DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1991

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

GOOD PROGRESS IN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR BEDSPACE TENANTS 1

MONETARY STATISTICS FOR AUGUST 1991 2

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFLUENTIAL TO HK'S TRANSFORMATION 5

INDUSTRIALISTS MUST WORK UP FOR EDGES 6

HK POSSESSES QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE 8

HK DELEGATION TO ATTEND INT'L WELFARE CONFERENCE 9

ISSUE OF DOCUMENTS OF IDENTITY FOR VISA PURPOSES AND RE-ENTRY VISAS TO IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA 10

SOCIAL NETWORKS ESSENTIAL TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 10

PRIVATE GARAGES TO TEST SMOKY VEHICLES 11

CSD OFFICERS BID FAREWELL TO HYDES 12

PLEA ON EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE 13

FUKUI BANK GRANTED HK BANKING LICENCE 14

MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE 14

DREDGING OFF TUEN MUN PROPOSED 15

TIN HA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE DEGAZETTED 16

TENDERS INVITED FOR PLAYGROUNDS, COOKED FOOD CENTRE IMPROVEMENT WORKS 16

IMPROVEMENTS TO HING FONG ROAD 17

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS 18

GOOD PROGRESS IN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR BEDSPACE TENANTS

* * * * * *

GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF BEDSPACE APARTMENT TENANTS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS' TAK NGA HOUSE SINGLETON HOSTEL IN WAN CHAI, HE SAID THE GROUP HAD RESPONDED TO GOVERNMENT'S APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO SOLVE THE BEDSPACE APARTMENT PROBLEM BY CONVERTING ONE OF ITS PROPERTIES INTO A HOSTEL FOR THESE PEOPLE.

THE TAK NGA HOUSE, LOCATED AT 197 LOCKHART ROAD, IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO BE SET UP UNDER A GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO HOUSE EXISTING BEDSPACE APARTMENT TENANTS AND IS GOING TO BE MANAGED BY THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

MR TSAO RECALLED THAT AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MOTION DEBATE ON BEDSPACE APARTMENTS ON FEBRUARY 27 THIS YEAR HE HAD SAID THAT A COMPONENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE WOULD BE TO PROVIDE OTHER SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION TO ABOUT 1,000 SINGLE LODGERS IN SUCH APARTMENTS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD OBTAINED THE SUPPORT OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, THE GENERAL CHINESE CHARITIES FUND AND THE HOUSING SOCIETY.

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM THE CURRENT TUNG WAH PROJECT WHICH PROVIDES 80 BEDS, THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY HAD ALSO REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) TO PROVIDE TWO LARGE FLATS IN KWUN TONG GARDEN FOR CONVERSION INTO A SINGLETON HOSTEL.

"RENOVATION IS UNDERWAY AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE FLATS WILL BE FORMALLY HANDED OVER TO THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS' TIME.

"IN ADDITION, CNTA HAS IDENTIFIED TWO RESIDENTIAL FLATS IN KOWLOON AS SUITABLE HOSTEL PREMISES.

"IF EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY, THE TWO FLATS WILL BE PURCHASED WITH A PORTION OF THE $40 MILLION WHICH HAS BEEN ALLOCATED BY THE GENERAL CHINESE CHARITIES FUND AND BY THEN, THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF BEDSPACE LODGERS WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT GOOD MANAGEMENT WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ENSURING FULL UTILISATION OF A SINGLETON HOSTEL, MR TSAO SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE HAD AGREED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE MANAGEMENT OF TAK NGA HOUSE AND OTHER SINGLETON HOSTELS TO BE OPENED IN FUTURE.

"IN FACT, THE AGENCY HAS GIVEN INVALUABLE ADVICE ON THE FACILITIES OF TAK NGA HOUSE AT ITS PLANNING STAGE," HE SAID.

/EARLIER, MR .....

EARLIER, MR TSAO SAID UNDER THE IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE, ANOTHER 1,000 LODGERS WOULD BE REHOUSED UNDER THE EXISTING SOCIAL WELFARE REHOUSING POLICY.

THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE, HE SAID, WAS TO REHOUSE HALF OF THE EXISTING 4,000 BEDSPACE TENANTS IN SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION SO AS TO REDUCE THE CROWDED CONDITION, THE FIRE RISKS OF THE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS AS WELL AS TO FACILITATE BETTER MANAGEMENT.

AS FOR LONG TERM MEASURES, MR TSAO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER A LICENSING SYSTEM FOR BEDSPACE APARTMENTS.

HE STRESSED THAT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF EXISTING BEDSPACE TENANTS COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT.

"HOWEVER, WITH THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS, I AM FULLY CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL SUCCEED," MR TSAO SAID.

HE ALSO PRAISED THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOR SETTING A LEADING EXAMPLE IN HELPING THE GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE THE BEDSPACE APARTMENT PROBLEM.

