN 12 PERSONS PLUS TWO CREW, OR ANY ADDITIONAL APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, ALSO COMPLY GENERALLY WITH THESE STANDARDS," HE SAID.

MR SZE SAID THE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR ALL VESSELS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN ORDER THAT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES FROM A PROSPECTIVE OWNER TO THE DESIGNER, BUILDER, OPERATOR AND REGULATOR ARE FULLY ACQUAINTED WITH THESE STANDARDS.

"THE EXISTING COMPLEX SYSTEM OF PROFICIENCY FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS HAS BEEN RATIONALISED TO A SIMPLE THREE GRADES FOR COXSWAINS AND ENGINEERS. MORE EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE QUALITY OF TRAINING COURSES ATTENDED VIS A VIS SIMPLY EXAMINING CANDIDATES."

MR SZE SAID THESE WERE AMONG MAJOR PROPOSALS THAT WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION BEFORE NEXT SUMMER.

IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF STUDIES AIMED AT PROVIDING BETTER SERVICES TO LOCAL VESSEL OWNERS INCLUDING A FULLY COMPUTERISED VESSEL RECORD SYSTEM FOR TRANSACTIONS AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

MR SZE SAID: "THESE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATORY SYSTEM WILL ENABLE MORE POSITIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE LOCAL SHIPPING INDUSTRY IN THOSE AREAS WHERE IT HAS A ROLE TO PLAY, SUCH AS MAINTENANCE OF SAFETY STANDARDS AND TRAINING OF CREW."

/THE FINDINGS

THE FINDINGS OF THE LOCAL CRAFT REVIEW WERE PUBLISHED AS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WHICH RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE COMMENT FROM THE LOCAL VESSEL INDUSTRY AND THE GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS POSITIVE.

MR SZE PRAISED THE GOOD WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY THE INSTITUTE OF SEATRANSPORT ENCOMPASSING MEMBERS FROM ALL FIELDS OF SHIPPING TRANSPORT; FROM PILOTS TO PORT CAPTAINS, ENGINEERS TO INSURERS.

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SICK BUILDING SYNDROME -- A HEALTH CHALLENGE
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IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN OLD AND NEW BUILDINGS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AS NEW CONCEPTS AND FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SICK BUILDING SYNDROME AND BUILDING RELATED ILLNESS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR MIAO CHI, TODAY (TUESDAY) IN AN OPENING ADDRESS TO THE SYMPOSIUM ON SICK BUILDING SYNDROME AND BUILDING RELATED ILLNESS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

MR MIAO SAID INSTALLATION OF PLANT, EQUIPMENT OR SYSTEMS ALREADY PROVEN HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF BUILDINGS MUST BE AVOIDED.

"IN NEW BUILDINGS, WE SHOULD INTRODUCE NEW MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, SYSTEMS AND INSTALLATIONS TO GIVE US A BETTER ENVIRONMENT AT REASONABLE COST," HE SAID.

FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS, MR MIAO ADVISED THAT THE QUALITY OF FACTORS AFFECTING THEIR ENVIRONMENT SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND DEFICIENCIES RECTIFIED.

THIS INCLUDED THE FUNCTIONS, STANDARDS AND QUALITY OF MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT OPERATING AND CONTROLLING AIR QUALITY, AIR FLOW, NOISE, HUMIDITY, LIGHTING DUST, SMELL AND CLEANLINESS.

MR MIAO POINTED OUT THAT A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT AND DEFINITIONS OF THE ISSUES WAS THE FIRST STEP TO ELIMINATE SUCH HEALTH RISKS.

"UNLIKE EACH TYPE OF BUILDING RELATED ILLNESS WHICH CAN BE TRACKED TO A SPECIFIC IDENTIFIABLE CAUSE, THE SICK BUILDING SYNDROME CANNOT BE EASILY TRACKED TO ANY SPECIFIC CAUSE; IT IS A COMBINATION OF VARIOUS FACTORS WHICH WILL BE DIFFERENT IN EACH BUILDING AND IN EACH GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS.

