



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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AIRBORNE MERCHANDISE TRADE VALUE IN 1979 UP 41 PER CENT
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AIRBORNE MERCHANDISE TRADE IN 1979 WAS VALUED AT \$36 691 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 41 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1978.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY AIR INCREASED BY 36 PER CENT TO \$13 608 MILLION AND REPRESENTED 24 PER CENT IN VALUE OF TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

AIRBORNE IMPORTS AT \$17 007 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$6 076 MILLION SHOWED INCREASES OF 44 PER CENT AND 45 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND 30 PER CENT OF TOTAL RE-EXPORTS WERE DESPATCHED BY AIR DURING THE YEAR.

SUMMARY TRADE STATISTICS ON AIRBORNE MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR 1979 WERE RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS HONG KONG'S AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY VALUE TO SIX MAJOR MARKETS.

	<u>1979</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>1978</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u> <u>CHANGE</u>
USA	5 631	4 439	+ 1 192	+ 27
WEST GERMANY	1 609	1 170	+ 439	+ 38
JAPAN	1 039	721	+ 318	+ 44
UK	975	652	+ 323	+ 50
CANADA	398	282	+ 116	+ 41
SWITZERLAND	397	298	+ 99	+ 33

BY COMMODITY, INCREASES IN AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE MAINLY IN WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1 397 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT), CLOTHING (BY \$705 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT), THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES- PHOTO-CELLS AND TRANSISTORS (BY \$343 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT), BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$254 MILLION OR 97 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES (BY \$117 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT), AND JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (BY \$110 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT).

FURTHER BREAKDOWN OF COMMODITY BY COUNTRY REVEALED SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS TO WEST GERMANY (BY \$241 MILLION OR 128 PER CENT), USA (BY \$216 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT), AND UK (BY \$118 MILLION OR 49 PER CENT)- AND IN EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO USA (BY \$174 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT), JAPAN (BY \$144 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT), AND WEST GERMANY (BY \$113 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT).

/AIRBORNE IMPORTS

AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM SIX MAJOR SUPPLIERS WERE SHOWN BELOW:

	1979 (HK\$ MN.)	1978 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
JAPAN	3 586	2 644	+ 941	+ 36
USA	3 386	2 031	+ 1 355	+ 67
SWITZERLAND	1 881	1 442	+ 439	+ 30
UK	998	558	+ 440	+ 79
ISRAEL	900	961	- 61	- 6
SINGAPORE	838	519	+ 319	+ 61

DEMAND FOR AIRBORNE IMPORTS CONTINUED ON AN UPWARD TREND, PARTICULARLY FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (INCREASED BY \$1 020 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT), THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTO-CELLS AND TRANSISTORS (BY \$933 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT), PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (BY \$496 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT) AS WELL AS ORGANIC AND INORGANIC COMPOUNDS OF PRECIOUS METALS (BY \$184 MILLION OR 172 PER CENT).

HIGHER VALUES WERE RECORDED OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS FLOWN INTO HONG KONG FROM JAPAN (INCREASED BY \$372 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT), SWITZERLAND (BY \$282 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT), AND USA (BY \$39 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT). INCREASES WERE ALSO REGISTERED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTO-CELLS AND TRANSISTORS FROM JAPAN (BY \$227 MILLION OR 60 PER CENT), USA (BY \$225 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT), AND SINGAPORE (BY \$122 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT). ALMOST HALF OF THE PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES FLOWN INTO HONG KONG WERE FROM ISRAEL.

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS SHOWED REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE IN THE YEAR WITH SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES REGISTERED IN PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (BY \$419 OR 45 PER CENT), THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTO-CELLS AND TRANSISTORS (BY \$376 MILLION OR 78 PER CENT), INTERNAL COMBUSTION PISTON ENGINES AND PARTS (BY \$71 MILLION OR 75 PER CENT), AND CLOTHING (BY \$46 MILLION OR 60 PER CENT).