"I HOPE THAT MORE PUBLIC-MINDED INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WILL FOLLOW SUIT AND MAKE AN ACTIVE RESPONSE," MR TSAO ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MONETARY STATISTICS FOR AUGUST 1991

* * * * *

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED DURING AUGUST, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

CONSISTENT WITH THIS, HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS ROSE DURING THE MONTH. HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO RECORDED AN INCREASE IN AUGUST.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, GREW BY 2.4% IN AUGUST FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 2.2% AND 1.7% IN JUNE AND JULY RESPECTIVELY.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS ROSE BY 2.2% AND 8.6% RESPECTIVELY WHILE TIME DEPOSITS FELL BY 1.1% IN AUGUST. COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 8.7%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 0.6% IN AUGUST, FOLLOWING DECREASES OF 0.6% AND 0.7% RESPECTIVELY IN JUNE AND JULY.

/AMONG THESE .....

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, US DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 1.6% WHILE NON-US DOLLAR DEPOSITS RECORDED NO CHANGE IN AUGUST. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 13.5%.

DURING AUGUST, DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS ROSE BY 1.6% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY 1.2% AND 4.3% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY 13.1% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 8.5% AND 20.7% RESPECTIVELY.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK$M1, HK$M2 AND HK$M3 INCREASED BY 3.2%, 2.8% AND 2.6% RESPECTIVELY IN AUGUST, COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 7.2%, 1.8% AND 1.6% IN JULY.

OVER THE YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES ROSE BY 19.0%, 10.4% AND 9.0% RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 INCREASED BY 3.0%, 1.7% AND 1.5% RESPECTIVELY IN AUGUST.

THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN JULY WERE 5.1%, 0.2% AND 0.3%. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 GREW BY 18.9%, 12.8% AND 11.3% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 2.4% IN AUGUST, AFTER INCREASES OF 0.8% AND 2.0% IN JUNE AND JULY RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS AND THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY GREW BY 1.4% AND 3.0% RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 17.4% AND 29.5% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE EXTERNAL TRADE OF HONG KONG GREW BY 1.3% IN AUGUST, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 3.8% AND 2.0% IN JUNE AND JULY RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 22.9%. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 1.3% IN AUGUST, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.3% AND 1.5% RESPECTIVELY IN THE PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS.

OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 16.6%. LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG ROSE BY 3.4% IN AUGUST, AFTER INCREASES OF 0.5% AND 2.9% IN JUNE AND JULY RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 46.0%.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 163. THE NUMBER OF RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS INCREASED BY ONE TO 49 WHILE THAT OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY ONE TO 162.

- - - - -

/TABLE 1 : .....

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - AUGUST 1991

(HK$mn)

	Aug 1991	Earlier months (% change to Aug 1991)					
		Jul 1991		May 1991		Aug 1990	
Money Supply							
M1 - HK$	102,932	99,773	(3.2)	93,813	(9.7)	86,527	(19.0)
Foreign currency	14,492	14,177	(2.2)	13,834	(4.8)	12,257	(18.2)
Total	117,424	113,951	(3.0)	107,647	(9.1)	98,784	(18.9)
M2 - HK$*	590,926	574,701	(2.8)	553,090	(6.8)	535,082	(10.4)
Foreign currency*	692,871	687,406	(0.8)	698,951	(-0.9)	602,630	(15.0)
Total	1,283,797	1,262,107	(1.7)	1,252,041	(2.5)	1,137,711	(12.8)
M3 - HK$*	617,890	602,407	(2.6)	581,080	(6.3)	566,928	(9.0)
Foreign currency*	733,971	729,219	(0.7)	738,211	(-0.6)	647,518	(13.4)
Total	1,351,861	1,331,627	(1.5)	1,319,291	(2.5)	1,214,447	(11.3)
Notes and coins in circulation	46,836	44,564	(5.1)	43,806	(6.9)	40,064	(16.9)
of which held by public	40,240	38,450	(4.7)	37,655	(6.9)	34,480	(16.7)
Total Deposits							
Total Demand deposits	77,184	75,501	(2.2)	69,992	(10.3)	64,304	(20.0)
Total Savings deposits	269,661	253,897	(6.2)	240,794	(12.0)	223,200	(20.8)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	879,800	877,790	(0.2)	886,240	(-0.7)	797,236	(10.4)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	38,451	38,905	(-1.2)	38,095	(0.9)	42,009	(-8.5)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	26,321	27,500	(-4.3)	27,597	(-4.6)	33,205	(-20.7)
HK$ deposits*	563,909	550,663	(2.4)	530,167	(6.4)	518,864	(8.7)
US$ deposits*	293,395	288,738	(1.6)	292,760	(0.2)	289,995	(1.2)
Other foreign currency deposits*	434,112	434,193	(0.0)	439,789	(-1.3)	351,096	(23.6)
All deposits	1,291,417	1,273,594	(1.4)	1,262,717	(2.3)	1,159,954	(11.3)
Foreign currency swap deposits	47,852	61,156	(-21.8)	55,922	(-14.4)	70,088	(-31.7)
Total Loans and advances							
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	82,995	81,903	(1.3)	77,387	(7.2)	67,518	(22.9)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	11,263	9,828	(14.6)	9,938	(13.3)	10,046	(12.1)
Other loans for use in H.K.	767,935	757,808	(1.3)	736,512	(4.3)	658,325	(16.6)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,095,380	1,059,148	(3.4)	1,024,252	(6.9)	750,445	(46.0)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	40,115	41,584	(-3.5)	48,421	(-17.2)	110,852	(-63.8)
Loans in HK$	680,924	671,257	(1.4)	658,395	(3.4)	580,108	(17.4)
Loans in foreign currencies	1,316,763	1,279,015	(3.0)	1,238,116	(6.4)	1,017,078	(29.5)
Total loans and advances	1,997,687	1,950,272	(2.4)	1,896,511	(5.3)	1,597,186	(25.1)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits. Starting from April 1991, swap deposits can further be broken down into US dollar and non-US dollar 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.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5 .....

