



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR OPENS 'RARE BIRDS OF CHINA' EXHIBITION  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON TODAY (MONDAY) OPENED A PAINTING EXHIBITION OF RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF BIRDS IN CHINA.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF 'RARE BIRDS OF CHINA' COLLECTION BY THE HONG KONG-BORN ARTIST, MR J. FENWICK LANSDOWNE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE COLLECTION WOULD SHOW MANY, WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAD KNOWN ABOUT IT, SOMETHING OF CHINA'S RICH NATURAL HERITAGE.

"IT SHOULD HELP TO ENCOURAGE PRESERVATION OF THIS SPLENDID HERITAGE," HE SAID.

THE COLLECTION WHICH CONSISTS OF 32 ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDIES OF THREATENED SPECIES, WAS COMMISSIONED BY MR DAVID NEWBIGGING, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF JARDINE MATHESON, AND HIS NEW YORK FRIEND MR JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN IN 1984 WITH THE AIM OF PRODUCING A LIMITED EDITION OF FINE PRINTS.

SIR DAVID SAID MR NEWBIGGING'S APPRECIATION OF BIRD LIFE BENEFITTED FROM HIS LONG AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH HONG KONG.

"HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF JARDINE MATHESON WHEN THE COMPANY COMMISSIONED A SERIES OF EIGHT SPLENDID PAINTINGS OF BIRDS OF HONG KONG, PUBLISHED IN 1982 AS A LIMITED EDITION OF PRINTS - A FORERUNNER OF THE PRESENT COLLECTION AND BY THE SAME ARTIST.

"HE HAS CERTAINLY MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO ORNITHOLOGY BY COMMISSIONING 32 WORKS OF ART, MANY ON DISPLAY HERE TODAY, FOR PUBLICATION AS THE 'RARE BIRDS OF CHINA'," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION DEMONSTRATED THE ARTIST'S REMARKABLE ABILITY TO CAPTURE THE MINUTEST DETAIL AND TO GIVE A FEELING OF LIFE TO THE BIRDS HE PAINTED.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT MR LANSDOWNE DEDICATED TREMENDOUS EFFORT TO EVERY ASPECT OF HIS WORK, INCLUDING THE BACKGROUND VEGETATION ON WHICH HE TOOK GREAT PAINS - TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT HE HAD ASKED THE MOUNTAINEER CHRIS BONINGTON TO HELP BY PROVIDING DETAILED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HABITAT OF THE HIMALAYAN SPECIES IN THE COLLECTION.

SIR DAVID PAID TRIBUTE TO HONG KONG LAND AND TO THE ASIA SOCIETY WHO HAD HELPED BRING THE EXHIBITS TO HONG KONG.

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COMING YEAR EVENTFUL FOR EXTERNAL TRADE: STI

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR. T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE COMING YEAR SHOULD BE AN EVENTFUL ONE FOR HONG KONG, WITH A SERIES OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS WHICH COULD HAVE PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE TAKING SHAPE.

SPEAKING ON "OUTLOOK FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE" AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR CHAU SAID THESE EVENTS INCLUDE THE CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND, THE FORMATION OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET, THE FURTHER OPENING-UP OF EASTERN EUROPE, DEVELOPMENTS IN US/CHINA TRADE RELATION, AS WELL AS THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE ASIA PACIFIC AREA.

MR CHAU SAID THE STATE OF TRADE RELATION BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES HAS RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF PRESS ATTENTION RECENTLY.

"TRADE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA ARE BOUND TO AFFECT HONG KONG," HE SAID.

CHINA AND THE US TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR ALMOST HALF OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE IN 1990, AND 69 PER CENT OF CHINESE GOODS DESTINED FOR THE US MARKET ARE RE-EXPORTED THROUGH THE TERRITORY, MR CHAU SAID.

HE SAID THE SPECIAL 301 ACTION AGAINST CHINA IS ESSENTIALLY A BILATERAL DISPUTE BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA.

"WE HAVE ON MANY PREVIOUS OCCASIONS EXPRESSED TO THE US AUTHORITIES OUR CONCERN THAT ANY RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST CHINA MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMY," HE SAID.

"REPEATEDLY, WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE US AUTHORITIES THAT, IN THE EVENT THAT RETALIATORY ACTION BECOMES UNAVOIDABLE, THEY WOULD TAKE OUR CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT.

"WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCE AND THAT RETALIATORY ACTION WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY," HE ADDED.

ON THE MOST-FAVoured-NATION STATUS FOR CHINA WHICH MAY AFFECT TRADE ACROSS THE BOARD, MR CHAU SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS MONITORING WITH GREAT CARE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, AND SHALL BE INTENSIFYING LOBBYING EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON.

ON THE URUGUAY ROUND OF TALKS ON THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT), MR CHAU SAID A RENEWED EFFORT IS NOW BEING MADE TO CONCLUDE THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ROUND IN EARLY THIS YEAR.

THE PROGRAMME IN THE GATT TO PHASE OUT THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE EXISTING MULTIFIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA), AND TO RETURN TRADE IN TEXTILES TO NON-DISCRIMINATORY GATT RULES OVER THE NEXT DECADE OR SO, IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG, MR CHAU SAID.

/"BALANCED RESULTS .....

"BALANCED RESULTS ARE NECESSARY. I AM HOPEFUL THAT THIS WILL BE ATTAINABLE," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE CREATION OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, MR CHAU SAID ONE AREA OF GREAT INTEREST TO HONG KONG IS THE POSSIBLE ABOLITION OF INTERNAL BARRIERS IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PRESENT REGIME WILL BE REPLACED BY COMMUNITY-WIDE QUOTAS AFTER THIS YEAR, BUT IT STILL REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WOULD PHASE OUT REGIONAL QUOTAS ON TEXTILE IMPORT.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THEIR MOVE TOWARDS THE MARKET ECONOMY, COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY SAID.

"WITH A POPULATION OF SOME 400 MILLION PEOPLE, THIS REGION IS A MARKET WITH TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL," HE SAID.

MR CHAU CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT TRADING WITH THESE COUNTRIES WILL NOT BE PLAIN SAILING AT THE OUTSET.

"IN GENERAL, ALTHOUGH THE OVERALL SITUATION IS FAVOURABLE, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN CERTAIN OF THE COUNTRIES ARE STILL VOLATILE, AND IT CALLS FOR CAUTION FOR PRUDENCE IN DOING BUSINESS WITH THIS REGION," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONS, MR CHAU SAID THE REGION IS LIKELY TO BECOME AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER FOR HONG KONG.

"WITH INCREASED POLITICAL STABILITY, THE YOUNGER ECONOMIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC WILL GROW EVEN MORE RAPIDLY.

"AS THE INTERMEDIARY FOR A NUMBER OF ECONOMIES IN THE REGION, HONG KONG STANDS READY TO GAIN IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SERVICES TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH GROWTH," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG AND CHINA TRADE RELATIONS, MR CHAU SAID THE SCOPE AND MAGNITUDE FOR ECONOMIC AND TRADE LINKS BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG COULD ONLY INTENSIFY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

"BESIDES BEING A POWERFUL CATALYST FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEARL DELTA REGION, HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO DO WELL IN ITS EXISTING ROLE AS THE PRINCIPAL GATEWAY TO CHINA, AS WELL AS CHINA'S WINDOW TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD," HE SAID.

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MAJOR EVENT TO PROMOTE HK IN LONDON

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HONG KONG IS TO STAGE A MAJOR PROMOTIONAL EVENT IN LONDON LATER THIS MONTH TO DRIVE HOME TO AN INFLUENTIAL AUDIENCE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TERRITORY AS A BUSINESS CENTRE, AS WELL AS ITS MULTI-FACETED CULTURAL LIFE.

THE TWO-DAY PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE A BUSINESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 22, AND TWO CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN THE EVENINGS OF JANUARY 22 AND 23.

THE BUSINESS CONFERENCE, ORGANISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, WILL BE HELD AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II CONFERENCE CENTRE, AND WILL HAVE AS ITS OVERALL THEME "HONG KONG: BRITAIN'S BRIDGE TO ASIA".

CHAired BY EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER MR ALLEN LEE, THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE LORD YOUNG, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF CABLE AND WIRELESS, AS ITS KEYNOTE SPEAKER.

