



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1993

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GOVT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC WORKS PERFORMANCE

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THE GOVERNMENT, WITH NEW MEASURES TAKEN AND PLANNED, IS DETERMINED TO PERFORM MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, MR GORDON SIU, AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR WORKS (PLANNING AND RESOURCES), MISS ELAINE CHUNG.

MR BLAKE SAID HE HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE (PWPC) WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REORGANISED.

UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP, THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE WILL INCLUDE THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS AND SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES AS MEMBERS REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

MR BLAKE SAID THE PWPC WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY DIRECTORS OF THE WORKS DEPARTMENTS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN MEETING REGULARLY SINCE APRIL 1992 TO MONITOR PUBLIC WORKS ITEMS AND TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF INTERFACE, PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES WHICH OFTEN BESET THE IMPLEMENTATION.

"I ALSO INTEND TO SET UP A SMALL PANEL OF EXPERTS DRAWN FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ADVISE THE PWPC ON HOW TO IMPROVE WORKS PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"THE CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH IS BEING SET UP SEPARATELY, CAN ALSO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PWPC UNDER ITS BROAD TERMS OF REFERENCE."

"WE ARE ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING CONSULTANTS TO HELP DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE COMPUTER-BASED INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH WILL PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

"THE CONSULTANTS WILL ALSO REVIEW THE EXISTING HIERARCHY, ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE, ESTABLISHMENT AND 'CULTURE' OF THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS AND ITS LINKAGE WITH FINANCE BRANCH AND OTHER POLICY BRANCHES.

"THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT," MR BLAKE SAID.

THE NEW INITIATIVES AND MEASURES OUTLINED ABOVE ARE A CONTINUATION OF THE EFFORTS MADE IN THE PAST YEAR TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WORKING AS A TEAM TO IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

MR BLAKE SAID THE ORIGINAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE WAS FIRST SET UP IN APRIL 1992 TO MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF WORKS.

/"SINCE THEN .....

"SINCE THEN, THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN LOOKING AT PROJECTS MADE UP OF 80 PER CENT IN VALUE IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

"THIS MEANS SOME 200 PROJECTS ARE BEING LOOKED AT IN DETAIL. ANY ADVERSE TRENDING TOWARDS DELAYS IN WORKS OR DEVIATIONS FROM THE SPENDING TARGETS IS HIGHLIGHTED FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION.

"THE RESULTS ARE VERY ENCOURAGING. ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF THE PROJECTS VETTED BY THE COMMITTEE ARE FORECAST AS FINISHING ON TIME AND 95 PER CENT ARE FORECAST WITHIN BUDGET.

"DELAYS IN COMPLETION MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR WITH FACTORS SUCH AS WEATHER OR PHYSICAL CONDITIONS BEING THE MOST COMMON REASONS.

"WE WILL EXTEND THIS MONITORING PROCESS TO PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER PLANNING AND DESIGN TO ENSURE THAT THE TARGETS FOR COMPLETING COMMUNITY PROJECTS ARE REALISTIC IN THE FIRST PLACE AND ADHERED TO ONCE APPROVED.

"DURING 1992, CLOSE ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO IMPROVING THE EXPENDITURE FORECASTING TECHNIQUES TO ENHANCE RELIABILITY.

"SENIOR STAFF OF WORKS DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN FULLY BROUGHT INTO THIS PROCESS BY WAY OF INTERNAL WORKSHOPS AND OTHER CONTACTS TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST FORECASTING METHODS AND SYSTEMS.

REFERRING TO THE UNDERSPENDING FOR 1992/93, MR BLAKE SAID THE FIGURE OF UNDERSPENDING ON PUBLIC WORKS WAS FORECAST TO BE \$3.6 BILLION.

THIS FIGURE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT SAVINGS BROUGHT ABOUT BY LOWER TENDER PRICES, UNUSED CONTINGENCY FUNDS AS WELL AS UNDERSPENDING FOR LAND RESUMPTION.

OF THE \$3.6 BILLION IN UNDERSPENDING, \$1.6 BILLION WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CHANGES IN PROGRAMME PRIORITIES BEFORE TENDERS WERE CALLED.

"DELAY IN PROGRESS OF WORKS ACCOUNTED FOR \$0.9 BILLION AND DELAYS DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND STATUTORY PROCEDURES ACCOUNTED FOR \$1.1 BILLION.

"WE ARE NOT COMPLACENT WITH THE \$3.6 BILLION UNDERSPENDING. BUT, WHEN WE LOOK BACK AT THE 1991/92 UNDERSPENDING FIGURE OF \$6.6 BILLION CALCULATED ON THE SAME BASIS, IT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE MEASURES WE PUT IN PLACE LAST YEAR ARE PRODUCING EFFECTIVE RESULTS," MR BLAKE SAID.