"WE SHOULD CODIFY THE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE THAT HAS BEEN GAINED TO SET NEW STANDARDS AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ON VARIOUS FACTORS AFFECTING BUILDING ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

TO MAKE NEW AND OLD BUILDINGS HEALTHIER, RESEARCH FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF BUILDING SERVICES DESIGNS WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL, HE ADDED.

"I BELIEVE THAT IN THE 90'S ON BOTH ISSUES WE WILL SEE MORE NEW STANDARDS ESTABLISHED, MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS SET, CODES OF PRACTICE AND GUIDANCE NOTES ISSUED, OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE QUALITY IDENTIFIED, AND MANUALS PREPARED, FOR DESIGNERS AS WELL AS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE STAFF TO FOLLOW," MR MIAO SAID.

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CONCERTED EFFORTS TO PREVENT BUILDING SICKNESS

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THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, TODAY (TUESDAY) CALLED FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS TO PREVENT OR MINIMISE THE RISK OF BUILDING SICKNESS.

OPENING THE SYMPOSIUM ON SICK BUILDING SYNDROME AND BUILDING RELATED ILLNESS, DR LEE SAID RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF BUILDING SICKNESS REQUIRES A TEAM APPROACH WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE DEVELOPERS, OWNERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, MANAGERS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND THE OCCUPANTS.

IF EACH MEMBER OF THE TEAM GIVES DUE RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD BUILDING LAYOUTS, STRUCTURES AND SERVICES SYSTEMS, HE SAID, MUCH OF THE PROBLEM CAN BE PREVENTED OR MINIMISED.

DR LEE POINTED OUT THAT HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT ARE INSEPARABLY LINKED.

"WHAT WE EAT, DRINK AND BREATHE, WHERE WE LIVE AND WORK - THESE ARE THE ISSUES THAT WILL DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AFFECT OUR HEALTH," HE ADDED.

WHILE MANY ARE WELL AWARE OF THE INCREASING PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS, HE SAID, THE ATTENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES HAS SO FAR BEEN FOCUSED ON THE OUT-DOOR ENVIRONMENT.

DR LEE SAID IN HONG KONG, LIKE MANY OTHER BIG CITIES, OFFICES AND WORK-STATIONS ARE USUALLY ACCOMMODATED IN MULTI-STOREYED AIR-CONDITIONED BUILDINGS.

"THE QUESTION ON HOW TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE A CHALLENGE TO MANY OF OUR ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, BUILDING DEVELOPERS AND MANAGERS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND THE OCCUPANTS," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE PAST DECADE, A NUMBER OF STUDIES OF INDOOR AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH IN OFFICES HAVE REPORTED A PATTERN OF SYMPTOMS WHICH HAS BEEN TERMED 'SICK BUILDING SYNDROME' (SBS) BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO).

ACCORDING TO THE WHO AND MANY EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD, SBS REFERS TO A GROUP OF SYMPTOMS WHICH PEOPLE EXPERIENCE SPECIFICALLY AT WORK, THE TYPICAL SYMPTOMS BEING HEADACHE, LETHARGY, LOSS OF CONCENTRATION AND IRRITATION OF THE EYES, NOSE, THROAT AND SKIN.

MANY PROPOSED EXPLANATIONS OF SBS AND BUILDING RELATED ILLNESS (BRI) HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD. THESE INCLUDE THE VENTILATION SYSTEMS, INDOOR AIR QUALITY, NOISE, LIGHTING, POOR SPACE PLANNING AND CHOICE OF OFFICE FURNITURE OR EQUIPMENT, INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SYNTHETIC MATERIALS, STATIC ELECTRICITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS.

IN SPITE OF THE VAST AMOUNT OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH EFFORTS, DR LEE SAID, IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO INFER SPECIFIC CAUSE OR CAUSES OF SBS.

HE HOPED THAT THE SYMPOSIUM MAY THROW SOME LIGHT ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF SBS AND THE FORM OF 'CURES' THAT SHOULD BE MADE.

