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CONTRACT FOR FINAL SECTION OF WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR SIGNED

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CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE FINAL SECTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR ARE SCHEDULED TO START EARLY NEXT MONTH FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE $399-MILLION CONTRACT, SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTOR, STIPULATED THAT THE CONTRACTOR HAS 34 MONTHS TO COMPLETE THE WORKS.

SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS/KOWLOON REGION, MR DAVID Y K LEUNG, SAID THE WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT TITLED WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR - YA MA TEI SECTION, PHASE II AND ASSOCIATED FOOTBRIDGES AND SUBWAY SYSTEMS MAINLY COMPRISED TWO PARTS.

THE FIRST PART INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-LANE UPRAMP ABOUT 400 METRES LONG ALONG CHERRY STREET CONNECTING THE FERRY STREET NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY TO THE EXISTING NORTHBOUND ELEVATED ROAD AT TAI KOK TSUI ROAD.

THE SECOND PART INVOLVES THE DEMOLITION OF PART OF THE EXISTING GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL TWO-LANE EXTENSION TO THE FLYOVER ABOUT 650 METRES LONG OVER WATERLOO ROAD TO JOIN FERRY STREET AT GROUND LEVEL NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH DUNDAS STREET.

TWO EXISTING PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS ARE TO BE DEMOLISHED AND TO BE REPLACED BY TWO NEW FOOTBRIDGES AND A NEW SUBWAY ACROSS FERRY STREET AT WATERLOO ROAD, DUNDAS STREET AND PROSPEROUS GARDEN RESPECTIVELY.

THESE NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES ARE INTENDED TO SERVE THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AREA.

MR LEUNG SAID IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE NOISE IMPACT ON THE NEARBY BUILDINGS, THREE-METRE HIGH NOISE BARRIERS WOULD BE ERECTED ALONG SOME SECTIONS OF THE ELEVATED ROADS AND NOISE REDUCING SURFACING WOULD BE LAID ALONG THE WHOLE CORRIDOR.

HE ADDED THAT VERY DETAILED PLANNING WAS CARRIED OUT IN ORDER TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION TO TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION.

TWO TEMPORARY STEEL RAMPS WOULD BE BUILT BEFORE THE PARTIAL DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER.

IN ADDITION, A 35-METRE WIDE STRIP OF LAND FORMED FROM THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION ALONG THE SEAWALL OF THE EXISTING YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER WOULD ALSO BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY CARRIAGEWAY FOR THE NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG FERRY STREET.

WORKS ON PHASE I OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR YAU MA TEI SECTION STARTED IN JUNE LAST YEAR AND ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

PHASE I CONSISTS OF A 700-METRE LONG, 8.39-METRE WIDE TWO-LANE SOUTHBOUND ELEVATED ROAD ALONG TONG MI ROAD AND FERRY STREET BETWEEN BUTE STREET AND SOY STREET.

/ON COMPLETION .....

ON COMPLETION OF THE FINAL YAU MA TEI SECTION, THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR WILL PROVIDE A FREE FLOW ROUTE BETWEEN THE GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER AND MEI FOO.

THE ROUTE IS ALSO CONSIDERED AS VERY ESSENTIAL TO COPE WITH THE TRAFFIC ASSOCIATED WITH THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WHICH ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION TOWARDS THE END OF 1996 AND EARLY 1997 RESPECTIVELY.

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APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS FOR HIGHWAYS AND ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MR KWOK PING-KEI, DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, AND MR KWEI SEE-KAN, DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, WILL RETIRE ON NOVEMBER 5 AND DECEMBER 3 THIS YEAR RESPECTIVELY.

MR KWOK WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR H B PHILLIPSON WHILE MR KWEI WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR KWONG HON-SANG.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS:

MR KWOK PING-KI

MR KWOK, AGED 59, JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ASSISTANT ELECTRICAL ENGINEER IN NOVEMBER 1959. HE WAS PROMOTED TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES IN MARCH 1990 AND TO DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 1993. ON HIS RETIREMENT, MR KWOK WILL HAVE COMPLETED 34 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

MR H B PHILLIPSON

MR PHILLIPSON, AGED 52, JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ENGINEER IN FEBRUARY 1977. HE WAS APPOINTED AS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (WORKS) IN DECEMBER 1985 AND TO THE POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY (WORKS POLICY) IN THE WORKS BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN NOVEMBER 1990.

MR KWEI SEE-KAN, ISO

MR KWEI, AGED 59, JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN APPRENTICE ENGINEER IN JUNE 1957. HE WAS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ENGINEER IN NOVEMBER 1982 AND TO DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS IN OCTOBER 1989. ON HIS RETIREMENT, MR KWEI WILL HAVE COMPLETED 36 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

MR KWONG HON-SANG

MR KWONG, AGED 55, JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS AN APPRENTICE ENGINEER IN SEPTEMBER 1963. HE WAS PROMOTED TO GOVERNMENT ENGINEER IN MARCH 1988 AND TO PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ENGINEER IN JANUARY 1992.

