



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT PUBLISHED

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DESPITE THE UNCERTAINTIES CREATED BY THE GULF CRISIS AND A DOWNTURN IN THE U.S. ECONOMY, THE THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1990, PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY), SHOWS THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY HAS IMPROVED COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS FOUR QUARTERS.

EXPORTS HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY, WITH THE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BEING MORE THAN OFFSET BY A FURTHER MARKED INCREASE IN RE-EXPORTS. RETAINED IMPORTS HAVE ALSO SHOWN A MARKED REVIVAL, THE REPORT NOTED.

THE SLOW-DOWN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY SINCE THE MIDDLE OF LAST YEAR HAS HELPED TO EASE SOME OF THE LOCAL INFLATIONARY PRESSURES. BUT THE OIL PRICE HIKE SINCE AUGUST HAS KEPT THE INFLATION RATE HIGH, THE REPORT SAID.

"ON THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT AND THE LATEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION, A REVIEW HAD BEEN MADE OF THE FORECASTS OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND OF PRICE TRENDS FOR 1990," THE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST, MR K.Y. TANG, SAID.

"AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF THE GDP IS REVISED SLIGHTLY DOWNWARD TO 2.3 PER CENT, FROM 2.5 PER CENT IN THE AUGUST UPDATE," HE SAID.

"THE FORECAST RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) IS RAISED SLIGHTLY FROM 9.5 PER CENT TO 9.7 PER CENT, WHILE THE FORECAST RATE OF INCREASE IN THE GDP DEFLATOR REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 9 PER CENT," MR TANG ADDED.

IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990, DOMESTIC EXPORTS CONTINUED TO DECREASE, BY ABOUT 2 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE VARIOUS MAJOR MARKETS SHOWED A MIXED PERFORMANCE. DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA PICKED UP FURTHER, AND THOSE TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ALSO RECORDED APPRECIABLE GROWTH.

HOWEVER, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM CONTINUED TO DECLINE. THE SHARE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE TOTAL VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL FURTHER, FROM 32 PER CENT IN 1989 TO 30 PER CENT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1990.

RE-EXPORTS SHOWED A RAPID INCREASE OF ABOUT 14 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 OVER THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

AS RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW CONSIDERABLY FASTER THAN DOMESTIC EXPORTS, ITS SHARE IN THE TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED FURTHER TO 64 PER CENT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1990, FROM 61 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

LARGELY DUE TO THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE BORDER, RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA RECORDED AN 8 PER CENT GROWTH IN VALUE TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER. THIS GROWTH WAS ALSO THE RESULT OF REFLATIONARY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN CHINA EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE PERFORMANCE OF RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN CONTINUED TO BE ROBUST. CHINA REMAINED THE LARGEST MARKET FOR AS WELL AS THE LARGEST SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS, ACCOUNTING FOR 27 PER CENT AND 58 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1990.

IMPORTS ROSE BY ABOUT 12 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 OVER A YEAR EARLIER. RETAINED IMPORTS ALSO ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY, BY ABOUT 10 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

AMONG THE VARIOUS END-USE CATEGORIES, RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES PICKED UP SUBSTANTIALLY, WHILE RETAINED IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS AND CAPITAL GOODS ALSO SHOWED MODERATE INCREASES. RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS AND FUELS, HOWEVER, RECORDED DECLINES.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$1,575 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.3 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

"THIS IS COMPARABLE TO THE DEFICIT OF \$1,515 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.4 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR," MR TANG SAID.

DOMESTIC DEMAND IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER FROM THE PREVIOUS FEW QUARTERS. THE DECLINE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS HAD MODERATED SIGNIFICANTLY.

MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES SHOWED A REBOUND IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST COMBINED.

ON INVESTMENT, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS ROSE BY ABOUT 4 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

MR TANG POINTED OUT THAT CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION REMAINED HIGH IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 9.5 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES WERE 9.4 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 9.3 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THE CPI(A) WAS HIGHER BY 9.4 PER CENT IN JULY, 9.4 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND 9.7 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1990.

"THE ADDITIONAL INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ARISING FROM THE OIL PRICE HIKE SINCE AUGUST WERE BECOMING MORE APPARENT TOWARDS THE END OF THE QUARTER," MR TANG SAID.

"THE LABOUR MARKET WAS STILL TIGHT IN GENERAL TERMS. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE, AT 1.7 PER CENT AND 1.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE THIRD QUARTER, WERE STILL RELATIVELY LOW," MR TANG NOTED.

"BUT THEY WERE HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING RATES OF 1.4 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT A YEAR EARLIER.

"DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, THE PROPORTION OF THE EMPLOYED POPULATION WORKING LONG HOURS WAS REDUCED, AND THE VACANCIES SITUATION HAD IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN MOST SECTORS," MR TANG SAID.

COMPETITION FOR LABOUR THUS APPEARED TO HAVE BECOME LESS INTENSE.

TURNING TO PROPERTY, MR TANG SAID THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET CONTINUED TO BE ACTIVE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

"THE DEMAND FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED FLATS REMAINED STRONG, WHILE THERE WAS RENEWED DEMAND FOR LARGE FLATS IN CERTAIN AREAS. PRE-COMPLETION SALES OF FLATS WERE GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED.

ON SHOPPING SPACE, DEMAND STAYED FIRM EXCEPT IN THE FRINGE LOCATIONS. THE MARKET FOR OFFICE AND FACTORY SPACE, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO SOFTEN.

IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS WERE OBSERVED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER.

FIRST, REFLECTING THE MOVEMENT OF THE U.S. DOLLAR, THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR FELL FROM 110.1 AT THE END OF JUNE TO 107.5 AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

SECONDLY, INTEREST RATES IN THE LOCAL MONEY MARKET REMAINED FIRM DURING MOST OF THE THIRD QUARTER.

THIRDLY, DOMESTIC LOANS AND ADVANCES ROSE MORE SLOWLY DURING THE THIRD QUARTER THAN DURING THE SECOND QUARTER. THEIR GROWTH RATE WAS ALSO SLOWER THAN THAT OF HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS DURING THE THIRD QUARTER.

