



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1990

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR APRIL PUBLISHED

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS GREW MORE RAPIDLY IN APRIL THAN IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

IN LINE WITH THE RISE IN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS RECORDED INCREASES DURING APRIL. TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO INCREASED DURING THE MONTH.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, GREW BY 1.2 PER CENT IN APRIL, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 0.6 PER CENT IN BOTH FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEMAND AND TIME DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 1.9 PER CENT AND 2.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY DURING APRIL WHILE SAVINGS DEPOSITS DECLINED BY 1.5 PER CENT.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 10.8 PER CENT IN APRIL. THIS WAS LOWER THAN THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATE OF 15.5 PER CENT IN 1989 AND REFLECTED SOME FURTHER SLOWDOWN IN THE GROWTH OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES DURING THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS ROSE BY 0.8 PER CENT IN APRIL, AFTER INCREASES OF 2.7 PER CENT AND 0.9 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 1.9 PER CENT WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS FELL BY 0.2 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 21.6 PER CENT.

DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS AND RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS BOTH ROSE BY 0.9 PER CENT IN APRIL. COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THEY GREW BY 17.9 PER CENT AND 29.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY 1.8 PER CENT IN APRIL BUT FELL BY 18.1 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 ROSE BY 0.4 PER CENT, 1.0 PER CENT AND 1.0 PER CENT IN APRIL. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN MARCH WERE -2.4 PER CENT, 0.3 PER CENT AND 0.3 PER CENT.

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING APRIL, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES ROSE BY 6.3 PER CENT, 12.7 PER CENT AND 10.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

/TOTAL M1

TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 INCREASED BY 2.1 PER CENT, 0.8 PER CENT AND 0.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY DURING APRIL. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN MARCH WERE -4.0 PER CENT, 0.3 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT.

OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 GREW BY 8.5 PER CENT, 17.2 PER CENT AND 16.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN APRIL, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 7.0 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND A DECLINE OF 0.5 PER CENT IN MARCH.

OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS GREW BY 1.3 PER CENT DURING APRIL WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES EDGED DOWN BY 0.1 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG ROSE BY 1.1 PER CENT IN APRIL, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 1.7 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND A DECLINE OF 0.6 PER CENT IN MARCH. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 6.0 PER CENT.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 1.8 PER CENT IN APRIL COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 1.3 PER CENT AND 1.9 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 20.2 PER CENT.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG DECREASED BY 0.7 PER CENT IN APRIL, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 17.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND A DECLINE OF 1.3 PER CENT IN MARCH. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 40.9 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE MERCHANDISING TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG ROSE BY 9.9 PER CENT IN APRIL, AFTER A DECLINE OF 0.1 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND AN INCREASE OF 11.7 PER CENT IN MARCH. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS DECLINED BY 16.2 PER CENT.

IN TERMS OF RELATIVE SHARE, HOWEVER, THESE LOANS ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF TOTAL LOANS.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS DECREASED BY ONE TO 164 WHILE THAT OF RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 37. THE NUMBER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY ONE TO 197.

NOTES :

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

(2) IN THE

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

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

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A TABLE SETTING OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR APRIL 1990 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE AND BOXED.

/MONETARY STATISTICS

MONETARY STATISTICS - APRIL 1990

(HK\$mn)