ON THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 1992 INCLUDE THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL WITH THE FIRST INTAKE OF PATIENTS SCHEDULED FOR END OF THIS YEAR, RECLAMATION AT YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER, THE NORTH WEST KOWLOON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SCHEME, KING'S ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND WANCHAI TOWER III WHICH HAS BEEN RENAMED THE REVENUE TOWER.

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NON-AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROJECTS DUE TO START THIS YEAR INCLUDE ROUTE-3 TSING YI-KWAI CHUNG SECTION, ENGINEERING WORKS AND BACK-UP AREAS FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL 9, DUPLICATE TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE, RECLAMATION AT BELCHER BAY AND MAIN DRAINAGE CHANNELS TO REDUCE FLOODING RISK IN YUEN LONG AND KAM TIN.

REFERRING TO THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, MR BLAKE SAID SATISFACTORY PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED ON THOSE PROJECTS WHICH HAD COMMENCED.

"IN THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF THE 330 HECTARES OF NEW LAND HAS BEEN FORMED.

"SITE FORMATION AND BRIDGE FOUNDATION WORKS FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE IS ALSO MAKING GOOD PROGRESS."

"OTHER MAJOR WORKS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY INCLUDE SITE FORMATION FOR THE ROUTE-3/LANTAU FIXED CROSSING INTERCHANGE, DREDGING AND RECLAMATION WORKS FOR TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN, AND THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY."

"CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED IN 1993/94 WILL INCLUDE THE KWAI CHUNG VIADUCT AND RAMBLER CHANNEL BRIDGE OF ROUTE-3, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SECTIONS OF THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND THE TUNG CHUNG SECTION OF THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY," MR BLAKE SAID.

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#### EXCHANGE FUND INVESTMENT APPROACH UNDER REVIEW

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THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DESIGNATE) OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA), MR JOSEPH YAM, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE INVESTMENT APPROACH OF THE EXCHANGE FUND WAS BEING REVIEWED.

"WE ARE ABOUT TO MANAGE THE EXCHANGE FUND MORE PROFESSIONALLY, WHICH IS GOOD FOR US, GOOD FOR THE MARKET HERE AND GOOD FOR HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SWAP DEALERS ASSOCIATION, HE SAID THE "ETERNAL TRIANGLE" OF SECURITY, LIQUIDITY AND PROFIT, AS WELL AS THE COST OF THESE ELEMENTS, HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IN MANAGING THE OFFICIAL RESERVES.

"PROPER RISK-REWARD ANALYSES WILL BE DONE AND REVIEWS OF THE CREDIT AND LIQUIDITY POLICIES ARE UNDER WAY," HE SAID.

MR YAM OUTLINED THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED SO FAR FROM THE REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT APPROACH OF THE EXCHANGE FUND.

THEY INCLUDED:

- \* MAINTAINING THE CURRENT POLICY OF MANAGING PART OF THE RESERVES THROUGH EXTERNAL FUND MANAGERS WITH THE USE OF MORE PRECISE GUIDELINES;

/\*ADOPTING A .....

- \* ADOPTING A BENCHMARK APPROACH FOR THE EXCHANGE FUND'S OWN IN-HOUSE PORTFOLIO AND MANAGING THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES TOGETHER; AND
- \* REFINING THE CURRENCY SELECTION PROCESS AND BEING LESS PASSIVE ABOUT POSITIONING THE EXCHANGE FUND FOR CURRENCY MOVEMENTS.

"WE ARE NOT EMBARKING ON A SPECULATIVE FRENZY," HE SAID. "WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF OUR DUTY, AS A MONETARY AUTHORITY, TO PLAY OUR PART IN THE MAINTENANCE OF STABILITY IN WORLD FINANCIAL MARKETS."

MR YAM ALSO STRESSED THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMMEDIATE TASKS WAS TO BUILD UP HKMA'S LINKS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MARKET PARTICIPANTS.

HKMA WOULD PLACE EMPHASIS ON WORKING WITH COUNTERPARTIES WITH GREATER OPENNESS ON WHAT IT NEEDS AND IS THINKING OF DOING, HE SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EXCHANGE FUND'S COUNTERPARTIES WERE EXPECTED TO COMMIT SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES TO THE EXCHANGE FUND ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE NEW IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS TO THE HKMA, HE ADDED.

"WE ARE OFFERING OUR COUNTERPARTIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH A MAJOR FUND: ONE THAT HITHERTO HAS RESEMBLED A SLEEPING GIANT, OR SHOULD I SAY DRAGON, BUT WHICH NOW IS ABOUT TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE AND MUCH MORE DEMANDING," HE SAID.

"HKMA IS ALSO CATCHING UP WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INFORMATION AND WIRE SERVICES FIELDS, AND IS REFINING AND DEVELOPING ITS IN-HOUSE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS," HE SAID.