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFLUENTIAL TO HK'S TRANSFORMATION
* * * * * *

THE RAPID ABSORPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES HAS HELPED TRANSFORM HONG KONG FROM AN ENTREPOT TO A MAJOR CENTRE OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND FINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF CENIT ASIA '91 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MR CHAU SAID INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY INFLUENTIAL IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS TRANSFORMATION.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS COMPLETELY OUTWARD-LOOKING, HE SAID SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS LINKS WITH THE TERRITORY'S TRADING AND INVESTMENT PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD WERE A MUST.

"THE TERRITORY NOW HAS ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS IN THE REGION," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS ALSO HEAVILY SLANTED TOWARDS SERVICES WHICH NOW ACCOUNTED FOR AROUND 70 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S GDP.

"MANY SERVICE BUSINESSES ARE HEAVY USERS OF INFORMATION - AND OF IT.

"HONG KONG COULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED ITS STATUS AS A WORLD FINANCIAL CENTRE IF THE COMPANIES INVOLVED WERE NOT TECHNOLOGICALLY COMPETITIVE," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES HAD NOT TRADITIONALLY BEEN TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE.

"THAT IS NOW CHANGING. AND MANY OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES WHICH INDUSTRY IS ADOPTING ARE INFORMATION-RELATED," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID IN HONG KONG AS ELSEWHERE, COMPANIES ADOPTED IT FOR REASONS OF SOUND COMMERCIAL LOGIC.

"THEY ARE LOOKING TO IT TO HELP SOLVE SPECIFIC BUSINESS PROBLEMS.

"TO OBTAIN THE BEST RETURN ON THEIR IT INVESTMENTS, THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES FROM THE RANGE OF SOLUTIONS ON OFFER FROM SUPPLIERS - A RANGE THAT IS EXPANDING ALL THE TIME AS TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO DEVELOP APACE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

INDUSTRIALISTS MUST WORK UP FOR EDGES

* * * * *

THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRAISED THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WHOSE PRODUCTIVITY HAS MADE HONG KONG THE WORLD'S 11TH LARGEST EXPORTER BUT CAUTIONED INDUSTRIALISTS THAT THEY MUST FACE NEW CHALLENGES SQUARELY IF THEY ARE TO MAINTAIN THEIR COMPETITIVE EDGE.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF AUTOTECH ASIA '91, MR WONG CALLED ON INDUSTRIALISTS TO BE MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO INTRODUCE AUTOMATION IN THEIR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

MR WONG NOTED THAT 90 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WAS EVENTUALLY EXPORTED AND THAT ITS DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1990 HAD AMOUNTED TO US$29 BILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED 41.4 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GPD) AT CURRENT PRICES.

HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD GROWN BY 74 PER CENT IN VALUE BETWEEN 1985 AND 1990.

"DESPITE THE REMARKABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, WE OUGHT TO BE ALIVE TO CHANGES WHICH WILL LIKELY AFFECT ITS COMPETITIVENESS IN THE LONGER TERM.

"WE ALREADY SEE LOW-COST ECONOMIES IN THE REGION GEARING UP THEIR PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES.

"AT THE SAME TIME, OUR OVERSEAS MARKETS ARE DEMANDING BETTER QUALITY AND DESIGN, GREATER VARIETY OF PRODUCTS AND FASTER RESPONSE TIME.

IN RESPONSE TO THESE REQUIREMENTS, MR WONG SAID OUR COMPETITORS WERE PULLING UP THEIR SOCKS TO IMPROVE THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCE, AND HENCE MARKET SHARE.

"AT HOME, MANUFACTURERS ARE FACING GROWING COMPETITION FOR LIMITED MANPOWER RESOURCES FROM OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

"THESE ARE ALL FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES WHICH INDUSTRIALISTS MUST FACE SQUARELY IF THEY WISH TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER IN MANUFACTURING," HE SAID.