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ACTION ON WORK SAFETY TO BE STEPPED UP

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS STEPPING UP ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AGAINST INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT BLACK SPOTS AND PROPRIETORS WHO IGNORE SAFETY IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT CAN EXPECT MORE SUMMONSES AND STIFFER PENALTIES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR HAMMOND MADE SUCH REMARKS AT THE OPENING OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE JAPAN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

HE SUGGESTED THAT TO AVOID ALL THIS COSTLY AND TIME-CONSUMING LITIGATION, PROPRIETORS SHOULD INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF SELF-REGULATION AND ROUTINE INSPECTION TO SPOT PROBLEMS AND TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION "BEFORE OUR FACTORY INSPECTORS CONDUCT THEIR INSPECTIONS".

"WITH THE COMING INTO EFFECT OF THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS IN SECTION 6A OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE ON DECEMBER 15, PROPRIETORS WILL HAVE A STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO INTRODUCE A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THEIR WORKPLACE, TO PROVIDE SAFETY EDUCATION AND SAFETY TRAINING FOR THEIR WORKERS, AND TO MAKE THE WORKPLACE A SAFE PLACE TO WORK," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, MR HAMMOND SAID IT REMAINED THE AREA OF GREATEST CONCERN, WITH A "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" ACCIDENT RATE.

"THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN THAT INDUSTRY ROSE FROM AROUND 18,000 IN 1981 TO 26,000 IN 1989, AND THE ACCIDENT RATE PER 1,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ROSE FROM 204 IN 1981 TO 374 IN 1989," HE NOTED.

/CONCEDING THAT

CONCEDING THAT CONSTRUCTION SAFETY IS A COMPLEX PROBLEM, MR HAMMOND CALLED FOR THE JOINT EFFORTS OF DEVELOPERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS, THE WORKERS THEMSELVES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

AS A FIRST STEP, HE CALLED ON PROPRIETORS TO CONDUCT TRAINING AUDITS AND TO GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE WORKERS' TRAINING NEEDS WHILE THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HELP IN THE DESIGN OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SHOULD INCREASE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF SITE MANAGEMENT STAFF AND INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT OF HEALTHY COMPETITION BY KEEPING A COMPREHENSIVE ACCIDENT RECORD OF INDIVIDUAL SITES AND PRODUCING A MONTHLY LEAGUE TABLE OF SAFETY RECORDS OF THE DIFFERENT SITES UNDER THEIR CONTROL.

"ALL THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED, REVIEWED AND COORDINATED THROUGH A SITE SAFETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER OR SITE AGENT, AND INCLUDING THE SUB-CONTRACTORS AND WORKER REPRESENTATIVES," MR HAMMOND ADDED.

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PROSPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN HK

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THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, HAS URGED SWISS BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS TO CONTINUE FOCUSING ON THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, AND TAKE HONG KONG AS THEIR PARTNER FOR HEADING INTO THE FUTURE.

HOSTING A LUNCHEON FOR A GROUP OF LEADING BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS IN GENEVA, MR BARMA SAID SWITZERLAND AND HONG KONG HAD A LOT IN COMMON.

HE SAID BOTH PLACES HAD APPROXIMATELY THE SAME POPULATION AND BOTH HAD ECONOMIES WITH NO NATURAL RESOURCES, EXCEPT THEIR PEOPLE.

"THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE HAS HELPED US BOTH THROUGH CHANGES AND CHALLENGES. WE HAVE ALSO BOTH BENEFITED FROM INNOVATIVE ABILITY AND HARD WORK OF OUR PEOPLE," HE SAID.

