



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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REPORT ON QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN JULY 1983.

ABOUT 800 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1983, AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1983.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY INDICATE THAT FIRMS IN THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR EXPERIENCED A SHARP RECOVERY IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1983.

THE IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS TURNED OUT TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE EXPECTATIONS OF FIRMS SHOWN IN THE PREVIOUS ROUND OF SURVEY AND THE OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1983 IS OPTIMISTIC WITH VIEWS OF RESPONDING FIRMS ACROSS DIFFERENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES INDICATING FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS PERFORMANCE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FIRMS IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' AND 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' SECTORS EXPERIENCED DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AS INDICATED BY RESPONDENTS IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR CONTINUES TO BE RATHER PESSIMISTIC AND A DETERIORATION IS PREDICTED, BUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS ANTICIPATED BY FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' SECTOR.

AS FOR OTHER SERVICES, FIRMS EXPERIENCED MODERATE IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND PROSPECTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ARE BETTER.

THE BUSINESS OF FIRMS ACROSS ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES PICKED UP STRONGLY IN THE SECOND QUARTER WITH MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE 'PLASTICS', 'ELECTRONICS' AND 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' INDUSTRIES.

WHILE RESPONDENTS IN THE 'TEXTILES' INDUSTRY PREDICT THAT THEIR BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE SECOND QUARTER, FIRMS IN ALL THE OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ARE CONFIDENT OF CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE' BUSINESS, AFTER EXPERIENCING A BUSINESS DOWNTURN IN THE SECOND QUARTER, FORESEE BETTER BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE 'RESTAURANTS' BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SEASONAL FACTORS. AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IS ANTICIPATED FOR THE THIRD QUARTER.

/FIRMS IN

FIRMS IN THE 'HOTELS' BUSINESS REPORTED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER BUT THEY EXPECT A DECLINE IN THE THIRD QUARTER DUE TO SEASONAL FACTORS.

'BANKS' HAD RATHER UNFAVOURABLE BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN THE SECOND QUARTER WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO THEIR EARLIER EXPECTATION OF SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER THE FIRST QUARTER.

HOWEVER, VIEWS OF THE RESPONDENTS ARE THAT BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ARE QUITE FAVOURABLE.

FIRMS IN THE 'TRANSPORTATION' BUSINESS EXPERIENCED A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER WHICH WAS NOT EXPECTED EARLIER. THE OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER IS FOR A CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT.

THE PREDOMINANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR IN THE SECOND QUARTER WERE UNCERTAINTIES THROUGH EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS AND HIGH MATERIAL PRICES.

THESE WERE PINPOINTED BY A LARGE PROPORTION OF FIRMS ACROSS ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, AND ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE THIRD QUARTER WITH A SIMILAR LEVEL OF INTENSITY.

THE ORDERS POSITION IN THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE SECOND QUARTER WITH THE PROPORTION OF FIRMS CITING INSUFFICIENT ORDER AS A PROBLEM DRASTICALLY REDUCED.

THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

AS REGARDS THE 'CONSTRUCTION' INDUSTRY, APART FROM THE PERSISTING PROBLEMS OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS AND STRONG PRICE COMPETITION OVER THE PAST QUARTERS, UNCERTAINTIES THROUGH EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS, HIGH INTEREST RATES AND HIGH MATERIAL PRICES ARE EMERGING AS SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS.

FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE' BUSINESS QUOTED UNCERTAINTIES THROUGH EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS AND PRICE COMPETITION AS LEADING PROBLEMS IN THE SECOND QUARTER WITH LITTLE PROSPECT OF THESE PROBLEMS EASING IN THE COMING QUARTER.

PRICE COMPETITION AND INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS WERE REPORTED AS MAJOR PROBLEMS BY FIRMS IN THE 'RESTAURANTS' AND 'HOTELS' BUSINESS FOR BOTH THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS; HIGH STAFF TURNOVER, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS EASING SOMEWHAT IN THE 'RESTAURANTS' SECTOR.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE SURVEY RESULTS OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE ONE SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER IN THEIR OPINIONS, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE IMMEDIATELY PAST QUARTER AS COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER BEFORE.

FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER, THEY WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION WOULD 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE'.

THE BALANCE OF OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED.

THE SURVEY REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A SECTION ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND A BREAKDOWN OF VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT FOR A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CARE AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS AND STATISTICAL TABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT \$3 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 5-423401.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JULY PUBLISHED
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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR JULY 1983 WERE BOTH 142, ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, CPI(A) REMAINED UNCHANGED AND CPI(B) INCREASED BY ONE POINT OR 0.7 PER CENT.

WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1982, BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) ROSE BY 11 POINTS OR 8.4 PER CENT.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED IN JULY 1983, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) WAS VIRTUALLY STATIONARY WHILE THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(B) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.2 PER CENT EACH MONTH.

DURING JULY, PRIVATE DWELLING RENTALS AND ADMISSION CHARGES FOR CINEMAS ROSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES DECREASED AS A RESULT OF ABUNDANT SUPPLY.

/THE CPI(A)

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1979/80 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. THE CPI(A) REFERRED TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 000 AND \$3 499 A MONTH AND THE CPI(B) TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$3 500 AND \$6 499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME.

THE INDEXES FOR JULY 1983 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE GIVEN BELOW, TOGETHER WITH THOSE FOR JUNE 1983 AND JULY 1982.

(OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	JUL 82	JUN 83	JUL 83	JUL 82	JUN 83	JUL 83
FOODSTUFFS	136	144	143	136	144	144
HOUSING	126	135	138	126	135	137
FUEL AND LIGHT	134	144	144	135	145	145
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	124	185	184	123	179	177
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	132	141	140	132	142	141

(OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980 AVERAGE = 100)

SECTION	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	JUL 82	JUN 83	JUL 83	JUL 82	JUN 83	JUL 83
DURABLE GOODS	108	112	113	110	115	116
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	121	132	132	118	131	131
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	140	155	156	141	157	158
SERVICES	134	149	152	133	147	150
ALL ITEMS	131	142	142	131	141	142

/COMPARED WITH

COMPARED WITH JUNE 1983, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY ONE POINT IN CPI(A). THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES DECLINED AS A RESULT OF ABUNDANT SUPPLY DURING THE MONTH. THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF LIVE POULTRY WENT DOWN DUE TO LOWER PRICES OF CHICKENS, AS PEOPLE WERE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE CARCINOGENIC EFFECT OF HORMONE RESIDUES IN THE MEAT OF CHICKENS IMPLANTED WITH GROWTH STIMULANTS.

REDUCTIONS WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUITS, SUCH AS WATER MELONS, LYCHEE AND HONEYDEW MELONS. THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY THREE POINTS IN CPI(A) AND BY TWO POINTS IN CPI(B) OWING TO INCREASED RENTS AND RATES FOR PRIVATE DWELLINGS AND HIGHER WATER CHARGES AS MORE HOUSEHOLDS WERE AFFECTED BY THE NEW RATES OF WATER CHARGES INTRODUCED IN APRIL.

THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) DECREASED BY ONE POINT IN CPI(A) AND BY TWO POINTS IN CPI(B) AS THE PRICES OF SOME BRANDS OF CIGARETTES WERE LOWERED.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR DECREASED BY ONE POINT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) DUE TO LOWER PRICES OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTERCLOTHING.

HIGHER PRICES OF TELEVISION SETS, SOUND EQUIPMENT, RECORDS AND TAPES, AND ELECTRICAL CONSUMER DURABLES CAUSED THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS TO INCREASE BY ONE POINT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B).

THE ONE POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER TRAM AND TRAIN FARES AND HIGHER PRICES OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES WENT UP BY THREE POINTS IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER ADMISSION CHARGES FOR CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT AND HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND PACKAGE TOURS.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN THE OTHER SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR JULY 1983. BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE VERSIONS OF THIS REPORT ARE AVAILABLE AT \$3 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG. FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NO. 3-7216512.