WITHIN HONG KONG ITSELF, HE SAID RISING LABOUR COSTS HAD MADE IT ESSENTIAL FOR MANUFACTURERS TO INCREASE THE VALUE-ADDED CONTENT OF THEIR PRODUCTS TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE PROFIT MARGIN OF THEIR INVESTMENT.

"THIS UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR MORE AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING METHODS," MR WONG SAID, WHEN ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE WHICH ADOPTED THE THEME OF "COMPETITIVE MANUFACTURING THROUGH AUTOMATION".

HE ALSO SAID WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT SOME OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS HAD RESPONDED TO THESE CHALLENGES BY SHIFTING LABOUR-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING PROCESSES OUTSIDE HONG KONG, THE TREND WITHIN HONG KONG WOULD BE TOWARDS CAPITAL-INTENSIVE, HIGHLY AUTOMATED FACTORIES PRODUCING HIGH QUALITY AND HIGH VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS.

/AUTOMATION WAS .....

AUTOMATION WAS A KEY ELEMENT FOR SPEED, PRECISION AND RELIABILITY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AUTOMATION IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

HE SAID A STUDY ON INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION COMMISSIONED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN COMPLETED BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL.

"THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY IS TO IDENTIFY THE BENEFITS OF AND OBSTACLES TO AUTOMATION IN HONG KONG, AND TO RECOMMEND WAYS TO REMOVE THE OBSTACLES," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THE FINDINGS WOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENDING WAYS AND MEANS TO FURTHER PROMOTE AUTOMATION IN HONG KONG.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT AND VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS CONTINUED TO PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES TO AID INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE HKPC HAS STRENGTHENED ITS CONSULTANCY CAPABILITY IN SUPPORT OF AUTOMATION IN DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING. THIS INCLUDES A CAD SERVICE CENTRE, A CAD/CAM WORKSHOP, A MICROPROCESSOR APPLICATION LABORATORY, A SURFACE MOUNTING TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY AND A PHOTO-CHEMICAL MILLING LABORATORY.

"THE HKPC, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, HAS ESTABLISHED A CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE IN KOWLOON BAY.

"THIS IS TO DISSEMINATE THE LATEST GARMENT PRODUCT SYSTEMS CONDUCIVE TO GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND MECHANISATION.

HE ALSO SAID THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL PROVIDED TRAINING TO WORKERS AT VARIOUS LEVELS IN OPERATING A RANGE OF COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MACHINES.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS, IN ADDITION TO EDUCATING TOMORROW'S MANAGERS AND TECHNOLOGISTS, WERE TAKING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION CONSULTANCIES AND DEVELOPMENT.

"FOR INSTANCE, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG HAVE UNDERTAKEN A PROJECT TO DEVELOP JOINTLY A CAD/CAM SYSTEM FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING.

MOREOVER, HE ADDED THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO TRANSFER ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY FROM ABROAD THROUGH ITS INWARD INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMME.

"WE ARE WITNESSING A TREND TOWARDS PRODUCT DOWNSIZING, SHORT PRODUCT LIFE-CYCLES, SMALL PRODUCTION RUNS, FAST DELIVERY AND GREAT EMPHASIS ON PRODUCT QUALITY AND RELIABILITY.

"TO MEET THESE EXACTING DEMANDS, THERE SHOULD BE SCOPE FOR WIDER INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION," HE SAID.

/MR WONG .....

MR WONG SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE DECISION TO AUTOMATE IS A DIFFICULT ONE TO TAKE.

"HOWEVER, AUTOMATION IS NOT ALWAYS COSTLY IF ONE HAS A SOUND STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATION PLAN SENSIBLY AND INCREMENTALLY. AFTER ALL, INVESTMENT OF THIS NATURE SHOULD GENERATE BETTER RETURN IN THE LONG RUN," MR WONG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HK POSSESSES QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

* * * * * *

THE LAST DECADE HAS ENDED WITH HONG KONG POSSESSING A QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE EQUAL TO THE BEST AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY (QUALITY SERVICES), MR ERNEST EVANS, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR EVANS, WHO WILL SOON RETIRE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE, MADE THE REMARKS WHEN HE OPENED THE INTERNATIONAL TOY SAFETY SEMINAR AT THE HONG KONG EXHIBITION CENTRE.

HE NOTED THAT THE LAST 10 YEARS, DURING WHICH HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN QUALITY SERVICES, STARTED WITH A TASK TO IMPLEMENT QUALITY-RELATED PROPOSALS FIRST PUT BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION.

HOWEVER, MR EVANS SAID THE FACT THAT HONG KONG HAD ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED MEASUREMENT STANDARDS CAPABILITIES, A MAJOR LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME BY WORLD STANDARDS AND A CERTIFICATION ORGANISATION AVAILABLE TO ACCREDIT COMPANIES TO ISO 9000, DID NOT MEAN THAT ALL OUR GOODS WERE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY STANDARDS.