	Apr 1990	Earlier months (% change to April 1990)		
		Mar 1990	Jan 1990	Apr 1989
Money Supply				
M1 - HK\$	83,189	82,848 (0.4 %)	92,014 (-9.6 %)	78,285 (6.3 %)
Foreign currency	11,382	9,739 (16.9 %)	11,554 (-1.5 %)	8,890 (28.0 %)
Total	94,571	92,587 (2.1 %)	103,568 (-8.7 %)	87,175 (8.5 %)
M2 - HK\$*	477,996	473,225 (1.0 %)	475,354 (0.6 %)	424,125 (12.7 %)
Foreign currency*	565,514	561,833 (0.7 %)	545,818 (3.6 %)	466,288 (21.3 %)
Total	1,043,510	1,035,058 (0.8 %)	1,021,172 (2.2 %)	890,413 (17.2 %)
M3 - HK\$*	509,437	504,209 (1.0 %)	505,900 (0.7 %)	460,977 (10.5 %)
Foreign currency*	609,774	605,534 (0.7 %)	584,484 (4.3 %)	503,768 (21.0 %)
Total	1,119,211	1,109,743 (0.9 %)	1,090,384 (2.6 %)	964,745 (16.0 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	39,747	39,968 (-0.6 %)	48,563 (-18.2 %)	35,300 (12.6 %)
of which held by public	34,308	34,861 (-1.6 %)	41,811 (-17.9 %)	30,976 (10.8 %)
Total Deposits				
Total Demand deposits	60,263	57,727 (4.4 %)	61,757 (-2.4 %)	56,199 (7.2 %)
Total Savings deposits	187,512	190,273 (-1.5 %)	194,619 (-3.7 %)	162,000 (15.7 %)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	745,264	735,871 (1.3 %)	706,270 (5.5 %)	624,195 (19.4 %)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	40,970	40,589 (0.9 %)	35,242 (16.3 %)	31,545 (29.9 %)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	33,265	32,669 (1.8 %)	32,626 (2.0 %)	40,597 (-18.1 %)
HK\$ deposits*	462,813	457,202 (1.2 %)	451,930 (2.4 %)	417,605 (10.8 %)
US\$ deposits*	266,945	261,840 (1.9 %)	262,812 (1.6 %)	235,380 (13.4 %)
Other foreign currency deposits	337,515	338,085 (-0.2 %)	315,771 (6.9 %)	261,551 (29.0 %)
All deposits	1,067,274	1,057,128 (1.0 %)	1,030,512 (3.6 %)	914,535 (16.7 %)
Foreign currency swap deposits	66,290	63,529 (4.3 %)	63,033 (5.2 %)	52,858 (25.4 %)
Total Loans and advances				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	64,405	63,704 (1.1 %)	63,024 (2.2 %)	60,734 (6.0 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	9,979	9,080 (9.9 %)	8,134 (22.7 %)	11,912 (-16.2 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	629,498	618,547 (1.8 %)	599,267 (5.0 %)	523,654 (20.2 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	558,243	561,917 (-0.7 %)	485,628 (15.0 %)	396,070 (40.9 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	88,182	90,589 (-2.7 %)	105,411 (-16.3 %)	74,815 (17.9 %)
Loans in HK\$	563,490	556,436 (1.3 %)	538,757 (4.6 %)	474,346 (18.8 %)
Loans in foreign currencies	786,816	787,401 (-0.1 %)	722,708 (8.9 %)	592,839 (32.7 %)
Total loans and advances	1,350,306	1,343,837 (0.5 %)	1,261,465 (7.0 %)	1,067,184 (26.5 %)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits

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

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EXCHANGE FUND BILLS PROGRAMME TO CONTINUE
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, HAS GIVEN HIS APPROVAL FOR CONTINUATION OF THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS PROGRAMME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL 13 WEEKLY ISSUES OF 91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE 14TH ISSUE WILL THEREFORE COINCIDE WITH THE MATURITY OF THE FIRST ISSUE," HE SAID.

BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF A REVIEW OF THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS PROGRAMME CONDUCTED BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH AND ADVICE FROM THE MARKET COMMITTEE COMPRISING ALL 14 MARKET MAKERS, A RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE TO PROGRAMME WAS MADE TO SIR PIERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS PLEASED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT IN THIS NEW MARKET, WHICH HAS RECEIVED VERY ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FROM THE RECOGNISED DEALERS AND IN PARTICULAR THE MARKET MAKERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE OBJECTIVE OF CREATING A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR CONDUCTING MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS TO ENSURE EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED.

"ALL THE FIRST 12 TENDERS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY OVER-SUBSCRIBED AND THE 13TH TENDER TO BE HELD ON JUNE 5 IS EXPECTED TO BE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ACCORDING TO BOTH THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH AND THE MARKET MAKERS, SECONDARY MARKET TRADING IN THE BILLS HAS BEEN ACTIVE.

"THE RECENT AGREEMENT BY MARKET MAKERS TO QUOTE TWO WAY YIELDS FOR THE BILLS, AND NEW AND MORE FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHORTING BILLS BY MARKET MAKERS HAVE ADDED LIQUIDITY TO THE MARKET."

THERE WAS ALSO AN INCREASING INTEREST IN THE BILLS FROM CORPORATIONS IN VIEW OF THE BILLS' TAX FREE STATUS.

THE YIELD OF THE BILLS IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE AFTER TAX YIELD FROM PLACING MONEY ON DEPOSIT WITH BANKS.

THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH IS ISSUING A REVISED INFORMATION MEMORANDUM TO TAKE FORWARD THE PROGRAMME FOR ISSUING 91-DAY BILLS WEEKLY. THE INFORMATION MEMORANDUM WILL ALSO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE ISSUE OF BILLS OF LONGER MATURITIES UP TO 12 MONTHS FROM TIME TO TIME.

/PERSONS WISHING

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PERSONS WISHING TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE REVISED INFORMATION MEMORANDUM MAY DO SO FROM THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH AT 24TH FLOOR, ADMIRALTY CENTRE, TOWER 2, 18 HARCOURT ROAD, OR FROM ANY OF THE 14 MARKET MARKERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR JOSEPH YAM, AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR K.Y. CHOI, WILL MEET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES THIS AFTERNOON TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS PROGRAMME BEYOND THE FIRST 13TH WEEK.

THE SESSION WILL BE HELD IN THE GIS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL, BEGINNING AT 4 PM.

COPIES OF THE REVISED INFORMATION MEMORANDUM WILL BE BOXED AT GIS LATER TODAY.

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IMMIGRATION POLICY ON ENTRY FOR WORK APPLIED FLEXIBLY

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THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR LAURENCE LEUNG MING-YIN, TODAY (FRIDAY) EMPHASISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S IMMIGRATION POLICY ON ENTRY FOR EMPLOYMENT IS APPLIED FLEXIBLY AND THAT THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE IS KEPT AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF HONG KONG PUBLISHERS, MR LEUNG SAID AS LONG AS AN EMPLOYER WAS ABLE TO SATISFY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT THAT HIS COMPANY WAS JUSTIFIABLY IN NEED OF AN EXPATRIATE STAFF MEMBER AND THE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEE WAS PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED AND WOULD BE PAID THE GOING MARKET WAGES, AN EMPLOYMENT VISA WOULD NORMALLY BE ISSUED WITHIN SIX WEEKS.

"THIS INCLUDES TWO WEEKS FOR DESPATCH OF MAIL TO AND FROM THE BRITISH VISA POST WHERE THE APPLICATION IS MADE," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THAT WHILE THE POLICY HAD BEEN LIBERALLY APPLIED, THERE WERE STILL INDICATIONS THAT EMPLOYERS WERE NOT MAKING FULL USE OF IT TO MEET THEIR LEGITIMATE DEMANDS BECAUSE SOME WERE WORRIED THAT THE PROCEDURES MIGHT BE TOO COMPLICATED AND THE PROCESSING TIME TOO LONG.

"IF THERE IS A NEED FOR THE APPLICATION TO BE PROCESSED MORE SPEEDILY, AN APPLICANT MAY REQUEST THE VISA POST CONCERNED TO FORWARD HIS APPLICATION TO HONG KONG BY TELEX ON PAYMENT OF A FEE.

"IT WILL BE HELPFUL IF HE CAN PROVIDE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE CONTACT ADDRESS OF HIS SPONSOR AS WELL AS THE DATE ON WHICH HE INTENDS TO TRAVEL TO HONG KONG.

/"THIS WILL

"THIS WILL ENABLE MY STAFF TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CONTACT THE LOCAL SPONSOR BY PHONE AND TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING OF THE APPLICATION. PROVIDED THAT THE SPONSOR IS ABLE TO SUPPLY THE NECESSARY INFORMATION QUICKLY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO ISSUE A VISA WITHIN A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT IN VERY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, ARRANGEMENTS COULD ALSO BE MADE FOR A VISA TO BE ISSUED ON APPLICATION IF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WAS PROVIDED WITH THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION IN ADVANCE FOR EARLY PROCESSING.

HE APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS WHO HAD A GENUINE NEED TO RECRUIT FROM OVERSEAS TO APPROACH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IF THEY HAD ANY DOUBT ON WHAT THEY SHOULD DO.

INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ON THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER II AND FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY TELEPHONING THE OFFICE AT 824 6111.

"STREAMLINING OF PROCEDURES IS AN ON-GOING EXERCISE IN THE DEPARTMENT. DESPITE VERY CONSIDERABLE RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, EVER-INCREASING WORKLOAD AND NEW COMMITMENTS, WE WILL TRY OUR VERY BEST TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD INVITE ANY EMPLOYER WHO ENCOUNTERS DIFFICULTY IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO WRITE TO ME PERSONALLY," MR LEUNG SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT POLICY ON ENTRY FOR EMPLOYMENT WERE TO PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO PROTECT THE LOCAL WORKFORCE FROM UNFAIR COMPETITION.

