



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1990

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NATIONALITY STEERING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT HE INTENDED TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO ADVISE HIM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME:-

SIR DAVID FORD, CHIEF SECRETARY (CHAIRMAN)

BARONESS DUNN

SIR Q.W. LEE

MR ANDREW SO

MR PETER WONG HON-YUEN

PROFESSOR CHARLES K. KAO

MR PETER HEAP, SENIOR BRITISH
TRADE COMMISSIONER

MR DAVID JEAFFRESON,
COMMISSIONER, ICAC

MR E.B. WIGGHAM
SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE

MR A.P. ASPREY
SECRETARY FOR SECURITY

THESE APPOINTMENTS WILL BE MADE ON COMPLETION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SCHEME. THE APPOINTMENT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS MADE UNDER THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) ACT 1990 WHICH WILL NOT COME INTO FORCE UNTIL A COMMENCEMENT ORDER HAS BEEN LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT, PROBABLY IN NOVEMBER.

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CHINESE MEDICINE TO CONTAIN PART 1 POISONS

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (TUESDAY) ASKED THE PUBLIC TO BE WARY OF A CHINESE MEDICINE SOLD UNDER THE BRAND NAME "CHUIFONG TOUKUWAN, NAN LIEN" AFTER SOME SEIZED SAMPLES OF THE MEDICINE WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN PART 1 POISONS.

THIS FOLLOWED A JOINT OPERATION BY OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS INVESTIGATION BRANCH AND PHARMACISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH YESTERDAY (MONDAY) DURING WHICH ABOUT \$3 MILLION WORTH OF SUCH MEDICINE WAS SEIZED.

/THE MEDICINE

THE MEDICINE, COMPRISING 1,910 KG OF BLACK PILLS BRANDED "CHUIFONG TOUKUWAN, NAN LIEN", 660 KG OF RAW MATERIAL AND 77.5 KG OF SEMI-PRODUCT, WAS SEIZED WHEN OFFICERS RAIDED A CHINESE MEDICINE FACTORY IN AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING IN CHAI WAN.

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS BY THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST FOUND THE MEDICINE TO CONTAIN FOUR CONTROLLED DRUGS, NAMELY MEFENAMIC ACID, DIAZEPAM, HYDRO-CHLOROTHIAZIDE AND INDOMETHACIN, WHICH ARE PART 1 POISONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT THE MEDICINE, IF TAKEN WITHOUT MEDICAL SUPERVISION, COULD CAUSE UNDESIRABLE SIDE-EFFECTS SUCH AS PEPTIC ULCERATION, GASTRO-INTESTINAL BLEEDING, HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIA, CONFUSION, DRUG DEPENDENCE AND ELECTROLYTE IMBALANCE, IN PARTICULAR IN PATIENTS WITH DIABETES, HEPATIC OR RENAL IMPAIRMENT.

"AS IT IS AN OFFENCE TO POSSESS OR SELL SUCH PART 1 POISONS UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, MEDICINE DEALERS ARE REQUESTED TO SURRENDER THEIR STOCK OF THIS MEDICINE, IF ANY, TO THE FORENSIC PHARMACY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CENTRE POINT BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, 181-185 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI (TELEPHONE NO. 5735628) FOR DISPOSAL," HE SAID

TWO MEN AND A WOMAN, AGED 40 TO 46, WERE ASSISTING CUSTOMS INVESTIGATION.

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GOVERNMENT LOTS SOLD FOR \$243M

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THREE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$243.3 MILLION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AT A PUBLIC AUCTION TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT SUNG ON STREET, KOWLOON, WHICH WAS BOUGHT BY ANTIER INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED FOR \$155 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$140 MILLION.

THE LOT, COVERING AN AREA OF 4,971 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL, PETROL FILLING STATION, GODOWN AND HOTEL) PURPOSES.

THE SECOND LOT IS A GODOWN SITE LOCATED IN AREA 11, ON MUK STREET, SHA TIN, AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,050 SQUARE METRES.

IT WAS SOLD AT THE OFFSET PRICE OF \$80 MILLION TO GENRIGHT INVESTMENT LIMITED.

/THE THIRD

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THE THIRD LOT, LOCATED AT AH KUNG WAN, CLEARWATER BAY ROAD, SAI KUNG, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,860 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE LOT WAS BOUGHT BY GARCODE COMPANY LIMITED FOR \$8.3 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$4.5 MILLION.

THE AUCTION, HELD IN THE JADE BALLROOM OF HOTEL FURAMA KEMPINSKI, WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR NIGEL BURLEY.

