



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 1990

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QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE

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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE, WHICH IS EMBARGOED UNTIL 0001 HOURS TOMORROW (MONDAY):

"EVERY YEAR, WHEN WE CELEBRATE COMMONWEALTH DAY, IT REMINDS ME THAT WE ARE CELEBRATING SOMETHING WHICH IS QUITE UNIQUE. NOTHING QUITE LIKE THE COMMONWEALTH HAS EVER BEEN CREATED OR EVOLVED BEFORE. ITS COMPARATIVE LACK OF RULES, ITS HUMAN RICHNESS AND ITS GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY, MAKE THE COMMONWEALTH AS HARD TO DEFINE AS IT IS EASY TO CRITICISE.

"THE MEMBERS OF ANY FAMILY, AND THAT IS WHAT THE COMMONWEALTH MOST NEARLY RESEMBLES, WILL VARY WIDELY IN AGE, APPEARANCE, TASTES, TALENTS AND TEMPERAMENT. FROM TIME TO TIME THEY WILL HOLD SOME VERY DIFFERENT OPINIONS. YET MEMBERS OF A FAMILY HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN RECOGNISING EACH OTHER AS RELATIONS, AND IN PUTTING A VALUE UPON THEIR KINSHIP. THEY ARE ABLE TO SUM ONE ANOTHER UP WITH BOTH REALISM AND AFFECTION. THEY APPRECIATE EACH OTHER'S SPECIAL QUALITIES. ABOVE ALL, THEY HAVE LEARNED TO FEEL AT HOME WITH EACH OTHER. SO HAVE WE IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

"IT IS A FEATURE OF OUR ASSOCIATION THAT WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND INFLUENCE EACH OTHER, BUT DO NOT EXPECT TO AGREE ON EVERYTHING ALL THE TIME. IN THE LAST RESORT, THERE IS NO COMPULSION TO CONFORM. IF WE ARE SOMETIMES CRITICAL OF EACH OTHER, OR DISAPPOINTED, IT IS BECAUSE WE EXPECT MORE OF MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY THAN WE DO OF OTHERS. NOW AND THEN A MEMBER MAY EVEN FEEL CONSTRAINED TO GO OFF ON HIS OWN. SOME YEARS AGO THIS HAPPENED TO PAKISTAN FOR EXAMPLE. YET TODAY WE HAVE THE JOY OF HAVING PAKISTAN BACK IN THE FAMILY. THIS ILLUSTRATES PERFECTLY THE NATURE OF THE UNDERLYING BOND WHICH DISTINGUISHES THE COMMONWEALTH FROM ALL OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

"THE COMMONWEALTH HAS OTHER STRENGTHS TOO. ONE OF THEM IS THAT IT APPEALS TO THE YOUNG AS MUCH AS TO THE OLD, TO PEOPLES AND NATIONS AT ALL PHASES OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, TO REFORMERS AND LOVERS OF TRADITION ALIKE.

"ANOTHER STRENGTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH IS THE MULTIPLICITY OF STRANDS THAT BIND US TOGETHER. WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP IS NOT LIMITED TO THE CONTACTS BETWEEN POLITICAL LEADERS. EACH AND EVERY NATIONAL ORGANISATION AND PROFESSION SEEMS TO HAVE ITS COMMONWEALTH COUNTERPART. THEY GIVE IT LIFE AND DIVERSITY AND MAP OUT THE PATHS OF ITS FUTURE ACHIEVEMENTS.

"ON COMMONWEALTH DAY ESPECIALLY WE GREET EACH OTHER AS MEMBERS OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST UNUSUAL FAMILY ON EARTH."

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HK IDEALLY PLACED FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATIONS: AG

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CHANGES MADE IN RECENT YEARS TO LOCAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION LAW HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A LEADING ARBITRATION CENTRE IN THE REGION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, TOLD MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS AT A DINNER MEETING THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING.

HE SAID THAT THE MOST RECENT CHANGE WAS THE INCORPORATION INTO DOMESTIC LAW OF THE UNITED NATIONS MODEL LAW ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION.

THIS WAS EFFECTED BY THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1989 PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATE LAST YEAR.

MR MATHEWS NOTED THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION SOON WHEN CERTAIN MINOR AMENDMENTS TO RELEVANT SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION WERE MADE.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE MODEL LAW WOULD APPLY TO INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATIONS, UNLESS THE PARTIES AGREED OTHERWISE.

THE ORDINANCE WAS A RESULT OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE HONG KONG LAW REFORM COMMISSION IN 1987.

"THE COMMISSION SAW REAL BENEFITS FOR HONG KONG IN ADOPTING A CLEARLY EXPRESSED AND WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONAL CODE - THE MODEL LAW - FOR SETTLING INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL DISPUTES.