THE DIRECTOR SAID IN APPLYING THIS POLICY, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TOOK ACCOUNT OF WHETHER THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF SUCH SKILLS IN HONG KONG; WHETHER THE APPLICANT'S SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE WAS RELEVANT TO THE POSITION OFFERED AND WHETHER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT WERE COMPARABLE TO THOSE OFFERED TO LOCAL EMPLOYEES TAKING THE SAME OR SIMILAR KINDS OF JOBS.

IN ADDITION, CONSIDERATION WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN AS TO WHETHER THE EMPLOYING COMPANY HAD TAKEN ANY POSITIVE STEPS TO RECRUIT LOCALLY, AND WHETHER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE APPLICANT AND THE EMPLOYER WERE BENEFICIAL TO HONG KONG AS A WHOLE, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS WELL AWARE OF THE DEMANDS ARISING FROM A TIGHT LABOUR MARKET AND AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS, AND HAD DEVELOPED A RANGE OF STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

IN STRESSING THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD ALWAYS APPLIED ITS POLICY ON ENTRY FOR EMPLOYMENT FLEXIBLY, HE SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, OVERSEAS ORGANISATIONS ESTABLISHING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG WERE NORMALLY ALLOWED TO BRING IN A NUCLEUS OF STAFF IN THE SENIOR POSITIONS.

"APPLICATIONS FOR THE ENTRY OF QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS AND PERSONS TO FILL POSITIONS FOR WHICH RECRUITMENT OF EXPATRIATES IS COMMONPLACE ARE NORMALLY APPROVED," HE SAID.

STATING THAT STATISTICS SHOWED THERE WAS FLEXIBILITY, MR LEUNG SAID IN 1985, THE DEPARTMENT HAD APPROVED 15,873 APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT VISAS. THE NUMBER ROSE TO 17,424 IN 1986, 21,099 IN 1987, 25,564 IN 1988, AND 31,601 IN 1989.

"IN THE PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL PERSONNEL CATEGORIES, THE NUMBERS APPROVED ROSE FROM 3,823 IN 1985 TO 6,426 IN 1989," HE NOTED.

MR LEUNG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, AT THE LOWER END OF THE SCALE, AS A MEANS TO ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE OF LABOUR, THE GOVERNMENT HAD, SINCE MAY LAST YEAR, IMPLEMENTED A SPECIAL SCHEME TO IMPORT 3,000 SKILLED WORKERS AT TECHNICIAN, CRAFTSMAN AND SUPERVISOR LEVELS.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S RECORD SHOWED THAT 617 EMPLOYERS APPLIED UNDER THE SCHEME BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE OF JUNE 30, 1989, INVOLVING A TOTAL OF 8,479 WORKERS.

AFTER PRELIMINARY VETTING APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE WAS GIVEN TO THE ENTRY OF 2,718 WORKERS, HE SAID.

OF THESE, 1,877 HAD SUBMITTED FORMAL VISA APPLICATIONS WITH THE TAKE-UP RATE BEING ABOUT 69.1 PER CENT. WORKERS FROM CHINA TOTALLED 1,655, REPRESENTING ABOUT 88.2 PER CENT OF THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, MR LEUNG SAID.

"SO FAR, 1,809 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED, 31 REFUSED AND 40 WITHDRAWN AND 1,703 WORKERS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED. THOSE REFUSED ARE MAINLY WORKERS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF THE JOB," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF CERTAIN ESSENTIAL CATEGORIES OF MANPOWER IN ORDER TO COMPLEMENT CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS EXPANSION.

HE NOTED THAT THIS WEEK THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD ENDORSED PROPOSALS TO WIDEN THE EXISTING SCHEME TO INCLUDE EXPERIENCED OPERATIVES IN ADDITION TO SKILLED WORKERS.

"IN IMPLEMENTATION, FACTORS SUCH AS THE LIMITED EXTENT TO WHICH CERTAIN INDUSTRIES COULD AUTOMATE AND THE LONG-TERM NEED FOR TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED LABOUR ARISING FROM MASSIVE, INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE PIPELINE WOULD CERTAINLY BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION," HE SAID.

RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 TO BE GAZETTED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO REMOVE CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE RATING ORDINANCE WHICH HAVE BECOME OBSOLETE AND TO CLARIFY OTHERS WHICH ARE CAUSING ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE CONTAINED IN THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE NEXT FRIDAY (JUNE 8). THE BILL IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 4.

UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE, THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION IS REQUIRED TO SERVE NOTICE OF THE NEW RATEABLE VALUE ON EACH RATEPAYER NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH A GENERAL REVALUATION IS COMPLETED.

"EXPERIENCE FROM PAST GENERAL REVALUATIONS SHOWED THAT SUCH NOTICES WERE OFTEN MISTAKEN BY RATEPAYERS AS RATES DEMANDS.

"THIS SITUATION CREATED ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT IN EXPLAINING TO INDIVIDUAL RATEPAYERS THE PURPOSES OF THESE NOTICES.

"IT IS PROPOSED, THEREFORE, TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT TO ISSUE SUCH NOTICES.

"THE REVISED RATEABLE VALUE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLEARLY SHOWN ON THE RATES DEMANDS ISSUED AT THE END OF MARCH OR EARLY APRIL.

"RATEPAYERS WILL NOT BE DISADVANTAGED BY THE CHANGE AS THE BILL PROPOSES ALSO THAT THE PERIOD FOR OBJECTING TO THE NEW RATEABLE VALUE BE EXTENDED TO TWO MONTHS (APRIL AND MAY) AS OPPOSED TO THE EXISTING PERIOD OF ONE MONTH (MARCH ONLY)," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO PERMIT THE COMMISSIONER TO OBTAIN FROM THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER OF A TENEMENT RENT RECEIPTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS CONTAINING INFORMATION FOR ASSESSING RATEABLE VALUES FOR PHOTOCOPYING PURPOSES. IT ALSO REQUIRES HIM TO RETURN THE DOCUMENTS TO THEM WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD.

IN ADDITION, THE BILL PROPOSES A NUMBER OF MINOR TECHNICAL CHANGES. THESE WOULD:

- * ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VALUATION LISTS HE HAS TO PREPARE TO TWO LISTS ONLY, ONE SHOWING THE RATEABLE VALUES OF ALL TENEMENTS IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA AND THE OTHER IN RESPECT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA;
- * EXTEND THE PERIOD AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION OF NEW VALUATION LISTS FROM MARCH TO APRIL AND MAY;
- * CLARIFY THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT IN PROCEEDINGS FOR RECOVERY OF RATES IN DEFAULT, THE COURT WILL NOT ENTERTAIN ANY PLEA ON MATTERS WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE LANDS TRIBUNAL; AND
- * CLARIFY THAT DOCUMENTS MAY BE SERVED ON THE COMMISSIONER EITHER BY POST OR PERSONAL DELIVERY.

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ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON HK PHOTO ALBUMS TERMINATED

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES HAS ANNOUNCED THE TERMINATION OF AN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON IMPORTS OF PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS FROM HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE COMMISSION HAD ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO END THE INVESTIGATION AFTER ACCEPTING A PRICE UNDERTAKING BY A HONG KONG COMPANY, WHICH WAS THE ONLY ONE NAMED IN THE COMPLAINT.

HE SAID THE UNDERTAKING COVERED BOOK-BOUND TRADITIONAL AND BOOK-BOUND SELF-ADHESIVE ALBUMS, WHILE OTHERS MENTIONED IN THE PROCEEDING, SUCH AS SPIRAL-BOUND SELF-ADHESIVE AND THE SLIP-IN TYPES, WERE EXCLUDED FROM IT.

AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR ALAN LAI, SAID THAT AS SOON AS THE PROCEEDING AGAINST HONG KONG WAS INITIATED IN DECEMBER 1988, THE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION CRITICISING THE INITIATION OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST HONG KONG IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG'S MARKET SHARE WAS SMALL AND DECLINING.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO REQUESTED THE COMMISSION TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF PHOTO ALBUMS IN DETERMINING INJURY TO RELATED INDUSTRY.

"WE ARE HAPPY THAT THE HONG KONG MANUFACTURER HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONCLUDE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION," MR LAI SAID.