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HK'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) RELEASED THE DETAILED STATISTICS OF EXTERNAL TRADE WITH BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY AND COMMODITY FOR JANUARY 1993.

COMPARING JANUARY 1993 WITH JANUARY 1992, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE AND TAIWAN RECORDED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES OF 32% AND 17% RESPECTIVELY.

THAT TO THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA, THE TWO LARGEST COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION FOR HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS, ALSO INCREASED BY 7.8% AND 1.7% RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION: FRANCE (-22%), GERMANY (-10%), JAPAN (-9.2%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-7.5%) AND CANADA (-5.5%).

FOR ALL COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION TAKEN TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR JANUARY 1993 WAS \$14,559 MILLION, 2.8% OVER THAT IN JANUARY 1992.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS THE EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES OF A SINGLE MONTH AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR TEND TO BE VOLATILE BECAUSE OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, IT IS MORE MEANINGFUL TO MAKE COMPARISONS OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

COMPARING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1993 WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1992, A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 35% WAS RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE. THAT TO CHINA, TAIWAN AND THE NETHERLANDS ALSO INCREASED BY 8.0%, 7.6% AND 3.4% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION: JAPAN (-13%), FRANCE (-13%), CANADA (-11%), THE UNITED STATES (-7.5%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-5.6%) AND GERMANY (-2.5%).

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1993, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OVER THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,960 MILLION OR 191%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$986 MILLION OR 23%); AND TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$141 MILLION OR 29%). THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEXTILES ALSO INCREASED BY \$90 MILLION OR 2.3%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY PRINTED MATTER (BY \$1,087 MILLION OR 19%); CLOTHING (BY \$516 MILLION OR 2.6%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$481 MILLION OR 10%); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$273 MILLION OR 8.6%).

THE TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS \$63,350 MILLION IN JANUARY 1993, AN INCREASE OF 13% OVER THAT IN JANUARY 1992.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JANUARY 1993 WITH JANUARY 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS: MALAYSIA (+38%), GERMANY (+27%), THE UNITED STATES (+25%), ITALY (+21%), TAIWAN (+21%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+18%), SINGAPORE (+14%), CHINA (+8.3%), JAPAN (+6.0%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (+4.4%).

WHEN COMPARISON IS MADE BETWEEN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1993 WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1992, THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE IN THE INCREASE OF IMPORT VALUE FROM MOST SUPPLIERS WAS SIMILAR TO THAT RECORDED FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1993.

HOWEVER, JAPAN, SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM REGISTERED EVEN MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES, BY 25%, 29% AND 15% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1993 WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$5,896 MILLION OR 99%), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$5,869 MILLION OR 31%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$3,478 MILLION OR 22%); AND FOOTWEAR (BY \$2,704 MILLION OR 44%).

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AT \$49,165 MILLION IN JANUARY 1993 RECORDED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 26% OVER JANUARY 1992.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING JANUARY 1993 WITH JANUARY 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO ALL THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION : THE UNITED KINGDOM (+31%), CHINA (+31%), SINGAPORE (+30%), THE UNITED STATES (+27%), FRANCE (+27%), JAPAN (+26%), ITALY (+21%), CANADA (+17%), GERMANY (+16%) AND TAIWAN (+13%).

COMPARING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1993 WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1992, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION RECORDED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES, EXCEPT THAT TO TAIWAN WHICH DROPPED BY 2.2%.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1993, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OVER THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO WERE RECORDED FOR ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$3,695 MILLION OR 35%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$3,641 MILLION OR 20%); ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$3,499 MILLION OR 122%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$3,151 MILLION OR 48%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$2,320 MILLION OR 17%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY 1993 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY APRIL.

DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE JANUARY 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY 1993 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$68.50 PER COPY AROUND MARCH 19.

THE REPORT CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4915).

TABLE 1 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

MAJOR COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	JAN 1993 (HKD MN)	JAN <sup>†</sup> 93 OVER JAN 92 (% CHANGE)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 OVER NOV 91 TO JAN 92 (% CHANGE)
UNITED STATES	3,850	+ 7.8	14,872	- 7.5
CHINA	3,351	+ 1.7	14,754	+ 8.0
GERMANY	1,037	- 10.3	4,402	- 2.5
SINGAPORE	819	+ 31.9	2,800	+ 35.3
UNITED KINGDOM	769	- 7.5	3,078	- 5.6
JAPAN	676	- 9.2	2,379	- 12.7
TAIWAN	432	+ 17.3	1,663	+ 7.6
NETHERLANDS	402	- 1.0	1,337	+ 3.4
CANADA	366	- 5.5	1,179	- 10.9
FRANCE	208	- 21.5	804	- 12.7