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TWO MORE HK CITIZENS TRANSFERRED BACK FROM THAILAND TO SERVE SENTENCES

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TWO MORE HONG KONG CITIZENS WERE TRANSFERRED BACK FROM THAILAND TO HONG KONG TONIGHT (TUESDAY) TO SERVE THE REMAINDER OF THEIR SENTENCES.

THE TRANSFER WAS CONDUCTED BY CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TONIGHT (TUESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS THE SECOND BATCH OF HONG KONG CITIZENS SERVING SENTENCES OF IMPRISONMENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHO WERE RETURNED TO HONG KONG TO SERVE THE REMAINDER OF THEIR SENTENCES.

THE FIRST BATCH OF THREE WAS RETURNED FROM THAILAND TO HONG KONG IN MAY THIS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE TRANSFER WAS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE THAI GOVERNMENTS (WHICH HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG) ON THE TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS AND ON CO-OPERATION IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF PENAL SENTENCES.

THE AIM OF THE AGREEMENT IS TO HELP THE SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF OFFENDERS INTO SOCIETY BY GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THEIR SENTENCES WITHIN THEIR OWN SOCIETY.

AT PRESENT, 50 HONG KONG CITIZENS SERVING SENTENCES OF IMPRISONMENT IN THAILAND HAVE APPLIED FOR TRANSFER BACK TO HONG KONG.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE THIRD BATCH OF FOUR WILL BE RETURNED BY JANUARY NEXT YEAR. MORE WILL FOLLOW.

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MORE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS IN SECOND QUARTER OF 1993

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THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS/SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED BY THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30 INCREASED BY 18% TO 3,056 AS COMPARED WITH 2,587 IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY DUE TO MORE COMPLAINTS AGAINST CHINA MOTOR BUS SERVICES (+30% FROM 172 TO 223 CASES); KOWLOON MOTOR BUS SERVICES (+38% FROM 218 TO 301 CASES); FERRY SERVICES (+187% FROM 15 TO 43 CASES); GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES (+46% FROM 101 TO 147 CASES); TRAFFIC CONDITIONS (+17% FROM 459 TO 539 CASES); TAXI MALPRACTICES (+12% FROM 603 TO 676 CASES) AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION (+21% FROM 487 TO 591 CASES).

ABOUT HALF OF THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT FERRY SERVICES WERE RELATED TO SERVICES BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND THE URBAN AREAS.

/THE TRANSPORT .....

THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTED THAT HONG KONG AND YAUMATEI FERRY COMMISSIONED TWO CATAMARANS FOR THE TUEN MUM - CENTRAL ROUTE ON SEPTEMBER 30 AND INTENDED TO INTRODUCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE A HOVERFERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND WAN CHAI FOR A SIX-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD.

THE COMMITTEE AlSO NOTED THAT THE NEW CATAMARAN SERVICE BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND CENTRAL HAD BEEN POPULAR.

DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES WAS LARGELY RELATED TO THE INADEQUACY OF SUCH SERVICES.

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TAC CONSIDERS FARE INCREASES FOR TRAMS AND LANTAU TAXIS

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) DISCUSSED FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS FROM THE HONG KONG TRAMWAY LIMITED (HKT) AND THE LANTAU TAXI ASSOCIATION.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL BY THE POLICE TO REVISE CHARGES FOR TOWING AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES.

MEMBERS WERE INFORMED OF A STRATEGY FOR TAKING FORWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 3 COUNTRY PARK SECTION.

ON THE TRAM FARE APPLICATION, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT HKT APPLIED FOR A 20 CENTS INCREASE TO $1.20 FOR ADULT FARE AND 10 CENTS INCREASE TO 60 CENTS FOR CHILD FARE TO COVER HIGHER OPERATING COST AND TO FURTHER IMPROVE SERVICES. HKT HAD NOT APPLIED FOR FARE INCREASES FOR MORE THAN 3 YEARS.

THE PROPOSED 20% FARE INCREASE IS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THE ESTIMATED 36.4% RISE IN INFLATION RATE BETWEEN THE DATE OF THE LAST REVISION IN AUGUST 1990 AND THE EXPECTED DATE OF THE INCREASE IN DECEMBER 1993.

THIS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY HKT'S SUCCESS IN INTRODUCING A NUMBER OF COST-SAVING MEASURES TO KEEP THE RISE IN OPERATING COST TO 15% DURING THIS PERIOD.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE COMPANY WAS PREPARED TO INTRODUCE A HALF-FARE CONCESSIONARY SCHEME FOR ELDERLY PASSENGERS AGED 65 AND ABOVE ON A FULL-DAY BASIS WITH EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF THE FARE INCREASE.