FOURTHLY, LOCAL SHARE PRICES AND TURNOVER WERE ON A RISING TREND IN THE EARLIER PART OF THE THIRD QUARTER BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE GULF CRISIS, BUT FELL SHARPLY IN THE REMAINDER OF THE QUARTER FOLLOWING DECLINES IN MAJOR STOCK MARKETS OVERSEAS.

THE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST SAID THAT IN UPDATING THE GDP AND PRICE FORECASTS FOR 1990 IN THE LIGHT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS WERE ALSO MADE TO THE COMPONENT FORECASTS AS APPROPRIATE.

IN THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF RE-EXPORTS WAS FURTHER RAISED TO 12.5 PER CENT, FROM 11 PER CENT IN THE AUGUST UPDATE.

"THERE WAS A CONSISTENTLY STRONG SURGE IN RE-EXPORTS SINCE THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR," MR TANG SAID.

"THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES, COUPLED WITH THE RECOVERY IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, SHOULD CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO RE-EXPORT GROWTH IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," HE ADDED.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ARE EXPECTED TO DECREASE BY ABOUT 0.5 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN 1990, MAINLY REFLECTING THE DECLINES IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF THE YEAR.

THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER IS LIKELY.

"ALTHOUGH THE GULF CRISIS WOULD DAMPEN ECONOMIC GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS AND RESTRAIN THEIR DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, THERE ARE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS ON OTHER FRONTS," MR TANG NOTED.

"THE RE-UNIFICATION OF GERMANY, THE EXPANSION IN OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE, AND THE REFLATIONARY MEASURES IN CHINA SHOULD CONTINUE TO BENEFIT HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO GERMANY AND CHINA.

"MEANWHILE, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM AND JAPAN WILL PROBABLY REMAIN SLUGGISH," HE SAID.

IN LINE WITH THE RECENT TRENDS IN RE-EXPORTS AND RETAINED IMPORTS, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF IMPORTS OF GOODS IS RAISED FROM 7.2 PER CENT TO 8.7 PER CENT.

THE DEMAND FOR TRADE-RELATED SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH IN OVERALL TRADE.

MOREOVER, BOTH INWARD AND OUTWARD TOURISM ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE FURTHER IN THE FOURTH QUARTER. THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF EXPORTS OF SERVICES IS THUS RAISED FROM 6 PER CENT TO 7.5 PER CENT, AND THAT OF IMPORTS OF SERVICES FROM 7.5 PER CENT TO 11.5 PER CENT.

GIVEN THESE DIFFERENTIAL RATES OF INCREASE, A DECLINE IN NET EXPORTS OF SERVICES IS FORECAST FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE.

IN THE DOMESTIC SECTOR, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE IS REVISED UPWARD FROM 3.5 PER CENT TO 4.5 PER CENT.

CONSUMER DEMAND, PARTICULARLY FOR SERVICES, HAS CONTINUED TO REVIVE. BUT THE CURRENT GROWTH RATE IS ALSO A REFLECTION OF THE WEAK CONSUMER SPENDING IN THE SECOND HALF OF LAST YEAR.

"THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION IS ALSO RAISED FROM 1.5 PER CENT TO 2.8 PER CENT, REFLECTING A STEADY INCREASE IN PRIVATE SECTOR EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AND A GRADUAL PICK-UP IN INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND MACHINERY," MR TANG SAID.

"HOWEVER, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATES OF GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, AND OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AND ON PLANT AND MACHINERY, ARE ADJUSTED DOWNWARDS, CONSISTENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO RESTRAIN PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE," HE NOTED.

TURNING TO INFLATION, MR TANG SAID THE GLOBAL SURGE IN OIL PRODUCT PRICES SINCE AUGUST HAS ADDED TO THE LOCAL INFLATIONARY PRESSURES.

/"AGAINST THIS, .....

"AGAINST THIS, THE MODERATE INFLATION IN CHINA AND THE RELATIVELY STABLE WORLD COMMODITY PRICES FOR NON-OIL PRODUCTS ARE PROVIDING SOME RELIEF.

"WITH THE IMPACT OF HIGHER OIL PRODUCT PRICES CONTINUING TO FILTER THROUGH, AND WITH A REVISION IN PUBLIC HOUSING RENTALS, THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 10.4 PER CENT IN OCTOBER OVER A YEAR EARLIER," HE POINTED OUT.

"HAVING REGARD TO THE LATEST PRICE TRENDS, IT IS NOW FORECAST THAT THE CPI(A) WILL RISE BY AN AVERAGE OF 9.7 PER CENT FOR 1990 AS A WHOLE," HE ADDED.

THE THIRD QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1990 WILL BE ON SALE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$23 A COPY.

THE UPDATED FORECASTS ARE AS FOLLOWS :

	FORECAST FOR 1990 AS UPDATED ON 24.8.90	CURRENT UPDATE RELEASED ON 23.11.90
	(%)	(%)
GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF :		
PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE	3.5	4.5
GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE	10	7
GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION	1.5	2.8
TRANSFER COSTS OF LAND AND BUILDINGS	-5	-3
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION	5	4.8
PRIVATE	1	3
PUBLIC	12	8
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS' MARGIN	-2	3
PLANT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	1.5	1.8
PRIVATE	1.5	2
PUBLIC	1	-3
TOTAL EXPORTS OF GOODS	6.7	7.1
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	0.5	-0.5
RE-EXPORTS	11	12.5
IMPORTS OF GOODS	7.2	8.7
EXPORTS OF SERVICES	6	7.5
IMPORTS OF SERVICES	7.5	11.5
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)	2.5	2.3
PER CAPITA GDP	1.4	1.7

GROWTH RATE IN MONEY TERMS OF :

GDP	11.8	11.5
PER CAPITA GDP	10.6	10.8

RATE OF INCREASE IN :

GDP DEFLATOR	9	9
DOMESTIC DEMAND DEFLATOR	8.7	7.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)	9.5	9.7

ESTABLISHMENT OF HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ON DEC 1  
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THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON DECEMBER 1.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS A MONUMENTAL STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE IN HONG KONG, FOLLOWING TWO YEARS OF PREPARATION BY THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

UNDER THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ORDINANCE ENACTED IN JULY THIS YEAR, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE AND CONTROL THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS SYSTEM IN WAYS WHICH ARE CONDUSIVE TO ACHIEVING THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES :

- \* TO USE HOSPITAL BEDS, STAFF, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY TO PROVIDE HOSPITAL SERVICES OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD WITHIN THE RESOURCES OBTAINABLE;
- \* TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF HOSPITAL SERVICES BY DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES;
- \* TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS;
- \* TO ATTRACT, MOTIVATE AND RETAIN QUALIFIED STAFF;
- \* TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM; AND
- \* TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS SYSTEM.

