



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1988

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED
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THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION EXPERIENCED BY FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 WAS LARGELY SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE YEAR'S THIRD QUARTER, ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

IN REGARD TO THE BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, OPINIONS OF FIRMS ARE DIVIDED, BUT ON BALANCE THEY EXPECT A DECLINE IN BUSINESS OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987, WHICH IS MAINLY DUE TO SEASONAL FACTORS.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, FIRMS IN ALL INDUSTRIES EXPERIENCED A MODERATE IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 'TEXTILES' AND 'PLASTICS' INDUSTRIES WHICH RECORDED A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS.

REGARDING THE BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, FIRMS IN THE 'PRINTING', 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' AND 'ELECTRONICS' EXPECT LITTLE CHANGE IN BUSINESS, WHEREAS FIRMS IN THE 'WATCHES AND CLOCKS' INDUSTRY LOOK FORWARD TO SOME IMPROVEMENT.

HOWEVER, FIRMS IN THE OTHER INDUSTRIES EXPECT A DECLINE IN BUSINESS, PARTICULARLY IN THE 'TEXTILES' AND 'PLASTICS' INDUSTRIES.

FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR EXPERIENCED A CONTINUED BUSINESS UPTREND IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 AND EXPECT THE BUSINESS SITUATION TO REMAIN FAVOURABLE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988.

AS FOR THE 'WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' SECTOR, FIRMS GENERALLY EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987.

A SEASONAL DECLINE IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED FOR FIRMS IN THE 'HOTELS' AND 'RESTAURANTS' BUSINESSES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 WHEREAS THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN STABLE FOR FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES'.

SIMILARLY, FIRMS IN THE 'BANKS' AND 'TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION' BUSINESSES REPORTED AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987.

AS FOR THE FIRMS IN THE 'REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES' SECTOR, SOME DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS WAS EXPERIENCED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

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AS REGARDS BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS ARE EXPECTED EXCEPT FOR THE BANKS, IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF RESPONDING FIRMS EXPECT THE BUSINESS CONDITIONS TO REMAIN THE SAME.

ABOUT 1,000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY AND WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS. THE SURVEY ALSO COVERED BUSINESS PROBLEMS FACED BY FIRMS.

IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, SHORTAGE OF LABOUR GENERALLY REMAINS A PROMINENT PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF FIRMS. HOWEVER, THE INTENSITY OF THE PROBLEM HAS EASED SOMEWHAT WHEN COMPARED TO THE POSITION IN THE PREVIOUS ROUND OF THE SURVEY.

IN ADDITION, SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR AND HIGH MATERIALS PRICES WERE ALSO INDICATED BY THE REPORTING FIRMS AS RELATIVELY MORE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS. THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988.

SEVERAL MAJOR PROBLEMS CONTINUED TO AFFECT FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, INCLUDING PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS, GENERAL SHORTAGE OF LABOUR PARTICULARLY SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR AND HIGH WAGE RATES. THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN PROMINENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988.

SHORTAGE OF STAFF GENERALLY HAS BECOME A PREVALENT PROBLEM FOR FIRMS IN BOTH THE 'WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' AND 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTORS DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 AND IS ANTICIPATED TO REMAIN SO IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988.

ALTHOUGH PRICE COMPETITION IS STILL A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES' BUSINESS, IT HAS BECOME LESS SIGNIFICANT FOR THE OTHER KINDS OF SERVICES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HIGH STAFF TURNOVER AND SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED STAFF ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE RELATIVELY MORE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS IN THE 'RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS', 'TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION', 'BANKS' AND 'REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES' BUSINESSES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987, AS WELL AS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988.

THE EXTENT OF THE ABOVE PROBLEMS IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE SERIOUS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 FOR FIRMS IN THE 'HOTELS' SECTOR. IN ADDITION, HIGH STAFF COSTS IS ANOTHER EMERGING PROBLEM FOR HOTELS.

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

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IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD "IMPROVED", "REMAINED THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATED" IN THE QUARTER JUST ENDED AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

FOR THE COMING QUARTER, THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION WOULD "IMPROVE", "REMAIN THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATE".