"ADOPTION OF THE MODEL LAW WILL PROVIDE A SOUND AND WELL-UNDERSTOOD FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATIONS CAN BE CONDUCTED HERE.

"THIS WILL INEVITABLY ATTRACT MORE INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATIONS TO THE TERRITORY," THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS IDEALLY PLACED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL CHARACTER, AND THE PRESENCE HERE OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE WHICH HAD BEEN OPERATING SINCE 1985.

HE SAID THE CENTRE PROVIDED FACILITIES FOR ARBITRATIONS AND MAINTAINED A PANEL OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED ARBITRATORS, BOTH FROM HONG KONG AND ABROAD.

THE CENTRE WAS ALSO FAMILIAR WITH THE MODEL LAW, THE RULES OF WHICH IT HAD ALREADY BEEN USING FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATIONS FOR SOME TIME.

MR MATHEWS SAID TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF THE CENTRE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACTED ON A LAW REFORM COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION BY PROVIDING A GRANT OF \$19.1 MILLION TO THE CENTRE.

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HE EMPHASISED THAT THE GRANT DID NOT CARRY WITH IT ANY GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE OPERATION OF THE CENTRE WHICH WAS, AND WOULD REMAIN, FULLY INDEPENDENT.

"IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S HOPE THAT WITH THE CENTRE'S VIABILITY ASSURED, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE MODEL LAW AS THE PROCEDURAL BENCHMARK FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATIONS, HONG KONG WILL FULLY REALISE ITS POTENTIAL AS THE LEADING CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION IN THE FAR EAST," MR MATHEWS SAID.

HE SAID THE MODEL LAW REPRESENTED A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF ARBITRATION AS A FORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION THAT WAS BASED ON PRIVATE CONTRACT RATHER THAN PUBLIC AUTHORITY, AND WHICH WAS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE COURTS, THOUGH STILL SUBJECT TO LIMITED JUDICIAL SUPERVISION.

GOING FURTHER TO EXPLAIN THE ATTRACTIONS OF ARBITRATION AS A PROCEDURE FOR SETTling DISPUTES, MR MATHEWS SAID THERE WERE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ARBITRATION AND LITIGATION.

"IN BOTH, THE DECISION-MAKER MUST BE IMPARTIAL; TREAT THE PARTIES EQUALLY; AND HEAR THEIR RESPECTIVE CASES AND THE DECISION MADE IS BINDING ON THE PARTIES.

"THE DIFFERENCE IS, THAT ARBITRATION IS ESSENTIALLY A PRIVATE MATTER BASED ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES," HE SAID.

HE SAID ARBITRATION COULD CLEARLY OFFER ADVANTAGES OVER LITIGATION - THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE AN EXPERT AS DECISION-MAKER; THE DEGREE OF INFORMALITY AND FLEXIBILITY IN TERMS OF PROCEDURE; THE REDUCTION IN TIME AND EXPENSE CONSEQUENT UPON FLEXIBILITY AND EXPERTISE AND, FINALLY, PRIVACY OR CONFIDENTIALITY.

NOTING THAT NOT ALL OF THESE FEATURES WOULD ALWAYS BE PRESENT, HE SAID THE ULTIMATE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARBITRATION AND LITIGATION WAS THAT ARBITRATION PROVIDED A GREATER ELEMENT OF CHOICE AND THE FLEXIBILITY THAT WENT WITH IT.

"NOTWITHSTANDING THE ADVANTAGES OF ARBITRATIONS, HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM TO FOLLOW THAT THE MORE LEGALISTIC, ADVERSARIAL AND COURT-LIKE THEY BECOME, THE LESS LIKELY THEY WILL BE SEEN AS ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO LITIGATION FOR SETTling DISPUTES. THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN SOME OTHER JURISDICTIONS," MR MATHEWS SAID.

IT WAS A PROBLEM THAT THE UNITED NATIONS MODEL LAW SOUGHT TO AVOID, HE SAID.

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY 1990, AT \$85,689 MILLION, DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1989, ACCORDING TO THE DETAILED FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF TRADE IN JANUARY 1990 RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 4 PER CENT TO \$16,637 MILLION IN JANUARY 1990, WHILE RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 7 PER CENT TO \$27,960 MILLION, THUS BRINGING TOTAL EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1990 TO \$44,598 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 3 PER CENT OVER JANUARY 1989.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS DECREASED BY 5 PER CENT TO \$41,092 MILLION.

COMPARING JANUARY 1990 WITH JANUARY 1989, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS DECREASED, PARTICULARLY THOSE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM (-21 PER CENT) AND CHINA (-14 PER CENT). THOSE TO CANADA, JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECLINED BY 9 PER CENT, 7 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, A SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TAIWAN, BY 53 PER CENT. DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO FRANCE AND THE USA ALSO INCREASED, BY 3 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SINGAPORE, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM, TAIWAN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECREASED BY 21 PER CENT, 19 PER CENT, 18 PER CENT, 18 PER CENT, 13 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE USA AND CHINA INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT AND 7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CANADA, THE USA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS IN JANUARY 1990 OVER JANUARY 1989, BY 44 PER CENT, 39 PER CENT, 34 PER CENT, 29 PER CENT, 17 PER CENT AND 9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA DECREASED BY 23 PER CENT.

CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE TRADE FIGURES FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH. IN PARTICULAR, THE TRADE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR ARE USUALLY AFFECTED BY THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1990 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1989, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT TO \$223,480 MILLION, WHILE RE-EXPORTS, AT \$348,112 MILLION, WERE UP BY 23 PER CENT.

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TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 14 PER CENT. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT TO \$560,739 MILLION. TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, AS A WHOLE, INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT.

ALL TRADE STATISTICS PRESENTED 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 PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY 1990 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY APRIL.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING JANUARY 1990 WITH JANUARY 1989, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE RECORDED IN MOST MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE MORE NOTABLE ONES WERE CLOTHING (BY \$481 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT); TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$87 MILLION OR 60 PER CENT); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$64 MILLION OR 4 PER CENT); AND TEXTILES (BY \$34 MILLION OR 3 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$299 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$259 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT).

TABLE 2 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JANUARY 1990 WITH JANUARY 1989, MORE NOTABLE INCREASES IN IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$562 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (BY \$290 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$224 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT) AND TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$186 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT).

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL (BY \$474 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY \$305 MILLION OR 6 PER CENT).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING JANUARY 1990 WITH JANUARY 1989, MORE NOTABLE INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$1,198 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$1,051 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (BY \$427 MILLION OR 80 PER CENT) AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (BY \$240 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT).

DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE FIBRES AND THEIR WASTES (BY \$278 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY \$50 MILLION OR 2 PER CENT).

TABLE 6 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

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

THE JANUARY 1990 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1990 WILL BE ON SALE AROUND MARCH 15, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$27 PER COPY.

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. NO.: 8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 8234915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
U.S.A.	5,277	5,184	+ 93	+ 2
CHINA	2,752	3,205	- 453	- 14
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,313	1,356	- 43	- 3
U.K.	957	1,208	- 251	- 21
JAPAN	897	966	- 68	- 7
CANADA	524	577	- 53	- 9
SINGAPORE	472	479	- 7	- 1
TAIWAN	443	289	+ 154	+ 53
NETHERLANDS	384	408	- 24	- 6
FRANCE	334	306	+ 28	+ 9

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,968	5,486	+ 481	+ 9
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,945	2,091	- 147	- 7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,501	1,438	+ 64	+ 4
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,225	1,191	+ 34	+ 3
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,140	1,439	- 299	- 21
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,054	1,313	- 259	- 20

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
CHINA	16,043	14,948	+ 1,095	+ 7
JAPAN	5,711	7,006	- 1,294	- 18
U.S.A.	3,551	3,164	+ 387	+ 12
TAIWAN	3,503	4,032	- 529	- 13

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,614	2,036	- 422	- 21
SINGAPORE	1,546	1,919	- 373	- 19
F.R. OF GERMANY	941	1,078	- 138	- 13
U.K.	887	1,076	- 189	- 18
ITALY	691	686	+ 5	+ 1
FRANCE	647	663	- 15	- 2

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,751	5,056	- 305	- 6
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	3,822	4,256	- 433	- 10
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3,756	3,194	+ 562	+ 18
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,912	2,961	- 50	- 2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	2,769	2,545	+ 224	+ 9
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,245	2,246	- 1	*

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

/TABLE 5

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
CHINA	6,889	8,969	- 2,080	- 23
U.S.A.	6,245	4,645	+ 1,600	+ 34
JAPAN	1,730	1,583	+ 148	+ 9
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,450	1,010	+ 441	+ 44
TAIWAN	1,311	1,333	- 22	- 2
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	995	1,008	- 13	- 1
SINGAPORE	925	906	+ 19	+ 2
U.K.	733	568	+ 165	+ 29
CANADA	533	384	+ 149	+ 39
AUSTRALIA	525	450	+ 75	+ 17

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3,869	2,671	+ 1,198	+ 45
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	3,477	2,426	+ 1,051	+ 43
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,948	2,998	- 50	- 2
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,570	2,706	- 136	- 5

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
SOUND RECORDING AND
REPRODUCING APPARATUS
AND EQUIPMENT

2,248

2,035

+ 213

+ 10

TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS
AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS

1,089

849

+ 240

+ 28

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HUMID AND MORE RAIN IN FEBRUARY

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FOLLOWING A WET AND HUMID JANUARY, FEBRUARY WAS EVEN WETTER AND MORE HUMID, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE MONTHLY MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 86 PER CENT AND THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 195.7 MILLIMETRES WERE RESPECTIVELY THE SIXTH AND THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR FEBRUARY.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL WAS MORE THAN FOUR AND A HALF TIMES THE NORMAL FEBRUARY FIGURE OF 41.9 MILLIMETRES.