UPON ITS ESTABLISHMENT, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL UNDERTAKE FURTHER PREPARATORY WORK BEFORE TAKING OVER THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF EXISTING GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS NEXT YEAR.

"THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL BE CHAIRED BY SIR S.Y. CHUNG, AND COMPRISE MEMBERS FROM A BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY, IS AS FOLLOWS :

CHAIRMAN  
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SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG

/MEMBERS .....

MEMBERS

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- DR CHAN WOON-CHEUNG
- DR CHIU HIN-KWONG
- THE HONOURABLE RONALD CHOW MEI-TAK
- MS PAULA W.P. CHOY
- THE HONOURABLE LAU WAH-SUM
- MR LEO LEE TUNG-HAI
- MRS LEE LO YUK-SIM
- DR THE HONOURABLE LEONG CHE-HUNG
- PROFESSOR JOHN C.Y. LEONG
- DR LEUNG NAI-KONG
- MRS SOPHIE LEUNG LAU YAU-FUN
- DR W.H.P. LEWIS
- PROFESSOR ARTHUR LI KWOK-CHEUNG
- PROFESSOR FELICE LIEH MAK
- MR A.F. NEOH
- MR NG SHUI-LAI
- PROFESSOR TEIK E. OH
- PROFESSOR DAVID TODD
- THE HONOURABLE PETER WONG HONG-YUEN
- MR PETER WOO KWONG-CHING
- PROFESSOR ROSIE T.T. YOUNG
- DIRECTOR OF HEALTH OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE
- DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE
- DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
- CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
- SECRETARY GENERAL, HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

STUDY ON CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 TO COMPLETE IN MID-1991

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A DETAILED STUDY ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 ON SITE RECLAMATION AT SOUTH-EASTERN TSING YI IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN JUNE NEXT YEAR.

KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL TANG KWOK-WAI, SAID THIS AT A MEETING OF THE KWAI TSING FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE DISTRICT'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, MR TANG SAID: "CONTAINER PORT DEVELOPMENT IS THE MOST PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE DISTRICT AS HONG KONG IS THE WORLD'S BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT FROM 1987 TO 1989.

"GROWTH IN CONTAINER THROUGHPUT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 WAS ABOUT 14 PER CENT AND THE PORT IS STILL GROWING AT A REMARKABLE PACE," HE SAID.

CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR OPERATION IN EARLY 1995 TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND AND A DETAILED STUDY BY RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IS NOW UNDERWAY.

"TO GIVE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN PLANNING PORT-RELATED FACILITIES, THE STUDY WILL CONSIDER THE OPTION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE BERTH ON TSING YI INSTEAD OF JUST A CONTAINER PORT," MR TANG SAID.

HE SAID A BUFFER AREA WOULD BE PROVIDED BETWEEN THE CONTAINER RELATED LAND USE AND THE NEARBY RESIDENTIAL AREAS - THE MAYFAIR GARDEN AND CHEUNG CHING ESTATE.

THE STUDY WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF AN ACCESS ROAD TO CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 FROM KWAI CHUNG, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE IMPACT OF THE CHEK LAP KOK NEW AIRPORT ON THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT, MR TANG SAID THE DISTRICT WOULD BE THE TRANSPORT LINK BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND THE REST OF HONG KONG.

THIS LINK CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS. THE FIRST PART IS A COMPREHENSIVE ROAD NETWORK ALONG THE NORTH LANTAU COAST, THE LANTAU BRIDGE AND NORTH TSING YI COAST.

THE SECOND PART IS THE AIRPORT RAILWAY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO STOP ON TSING YI AND IN KWAI CHUNG BEFORE JOINING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY NETWORK.

"ANOTHER IMPORTANT PROJECT AFFECTING KWAI TSING IS THE ROUTE 3 - A STRATEGIC TRANSPORT LINK BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG," MR TANG SAID.

"MOST OF THESE PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE 1997 TO COPE WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW AIRPORT. BY THEN, THE ENVIRONMENT OF KWAI TSING AND HONG KONG AS A WHOLE WILL BE REMARKEDLY IMPROVED," HE CONCLUDED.

GOVERNOR'S DIRECTION ON PREPARATION OF NEW VALUATION LISTS GAZETTED

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THE GOVERNOR'S DIRECTION TO THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION TO PREPARE NEW VALUATION LISTS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL AREAS AND ALSO THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 1, 1990 AS THE REFERENCE DATE FOR VALUATION PURPOSES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THIS MEANS THAT ALL PROPERTIES INCLUDED IN THE NEW VALUATION LISTS WILL BE VALUED BY REFERENCE TO RENTAL VALUES AT JULY 1, 1990.

IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS DIRECTION STAFF OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN PREPARING VALUATIONS FOR ALL RATEABLE TENEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THE VALUATION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

RATEPAYERS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES WHEN THEY RECEIVE THE SECOND QUARTER 1991 RATES DEMAND IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL NEXT YEAR.

THEY WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO INSPECT THE NEW VALUATION LISTS FROM APRIL 1 UNTIL MAY 31, 1991 WHEN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE PROPOSALS OBJECTING TO THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES.

THE VALUATION LISTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TREASURY AND AT DISTRICT OFFICES.