SPEAKING ON "INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG - OUR WAY INTO THE FUTURE", MR BARMA SAID BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTORS WERE CONFIDENT OF THE BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR DOING PROFITABLE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

"APART FROM ITS UNIQUE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AS THE STRATEGIC CENTRE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC, HONG KONG'S SOUND ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AND EXCELLENT BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE, ITS FREE TRADE AND FREE ENTERPRISE POLICY, ITS HARD-WORKING AND EFFICIENT LABOUR FORCE, LOW TAXATION RATE AND EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK HAVE LONG BEEN RECOGNISED AS FAVOURABLE FACTORS," HE SAID.

/MR BARMA

MR BARMA SAID PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SAW THE 1990'S AS A DECADE IN WHICH THE CONTINUED SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMY WOULD INCREASINGLY BE DEPENDENT ON ITS TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY, THE AVAILABILITY OF A POOL OF ENGINEERING EXPERTISE AND A SKILLED AND WELL TRAINED WORKFORCE.

TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF THE REQUIRED MANPOWER, MR BARMA SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING A MORE PROACTIVE STANCE BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY PLACES, IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND PROVIDING MORE TECHNICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SKILLS REQUIRED.

HE SAID A NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES HAD RECOGNISED THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER TECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES AND HAD STARTED NEW FACILITIES IN THE TERRITORY.

"AMONG THESE ARE HOECHST OF GERMANY, VITELIC CORPORATION OF THE U.S., DAIWA STEEL TUBE OF JAPAN, MONTEDISON OF ITALY AND CABOT PLASTICS OF UK," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID TO MAKE HONG KONG AN EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO DO BUSINESS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING AHEAD AND WAS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

HE SAID ENORMOUS INVESTMENT WOULD BE MADE TO FURTHER IMPROVE HONG KONG'S ALREADY EXCELLENT INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART AIRPORT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY 1997 AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING PORT FACILITIES TO ACHIEVE BY 2006 A FIVE-FOLD INCREASE IN THE TERRITORY'S CONTAINER THROUGHPUT.

NEW HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES AND RAILROADS WOULD BE BUILT TO SERVE THESE NEW FACILITIES.

MR BARMA SAID ALL THESE UNDERTAKINGS WOULD INVOLVE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT FINANCE, ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLY OF MATERIALS.

"THE RESPONSE, FROM BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS, HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING.

"AND, TO SHOW THAT WE HAVE NO BIAS AS TO WHOM TO AWARD PROJECTS, I CAN TELL YOU THAT BECHTEL OF CALIFORNIA WAS AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED ITEMS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE HONG KONG-CHINA RELATIONSHIP, MR BARMA SAID AS A MANUFACTURING CENTRE, HONG KONG HAD DEVELOPED A "SYMBIOTIC" RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOUTHERN REGION OF CHINA, SPECIFICALLY WITH GUANGDONG, GUANGXI AND FUJIAN PROVINCES.

"WHEN THE SOPHISTICATED MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND MARKETING FLAIR AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG JOIN FORCES WITH THE LOW-COST AND HIGH-VOLUME PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES OF SOUTHERN CHINA, THE RESULT IS A FORMIDABLE ECONOMIC FORCE THAT PRESENTS A GENUINE CHALLENGE TO OTHER DYNAMIC ASIAN ECONOMIES' CURRENT DOMINATION OF LIGHT AND RELATIVELY LOW-TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG CONTINUED TO BE THE GATEWAY TO CHINA.

"CHINA IS NOW THE LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS AND THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS. CHINA, IN TURN, SENDS OVER ONE-THIRD OF ITS MERCHANDISE EXPORTS TO HONG KONG OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO OTHER DESTINATIONS."

HE SAID CHINA AND HONG KONG WERE ALSO CLOSE INVESTMENT PARTNERS.

"ON THE ONE HAND, CHINA IS THE THIRD LARGEST NON-LOCAL INVESTOR IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AFTER THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, HONG KONG ACCOUNTS FOR TWO-THIRDS OF DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CHINA, AT US\$11.5 BILLION, MOST OF WHICH IS IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

"THIS ECONOMIC INTER-DEPENDENCE HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED BY THE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN CHINA IN JUNE LAST YEAR. AS YOU ARE AWARE, CHINA HAS SINCE REPEATEDLY RE-AFFIRMED PUBLICLY ITS 'OPEN DOOR' POLICY," HE SAID.