"WHILE IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT QUALITY STANDARDS GENERALLY HAVE RISEN DRAMATICALLY OVER RECENT YEARS, THERE IS STILL SCOPE FOR CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENTS," HE SAID.

MR EVANS SAID FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS HONG KONG HAD BEEN RUNNING A SAMPLE TESTING SCHEME FOR TOYS AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS DESTINED FOR THE EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN MARKETS.

"A SURVEY OF OUR TEST RESULTS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS HAS SHOWN THAT THE OVERALL DEFECT RATE HAS INCREASED STEADILY," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWED THAT FOR THOSE PRODUCTS ACTUALLY MANUFACTURED IN THE TERRITORY, THE DEFECT RATE HAD REDUCED DRAMATICALLY.

"THIS MEANS THAT THOSE GOODS MANUFACTURED OUTSIDE OF HONG KONG AND BROUGHT HERE FOR RE-EXPORTING CONTAIN THE BULK OF THE DEFECTS.

"I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT THIS REFLECTS POORLY ON HONG KONG'S QUALITY IMAGE TO OUR OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS, WHEN REALISTICALLY WE DON'T DESERVE IT.

/"THE QUALITY .....

"THE QUALITY MESSAGE HAS THEREFORE TO BE EMPHASISED TO ALL OUR SUPPLIERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE MANUFACTURING FOR US OUTSIDE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

TURNING TO TOY SAFETY AND SAFETY IN THE HOME, MR EVANS SAID THESE AREAS WERE RECEIVING ATTENTION IN HONG KONG WITH THE IMPENDING INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION COVERING BOTH TOY SAFETY AND ALSO PRODUCT SAFETY.

HE SAID ISO WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING AN INTERNATIONAL TOY SAFETY STANDARD.

"FORTUNATELY, MUCH OF THE WORDING IN ALL THESE NEW STANDARDS AND DIRECTIVES ARE VIRTUALLY COPIED FROM OTHER WELL ESTABLISHED DOCUMENTS.

"WE ARE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THE ESTABLISHED ONES, SO OUR MANUFACTURERS AND TESTERS SHOULD HAVE NO INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLYING WITH THE NEW STANDARDS," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HK DELEGATION TO ATTEND INT'L WELFARE CONFERENCE

* * * * * *

A HONG KONG DELEGATION, LED BY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, WILL DEPART FOR MANILA ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 6) TO ATTEND THE FOURTH ASIAN AND PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE DELEGATION WILL ALSO INCLUDE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS LOUISE WONG AND SENIOR SOCIAL WORK OFFICER, MISS AU KIM-BIK.

THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE IS ORGANISED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. IT WILL BE HELD IN A MANILA HOTEL, PHILIPPINES, STARTING FROM OCTOBER 7.

OVER 30 DELEGATES FROM THE REGION WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

MR CARTLAND WILL ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE ON HONG KONG'S SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1985 AND ITS FUTURE DIRECTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10 .....

ISSUE OF DOCUMENTS OF IDENTITY FOR VISA PURPOSES
AND RE-ENTRY VISAS TO IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA

* * * * *

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 7 (MONDAY), A PERSON WHO ENTERED HONG KONG FROM CHINA ON STRENGTH OF ONE-WAY EXIT PERMIT AND WHO HAS BEEN ISSUED WITH A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD, MAY APPLY FOR THE ISSUE OF A HONG KONG DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY FOR VISA PURPOSES.

UPON APPLICATION, A RE-ENTRY VISA WILL ALSO BE ISSUED TO ENABLE THE HOLDER TO RETURN TO HONG KONG WITHIN HIS LIMITATION OF STAY.

"APPLICATIONS FOR DOCUMENTS OF IDENTITY AND RE-ENTRY VISAS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHINESE EXTENSION SECTION SITUATED AT THE MA TAU KOK ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 MA TAU KOK ROAD, KOWLOON," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY TELEPHONE 824 6111 FOR ENQUIRIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SOCIAL NETWORKS ESSENTIAL TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

* * * * * *

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL NETWORKS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY OF LOVE AND CARE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MRS GOODSTADT, SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SAI KUNG FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE AND SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT, POINTED OUT THAT EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY WAS RESIDENTS' ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.

"THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1990'S AND BEYOND, PUBLISHED EARLY THIS YEAR, HAS RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING SOCIAL NETWORKS," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEM WAS A NEW DIRECTION OF WELFARE SERVICES.

NOTING THAT SAI KUNG IS NOW A PROSPEROUS AND DENSELY-POPULATED TOWN, SHE STRESSED THAT BOTH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS WOULD WORK CLOSELY TO STEP UP VARIOUS WELFARE SERVICES TO COPE WITH THE NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS.

"STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE AND SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD WILL STRIVE TO COME INTO ASSISTANCE OF THE NEEDY FAMILIES IN THE NEW TOWN, THROUGH VARIOUS SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING COUNSELLING AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE," MRS GOODSTADT ADDED.