REFERRING TO THE LIKELY INCREASES IN RATEABLE VALUES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE REVALUATION IS NOT IN ITSELF DESIGNED TO INCREASE RATES REVENUE - ITS PURPOSE IS TO ENSURE THAT RATES ARE SHARED BY DIFFERENT CLASSES OF RATEPAYER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UP-TO-DATE RENTAL VALUES OF THE PROPERTIES THEY OCCUPY.

HOWEVER THE ACTUAL EFFECT OF THE REVALUATION ON EACH RATEPAYER CANNOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL THE REVALUATION EXERCISE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING THE PERCENTAGE RATE CHARGES FOR 1991-92.

THIS DECISION WILL, AS USUAL, BE MADE AS PART OF THE 1991-92 BUDGET, IN THE LIGHT OF THE REVENUE NEEDS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS.

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CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE ON TSING YI

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS ACCEPTED A TENDER OFFER FROM ENVIROPACE LTD TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE FOR 15 YEARS A CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE ON TSING YI.

ENVIROPACE LTD WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A CHEMICAL WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE TO CHEMICAL WASTE PRODUCERS.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (WATER & WASTE POLICY) OF THE EPD, MR MIKE STOKOE, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL REPAY THE CAPITAL COST INCURRED BY THE CONTRACTOR IN THE FORM OF AMORTISED PAYMENTS OVER THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF OPERATION.

THE CAPITAL REPAYMENT COST OF THE FACILITIES WILL BE \$1,300 MILLION AT MONEY-OF - THE PAYMENT - DAY PRICES, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO \$731 MILLION AT PRESENT VALUE. THE FACILITIES WILL BE FULLY COMMISSIONED BY LATE 1992.

ENVIROPACE LTD IS A HONG KONG COMPANY SPECIFICALLY CREATED FOR THE PROJECT WHOSE SHAREHOLDERS INCLUDE WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL INC, KIN CHING BESSER LTD, AND CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRUST & INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

A NUMBER OF RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND LOCAL COMPANIES WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROJECT. THESE INCLUDE BECHTEL ENVIRONMENTAL INC, GAMMON CONSTRUCTION LTD, DAMES & MOORE INTERNATIONAL, AND ABB RAYMOND.

MR STOKOE SAID THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE IS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE STRATEGY TO MANAGE CHEMICAL WASTES IN HONG KONG. THE MAJORITY OF HONG KONG CHEMICAL WASTE PRODUCERS ARE SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS THAT POSSESS NEITHER THE TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE NOR THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ADEQUATELY TREAT CHEMICAL WASTE.

THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE WILL PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO THE HONG KONG INDUSTRY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, NAMELY THE EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SECURE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF CHEMICAL WASTES GENERATED BY FACTORIES.

THE INCORPORATION OF THE CENTRE INTO THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF HONG KONG WILL ATTRACT WELL ESTABLISHED ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS TO INVEST AND DEVELOP IN HONG KONG.

THE CENTRE WILL SERVE AS THE DESIGNATED RECEPTION AND DISPOSAL POINT FOR OILY AND NOXIOUS LIQUID WASTES GENERATED FROM SHIPS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HK'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (MARPOL).

THE CENTRE HAS A DESIGN CAPACITY TO TREAT ABOUT 100,000 TONNES OF CHEMICAL WASTES PER YEAR. IT WILL COMPRISE AN OIL/WATER SEPARATION SYSTEM TO TREAT AND RECOVER THE OIL FROM OILY WASTE WATER, A HIGH TEMPERATURE INCINERATION SYSTEM FOR THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF ORGANIC CHEMICAL WASTES, AND PHYSICAL CHEMICAL TREATMENT UNITS FOR THE COMPLETE TREATMENT OF AQUEOUS INORGANIC CHEMICAL WASTES.

/THE CONTRACTOR .....

THE CONTRACTOR WILL ALSO OPERATE A FLEET OF SPECIALLY DESIGNED CHEMICAL WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES AND BARGES FOR THE COLLECTION OF CHEMICAL WASTES FROM THE PREMISES OF WASTE PRODUCERS AND SHIPS.

MR STOKOE SAID VERY STRINGENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN SPECIFIED FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, COMMISSIONING AND OPERATION OF THE CENTRE.

DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/HAZARD ASSESSMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE CONTRACTOR DURING THE DETAILED DESIGN STAGE OF THE CENTRE.

THE CENTRE WILL BE OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND EPD STAFF WILL STATION AT THE CENTRE TO ENSURE THE OPERATION WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY STANDARDS UNDER THE CONTRACT.

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GOVT'S OBJECTIVE TO HELP RECOGNISE RIGHTS OF DISABLED

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IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE TO HELP TO RECOGNISE THE RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO PROVE THEIR ABILITY, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION (SPD), LADY WILSON SAID TAKING TROUBLE TO PLACE DISABLED PEOPLE INTO JOBS BEST SUITED TO THEIR ABILITY AND INTEREST WOULD ENABLE THEM TO MAKE FULL USE OF THEIR POTENTIAL.

"IT IS VITAL THAT THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO WORK AND PARTICIPATE WHEREVER POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE AND RETAIN DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT," LADY WILSON SAID.

"THIS IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF INTEGRATING DISABLED PEOPLE INTO OUR COMMUNITY. WE ALL - SOCIETY AND DISABLED PEOPLE - GAIN FROM THIS APPROACH," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON NOTED THAT DISABLED PEOPLE WERE NO SMALL PORTION OF OUR POPULATION.

"MORE THAN FOUR PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE DISABLED BY PHYSICAL, MENTAL OR SENSORY IMPAIRMENT OF SOME KIND," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON SAID THE PROGRESS WHICH HONG KONG HAD MADE DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS IN INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO APPROPRIATE WORK OWED MUCH TO THE EFFORTS OF THE SPD, ADDING THAT THESE ACHIEVEMENTS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS WHO ACTIVELY TOOK ON DISABLED EMPLOYEES.

"DISABLED EMPLOYEES TOO HAVE GREATLY CONTRIBUTED, BY WORKING HARD AND MAKING EVERYONE REALISE HOW MUCH THEY HAVE TO OFFER," SHE SAID.

"GIVEN THE GOOD WILL AND CONCERTED EFFORTS OF ALL THOSE CONCERNED, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED WILL CONTINUE TO GROW," SHE ADDED.