TABLE 2 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN 1993 (HKD MN)	JAN 93 OVER JAN 92 (% CHANGE)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 OVER NOV 91 TO JAN 92 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,236	+ 5.9	19,501	- 2.6
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,464	+ 31.0	2,989	+190.7
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,240	+ 4.6	5,347	+ 22.6
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PRINTED MATTER)	1,107	- 26.1	4,646	- 19.0
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,033	+ 55.8	4,054	+ 2.3
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	963	- 12.5	4,273	- 10.1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	683	- 14.7	2,912	- 8.6
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	281	- 12.8	1,044	- 13.4
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	223	+ 5.8	750	- 14.7
TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	217	+193.4	624	+ 29.1

TABLE 3 : IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JAN 1993 (HKD MN)	JAN 93 OVER JAN 92 (% CHANGE)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 OVER NOV 91 TO JAN 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	24,542	+ 8.3	87,354	+ 9.9
JAPAN	9,780	+ 6.0	41,684	+ 25.1
TAIWAN	5,400	+ 21.1	21,414	+ 14.4
UNITED STATES	4,907	+ 24.6	18,830	+ 27.8
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2,791	+ 17.5	10,408	+ 20.1
SINGAPORE	2,707	+ 14.3	10,126	+ 28.7
GERMANY	1,515	+ 27.2	5,518	+ 25.7
UNITED KINGDOM	1,306	+ 4.4	4,847	+ 14.8
MALAYSIA	914	+ 38.0	3,280	+ 37.9
ITALY	896	+ 21.4	3,752	+ 23.9

TABLE 4 : IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN 1993 (HKD MN)	JAN 93 OVER JAN 92 (% CHANGE)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 OVER NOV 91 TO JAN 92 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	6,858	+ 42.2	25,024	+ 30.6
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,982	+ 13.3	19,982	+ 6.9
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5,236	+ 45.1	22,329	+ 5.1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	4,776	- 1.7	19,360	+ 21.9

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,350	+ 0.1	16,804	+ 14.5
ROAD VEHICLES	3,038	+ 48.4	11,848	+ 99.0
FOOTWEAR	2,935	+ 80.4	8,824	+ 44.2
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,677	- 9.6	11,044	+ 4.1
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,269	+ 14.8	8,869	+ 27.5
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	1,809	+ 16.0	6,184	+ 27.0

TABLE 5 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

MAJOR COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	JAN 1993 (HKD MN)	JAN 93 OVER JAN 92 (% CHANGE)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 OVER NOV 91 TO JAN 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	14,048	+ 30.6	57,126	+ 37.2
UNITED STATES	10,588	+ 26.9	35,144	+ 15.6
GERMANY	2,856	+ 15.8	9,333	+ 13.4
JAPAN	2,803	+ 26.1	9,394	+ 12.1
TAIWAN	1,496	+ 13.2	6,029	- 2.2
UNITED KINGDOM	1,484	+ 30.6	5,287	+ 32.2
SINGAPORE	1,088	+ 29.6	3,816	+ 21.4
FRANCE	939	+ 26.9	2,941	+ 24.3
ITALY	903	+ 21.2	2,637	+ 17.7
CANADA	873	+ 17.4	2,600	+ 11.5

TABLE 6 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN 1993 (HKD MN)	JAN 93 OVER JAN 92 (% CHANGE)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 (HKD MN)	NOV 92 TO JAN 93 OVER NOV 91 TO JAN 92 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,665	+ 27.8	20,054	+ 11.8
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,205	+ 19.1	22,195	+ 19.6
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	3,862	+ 41.3	14,348	+ 34.7
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3,720	+ 69.5	15,900	+ 17.1
FOOTWEAR	3,448	+103.2	9,750	+ 47.7
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,440	- 3.7	14,290	+ 15.5
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	1,983	- 2.4	5,909	*
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,870	+ 27.3	6,672	+ 35.2
ROAD VEHICLES	1,851	+ 87.6	6,374	+121.7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,828	- 2.8	7,459	+ 14.0

\* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.05%

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GOVT SUPPORTS R&D

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THE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R & D) SCHEME REPRESENTS MORE THAN SIMPLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR R & D; IN ITS EXPECTATION OF FINANCIAL RETURNS, IT IS A SIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T H BARMA, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG LINKAGE INDUSTRY - INTERNATIONAL MACHINE TOOL EXHIBITION '93 TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR BARMA SAID THE AIM OF THE SCHEME WAS TO ENCOURAGE AND HELP THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY TO UPGRADE.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT WOULD BE PROVIDED TO COMPANIES IN HONG KONG FOR UP TO 50 PER CENT OF THE COST OF THEIR APPLIED R & D PROJECTS, EITHER IN THE FORM OF EQUITY PARTICIPATION OR A LOAN, HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE WAS CHANGING.