THE ACCUMULATED RAINFALL FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS THIS YEAR AMOUNTED TO 243.2 MILLIMETRES, WHICH IS ABOUT THREE AND A HALF TIMES THE NORMAL AND THE FOURTH WETTEST FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE INTENSE COLD SURGE TOWARDS THE END OF JANUARY REACHED ITS CLIMAX EARLY ON FEBRUARY 1 WHEN TEMPERATURES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY PLUMMETED TO SEVEN DEGREES, THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH AND ALSO THE COLDEST SO FAR THIS WINTER.

TEMPERATURES WERE EVEN LOWER ELSEWHERE - DOWN TO FOUR OR FIVE DEGREES OVER THE NEW TERRITORIES AND NEAR FREEZING ON HIGH GROUND.

FRESH EASTERLIES REPLACED THE NORTHERLIES LATER ON FEBRUARY 1. THERE WERE SOME SUNNY PERIODS ON THE NEXT DAY AND TEMPERATURES STARTED TO CLIMB SLOWLY.

HOWEVER, A WEAK REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHERLIES ON FEBRUARY 3 BROUGHT THE TEMPERATURE DOWN AGAIN THE FOLLOWING DAY.

FROM FEBRUARY 5 TO 22, IT WAS MAINLY AN EASTERLY WEATHER REGIME APART FROM A BRIEF NORTHERLY INTERLUDE WHEN A WEAK COLD FRONT CROSSED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 11.

THE WEATHER FROM FEBRUARY 5 TO 15 WAS VARIABLE WITH PERIODS OF SUNSHINE AND OCCASIONAL LIGHT RAIN.

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UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF WARM AND MOIST AIR FROM THE PACIFIC, CONDITIONS WERE RATHER MISTY AT TIMES, PARTICULARLY OVER OFFSHORE AREAS WHERE FOG PATCHES WERE REPORTED ON THE MORNINGS OF FEBRUARY 9 TO 12.

ONE OF THE WARMEST DAYS IN THE MONTH OCCURRED ON FEBRUARY 14 WHEN A MAXIMUM OF 23.4 DEGREES WAS REACHED.

OUTBREAKS OF RAIN ASSOCIATED WITH UPPER ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES ADDED AN EXTRA DIMENSION TO THE WEATHER AND THE FIRST THUNDER OF THE SEASON WAS HEARD EARLY ON FEBRUARY 16. THE RAIN GOT EVEN HEAVIER THE NEXT DAY WITH MORE THUNDERSTORMS DEVELOPING.

THE EASING OF WINDS ON FEBRUARY 19 RESULTED IN A BREAK FROM THE OVERCAST AND RAINY CONDITIONS. PERIODS OF SUNSHINE PUSHED THE TEMPERATURE UP TO THE SAME FIGURE OF 23.4 DEGREES PREVIOUSLY REACHED ON FEBRUARY 14.

THE FRESHENING OF THE EASTERLIES EARLY ON FEBRUARY 20 BROUGHT THE RAIN BACK. RAIN AND THUNDERY SHOWERS PERSISTED OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

SQUALLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE THUNDERSTORMS WERE PARTICULARLY SEVERE ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 22.

IN ADDITION TO THE RATHER UNSETTLED CONDITIONS, THERE WAS ALSO POOR VISIBILITY DURING THE QUIETER PERIODS. FOG HOVERED OVER THE OFFSHORE WATERS ON FEBRUARY 19 AND DURING THIS PERIOD A HYDROFOIL WENT AGROUND AT DEEP BAY.

INSHORE AREAS WERE ALSO AFFECTED BY DENSE FOG ON FEBRUARY 22. AIR TRAFFIC WAS DISRUPTED AND THREE HIGH-SPEED FERRY SERVICES WERE SUSPENDED.

AN INTENSE COLD SURGE BROUGHT AN END TO THE EASTERLY REGIME ON FEBRUARY 23. THE PASSAGE OF THE ASSOCIATED COLD FRONT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOME THUNDERSTORMS THAT AFTERNOON.

THE WEATHER OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WAS GLOOMY AND COLD WITH PERSISTENT RAIN. TEMPERATURES DROPPED TO BELOW 10 DEGREES ON THE MORNINGS OF FEBRUARY 25 AND 26.

EARLY ON FEBRUARY 27, EASTERLIES STRENGTHENED FOR A WHILE BUT SOON GAVE WAY TO A NORTHERLY REPLENISHMENT LATER THAT EVENING.

ALTHOUGH OVERCAST AND COLD WEATHER CONTINUED FOR ANOTHER DAY, THE RAIN BEGAN TO EASE OFF BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE MONTH.

