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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

EXCO DECISION ON ISSUE OF SATELLITE TV UPLINK LICENCE 1

DISCIPLINED SERVICES OFFICERS PAY APPROVED 1

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC TRADING SERVICE 11

MID-YEAR FORECAST FOR 1990-91 FINANCIAL YEAR 12

GOVT DISAPPOINTED OVER UNHCR'S FAILURE FOR VBP RETURE FLIGHT ARRANGEMENT 12

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITS FOR COMMENCING SUMMARY PROSECUTIONS ... 13

GOVERNOR VISITS ROYAL HK AUXILIARY POLICE HQS 13

EDUCATION STANDARDS TO BE MAINTAINED AND IMPROVED THROUGH BETTER TEACHING AND LEARNING 14

WORKSHOPS ON LANGUAGE PROJECTS 16

CLEANSING CONTRACTORS CAN CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ... 17

SURFACE MAIL TO LIBERIA SUSPENDED 18

SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE ON YEAR OF THE RAM 19

SUBSIDIES FOR CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS 19

GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER 20

EXCO DECISION ON ISSUE OF SATELLITE TV UPLINK LICENCE

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY AGREED TO ISSUE HUTCHVISION HONG KONG LIMITED A 12-YEAR NON-EXCLUSIVE LICENCE UNDER THE TELECOMMUNICATION ORDINANCE TO UPLINK TELEVISION SIGNALS TO THE ASIASAT I SATELLITE TO PROVIDE PAN-ASIAN SATELLITE TELEVISION SERVICES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE LICENCE GRANTED COMPLIES WITH THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SATELLITE TELEVISION UPLINKING WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 30, 1990.

THE LICENCE CONDITIONS THUS PROVIDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT

- THE SERVICES ARE NOT TO BE ON THE BASIS OF SUBSCRIPTION FROM HONG KONG RESIDENTS;

- FINANCING THROUGH ADVERTISING REVENUES IS NOT TO RELY PRINCIPALLY ON THE HONG KONG TELEVISION ADVERTISING MARKET;

- THE LICENSEE IS NOT TO TRANSMIT ANY PROGRAMMES IN THE CANTONESE LANGUAGE BEFORE OCTOBER 30, 1993;

- THE LICENSEE IS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT MATERIAL BROADCAST DOES NOT INFRINGE OTHERS' COPYRIGHT AND FOR TAKING ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO ENSURE THE ACCEPTABILITY OF MATERIAL BROADCAST IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES; AND

- THE LICENSEE IS TO OBSERVE TELEVISION ADVERTISING AND PROGRAMME STANDARDS AS CURRENTLY APPLY IN HONG KONG EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THESE ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A PAN-ASIAN PROGRAMMING SERVICE WHICH SPANS SEVERAL TIME ZONES.

THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK WHICH PROVIDED FOR THESE CONDITIONS TO BE MADE WAS DESIGNED TO ENSURE EQUITABILITY VIS-A-VIS TELEVISION BROADCASTING FRANCHISEES BROADCASTING PRIMARILY TO HONG KONG AUDIENCES.

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DISCIPLINED SERVICES OFFICERS PAY APPROVED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ON THE PAY OF THE OFFICER RANKS OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAIN CONCLUSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE WAS THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RECRUITMENT RANK, EQUIVALENT OFFICER RANKS IN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES HAD JOBS WITH BROADLY SIMILAR LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND SHOULD THEREFORE RECEIVE THE SAME LEVELS OF PAY.

/THE STANDING .....

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ARRIVED AT THIS CONCLUSION AFTER EVALUATING THE DUTIES OF EACH OF THE OFFICER RANKS ACCORDING TO 14 JOB FACTORS.

THESE INCLUDED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE, PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS, INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY, SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF WORK, HARDSHIP, DANGER AND HOURS OF WORK.

DETAILED CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO GIVEN TO SUBMISSIONS ON PAY RECEIVED FROM THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, THE STANDING COMMITTEE TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AS A WHOLE.

AS A RESULT, THE PAY FOR THE OFFICER RANKS IN THE POLICE FORCE, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE RAISED TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THAT FOR RANKS IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

NO CHANGE WILL BE MADE TO THE EXISTING PAY SCALES AT THE RECRUITMENT RANK WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THE MAXIMUM PAY FOR AMBULANCE OFFICERS AND IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL BE RAISED TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THAT FOR THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE INCREASE IN PAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED RANGED FROM 3.3 PER CENT TO 7.9 PER CENT.

SIMILAR INCREASES WILL ALSO APPLY TO THE APPROPRIATE RANKS IN THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE.

"IN MONEY TERMS, THIS MEANS THAT A SENIOR INSPECTOR OF POLICE OR EQUIVALENT OFFICER IN THE OTHER DISCIPLINED SERVICES WILL BE ON A NEW PAY SCALE OF $24,885 TO $28,740. AT PRESENT IT IS $23,205 TO $26,725," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"A CHIEF INSPECTOR OF POLICE OR EQUIVALENT WILL RECEIVE $29,865 TO $35,925, A SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE OR EQUIVALENT $37,260 TO $41,585 AND A SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE OR EQUIVALENT $43,195 TO $46,815."

THE NEW PAY SCALES WILL BE BACKDATED TO OCTOBER 1, 1990, WHICH IS THE SAME IMPLEMENTATION DATE AS FOR THE SPECIAL PAY AWARD FOR JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN ITS EARLIER REPORT ON THE RANK-AND-FILE.

"THE INCREASES IN PAY WILL COST ABOUT $68 MILLION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID, "AND ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL."

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT NOW THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE HAD SUBMITTED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PAY FOR BOTH THE RANK-AND-FILE AND THE OFFICER RANKS, THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER REVIEWS OF DISCIPLINED SERVICES' PAY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

/ANNEX A .....