MEANWHILE, SHE APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ACTIVELY SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS ON MEASURES TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM BEING LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME, ADDING THAT THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE WOULD EXPIRE BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRIVATE GARAGES TO TEST SMOKY VEHICLES

* * * * * * *

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED NEW MEASURES IN ITS SMOKY VEHICLE CONTROL PROGRAMME WHICH ENLISTS PRIVATE GARAGES TO CONDUCT TESTS ON SMOKY VEHICLES.

STARTING FROM OCTOBER 14, 18 DESIGNATED PRIVATE GARAGES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CONDUCT VEHICLE EMISSION TESTS AT A FEE OF $140.

THE LIST OF THE DESIGNATED GARAGES IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR FRED TROMP, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (AIR AND NOISE) OF THE EPD SAID THESE GARAGES, SERVING AS DESIGNATED TESTING CENTRES, WOULD INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE CONTROL PROGRAMME BY 200 PERCENT TO 50,000 EMISSION TESTS A YEAR.

"THE EPD CENTRE AT HO MAN TIN WILL HANDLE LARGE VEHICLES WHICH ARE TOO BIG TO GET INTO MOST OF THE PRIVATE CENTRES," MR TROMP SAID.

UNDER THE NEW PROGRAMME, OWNERS OF VEHICLES WHICH HAVE BEEN SPOTTED EMITTING SMOKE WILL BE GIVEN A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO HAVE THE SMOKE DEFECT RECTIFIED AND ARRANGE TO HAVE A TEST AT A DESIGNATED CENTRE.

THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF, ITS ACCREDITED SPOTTERS AND THE POLICE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SPOTTING SMOKY VEHICLES.

"THE OWNER OF SMALLER VEHICLES CAN CHOOSE ANY ONE OF THE 18 DESIGNATED CENTRES TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO RUN THE TEST," MR TROMP SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO CHARGE AT THE EPD TESTING CENTRE, BUT VEHICLES ARE CALLED IN AT A FIXED TIME ON A FIXED DATE TO TAKE THE TEST.

WITH THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND THE LIMITED CAPACITY OF THE EPD CENTRES, VEHICLES SPOTTED FOR EXCESSIVE SMOKE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO GET TESTED IN ABOUT EIGHT TO 10 WEEKS.

"WHAT HASN'T BEEN CHANGED IN THE CONTROL PROGRAMME IS THAT THE LICENCE OF A VEHICLE WILL BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION IF THE VEHICLE FAILS TO PASS THE TESTING REQUIREMENTS OR IF ITS OWNER FAILS TO TURN IT IN FOR EMISSION TEST.

"THE LICENCE WILL BE RE-ISSUED ONLY AFTER SATISFACTORY EXAMINATION BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING A TEST ON ITS EMISSION," MR TROMP SAID.

LAST YEAR, 617 VEHICLE LICENCES WERE CANCELLED FOR NOT ATTENDING AN EMISSION TEST AT THE EPD CENTRE, 44 FOR MULTIPLE FAILURES IN THE TESTS.

"ONE OBVIOUS IMPROVEMENT OF THE NEW PROGRAMME IS THAT THE DURATION OF SMOKY VEHICLES REMAIN RUNNING ON THE STREET WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY SHORTENED," MR TROMP SAID.

/ACCORDING TO .....

ACCORDING TO EPD STATISTICS, NEARLY 100 PERCENT OF VEHICLES EMITTING EXCESSIVE SMOKE RUN ON DIESEL ENGINES.

TO HELP VEHICLE OWNERS UNDERSTAND THE EMISSION PROBLEM AND HOW TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE SMOKE, AN EXPLANATORY LEAFLET IS BEING SENT TO ALL OWNERS OF DIESEL ENGINE-DRIVEN VEHICLES.

MEANWHILE, THE EPD WILL LAUNCH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE REGULAR MAINTENANCE AMONG VEHICLE OWNERS AND DRIVERS.

APART FROM THE EXPLANATORY LEAFLET, THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDES POSTERS, PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS, SPECIAL PROGRAMMES ON RADIO, AND A DRIVE - IN CONCERT TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 13 AT THE HONG KONG SCHOOL OF MOTORING IN TAI WAI.

THE CONCERT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE EPD.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONCERT WILL BE BROADCAST IN THE MORNING SUITE PROGRAMME OF RADIO II BETWEEN 9:30 AM AND 10 AM FROM OCTOBER 14 TO OCTOBER 16.

THE PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OF THE CAMPAIGN ARE JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE OIL COMPANIES AND THE MOTOR TRADERS ASSOCIATION WHILE THE VENUE FOR THE CONCERT IS PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG SCHOOL OF MOTORING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CSD OFFICERS BID FAREWELL TO HYDES

* * * * * *

OFFICERS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON BADE FAREWELL TO THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR GARTH HYDES, IN A PARADE HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

MR HYDES WILL BE RETIRING NEXT MONTH AFTER 34 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

IN AN ADDRESS, MR HYDES SAID CSD OFFICERS SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE SERVICE AS IT IS ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE WORLD.