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, NO TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. A TOTAL OF 21 AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, AND 24. THE ONLY FIRE DANGER WARNING ISSUED WAS A YELLOW WARNING ON FEBRUARY 4.

/SIGNALS HOISTED

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SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM -----	SIGNAL -----	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING -----		DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING -----	
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	JANUARY 31	6.20 PM	FEBRUARY 1	8.45 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 9	7.05 AM	FEBRUARY 9	10.15 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 16	11 PM	FEBRUARY 17	3 PM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 20	4.40 AM	FEBRUARY 20	10.15 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 27	5 AM	FEBRUARY 28	5 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	56.4 HOURS	;	52.3 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	7.47 MJ/SQUARE METRE	;	3.62 MJ/SQUARE METRE BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	195.7 MM	;	153.8 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	85 PER CENT	;	14 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	86 PER CENT	;	8 PER CENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	18.2 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	16.2 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	14.5 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	0.8 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	13.8 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	2.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	44.1 MM	;	37.8 MM BELOW NORMAL

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QE FOUNDATION INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

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THE COUNCIL OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUNDATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED TODAY (SUNDAY) INVITED APPLICATIONS FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR GRANTS TO FINANCE ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO PROJECTS AIMED AT ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

THE GUIDE TO APPLICATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUNDATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, REHABILITATION DIVISION, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT OF THE FOUNDATION BY APRIL 17.

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65 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN DECEMBER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE APPROVED A TOTAL OF 65 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN DECEMBER.

OF THE PLANS, 26 WERE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 29 FOR KOWLOON AND 10 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 23 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS; 19 FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT; AND SEVEN FOR FACTORY, INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 42 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 181,570.8 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 434,805 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$1,765 MILLION. THE USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 149,748.3 SQUARE METRES AND 196,656.3 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 42 OCCUPATION PERMITS, 19 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 10 FOR KOWLOON AND 13 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, THE OFFICE ISSUED 41 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 100 BUILDINGS.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 498 COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 626 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 209 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDING SECTION INSPECTED 336 BUILDINGS. NO EMERGENCY CLOSURES WERE REQUIRED.

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TWO OZP'S REFERRED BACK FOR AMENDMENTS

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TWO OUTLINE ZONING PLANS HAVE BEEN REFERRED BACK TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR AMENDMENTS.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS REFERRED THE DRAFT STANLEY OUTLINE ZONING PLAN BACK TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO INCORPORATE THE PLANNING PROPOSALS OF THE STANLEY PLANNING STUDY (STAGE II) CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID THE STANLEY PLANNING STUDY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR AND AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PLAN WILL BE MADE AFTERWARDS.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS ALSO REFERRED THE ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU OUTLINE ZONING PLAN BACK TO THE BOARD FOR AMENDMENTS TO KEEP ABREAST OF CHANGES IN THE PLANNING PROPOSALS FOR THE ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU AREA.

THESE WILL INCLUDE A PROPOSED PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME ESTATE AT SHUM WAN ROAD.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ANY FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE TWO PLANS WOULD BE EXHIBITED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND OBJECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE.

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POLICE ENHANCED FIREARMS TRAINING PROGRAMME TO BEGIN SOON

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WITH YEARS OF PLANNING NEARING COMPLETION THE FIRST PHASE OF THE POLICE FORCE'S ENHANCED FIREARMS TRAINING PROGRAMME IS DUE TO BEGIN WITH THE OPENING IN APRIL OF A NEW INDOOR SHOOTING RANGE AT THE NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT TAI PO.

THE PROGRAMME WILL EVENTUALLY INCLUDE ALL OF THE FORCE'S LAND REGIONS AND WILL ENABLE FIREARMS TRAINING TO USE IMPROVED FACILITIES UNDER THE TUITION OF A TRAINING CADRE THAT HAS EXPANDED BY AROUND 100 PER CENT DURING RECENT YEARS.

"THIS IS NOT A DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS HAPPENED DRAMATICALLY OVER NIGHT," THE SENIOR STAFF INSPECTOR (WEAPONS TRAINING) AT THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL, MR PATRICK CHAN, SAID: "IT IS THE REALISATION OF LONG TERM PLANNING.

"THE PROVISION OF THE NEW RANGES WILL ALLOW INCREASED TIME TO BE SPENT AT THE RANGES WITHOUT ADDING TO THE TIME SPENT IN TRAINING.

"THERE WILL BE LESS TIME WASTED IN TRAVELLING TO RANGES AND TIME IN TRAINING WILL BE ENHANCED BY BETTER TRAINING METHODS."

/THE DEVELOPMENT

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIREARMS TRAINING PROGRAMMES HAS CENTRED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS -- THE NEW REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT TAI PO, THE COMING EAST AND WEST KOWLOON REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND THE SOON TO BE COMPLETED POLICE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN ARSENAL STREET, WAN CHAI.