MR BARMA, WHO IS VISITING EUROPE AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION EFFORTS, WILL LATER TODAY SPEAK AT THE GENEVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR SWISS BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

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NO EFFORT SPARED IN PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT

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IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT GOING ON IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT LOST SIGHT OF THE NEED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TONIGHT (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION FOUNDATION INAUGURATION NIGHT, MR TSAO, WHO IS ALSO A VICE-PATRON OF THE FOUNDATION, EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL POLICIES ON NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

THEY ARE:

- * TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY MORE AWARE OF THEIR COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CREATING AND MAINTAINING A HEALTHY AND ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT;
- * TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYLLABUS, SUBJECTS STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING WELL INFORMED ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS; AND
- * REQUIRING PROFESSIONALS AND DEVELOPERS TO TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THEIR DECISIONS OR PROPOSALS.

/"TO PUT

"TO PUT THESE INTO PRACTICE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF ALL MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS," MR TSAO SAID.

"IT HAS ENACTED LEGISLATION TO ENSURE ADHERENCE TO POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS AND IS IMPROVING FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF POLLUTING WASTES."

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE IN SAI KUNG WAS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE CLUB'S INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA AND COMPLEMENTED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMMES.

HE SAID THE CENTRE, WITH A DONATION OF \$8 MILLION, WAS A SIGNIFICANT AND VERY USEFUL PROJECT FOR HONG KONG AT A TIME WHEN GREATER ATTENTION WAS BEING PAID TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

"IT SERVES AS A TIMELY REMINDER THAT PROTECTING AND PRESERVING NATURE IS A JOB THAT FALLS TO ALL OF US," HE ADDED.

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TAI HING POLICE STATION IN TUEN MUN OPENS

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TAI HING POLICE STATION, THE SECOND IN THE SERIES OF A NEW GENERATION DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION, WAS OPENED BY THE REGIONAL COMMANDER, NEW TERRITORIES, MR TOBY EMMET, TODAY (TUESDAY).

IN HIS ADDRESS, MR EMMET SAID THE NEW GENERATION POLICE STATION HAD VASTLY IMPROVED FACILITIES INCLUDING FOR THE FIRST TIME PURPOSE BUILT FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

"THE REPORT ROOM HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND THE PUBLIC, WHEREAS AT THE SAME TIME OFFERING A DEGREE OF CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE FORM OF PROPERLY DESIGNED INTERVIEW ROOMS," HE SAID.

MR EMMET SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE OPENING OF THE NEW DIVISIONAL STATION WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE POLICE CAPABILITY IN FIGHTING CRIME IN THE AREA.

"TAI HING DIVISION DIVIDES THE EXISTING TUEN MUN DIVISION APPROXIMATELY IN TWO AND COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 11 SQUARE KILOMETRES CURRENTLY SERVING A POPULATION OF NEARLY 140,000," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AFTER THE OPENING, MR EMMET ADMITTED THAT AS POPULATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD GROWN, CRIME HAD ALSO INCREASED.

"WE ARE AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND HAVE RECENTLY LAUNCHED VARIOUS ANTI-CRIME OPERATIONS TARGETTED HE SUCH AREAS.

/"WE ALSO

"WE ALSO DECLARED OFFENSIVE AGAINST TRIAD EXTORTION ACTIVITIES AND I AM APPEALING FOR THE PUBLIC TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE POLICE TO STAMP OUT SUCH ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING FORWARD AND HELPING THE POLICE, AS THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TRIAD PROBLEM CANNOT BE BORNE OUT BY THE POLICE ALONE," MR EMMET ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE RECENT SPATE OF MISSING VEHICLES, MR EMMET SAID IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, ANTI-CAR THEFT OPERATIONS WERE MOUNTED BY HIS OFFICERS IN VARIOUS PLACES INCLUDING GARAGES, CONTAINER SITES, OPEN SPACE AREAS AND SO ON.