APART FROM RELOCATING LABOUR-INTENSIVE OPERATIONS INTO CHINA TO RETAIN PRICE COMPETITIVENESS, MANUFACTURERS HAD ALSO UPGRADED THEIR CAPABILITIES AND MOVED DECISIVELY INTO HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY BASED BUSINESSES.

IN THE COURSE OF THIS EVOLUTION, MR BARMA SAID THE LINKAGE INDUSTRY HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY TO ADJUST.

"IT HAS QUICKLY EQUIPPED ITSELF WITH NEW EQUIPMENT AND ADOPTED NEW SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO SUPPORT MANUFACTURERS TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.

"TODAY, THE USE OF COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IS VERY COMMON, ESPECIALLY IN THE MOULD AND DIE SECTOR," HE SAID.

MR BARMA USED THE MACHINING CENTRE AS AN EXAMPLE AND SAID THE IMPORT OF MACHINING CENTRES INTO HONG KONG IN 1992 WAS ALMOST DOUBLE THAT OF 1991 AND WAS ABOUT FOURFOLD THAT OF 1988.

THE FIGURES SHOWED THAT ABOUT 71 PER CENT OF THE MACHINING CENTRES IMPORTED IN 1992 HAD BEEN RETAINED FOR USE IN HONG KONG WITH THE REMAINING 29 PER CENT BEING SHIPPED INTO CHINA, HE ADDED.

MR BARMA SAID MANUFACTURERS HAD ALSO TAKEN KEEN INTEREST IN THE APPLICATION OF OTHER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS LASER CUTTING, OPTICAL GRINDING, TURRET PUNCHING AND FINE BLANKING.

"AS A RESULT OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS OF ADVANCED PRODUCTION PROCESSES IN THE INDUSTRY, MANUFACTURERS ARE ABLE TO EXPAND THEIR PRODUCT RANGES AND IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY TO MEET THE EVER-RISING CONSUMER EXPECTATION.

"THIS IS A POSITIVE SIGNAL THAT MANUFACTURERS ARE WILLING TO INVEST IN MACHINERY AND ADOPT NEW SKILLS IN ORDER TO UPGRADE THEMSELVES TO MEET THE INCREASING COMPETITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID LAST YEAR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONED CONSULTANTS TO UNDERTAKE A TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDY ON THE METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

THE AIM OF THE STUDY WAS TO IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS FACING THE LOCAL METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND TO ANALYSE THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENDING MEASURES WHICH GOVERNMENT AND MANUFACTURERS COULD TAKE TO REMOVE THE CONSTRAINTS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP.

THE STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE CONSULTANTS HAVE RECENTLY SUBMITTED THEIR REPORTS TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT," MR BARMA SAID.

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REVIEW SUGGESTS INCLUSION OF VISUAL AND LITERARY ARTS IN GOVT SCOPE  
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THE SCOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ARTS SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE VISUAL AND LITERARY ARTS AND MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE MORE PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP.

THESE ARE AMONG THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS IN THE 1990S SET OUT IN THE ARTS POLICY REVIEW WHICH HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED BY AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE JOINT LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUBS OF TAI PING SHAN AND MOUNT CAMERON, MR SO SAID AT PRESENT, THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) WAS TASKED TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ONLY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY THE ARTS COMMUNITY THAT A NEW AGENCY SUCH AS AN ARTS COUNCIL OR ARTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BE CREATED TO REPLACE THE CFPA TO CO-ORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS AS A WHOLE.

WHEN CONSIDERING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARTS COUNCIL WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN POLICY DETERMINATION AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION, MR SO STRESSED THAT A KEY FACTOR TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WAS THE AUTONOMY OF THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS.

THE WORKING GROUP FELT THAT A MORE PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE IS TO RE-ORGANISE THE CFPA INTO A NON-STATUTORY ARTS COUNCIL SO AS TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING, VISUAL AND LITERARY ARTS, MR SO SAID.

ON ARTS FUNDING, MR SO NOTED THAT AT PRESENT, BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS GIVE FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD ALSO BECOME MORE RECEPTIVE TO PROVIDING SPONSORSHIP IN RECENT YEARS.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CFPA, EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING FOR ARTS DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1990S, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LEVEL OF FUNDING REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN EXISTING SERVICES AND NEW COMMITMENTS LIKELY TO ARISE FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARTS COUNCIL, MR SO SAID.

ON THE FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION, MR SO SAID THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY OF ACTING AS A CATALYST TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS HAD TO A LARGE EXTENT HELPED CULTIVATE THE RIGHT SOCIAL AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT.

HE SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A NEUTRAL STAND, LEAVING IT TO THE ARTISTS TO DECIDE HOW BEST THEY SHOULD DEVELOP ARTISTICALLY."