ALL THE NEW RANGES WILL BE INDOORS, THEREBY CUTTING DOWN ON TIME WASTED THROUGH BAD WEATHER. THE COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT WILL ALSO ALLOW MORE TIME TO BE SPENT ON THEORETICAL WORK DURING TRAINING. TRAVELLING TIME WILL BE REDUCED.

THE NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS WILL HAVE AN INDOOR CONVENTIONAL RANGE AND MINI-RANGES WHICH WILL ALLOW REALISTIC SHOOTING SCENARIOS TO BE ENACTED BASED ON ACTUAL INCIDENTS IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS.

OUTDOOR RANGES AT SMUGGLERS' RIDGE AND MOUNT BUTLER WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED.

THE RANGE AT MOUNT BUTLER HAS BEEN IMPROVED WITH A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, A PARTITIONED AREA FOR BRIEFING AND A VENTILATION SYSTEM.

"THE CONVENTIONAL RANGES WILL ALLOW MORE COMFORTABLE CONDITIONS WITH IMPROVED TRAINING METHODS BEING USED BY BETTER QUALIFIED STAFF," MR CHAN SAID.

"ON THE MINI-RANGES TRAINEES WILL RESPOND TO REAL LIFE SITUATIONS IN DECIDING WHETHER TO DRAW THEIR REVOLVERS AND WHEN TO USE THEM."

TRAINEES AT POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM IMPROVEMENTS BEING INTRODUCED THERE IN WEAPONS TRAINING THROUGH MINI-RANGES AND A VIDEO TRAINING SIMULATOR DUE TO BE COMPLETED SOON.

"TEN YEARS AGO WE HAD NO PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED WEAPONS TRAINING INSTRUCTORS IN THE FORCE AND THERE WAS NO CO-ORDINATED TRAINING PROGRAMME," MR CHAN ADDED.

"WE NOW HAVE A SPECIALLY TRAINED CADRE OF INSTRUCTING USING STANDARDISED PROCEDURES FORCE-WIDE AS A RESULT OF THE FORCE MAKING WEAPONS TRAINING A PRIORITY ISSUE."

TWO NEWLY CREATED CHIEF INSPECTOR POSTS WILL ALLOW FOR THE FORCE-WIDE SUPERVISION OF REVOLVER TRAINING COURSES AND THE PRODUCTION OF VIDEO SCENARIOS FOR USE ON MINI-RANGES. THREE INSPECTORS OR SENIOR INSPECTORS WILL ACT AS FIREARMS INSTRUCTORS' SUPERVISORS, ASSISTED BY TWO STATION SERGEANTS AND 29 ADDITIONAL SERGEANT INSTRUCTORS.

"THIS IS ABOUT A HUNDRED PER CENT EXPANSION IN OUR PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT," MR CHAN SAID.

/ALL OFFICERS

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ALL OFFICERS OF SUPERINTENDENT GRADE AND BELOW ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND RANGE COURSES THREE TIMES A YEAR TO MAINTAIN STANDARDS AND UPDATE THEIR SKILLS.

THOSE WHO FAIL TO QUALIFY MUST ATTEND EXTRA TRAINING.

"THESE EXCITING NEW FACILITIES HAVE BEEN IN THE PLANNING STAGES FOR A LONG TIME," MR CHAN SAID. "THEY HAVE BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF NEW BUILDING PROJECTS THAT ARE NOW COMING INTO OPERATION."

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NUMBERS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES DOWN IN FEBRUARY

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A TOTAL OF 1,535 CASUALTIES WAS REPORTED IN 1,128 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY LAST MONTH (FEBRUARY).

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT 263 OF THESE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 615 IN KOWLOON AND 250 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY SHOWED THAT 10 PERSONS WERE KILLED, 317 PEOPLE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND 1,208 SLIGHTLY INJURED IN THESE ACCIDENTS.

THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES REPRESENTED A DECREASE OF 11.9 PER CENT AND 1.73 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

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GOVT CONTINUES TO DEVELOP TSEUNG KWAN O

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE FULL COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN, THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE "LOVELY HOMES IN TSEUNG KWAN O" VARIETY SHOW HELD AT THE TSUI LAM AMPHITHEATRE, MR TONG SAID AN INDOOR GAMES HALL AT TSUI LAM ESTATE, A SCHOOL AT KING LAM ESTATE AND A CLINIC IN YAU YUE WAN WOULD BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR.

"IN ADDITION, THE TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN OCTOBER, AND RESIDENTS AND VILLAGERS OF TSEUNG KWAN O, HANG HAU AND CLEAR WATER BAY WILL BY THEN BE ABLE TO TRAVEL BY BUS TO THE EASTERN PART OF KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

/REFERRING TO

- 17 -

REFERRING TO THE MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE AREA, MR TONG SAID WORK ON THE FIRST STAGE OF THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AT TAI CHEK SHA WOULD START LATER THIS YEAR.