Annex A

Proposed Pay Scale for Police Officers

Rank	Existing Pay Scale		Convert to Proposed Pay Scale		Increase on conversion		No. of Officers (30.9.90)
	PPS	$	PPS	$	$	%	
Senior Superintendent			54 @	46815			
	53	45005	53	45005	1810	4.0	56
	52	43195	52	43195	1810	4.2	22
	51	41585			1610	3.9	13
	50	40035			3160	7.9	11
Superintendent			51	41585			
			50	40035			
	49	38605	49	38605	1430/2980	3.7/7.7	232
	48	37260	48	37260	1345	3.6	38
	47	35925			1335	3.7	26
	46	34620			2640	7.6	29
Chief Inspector			47	35925			
			46	34620			
	45	33375	45	33375	1245/2550	3.7/7.6	230
	44	32150	44	32150	1225	3.8	46
	43	30995	43	30995	1155	3.7	57
	42	29865	42	29865	1130	3.8	85
	41	28740			1125	3.9	68
	40	27730			2135	7.7	63
Senior Inspector			41	28740			
			40	27730			
	39	26725	39	26725	1005/2015	3.8/7.5	455
	38	25745	38	25745	980	3.8	116
	37	24885	37	24885	860	3.5	142
	36	24080			805	3.3	137
	35	23205			1680	7.2	75
Inspector			41	28740			
			40	27730			
	39	26725	39	26725	0/1005	0/3.8	31
	38	25745	38	25745	-	-	2
	37	24885	37	24885	-	-	3
	36	24080	36	24080	-	-	12
	35	23205	35	23205	-	-	15
	34	22280	34	22280	-	-	9
	33	21360	33	21360	-	-	24
	32	20460	32	20460	-	-	55
	31	19560	31	19560	-	-	67
	30	18680	30	18680	-	-	158
	29	17820	29	17820	-	-	154
	28	16970	28	16970	-	-	131
	27	16130	27	16130	-	-	163
	26	15425	26	15425	-	-	12
	25	14965	25	14965	-	-	131
	24	14520	24	14520	-	-	0
	23	14090	23	14090	-	-	9
							2877

@ New point on PPS; pay points above will have to be renumbered.

/ANNEX B .....

Annex B

Proposed Pay Scale for Fire Services Officers

Rank	Existing Pay Scale		Convert to Proposed Pay Scale		Increase on conversion		No. of Officers (30.9.90)
	GDS(O)	$	GDS(O)	$	$	%	
Senior Divisional Officer			38	46815			
	37	45005	37	45005	1810	4.0	10
	36	43195	36	43195	1810	4.2	4
	35	41585			1610	3.9	7
	34	40035			3160	7.9	1
Divisional Officer			35	41585			
			34	40035			
	33	38605	33	38605	1430/2980	3.7/7.7	7
	32	37260	32	37260	1345	3.6	8
	31	35925			1335	3.7	7
	30	34620			2640	7.6	4
Assistant Divisional Officer			31	35925			
			30	34620			
	29	33375	29	33375	1245/2550	3.7/7.6	27
	28	32150	28	32150	1225	3.8	9
	27	30995	27	30995	1155	3.7	5
	26	29865	26	29865	1130	3.8	30
	25	28740			1125	3.9	6
	24	27730			2135	7.7	17
Senior Station Officer			25	28740			
			24	27730			
	23	26725	23	26725	1005/2015	3.8/7.5	121
	22	25745	22	25745	980	3.8	52
	21	24885	21	24885	860	3.5	35
	20	24080			805	3.3	19
	19	23205			1680	7.2	16
Station Officer			25	28740			
			24	27730			
	23	26725	23	26725	0/1005	0.0/3.8	16
	22	25745	22	25745	-	-	2
	21	24885	21	24885	-	-	0
	20	24080	20	24080	-	-	0
	19	23205	19	23205	-	-	1
	18	22280	18	22280	-	-	0
	17	21360	17	21360	-	-	4
	16	20445	16	20445	-	-	11
	15	19520	15	19520	-	-	11
	14	18600	14	18600	-	-	20
	13	17710	13	17710	-	-	10
	12	16815	12	16815	-	-	16
	11	16000	11	16000	-	-	38
	10	15225	10	15225	-	-	13
	9	14480	9	14480	-	-	24
	8	13730	8	13730	-	-	14
	7	12985	7	12985	-	-	0
	6	12250	6	12250	-	-	6
							571

GDS(O) - General Disciplined Services (Officer) Pay Scale

/ANNEX C .....

Annex C

Proposed Pay Scale for Ambulance Officers

Rank	Existing Pay Scale GDS(O)	$	Convert to Proposed Pay Scale GDS(O)	$	Increase on conversion $	%	No. of Officers (30.9.90)
Senior Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer			38	46815			
	37	45005	37	45005	1810	4.0	0
	36	43195	36	43195	1810	4.2	0
	35	41585			1610	3.9	0
	34	40035			3160	7.9	1
Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer			35	41585			
			34	40035			
	33	38605	33	38605	1430/2980	3.7/7.7	1
	32	37260	32	37260	1345	3.6	0
	31	35925			1335	3.7	2
	30	34620			2640	7.6	1
Superintendent			31	35925			
			30	34620			
	29	33375	29	33375	1245/2550	3.7/7.6	0
	28	32150	28	32150	1225	3.8	1
	27	30995	27	30995	1155	3.7	1
	26	29865	26	29865	1130	3.8	1
	25	28740			1125	3.9	2
	24	27730			2135	7.7	2
Senior Ambulance Officer			25	28740			
			24	27730			
	23	26725	23	26725	1005/2015	3.8/7.5	1
	22	25745	22	25745	980	3.8	1
	21	24885	21	24885	860	3.5	2
	20	24080			805	3.3	4
	19	23205			1680	7.2	3
Ambulance Officer			20	24080			
			19	23205			
	18	22280	18	22280	0/925	0.0/4.2	0
	17	21360	17	21360	-	-	0
	16	20445	16	20445	-	-	0
	15	19520	15	19520	-	-	1
	14	18600	14	18600	-	-	3
	13	17710	13	17710	-	-	10
	12	16815	12	16815	-	-	7
	11	16000	11	16000	-	-	12
	10	15225	10	15225	-	-	9
	9	14480	9	14480	-	-	8
	8	13730	8	13730	-	-	1
	7	12985	7	12985	-	-	0
	6	12250	6	12250	-	-	0
	5	11500	5	11500	-	-	0
	4	10850	4	10850	-	-	0
							74

GDS(O) - General Disciplined Services (Officer) Pay Scale

/ANNEX D .....