(FIGURES PRESENTED IN THIS PRESS RELEASE REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)

\$314.6 MILLION IN TWO PUBLIC HOUSING CONTRACTS SIGNED*** * * * ***

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY SIGNED TWO CONTRACTS TOTALLING \$314.6 MILLION FOR THE PROVISION OF 4 726 PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS FOR ABOUT 20 500 PEOPLE IN THREE YEARS' TIME.

OF THE CONTRACTS SIGNED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR PANG YUK-LING, ONE IS THE FIRST MECHANISED BUILDING CONTRACT AWARDED IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

VALUED AT \$282.7 MILLION, IT IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO TRIDENT BLOCKS AT THE FU HSIN RENTAL ESTATE IN TAI PO AND THREE WINDMILL BLOCKS IN AN ADJOINING HOME OWNERSHIP ESTATE.

THESE BLOCKS WILL BE BUILT BY USING A MECHANISED METHOD WHICH NOT ONLY SAVES TIME BUT ALSO GIVES BETTER FINISHES.

THE CONTRACTORS WILL USE A SYSTEM OF WALL AND TABLE STEEL FORMS TOGETHER WITH THE PRECASTING OF SOME NON-STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS.

IT IS THE SECOND MECHANISED BUILDING CONTRACT APPROVED SO FAR FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY PROJECTS. THE FIRST WAS AWARDED LAST DECEMBER FOR THE THIRD PHASE OF KWONG FUK ESTATE, ALSO IN TAI PO.

THE FIVE RENTAL AND HOS BLOCKS WILL HOUSE ALTOGETHER 17 000 PEOPLE IN 3 948 MODERN FLATS ON COMPLETION BY 1986.

WORKS WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL, A TWO-STOREY CARPARK, A NURSERY, A COVERED PLAY AREA AND TWO COOKED-FOOD STALL BUILDINGS.

THE OTHER CONTRACT, WORTH \$31.9 MILLION, IS FOR THE BUILDING OF A MODERN BLOCK AT TUNG TAU ESTATE UNDER THE SECOND PHASE OF A REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE THE LIVING CONDITIONS AND RELIEVE OVERCROWDING ON THE ESTATE.

THE 26-28-STOREY TWIN-H BLOCK WILL PROVIDE 778 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS FOR 3 500 PEOPLE ON COMPLETION BY 1985.

THIS FOLLOWS AN INITIAL PHASE OF THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE OLDER ESTATE WHERE 3 800 PEOPLE HAVE MOVED INTO TWO MODERN BLOCKS COMPLETED LAST YEAR.

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GOVERNMENT BACKS QUALITY ASSURANCE PROMOTION*** * * * ***

A CONFERENCE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND SIX ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING ACADEMIC, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MANAGEMENT, PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL BACK-UP SERVICES FIELDS, WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG IN OCTOBER.

THE CONFERENCE IS SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ADVICE OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

+THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE TO BE MORE EXTENSIVELY INTRODUCED INTO MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES THROUGH HONG KONG'S TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS AND HAS THEREFORE PROVIDED A SUM OF HK\$100 000 FOR FUNDING THIS CONFERENCE,+ THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR THOMAS YIU SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY).

THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE, FROM OCTOBER 10 TO 12, IS INTENDED TO AROUSE THE QUALITY CONSCIOUSNESS OF INDUSTRIALISTS IN HONG KONG WITH A VIEW OF ENCOURAGING THE PRACTICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY ON A MUCH WIDER SCALE, AND TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY WITH A VIEW TO CHARTING A FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY-SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS.