HE ANTICIPATED THAT TSEUNG KWAN O WOULD BECOME MORE PROSPEROUS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

MR TONG ALSO PRAISED THE TSEUNG KWAN O AREA COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS SET UP LAST JULY, FOR HAVING FULLY REFLECTED THE VIEWS AND NEEDS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS TO THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND MAKING CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS IN TURNING TSEUNG KWAN O INTO "LOVELY HOMES" FOR MANY FAMILIES.

"WITH THE SUGGESTION OF THE AREA COMMITTEE, A MINI-ROUNDAABOUT WAS INSTALLED LAST YEAR AT THE JUNCTION OF PO LAM ROAD AND SAU MAU PING ROAD FOR BETTER TRAFFIC FLOW IN MA YAU TONG.

"ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE PROVISION OF A BUS STOP FOR ROUTE 95K OUTSIDE SHUN LEE CINEMA THIS SUMMER TO MAKE IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR TSEUNG KWAN O RESIDENTS TO VISIT SHUN LEE ESTATE."

THE AREA COMMITTEE ALSO MADE MANY VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS IN IMPROVING THE DESIGN OF SAFETY MEASURES ON THE ROOF OF THE TSUI LAM SHOPPING MALL AND IN SOLVING PROBLEMS IN RELATION TO LAW AND ORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS AND ILLEGAL HAWKING IN THE NEW TOWN, MR TONG ADDED.

THE "LOVELY HOMES IN TSEUNG KWAN O" VARIETY SHOW WAS ORGANISED BY THE TSEUNG KWAN O AREA COMMITTEE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AND DISTRICT BOARD TO CULTIVATE RESIDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE AREA AND TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SERVICES IN THE NEW TOWN.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE SHOW WERE THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN; ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS LISA CHAN; SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER (SAI KUNG) OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR YUEN HON-KEUNG; AND THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER OF THE KWUN TONG POLICE STATION, MR LAW WAI-SHING.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES, AN INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL, SINGING, DANCES, A MAGIC SHOW AND AN EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY SCHOOLS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONSIDER SEVEN APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR ORGANISING OUTINGS AND SEMINARS FOR THE DISTRICT'S ELDERLY AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT ITS MEETING ON TUESDAY (MARCH 13).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXAMINE THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMMITTEE AND OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 10 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 13) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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BOOK EXHIBITION IN KOWLOON CITY

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A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION ON BOOKS AND STATIONERY WILL BE HELD AT THE YWCA ANNE BLACK CENTRE, 5 MAN FUK ROAD, WATERLOO ROAD HILL, KOWLOON CITY, BEGINNING ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17).

ADMISSION IS FREE.

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' LIAISON COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, TO INTRODUCE VARIOUS READING MATERIALS TO STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY WILL ALSO BE ON SALE AT A 10 TO 15 PER CENT DISCOUNT.

IT WILL BE OPEN FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAY AND FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS.

GROUP VISITS BY SCHOOLS CAN BE ARRANGED BY TELEPHONING 7110171 EXT. 36.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION ON FESTIVE LIGHTING

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO VISIT A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTING NEXT WEEK.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (MONDAY) AND LAST UNTIL SATURDAY AT THE FONG SHUE CHUEN EXHIBITION HALL, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, POK FU LAM, OPENING FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM DAILY.

IT WILL FEATURE 26 WINNING ENTRIES IN A TERRITORY-WIDE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ON FESTIVE LIGHTING, HELD BETWEEN LATE DECEMBER AND EARLY FEBRUARY.

THE COMPETITION WAS DIVIDED INTO OPEN AND STUDENTS SECTIONS AND HAD ATTRACTED MORE THAN 150 ENTRIES.

BOTH THE COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION HAVE BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE MID-LEVELS (WESTERN) AREA COMMITTEE AND THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND STEREO LTD.

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ANTI-DRUG CAMP HELD FOR STUDENTS

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MORE THAN 200 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI DISTRICT TOOK PART IN AN ANTI-DRUG CAMP AT WU KAI SHA OVER THE WEEKEND.

THE TWO-DAY CAMP WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC), THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS (DISTRICT 303).

SPONSORSHIP WAS PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED GAMES, DRAMAS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS LED BY FORMER DRUG ADDICTS TO INCREASE THE CAMPERS' KNOWLEDGE OF THE DANGER OF SOFT DRUGS, AND TO REINFORCE THEIR DETERMINATION TO REFUSE THEM.

A FURTHER 300 STUDENTS JOINED IN THE FUN TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR DAVID WEEKS, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WONG HON-HO, OFFICIATED AT THE CAMP'S CLOSING CEREMONY.