"IT HAS A DETERRENT EFFECT," HE SAID.

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FIREMAN COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY

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THE BRAVE ACT OF SENIOR FIREMAN CHEUNG KAM-TONG PAID OFF TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN HE RECEIVED THE FIRE SERVICES DIRECTOR'S COMMENDATION FOR RESCUING A WOMAN IN A THIRD ALARM FIRE IN MONG KOK IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

ALSO AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH IS HELD IN MONG KOK FIRE STATION, MADAM CHOW LAI-FUNG, WHO WAS RESCUED BY CHEUNG, PRESENTED HIM WITH A SOUVENIR AS A TOKEN OF HER HEART-FELT THANKS.

PRESENTING THE DIRECTOR'S COMMENDATION, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (KOWLOON), MR WOO KWAN-KUEN, PRAISED CHEUNG FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ABILITY, PROFESSIONALISM AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WHICH LED TO THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OF MADAM CHOW.

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE, IT IS THE STATUTORY DUTY OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY IN CASE OF FIRE AND CALAMITY," MR WOO SAID.

"IN THIS RESPECT, THE SERVICES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROVIDING VALUABLE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHEN THE SERVICES SO PROVIDED WERE EXCEPTIONALLY WELL AND THESE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SLIP AWAY WITHOUT BEING REWARDED," HE ADDED.

THE FIRE BROKE OUT AT 2.38 AM ON OCTOBER 13 ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF A 15-STOREY BUILDING AT 751 NATHAN ROAD.

IT WAS UPGRADED TO THIRD ALARM AT 2.48 AM. ONE PERSON DIED AND EIGHT PERSONS WERE INJURED IN THE FIRE. FIREMEN RESCUED A TOTAL OF 40 PEOPLE TO SAFETY.

AT THE HEAT OF THE FIRE, SENIOR FIREMAN CHEUNG AND ANOTHER FIREMAN OF THE BREATHING APPARATUS TEAM WERE DEPLOYED TO CONDUCT A SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION IN THE BUILDING. THEY FOUND A WOMAN LYING UNCONSCIOUSLY IN A SMOKE-FILLED LIFT LOBBY ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR.

/SENIOR FIREMAN

SENIOR FIREMAN CHEUNG IMMEDIATELY CARRIED THE WOMAN TO THE GROUND FLOOR. DURING THE PASSAGE, CHEUNG PULLED OFF HIS OWN OXYGEN MASK AND ATTENDED IT TO THE WOMAN AS THE STAIRCASES WERE PALLED WITH SMOKE.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE GROUND FLOOR, THE WOMAN SHOWED NO SIGN OF BREATHING AND RESPONSE. CHEUNG HAD TO APPLY CARDIAC PULMONARY RESUSCITATION TO THE WOMAN UNTIL SHE REGAINED HER CONSCIOUSNESS.

SHE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SPED TO HOSPITAL FOR FURTHER TREATMENT.

MEANWHILE, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER WOO ALSO NOTIFIED THREE OFFICERS FOR 'FAVOURABLE ENTRY' IN THEIR PERSONAL RECORDS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXCELLENT WORK IN ORGANISING AND RUNNING OF A NEW SPECIAL TRAINING SCHEME INTRODUCED IN TSEUNG KWAN O FIRE STATION IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

THE THREE OFFICERS WERE ACTING DIVISIONAL OFFICER CHENG TAK-CHUEN, SENIOR STATION OFFICER TAM TAI-KEUNG AND LAI MAN-HIN.

UNDER THE SCHEME, ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED FIREMEN ARE TRAINED TO ATTAIN THE STATION OFFICER GRADE. SO FAR, 14 PARTICIPANTS HAD SUCCEEDED TO JOIN THE STATION OFFICER GRADE.