Annex D

Proposed Pay Scale for Immigration Officers

Rank	Existing Pay Scale		Convert to Proposed Pay Scale		Increase on conversion		No. of Officers (30.9.90)
	GDS(O)	$	GDS(O)	$	$	%	
Principal Immigration Officer			38	46815			
	37	45005	37	45005	1810	4.0	5
	36	43195	36	43195	1810	4.2	1
	35	41585			1610	3.9	3
	34	40035			3160	7.9	3
Assistant Principal Immigration Officer			35	41585			
			34	40035			
	33	38605	33	38605	1430/2980	3.7/7.7	8
	32	37260	32	37260	1345	3.6	2
	31	35925			1335	3.7	5
	30	34620			2640	7.6	7
Chief Immigration Officer			31	35925			
			30	34620			
	29	33375	29	33375	1245/2550	3.7/7.6	16
	28	32150	28	32150	1225	3.8	6
	27	30995	27	30995	1155	3.7	4
	26	29865	26	29865	1130	3.8	6
	25	28740			1125	3.9	12
	24	27730			2135	7.7	11
Senior Immigration Officer			25	28740			
			24	27730			
	23	26725	23	26725	1005/2015	3.8/7.5	117
	22	25745	22	25745	980	3.8	0
	21	24885	21	24885	860	3.5	27
	20	24080			805	3.3	15
	19	23205			1680	7.2	47
Immigration Officer			20	24080			
			19	23205			
	18	22280	18	22280	0/925	0.0/4.2	204
	17	21360	17	21360	-	-	106
	16	20445	16	20445	-	-	48
	15	19520	15	19520	-	-	75
	14	18600	14	18600	-	-	3
	13	17710	13	17710	-	-	212
	12	16815	12	16815	-	-	19
	11	16000	11	16000	-	-	0
	10	15225	10	15225	-	-	0
	9	14480	9	14480	-	-	0
	8	13730	8	13730	-	-	0
	7	12985	7	12985	-	-	0
	6	12250	6	12250	-	-	0
	5	11500	5	11500	-	-	0
	4	10850	4	10850	-	-	0
							962

GDS(O) – General Disciplined Servies (Officer) Pay Scale

/ANNEX E .....

Annex E

Proposed Pay Scale for ICAC Officers
(CACO Grade)

Rank	Existing Pay Scale		Convert to Proposed Pay Scale		Increase on conversion		No. of Officers (30.9.90)
	ICAC SS	$	ICAC SS	$	$	%	
Senior Commission Against Corruption Officer			40 @	46815			
	39	45005	39	45005	1810	4.0	24
	38	43195	38	43195	1810	4.2	4
	37	41585			1610	3.9	8
	36	40035			3160	7.9	3
Commission Against Corruption Officer (Upper)			37	41585			
			36	40035			
	35	38570	35	38570	1465/3015	3.8/7.8	29
	34	37230	34	37230	1340	3.6	9
	33	35890	33	35890	1340	3.7	11
	32	34585	32	34585	1305	3.8	5
	31	33235	31	33235	1350	4.1	17
	30	31995			1240	3.9	17
	29	30745			2490	8.1	13
Commission Against Corruption Officer (Middle)			30	31995			
			29	30745			
	28	29510	28	29510	1235/2485	4.2/8.4	109
	27	28260	27	28260	1250	4.4	12
	26	27015	26	27015	1245	4.6	17
	25	25795	25	25795	1220	4.7	14
	24	24555	24	24555	1240	5.0	15
	23	23305			1250	5.4	25
	22	22325			2230	10.0	19
Commission Against Corruption Officer (Middle/Lower)			30	31995			
			29	30745			
	28	29510	28	29510	0/1235	0.0/4.2	1
	27	28260	27	28260	-	-	1
	26	27015	26	27015	-	-	1
	25	25795	25	25795	-	-	0
	24	24555	24	24555	-	-	2
	23	23305	23	23305	-	-	6
	22	22325	22	22325	-	-	0
	21	21300	21	21300	-	-	1
	20	20250	20	20250	-	-	4
	19	19210	19	19210	-	-	1
	18	18170	18	18170	-	-	3
	17	17125	17	17125	-	-	21
	16	16330	16	16330	-	-	61
	15	15540	15	15540	-	-	27
	14	14875	14	14875	-	-	18
	13	14215	13	14215	-	-	4
	12	13560	12	13560	-	-	0
	11	12895	11	12895	-	-	0
							502

@ New point on ICACSS; pay points above will have to be renumbered.
ICACSS - Independent Commission Against Corruption Salary scale

/ANNEX F .....