OTHER SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR STEPHEN CHEONG; DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE OF ASIAN STUDIES AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, PROFESSOR EDWARD CHEN; MANAGING DIRECTOR, CORPORATE FINANCE, SMITH NEW COURT (FAR EAST) LIMITED, MR RICHARD MARGOLIS; GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LAM SOON HONG KONG GROUP, DR RAYMOND CH'IEN; MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PENINSULAR KNITTERS LIMITED AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR HENRY TANG; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, DR VICTOR FUNG.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED WILL INCLUDE POST-1997 POLITICS, ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL, MANUFACTURING, AND SUPPLY CENTRE, BUSINESS LINKS WITH CHINA, AND HONG KONG'S ROLE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL GIVE THE CONCLUDING SPEECH AND HOST A LUNCH FOR THE 350 CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

THE CULTURAL EVENINGS, TO BE STAGED AT THE BARBICAN CENTRE, WILL COMPRISE AN AUDIO-VISUAL SHOW AND A LIVE FASHION, CULTURAL AND DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA TO BE PRESENTED BY STUDENTS OF THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THE SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

THE GUEST OF HONOUR FOR THE PERFORMANCE ON JANUARY 23 WILL BE HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES, WHILE GUESTS AT EACH EVENING WILL INCLUDE SOME 800 PROMINENT SOCIAL, FINANCIAL, AND POLITICAL PERSONALITIES FROM BOTH THE UK AND HONG KONG.

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS HAS GRANTED A DONATION OF \$400,000 TOWARDS THE COST OF THE CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, WHILE CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS WILL BE FLYING THE PERFORMERS TO AND FROM LONDON AT HALF PRICE.

THE LAST TIME HONG KONG STAGED A MAJOR PROMOTIONAL EVENT IN LONDON WAS IN 1981.

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ACP TRANSPORT-RELATED PROJECTS OUTLINED

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (MONDAY) GAVE A PRESENTATION ON TRANSPORT-RELATED PROJECTS OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS.

MR LEUNG WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN; THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR GORDON SIU; THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR CANICE MAK; AND PROJECT MANAGERS.

THE PARTY DESCRIBED THE SCOPE, TRANSPORT BENEFITS, PROGRAMME AND COST OF THE PROJECTS, WHICH INCLUDED THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, ROUTE 3, THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY, THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY, PROVIDING VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, WILL HAVE ADEQUATE CAPACITY TO CATER FOR INITIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON LANTAU INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED FOR THE PORT PENINSULA.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXPRESSWAY WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THREE SECTIONS UNDER THREE SEPARATE CONTRACTS, ALL TO BE COMPLETED BY MID-1996.

THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING WILL COMPRISE TWO CABLE-SUPPORTED BRIDGES, THE TSING MA AND KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGES, LINKED BY A VIADUCT ACROSS MA WAN ISLAND.

THE PROJECT IS GOVERNMENT-FUNDED BUT IT IS INTENDED THAT OPERATION OF THE BRIDGES WILL BE PRIVATISED PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT.

THE TSING YI AND KWAI CHUNG SECTIONS OF ROUTE 3, LINKING THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING TO THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY, ARE INCLUDED IN THE ACP.

APART FROM PROVIDING PARTS OF A DIRECT AND HIGH SPEED ROAD LINK TO THE NEW AIRPORT, THESE LINKS WILL ALSO HELP TO RELIEVE THE EXISTING TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE CONTAINER PORT IN KWAI CHUNG.

FORMING ANOTHER PART OF ROUTE 3, THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE CAPACITY TO ENABLE THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING TO REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL FOR RELIEVING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE EXISTING CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

IT WILL ALSO REDUCE TRAFFIC LEVELS SUBSTANTIALLY IN LOCAL STREETS IN WEST KOWLOON AND CATER FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE NEW RECLAMATION THERE.

CONSTRUCTION WILL START IN MID-1993 AND BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1996.

/THE WESTERN .....

THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, THE THIRD VEHICULAR HARBOUR CROSSING IN THE TERRITORY, WILL LINK THE PROPOSED WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AND THE EXISTING WESTERN RECLAMATION AT SAI YING PUN.

CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE POSSIBLE PRIVATISATION OF THE PROJECT.

THE AIRPORT RAILWAY COVERS A DISTANCE OF 32 KILOMETRES FROM THE NEW AIRPORT TO THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION.

THIS HIGH-SPEED LINK, THE AIRPORT EXPRESS, IS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT A HIGH LEVEL OF AIRPORT PASSENGERS.