JAPAN REMAINED THE LARGEST MARKET FOR OUR AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS WHICH, HOWEVER, SHOWED A DECLINE (BY \$88 MILLION OR 7 PER CENT) OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO USA (BY \$375 MILLION OR 83 PER CENT), SWITZERLAND (BY \$157 MILLION OR 158 PER CENT), THAILAND (BY \$98 MILLION OR 86 PER CENT), AND WEST GERMANY (BY \$89 MILLION OR 95 PER CENT).

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STANLEY BATHHOUSE TO GET FIRST
SOLAR ENERGY WATER HEATING SYSTEM
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS LAUNCHING A PILOT SCHEME TO USE SOLAR ENERGY TO HEAT WATER.

THE FIRST SOLAR ENERGY WATER HEATING SYSTEM WILL SHORTLY BE INSTALLED IN AN EXISTING PUBLIC BATHHOUSE AT STANLEY MARKET ROAD IN STANLEY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR PWD'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE SAID THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD SUPPLEMENT THE EXISTING HOT WATER SUPPLY PROVIDED BY AN OIL-FIRED BOILER IN WINTER MONTHS.

+THE WORK WILL INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF 'SOLAR COLLECTORS', HOT WATER STORAGE TANK, PIPING, CONTROL VALVES, MEASURING INSTRUMENTS AND PUMPS,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS EXPECTED THAT INSTALLATION WORK WILL BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER.+

ON COMPLETION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, HOT WATER WOULD BE PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

HE ESTIMATED THAT THE PAY-BACK PERIOD FOR THE SYSTEM, CAPABLE OF MEETING ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE HOT WATER DEMAND IN WINTER, WOULD BE ABOUT 15 YEARS BASED ON THE RATE OF THE RECENT FUEL PRICE INCREASE.

THE +SOLAR COLLECTORS+ IN THE FORM OF FLAT PLATE MEASURE ABOUT 60 SQUARE METRES. THEY WILL BE INSTALLED ON THE ROOF AND THE SOUTH EXTERNAL WALL OF THE BATHHOUSE AND TILTED TO AN ANGLE OF 40 DEGREES SO THAT MAXIMUM SOLAR ENERGY CAN BE RECEIVED IN WINTER MONTHS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +PERFORMANCE OF THE SYSTEM WILL BE CONSTANTLY MONITORED AND FINDINGS WILL BE USED AS GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS IN HONG KONG.+

IT WAS IN 1977 WHEN THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FIRST ASKED PWD TO CARRY OUT A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM FOR SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHHOUSES.

IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF EXPERTISE AND SHORTAGE OF STAFF SPECIALISED IN THIS FIELD, PROFESSOR BRUGES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WAS ENGAGED AS CONSULTANT.

HIS REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF STANLEY BATHHOUSE WAS COMPLETED IN 1978.

AFTER GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE FINDINGS AND PROPOSALS IN THE REPORT, THE URBAN COUNCIL DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT AS RECOMMENDED BY PWD.

+THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND INSTALLATION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY PWD'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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EDUCATION CHIEF TOURS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR KENNETH TOPLEY, IN HIS ROUTINE INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS THIS (MONDAY) MORNING CALLED AT THE HENNESSY ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL TO CHAT WITH PARENTS QUEUING FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION FORMS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

MR TOPLEY WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE PRINCIPAL, MR FUNG KAM-PANG. HIS VISIT COINCIDED WITH THE START OF THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD FOR PARENTS SEEKING ADMISSION OF THEIR CHILDREN TO GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.

HE SAW THE CONTINUOUS FLOW OF PARENTS, MAINLY HOUSEWIVES CALLING AT THE SCHOOL TO COLLECT APPLICATION FORMS AND WAS INFORMED BY MR FUNG THAT IN THE FIRST HOUR OVER 400 FORMS WERE ISSUED.

DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 3 TO 17, APPLICATION FORMS FOR PRIMARY 1 TO 6 WILL BE FREELY DISTRIBUTED AT THE VARIOUS SCHOOLS ON THE PRODUCTION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES OR OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS. CHILDREN NEED NOT ACCOMPANY THEIR PARENTS.

INTERVIEWS FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY 1 WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 18. SELECTION OF PRIMARY 2 TO 6 APPLICANTS WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 21.