TRAMS ATTRACT MORE ELDERLY PASSENGERS THAN OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES. TO ASSIST HKT IN MEETING THE COST OF THE CONCESSIONARY SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER WAIVING THE RENT ON HKT'S EASTERN DEPOT WHICH WILL AMOUNT TO $2 MILLION IN 1994.

ON SERVICE IMPROVEMENT, THE COMPANY HAS RECENTLY COMMENCED A LARGE SCALE PROGRAMME TO REFURBISH TRAM SHELTERS BY INSTALLING WEATHER-PROOF SHIELDS.

THIS FOLLOWED THE COMPLETION OF A REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME UNDER WHICH ALL TRAMS WERE REBODIED AND WOODEN SEATS ON THE UPPER-DECK REPLACED BY MORE COMFORTABLE MOULDED PLASTIC ONES.

/IN AN .....

IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER REDUCE ELECTRICITY AND OTHER OPERATION COSTS, HKT HAS PROPOSED TO REPLACE THE PRESENT MANUAL CONTROL SYSTEM ON TRAMS WITH A NEW SPEED CONTROL SYSTEM. HKT'S FARE INCREASE APPLICATION WAS ENDORSED BY TAC.

ON THE FARE INCREASE APPLICATION BY THE LANTAU TAXI ASSOCIATION, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAD ASKED FOR A 25% INCREASE TO COVER HIGHER OPERATING COST SINCE LAST REVISION IN NOVEMBER 1992.

HAVING CONSIDERED THE FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR A FARE INCREASE, NAMELY FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE TRADE, FARE DIFFERENTIAL WITH OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES, AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE AND PUBLIC ACCEPTABILITY, TAC RECOMMENDED A 12.5% INCREASE WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1994. TAC'S RECOMMENDED INCREASE WOULD ENABLE LANTAU TAXI OPERATORS TO GENERALLY RESTORE THEIR REAL INCOME TO THE LEVEL IN NOVEMBER 1992.

THE EXISTING AND NEW FARES RECOMMENDED BY TAC ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	EXISTING FARES	RECOMMENDED NEW FARES
FLAGFALL FOR FIRST 2 KM	$8.0	$9.0
FARE FOR EVERY SUBSEQUENT 0.2 KM	$0.8	$0.9
WAITING TIME CHARGE FOR EVERY 1 MINUTE	$0.8	$0.9
ADDITIONAL FARE FOR EACH ARTICLE OF BAGGAGE, ANIMAL, OR BIRD	$3.0	$4.0
ADDITIONAL FARE FOR EVERY HIRING ARRANGED THROUGH TELEPHONE BOOKING	$3.0	$5.0

TAC'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TWO FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO EXCO FOR APPROVAL.

ON THE PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE VEHICLE TOWING AND STORAGE FEES, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE CURRENT RATE OF $110 PER TOW AND $35 PER DAY OF STORAGE HAD NOT BEEN REVISED FOR A DECADE.

THE LOW CHARGES DEFEAT THE AIM OF DETERRING DRIVERS FROM PARKING ILLEGALLY OR RESULT IN ABUSING THE USE OF POLICE MANPOWER TO TOW BROKEN-DOWN VEHICLES AWAY.

IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE DETERRENT EFFECT AND TO MAKE POLICE TOWING FEES MORE COMPATIBLE WITH THE MARKET RATES, TAC ENDORSED A PROPOSAL THAT A SLIDING FEE SCALE, BASED ON GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT SHOULD BE ADOPTED. THE PROPOSED FEES WILL BE $350 FOR VEHICLES UNDER 5.5 TONS, $930 FOR 5.5-24 TONS AND $1,280 FOR OVER 24 TONS. THE NEW RATES WILL COME INTO EFFECT AS SOON AS THEY ARE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

/THE NEW .....

THE NEW STORAGE CHARGE WILL BE $245 PER DAY.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED OF THE STRATEGY FOR TAKING FORWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY PARK SECTION OF ROUTE-3.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INVITE TENDERS FOR THE PROPOSED BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER FRANCHISE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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HK ATTENDS WORLD CONFERENCES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING BUILDING ENVIRONMENTALLY BASED PARTNERSHIPS WITH DISTRICT BOARDS AND OTHER DISTRICT-BASED ORGANISATIONS TO HELP PURSUE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ENVIRONMENT, AS AGREED IN THE EARTH SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN RIO DE JANERIO LAST YEAR.

THIS WAS STARTED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY COOPER, WHO RECENTLY REPRESENTED HONG KONG IN TWO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE EARTH SUMMIT.

MR COOPER SAID: "DELEGATES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER AT A MANCHESTER CONFERENCE IN THE UK LATE LAST MONTH TO DISCUSS WAYS TO TURN THE EARTH SUMMIT BLUEPRINT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - AGENDA 21 - INTO AN ACTION PLAN.

"I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE EXPERIENCE OF SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS AT MANCHESTER, AND WITH THE VARIOUS INITIATIVES BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE UK, IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS, WHO ARE GETTING MORE INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES."