ON ARTS IN EDUCATION, MR SO SAID IT WAS TIMELY TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WHICH PROVIDED INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD BETTER BE DONE BY NON-GOVERNMENT SECTORS.

MR SO EXPLAINED THAT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, MANY NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS HAD BEEN SET UP TO PROVIDE SUCH TRAINING AND RUN MUSIC PROGRAMMES AND MANY PARENTS COULD NOW AFFORD TO PROVIDE MUSIC TRAINING TO THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH PRIVATE TUITION.

CURRENTLY, MUSIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ALSO RUN BY THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS (APA).

"THERE IS A CASE FOR EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING PART OR ALL OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MUSIC OFFICE TO THE NON-GOVERNMENT SECTOR INCLUDING THE APA," MR SO SAID.

FOLLOWING THE MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME OF CULTURAL VENUES BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IN THE 1980S, MR SO SAID THE COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR CULTURAL VENUES HAD LARGELY BEEN MET.

"IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO GENERALLY PUT A HALT TO THE CULTURAL VENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES," HE SAID.

MR SO SAID HONG KONG AT PRESENT HAD A RICH, COLOURFUL AND VARIED CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT, BLENDING AND OFFERING THE BEST OF EAST AND WEST.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS POISED TO TAKE THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN ARTS IN THE PAST DECADE FURTHER IN THE 1990S ON THE BASIS OF THE HEALTHY PARTNERSHIP BUILT UP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, THE ARTISTS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, HE ADDED.

"THE ARTS COMMUNITY WILL BE INVITED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REVIEW AND A REPORT PUBLISHED FOR CONSULTATION WILL BE OUT IN ABOUT 10 DAYS," MR SO ADDED.

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RELEASE OF ARTS POLICY REVIEW REPORT  
FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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THE ARTS POLICY REVIEW CONDUCTED BY A GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE AND COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE URBAN SERVICES, REGIONAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS, HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED.

THE REVIEW REPORT IS BEING PRINTED AND WILL BE RELEASED ON MARCH 22 FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE ARTS COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE LEGCO PANEL ON RECREATION AND CULTURE, THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

THE REPORT WILL BE IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT AND WISH TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE REPORT MAY WRITE TO THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH (CULTURE DIVISION), 40TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WILL LAST UNTIL JUNE 30.

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HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION CONTINUES

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THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION (CPCE) WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION STARTING WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS (BOR).

SPEAKING AT A GROUP DISCUSSION TODAY (THURSDAY), THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, DR DANIEL TSE CHI-WAI, BELIEVED THIS WOULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOR.

THE CPCE WILL TAILOR ACTIVITIES TO AROUSE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THIS IMPORTANT PIECE OF LAW AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ORGANISERS OF TWO RECENT TELEPHONE SURVEYS ON YOUTH.

THE SURVEYS FOUND THAT THE MEDIA HAS BEEN THE MOST EFFECTIVE CHANNEL TO SPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION.

THE COMMITTEE WILL, IN ADDITION TO RADIO PROGRAMMES, EXPLORE WAYS TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THROUGH TELEVISION. SUGGESTIONS INCLUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN PUBLIC INTEREST AND OTHER PROGRAMMES.

IT WILL ALSO EXPAND THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SCHEME IN 1993/94 TO SPONSOR MORE PROJECTS ON BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE COMMITTEE PLANS TO ENLARGE ITS BANK OF HUMAN RIGHTS READING MATERIALS AT THE CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

THE SURVEYS ALSO INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE RESPONDENTS BELIEVED THEIR RIGHTS WERE WELL-PROTECTED, THEIR IMPRESSION OF SUCH BASIC CONCEPTS AS FREEDOM OF OPINION OR THE RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL REMAINED VAGUE.

/THE ONE .....

THE ONE COMMISSIONED BY THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS IN JANUARY SHOWED THAT MORE THAN HALF OF THOSE INTERVIEWED (53 PER CENT OUT OF 1,090) WERE SATISFIED WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION IN THE TERRITORY.

ACCORDING TO THE OTHER SURVEY BY THE OCEAN JAYCEES LTD ON 334 JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS, OVER 80 PER CENT ADMITTED THEY HAD EITHER GENERAL OR LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE BOR PROVISIONS.

MORE THAN 60 PER CENT ADDED THAT EDUCATION IN THIS AREA WAS NOT ADEQUATE.

THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWED THAT THE MASS MEDIA (34 PER CENT) WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE CHANNEL IN THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, FOLLOWED BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (26 PER CENT), COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS (18 PER CENT) AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (17 PER CENT).