LADY WILSON CONGRATULATED THE SPD WHICH CELEBRATED ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR, AND THE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR ALL THEY HAD DONE TO HELP INTEGRATE THE DISABLED.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, PAID TRIBUTE TO LADY WILSON FOR HER SUPPORT TO REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES AND KEEN INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF DISABLED PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE SPD HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1980 IN PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE EMPLOYABILITY OF THE DISABLED AND IN PLACING DISABLED PEOPLE IN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT IN THE OPEN MARKET.

"BETWEEN 1980 AND 1989, THE NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS IN A YEAR CLIMBED STEADILY FROM 100 TO OVER 1,000, AND THE ANNUAL FIGURE OF EMPLOYERS USING THE SERVICE ALSO ROSE FROM 80 TO 500.

"IN 1981, THE TOP 10 EMPLOYERS TOGETHER EMPLOYED JUST ABOUT 100 DISABLED PERSONS, WHILE THIS YEAR THE WINNERS FROM ALL SECTORS HAVE EMPLOYED A TOTAL OF 200," HE SAID.

"THIS SHOWS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GRADUAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE DISABLED BY EMPLOYERS AND THAT A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR SELECTIVE PLACEMENT WORK HAS BEEN LAID," HE ADDED.

MR HAMMOND WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS, THE DIVISION WOULD BE ABLE TO CONSOLIDATE ITS PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN FUTURE.

LADY WILSON TODAY ALSO PRESENTED AWARDS TO SIX OUTSTANDING DISABLED PERSONS WHO HAD DEMONSTRATED DILIGENCE, DEVOTION AND ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THEIR JOBS.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, NOW IN ITS 10TH YEAR AND ORGANISED BY THE SPD, WAS HELD TO COMMEND DISABLED EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING JOB PERFORMANCE DURING THE PAST YEAR.

IT WAS ALSO INTENDED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS OF THE DISABLED AND TO THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO HAD MADE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO REARRANGE DUTIES AND REDEPLOY STAFF IN A BID TO ACCOMMODATE DISABLED EMPLOYEES.

THE SIX WINNERS OF THE OUTSTANDING DISABLED EMPLOYEES AWARD WERE: MR SHEH CHI-WAH OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL, MR MUI KO-CHEUNG OF RHEEM (HONG KONG) LTD, MISS SZE MEI-YIU OF SURVEY RESEARCH HONG KONG LTD, MR TO FUK-KAU OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR WONG WAI-KEUNG OF HONG KONG MARRIOTT HOTEL, AND MR CHU WAI-CHUEN OF POLYTYPE LTD.

TO MARK THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPD, FOUR SPECIAL AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO EMPLOYERS WHO HAD GIVEN THE GREATEST SUPPORT IN EMPLOYING DISABLED PERSONS IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

THEY WERE LO'S CLEANING SERVICES LTD, SECURITY ALLIANCE LTD, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND MCDONALD'S RESTAURANTS (HK) LTD.

IN ADDITION, 12 ORGANISATIONS WERE AWARDED SOUVENIR PLAQUES. TOGETHER THEY EMPLOYED 200 DISABLED WORKERS BETWEEN JULY 1989 AND JUNE THIS YEAR.

THEY WERE MCDONALD'S RESTAURANTS (HK) LTD, LO'S CLEANING SERVICES LTD, HONG KONG FACTORY FOR THE BLIND, D & D MESSENGER AND DELIVERY SERVICES CO., SECURITY ALLIANCE LTD, RELIANCE SERVICES CO. LTD, SUNPEACE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LTD, R.G.F. INTERNATIONAL LTD, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ADVANCED CLEANING SERVICES LTD, MANHATTAN GARMENT (INTERNATIONAL) LTD, AND SAMWA INDUSTRIES.

ALSO, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION WERE PRESENTED TO SIX ESTABLISHMENTS FOR GIVING FULL CONSIDERATION TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS OR MAKING SPECIAL EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE DISABLED WORKERS.

THEY WERE HUTCHISON PAGING LTD, ASSOCIATION OF NT RADIO TAXICABS LTD, KWONG FAI TRANSWORLD HAULIER CO. LTD, KIN LI HONG, SHING KEE FOLDING CO. LTD, AND DAIWA ASSOCIATE (HK) LTD.

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#### HK CMAC PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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THE HONG KONG CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN DEVELOPING SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY, LADY WILSON SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE HONG KONG CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL, LADY WILSON SAID THE AIM OF THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN TO PROMOTE, BY MEANS OF ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND EDUCATION, SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGES AND RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD.

"OVER THE PAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS, HONG KONG CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS MADE A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION IN HELPING FAMILIES TO GET THEIR PRIORITIES RIGHT.

"WITH FATHER EDWARD COLLINS, S.J. AS THE COUNCIL'S FIRST CHAIRMAN, THE FOUNDER MEMBERS, INCLUDING YOUR PRESENT CHAIRMAN DR RAMON RUIZ AND HIS WIFE DR IRENE RUIZ, SHOWED GREAT VISION AND FARSIGHTEDNESS IN 1965.

"THEY WERE ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED BY THE THEN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF HONG KONG, BISHOP LAWRENCE BIANCHI," SHE SAID.

/LADY WILSON .....

LADY WILSON NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL'S VISION RECOGNISED THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THE VALUE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILY LIFE WHICH WAS BEGINNING TO SHOW SIGNS OF BEING UNDER GREAT PRESSURE EVEN THEN, AND MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WERE CLEARLY IN NEED OF HELP AND SUPPORT.

"THE CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL BEGAN AS A VOLUNTARY AGENCY WITH VOLUNTARY MEMBERS IN THE 1960'S.

"THIS EARLY SPIRIT STILL EXISTS, AND AS MANY MEMBERS CONTINUE TO DO VOLUNTARY SERVICE WITH THE COUNCIL," SHE ADDED.

LADY WILSON SAID THE AGENCY IN THOSE FIRST FEW YEARS, DEPENDED FINANCIALLY ON DONATIONS AND IT RECEIVED ITS FIRST SUBSIDY FROM SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN 1969.