TWO MAIN STATIONS ARE ALSO PLANNED FOR CENTRAL AND THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION WITH A THIRD SMALLER STATION IN TSING YI.

IN PARALLEL WITH THIS HIGH-SPEED LINK WILL BE A DOMESTIC SERVICE - THE LANTAU LINE - ON THE SAME ROUTE TO THE NEW AIRPORT SUPPORT COMMUNITY IN TUNG CHUNG.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING FOR AN AGREEMENT FOR THE CORPORATION TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE BOTH SERVICES OF THE RAILWAY. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED BY MID THIS YEAR.

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#### HK'S ANNUAL CONTAINER THROUGHPUT EXCEEDS SIX MILLION TEUS

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FOR THE FIRST TIME, HONG KONG'S ANNUAL CONTAINER THROUGHPUT HAS PASSED SIX MILLION TEUS (20-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS) AND THE ANNUAL TOTAL CARGO THROUGHPUT HAS TOPPED 100 MILLION TONNES, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

PROVISIONAL FIGURES RELEASED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SHOW THAT THE PORT OF HONG KONG HANDLED SOME 6.2 MILLION TEUS IN 1991 - AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 21 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 5.1 MILLION TEUS IN 1990.

MR MILLER SAID: "THESE ARE TWO SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES. THE CONTAINER THROUGHPUT FIGURES ARE MOST SATISFACTORY. THEY EXCEED THE FIVE-YEAR TREND GROWTH RATE OF 14 PER CENT USED IN PLANNING PROVISION OF CONTAINER TERMINALS, AND THEY REINFORCE HONG KONG'S POSITION AS ONE OF THE BUSIEST CONTAINER PORTS IN THE WORLD.

"THE GROWTH IN OVERALL CARGO THROUGHPUT IS ALSO VERY ENCOURAGING."

THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES SHOW THAT HONG KONG HANDLED OVER 104 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO IN 1991. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF SOME 17 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 89 MILLION TONNES IN 1990.

/THE FOLLOWING .....

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THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL CONTAINER THROUGHPUT FIGURES (TEUS) FOR 1991:

	1990	1991	INCREASE
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JANUARY	364,085	459,855	26.30%
FEBRUARY	299,063	386,385	29.20%
MARCH	402,591	443,682	10.21%
APRIL	395,518	473,759	19.78%
MAY	429,315	526,947	22.74%
JUNE	440,836	532,376	20.77%
JULY	482,852	562,401	16.47%
AUGUST	471,166	589,237	25.06%
SEPTEMBER	460,526	566,022	22.91%
OCTOBER	442,565	558,950	26.30%
NOVEMBER	432,644	526,818	21.77%
DECEMBER	479,476	580,166 (E)	21.00%(E)
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TOTAL:	5,100,637	6,206,598 (E)	21.68%(E)
	(TEUS)	(TEUS)	

NOTE: (E) = ESTIMATE

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL CARGO THROUGHPUT FIGURES (TONNES) FOR 1991:

	1990	1991	INCREASE
	----	----	-----
JANUARY	6,477,830	7,361,567	13.64%
FEBRUARY	5,749,267	6,025,830	4.81%
MARCH	7,533,410	7,935,620	5.34%
APRIL	6,748,920	8,327,612	23.39%
MAY	7,635,199	8,992,565	17.78%
JUNE	7,524,849	8,703,676	15.67%
JULY	8,383,030	10,215,212	21.86%
AUGUST	7,928,447	9,791,937	23.50%
SEPTEMBER	7,703,491	9,340,854	21.25%
OCTOBER	8,064,218	9,207,077	14.17%
NOVEMBER	7,460,068	9,265,478	24.20%
DECEMBER	7,796,743	9,122,189 (E)	17.00%(E)
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TOTAL:	89,005,472	104,289,617 (E)	17.17%(E)
	(TONNES)	(TONNES)	

NOTE: (E) = ESTIMATE

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR OCTOBER 1991 RELEASED  
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER 1991, ESTIMATED AT \$11,686.4 MILLION, INCREASED BY 19.9% WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

IN TERMS OF VOLUME, THE INCREASE WAS 13.5%.

ANALYSED BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS INCREASED BY 32.5% IN VALUE AND 25.2% IN VOLUME IN OCTOBER 1991 COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990.