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

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

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT \$3.50 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234779.

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TAC'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO EXCO

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (MONDAY) MADE A DECISION ON THE ISSUES OF THE SEATING CAPACITY OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES (PLB'S) AND THE OPERATION OF COACH SERVICES BY THE FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUS COMPANIES.

THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THEIR FINAL DECISION.

IN MAKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS, THE TAC HAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION:

- (1) THE EXISTING POLICIES AND LEGISLATION COVERING THE TWO ISSUES;

/(2) THE NEED

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- (2) THE NEED TO MAINTAIN PROPER PRIORITY OVER THE USE OF ROAD SPACE BY DIFFERENT MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND OF ALLEVIATION OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION;
- (3) THE OPTIMISATION OF THE USE OF THE SEATING CAPACITY OF NEW TYPES OF FOUR METRIC-TONNE VEHICLES WITHIN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION AND THE NEED TO ENSURE COMFORT, SAFETY AND HIGH SKILL OF DRIVING AND UPGRADING OF PLB SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY; AND
- (4) HEALTHY INTER-MODEL COMPETITION BETWEEN DIFFERENT TRANSPORT MODES.

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CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD-BOUNDARY STREET FLYOVER OPENED

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THE CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD-BOUNDARY STREET FLYOVER WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

THE 550 METRES LONG TWO-LANE ONE-WAY FLYOVER EXTENDS FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD NEAR MAPLE STREET TO BOUNDARY STREET NEAR SAI YEE STREET, PROVIDING FREE FLOW TRAFFIC FROM SHAM SHUI PO TO EAST KOWLOON.

BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE FLYOVER, EASTBOUND VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD TO EAST KOWLOON HAD TO GO THROUGH SEVERAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AND BUSY TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROLLED JUNCTIONS.

THESE INCLUDED THE TAI PO ROAD-CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD JUNCTION; THE CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD-BOUNDARY STREET-NATHAN ROAD JUNCTION; AND THE BOUNDARY STREET-TUNG CHOI STREET JUNCTION.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW FLYOVER FROM 2 PM TODAY, MOTORISTS WILL BE ABLE TO AVOID THESE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AND ROAD JUNCTIONS AND CUT JOURNEY TIME BY ABOUT FOUR MINUTES DURING PEAK HOURS.

THE FLYOVER WAS DESIGNED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WHICH WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING ITS CONSTRUCTION.

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN JULY 1985 AND WAS COMPLETED IN ABOUT 30 MONTHS AT A COST OF \$26 MILLION.

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WORK STARTS ON TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN TUEN MUN

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WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR TUEN MUN STARTED TODAY (MONDAY) FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF A \$29.4 MILLION CONTRACT BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE SCHOOLS ARE BEING BUILT TO MEET THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

SITUATED ON A 10,000-SQUARE-METRE SITE NEAR BUTTERFLY ESTATE, EACH SCHOOL WILL HAVE 24 CLASSROOMS, 12 SPECIAL ROOMS, AN ASSEMBLY HALL AND A COVERED PLAYGROUND.

OTHER ANCILLARY FACILITIES INCLUDE STAFF QUARTERS, BASKETBALL COURTS AND CARPARKS.

THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED IN JULY NEXT YEAR.

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PRELIMINARY FIGURES FOR PROPERTY REVIEW RELEASED

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THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS IN THE 1988 PROPERTY REVIEW INDICATE THAT VACANCIES ARE DOWN IN ALL SECTORS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, PARTICULARLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WHERE, AT 1.7 PER CENT OF STOCK, VACANCY WAS AT AN ALL TIME LOW.

THE FINDINGS WERE RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT.

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (ALL CLASSES)

SUPPLY IN 1987, AT AROUND 34,400 UNITS WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN 1986, BUT 1988 IS EXPECTED TO SHOW AN INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 10 PER CENT.

JUST OVER 35,000 DOMESTIC UNITS WERE TAKEN UP DURING 1987, UP 16 PER CENT ON THE TAKE-UP FIGURE FOR 1986. VACANCIES WERE CONSEQUENTLY DOWN ON 1986.