SHE SAID THE AGENCY ALSO BECAME ONE OF THE FOUNDER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

NOW WORKING ON A VERY DIFFERENT BUDGET, LADY WILSON POINTED OUT THAT THE CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL HAD HELPED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION TO BE RECOGNISED AS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF EDUCATION.

"IT NOW ORGANISES PRE-MARRIAGE COURSES FOR YOUNG COUPLES PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE, TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THIS UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP, AND HOW TO GROW TO BE RESPONSIBLE PARENTS.

"THE COUNCIL HAS ALSO STARTED A COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR COUPLES WHO EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES OR PROBLEMS IN THEIR MARRIAGE," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL NOW EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR TRAINING AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF FULL-TIME COUNSELLORS AND VOLUNTEERS.

"EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF COUNSELLING AND FAMILY THERAPY HAVE BEEN INVITED FROM ABROAD TO CONDUCT WORKSHOPS, IN HONG KONG, THUS KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH NEW IDEAS IN THE FIELD.

"THE COUNCIL HAS PRODUCED MANY PUBLICATIONS - A REGULAR NEWSLETTER AND TRANSLATIONS OF SOME EXCELLENT BOOKS ON MARRIAGE.

"THESE HAVE HELPED OTHER AGENCIES IN THE FIELD AS WELL AS HELPING INDIVIDUALS," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON THANKED THE FULL-TIME STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF C.M.A.C. FOR THEIR DEVOTED SERVICE TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES OVER THE PAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

"YOU CAN ALL BE JUSTLY PROUD OF THE SPIRIT AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUR ORGANISATION," SHE ADDED.

ASSURANCE LETTER TO FACILITATE BRITISH CITIZENS'  
SPOUSES TO SETTLE IN UK  
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WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY (NOVEMBER 26), NON-BRITISH CITIZEN WIVES OR HUSBANDS OF BRITISH CITIZENS IN HONG KONG MAY OBTAIN AN ASSURANCE LETTER FROM THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO FACILITATE ANY FUTURE APPLICATION FOR SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"SUCH PERSONS MAY APPROACH THE OVERSEAS VISA SECTION, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON THE NINTH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER II, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, WITH EVIDENCE OF THEIR MARRIAGE WITH BRITISH CITIZENS," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"A LETTER OF ASSURANCE CONCERNING THEIR ELIGIBILITY TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT UNITED KINGDOM IMMIGRATION RULES WOULD BE ISSUED TO FACILITATE THEIR FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS LETTER IS NOT AN ENTRY CLEARANCE, BUT IT WILL HELP THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE SAME PRIORITY TO ANY FUTURE APPLICATION IF THEY WISH TO LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH THEIR BRITISH-CITIZEN SPOUSES.

"THE LETTER ALSO CONTAINS AN ASSURANCE THAT THE WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS OF BRITISH CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IF THEY HAVE REMAINED IN HONG KONG AND HAVE NOT REMARRIED AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION," HE SAID.

ENQUIRIES ON FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 824 6111 OR 829 3275.

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BANKING LICENCE GRANTED  
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THE SHIZUOKA BANK LTD HAS BEEN GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE SHIZUOKA BANK LTD IS THE 23RD LARGEST BANK IN JAPAN AND HAS AN 87TH RANKING WORLD-WIDE IN TERMS OF CAPITAL.

IN HONG KONG, IT HAS ESTABLISHED A REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE SINCE 1985 AND A SUBSIDIARY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY SINCE 1987.

"THE SUSTAINED INTEREST OF FOREIGN BANKS IN ENTERING THE LOCAL MARKET SPOKE FOR HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"GIVEN THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG'S BILATERAL TRADE WITH JAPAN, IT IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FOR JAPAN TO HAVE A GREATER PRESENCE IN THE HONG KONG BANKING SECTOR," HE SAID.

THE GRANTING OF THE LICENCE BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSED BANKS TO 168, OF WHICH 138 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG. A TOTAL OF FIVE BANKING LICENCES HAVE BEEN GRANTED THIS YEAR.

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VIEWS SOUGHT ON MEASURES TO ENSURE  
FULLEST POSSIBLE SIXTH-FORM ENROLMENT

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SCHOOLS COUNCILS ARE NOW BEING CONSULTED ON REMEDIAL MEASURES TO SECURE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE UTILISATION OF SIXTH-FORM PLACES IN PUBLIC-SECTOR SCHOOLS.

THE NEED FOR THE PROPOSALS AROSE FROM THE FACT THAT THE SIXTH-FORM ENROLMENT RATIO IN THESE SCHOOLS HAD DECLINED FROM 86.8 PER CENT IN 1985 TO 79.2 PER CENT LAST YEAR, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR JOHN WINFIELD, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"UNDER-ENROLMENT TO THIS DEGREE IS WASTEFUL OF PUBLIC FUNDS AND OTHER RESOURCES AND QUITE CLEARLY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE," HE SAID IN AN ADDRESS GIVEN AT THE 25TH ANNUAL SPEECH DAY OF SHAU KEI WAN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL.

MR WINFIELD SAID THE TWO MAIN CAUSES OF UNDER-ENROLMENT WERE THE HIGHLY SELECTIVE ADMISSION POLICIES ADOPTED BY MANY SCHOOLS AND THE PRACTICE OF MANY WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATES APPLYING SUCCESSFULLY FOR ADMISSION TO MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL.

"OTHER FACTORS INCLUDE EMIGRATION, OVERSEAS STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AND EARLY DROPOUT FROM SECONDARY 6 BY STUDENTS OFFERED PLACES AFTER THE SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN IN INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND POLYTECHNICS," HE SAID.

THE REMEDIAL MEASURES INCLUDED REMOVING, OR AT LEAST LOWERING, THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SITTING A-LEVEL (ADVANCED LEVEL) EXAMINATIONS WHICH, WITH PLANNED TERTIARY EXPANSION, WERE NOW UNNECESSARILY RESTRICTIVE AND AT ODDS WITH THE UNDERLYING SPIRIT OF CURRICULUM REFORM, HE SAID.