Annex F

Proposed Pay Scale for ICAC Officers
(Surveillance Grade)

Rank	Existing Pay Scale		Convert to Proposed Pay Scale		Increase on conversion		No. of Officers (30.9.90)
	ICAC SS	$	ICAC SS	$	$	%	
Chief Commission Against Corruption Controller			30	31995			
			29	30745			
	28	29510	28	29510	1235/2485	4.2/8.4	1
	27	28260	27	28260	1250	4.4	1
	26	27015	26	27015	1245	4.6	1
	25	25795	25	25795	1220	4.7	0
	24	24555	24	24555	1240	5.0	0
	23	23305			1250	5.4	0
	22	22325			2230	10.0	0
Senior Commission Against Corruption Controller			23	23305			
			22	22325			
	21	21300	21	21300	1025/2005	4.8/9.4	1
	20	20250	20	20250	1050	5.2	2
	19	19210	19	19210	1040	5.4	0
	18	18170	18	18170	1040	5.7	0
	17	17125			1045	6.1	0
	16	16330			1840	11.3	0
Commission Against Corruption Controller			16	16330			
			15	15540			
	14	14875	14	14875	0/665	0.0/4.5	11
	13	14215	13	14215	-	-	17
	12	13560	12	13560	-	-	3
	11	12895	11	12895	-	-	1
							38

ICACSS - Independent Commission Against Corruption Salary scale

/ANNEX G .....

Annex G

Proposed Pay Scale for RHKAAF Grades
(Flying Squadron)

Rank	Existing Pay Scale		Convert to Proposed Pay Scale		Increase on conversion		No. of Officers (30.9.90)
	GDS(O)	$	GDS(O)	$	$	%	
Senior Pilot	38	46815	38	46815	-	-	4
	37	45005	37	45005	1810	4.0	0
	36	43195	36	43195	1810	4.2	0
	35	41585			1610	3.9	1
	34	40035			3160	7.9	2
Pilot I			35	41585			
			34	40035			
	33	38605	33	38605	1430/2980	3.7/7.7	5
	32	37260	32	37260	1345	3.6	0
	31	35925	31	35925	1335	3.7	0
	30	34620	30	34620	1305	3.8	0
	29	33375	29	33375	1245	3.7	0
	28	32150	28	32150	1225	3.8	1
	27	30995	27	30995	1155	3.7	0
	26	29865	26	29865	1130	3.8	0
	25	28740			1125	3.9	0
	24	27730			2135	7.7	0
Pilot II			25	28740			
			24	27730			
	23	26725	23	26725	0/1005	0/3.8	0
	22	25745	22	25745	-	-	0
	21	24885	21	24885	-	-	0
	20	24080	20	24080	-	-	0
	19	23205	19	23205	-	-	0
	18	22280	18	22280	-	-	0
	17	21360	17	21360	-	-	0
	16	20445	16	20445	-	-	0
	15	19520	15	19520	-	-	0
	14	18600	14	18600	-	-	0
Senior Air Crewman Officer	38	46815	38	46815	-	-	0
	37	45005	37	45005	1810	4.0	0
	36	43195	36	43195	1810	4.2	0
	35	41585			1610	3.9	0
	34	40035			3160	7.9	0
Air Crewman Officer			35	41585			
			34	40035			
	33	38605	33	38605	1430/2980	3.7/7.7	1
	32	37260	32	37260	1345	3.6	0
	31	35925	31	35925	1335	3.7	0
	30	34620	30	34620	1305	3.8	0
	29	33375	29	33375	1245	3.7	0
	28	32150	28	32150	1225	3.8	0
	27	30995	27	30995	1155	3.7	0
	26	29865	26	29865	1130	3.8	2
	25	28740			1125	3.9	0
	24	27730			2135	7.7	0
Senior Air Crewman			25	28740			
			24	27730			
	23	26725	23	26725	0/1005	0/3.8	0
	22	25745	22	25745	-	-	0
	21	24885	21	24885	-	-	0
	20	24080	20	24080	-	-	0
	19	23205	19	23205	-	-	0
	18	22280	18	22280	-	-	0
	17	21360	17	21360	-	-	2
							18

GDS(O) - General Disciplined Services (Officer) Pay Scale

/ANNEX H .....

Annex H

Proposed Pay Scale for RHKAAF Grades
(Engineering Squadron)

Rank	Existing Pay Scale		Convert to Proposed Pay Scale		Increase on conversion		No. of Officers (30.9.90)
	GDS(O)	$	GDS(O)	$	$	%	
Senior Technical Officer	37	45005	37	45005	-	-	0
	36	43195	36	43195	1810	4.2	1
	35	41585			1610	3.9	1
	34	40035			3160	7.9	2
Technical Officer			35	41585			
			34	40035			
	33	38605	33	38605	0/1430	0/3.7	0
	32	37260	32	37260	-	-	0
	31	35925	31	35925	-	-	0
	30	34620	30	34620	-	-	0
	29	33375	29	33375	-	-	0
	28	32150	28	32150	-	-	0
	27	30995	27	30995	-	-	0
	26	29865	26	29865	-	-	0
	25	28740	25	28740	-	-	4
	24	27730	24	27730	-	-	0
	23	26725	23	26725	-	-	1
	22	25745	22	25745	-	-	1
Chief Flight Technician			24	27730			
			23	26725			
	22	25745	22	25745	0/980	0/3.8	0
	21	24885	21	24885	-	-	0
	20	24080	20	24080	-	-	0
	19	23205	19	23205	-	-	0
	18	22280	18	22280	-	-	1
	17	21360	17	21360	-	-	0
	16	20445	16	20445	-	-	0
	15	19520	15	19520	-	-	0
	14	18600	14	18600	-	-	4
	13	17710	13	17710	-	-	0
	12	16815	12	16815	-	-	1
							16

GDS(O) - General Disciplined Services (Officer) Pay Scale

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DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC TRADING SERVICE
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD COMMENCE DISCUSSION WITH TRADELINK ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT SERVICES LTD ON HOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC TRADING SERVICE CAN BE TAKEN FURTHER FORWARD, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DISCUSSION WOULD BE HELD WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE FINAL DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MATTER.

IN MARCH THIS YEAR, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT AND TRADELINK JOINTLY ANNOUNCED THE COMMISSIONING OF A SHARED PROJECT FOR EDI (SPEDI).

"THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF SPEDI IS TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT AND TRADELINK WITH THE REQUIRED INFORMATION TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMMUNITY-WIDE EDI SERVICE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SPEDI HAD NOW PRODUCED A DRAFT REPORT WHICH AFFIRMED THE NEED TO INTRODUCE COMMUNITY-WIDE EDI IN HONG KONG SO AS TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCESSING INFORMATION WITHIN A TRADING CYCLE.

SUCH A FACILITY WOULD BE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE IF HONG KONG WAS TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND ITS INTERNATIONAL TRADING ROLE.

THE DRAFT SPEDI REPORT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS:

* THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KEY PRIVATE SECTOR TRADING ORGANISATIONS SHOULD ACT NOW AND WORK TOGETHER TO INTRODUCE A COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC TRADING SERVICE;

* FOR THIS PURPOSE, A COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATING COMPANY SHOULD BE SET UP AND THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EXISTING SHAREHOLDERS OF TRADELINK SHOULD BECOME THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY;

* AN OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR OTHER KEY PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATIONS (NOT ALREADY IN TRADELINK) TO BECOME SHAREHOLDERS; AND

* THE SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN PHASES WITH THE INITIAL FOCUS ON TRADE-RELATED GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS.

"WE CONSIDER THAT FOR A PROJECT OF THIS NATURE THE GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT AND INVOLVEMENT IS BY ITSELF NOT ENOUGH," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION REQUIRED THE COMMITMENT AND CO-OPERATION OF ORGANISATIONS THAT WERE SITUATED IN THE KEY NODES OF TRADE INFORMATION FLOWS SUCH AS CARGO TERMINALS, CARRIERS AND BANKS.

"THIS ARGUES STRONGLY FOR A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THESE KEY ORGANISATIONS.

/"MOST OF .....

"MOST OF THESE KEY ORGANISATIONS ARE ALREADY SHAREHOLDERS OF TRADELINK, AND THEY HAVE BEEN PROMOTING A COMMUNITY-WIDE EDI SERVICE FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. TO COMMENCE DISCUSSION WITH THEM IS A LOGICAL NEXT STEP.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE HOW A COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC TRADING SERVICE IS TO BE LAUNCHED, HAVING REGARD TO THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSION WITH TRADELINK. THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE SOUGHT AGAIN EARLY NEXT YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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MID-YEAR FORECAST FOR 1990-91 FINANCIAL YEAR

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THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST FORECAST OF ITS FINANCES FOR THE YEAR 1990-91 INDICATES THAT, OVERALL, EXPENDITURE IS LIKELY TO BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE ESTIMATE.

"THIS IS PRIMARILY DUE TO LOWER THAN EXPECTED EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"REVENUE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE SLIGHTLY BELOW THE ESTIMATE MAINLY BECAUSE LAND SALE PROCEEDS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE AT THE LEVEL ANTICIPATED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE OUTTURN FORECAST IS BASED ON ACTUAL RESULTS TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND COULD WELL BE REVISED AGAIN TOWARDS THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE LATEST FORECAST INDICATES AN OVERALL SURPLUS OF ABOUT $2.1 BILLION COMPARED WITH THE ESTIMATE OF AROUND $700 MILLION.

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GOVT DISAPPOINTED OVER UNHCR'S FAILURE FOR VBP RETURN FLIGHT ARRANGEMENT

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REQUESTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE REFUGEE COORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE UNHCR FEEL UNABLE TO ARRANGE A FURTHER FLIGHT FOR THOSE IN THE NEW CATEGORY OF VIETNAMESE RETURNEES BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. WE HOPE THAT THEY WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN 1991. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THE SCHEME BE PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, AND WELL BEFORE THE START OF THE NEW ARRIVAL SEASON NEXT SPRING.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ALSO HOPES THAT UNHCR WILL USE EVERY EFFORT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RETURNING UNDER THE VOLUNTARY SCHEME. IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST, PARTICULARLY THE BOAT PEOPLE, WHO WILL OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO LANGUISH IN THE CAMPS HERE, THAT THEY SHOULD RETURN HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNDER THE 1988 UNDERTAKING BETWEEN THE UNHCR AND THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, AND THE SEPTEMBER AGREEMENT SIGNED IN HANOI, THE UNHCR ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BOTH REPATRIATION SCHEMES."

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PROPOSED EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITS FOR COMMENCING SUMMARY PROSECUTIONS
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AMENDMENT BILLS WHICH SEEK TO EXTEND THE STATUTORY TIME LIMITS FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS FOR PROSECUTING CERTAIN SUMMARY OFFENCES IN THE SECURITIES LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 16 NEXT YEAR.

AMENDMENTS ARE PROPOSED TO THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE, COMMODITIES TRADING ORDINANCE, COMMODITIES EXCHANGES (PROHIBITION) ORDINANCE AND PROTECTION OF INVESTORS ORDINANCE TO ALLOW PROCEEDINGS OF SUMMARY PROSECUTIONS TO COMMENCE AT ANY TIME WITHIN THREE YEARS AFTER A SUMMARY OFFENCE IN THESE ORDINANCES HAS BEEN COMMITTED AND WITHIN 12 MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF THE OFFENCE BY THE PROSECUTOR, WHICHEVER PERIOD EXPIRES FIRST.

BY SECTION 26 OF THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE, WHERE NO PERIOD IS LAID DOWN IN AN ORDINANCE, PROCEEDINGS FOR PROSECUTING AN OFFENCE (OTHER THAN AN INDICTABLE OFFENCE) MUST BE BEGUN WITHIN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE THE OFFENCE WAS COMMITTED.