/PRIVATE DOMESTIC

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (LARGE UNITS - 100 SQ METRES AND ABOVE)

SUPPLY OF LARGE DOMESTIC UNITS IN 1987 WAS DOWN BY SOME 20 PER CENT COMPARED TO 1986. THE FORECAST SUPPLY FOR 1988 IS IN THE ORDER OF 3,600 UNITS, WELL UP ON THE 1987 SUPPLY OF 2,000 UNITS AND THE 10 YEARS' AVERAGE OF AROUND 2,000.

THE 1987 TAKE-UP OF LARGE UNITS AT 2,650 WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE COMPARED TO THE 1986 FIGURE OF 1,800. THIS, COUPLED WITH THE LOWER SUPPLY, RESULTED IN A DROP IN THE VACANCY RATE FROM 6.6 PER CENT TO 4.5 PER CENT OR 1,000 UNITS.

COMMERCIAL

SUPPLY OF COMMERCIAL SPACE IN 1987 WAS 63 PER CENT UP ON THAT IN 1986 AND AT 284,000 SQ METRES WAS THE HIGHEST SINCE 1982. SUPPLY IN 1988 IS EXPECTED TO BE MARGINALLY DOWN ON 1987.

TAKE-UP AT 358,000 SQ METRES IN 1987 WAS THE HIGHEST ON RECORD AND WELL UP FROM 213,000 SQ METRES THE YEAR BEFORE. IN CONSEQUENCE, VACANCIES FELL FROM 7.8 TO 5.4 PER CENT OF STOCK.

OFFICES

THE SUPPLY OF OFFICE SPACE IN 1987 WAS DRAMATICALLY UP ON THAT FOR 1986, ALTHOUGH STILL NOWHERE NEAR THE HIGH OF 591,000 SQ METRES IN 1983. JUST OVER 40 PER CENT OF THE 1987 SUPPLY WAS IN SECTOR II. OFFICE COMPLETIONS IN 1988 ARE EXPECTED TO RISE BY A FURTHER 5 PER CENT.

TAKE-UP IN 1987 AT 269,000 SQ METRES EXCEEDED THE YEAR'S SUPPLY BY 9 PER CENT RESULTING IN A DROP IN OVERALL VACANCY FROM 6 PER CENT TO 5.5 PER CENT.

SECTOR III EXPERIENCED THE GREATEST TAKE-UP, REDUCING VACANCY IN THAT SECTOR TO 4.8 PER CENT FROM 8.6 PER CENT IN 1986.

VACANCIES IN SECTORS I AND II IN 1987 WERE UP ON 1986, DUE TO THE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF NEW SPACE COMPLETED TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

/FLATTED FACTORIES

FLATTED FACTORIES

SUPPLY OF FLATTED FACTORY SPACE FELL IN 1987 BY SOME 11 PER CENT. HOWEVER, THE FORECAST SUPPLY IN 1988 IS EXPECTED TO EXCEED THAT OF 1987 BY SOME 60 PER CENT.

TAKE-UP OF FLATTED FACTORY SPACE IN 1987 WAS marginally UP AND THIS, SET AGAINST THE MUCH REDUCED SUPPLY, RESULTED IN A FALL IN VACANCY FROM 3.8 PER CENT TO 1.7 PER CENT AT THE END OF 1987.

GENERAL

IN THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF SUPPLY, TAKE-UP AND VACANCY IN THE MAIN SECTORS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FIGURES QUOTED ARE PRELIMINARY ONLY. FULL AND FINAL FIGURES WILL BE SHOWN IN THE 1988 PROPERTY REVIEW, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN APRIL.

THE DEFINITIONS OF FLOOR AREAS IN THE 1988 PROPERTY REVIEW WILL BE THE SAME AS THOSE IN THE 1987 EDITION.

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (ALL PREMISES)

	(NO. OF UNITS)			
	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%*
	-----	-----	-----	-----
1985	29,900	29,500	22,100	3.7
1986	34,100	30,300	24,700	3.9
1987	34,400	35,100	22,300	3.4
1988	[37,700]			

'PRIVATE DOMESTIC' EXCLUDES FLATS BUILT UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME.