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TAC RECOMMENDS TEMPORARY FUEL SUPPLEMENT FOR ALL TAXIS

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) RECOMMENDED A TEMPORARY FUEL SUPPLEMENT FOR ALL TAXIS IN CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPACT OF FUEL PRICE INCREASES ON THE TAXI TRADE.

TAC MEMBERS NOTED THAT AMONG THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS MADE TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT BY TAXI DRIVERS AND OPERATORS, BOTH THE TAXI TRADE AND THE DEPARTMENT PREFERRED A TEMPORARY FUEL SUPPLEMENT TO A GENERAL FARE REVISION.

TAC SUPPORTED THE VIEW THAT A GENERAL FARE INCREASE WAS "RIGID" AND COULD NOT BE EASILY ADJUSTED OR WITHDRAWN IN LINE WITH FUTURE FUEL PRICE CHANGES.

A GENERAL FARE INCREASE WILL ALSO REQUIRE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE OVERALL FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE TRADE, THEREBY TAKING A MUCH LONGER TIME TO PROCESS BEFORE A CASE COULD BE ESTABLISHED.

MOREOVER, THE LAST GENERAL FARE INCREASE WAS APPROVED ABOUT FIVE MONTHS AGO.

FOR EASY IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT USING COMPLICATED TABLES SHOWING SCALED CHARGES OR REQUIRING FREQUENT ADJUSTMENTS, A FLAT ADDITIONAL CHARGE IS PROPOSED TO AVOID CAUSING CONFUSION AND DISPUTES BETWEEN THE PASSENGERS AND THE DRIVERS.

THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL CHARGE WILL ENABLE THE DAILY INCOME OF AN AVERAGE URBAN, NEW TERRITORIES AND LANTAU TAXI DRIVER TO INCREASE BY \$30, \$33 AND \$18 PER SHIFT RESPECTIVELY.

THE TEMPORARY FUEL SUPPLEMENT WILL BE WITHDRAWN ONCE THE COST OF DIESEL OIL FALLS BACK TO ITS PRE-AUGUST 22 LEVEL AND WHEN CONSIDERING THE NEXT ROUND OF APPLICATION FOR TAXI FARE INCREASE, THE TEMPORARY FUEL SUPPLEMENT WILL BE SUBSUMED INTO THE PROPOSED NEW FARES.

/TAC'S RECOMMENDATION

TAC'S RECOMMENDATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION.

ON THE ISSUING OF NT TAXI LICENCES, THE TAC RECOMMENDED THAT THE ISSUE OF 100 NT TAXI LICENCES SHOULD BE WITHHELD THIS YEAR.

HOWEVER, FROM NEXT YEAR, NOT MORE THAN 100 SUCH LICENCES SHOULD BE ISSUED ANNUALLY, SUBJECT TO A REVIEW TO BE CONDUCTED IN EARLY NEXT YEAR.

IN ENDORSING THE RECOMMENDATION, THE TAC TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE FINDINGS OF A RECENT REVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON THE NT TAXI OPERATION.

THE FINDINGS SHOWED THAT INCREASING COMPETITION FROM OTHER TRANSPORT MODES SUCH AS THE EXPANSION OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY FEEDER BUSES, THE INCREASES IN GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE AND RESIDENTS' SERVICES IN THE NT HAD AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE NT TAXI TRADE.

TAC MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE INDICATORS USED TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF FRANCHISED BUS OPERATORS.

IN JUNE THIS YEAR, WHEN TAC WAS PRESENTED WITH THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS MANAGEMENT REVIEW, MEMBERS SUGGESTED THAT THE YARDSTICKS USED TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF FRANCHISED BUS OPERATORS SHOULD BE CLEARLY MADE KNOWN TO THE BUS COMPANIES.

THE PURPOSE IS TO HELP MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN IN THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ORDINANCE AND ILLUSTRATE THE SERVICE STANDARDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD LOOK FOR WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER THE EXCLUSIVE OPERATING RIGHTS OF A PARTICULAR FRANCHISEE SHOULD BE FURTHER EXTENDED.

THE TAC NOTED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD UNDERTAKEN A REVIEW OF THE APPRAISAL PROCESS AND COME UP, IN THE LIGHT OF PAST EXPERIENCE, A REVISED SET OF INDICATORS WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED TO ALL FRANCHISED BUS OPERATORS.