FOR EXAMPLE, MR COOPER SAID "DECLARATIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" HAD BEEN MADE BY SOME LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES HAD BEEN DEVELOPED.

"SOME OF THEIR PROGRAMMES REFLECT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES THAT HAVE ALSO STARTED IN HONG KONG - THOSE CARRIED OUT BY US AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE FOR EXAMPLE.

"WE WOULD NOW EXAMINE THE UK EXPERIENCES IN MORE DETAIL TO SEE WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO LAUNCH A TRIAL PARTNERSHIPS IN A DISTRICT IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR COOPER ADDED THAT SUCH A PROJECT WOULD REFLECT THE INVITATION IN THE GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADDRESS FOR BUSINESS TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

MR COOPER ALSO REPRESENTED HONG KONG AT AN ESCAP MEETING AT THE UN CENTRE IN BANGKOK EARLY THIS MONTH TO DISCUSS THE ASPECTS TO BE EXAMINED IN A REGIONAL REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE EARTH SUMMIT.

AT THE BANGKOK MEETING, HONG KONG WAS CITED AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF DEALING WITH FLOODS AND LANDSLIPS WHICH ARE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN SOME ESCAP COUNTRIES.

/AND LAST .....

AND LAST WEEK, MR COOPER ATTENDED AN OECD CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG WHERE TRADE DELEGATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD HAD GATHERED TO CONSIDER TRADE ISSUES INVOLVING THE DYNAMIC NON-MEMBER ECONOMICS.

DURING ONE OF THE AGENDA ITEMS - ON TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - MR COOPER SPOKE ON THE NEED TO BUILD "SUSTAINABILITY" INTO TRADING POLICIES.

HE PROPOSED THAT NATIONAL ECONOMISTS RE-EXAMINE THE VALUE OF EXPORTS AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SO THAT THEIR TRADE FIGURES ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE EXPORTS, BY SAY, SUBTRACTING VALUES FOR DESERTIFICATION AND GLOBAL WARMING.

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BOOST IN R & D ACTIVITY WITNESSED

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HONG KONG'S APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R & D) ACTIVITY HAS RECEIVED A BOOST WITH THE LAUNCHING OF THE APPLIED R & D SCHEME IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, WHEN ADDRESSING A GROUP OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN AT THE HONG KONG CITY POLYTECHNIC INDUSTRIAL CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR YOUNG SAID THE SCHEME, WHICH HAD RECEIVED $200 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNMENT AS UP-FRONT CAPITAL, WAS DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE CURRENTLY LIMITED VOLUME OF APPLIED R & D ACTIVITY IN HONG KONG.

"THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO IMPROVE THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY AND HENCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF LOCAL INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING TO SUSTAIN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE SCHEME HAD SO FAR RECEIVED 15 APPLICATIONS AND OVER 200 SERIOUS ENQUIRIES.

THE NATURE OF THE APPLICATIONS RANGES FROM COMPUTER SOFTWARE, ELECTRONICS CONSUMER PRODUCTS, ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY PRODUCTS TO MACHINERY, SECURITY SYSTEMS AND TELEPHONE DEVICES.

GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BY THE HONG KONG APPLIED R & D FUND COMPANY LIMITED TO PROCESS THE APPLICATIONS AND THE COMPANY HAS ALREADY APPROVED ONE OF THEM.

"ANOTHER THREE ARE NOW IN THE PIPELINE AND WE HOPE THAT APPROVAL CAN BE GRANTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE SAID.

MR YOUNG SAID ALL COMPANIES INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE OR STATUTORY BODIES SET UP UNDER THE LAWS OF HONG KONG WHICH UNDERTOOK R & D LOCALLY WERE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHEME.

PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE COMPANIES WILL BE ASSESED IN TERMS OF THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL MERIT AND POTENTIAL FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION.

/"APPROVED FUNDS .....

"APPROVED FUNDS MAY MEET UP TO HALF OF THE PROJECT COST AND WILL BE DISBURSED TO THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS BY INSTALMENTS AT AGREED INTERVALS ON A REIMBURSEMENT BASIS," HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE SCHEME CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE HONG KONG APPLIED R & D FUND COMPANY LIMITED AT ROOM 1445, 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, 5 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

COMPLETED FORMS CAN BE RETURNED BY POST OR BY HAND TO THE COMPANY. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 737 2206.

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RAT PREVENTION CAMPAIGN STARTS NEXT MONTH

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BE LAUNCHING A TERRITORY-WIDE RAT PREVENTION EDUCATION CAMPAIGN IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAN AND HYGIENIC ENVIRONMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE CAMPAIGN, BEARING THE THEME "CLEAN FLATS, NO RATS", WAS ORGANISED WITH THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL.

THE SPOKESMAN CALLED FOR FULL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION IN CARRYING OUT RODENT CONTROL MEASURES, POINTING OUT THAT RATS CAN DAMAGE HOME FURNITURE AND FITTINGS.