"OUR SYSTEMS, PROGRAMMES AND THE INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, INCLUDING THE PROTECTION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, STAND OUT AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CSD HAD EXPANDED RAPIDLY IN THE PAST FEW DECADES.

"IN THE EARLY DAYS OF MY CAREER, WE ONLY HAD FIVE INSTITUTIONS HOLDING 3,500 INMATES BUT NOW THERE ARE 26 INSTITUTIONS HOLDING OVER 47,000 PEOPLE IN TRAINING AND DETENTION CENTRES FOR YOUNG MEN AND GIRLS, TREATMENT CENTRES FOR YOUNG AND ADULT DRUG ADDICTS, PRISONS, CAMPS FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS AND AN EXTENSIVE AFTERCARE SERVICE."

/ALSO, THE .....

ALSO, THE DEPARTMENT HAD SOPHISTICATED AND PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOPS, PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND A VERY SUCCESSFUL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME, HE ADDED.

MR HYDES SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WITH THE HIGH STANDARD OF STAFF TRAINING AVAILABLE TODAY, COMBINED WITH GOOD MANAGEMENT, THE CSD WAS NOW BETTER EQUIPPED THAN EVER TO CARRY OUT ITS TASK.

MR HYDES JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1958 AS A PRISON OFFICER CLASS ONE IN THE THEN PRISONS DEPARTMENT AND WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN 1985.

ON PARADE TODAY WERE 13 OFFICERS AND 168 ASSISTANT OFFICERS WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED BASIC TRAINING AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PLEA ON EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED EMPLOYERS IN THE MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE SECTORS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE BY OFFERING THEM JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

MR CARTLAND, ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF THE PO LEUNG KUK'S KWUN TONG WORKSHOP AND KWUN TONG HOSTEL, NOTED THAT SHELTERED WORKSHOPS WERE IN FACT ONE OF THE EARLIEST REHABILITATION SERVICES DEVELOPED FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

"THEY PROVIDE SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT FOR WORKERS, WHO, BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITY, CANNOT NORMALLY ENTER INTO OPEN AND COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT," HE SAID.

MR CARTLAND ADDED THAT WITH THE AIM OF FOSTERING SELF-RESPECT AND INDEPENDENCE, SHELTERED WORKSHOPS PROVIDED THE DISABLED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ADJUSTMENT TO THE WORK PLACE AND FOR ADVANCEMENT WITHIN IT.

TURNING TO THE WORK OF PO LEUNG KUK, HE COMMENDED THE ORGANISATION FOR ITS UNFAILING EFFORTS IN PROVIDING REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED.

"THE KUK HAS A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED HISTORY OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY. ITS WELFARE SERVICES, WHICH ORIGINALLY CATERED FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN, HAVE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE A VARIETY OF WELFARE SERVICES TO ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS," MR CARTLAND NOTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14 .....

FUKUI BANK GRANTED HK BANKING LICENCE

* * * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE FUKUI BANK, LTD HAS BEEN GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

THE FUKUI BANK, LTD IS THE 68TH LARGEST BANK IN JAPAN, AND RANKS 288TH IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF CAPITAL.

PRIOR TO THE GRANTING OF THE BANKING LICENCE, THE BANK OPERATED A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN HONG KONG. THE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE WILL BE UPGRADED TO A BRANCH.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF FOREIGN BANKS IN ENTERING THE LOCAL MARKET REFLECTED HONG KONG'S CONTINUED IMPORTANCE AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

THE LICENCE FOR FUKUI BANK IS THE THIRD BANKING LICENCE GRANTED THIS YEAR.

THERE ARE NOW 166 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 136 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING INTERESTED PARTIES TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR A CONTRACT TO MANAGE, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPUTERISED VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE AT KOWLOON BAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTIFYING, AT THIS CENTRE, THE ROADWORTHINESS OF TWO AXLED GOODS VEHICLES WITH PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHTS EXCEEDING 1.9 TONNES BUT NOT EXCEEDING 16 TONNES.

THE CONTRACT ALSO REQUIRES THE TENDERER TO MAINTAIN THE INTERIOR AND ALL EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AT THE CENTRE.

"THE CONTRACT WILL BE FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE YEARS WITH PROVISIONS FOR EXTENSION. THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMMENCE THE CONTRACT ON MAY 1, 1992 OR SUCH LATER DATE AS SPECIFIED BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

INTERESTED PARTIES INCLUDING JOINT VENTURES MAY OBTAIN THE PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENT DURING OFFICE HOURS FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT RECEPTION COUNTER ON 41ST FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 2, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

/PREQUALIFICATION APPLICATIONS .....