ANOTHER MEASURE WOULD BE TO REDUCE WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY OF A-LEVEL EXAMINATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS, BUT WITHOUT AFFECTING STANDARDS OR OVERSEAS RECOGNITION.

SCHOOLS WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO FILL ALL THEIR SECONDARY 6 PLACES BY A FIVE-STAGE ADMISSION PROCEDURE, HE SAID.

"THE PROPOSED DESIGN OF THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL PUBLIC-SECTOR SCHOOLS WHICH OPERATE SIXTH-FORM CLASSES SHOULD ADMIT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THEIR OWN STUDENTS WHO SATISFY THE MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR A-LEVELS AND TAKE IN STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS ONLY IF THERE ARE STILL VACANCIES TO BE FILLED," MR WINFIELD SAID.

THIS PROPOSAL, HE EXPLAINED, INCLUDED SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS WHICH HAD BETTER THAN AVERAGE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE PLACED AT A DISADVANTAGE.

"ANOTHER IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THIS PROPOSAL IS THE SUGGESTION THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD CO-OPERATE IN OFFERING A WIDER RANGE OF SUBJECT COMBINATIONS TO THEIR SIXTH-FORM STUDENTS," HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE WAS SCOPE FOR THE SENSIBLE SHARING OF SCARCE RESOURCES TO INCREASE THE CHOICES OPEN TO STUDENTS AND THAT SCHOOLS COULD BE GROUPED IN TWOS AND THREES, EITHER BY DISTRICT OR BY SPONSORING BODY, ALL OFFERING SOME COMMON SUBJECTS BUT EACH SPECIALISING IN OTHERS.

BY SHARING THEIR SIXTH-FORM STUDENTS, HE SAID, GROUPS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER A MUCH RICHER MIX OF SUBJECTS THAN THEY WOULD IF THEY CONTINUED TO OPERATE IN ISOLATION.

"THIS WOULD HAVE THE ADDED ADVANTAGE THAT SUBJECTS FOR WHICH ACCOMMODATION OR THE HIGH COST OF EQUIPMENT MIGHT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN TIMES OF SEVERE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS COULD THUS BE INTRODUCED IN ONE SCHOOL IN THE GROUP RATHER THAN IN ALL.

"AN OBVIOUS EXAMPLE IS THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF AS-LEVEL (ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL) COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND A-LEVEL COMPUTER STUDIES," MR WINFIELD SAID.

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SHA TIN LOT FOR SALE BY TENDERS

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SALE OF A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL LOT IN SHA TIN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME (PSPS).

LOCATED TO THE SOUTH OF THE EXISTING YMCA YOUTH CAMP IN WU KAI SHA, THE 4.361-HECTARE SITE IS EARMARKED FOR THE LARGEST PSPS SCHEME IN MA ON SHAN NEW TOWN WHICH IS PLANNED TO HOUSE A POPULATION OF ABOUT 15,000.

THE PSPS DEVELOPMENT IS EXPECTED TO OCCUPY TWO SEPARATE ELEVATED PLATFORMS AT THE FOOT-HILL OF MA ON SHAN WHICH OVERLOOKS THE SCENIC TOLO HARBOUR WITH A DISTANT VIEW OF THE PAT SIN RANGE.

THE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT IS EXPECTED TO START IN MID NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1993.

UNDER THE SALE CONDITIONS, THE DEVELOPER WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WITH A MAXIMUM GROSS FLOOR AREA OF 244,450 SQUARE METRES AS WELL AS ANCILLARY COMMERCIAL SPACE NOT EXCEEDING 3,000 SQUARE METRES.

THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL FLATS IS 4,500 RANGING IN SALEABLE AREA FROM 35 SQUARE METRES TO 55 SQUARE METRES.

THE DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE WILL ALSO INCLUDE A THIRTEEN-CLASSROOM KINDERGARTEN AND PROVIDE AT LEAST 1.5 HECTARES OF OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

PLANNING BRIEF WHICH SETS OUT THE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AND PARAMETERS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION UPON APPLICATION IN WRITING TO THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER DOCUMENTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE VARIOUS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 18, 1991.

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#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORIA PEAK FIRE STATION

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A SENSE OF NOSTALGIA RETURNED TO THE VICTORIA PEAK FIRE STATION TODAY (FRIDAY) WHEN A GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS GATHERED THERE TO CELEBRATE THE BUILDING'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY.

THE BUILDING'S PREMISES AT 7 GOUGH HILL PATH WAS THE FORMER PEAK SCHOOL WHICH WAS A SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURE PUT UP 75 YEARS AGO.

THERE WERE MORE THAN 30 GUESTS IN THE CELEBRATION PARTY. SOME OF THEM HAD EITHER WORKED OR STUDIED IN THE BUILDING SOME 60 YEARS AGO.

THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH, AND THE PRINCIPAL OF PEAK SCHOOL, MISS P.L. YOUNG, UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY.

GUESTS ATTENDING THE PARTY INCLUDED MRS D.C. BRAY, WHO WAS A STUDENT AT PEAK SCHOOL IN 1930 AND MRS ISABELLA PARK, A HEADMISTRESS OF THE SCHOOL AFTER THE WAR.

/THEY GAVE .....

THEY GAVE ACCOUNTS OF THE MEMORABLE EVENTS OF THEIR LIVES IN THE OLD DAYS IN THE PREMISES.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PREMISES WAS COMPLETED IN 1915. IT WAS THEN USED AS THE PREMISES FOR THE PEAK SCHOOL.

IN 1966, THE SCHOOL VACATED THE PREMISES AND MOVED IN TO THE MAIN PEAK SCHOOL IN PLUNKETT'S ROAD FOR MORE CLASSROOMS.

THE PREMISES WAS LATER HANDED OVER TO THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE VICTORIA PEAK FIRE STATION WAS COMMISSIONED IN DECEMBER 1967.

TO DATE, THE STATION HAS 42 FIRE AND AMBULANCE OFFICERS AND A FLEET OF THREE FIRE APPLIANCES AND TWO AMBULANCES TO SERVE RESIDENTS IN THE PEAK AREA.