WITHIN THIS GROUP, SALES OF DEALERS IN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WENT UP BY 54.5% IN VALUE AND 41.3% IN VOLUME, WHILE SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR OTHER CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS ROSE BY 17.7% IN VALUE AND 14.7% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 26.0% IN VALUE AND 17.0% IN VOLUME. THE FASTER INCREASE IN VOLUME THAN VALUE WAS DUE TO A FALL IN PRICES FOR THESE ITEMS.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR JEWELLERY, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND VALUABLE GIFT WENT UP BY 22.0% IN VALUE AND 27.8% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF SUPERMARKETS ROSE BY 19.1% IN VALUE AND 7.9% IN VOLUME. SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 12.7% IN VALUE AND 4.9% IN VOLUME. SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS (OTHER THAN SUPERMARKETS) FOR FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO WENT UP BY 1.5% IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 9.1% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR FUELS DROPPED BY 2.1% IN VALUE AND 3.0% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF RETAIL OUTLETS FOR OTHER CONSUMER GOODS NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED WENT UP BY 35.1% IN VALUE AND 25.5% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 16.5% IN VALUE AND 9.4% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH SEPTEMBER 1991, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER 1991 DECREASED BY 1.4% IN VALUE AND 2.7% IN VOLUME.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES ARE DERIVED FROM FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER HAVING ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES.

THE INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES USED FOR THE PURPOSE ARE THE RESPECTIVE COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE BROAD CATEGORY OF GOODS IN QUESTION.

/THE REPORT .....

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THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE OCTOBER 1991 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1.5 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 802 1258).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR SEPTEMBER 1991 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR OCTOBER 1991.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1991 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF OCTOBER 1991 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR SEPTEMBER 1991 AND WITH THOSE FOR OCTOBER 1990, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO OCTOBER OF 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

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/TABLE 1 : .....

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for October 1991 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$11,686.4 million  
for September 1991 (Revised Figure) = HK\$11,849.6 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR SEPTEMBER 1991 AND OCTOBER 1991

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	September 1991	October 1991	October 1991 compared with September 1991		October 1991 compared with October 1990		Jan.-Oct. 1991 compared with Jan.-Oct. 1990	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
<b>(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS</b>									
	Value	126.2	124.4	-1.7	-1.4	+20.6	+19.9	+16.6	+16.5
	Volume	116.5	113.3	-3.1	-2.7	+13.5	+13.5	+9.3	+9.4
<b>(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET:</b>									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	118.1	122.7	+4.6	+3.9	+1.9	+1.5	+12.0	+12.0
	Volume	102.2	107.8	+5.6	+5.5	-10.8	-9.1	+1.3	+1.3
Supermarkets	Value	123.8	115.3	-8.5	-6.9	+18.5	+19.1	+13.6	+13.3
	Volume	107.9	99.4	-8.5	-7.8	+7.3	+7.9	+2.5	+2.5
Fuels	Value	127.3	132.6	+5.3	+4.2	-2.9	-2.1	+18.3	+17.5
	Volume	104.3	108.4	+4.0	+3.9	-3.3	-3.0	+2.1	+2.1
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	112.5	123.2	+10.7	+9.5	+25.4	+26.0	+21.1	+21.4
	Volume	103.6	110.6	+7.0	+6.8	+16.0	+17.0	+13.1	+13.4
Consumer durable goods*	Value	144.1	137.1	-7.1	-4.9	+33.6	+32.5	+20.8	+20.2
	Volume	133.5	126.4	-7.1	-5.3	+25.5	+25.2	+13.9	+13.6
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	156.4	152.6	-3.8	-2.5	+53.8	+54.5	+18.6	+18.0
	Volume	138.3	134.6	-3.8	-2.7	+39.3	+41.3	+7.6	+7.5
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	135.2	125.8	-9.4	-7.0	+18.9	+17.7	+22.4	+21.8
	Volume	130.0	120.5	-9.5	-7.3	+15.4	+14.7	+18.3	+18.0
Department stores	Value	110.1	116.5	+6.4	+5.8	+13.1	+12.7	+11.2	+11.3
	Volume	101.4	104.4	+3.0	+2.9	+4.9	+4.9	+4.6	+4.6
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gift	Value	135.8	118.3	-17.6	-12.9	+21.4	+22.0	+15.1	+15.2
	Volume	140.2	120.5	-19.6	-14.0	+26.2	+27.8	+15.0	+15.2
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	128.6	129.6	+1.0	+0.8	+33.7	+35.1	+20.8	+20.6
	Volume	118.0	117.2	-0.8	-0.7	+23.8	+25.5	+14.4	+14.4

NOTE : \* This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

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POSTAL LABEL DESIGN TO BE CHANGED IN MARCH

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE LABEL PAPER AND MACHINE DIE PLATE IMPRESSION OF THE ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABEL (FRAMA LABEL) VENDING MACHINES AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE WILL BE CHANGED FROM THE RAM DESIGN TO THE MONKEY DESIGN ON MARCH 12.