"RATS ARE NOT ONLY CARRIERS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES SUCH AS PLAGUE AND TYPHUS, THEY ALSO INDIRECTLY TRANSMIT INTESTINAL DISEASES INCLUDING FOOD POISONING," HE ADDED.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, PRINTED EDUCATIONAL HANDOUTS ON RAT PREVENTION SUCH AS POSTERS, ADVISORY LETTERS AND LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT OFFICES, FOOD PREMISES, HOUSING ESTATES AND SCHOOLS.

A 24-HOUR HOTLINE (723 0013) WILL ALSO BE IN OPERATION TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE IN CANTONESE ON RAT PREVENTION.

AS FOR THE ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE ON RAT PREVENTION, THIS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT PEST CONTROL UNITS OF THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL METHOD IN RODENT CONTROL WAS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION IN WHICH RATS WOULD BE DEPRIVED OF HARBOURAGES AND FOOD SUPPLIES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ALSO ADVISED TO TAKE HEED OF THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT RAT INFESTATION:

* KEEP THE PREMISES CLEAN. STORE ALL FOOD PROPERLY AND PUT ALL REFUSE AND FOOD REMNANTS INTO A PROPER DUSTBIN SO AS TO LEAVE NO FOOD FOR RATS;

* SEAL OFF ANY HOLES ON CEILINGS, WALLS AND FLOORS. INSPECT REGULARLY THE BOTTOM AND BACK OF BULKY FURNITURE AND CONCEALED PLACES SO AS TO ELIMINATE BREEDING PLACES FOR RATS PROMPTLY;

/*KEEP DRAIN .....

* KEEP DRAIN GRATINGS IN GOOD REPAIR AND RENDER ALL VENTILATION OPENINGS RAT-PROOF; AND

* AFFIX METAL PLATES TO THE LOWER PART OF WOODEN DOORS TO KEEP AWAY RATS.

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SMOOTH TRAFFIC ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD
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NO MAJOR TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES WERE OBSERVED AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD EVEN THOUGH VERY HIGH TRAFFIC FLOWS THERE WERE WITNESSED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES WERE IMPLEMENTED TO HELP THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION.

THESE MEASURES INCLUDE A TIDAL FLOW SYSTEM AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND SHA TIN ROAD, REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT FROM 70 KILOMETRES AN HOUR TO 50 AND TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS.

UNDER THE TIDAL FLOW SYSTEM, THERE ARE TWO TRAFFIC LANES SOUTHBOUND TO KOWLOON AND ONE TRAFFIC LANE NORTHBOUND TO THE NEW TERRITORIES BETWEEN 6 AM AND 4 PM.

THE DIRECTION OF THE MIDDLE LANE WILL BE REVERSED FROM 4 PM GIVING TWO LANES FOR NEW TERRITORIES-BOUND TRAFFIC PLUS ONE LANE FOR KOWLOON-BOUND TRAFFIC UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRAFFIC LANE IN EITHER DIRECTION. BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6 AM. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS IN FORCE DAILY EXCEPT SATURDAYS AND DAYTIME HORSE RACING DAYS.

ON SATURDAYS AND DAYTIME HORSE RACING DAYS, THE REVERSION OF THE MIDDLE LANE IS ADVANCED TO 11.30 AM.

"PUBLICITY OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO MOTORISTS ASKING THEM TO TRAVEL BETWEEN SHA TIN AND KOWLOON AND THEIR KIND CO-OPERATION ARE THE MAIN FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE RELATIVELY SMOOTH TRAFFIC FLOW THERE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON RACING DAYS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EARLY REVERSAL OF THE TIDAL FLOW ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE DAYTIME RACE MEETINGS WAS TO MEET THE MAJOR TRAFFIC FLOWS WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE GENERAL COMMUTERS.

"HOWEVER, AS NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC IS HEAVIER IN EARLY EVENINGS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REVERSE THE TIDAL FLOW TO CATER FOR THE MOTORING PUNTERS AT THE END OF RACE MEETINGS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE GENERAL COMMUTERS," HE SAID.

THIS VIEW IS GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, HE ADDED.

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SUSPECTED RHINO PRODUCTS SEIZED
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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAD SEIZED A NUMBER OF SUSPECTED RHINO PRODUCTS AND MEDICINE CLAIMING TO CONTAIN RHINO INGREDIENTS IN A SERIES OF OPERATION CONDUCTED LAST WEEK.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR FRANK LAU, TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID ACTING ON INFORMATION, THE DEPARTMENT OBTAINED WARRANTS TO SEARCH 58 CHINESE MEDICINAL SHOPS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TERRITORY SINCE LAST WEDNESDAY (OCT 20).

AS A RESULT, TWO PIECES AND TWO SCRAPS OF RHINO HORN, A NUMBER OF SUSPECTED RHINO HIDE WEIGHING 4 KILOGRAM, AND MORE THAN 1,000 SMALL PACKETS OF MEDICINE CLAIMING TO CONTAIN RHINO INGREDIENTS WERE SEIZED FROM 29 SHOPS.