"TERMINATION OF THE INVESTIGATION MEANS THAT ALL OTHER HONG KONG PHOTO ALBUM MANUFACTURERS, WHO ARE MAINLY ENGAGED IN MAKING SPIRAL-BOUND SELF-ADHESIVE AND SLIP-IN TYPES, ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY EEC ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES."

HE SAID THERE WERE STILL THREE EEC ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS, INVOLVING AUDIO TAPES, SMALL SCREEN COLOUR TELEVISION RECEIVERS AND DENIM CLOTH, AWAITING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF INVESTIGATION RESULTS.

"WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS ON THESE VERY CLOSELY," MR LAI SAID.

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CONSULTANCY STUDY ON OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEY AND MODELLING

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (FRIDAY) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH A CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEYS AND MATHEMATICAL MODELLING, FOR THE OCEANIC OUTFALL OF HONG KONG'S STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID AT THE END OF LAST YEAR IT WAS PROPOSED THAT A LONG SEA OUTFALL SHOULD BE BUILT TO DISPOSE OF TREATED SEWAGE INTO DEEP OCEANIC WATERS WHERE STRONG CURRENTS COULD DISPERSE THE EFFLUENT SAFELY.

THE \$15 BILLION STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME WILL MOVE RAPIDLY OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS AND THIS CONSULTANCY STUDY AIMS TO USE STATE-OF-ART TECHNOLOGY TO SELECT THE MOST APPROPRIATE OUTFALL LOCATION AND TO MODEL THE WATER DISPERSION EFFECTS.

THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WILL DO THIS BY USING TWO TECHNIQUES.

THE FIRST IS TO DO A SERIES OF FIELD SURVEYS, MAINLY IN CHINESE WATERS, USING THE MOST UP-TO-DATE ELECTRONIC AND GEOPHYSICAL METHODS AVAILABLE TO COLLECT DATA ON CURRENTS AND EXISTING WATER QUALITY.

THE SECOND IS TO USE SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER MODELS CALLED WAHMO (WATER QUALITY AND HYDRAULIC MODELS), ONE OF THE LARGEST ENGINEERING MATHEMATICAL MODELS EVER USED, TO SIMULATE ALL THE WATER OF HONG KONG, THE PEARL RIVER ESTUARY, MIRS BAY AND SOUTH OF HONG KONG FROM MACAU TO DANGAN (LEMA) ISLANDS.

POLLUTION DOES NOT RECOGNISE ANY BOUNDARIES AND WATERS IN THESE AREAS ARE ALREADY AFFECTED BY FLOWS FROM THE PEARL RIVER. BOTH THE GUANGDONG AND THE MACAU AUTHORITIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE RESULTS AND ARE PROVIDING SUPPORT.

THE CONSULTANCY STUDY, AT A COST OF \$53 MILLION, WILL TAKE 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

SIGNING THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WERE THE EPD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR MIKE STOKOE, AND MR ROBERT ARMISTEAD OF BINNIE CONSULTANTS, DR JIM RODGER OF HYDRAULICS RESEARCH AND MR DEREK JOHNSON OF WATER RESEARCH CENTRE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE EPD'S PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, (WATER POLICY), MR PAUL HOLMES, ON TEL. 835 1234.

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WORKING PARTY PROPOSES INTRODUCTION OF CHILD SUPPLEMENT

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THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SERVICES PROPOSES TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME BY INTRODUCING A CHILD SUPPLEMENT FOR FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN WHO ARE ALSO IN RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

AT THE WORKING PARTY'S MEETING TODAY (FRIDAY), MEMBERS FELT THAT THE EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WAS SERVING ITS PURPOSE OF HELPING THE RECOGNISED VULNERABLE GROUPS TO MEET THEIR BASIC AND SPECIAL NEEDS. HOWEVER, SOME AREAS COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED.

THEY OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN REAL INCREASES IN THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME OVER THE PAST YEARS IN THE FORM OF OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT, LONG TERM SUPPLEMENT, MEAL ALLOWANCE AND SO ON. FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THIS SCHEME WOULD HAVE TO BE SPECIALLY TARGETTED.

THEY UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED THE INTRODUCTION OF A CHILD SUPPLEMENT UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME. THE SUPPLEMENT WOULD BE PAYABLE TO ALL CHILDREN UP TO 15 YEARS OLD, AND THOSE AGED 15 TO 18 IN FULL TIME EDUCATION BUT NOT RECEIVING EDUCATION GRANTS.