NO OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CHANGE.

HOWEVER, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, AN ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE FOR PRE-PACKAGED SETS OF FRAMA LABELS BEARING MACHINE CODES "01" AND "02" WILL BE AVAILABLE AS FOLLOWS:

- \* FROM 10 CENTS TO \$2.30;
- \* FROM \$2.40 TO \$5; AND
- \* THE MOST COMMON POSTAGE RATES OF 10 CENTS, 80 CENTS, 90 CENTS, \$1.70, \$1.80, \$2.30 AND \$5.

ADVANCE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ANY POST OFFICE IN THE TERRITORY DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 13 TO 25.

CUSTOMERS MAY COLLECT THE LABELS ON MARCH 12 FROM THE POST OFFICE WHERE THEY PLACED THEIR ORDER.

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT ALL POST OFFICES ON THAT DAY FOR PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING THE "FIRST DAY" INDICATION.

CUSTOMERS ARE REMINDED THAT ONLY A LIMITED QUANTITY OF PRE-PACKAGED FRAMA LABELS BEARING THE MOST COMMON POSTAGE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON MARCH 12 AT SEVEN PHILATELIC OFFICES ONLY.

THEY ARE URGED TO MAKE USE OF THE ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF FRAMA LABELS ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR PART II MLT REGISTRATION EXAM

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THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT PERSONS WHO WISH TO BE REGISTERED AS A PART II MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS (MLT) BUT WHO DO NOT HOLD QUALIFICATIONS REGISTRABLE WITH THE BOARD MAY APPLY TO SIT FOR THE PART II REGISTRATION EXAMINATION TO BE HELD IN EARLY SUMMER THIS YEAR.

IN ORDER TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PROCESSING THESE APPLICATIONS, APPLICANTS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION FORMS BEFORE FEBRUARY 15.

/A PRE-REQUISITE .....

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A PRE-REQUISITE FOR ADMISSION TO THIS EXAMINATION IS THAT THE APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED A COURSE RELATED TO MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE RECOGNISED BY THE BOARD.

INDIVIDUAL LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

- \* THOSE WHO SAT FOR THE PART II REGISTRATION EXAMINATION ON JUNE 1 LAST YEAR BUT FAILED IN IT.
- \* THOSE WHO ARE REGISTERED IN PART III OF THE REGISTER.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO FAILED IN THE PART III EXAMINATION FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION HELD ON OCTOBER 31 LAST YEAR ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO SIT FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

APPLICATION FORMS AND THE "GUIDE TO APPLICANT" CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE BOARD SECRETARIAT IN PERSON OR BY WRITTEN REQUEST. THE ADDRESS OF THE BOARD SECRETARIAT IS AS FOLLOWS:

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD  
SIXTH FLOOR, SUNNING PLAZA,  
10 HYSAN AVENUE,  
CAUSEWAY BAY,  
HONG KONG.

THE ENQUIRY TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE 890 0843 AND 890 0514.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE  
\* \* \* \* \*

STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 30.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 178.565 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 177.353 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 30.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

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NEW MINIBUS SERVICE IN YAU MA TEI  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES TODAY (MONDAY) THAT A NEW GREEN MINIBUS SERVICE ROUTE NO. 57M SERVING BETWEEN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND JORDAN MTR STATION (NANKING STREET) WILL COMMENCE OPERATION TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE FARE IS \$1.50 PER SINGLE JOURNEY. THE SERVICE WILL RUN FROM 7.30 AM TO 9.30 PM AT FIVE-MINUTE INTERVALS.

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

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	4.1.92	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	6.1.92	+89
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-89
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 109.6 \*-0.2\* 6.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.89 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.10	5.12
1 MONTH	4.41 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.25 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.25 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.42 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,238 MN

CLOSED 6 JANUARY 1992

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