THE VALUE OF THE SEIZED GOODS IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT $120,000. PROSECUTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT A LATER STAGE.

MR LAU SAID THE ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE IN RHINO PRODUCTS HAD BEEN STEPPED UP IN HONG KONG FOLLOWING RECENT REPORTS OF SUCH ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIAN REGION AND DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY.

HE REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT NOT ONLY THE IMPORT, EXPORT AND LOCAL SALE OF RHINO HORNS INCLUDING MEDICINE CLAIMING TO CONTAIN RHINO INGREDIENTS WERE PROHIBITED IN HONG KONG, POSSESSION OF ANY SUCH PRODUCT WAS ALSO ILLEGAL.

"APART FROM BEING ILLEGAL, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD ALSO REFRAIN FROM USING OR BUYING RHINO PRODUCTS BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO PROTECT THESE ENDANGERED SPECIES.

"BESIDES, THERE IS A HIGH CHANCE THAT THE PUBLIC MAY ONLY PURCHASE SOME FAKED GOODS. IN FACT, DURING OUR OPERATIONS, A NUMBER OF FAKED PRODUCTS WERE FOUND."

HE REITERATED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT THE ILLICIT RHINO PRODUCT TRADE IN HONG KONG AND THAT THE ENFORCEMENT MOMENTUM WOULD BE MAINTAINED.

HE URGED ANYONE WHO HAD ANY INFORMATION ON ILLEGAL RHINO TRADE TO REPORT OR PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT OR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SO THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN TO CURB THESE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

HE STRESSED THAT UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE, OFFENDERS WOULD BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF $25,000 ON FIRST CONVICTION AND $50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT OF SIX MONTHS ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

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MORE SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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TO COPE WITH THE GROWING NUMBERS OF OLD PEOPLE, A NETWORK COMPRISING SEVEN NURSING HOMES PROVIDING 1,400 BEDS AND AN ADDITIONAL 800 CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE IN FRAIL HEALTH.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SALVATION ARMY TAK TIN HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, KWUN TONG TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR STRACHAN ALSO SAID A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP WOULD BE SET UP TO LOOK AT FURTHER MEANS TO PROVIDE INTEGRATED CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND WHETHER CURRENT LEVELS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES ARE SUFFICIENT.

"I AM SURE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE IMPROVED MARKEDLY IN THE COMING FEW YEARS," HE ASSURED.

LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNOR PLEDGED TO ACHIEVE THE KEY TARGETS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE WHITE PAPER BY PROVIDING, AMONG OTHERS, AN ADDITIONAL 44 HOME-HELP TEAMS, 5,000 CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES, 70 SOCIAL CENTRES, 20 DAY CARE CENTRES AND 14 MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY BY 1997.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS DELIVERED EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE GOVERNOR ADVOCATED THAT PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO A DIGNIFIED AND COMFORTABLE OLD AGE.

"THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE INITIATIVE TO IMPLEMENT A FAR-REACHING PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY," MR STRACHAN SAID.

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LABOUR COMMISSIONER'S 1992 REPORT PUBLISHED IN A NEW FORMAT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR 1992 IN A NEW FORMAT WITH EXPANDED COVERAGE.

THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER, MRS KATHERINE FOK, SAID IN THE "FOREWORD" OF HER REPORT THAT THE CURRENT ISSUE PRESENTED INFORMATION ON THE LABOUR MARKET AS A WHOLE AND RELEVANT TOPICS SUCH AS LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION.

"BY DOING SO, WE AIM TO PUT LABOUR ISSUES IN A WIDER PERSPECTIVE AGAINST THE OVERALL ECONOMY AND LABOUR SCENE OF HONG KONG, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING A TRANSITION PERIOD," SHE SAID.

MRS FOK NOTED THAT 1992 HAD BEEN AN EVENTFUL YEAR ON THE LABOUR FRONT WHICH SAW THE INTRODUCTION OF NO LESS THAN 17 PIECES OF NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION IN THE FOUR MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN TO THE DEPARTMENT - LABOUR RELATIONS, SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK, EMPLOYMENT AND PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.

/"WE LOOK .....

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO INCREASING SUPPORT FROM EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS IN THE PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE OF GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT ON WORK SAFETY AND HEALTH," MRS FOK ADDED.

THE ANNUAL REPORT CONTAINS FOUR MAIN CHAPTERS WHICH INCLUDE AN OVERVIEW, THE LABOUR SCENE IN HONG KONG, LABOUR LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR AFFAIRS, AND LABOUR ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG.

DETAILS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS AND NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES ARE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS.

CHAPTERS 3 AND 4 OF THE REPORT DESCRIBE THE INCREASING EFFORTS MADE BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO GIVE BETTER PROTECTION, EDUCATION AND SERVICE TO WORKERS IN ITS FOUR MAIN AREAS OF WORK.