AREAS COVERED BY THE PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL INCLUDE ADHERENCE TO SERVICE SCHEDULE, CUSTOMER FEEDBACK, MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY STANDARD, GENERAL MANAGEMENT, SERVICE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PRODUCTIVITY.

THE INDICATORS WOULD BE USED PRIMARILY COMPARING THE PRESENT AND PAST PERFORMANCE OF EACH BUS COMPANY, THEREBY ENSURING THAT IMPROVEMENTS OR DETERIORATION IN SERVICES CAN BE READILY IDENTIFIED, ON WHICH FURTHER MANAGEMENT OR POLICY ACTIONS WOULD BE BASED.

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS AUTHORISED A DECREASE IN THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES.

AS FROM OCTOBER 24, THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST WILL BE 7.08 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 7.56 PER CENT (TAX FREE).

THE AUTHORISATION WAS CONTAINED IN A LEGAL NOTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE PUBLISHED YESTERDAY (MONDAY).

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE \$0.59 PER MONTH PER \$100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 24, 1990.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE OCTOBER 24 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

- 5.28% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 29, 1988 AND BEFORE JULY 27, 1988;
- 5.76% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 27, 1988 AND BEFORE AUGUST 17, 1988;
- 6.36% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 17, 1988 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 7, 1988;
- 6.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 7, 1988 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 15, 1989;
- 7.32% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 15, 1989 AND BEFORE MARCH 8, 1989;
- 7.80% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 8, 1989 AND BEFORE MARCH 22, 1989;
- 8.28% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 22, 1989 AND BEFORE JUNE 22, 1989;
- 7.80% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 22, 1989 AND BEFORE JULY 12, 1989;
- 7.32% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 12, 1989 AND BEFORE AUGUST 9, 1989;

/6.8%

- 6.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 9, 1989 AND BEFORE MARCH 7, 1990;
- 7.08% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 7, 1990 AND BEFORE APRIL 4, 1990;
- 8.04% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 4, 1990 AND BEFORE AUGUST 15, 1990; AND
- 7.56% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 15, 1990 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 24, 1990.

BUT THIS IS ALWAYS SUBJECTED TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETE MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

FOR EXAMPLE: \$1,000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON OCTOBER 24, 1990, NOVEMBER 24, 1990 AND DECEMBER 24, 1990 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON JANUARY 23, 1991 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

ON \$1,000, OCTOBER 24, 1990 TO JANUARY 23, 1991	
3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$5.90 PER MONTH	=\$17.70
ON \$1,000, NOVEMBER 24, 1990 TO JANUARY 23, 1991	
2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$5.90 PER MONTH	=\$11.80
ON \$1,000, DECEMBER 24, 1990 TO JANUARY 23, 1991	
1 COMPLETE MONTH AT \$5.90 PER MONTH	= \$5.90

	\$35.40
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL SEEKS PUBLIC COMMITMENT
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HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL BE ASKED TO SHOW THEIR COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BY HANGING A LEAF ON A "COMMITMENT TREE" DURING THE TWO-WEEK ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL, THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (ECC) ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE ECC CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM, WHO IS ALSO A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, SAID IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT A SYMBOLIC COMMITMENT TREE WILL BECOME THE FOCUS FOR COMMITMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS, COMPANIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

"LEAVES PRODUCED FROM RECYCLABLE MATERIALS WILL BE WRITTEN ON AND SIGNED, AND WILL SERVE AS THE SYMBOL OF THAT COMMITMENT AND THE PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BY THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE," MRS LAM SAID.

"THE EEC SLOGAN IS 'ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STARTS WITH ME!' AND THE THEME OF THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR WILL BE THE THREE R'S --- 'REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE'. THESE ARE ACTIONS WE MUST TAKE WITH OUR WASTE MATERIAL TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT," SHE ADDED.

SHE SAID THEY HOPED, BY ORGANISING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL, THAT THE AWARENESS OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG COULD BE RAISED.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS FESTIVAL BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT," SHE SAID.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL, THE FIRST-EVER IN HONG KONG, WOULD BE OPENED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, AT 11 AM. ON NOVEMBER 10 IN VICTORIA PARK.

MRS LAM SAID SHE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN AN ACTIVE ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE THREE R'S. SOME 28 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAD ALREADY STARTED SEPARATE COLLECTION OF WASTE PAPER.

MORE REMARKABLY, MRS LAM SAID, WAS THE PLAN THAT ALL PRINTED MATERIAL PRODUCED BY THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH WOULD BE PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER IN FUTURE.

SHE HOPED THAT OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY WOULD PURSUE THE SAME COURSE.