*VACANCY AT THE END OF THE YEAR AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STOCK.

/PRIVATE DOMESTIC

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (LARGE UNITS - 100 SQ METRES AND OVER)

(NO. OF UNITS)

	SUPPLY -----	TAKE-UP -----	VACANCY -----	%
1985	1,950	2,000	2,750	5.8
1986	2,550	1,800	3,300	6.6
1987	2,000	2,650	2,300	4.5
1988	[3,600]			

COMMERCIAL

('000 SQ METRES)

	SUPPLY -----	TAKE-UP -----	VACANCY -----	%
1985	249	264	524	9.0
1986	174	213	466	7.8
1987	284	358	368	5.4
1988	[259]			

OFFICES (ALL)

('000 SQ METRES)

	SUPPLY -----	TAKE-UP -----	VACANCY -----	%
1985	308	385	484	11.1
1986	46	256	266	6.0
1987	247	269	241	5.5
1988	[259]			

/OFFICES (SECTORAL

OFFICES (SECTORAL ANALYSIS)

('000 SQ METRES)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
<u>SECTOR I CENTRAL, GRADE A OFFICES</u>				
1985	163	153	101	11.1
1986	7	60	40	4.4
1987	70	38	73	8.4
1988	[92]			

SECTOR II SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CAUSEWAY BAY AND TSIM SHA TSUI,
GRADE A + CENTRAL, GRADE B OFFICES

1985	93	90	110	8.5
1986	9	82	37	2.9
1987	102	74	65	4.6
1988	[132]			

SECTOR III REMAINDER

1985	52	142	273	12.6
1986	30	114	189	8.6
1987	75	157	103	4.8
1988	[35]			

FLATTED FACTORIES

('000 SQ METRES)

	SUPPLY	TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1985	456	389	716	5.5
1986	611	787	516	3.8
1987	541	804	247	1.7
1988	[870]			

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S FOR S-DESIGNATE VISITS FSD

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY-DESIGNATE, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, VISITED SEVERAL FIRE SERVICES ESTABLISHMENTS THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

IT WAS PART OF A SERIES OF VISITS HE IS MAKING TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH, MR BARNES TOURED THE CHEUNG SHA WAN AMBULANCE DEPOT, THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, THE COMMUNICATION CENTRE AND A WORKSHOP.

MR BARNES WAS BRIEFED ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SAW ITS OPERATIONS.

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ANCESTRAL HALL IN NT RESTORED

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THE MAN LUN FUNG ANCESTRAL HALL IN SAN TIN, YUEN LONG, ONE OF THE FINEST EXAMPLE OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HAS NOW BEEN RESTORED.

TO MARK COMPLETION OF THE RESTORATION, A CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE WEEKEND. IT WAS ATTENDED BY THE MANAGERS AND ELDERS OF THE MAN CLAN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD, MR JASON YUEN, AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS.

ON THE GROUNDS OF ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND ARCHITECTURE MERITS, THE BUILDING WAS DECLARED AS MONUMENT IN 1983 UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENT ORDINANCE.

THE FIRST STAGE OF RENOVATION WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1983.

WITH A GENEROUS DONATION ABOUT \$700,000 FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE FINAL PHASE OF RESTORATION STARTED EARLY LAST YEAR AND WAS COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE CLAN MEMBERS AND, ADVICE OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

THE MAN CLAN CAME TO SETTLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM JIANGXI PROVINCE IN THE 15TH CENTURY. DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE CLAN BUILT ANCESTRAL HALLS FOR THE WORSHIP OF ANCESTORS AND FOR FESTIVALS, CEREMONIES, AND MEETINGS OF VILLAGE ELDERS.

/THE MAN

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THE MAN LUN FUNG ANCESTRAL HALL WAS BUILT ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE 17TH CENTURY IN HONOUR OF MAN LUN FUNG, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE CLAN.