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GOVT MAINTENANCE GRANTS FOR 1990-91 MATRICULATION COURSES

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APPLICATION FORMS FOR GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE GRANTS FOR 1990-91 MATRICULATION COURSES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, IN CAUSEWAY BAY FROM TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE GRANTS ARE AWARDED ANNUALLY TO NEEDY STUDENTS WHO HAVE OBTAINED GOOD RESULTS IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION (HKCEE) AND WHO WISH TO STAY ON AT SCHOOL FOR FULL-TIME MATRICULATION COURSES.

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE OBTAINED HKCEE RESULTS OF A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL IN THE YEAR OF AWARD TO INDICATE THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL EITHER IN THE HIGHER LEVEL OR ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATIONS.

APPLICANTS MUST BE SUPPORTED BY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HEADS OF SCHOOLS.

THE AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE GRANT IS DETERMINED IN THE LIGHT OF FINANCIAL NEED AND FUNDS AVAILABLE.

"GRANTS AWARDED IN 1989-90 HAVE BEEN IN THE REGION OF \$230 PER MONTH," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

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GRANTS ARE AWARDED ON A YEARLY BASIS AND SHALL BE TENABLE AT ANY SECONDARY SCHOOL APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

"RENEWAL IS NOT AUTOMATIC. IF RECIPIENTS WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT IN SECONDARY 7, THEY MUST APPLY AGAIN THE FOLLOWING YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

APPLICANTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE FULL-TIME ADVANCED LEVEL/HIGHER LEVEL EXAMINATION STUDIES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR FOR WHICH THE GRANT HAS BEEN AWARDED.

"IF STUDENTS AWARDED A GRANT LEAVE BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF ONE YEAR, THEY MAY BE REQUIRED TO REFUND TO GOVERNMENT THE AMOUNT THEY HAD RECEIVED," HE SAID.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVING A GRANT DURING THE 1989-90 SCHOOL YEAR BUT HAVE MADE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN SECONDARY 6 AND ARE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COMPLETE THE ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION COURSE IN THIS SCHOOL YEAR ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.

APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE:

- (I) SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1990 FOR STUDENTS IN SECONDARY 7 IN 1990-91; AND
- (II) THE 14TH DAY AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE HKCEE RESULTS FOR STUDENTS IN SECONDARY 6 IN 1990-91.

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COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS EMPHASISED
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POTENTIAL "ENTREPRENEURS" WERE AWARDED PRIZES IN THE 1990 COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS PROJECT COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY TO AROUSE STUDENTS' INTEREST IN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR TSUI SEE-MING, SAID AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS OFFERING COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS WAS INCREASED WHEN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE ENCOURAGED TO OFFER PRACTICAL OR TECHNICAL SUBJECTS.

COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS IN THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM WAS EMPHASISED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 3 AND THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SIXTH FORM EDUCATION, HE SAID.

MR TSUI ALSO THANKED THE CHINESE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY FOR SPONSORING THE COMPETITION WHICH HAS ENTERED ITS EIGHTH YEAR.

ABOUT 200 ENTRIES WERE SUBMITTED FOR THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION, THE THEME OF WHICH WAS "EXPLORATION OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG".

THERE WERE SEVEN GROUPS OF ENTRIES:

- * FINANCIAL MARKETS IN HONG KONG;
- * ADVERTISING IN HONG KONG;
- * RETAIL BUSINESS IN HONG KONG;
- * ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE;
- * OFFICE AUTOMATION;
- * HONG KONG'S FOREIGN TRADE; AND
- * STUDENTS' OWN CHOICE.

PRIZES WERE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF EACH TITLE GROUP.

THE OVERALL FIRST AND SECOND PRIZES FOR THE SECONDARY 4 AND 5 GROUP WENT TO CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA ROTARY PREVOCAIONAL SCHOOL AND THE THIRD PRIZE WENT TO CARITAS ST FRANCIS PREVOCAIONAL SCHOOL.

FOR THE SECONDARY 6 AND 7 GROUP, THE FIRST PRIZE WAS WON BY SIR ELLIS KADOORIE SECONDARY SCHOOL, SECOND PRIZE BY TWGHS YAU TZE TIN MEMORIAL COLLEGE AND THE THIRD PRIZE BY THE HONG KONG CHINESE WOMEN'S CLUB COLLEGE.