TO TIE IN WITH THE PUBLICITY, MRS LAM SAID THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES YESTERDAY (MONDAY) RELEASED A 30-SECOND TV API (ANNOUNCEMENT IN PUBLIC INTEREST) THROUGH THE TWO LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS URGING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NOT TO WASTE PAPERS AS A MEANS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

FOLLOWING THE HALF-HOUR OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL, THERE WOULD BE A SHOW PRODUCED BY COMMERCIAL RADIO AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR, WITH GAMES AND EXHIBITION STALLS ORGANISED BY THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

A DESIGN COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD ALSO BE HELD FOR THE BEST GAME STALL IN THE FAIR.

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, THE ECC WOULD BUILD THE COMMITMENT TREE AND MOVE IT AROUND FOUR SEPARATE LOCATIONS IN THE TERRITORY DURING THE TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL, INVITING PEOPLE TO HANG THEIR COMMITMENT LEAVES AND BLOSSOMS ON IT.

THE FOUR SPOTS ARE VICTORIA PARK ON NOVEMBER 10, TELFORD GARDENS IN KOWLOON BAY BETWEEN NOVEMBER 11 AND 16, NEW TOWN PLAZA IN SHA TIN BETWEEN NOVEMBER 17 AND 23, AND FINALLY CHATER GARDEN IN CENTRAL ON NOVEMBER 24.

THE FIRST BATTALION OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF WALES WOULD HELP TO TAKE CARE OF THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE COMMITMENT TREE AROUND THESE SPOTS.

MRS LAM SAID SHE WAS EXCITED TO SEE A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE ECC AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO LAUNCH A WASTE PAPER RECYCLING PROGRAMME IN ALL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

OI MAN ESTATE HAD BEEN SELECTED AS THE SITE FOR THE LAUNCH ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMMES ON NOVEMBER 11.

IN ADDITION TO THESE PROGRAMMES, A SERIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ORGANISED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY BY DISTRICT BOARDS, SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

AMONGST THE PROGRAMMES WERE WASTE PAPER COLLECTING AND RECYCLING PROGRAMMES, FUN FAIR, EXHIBITIONS, SEMINARS, VARIETY SHOWS AND DIFFERENT KINDS OF COMPETITIONS FOCUSING ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

THE FESTIVAL WOULD BE CONCLUDED WITH A CLOSING CEREMONY IN CHATER GARDEN ON NOVEMBER 24 WITH SENIOR EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR, THE BARONESS DUNN, AS THE GUEST OF HONOUR. THE BARONESS DUNN WILL HANG THE LAST BLOSSOM ON THE COMMITMENT TREE.

MRS LAM EXPRESSED HER HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE SUPPORT FROM THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA, IN PARTICULAR, COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED (TVB), FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FESTIVAL BY BROADCASTING A NUMBER OF EVENTS, AS WELL AS PRODUCING ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES DURING THE FESTIVAL.

DEPUTY CONVENER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL ORGANISING WORKING GROUP, MR HUNG WING-TAT, SAID A NUMBER OF COMPANIES IN HONG KONG WHO HAD TAKEN UP MAJOR SPONSORSHIPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL HAD DEMONSTRATED CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

DONOR OF THE FESTIVAL WAS THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB. THE OTHER MAJOR SPONSORS INCLUDED CITIBANK, M.A.; ESPRIT DE CORP (ASIA) LTD; THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO LTD; HONG KONG TRADE FAIR GROUP; ISETAN OF JAPAN LTD; JARDINE PACIFIC; AND THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST PUBLISHERS LTD.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL WAS ORGANISED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HONG KONG BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WHICH WAS FORMED IN EARLY 1990 WITH MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON. IT IS HOPED THAT THE FESTIVAL WOULD BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT.

STUDY ON PLASTICS INDUSTRY COMMISSIONED
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THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A STUDY ON THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WITH A VIEW TO DECIDING WHAT FURTHER BASIC SUPPORT SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE HONG KONG PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE'S INDUSTRIAL CLUB AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, MR BARMA SAID THE STUDY WAS PART OF REGULAR TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDIES COMMISSIONED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON MAJOR GROUPS OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

"THESE STUDIES AIM TO PROVIDE MANUFACTURERS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS HAPPENING WORLDWIDE SO AS TO ASSIST THEM IN UPGRADING THEIR OPERATIONS AND IN ACHIEVING HIGH VALUE-ADDED IN THEIR PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

HE SAID A STUDY ON THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WAS FIRST CONDUCTED IN 1985 AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM IT LED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THIS INDUSTRY. THE HONG KONG PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WAS A NOTABLE EXAMPLE.