EXPLAINING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE AMENDMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID THE EXISTING SIX-MONTH LIMITATION PERIOD IS TOO RESTRICTIVE AS AN OFFENCE MAY NOT COME TO LIGHT UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER IT WAS COMMITTED.

"THE AMENDMENTS WILL FACILITATE THE ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES MARKETS," MR NENDICK ADDED.

THE SUMMARY OFFENCES IN THE FOUR ORDINANCES ARE OFTEN COMPLEX IN NATURE, INVOLVING NUMEROUS WITNESSES AND VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. EXPERIENCE OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION INDICATES THAT IN MOST CASES CONSIDERABLE TIME IS REQUIRED TO PREPARE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

THESE OFFENCES CONCERN THE REGISTRATION OF DEALERS, TRADING OF SECURITIES, OPERATION OF A COMMODITIES EXCHANGE, ADVERTISING OF UNREGISTERED INVESTMENT BUSINESS, AND SO ON.

THE BILLS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON DECEMBER 28.

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GOVERNOR VISITS ROYAL HK AUXILIARY POLICE HQS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, VISITED THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON BAY TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MET BY THE AUXILIARY POLICE COMMANDANT MR ARCHIE CHAN, DEPUTY COMMANDANT MR PETER CHAU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR SUPPORT MR LAU TO-YEE, THE GOVERNOR WAS BRIEFED BY THE ACTING CHIEF STAFF OFFICER MR ALFRED CHEUNG ON THE STRUCTURE AND TRAINING OF THE AUXILIARY FORCE.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO CHATTED WITH SOME OF THE JUNIOR OFFICERS WHO HAD EARLIER BEEN AWARDED WITH QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL OR QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT.

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EDUCATION STANDARDS TO BE MAINTAINED AND IMPROVED
THROUGH BETTER TEACHING AND LEARNING
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EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND IMPROVED THROUGH BETTER TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ENHANCED MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, SAID THIS WAS THE PRO-ACTIVE VIEW OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

SPEAKING ON THE COMMISSION'S FOURTH REPORT (ECR 4) AT THE HONG KONG JAYCEE SENATORS' LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR LI SAID UNDERLYING THE ECR 4 PROPOSALS WAS THE FIRM BELIEF THAT THE PRESENT POLICY OF PROVIDING THE NINE-YEAR FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

"QUITE CONTRARY TO THE VIEWS IN SOME QUARTERS THAT CURRICULAR AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN SCHOOLS WOULD DISAPPEAR IF WE REVERT BACK TO A NON-COMPULSORY SITUATION, COMMISSION MEMBERS FEEL THAT THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM SHOULD BE ADAPTED TO MEET FULLY THE NEEDS OF ALL OUR CHILDREN, IN PARTICULAR THOSE AT THE TWO ENDS OF THE ABILITY SPECTRUM," HE SAID.

THE COMMISSION, HE SAID, BELIEVED THAT LEARNING AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS WERE CLOSELY INTERTWINED AND THAT WHILE THE COMMON CORE CURRICULUM DEVELOPED IN THE EARLY DAYS OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION HAD ACHIEVED A HIGH DEGREE OF CONSISTENCY IN STANDARDS AMONG MOST STUDENTS, SOME HAD NOT BENEFITED FROM IT.

COMMISSION MEMBERS FELT THAT THIS WAS A SOURCE OF CLASSROOM PROBLEMS, NOTABLY WITH STUDENTS AT BOTH ENDS OF THE ABILITY SPECTRUM AND STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT MOTIVATED OR WERE INCLINED MORE TOWARDS PRACTICAL SUBJECTS THAN ACADEMIC SUBJECTS, HE SAID.

"THEY CONSIDER THAT RESOURCES SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR MAKING A TWO-PRONG ATTACK AT THESE PROBLEMS," MR LI EXPLAINED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WITHIN THE ORDINARY SCHOOL SETTING, EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND, IN WHAT HAD BEEN TERMED BY THE COMMISSION AS THE "WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH," ALL TEACHERS IN A SCHOOL SHOULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS.

"IN THIS REGARD, RESOURCES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR SCHOOLS ENGAGED IN VARIOUS PROGRAMMES TO GIVE POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR," MR LI SAID.

"THE DEPLOYMENT OF STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL ALSO BE REFORMED. CURRENTLY THEY ARE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF.

"IN THE NEW SCHEME, THEIR POSTS WILL BE GRADUALLY PHASED OUT AND SCHOOLS WILL BE ALLOWED TO EMPLOY THEIR OWN STUDENT GUIDANCE TEACHERS IN THE HOPE THAT A SCHOOL-BASED SERVICE WILL BE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE."

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AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL, HE SAID OTHER ENHANCEMENT MEASURES WOULD INCLUDE STRENGTHENING REMEDIAL TEACHING AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TEACHERS FOR THOSE SCHOOLS WHICH CATERED FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS BELONGING TO THE BOTTOM 10 PER CENT OF THE ABILITY RANGE.

A PILOT SCHEME WOULD CONCURRENTLY BE IMPLEMENTED TO PROVIDE EXTRA ASSISTANCE FOR ACADEMICALLY GIFTED CHILDREN.

OTHER PROPOSALS EXPLAINED AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING WERE:

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

THE COMMISSION, MR LI SAID, FELT THAT A NEW SEPARATE DIVISION SHOULD BE SET UP WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WHICH WOULD BE DEDICATED SOLELY TO CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT WORK AND THAT RECRUITMENT TO SOME OF THE POSTS IN THE NEW CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE SHOULD BE MADE OPEN TO NON-CIVIL SERVANTS TO MAKE GOOD USE OF TALENTS OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT.

BETTER MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS

MR LI SAID IN THE PAST, THE MAIN INTEREST WAS IN FINDING OUT WHETHER CHILD A WAS PERFORMING BETTER THAN CHILD B TO DECIDE WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN A PLACE AT THE NEXT LEVEL OF EDUCATION.