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH INCLUDES THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATION LABORATORIES LTD., HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE, WILL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASURES NEEDED TO PROMOTE QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HONG KONG.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE TWO CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR J.P. LEE, REPRESENTING THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG AND MR CECIL CHAN, REPRESENTING THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

WHILE BOTH AGREED THAT QUALITY ASSURANCE WAS IMPORTANT IN MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS, MR J.P. LEE ADDED THAT PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT CAN PLAY A VERY USEFUL ROLE IN THE PROMOTION OF AWARENESS AND ADOPTION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE BY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, AND THE CONFERENCE WAS THE FIRST CONCERTED EFFORT TOWARDS THIS GOAL.

MR CECIL CHAN NOTED THAT LOCAL EXPERTS, AS WELL AS EXPERTS FROM JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHERE THE PRACTICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE HAD BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, WOULD SPEAK AT THE CONFERENCE.

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CAREERS TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE LAUNCHED

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GIVEN SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, THE LABOUR AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS HOPE TO ORGANISE A TRAINING COURSE FOR CAREERS TEACHERS ON A YEARLY BASIS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR RON BRIDGE, THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST ONE-YEAR, PART-TIME TRAINING COURSE FOR CAREERS TEACHERS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TWO DEPARTMENTS.

THE COURSE COVERS VIRTUALLY EVERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CAREER EDUCATION, INCLUDING CAREERS GUIDANCE, COUNSELLING AND ORGANISING CAREERS PROGRAMMES.

+I MUST EMPHASISE THAT THIS COURSE IS ONLY THE FIRST IN WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A CONTINUING SERIES,+ HE SAID.

MR BRIDGE THEN OUTLINED THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS CAREERS EDUCATION.

THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, HE EXPLAINED, WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS TO PROVIDE CAREERS TEACHERS WITH A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES TO HELP THEM IN THEIR WORK.

IN ADDITION TO GIVING CAREERS INFORMATION TO STUDENTS BY TALKS, CONVENTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS, THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS THROUGH ITS THREE REGIONAL CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES A CONTINUING SUPPLY OF THE MOST UP-TO-DATE MATERIALS IN THE FORM OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, SLIDES, TAPES AND VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDINGS TO HELP STUDENTS DECIDE ON THEIR FUTURE CAREER.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO HAS SPECIFIC REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR CAREERS TEACHERS INCLUDING RESOURCE GUIDEBOOKS AND BOOKS ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE, COUNSELLING, AND APTITUDE TESTS.

MR BRIDGE POINTED OUT THAT THE CENTRES HAD ALREADY PROVED VERY POPULAR WITH STUDENTS AND CAREERS TEACHERS AND HAD ABOUT 30 000 VISITORS THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING EARLIER AT THE OPENING, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, STRESSED THAT CAREERS EDUCATION WAS IMPORTANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING THE CLASSROOM FOR THE REAL WORLD.

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, HE SAID, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS HAD BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND RESOURCE MATERIALS CONCERNING CAREERS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS AND THE PUBLIC.

/MR HAYE

MR HAYE EXPLAINED THAT 86 PER CENT OF ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG HAD A FORMALISED CAREERS PROGRAMME AND A TEAM OF CAREERS TEACHERS, AND THE TRAINING COURSE HAD BEEN SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THEM SO THAT THEY WOULD BE WELL EQUIPPED FOR THEIR TASK.

AND THIS YEAR WAS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING OF CAREERS TEACHERS BECAUSE THE PROVISION OF AN ADDITIONAL GRADUATE TEACHER FOR EACH STANDARD-SIZED AIDED AND GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR SCHOOLS TO MAKE MORE TIME AVAILABLE TO THEIR CAREERS TEACHERS.

FOLLOWING THE SPEECHES, THE COURSE COMMENCED WITH DR M.P. LAM AND MISS ADA WONG, BOTH CO-ORDINATORS OF THE COURSE, CONDUCTING AN INTRODUCTORY SESSION FOR PARTICIPANTS.

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MELODY GARDEN FLATS ON SALES TOMORROW
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SALES OF THE FLATS AT MELODY GARDEN IN TUEN MUN WILL OPEN AT 9 AM TOMORROW UNDER RELAXED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE, HO MAN TIN.