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REMINDER ON PROPER LABELLING FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS THAT FOOD ITEMS IN PREPACKAGED FORM, WHETHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY PACKED, MUST BE PROPERLY MARKED AS REQUIRED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$25,000 IN FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

THE REMINDER FOLLOWED RECENT COURT CASES IN WHICH FOUR RETAILERS WERE FINED.

IN THE FIRST TWO CASES, A GROCERY IN CENTRAL AND A DEPARTMENT STORE IN CAUSEWAY BAY WERE EACH FINED \$2,000 UPON CONVICTION OF SELLING PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS -- NAMELY SOYA SAUCE, PRESERVED BEAN CURD, DRIED SALTED SARDINE AND SQUID WITHOUT SEASONING PASTE -- WITHOUT PROPER MARKING OR LABELLING.

THE ITEMS DID NOT HAVE THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD, THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER OR PACKER, THE INDICATION OF MINIMUM DURABILITY, THE NUMERICAL COUNT OF THE CONTENTS OR THE NET WEIGHT OF THE FOOD OR THE NET VOLUME OF THE FOOD AS STIPULATED IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

IN ANOTHER TWO CASES, TWO SHOPS IN TSUEN WAN AND WESTERN SELLING PREPACKAGED EGG ROLLS, PHOENIX EGG ROLLS AND PRESERVED BEAN CURD WITHOUT PROPER LABELLING, WERE EACH FINED \$1,000 FOR CONTRAVENING THE SAME REGULATIONS.

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PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS - AN ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE IN SCHOOLING

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PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ILLUSTRATE THE WIDE VARIETY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN HONG KONG, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS COUNCIL, MR PETER LEE SHUNG-TAK, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A MEDIA BRIEFING AND VISIT TO THE MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN CHAI WAN, MR LEE SAID THIS TYPE OF SCHOOL PRESENTED AN ATTRACTIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE FOR PARENTS TO CHOOSE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

CITING THE CURRICULUM AS AN EXAMPLE, MR LEE SAID PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS OFFERED AN INTERESTING COMBINATION OF GENERAL, PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS.

STUDENTS MAY ENROL AFTER SECONDARY 3 IN APPROVED CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES OR CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES TO SECONDARY 5 AND THEN ENROL IN TECHNICIAN COURSES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND POLYTECHNICS.

"ANOTHER ATTRACTION IS THE GRADUAL INCLUSION OF SIXTH FORM CLASSES FOR OUR STUDENTS WHO WISH TO PURSUE TECHNOLOGICAL OR OTHER STUDIES IN THE POLYTECHNICS, UNIVERSITIES OR OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

MR LEE PREDICTED THAT WITH THE MANY AND VARIED CHANGES IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WILL BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE, ATTRACTIVE AND POPULAR AMONG STUDENTS:

"THEIR IMPORTANCE WILL BE MORE WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED BY SOCIETY," MR LEE SAID.

A SERIES OF OPEN DAYS WILL BE HELD BY THE 22 PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DECEMBER 11, HE SAID.

"PARENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO GO AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES HOW THE STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT AND THE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT INSTALLED TO HELP THEM LEARN PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS," MR LEE ADDED.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE TOURISM

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A PHOTO EXHIBITION ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS EXCAVATED IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WILL BE HELD IN THE LOBBY OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI FROM TOMORROW (DECEMBER 5) TO FRIDAY (DECEMBER 7).

ON DISPLAY WILL BE ABOUT 100 PICTURES, WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS.

/THE EXHIBITION

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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| DECEMBER 12 - 18 | PENG CHAU FERRY PIER CONCOURSE |
| DECEMBER 19 - 25 | CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE YOUTH CENTRE IN TUNG WAN |
| DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1 | LAMMA NORTH RURAL COMMITTEE AND YUNG SHU WAN FERRY PIER |
| JANUARY 2 - 8 | LAMMA SOUTH RURAL COMMITTEE |
| JANUARY 9 - 15 | MUI WO RURAL COMMITTEE AND FERRY PIER CONCOURSE |
| JANUARY 16 - 22 | SOUTH LANTAU RURAL COMMITTEE, PUI O |
| JANUARY 23 - 29 | TUNG CHUNG RURAL COMMITTEE |
| JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5 | TAI O RURAL COMMITTEE |

THE EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH.