THE COMMISSION'S VIEW WAS THAT A FRAMEWORK OF ATTAINMENT TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

"WITH TARGETS SET AT LEVELS SUITED TO CHILDREN'S INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES, AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS MADE MORE APPARENT BY WAY OF MORE INFORMATIVE ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS, STUDENTS WILL FIND LEARNING MUCH MORE MEANINGFUL," HE SAID.

"THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT A CHILD SHOULD NOT BE BRANDED AS A FAILURE AS IN THE PAST BECAUSE HE DOES NOT COMPARE WELL WITH HIS CLASSMATES," HE ADDED.

MR LI EMPHASISED THAT EVEN IF THE CHILD HAD MOVED FROM LEVEL 1 TO ONLY LEVEL 2 IN, FOR EXAMPLE, MATHEMATICS WHILE HIS CLASSMATES HAD MOVED TO LEVEL 3, HE HAD ALREADY MADE PROGRESS, ALBEIT NOT TO THE SAME EXTENT AS THE OTHERS.

"AND THE NEW SYSTEM WILL ENABLE THE TEACHER TO IDENTIFY IN WHICH AREAS HE IS WEAK AND TO GIVE HIM SUPPORT ACCORDINGLY," MR LI EXPLAINED.

LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION

"WITHOUT DEPARTING FROM ITS PREVIOUS STANCE OF ENCOURAGING THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, AND REFRAINING FROM DEPRIVING SCHOOLS OF THEIR FREEDOM TO CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE MEDIUM, THE COMMISSION HAS COME OUT AGAINST THE USE OF MIXED CODE IN SCHOOLS AS SUCH PRACTICE RESULTS IN CHILDREN NOT BEING PROFICIENT IN THE FULL RANGE OF LANGUAGE SKILLS IN EITHER CHINESE OR ENGLISH," HE SAID.

/THE COMMISSION .....

THE COMMISSION PROPOSED INSTEAD SCHOOLS SHOULD MAKE CLEAR AND CONSISTENT USE OF CHINESE OR ENGLISH IN RESPECT OF TEXTBOOKS, TEACHING AND EXAMINATIONS.

BOTH PARENTS AND SCHOOLS WOULD BE GIVEN THE NECESSARY INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE ABILITY TO ENABLE THEM TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT THE CHOICE OF TEACHING MEDIUM.

"THE COMMISSION IS FULLY AWARE OF THE EMPHASIS MANY PARENTS PLACE ON AN ENGLISH-MEDIUM EDUCATION AND HAS THEREFORE MADE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS SUCH AS THAT CONCERNED WITH BRIDGING COURSES TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSED POLICY OF LANGUAGE GROUPING WOULD NOT AFFECT THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS COMING FROM CHINESE-MEDIUM CLASSES," MR LI SAID.

WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT IN 1989 MADE THE DIFFICULT BUT PRAGMATIC DECISION OF POSTPONING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A WHOLE SCALE CONVERSION TO UNISESSIONAL OPERATION.

FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, HE SAID A SYSTEM OF MIXED-MODE OPERATION WOULD BE PURSUED IN WHICH PRIMARY 5 AND 6 CHILDREN COULD ENJOY WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING.

"GIVEN THE CHARTER OF DESIGNING PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY DECISION, THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WILL ENABLE THE MIXED-MODE OBJECTIVE TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE YEAR 2000," MR LI SAID.

THE REPORT, HE ADDED, HAD ALSO COVERED IN DETAIL THE STAFFING MATTERS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME.

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WORKSHOPS ON LANGUAGE PROJECTS

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A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS ON LANGUAGE PROJECTS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT NO. 4 WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION, DR V. BICKLEY, WILL PRESENT AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HONGKONGBANK FOUNDATION LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND'S PROJECTS TO PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE JUST CONCLUDED A THREE-DAY INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CONFERENCE.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE WORKSHOPS, ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WILL INCLUDE:

/* TARGETS AND .....

* TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENTS IN ENGLISH AT PRIMARY 3, PRIMARY 6 AND SECONDARY 3;

* PRIMARY TO SECONDARY BRIDGING COURSE;

* POST-SCHOOL PRE-EMPLOYMENT LANGUAGE NEEDS ANALYSIS AND BRIDGING PROGRAMMES;

* MINIMUM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS AND ENGLISH COURSES FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION TRAINEE TEACHERS;

* MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS OF PUTONGHUA AND THE DESIGN OF PUTONGHUA COURSES AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS; AND

* SECONDARY TO TERTIARY BRIDGING PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH FOR CHINESE-MEDIUM STUDENTS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WORKSHOPS WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, LEVEL 4, WAN CHAI.

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CLEANSING CONTRACTORS CAN CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CLEANSING CONTRACTORS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE CAN CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BY ADOPTING MEASURES TO ENABLE THE RECYCLING OF WASTE PAPER.

THE DEPUTY CONVENOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL AND MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (ECC), MR HUNG WING-TAT, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DURING A SEMINAR ON "PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WASTE PAPER COLLECTION SCHEME".

THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ECC AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO AROUSE THE AWARENESS OF CLEANSING CONTRACTORS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

NOTING THAT HALF OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION LIVED IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, MR HUNG SAID THE VOLUME AND HANDLING COST OF THE WASTES COULD BE ELIMINATED TREMENDOUSLY IF THEY WERE PROPERLY TREATED AND RECYCLED WITH THE SUPPORT OF CONTRACTORS AND RESIDENTS.

"WE DISCARD ABOUT 5,000 TONNES OF DOMESTIC WASTES PER DAY, AND ALL THIS HAS TO BE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF WITHOUT CAUSING POLLUTION TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.

"IT COSTS AT LEAST $250 FOR EACH TONNE OF GARBAGE DISPOSED, THAT IS A TOTAL OF $125 MILLION PER YEAR.