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ANOTHER CHANCE TO APPLY FOR PRIMARY 1 PLACE

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PARENTS WILL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE OF CHOOSING A GOVERNMENT OR AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED A PRIMARY 1 DISCRETIONARY PLACE, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THESE CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOCATED SCHOOLS, THROUGH THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION SYSTEM, WHICH WILL BE AS NEAR TO THEIR HOMES AS POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO THESE PARENTS BY THE PRIMARY 1 ADMISSION UNIT REQUESTING THEM TO GO TO SPECIFIED DISTRIBUTION-COLLECTION CENTRES TO COLLECT A "CHOICE OF SCHOOLS" FORM AND A LIST OF ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT FROM MARCH 17 (SATURDAY) TO MARCH 20 (TUESDAY) BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM.

ALL THE CENTRES WILL REMAIN OPEN ON SUNDAY, MARCH 18.

"COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SAME CENTRE WITHIN THE SAME TIME PERIOD," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE REMINDED PARENTS THAT THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE PRIMARY 1 ADMISSION UNIT ON TEL. NO. 5724383 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LETTER BY MARCH 17.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION SYSTEM IS SOLELY BASED ON PARENTS' CHOICES WITH NO REFERENCE TO THE POINTS SYSTEM.

WHEN A SCHOOL IS OVERSUBSCRIBED - FOR EXAMPLE IN A DISTRICT WHICH DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT PLACES - A RANDOMISATION METHOD WILL BE USED TO ENSURE FAIRNESS TO ALL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PARENTS WHO HAVE MOVED RECENTLY OR ARE PLANNING TO MOVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE MUST INFORM THE PRIMARY 1 ADMISSION UNIT SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO ALLOCATE A PLACE FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN THEIR NEW HOME DISTRICT.

HE ADDED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF PLACES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JUNE.

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YOUNG MUSICIANS PERFORM AT GALA

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THE MUSIC OFFICE PRESENTED A CONCERT BY MORE THAN 500 YOUNG MUSICIANS AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE ANNUAL GALA IS ONE OF THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE TO PROVIDE ITS TRAINEES WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS, DR HELMUT SOHMEN, AND MRS SOHMEN OFFICIATED AT THE GALA AND PRESENTED AWARDS TO THE OFFICE'S OUTSTANDING TRAINEES, ORCHESTRAL, CHOIR AND BAND MEMBERS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

ADDRESSING A CAPACITY AUDIENCE, DR SOHMEN SAID: "I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY TO WITNESS THE EXCELLENT PROGRESS MADE BY THE STUDENTS OF THE MUSIC OFFICE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT THE MUSIC OFFICE CONDUCTS OVER 700 CLASSES IN BOTH WESTERN AND CHINESE INSTRUMENTS AS WELL AS AURAL, THEORY AND CHORAL TRAINING FOR MORE THAN 4,000 TRAINEES EACH YEAR.

"THESE TRAINING PROGRAMMES HAVE HAD AND ARE CONTINUING TO HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE HONG KONG MUSIC SCENE. THEY NOT ONLY HELP CREATE A GENERATION OF KEEN YOUNG MUSICIANS, BUT ALSO NURTURE A VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AUDIENCE FOR THE FUTURE."

REFERRING TO MUSIC AS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE, DR SOHMEN SAID PEOPLE COMMUNICATED WITH EACH OTHER THROUGH MUSIC DESPITE DIFFERENCES IN COLOUR, RACE OR RELIGION.

"I CONGRATULATE THOSE OF YOU HERE WHO HAVE ACQUIRED THE BASICS OF THIS UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE AND HOPE YOU WILL USE IT FREELY TO EXPRESS YOURSELVES," HE SAID.

AS A MUSIC BELIEVER HIMSELF, DR SOHMAN ADVISED THE TRAINEES TO BE INQUISITIVE AND KEEP THEIR MINDS AND EARS OPEN TO THE VERY WIDE RANGE OF MUSIC OTHER PEOPLE MADE AND PLAYED.

"LIKE MOST ARTS, THE FORMS OF MUSIC KNOW NO BOUNDS. IT IS UP TO YOU TO EXPLORE AND EVENTUALLY CREATE YOUR OWN MUSIC," HE ADDED.

EARLIER, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MRS AGNES ALLCOCK, SAID THE CONCERT PROVIDED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE THE PROGRESS THEY HAD MADE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

SHE ALSO GAVE A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE TEACHERS AND PARENTS FOR THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT.

PIECES PRESENTED TODAY INCLUDED A NUMBER OF FAMOUS CHINESE AND WESTERN COMPOSITIONS AND FOLK SONGS. THE AUDIENCE WAS ALSO INVITED TO SING A SONG, "I'D LIKE TO TEACH THE WORLD TO SING", WITH THE PERFORMERS AT THE END OF THE CONCERT.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MRS SHELLEY LAU, ALSO ATTENDED THE GALA.