IT IS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S TOURISM PROMOTION CAMPAIGN.

IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MORE OVERSEAS TOURISTS TO HONGKONG AND SPEND ONE OR TWO DAYS ON THE OUTLYING ISLANDS, THE COMMITTEE HAS PRODUCED A VIDEO TAPE TO SHOW THE ATTRACTIVE SCENIC SPOTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE VIDEO TAPE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION TO ITS 16 OVERSEAS OFFICES FOR BROADCASTING.

A CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS PHOTO EXHIBITION AND THE PREMIERE OF THE VIDEO ON ISLANDS DISTRICT SCENIC SPOTS WERE HELD TODAY AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE.

OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, MR MARTIN BARROW AND MR LAM WAI-KEUNG, AND THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KIM SALKELD.

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FESTIVE LIGHTING IN MONG KOK

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TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASONS, A SECTION OF NATHAN ROAD BETWEEN BOUNDARY STREET AND DUNDAS STREET WILL BE LIGHTENED UP WITH THOUSANDS OF LIGHT BULBS.

A SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY FOR THE FESTIVE ILLUMINATIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE JUNCTION OF ARGYLE STREET AND NATHAN ROAD ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 7).

/SECRETARY FOR

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

"THE LIGHTENED UP PERIOD WILL LAST UNTIL JANUARY 6, AND AGAIN FROM FEBRUARY 8 TO MARCH 1 FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MONG KOK CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTING PROJECT ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID.

A CONCENTRATION OF LIGHTING WILL BE PUT UP AT THE JUNCTION OF ARGYLE STREET AND NATHAN ROAD.

"OTHER AREAS WITH LIGHTING DISPLAY WILL INCLUDE A SECTION OF ARGYLE STREET BETWEEN SHANGHAI STREET AND SAI YEE STREET AND A SECTION OF LAI CHI KOK ROAD," HE ADDED.

THE DISPLAY, COSTING OVER \$700,000, IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE MONG KOK CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTING SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE JUNCTION OF NATHAN ROAD AND ARGYLE STREET AT 6.30 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 7).

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY WILL BE A COCKTAIL PARTY AT THE GRAND TOWER HOTEL, 627-641 NATHAN ROAD AT 6.45 PM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY AND ATTEND THE COCKTAIL PARTY.

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INMATES GIVES TUNG LUNG CHAU A CLEAN LOOK

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TUNG LUNG CHAU WAS GIVEN A NEW LOOK THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING AFTER A CLEAN-UP OPERATION BY 40 INMATES FROM THE BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME.

ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, THE OPERATION WAS ALSO AIMED AT REMINDING HOLIDAY-MAKERS TO KEEP THE ISLAND CLEAN AND NOT TO LEAVE RUBBISH BEHIND ON THE ISLAND.

TUNG LUNG CHAU, AN ISLAND OFF THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE CLEAR WATER PENINSULA, BOASTS THE REMAINS OF A CHING DYNASTY FORT AND ROCK CARVINGS OF DRAGONS.

BECAUSE OF ITS REMOTE LOCATION, THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO COLLECT RUBBISH ON A REGULAR BASIS.

/THEREFORE, THE

THEREFORE, THE AUTHORITY HAS TO URGE HOLIDAY-MAKERS NOT TO LEAVE RUBBISH BEHIND ON THE ISLAND.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE INMATES AND SEVERAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, THIS MORNING'S OPERATION LASTED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, AND THE RUBBISH COLLECTED WAS TAKEN BACK TO SAI KUNG TOWN FOR DISPOSAL.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON WONG SAI-WAI ON AUGUST 9, 1988 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

WONG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LAU WAI-MEI AND HO NGAR-YIN.

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