



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK PERFORMS IMPORTANT ROLE IN CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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HONG KONG IS PERFORMING A VERY IMPORTANT INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR CHAU WAS SPEAKING IN BEIJING AT A CONFERENCE ON "TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND INLAND AND NORTHERN CHINA" ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG AND THE ALL-CHINA FEDERATION OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

MR CHAU SAID HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN HAD BECOME THE BEST JOINT-VENTURE PARTNERS OF FOREIGN INVESTORS IN CHINA AS THE TERRITORY WAS RECOGNISED AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA.

THIS WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT HONG KONG IS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO CHINA, AND THAT MORE THAN 98 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION ARE OF CHINESE ORIGIN WHO CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND PEOPLE IN CHINA.

ALSO, HONG KONG'S CAPITALIST FREE TRADE SYSTEM HAS ENABLED IT TO BECOME A SOURCE OF THE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS AND SERVICES SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"SINCE THE LATE 80S, HONG KONG HAS BEEN CHINA'S LARGEST SOURCE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THE TERRITORY IS A CATALYST TO CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," MR CHAU SAID.

"CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES STARTED IN SOUTH CHINA AND LATER INVESTMENTS GRADUALLY MOVED UP TO THE NORTHERN PART OF CHINA. IN RECENT YEARS, HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN HAVE MADE INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORT AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, THE COMPLETION OF WHICH WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REMOTER PARTS OF CHINA.

"TO OVERSEAS INVESTORS AND TRADERS, HONG KONG IS LIKE AN ENCYCLOPEDIA ON CHINA. IT HELPS TO SETTLE CONTRACT DISPUTES AND RECONCILE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN ASPECTS RELATING TO TRADE TRANSACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS.

"THE ROLE PLAYED BY HONG KONG DOES NOT END THERE AS THE TERRITORY IS ALSO THE MAJOR ENTREPOT FOR CHINA'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AND THIS ROLE HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY CHINA'S DIRECT AND CLOSE TRADE RELATIONS WITH OTHER PLACES.

"AT PRESENT, HONG KONG TAKES UP ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF CHINA'S TOTAL TRADE VOLUME AND ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE TERRITORY'S EXTERNAL TRADE INVOLVES CHINA."

HONG KONG STANDS TO BENEFIT IF CHINA'S ECONOMY PROSPERS AND ANYTHING WHICH HELPS HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAS A POSITIVE EFFECT ON CHINA TOO, MR CHAU SAID.

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"THEREFORE, A PRIME TASK FOR POLICY-MAKERS OF THE TWO PLACES IS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONCEPT OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS', TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S CAPITALIST FREE TRADE SYSTEM, AND TO RECOGNISE THAT HONG KONG IS A SEPARATE ECONOMIC ENTITY, WITH SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, THE ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK, THE ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND OTHER ECONOMIC AND TRADE ORGANISATIONS.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST TO MAINTAIN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF ITS PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, MANPOWER RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND VARIOUS SERVICES TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO PROSPER AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA AND THE ENTIRE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION."

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CATWALK CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON TSING MA BRIDGE SITE

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PANELS OF STEEL WIRE MESH ARE BEING HOISTED BETWEEN THE TWIN TOWERS OF TSING MA BRIDGE TO FORM TWO TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGES, OR CATWALKS, SPANNING THE MA WAN CHANNEL.

"THIS MARKS ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION," SAID MR K C YEUNG, PROJECT DIRECTOR OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

THE TSING MA BRIDGE IS PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME'S HIGHWAYS NETWORK WHICH WILL CONNECT THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN TO THE URBAN AREA IN KOWLOON AND CENTRAL HONG KONG.

MR YEUNG SAID THE TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGES WOULD BE USED AS WORKING PLATFORMS FOR AERIAL SPINNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN SUSPENSION CABLES AND OTHER CABLES.

"A TOTAL OF 76 PANELS OF STEEL WIRE MESH, EACH MEASURING 60 METRES BY 3.85 METRES, WILL BE SLID OUT ALONG THE WIRES WHICH HAVE BEEN HOISTED BETWEEN THE TWO TOWERS TO FORM THE FOOTBRIDGES.

"IN PREPARATION FOR THE FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION, 10 WIRES MEASURING FROM 16 MILLIMETRES (MM) TO 38 MM IN DIAMETER HAVE BEEN STRUNG ACROSS THE TWO BRIDGE TOWERS.

"THESE WIRES ARE BEING USED TO HAUL MATERIALS BETWEEN THE TOWERS AND TO SERVE AS FLOOR AND HAND STRANDS FOR BUILDING THE FOOTBRIDGES," MR YEUNG EXPLAINED.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOOTBRIDGES WILL BE COMPLETED LATER THIS MONTH, ENABLING THE SPINNING OF THE MAIN CABLES TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH.

"THERE WILL BE TWO MAIN CABLES, EACH MEASURING 1.1 METRES IN DIAMETER, BUILT UP WIRE BY WIRE BY A SPINNING PROCESS.

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"EACH MAIN CABLE WILL BE FORMED BY 33,500 INDIVIDUAL WIRES, EACH MEASURING 5.38 MM IN DIAMETER AND WITH A TOTAL LENGTH OF 175,000 KILOMETRES, ENOUGH TO CIRCLE THE EARTH ABOUT 4.5 TIMES," MR YEUNG SAID.