THE LATEST STUDY ON THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE HONG KONG PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WAS SET UP TO PROVIDE A TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED CONSULTANCY SERVICE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF LOCAL PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS, AND TO HELP THEM INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND PROFITABILITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY.

"AS THE CENTRE'S CAPABILITY IN PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES HAS GRADUALLY BUILT UP, IT WAS FELT THAT AN INDUSTRIAL CLUB SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CENTRE CAN REACH A GREATER NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL CLUB IS PARTICULARLY TIMELY IN THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO HELP OUR PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS TO UPGRADE THEIR OPERATIONS IN VIEW OF THE GROWING COMPETITION THEY FACE IN WORLD MARKETS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID WHILE THE HONG KONG PLASTICS INDUSTRY WAS STILL COMPETITIVE IN MANY SECTORS, NOTABLY TOYS, THIS POSITION WAS BEING THREATENED BY THE PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE ON THE ONE HAND AND THE IMPROVED CAPABILITIES OF OUR COMPETITORS ON THE OTHER.

"THIS REINFORCES THE NEED FOR OUR PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS TO MOVE TOWARDS GREATER EFFICIENCY AND HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS IF THEY ARE TO MAINTAIN THEIR COMPETITIVENESS.

"TECHNOLOGY IS THE KEY TO ACHIEVING HIGH VALUE-ADDED THROUGH PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PRODUCT PRECISION AND INNOVATION," HE SAID.

ADDITIONAL OFFICE SPACE FOR UNHCR

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AVAILABLE AN ADDITIONAL 130 SQUARE METRES OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR USE BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

THE NEW OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, WHICH IS ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING UNHCR OFFICE IN YAU MA TEI, WAS HANDED OVER TO THE UNHCR YESTERDAY (MONDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED TO ENABLE THE UNHCR TO PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF ASSISTANCE SERVICES TO THE BOAT PEOPLE AND REFUGEE POPULATION NOW IN HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS EXPANSION WILL ALSO HELP THE OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW PROGRAMME FOR THE RETURN OF BOAT PEOPLE WHO, WHILE NOT VOLUNTEERING TO RETURN, NEVERTHELESS ARE NOT OPPOSED TO GOING BACK TO VIETNAM," HE ADDED.

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UNIONS REMINDED TO REGISTER FOR LAB ELECTION

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS TO REGISTER IMMEDIATELY AS ELECTORS IN ORDER TO VOTE IN THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) ELECTION NEXT MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS MUST REACH THE LAB ELECTION OFFICE, LABOUR DEPARTMENT, 15TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, CENTRAL, BY NOON ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 27).

"ANY FORMS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE POST-MARK ON THE ENVELOPE CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE FORM IS POSTED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 26," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS WHICH DID NOT RECEIVE THE REGISTRATION FORM BY NOW SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE LAB ELECTION OFFICE ON TEL. 852 4027," HE ADDED.

THE LAB ELECTION WILL BE HELD AT QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL ON NOVEMBER 10 (SATURDAY) AND EACH ELECTOR MAY APPOINT UP TO TWO AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE ELECTION.

REPRESENTATIVES MUST BE EITHER PAID-UP MEMBERS, OFFICERS OR PAID STAFF OF A UNION. THEY WILL CHOOSE FROM AMONG THE 15 NOMINATED CANDIDATES UP TO FIVE PERSONS TO SIT ON THE BOARD AS EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM STARTING JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

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UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE A NUMBER OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN KOWLOON SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED AT FLAT B ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND PORTIONS OF THE FLAT ROOF, PEARL COURT, 183 BOUNDARY STREET.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 4 THIS YEAR WERE POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (TUESDAY).

UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, THE CLOSURE ORDER IS REQUIRED BEFORE DEMOLITION CAN BE CARRIED OUT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE OBTAINED.

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SUSPENSION OF FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY

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FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES ON TSING YI ISLAND WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 3.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

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SURVEY ON ELDERLY LIFESTYLE

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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY-IN-PERSPECTIVE WORKING GROUP IS NOW CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SURVEY, WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL MID-NOVEMBER, IS TO DETERMINE THE LIFESTYLE OF THOSE AGED 50 OR ABOVE AND THEIR DEMANDS IN SOCIAL SERVICE.

SURVEY FINDINGS WILL BE RELEASED IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

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