+PROSPECTIVE BUYERS CAN SELECT THEIR FLATS ON THE SPOT AT THE CENTRE ON PAYMENT OF A NOMINATION FEE OF \$30 000 OR 10 PER CENT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY.

HE SAID PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN THE FORM OF A CASHIER ORDER OR PERSONAL CHEQUE PAYABLE TO +HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY+ -- CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

+THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND, IF MARRIED, A COPY OF THEIR SPOUSE'S IDENTITY CARD AS WELL.+

AS FOR THE HUNDREDS OF POTENTIAL BUYERS QUEUING UP TODAY OUTSIDE THE CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF OI MAN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THEIR NAMES HAD BEEN TAKEN DOWN TO HELP MAINTAIN ORDER AND TO AVOID POSSIBLE SPECULATION.

+WHEN SALES OPEN TOMORROW, HOUSING STAFF WILL DISTRIBUTE TO THEM REGISTRATION CARDS WHICH INDICATE THE PRIORITY FOR FLAT SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT TIMES.+

IN VIEW OF THE ENCOURAGING RESPONSE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS NOW DECIDED TO OFFER BLOCKS 7 AND 8 FOR SALES AS WELL TOMORROW, IN ADDITION TO THE ORIGINAL SIX BLOCKS.

+THE REMAINING TWO BLOCKS WILL BE SOLD AT A LATER STAGE SHOULD DEMANDS CONTINUE.+

THE THREE TYPES OF LAND-VALUE-FREE FLATS AT MELODY GARDEN RANGE IN GROSS AREAS OF 63, 73 AND 88 SQUARE METRES AND ARE PRICED FROM \$200 200 TO \$370 200 EACH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD TO MEET

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 4 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, TUNG WAH MANSION, EIGHTH FLOOR, 201 HENNESSY ROAD.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL REVIEW THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT STRATEGY AND DISCUSS THE REPORT BY THE BOARD'S AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE REPORT +A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG+.

A PRESENTATION OF CONDOLENCE MONEY DONATED BY THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE LATE BOARD MEMBER, MR NG SAI-YING, WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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HK ATTENDS AERIAL TRAMWAYS TALKS IN U.S.

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THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, LEFT OVER THE WEEKEND FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY VAIL ASSOCIATES INC. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE.

THE SIX-DAY SEMINAR HELD IN COLORADO IS BEING ATTENDED BY EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF AERIAL TRAMWAYS.

MR OSBORNE, WHOSE DEPARTMENT IS THE AUTHORITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AERIAL ROPEWAYS (SAFETY) ORDINANCE IN HONG KONG, WILL BE PRESENTING A PAPER ON THE OPERATION OF THE HONG KONG OCEAN PARK AERIAL ROPEWAYS.

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'MEET-THE-PUBLIC' SESSION EXTENDED TO KENNEDY TOWN

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD 'MEET-THE-PUBLIC' SCHEME WILL BE EXTENDED TO KENNEDY TOWN AS FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE EXTENDED SERVICE WILL MAKE IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR RESIDENTS IN THE SAI YING PUN AND KENNEDY TOWN AREAS TO CHANNEL THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON LOCAL PROBLEMS TO THE BOARD MEMBERS.

/IT WILL

IT WILL BE CONDUCTED ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS ON TUESDAY BETWEEN 7 PM AND 9 PM, ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE KENNEDY TOWN BRANCH OFFICE, 82-84 BELCHER'S STREET.

THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL BE ON A TRIAL BASIS FOR TWO MONTHS.

AT PRESENT, THE 'MEET-THE-PUBLIC' SESSION IS BEING HELD IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN MAIN OFFICE AT 222 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, BETWEEN 6 PM AND 8 PM EVERY TUESDAY. STARTING TOMORROW, IT WILL BE HELD ONCE A FORTNIGHT.

SINCE THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN APRIL THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 32 CASES HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH.