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#### EDUCATION CAMP ON AIDS FOR YOUTH

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A TWO-DAY EDUCATION CAMP WILL BE HELD NEXT MONTH TO ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AIDS.

THE CAMP, WITH "HEALTHY LIFE, HEALTHY LIVING" AS ITS THEME, IS AIMED AT FOSTERING A GREATER AWARENESS OF AIDS PREVENTION AND A PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARDS SEX AMONG THOSE AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 35.

ORGANISED BY THE AIDS COUNSELLING AND HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CARITAS HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS, THE CAMP WILL BE HELD AT THE LEI YUE MUN HOLIDAY VILLAGE IN CHAI WAN ON DECEMBER 29 AND 30.

THERE WILL BE 170 PLACES AND PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. EACH CAMPER WILL HAVE TO PAY A \$50 ADMISSION FEE.

DURING THE CAMP PERIOD, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE TRANQUIL ENVIRONMENT OF THE CAMP SITE AND ITS FACILITIES, AND WILL BE TREATED TO A BALANCED RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM THE CARITAS COMMUNITY CENTRES AND YOUTH CENTRES OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS.

APPLICATION FOR ENTRY WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 7. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 552 4211 OR 557 0142.

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CARNIVAL TO START CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

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A CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT YUEN LONG STADIUM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON TO START OFF THE DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY SEVEN POP SINGERS AND A QUIZ SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO AROUSE CIVIC AWARENESS.

THE PROGRAMME WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON COMMERCIAL RADIO ONE, STARTING AT 3 PM. AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM.

THE YUEN LONG CIVIC EDUCATION CARNIVAL IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE LION'S CLUB OF YUEN LONG AND THE DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN WORKING GROUP, AND IS SPONSORED BY VARIOUS LOCAL COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 1990-91 YUEN LONG DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN OPENING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT YUEN LONG STADIUM, TAI YUK ROAD, YUEN LONG. THE CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A CARNIVAL.

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ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN IN EASTERN

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RESIDENTS WILL BE ADVISED OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SMOKING DURING A CAMPAIGN TO BE HELD IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT STARTING TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE CAMPAIGN WILL START OFF WITH AN OPENING CEREMONY AT 2 PM TOMORROW AT THE NEW JADE SHOPPING CENTRE IN CHAI WAN, FOLLOWED BY A BUS PARADE.

EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL TOUR THE DISTRICT ON AN OPEN-TOP BUS, AND DISTRIBUTE GIFTS AND PUBLICITY LEAFLETS AT VARIOUS STOPS, INCLUDING HING MAN ESTATE, SHAU KEI WAN TRAM TERMINAL, KORNHILL, NORTH POINT FERRY PIER AND LAU SIN STREET.

ALSO, AN EXHIBITION ON SMOKING AND HEALTH WILL BE HELD AT NEW JADE SHOPPING CENTRE FROM TOMORROW TO NOVEMBER 29, AND THEN AT CITYPLAZA, TAIKOO SHING FROM NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 3.

/OFFICIATING AT .....

OFFICIATING AT TOMORROW'S OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY; CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH, DR RONALD LEUNG; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, MR SUNNY WU.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT SMOKING AND HEALTH CAMPAIGN TO BE HELD AT 2 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE NEW JADE SHOPPING CENTRE, CHAI WAN.

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ANTI-NARCOTICS PARADE IN TSEUNG KWAN O ON SUNDAY  
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A LARGE PARADE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 25) IN TSEUNG KWAN O TO SPREAD THE ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGES.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD AND SAI KUNG CIVIC EDUCATION PROMOTION COMMITTEE, THE PARADE WILL START FROM THE CARMEL DIVINE GRACE FOUNDATION SECONDARY SCHOOL AT PO LAM ESTATE AT 10 AM AND PROCEED TOWARDS TSUI LAM ESTATE.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART IN THE PARADE WHICH WILL LAST ABOUT ONE HOUR.

OFFICIATING AT THE PARADE'S STARTING CEREMONY WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, MR PAO PING-WING; SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN; SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG; AND THE KWUN TONG POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR ARTHUR HIGGINBOTTOM.

AFTER THE PARADE, A CONCERT PERFORMED BY POPULAR SINGERS WILL BE HELD AT THE AMPHITHEATRE OF TSUI LAM ESTATE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PARADE IN TSEUNG KWAN O ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 25). THE STARTING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 10 AM AT THE CARMEL DIVINE GRACE FOUNDATION SECONDARY SCHOOL AT PO LAM ESTATE, TSEUNG KWAN O.

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BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR IN KOWLOON CITY

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A BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME SAFETY WILL BE HELD IN KOWLOON CITY TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE SEMINAR MARKS THE END OF THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT MONTH.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT, MR CHUNG PUI-LAM, WILL GIVE A TALK ON THE COMPREHENSIVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, WHILE OTHER SPEAKERS WILL COVER VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HOME SAFETY.

AN EXHIBITION WILL ALSO BE STAGED AT THE VENUE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 5.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT METROPOLE HOTEL, 75 WATERLOO ROAD.

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MOCK DB MEETINGS TOMORROW

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THIRTY SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE OPERATION OF THEIR DISTRICT BOARD BY ACTING AS BOARD MEMBERS IN TWO MOCK MEETINGS TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THESE MOCK DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS ARE ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THESE MEETINGS ARE TO ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND TO HAVE A GREATER SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MEETINGS AS REALISTIC AS POSSIBLE, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN GENUINE DISTRICT BOARD PAPERS FOR REFERENCE, HE ADDED.

THERE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED SALE OF MARK SIX TICKETS IN SUPERMARKETS AND CONVENIENCE STORES AS WELL AS THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY.

/THE MEETINGS .....

THE MEETINGS WILL BE CHAIRED BY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MR RAYMOND CHOY AND MR LEUNG KAM-TAO.

OFFICIATING THE MEETINGS WILL BE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI TUNG-NGOK, AND SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALAN FUNG.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MOCK DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM, SEVENTH FLOOR, CHEUNG SHA WAN PLAZA, TOWER 1, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD.

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