THE BUILDING HAS THREE HALLS WITH TWO ENCLOSED COURTYARDS AND THE ANCESTRAL ALTAR IS LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL HALL.

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8 EARLY WELFARE PAYMENT

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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE HOLDING CASH ORDER BOOKS MAY RECEIVE EARLIER WELFARE PAYMENTS IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS ON FEBRUARY 17, 18 AND 19.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THEY MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON FEBRUARY 12, 15 AND 16 RESPECTIVELY OR AFTER THE HOLIDAYS AT THE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

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EFFECTIVE MARKETING SKILLS COURSE FOR TOURISM STAFF

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THE HOTEL, CATERING AND TOURISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG WILL JOINTLY OFFER A TRAINING COURSE ON "EFFECTIVE MARKETING SKILLS FOR EXECUTIVES" ON MARCH 7 AND 8.

THE TWO-DAY TRAINING COURSE WILL COVER TOPICS ON MARKETING CONCEPT OVER-VIEW, MARKET RESEARCH, PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION, PROFESSIONAL SELLING, PRICING AND DISTRIBUTION, AND SALES MANAGEMENT.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS FEBRUARY 25.

AN ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED TO PARTICIPANTS UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD ON 5-8932341 EXT. 282.

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SEMINAR ON SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

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A SEMINAR TO EXAMINE AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON LAST YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 3 PM AT THE MAXIM'S RESTAURANT, LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN.

UNDER THE PROGRAMME, ABOUT 300 ACTIVITIES, AIMING TO DEVELOP AMONG YOUTH A SENSE OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY, WERE HELD IN THE DISTRICT LAST SUMMER.

REPRESENTATIVES OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS WHO HAD HELPED IN ORGANISING THE ACTIVITIES WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS AT THE SEMINAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL START AT 3 PM AT THE MAXIM'S RESTAURANT, LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN, TSUEN WAN MTR STATION.

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RED PACKETS FOR ELDERLY IN HOSTELS, HOMES

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SOME 7,380 RESIDENTS OF 68 HOSTELS AND HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL EACH RECEIVE \$100 NEW YEAR LAISSE FROM THE SHANGHAI FRATERNITY ASSOCIATION.

A TOTAL OF \$738,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED BY THE ASSOCIATION'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR DISTRIBUTION.

AT A CEREMONY HELD TODAY (MONDAY), REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HOMES AND HOSTELS WERE HANDED RED PACKETS WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR STEPHEN LAW, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR ITS CONCERN FOR THE ELDERLY AND SAID IT HAD SET AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE.

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TWO RECREATIONAL PROJECTS TO START SOON
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WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARK AND AN OPEN SPACE WILL SOON START TO PROVIDE MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

A PARK, MEASURING ABOUT 1,100 SQUARE METRES, IS TO BE BUILT AT BOWEN ROAD. IT WILL PROVIDE PAVILIONS, ARBOURS AND BENCHES FOR THE PUBLIC IN WAN CHAI GAP ROAD AND BOWEN ROAD AREA.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN APRIL AND BE COMPLETED IN DECEMBER.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS WHICH SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 4.

IN THE MID-LEVELS, A 3,320-SQUARE-METRE OPEN SPACE WILL BE BUILT IN CAINE LANE.

THE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED WILL INCLUDE LANDSCAPED GARDENS, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, PAVILIONS, ELEVATED WALKWAYS, POOLS AND TOILETS.

WORK WILL COMMENCE IN APRIL AND TAKE ABOUT ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON MARCH 11.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 54.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 320.213 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 336.092 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 54.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD TO MEET

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL LEARN ABOUT THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM IN THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROMENADE IN WAN CHAI NORTH, AND AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA ARE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, EIGHTH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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KOWLOON TONG ROAD CLOSURE

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TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORKS, THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM BOUNDARY STREET TO WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY FROM 9 PM TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY ON FEBRUARY 11 (THURSDAY), 12 AND 13.

DURING THE ROAD CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON BOUNDARY STREET HEADING FOR WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA BOUNDARY STREET, LA SALLE ROAD, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST AND WATERLOO ROAD.

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