PREQUALIFICATION APPLICATIONS MUST BE PLACED IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TENDER BOX AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS BEFORE NOON ON NOVEMBER 15 THIS YEAR.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE INVITED TO TENDER FOR THE CONTRACT IN DECEMBER.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DREDGING OFF TUEN MUN PROPOSED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO DREDGE A FAIRWAY LEADING FROM YUNG LONG TO NIM WAN IN TUEN MUN TO PROVIDE A MARINE ACCESS TO THE WEST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL FOR THE ISLAND EAST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION PROJECT.

DREDGING FOR THE 90-METRE WIDE FAIRWAY WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN AN AREA OF ABOUT 26.6 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED IN TUEN MUN.

WORK WILL START EARLY NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF THE SAME YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 3 THIS YEAR.

THE NOTICE OF SUCH OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER) AND AT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/16 .....

TIN HA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE DEGAZETTED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE REMOVAL OF TIN HA WAN FROM THE LIST OF DESIGNATED FISH CULTURE ZONES WITH EFFECT FROM NEXT MONDAY (OCTOBER 7).

THE FISH CULTURE ZONE (DESIGNATION) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) ORDER 1991 WAS GAZETTED TODAY.

THE TIN HA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 3.9 HECTARES IN TSUENG KWAN O, IS DESIGNATED AS ONE OF THE 28 FISH CULTURE ZONES IN HONG KONG IN 1982 UNDER THE MARINE FISH CULTURE ORDINANCE, A SPOKESMAN OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED.

SIXTY-THREE MARICULTURISTS WERE LICENSED TO PRACTICE FISH CULTURE IN THE AREA.

THE WHOLE TIN HA WAN AREA, INCLUDING THE FISH CULTURE ZONE, HAS BEEN AUTHORISED FOR THE SOUTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES LANDFILL PROJECT UNDER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED (RECLAMATION) ORDINANCE IN EARLY JUNE THIS YEAR.

RECLAMATION WORK, WHICH WILL FORM PART OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O RECLAMATION, IS SCHEDULED TO START IN EARLY OCTOBER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"TO RELOCATE THE AFFECTED MARICULTURISTS, A NEW FISH CULTURE ZONE WITH AN AREA OF EIGHT HECTARES HAS ALREADY BEEN DESIGNATED AT TUNG LUNG CHAU WATERS IN APRIL THIS YEAR," HE POINTED OUT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID 49 MARICULTURISTS HAD OPTED TO RELOCATE THEIR RAFTS TO TUNG LUNG CHAU, WHILE THE REST PREFERRED TO WIND UP THEIR BUSINESS.

RELOCATION AND EXTINGUISHMENT EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES WOULD BE PAID TO THE MARICULTURISTS.

SO FAR, 31 MARICULTURISTS HAD ALREADY MOVED TO TUNG LUNG CHAU AND THE RELOCATION EXERCISE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY MONDAY, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TENDERS INVITED FOR PLAYGROUNDS, COOKED FOOD CENTRE IMPROVEMENT WORKS

* * * * * * *

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS TO UNDERTAKE IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR THE TSZ WAN SHAN SERVICE RESERVOIR PLAYGROUND IN KOWLOON.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A JOGGING TRACK, FITNESS STATIONS, FOOTPATHS AND A PAVILION, AS WELL AS CONVERSION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE EXISTING MINI-SOCCER PITCHES.

/THE DEPARTMENT .....

THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO INVITING TENDERS FOR MINOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CHOI HUNG ROAD COOKED FOOD CENTRE AND MARKET WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING FOR USE AS OFFICES, WORKSHOP AND STORE.

THE BUILDING WILL HAVE A GOODS LIFT AND A CONNECTING BRIDGE TO THE ADJOINING CHOI HUNG ROAD URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS FOR THE TWO PROJECTS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS ARE ALSO INVITED FOR THE RESURFACING OF THE PLAYGROUND AT KING'S COLLEGE ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PROPERTY SERVICES BRANCH OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FIFTH FLOOR, MAIN BLOCK, APB CENTRE, 9 SUNG PING STREET, TO KWA WAN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IMPROVEMENTS TO HING FONG ROAD

* * * * *

IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO HING FONG ROAD IN TSUEN WAN BY WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTING A SECTION OF THE ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH KWAI FOO ROAD.

THIS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE SYSTEM ALONG THE SAME SECTION OF THE ROAD.

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS NOW INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, DETAILS OF WHICH WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START IN DECEMBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ACER CONSULTANTS (FAR EAST) LIMITED, 16TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER IS NOON ON OCTOBER 25 THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/18 .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE	$ MILLION
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	3.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	4.10.91	-20
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+20
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.8 *+0.0* 4.10.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		4.10.91	3.10.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	4.04 PCT	3.99 PCT
	1 MONTH	3.86 PCT	3.75 PCT
	3 MONTHS	4.00 PCT	3.87 PCT
	6 MONTHS	4.45 PCT	4.31 PCT
	12 MONTHS	5.14 PCT	4.95 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER		9,200 MN	12,375 MN*

* RECORD HIGH

- - - - 0 - - - -