/"WE USE .....

"WE USE 1,000 TONNES OF PAPER A DAY IN HONG KONG AND IF SOMEHOW WE CAN COLLECT AND RECYCLE ALL OF THIS, WE COULD SAVE $250,000 EACH DAY OR $90 MILLION EACH YEAR," HE SAID.

MR HUNG POINTED OUT THAT IT TOOK 17 TREES AND 1,500 LITRES OF FUEL OIL TO MAKE ONE TONNE OF PAPER. BY RECYCLING USE OF THE WASTE PAPER, WE MIGHT REDUCE AIR POLLUTION BY SOME 75 PER CENT AND PRODUCE 35 PER CENT LESS WATER POLLUTION THAN PRODUCING PAPER FROM VIRGIN FIBRES.

"HONG KONG EXPORTED ABOUT 595,000 TONNES OF WASTE PAPER VALUED AT $450 MILLION LAST YEAR.

"THIS MEANS THAT THE WASTE PAPER WE COLLECTED ARE SALEABLE AND THE MONEY GENERATED MAY HELP REDUCE THE COST FOR HANDLING GARBAGE," HE SAID.

MR HUNG SAID APART FROM SEEKING SUPPORT FROM CLEANSING CONTRACTORS, THE ECC WAS ALSO PROMOTING THE WASTE PAPER COLLECTION SCHEME AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL VIA SUCH CHANNELS AS MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

"THE PILOT SCHEME CARRIED OUT IN OI MAN ESTATE ON NOVEMBER 11 TO MARK THE INAUGURATION OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WASTE PAPER COLLECTION SCHEME HAS ACHIEVED SATISFACTORY RESULTS," HE SAID.

"A TOTAL OF SIX TONNES OF WASTE PAPER WAS COLLECTED THAT DAY," HE ADDED.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE SEMINAR TODAY WERE A SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER AND A HOUSING MANAGER OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR C.K. CHENG AND MR S.T. SIOU, AS WELL AS A SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, MR C.S. LAI.

THE ECC IS A NON-GOVERNMENT BODY MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENCOURAGE AND MOBILISE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD A BETTER ENVIRONMENT.

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SURFACE MAIL TO LIBERIA SUSPENDED

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, LETTER AND PARCEL SERVICES BY SURFACE MAIL TO LIBERIA ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT ALL AIRMAIL SERVICES TO LIBERIA HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE AUGUST 29 AS A RESULT OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY.

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SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE ON YEAR OF THE RAM

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A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS ON "YEAR OF THE RAM" WILL BE ISSUED ON JANUARY 24, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS IS THE FIFTH IN THE CURRENT SERIES OF LUNAR NEW YEAR SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES WHICH COMMENCED WITH THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT IN 1987.

THERE WILL BE FOUR DENOMINATIONS -- 60 CENT, $1.40, $1.80 AND $5. THE DESIGN DEPICTS IN EMBROIDERY STYLE VARIOUS POSTURES OF THE RAM.

A SOUVENIR SHEET CONTAINING A SET OF FOUR STAMPS AT $8.80 WILL ALSO BE ISSUED.

IN ADDITION, A STAMP FOLDER CONTAINING TWO SE-TENANT SHEETLETS WILL BE SOLD AT $14.40.

EACH SHEETLET CONSISTS OF THREE $1.80 STAMPS IN THE UPPER ROW AND THREE 60 CENT STAMPS IN THE LOWER ROW.

THE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY MR KAN TAI-KEUNG AND WERE PRINTED BY JOH ENSCHEDE EN ZONEN OF HOLLAND.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE ISSUE WILL BE ANNOUNCED CLOSER TO THE DATE OF ISSUE.

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SUBSIDIES FOR CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS

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A TOTAL OF $950,000 HAS BEEN SET ASIDE BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION TO SUBSIDISE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECTS IN CIVIC EDUCATION NEXT YEAR.

"APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUBSIDY ARE NOW OPEN TO REGISTERED COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND THE MAXIMUM GRANT PER PROJECT IS $50,000," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE AIM OF THE SCHEME IS TO ENCOURAGE ORGANISATIONS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, HE SAID.

"IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THESE PROJECTS, IN THE FORMS OF EXHIBITIONS, PRODUCTION, TRAINING AND SO ON, WILL ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO UNDERSTAND AND PRACTISE 'RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP' AND TO UNDERSTAND AND UPHOLD CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/EACH APPLICATION .....

EACH APPLICATION WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO THE CONTENT OF THE PROJECT, WHICH SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE OF CIVIC EDUCATION AS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

"CONSIDERATION WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO THEIR INNOVATION AND EFFECTIVENESS IN SPREADING CIVIC EDUCATION MESSAGES ACROSS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC," HE ADDED.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 30 NEXT YEAR AND THE CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE JANUARY 15, 1992.

EACH APPLICATION WILL BE VETTED AND ASSESSED BY THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION GROUP WHICH COMPRISES UNOFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES.

ALL PROJECTS SUBSIDISED WILL BE INCLUDED IN AN OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARD SCHEME TO BE HELD IN JULY, 1992.

APPLICATION FORMS, WITH DETAILS OF APPLICATION PROCEDURES, ARE OBTAINABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECT MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED FROM THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS, 31ST FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, OR BY TELEPHONING 835 1381.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE TENANCY OF A PIECE OF LAND IN THE CHAI WAN RECLAMATION.

THE LAND NEAR SHING TAI ROAD, CHAI WAN AND MEASURED ABOUT 1,830 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR OPEN STORAGE (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS AND CONTAINERS) AND/OR THE STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF SAND, CEMENT AND AGGREGATE.

THE TENANCY EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 28, NEXT YEAR AND IS RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JANUARY 4, NEXT YEAR.

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

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