IT ALSO CONTAINS 32 CHARTS AND TABLES WITH STATISTICS RELATING TO THE LABOUR SCENE IN THE TERRITORY.

COPIES ARE DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION (IPRD) TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL STATUTORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, CONSULATES/LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, TRADE UNIONS AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES, LIBRARIES, AND OVERSEAS CONTACTS.

SOME COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE IPRD, 16TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING AT 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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CYC POSTER ENTERS GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

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HONG KONG HAS UPSTAGED JAPAN IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS TODAY WHEN ABOUT 1,500 COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) MEMBERS ASSEMBLED A POSTER MEASURING 21,936 SQUARE METRES AT VICTORIA PARK, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE POSTER COVERED THE SIX FOOTBALL PITCHES AT VICTORIA PARK.

THE PREVIOUS WORLD RECORD FOR THE LARGEST POSTER HELD BY JAPAN WAS 20,000 SQUARE METRES.

THE FINAL SEGMENTS OF THE POSTER WERE ASSEMBLED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, DR RONALD LEUNG DING-BONG; THE GOVERNOR OF THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, MR CHENG WAI-CHUEN; AND OTHER GUESTS.

THE OFFICIAL PARTY ALSO PLAYED THE ROLE OF WITNESSES TO CERTIFY THE COMPLETION OF THE POSTER, A GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS REQUIREMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE POSTER WAS MADE UP OF 310 X 84 UNITS, EACH ABOUT 1M X 0.8M IN SIZE.

ON THE RECORD-BREAKING EVENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE IN PRODUCING THIS POSTER IS TO ENCOURAGE AND REINFORCE THE CONCEPT OF CONCERN AND RESPECT FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, TEACHERS, AND THE ELDERLY."

/THE POSTER .....

THE POSTER DEPICTED THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR FAMILY, A THEME CHOSEN TO HIGHLIGHT THE UNIVERSAL FAMILY CONCEPT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE POSTER WOULD BE CONVERTED INTO ABOUT 300,000 CARDS TO BE SENT BY CYC MEMBERS TO PARENTS, TEACHERS AND THE ELDERLY AS A GESTURE OF LOVE AND CONCERN.

SOPHISTICATED METHODS, COURTESY OF TECHNICAL OFFICERS OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, WERE USED TO SURVEY THE ACTUAL DIMENSION OF THE POSTER.

THE COST OF THIS PROJECT WAS ABOUT $310,000 WHICH WAS DONATED BY THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303.

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FIRST DIRECTOR OF HK INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION APPOINTED

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THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL (PGC) FOR THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED) ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR LEUNG CHI KEUNG AS THE DIRECTOR (DESIGNATE) OF THE INSTITUTE.

PROFESSOR LEUNG HAS BEEN THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS FOR FIVE-AND-A-HALF YEARS UNTIL JULY THIS YEAR AND IS CURRENTLY THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

HE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PGC, MR SIMON IP, SAID THE SELECTION BOARD, ASSISTED BY EXTERNAL EXPERTS ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND OBSERVED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, WAS IMPRESSED THAT PROFESSOR LEUNG MET THE DEMANDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POST.

"PROFESSOR LEUNG IS A SENIOR ACADEMIC OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING, A VERY EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATOR AND SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE LOCAL SCENE WELL," HE SAID.

"THE COUNCIL IS CONFIDENT THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THE HKIED OFF TO A GOOD START AND HELP THE HKIED TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING ITS MISSION."

PROFESSOR LEUNG GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND OBTAINED HIS DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, USA.

HE HAS BEEN LECTURING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF HKU SINCE 1973. HE HAS ALSO BEEN THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1988.

PROFESSOR LEUNG ENJOYS A HIGH ACADEMIC STANDING BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

IN RECENT YEARS, HE HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE. HE IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND A MEMBER OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD AND OF THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION.

/"HIS EXPERIENCE .....

"HIS EXPERIENCE IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY WOULD FACILITATE THE WHOLE EXERCISE OF UPGRADING TEACHER EDUCATION AS ENVISAGED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 5," MR IP SAID.

PROFESSOR LEUNG TOLD REPORTERS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WAS HAPPY TO TAKE UP THIS VERY CHALLENGING JOB.

"IT IS CHALLENGING BECAUSE THE DIRECTOR WILL HAVE TO STEER THE RIGHT COURSE FOR THE INSTITUTE SO THAT IT WOULD BECOME A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHER EDUCATION AND CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"TO ACHIEVE THIS MISSION, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO PLAN CAREFULLY YET IMAGINATIVELY TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND TO PROVIDE A GOOD BASIS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT."

HE LOOKED FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN THE PLANNING OF THE NEW INSTITUTE AND MEETING STAFF TO DISCUSS THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

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WSD TO IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE

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THE SERVICE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SEVEN CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRES OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL BE IMPROVED UNDER A PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

THE CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, WILL FIRST BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION FOR SEVEN WEEKS STARTING FROM NOVEMBER 1.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE CENTRE WOULD BE REOPENED IN LATE DECEMBER THIS YEAR ON COMPLETION OF RENOVATION WORKS.