AN EXHIBITION OF THE WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE BETWEEN JULY 6 AND 10.

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WORK OF AUXILIARY POLICE PRAISED

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THE COMMUNITY CAN BE REST ASSURED THAT THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER ARE IN PLACE TO MAINTAIN THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT BECAUSE OF THE SELFLESS SENSE OF DUTY AND PRIDE IN WORK OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER OF HONGKONG BANK, MR PAUL SELWAY-SWIFT, WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT A PASSING OUT PARADE OF THE CENTRAL AUXILIARY POLICE AT THE AUXILIARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON BAY THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS A MEMBER OF THE HONGKONG BANK JUNIOR POLICE CALL TRUST FUND, MR SELWAY-SWIFT TOLD THE AUXILIARY OFFICERS THAT WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT, THE REGULAR POLICE WOULD FACE EVEN GREATER DIFFICULTIES THAN THEY ALREADY DID.

NOTING THAT AN AUXILIARY POLICE PLATOON SHOULD BE A TEAM OF PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER WITH COMMON OBJECTIVES, INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT AND HARD WORK, HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE WERE THE ATTRIBUTES WHICH HAD MADE HONG KONG'S BUSINESSES AS SUCCESSFUL TODAY AS THEY WERE AND HONG KONG THE MAJOR FORCE IT WAS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY.

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"AS EMPLOYERS WE CAN SEE THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS OUR STAFF CAN GET FROM THE CAMARADERIE AND TEAMWORK OF BELONGING TO A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION," HE ADDED.

IN CONCLUSION, MR SELWAY-SWIFT SAID HE THEREFORE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO ENCOURAGE HIS STAFF TO JOIN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE AUXILIARY POLICE AND WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE EVERY EMPLOYER IN HONG KONG TO DO THE SAME.

ON PARADE TODAY ARE 125 AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR WEEK-LONG TRAINING PROGRAMME.

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ACCESS ROAD TO WESTERN WHOLESALE MARKET PROPOSED
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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT AN ACCESS ROAD TO THE PROPOSED WESTERN WHOLESALE MARKET ON THE RECLAIMED LAND IN WESTERN.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 150-METRE SINGLE FOUR-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WITH ASSOCIATED FOOTWAYS ON BOTH SIDES AT WESTERN RECLAMATION, FROM THE WATER STREET EXTENSION TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE WESTERN WHOLESALE MARKET, AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- HONG KONG WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI;
- CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, NOT LATER THAN JULY 24 THIS YEAR.

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REFUSE COLLECTION POINT FOR KWAI CHUNG

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT AREA 26D, KWAI CHUNG.

OCCUPYING A 106-SQUARE-METRE FLOOR AREA, THE SINGLE-STOREY REFUSE COLLECTION POINT WILL HAVE A CARBON FILTRATION SYSTEM TO PREVENT THE EMISSION OF FOUL SMELL.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE AN OFFICE, A STORE ROOM, A PUMP ROOM, A STAFF TOILET AND A PAVED AREA FOR REFUSE BINS AND HANDCARTS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 22.

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LAND IN SHEUNG SHUI TO BE RESUMED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME LAND IN FU TEI AU, SHEUNG SHUI, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PYLON TO CARRY 400 KILOVOLT OVERHEAD LINES FOR TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY FROM CHINA TO HONG KONG.

THE LAND TO BE RESUMED COMPRISES 11 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 5,061.4 SQUARE METRES.

THE LOTS WILL REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF POSTING OF THE NOTICE ON THE LOTS.

DETAILS OF THE RESUMPTION WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

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FARE REVISION ON NT GMB ROUTES 75 AND 76

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE FARES OF NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 75 (YUEN LONG FOOK HONG STREET TO HA WAN TSUEN) AND ROUTE 76 (YUEN LONG FOOK HONG STREET TO SIU HOM TSUEN) WILL BE REVISED ON SUNDAY (JUNE 3).

THE FULL FARE PER SINGLE JOURNEY WILL BE REVISED FROM \$3.50 TO \$4 FOR ROUTE 75 AND FROM \$3 TO \$3.50 FOR ROUTE 76. ALL SECTION FARES WILL INCREASE BY 50 CENTS.

NOTICES WILL BE PUT UP BY THE GMB OPERATOR AT TERMINAL POINTS AND INSIDE VEHICLES TO INFORM PASSENGERS OF THE FARE REVISION.

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