MR TOPLEY, ACCOMPANIED BY MR FUNG, LATER TOURED THE SCHOOL BUILDING AND WATCHED SEVERAL CLASSES IN SESSION.

THE HENNESSY ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1949. IT WAS REBUILT IN 1963 AND IS PRESENTLY A BI-SESSIONAL SCHOOL. THE AM SESSION HAS OVER 1 000 PUPILS WHILE THE PM SESSION HAS ABOUT 900.

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SNT OPENS TEMPORARY BLOOD DONOR CENTRE AT TSUEN WAN

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES APPEALED TODAY (MONDAY) TO ALL THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO +GIVE THEIR BLOOD TO SAVE THE LIVES OF OTHERS.+

MR AKERS-JONES WAS OPENING THE FIRST HONG KONG RED CROSS TEMPORARY DONOR CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CENTRE, A FIBRE-GLASS STRUCTURE OF 400 SQUARE FEET, IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF KWU HANG ROAD AND YEUNG UK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID THE CENTRE REPRESENTED A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLOOD COLLECTION SERVICE IN HONG KONG BY DECENTRALISING AND THUS MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF TSUEN WAN AND IN THE WEST OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TO HAVE EASY ACCESS TO A BLOOD COLLECTION CENTRE.

/HE DESCRIBED

HE DESCRIBED IT AS +YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE NEED TO DEVELOP IN THE TOWNS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES A RANGE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE TO JOIN IN SERVICE TO THEIR FELLOW MEN.

+I AM SURE THAT THE RESPONSE FROM THE PEOPLE OF TSUEN WAN WILL DEMONSTRATE THE WAY IN WHICH FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE BLOOD COLLECTION SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE.+

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY MR AKERS-JONES WAS INVITED BY SIR RUN RUN SHAW, PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG RED CROSS, TO PERFORM A RIBBON CUTTING. MR AKERS-JONES LATER DONATED THE FIRST UNIT OF BLOOD TO THE CENTRE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

CONTRACT SIGNING FOR KCR'S ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AWARD A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF AN OVERHEAD LINE WHICH WILL PROVIDE ELECTRIC POWER TO TRAINS UNDER THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

THE CONTRACT WILL BE SIGNED AT THE PWD HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AT 10 AM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY.

OFFICERS OF THE PWD PUBLICITY UNIT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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TEMPORARY WATER CHARGES COLLECTION CENTRES IN NORTHERN DISTRICT
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THE DISTRICT OFFICE, NORTH, HAS SET UP TWO TEMPORARY COLLECTION CENTRES IN FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI FOR PAYMENT BY LOCAL RESIDENTS OF WATER CHARGES FOR THE NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY PERIOD.

THE TWO CENTRES ARE AT THE FANLING RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE IN LUEN WO HUI AND THE SHEUNG SHUI PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE IN SHEK WU HUI.

THE FANLING CENTRE OPENED TODAY (MONDAY) AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS TOMORROW WHILE THE SHEUNG SHUI CENTRE WILL OPERATE ON MARCH 5, 6 AND 7.

COLLECTION HOURS IN BOTH CENTRES WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM.

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DIVISIONAL OFFICE OF FACTORY INSPECTORATE
TO MOVE THREE FLOORS UP

THE KOWLOON-9 DIVISIONAL OFFICE OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE WILL MOVE FROM THE SECOND FLOOR TO THE FIFTH FLOOR OF SHAM SHUI PO POST OFFICE BUILDING AT UN CHAU STREET TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE NEW OFFICE'S TELEPHONES ARE 3-787033 FOR DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR, 3-861191 FOR FACTORY INSPECTORS AND ASSISTANT FACTORY INSPECTORS AND 3-787970 FOR THE GENERAL OFFICE.

THE KOWLOON-10 AND KOWLOON-11 DIVISIONAL OFFICES REMAIN ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SHAM SHUI PO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

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WATER CUT IN SHA TIN

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF AREAS IN SHA TIN WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR 11 HOURS FROM 8 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 6) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAIN WORKS.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE FO TAN, HO TUNG LAU, LOK LO HA, SHA TIN RACE COURSE, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

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