MEANWHILE, AN AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ANSWERING AND RECORDING MACHINE HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN BOTH THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN AND THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICES TO TAKE DOWN ENQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH BOARD MEMBERS AFTER OFFICE HOURS.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN IS 5-418025 AND 5-8933292 FOR WAN CHAI.

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HORTICULTURE CLASS FOR TAI PO RESIDENTS

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RESIDENTS OF TAI PO WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO PLANT AFRICAN VIOLETS AND HONG KONG ORCHIDS AT A HORTICULTURAL CLASS STARTING NEXT MONTH.

THE CLASS IS OPEN TO THOSE WHO LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN TAI PO, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE COURSE, ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO URBAN SERVICES OFFICE, WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 12 NOON ON EIGHT CONSECUTIVE SATURDAY MORNINGS, BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 3.

HORTICULTURAL EXPERTS OF THE NTSD WILL GIVE GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO PLANTS AND LECTURES ON THEIR MAINTENANCE AND PROPAGATION METHODS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT TING KOK ROAD.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED ON SOME POPULAR INDOOR PLANTS, INCLUDING AFRICAN VIOLETS AND HONG KONG ORCHIDS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE COURSE WILL INCLUDE PLANTING DEMONSTRATIONS AS WELL AS FIELD VISITS TO TAI PO KAU REST GARDEN.

ENTRY FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE TAI PO URBAN SERVICES OFFICE, RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BEFORE AUGUST 24 (WEDNESDAY) AND APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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ANYONE FOR TENNET?
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AN ELEMENTARY TENNET TRAINING COURSE IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG TENNET ASSOCIATION.

CLASSES OF 30 TRAINEES WILL BE HELD IN KWUN TONG, KOWLOON CITY, WONG TAI SIN, ISLANDS, TUEN MUN AND NORTHERN DISTRICT, FROM SEPTEMBER.

COACHES WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE TENNET ASSOCIATION AND TRAINEES WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE 10 SESSIONS, EACH LASTING TWO HOURS.

RACKETS AND BALLS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY THE ORGANISERS.

PEOPLE WHO ARE 14 AND ABOVE AND WHO ARE INTERESTED ARE URGED TO APPLY IMMEDIATELY.

THE COURSE FEE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT IS \$5.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SIX RSS DISTRICT OFFICES.

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FOOTBRIDGE FOR ROUTE TWISK
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THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE OVER ROUTE TWISK NEAR SEK KONG VILLAGE.

THE FOOTBRIDGE, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL BENEFIT BOTH PEDESTRIANS WALKING TO THE TAI LAM CHUNG COUNTRY PARK VIA SEK KONG AND LUI KUN TIN VILLAGES, CHILDREN AND TEACHERS AT THE SEK KONG VILLAGE SCHOOL, AND THE NEARBY RESIDENTS.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT WORK WILL START IN SEPTEMBER AND BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1984.

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TENDERS SOUGHT FOR LAND RECLAMATION WORK

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ANOTHER NINE HECTARES OF LAND WILL SOON BE RECLAIMED AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG, TO PROVIDE MORE LAND FOR HOUSING, AN ABATTOIR, MARINE QUARTERS, LIGHT INDUSTRIES AND A SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

THE JUNK BAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE ABOVE PROJECT.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 450 METRES OF A SINGLE TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, SOME 840 METRES OF SEAWALL, ASSOCIATED DRAINS AND LANDSCAPING WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN NOVEMBER AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 30 MONTHS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT FOR KO SHAN ROAD

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FROM 10 AM ON AUGUST 24 (WEDNESDAY), THE SECTION OF KO SHAN ROAD BETWEEN SHANSI STREET AND KIANG HSI STREET WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

TRAFFIC ON KO SHAN ROAD BETWEEN SHANSI STREET AND CHI KIANG STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO-WAY.

TRAFFIC ON ANHUI STREET BETWEEN KO SHAN ROAD AND MA TAU WAI ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

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WATER FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 88.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 509.937 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 458.774 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 79.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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