ON THIS AFTERNOON'S SESSION, DR TSE SAID IT WAS HELD WITH THE AIM TO ENHANCE PARTICIPANTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE YOUTH'S ATTITUDE TO AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

ANOTHER OBJECTIVE WAS TO POOL EXPERIENCES WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SO AS TO COME UP WITH A MORE EFFECTIVE PROMOTION PACKAGE, HE ADDED.

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AIDS EDUCATION SEMINAR ON SATURDAY

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YOUNG PEOPLE INTERESTED IN AIDS EDUCATION AND PROMOTIONAL WORK ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ENTITLED "YOUTH ACTION ON AIDS" AT THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING IN WAN CHAI ON SATURDAY (MARCH 13).

ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS (CEPAIDS), THE SEMINAR IS TARGETED AT YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL WORKERS. ADMISSION IS FREE.

IT WILL BE HELD FROM 3 PM TO 5.30 PM AT ROOM 204-206 ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING AT 15 HENNESSY ROAD.

THERE WILL BE FOUR SPEAKERS. THEY WILL TALK ON:

SUBJECT -----	SPEAKER -----
* AIDS EDUCATION FOR YOUTH - THE ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH, CEPAIDS	MR FUNG CHEUNG-TIM, SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER, HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
* AIDS EDUCATION FOR MARGINAL YOUTH	MISS SARAH YEUNG, CASEWORKER, KWUN TONG HOSTEL, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

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- \* DESIGN OF HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIALS FOR YOUTH ON AIDS/SEX MR MOK HON-FAI, CENTRE-IN-CHARGE, MEI LAM YOUTH CENTRE - THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS
- \* HEALTHY YOUNG EMBASSADORS SCHEME A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION LIMITED

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN AND MEMBER OF THE CEPAIDS, DR S S LEE WILL GIVE A CLOSING ADDRESS AT THE SEMINAR.

THE CHAIRMAN OF CEPAIDS, MR HO SAI-CHU, WILL PRESENT SOUVENIRS TO THE SPEAKERS.

THE SEMINAR FORMS PART OF THE NATIONAL PHASE OF A REGIONAL AIDS EDUCATION PROJECT TO BE HELD BY THE ASIA CENTRE OF THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME IN MALAYSIA NEXT MONTH. THE FOUR SPEAKERS WILL THEN ATTEND AS HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER.

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#### NEW MEMBERS TO YOUTH COMMISSION

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THREE NEW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR.

THEY ARE MR PAUL CHAN KAM-CHEUNG, MR LINCOLN SOO HUNG-LEUNG AND MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG.

THE TERM RUNS FROM FEBRUARY 15 TO MARCH 31 NEXT YEAR.

MR CHAN IS THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS. MR SOO IS A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND MR HUI IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD.

THEY WILL REPLACE MR HOWARD YOUNG HOW-WAH, MRS MIRIAM LAU KIN-YEE AND MR CHAN KA-KUI WHO HAVE SERVED THE COMMISSION SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN FEBRUARY 1990.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, MR ERIC LI KA CHEUNG AND OTHER INCUMBENT MEMBERS HAVE ALL BEEN RE-APPOINTED FOR A FURTHER TERM OF ONE YEAR.

/THEY INCLUDE .....

THEY INCLUDE PROFESSOR NELSON CHOW WING-SUN, MR MAK HOI-WAH, MRS JOYCE TAI POON CHING-SHEUNG, DR LO CHI-KIN, MR CHEUNG YIN-TUNG, MR CHAN MO-POW, MS JUNIA HO SUK-YIN, MRS ANGELA CHEUNG WONG WAN-YIU, MR RONNIE WONG MAN-CHIU AND MR LEUNG YUK-CHEUNG.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ON THE COMMISSION.

THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION IS THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (YOUTH), MISS SUSIE HO.

THE ROLES OF THE COMMISSION ARE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON MATTERS RELATING TO YOUTHS, TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND INFORMATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BODIES ON YOUTH MATTERS, TO ENCOURAGE CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION IN THE DELIVERY OF YOUTH SERVICES AND TO SERVE AS A LIAISON POINT WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS.

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#### COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING BEGINS ON SUNDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WANT TO PLAY A PART IN MAKING THE TERRITORY'S COUNTRYSIDE GREENER ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME BEGINNING ON SUNDAY (MARCH 14).

FROM THAT DAY UNTIL APRIL 25, A NUMBER OF DESIGNATED SITES IN SIX COUNTRY PARKS WILL BE OPEN ON EVERY SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS OR VISITING TOURISTS TO PLANT TREES WITH THEIR OWN HANDS.

THESE PARKS ARE TAI MO SHAN, HOK TAU, PAK TAM CHUNG, QUARRY BAY, SHING MUN AND NGONG PING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME HAD BEEN BECOMING MORE POPULAR SINCE IT WAS STARTED IN 1957.

LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 23,000 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE SCHEME TO PLANT MORE THAN 32,800 TREES. THE FIGURES REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 18 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND 26 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED OVER THOSE OF 1991.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO JOIN THE SCHEME CAN GO TO THE SITES AND PLANT TREES.

"TREE SEEDLINGS AND TOOLS WILL BE PROVIDED BY AFD. COUNTRY PARK STAFF WILL BE ON THE SITE TO GIVE TECHNICAL ADVICE ON TREE PLANTING.

"THE SCHEME IS AIMED AT CULTIVATING A SENSE OF NATURE CONSERVATION AMONG MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BY INVOLVING THEM TO PLANT TREES."

IT ALSO HELPS THEM UNDERSTAND BETTER THE TREE PLANTING AND TREE GROWTH PROCESS.

NOTING THAT MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE HAD TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN THE SCHEME IN RECENT YEARS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A HIGH TURNOUT THIS YEAR.

APART FROM INDIVIDUALS, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO TAKE PART IN THE PROGRAMME. INTERESTED SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT AFD'S CONSERVATION EDUCATION UNIT ON TEL 733 2121.

THIS YEAR'S SCHEME WILL BE LAUNCHED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR PETER WONG HONG-YUEN AND THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE IN SAI KUNG ON SATURDAY (MARCH 13) MORNING.

A NUMBER OF TVB ARTISTES WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN THE CEREMONY AND PLANT THE FIRST BATCH OF TREES.

THE SCHEME IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY AFD, LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 AND THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRY PARKS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LAUNCHING OF THE SCHEME WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY AT TUI MIN HOI, TSIU HANG SPECIAL AREA, SAI KUNG.

TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED.

A VAN, AM2168, WILL DEPART THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, AT 9.30 AM ON THAT DAY. THOSE MAKING THEIR OWN WAY THERE SHOULD USE HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND TURN INTO HONG KIN ROAD (NEAR SAI KUNG FIRE STATION) FOR THE SITE.

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FS PRESENTS LUCKY CAR NUMBER TO SUCCESSFUL BIDDER

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, PRESENTED THE CAR REGISTRATION MARK "NO. 2" TO THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER, MR WONG MING-HUNG, AT A CEREMONY HELD IN HIS OFFICE TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE LUCKY CAR NUMBER SET A RECORD HIGH PRICE OF \$9.5 MILLION AT AN AUCTION HELD ON FEBRUARY 27. THE PROCEEDS WENT INTO THE LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY.

"NO. 2" HAD BEEN THE REGISTRATION MARK ASSIGNED TO THE OFFICE OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY. MR MACLEOD DECIDED TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR AUCTION TO BOOST THE TAKINGS OF THE LOTTERIES FUND.

AS A PERSONAL GESTURE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY PRESENTED MR WONG WITH A SET OF NEW PROOF HONG KONG COINS TO THANK HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT FOR THIS WORTHY CAUSE.

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TRAFFIC BAN AT TSEUNG KWAN O CEMETERY

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THE TSEUNG KWAN O CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERY WILL BE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, EXCEPT FOR AUTHORISED VEHICLES, THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERIES SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE MEASURE, HE SAID, WAS AIMED AT ENSURING THE SAFETY OF GRAVE SWEEPERS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO FLOCK TO THE CEMETERY WITH THE APPROACH OF THE CHING MING FESTIVAL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TRAFFIC BAN WILL BE IMPOSED AGAIN ON MARCH 28 AS WELL AS ON APRIL 4, 5, 10, 11 AND 18 IN ADDITION TO ANY UNSPECIFIED DATES AS AND WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CALLED ON THOSE INTENDING TO VISIT COLUMBARIUMS AND CEMETERIES MANAGED BY THE BOARD TO USE ONLY SMALL INCENSE STICKS TO MINIMISE NUISANCE.

HE REMINDED THEM THAT WORKERS IN THEIR CEMETERIES WOULD NOT PROVIDE HELP IN THE BURNING OF RITUAL ITEMS.

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NEW QUEEN'S COUNSEL TO BE NAMED NEXT MONTH

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JUDICIARY TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THAT THE NAMES OF NEW QUEEN'S COUNSEL WOULD BE ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 8, THE THURSDAY PRECEDING GOOD FRIDAY.

THE CEREMONY TO CALL THE NEW QUEEN'S COUNSEL WILL TAKE PLACE IN COURT NO. 1, SUPREME COURT, AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY (APRIL 17).

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

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-560
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,590
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 114.2 *+0.1* 11.3.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.10 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.44	3.41
1 MONTH	2.53 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.30	3.47
3 MONTHS	2.84 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.67	3.62
6 MONTHS	3.03 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.76	3.83
12 MONTHS	3.31 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 15,746MN

CLOSED 11 MARCH 1993

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