WORKS FOR THE OTHER CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRES WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN PHASES, STARTING EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PUBLIC ENQUIRIES COULD BE MADE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S TELEPHONE ENQUIRY HOTLINE, 824 5000.

OR THEY MAY CHOOSE TO VISIT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRES:

* WANCHAI CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRE
FIRST FLOOR, IMMIGRATION TOWER
7 GLOUCESTER ROAD
WAN CHAI

* SHAUKEIWAN CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRE
GROUND FLOOR, PERFECT MOUNT GARDENS
PO MAN STREET
SHAU KEI WAN

/*KWUN TONG .....

* KWUN TONG CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRE
SECOND FLOOR, NGAU TAU KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES
21 ON WAH STREET
NGAU TAU KOK

* MONGKOK CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRE
GROUND FLOOR, 128 SAI YEE STREET
MONG KOK

* SHATIN CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRE
FIRST FLOOR, KCR HOUSE
SHATIN STATION
SHA TIN; AND

* TAI PO CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRE
FOURTH FLOOR, TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING
TING KOK ROAD
TAI PO MARKET

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53 INMATES PASS PUBLIC EXAMS
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FIFTY-THREE INMATES FROM THE PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, CAPE COLLINSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE AND LAI SUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 29) FOR PASSING VARIOUS PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

THEY OBTAINED A TOTAL OF 23 DISTINCTIONS, 40 CREDITS AND 90 PASSES IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION, OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE, LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, CITY AND GUILDS AND PITMAN EXAMINATIONS.

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PARRISH NG, WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO INMATES AT THE CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

SINCE 1979, 2,803 YOUNG INMATES HAD SAT FOR A TOTAL OF 3,675 PAPERS IN VARIOUS PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

AS A RESULT, THEY ACHEIVED 774 DISTINCTIONS, 361 CREDITS AND 1,817 PASSES. THE AVERAGE PASS RATE IS 80.32 PER CENT.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION (PUCI), CLEARWATER BAY ROAD, SAI KUNG, AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY.

SOME INMATES WHO SAT FOR THE EXAMINATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO COVER THE CEREMONY ARE REQUESTED TO REGISTER WITH THE INFORMATION UNIT OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 5118 BEFORE 5 PM ON THURSDAY.

/TRANSPORT WILL .....

TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICE SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE GROUND FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, BEFORE 2 PM.

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO USE THEIR OWN TRANSPORT ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE IN FRONT OF THE BARRIER GATE OF PUCI BEFORE 2.45 PM.

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C'WEALTH ESSAY WINNERS RECEIVE PRIZES

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THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION ATTRACTED 159 STUDENTS FROM 27 SCHOOLS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR ROBERT LO, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE 159 STUDENTS COMPETED WITH SOME 5,600 FROM 1,150 SCHOOLS IN 52 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES.

MR LO SAID APART FROM PROMOTING THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IT ALSO ENCOURAGED THEM TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF ENGLISH.

"ALTHOUGH ENGLISH IS A SECOND LANGUAGE TO MOST OF OUR STUDENTS, THEY HAVE WON MANY MERITORIOUS AWARDS OVER THE YEARS," HE SAID.

MR LO WAS SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION OF PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE HONG KONG CONTEST OF THE ESSAY COMPETITION, INCLUDING MERITORIOUS AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION.

THE LOCAL COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY IN HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN YUEN LONG

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN YUEN LONG WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 28) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATERMAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT THE YUEN LONG SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TAI TONG ROAD, KAU YUK ROAD AND CHUNG SING PATH.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS
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TENDER DATE	26 OCT 93	26 OCT 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q343	H376
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK$2,780 MN	HK$2,620 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK$1,000 MN	HK$400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.75 PCT	2.86 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.77 PCT	2.87 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 17 PCT	ABOUT 60 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.78 PCT	2.90 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 1 NOVEMBER 1993 -

TENDER DATE	2 NOV 93	2 NOV 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q344	Y395
ISSUE DATE	3 NOV 93	3 NOV 93
MATURITY DATE	2 FEB 94	2 NOV 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK$1,000 + 200 MN	HK$300 + 90 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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		$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT		3,920
REVERSAL OF LAF		-920
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF		3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY		NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY		-20
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT		2,980
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.2 *+0.1*	26.10.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

TERMS	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.99 PCT
1 MONTH	2.76 PCT
3 MONTHS	2.73 PCT
6 MONTHS	2.83 PCT
12 MONTHS	3.10 PCT

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.51	3.19
16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.81	3.35
19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.28	3.60
22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.67	3.69
36 MONTHS	3610	4.20	100.18	4.18

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 31,746 MN

CLOSED 26 OCTOBER 1993

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