THE TSING MA BRIDGE, WHICH IS ON SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION IN 1997, WILL HAVE A MAIN SPAN OF 1,377 METRES MAKING IT THE LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN THE WORLD CARRYING BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC.

THE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WAS AWARDED TO ANGLO-JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION JOINT VENTURE IN MAY 1992 AT A PRICE OF \$7.1 BILLION.

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SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS FROM CHINA

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) DREW ATTENTION TO A NUMBER OF REMEDIAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES THAT WOULD HELP IMMIGRANT STUDENTS FROM CHINA OVERCOME LEARNING AND ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE SERVICES WERE ALSO AVAILABLE TO LOCAL STUDENTS, BUT SHOULD HELP IMMIGRANT STUDENTS INTEGRATE INTO THE LOCAL EDUCATION SYSTEM.

HE NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE INCREASE OF THE DAILY QUOTA FOR IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA, A LARGE NUMBER OF SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN WOULD ENTER HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SYSTEM EACH YEAR.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS SHOULD GET TO KNOW THESE IMMIGRANT STUDENTS QUICKLY. LIKE LOCAL STUDENTS, THEY HAVE DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCE, INTEREST AND APTITUDES.

"PARENTS CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT ARE IMPORTANT, AND SHOULD BE ENLISTED FROM THE OUTSET. THEY SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED ONLY WHEN THEIR CHILDREN ARE IN TROUBLE. HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INFORM PARENTS OF WHAT THE SCHOOLS ARE DOING OR TRYING TO DO FOR THEIR CHILDREN."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID STUDENTS WHO DID NOT SPEAK THE LOCAL DIALECT MAY EXPERIENCE ANXIETY AND FRUSTRATION AT NOT BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER STUDENTS OR PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID INITIALLY, HEADS OF SCHOOLS SHOULD MAKE USE OF THE SUPPORT SERVICES ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THEIR SCHOOLS TO HELP IMMIGRANT STUDENTS.

THE SUPPORT SERVICES ARE:

* SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES

STUDENT GUIDANCE TEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AND GUIDANCE TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROVIDE EDUCATION AND PERSONAL GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS. HEADS OF SCHOOLS MAY REFER NEWLY ADMITTED IMMIGRANT STUDENTS TO THEM FOR HELP.

* REMEDIAL TEACHING

AS MOST IMMIGRANT STUDENTS HAVE A LOWER STANDARD IN ENGLISH, HEADS OF SCHOOLS MAY ARRANGE FOR THEM TO RECEIVE REMEDIAL TEACHING IN THIS SUBJECT.

FOR STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE MORE SERIOUS LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND REQUIRE INTENSIVE REMEDIAL SUPPORT TO HELP THEM COPE WITH THE CURRICULUM, THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE:

* RESOURCE CLASSES

THESE CLASSES ARE OPERATED IN MANY PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE BACKWARD IN THE THREE BASIC SUBJECTS OF CHINESE, ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS. EACH CLASS ACCOMMODATES 15 PUPILS AND IS OPERATED ON WITHDRAWAL BASIS.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WHO WISH TO OPERATE SUCH CLASSES FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE INTENSIVE REMEDIAL SERVICES UNIT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

* PERIPATETIC TEACHING SERVICE

IN CASE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO OPERATE RESOURCE CLASSES, ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE FOR TEACHERS FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION TO VISIT SCHOOLS REGULARLY TO PROVIDE INTENSIVE REMEDIAL TEACHING IN SMALL GROUPS TO PRIMARY PUPILS.

EACH PUPIL ATTENDS TWO SESSIONS PER WEEK, WITH EACH SESSION COMPRISING THREE 40-MINUTE PERIODS, ONE FOR EACH OF THE THREE BASIC SUBJECTS.

* RESOURCE TEACHING CENTRES

THESE CENTRES CATER FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY CLASSES WHO ARE BACKWARD IN ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT BY AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

INTENSIVE REMEDIAL SUPPORT FOR THE THREE BASIC SUBJECTS IS PROVIDED IN SMALL GROUPS. STUDENTS ATTEND THE CENTRES EACH WEEK FOR TWO SESSIONS OF TWO HOURS EACH.

THERE ARE SIX RESOURCE TEACHING CENTRES FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS AND FOUR RESOURCE TEACHING CENTRES FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IMMIGRANT STUDENTS WHO HAD OTHER DIFFICULTIES IN LEARNING COULD ALSO SEEK HELP FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION IN ADJUSTMENT UNITS, PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, AUDIOLOGICAL SERVICES, SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES, AND SERVICES FOR PUPILS WITH VISUAL PROBLEMS.

ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS GET SPECIAL TRAINING

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THEY ARRANGED SOME 94,200 CONSULTATION MEETINGS AND ENQUIRIES IN 1993 FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS.

THEY HANDLED MORE THAN 18,000 LABOUR DISPUTES AND CLAIMS WITH SIGNIFICANT RESULTS, AND ORGANISED OR TOOK PART IN 900 LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE SAME YEAR.

THEY ARE THE 130 OFFICERS FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS DIVISION (LRD).

IMAGINE ALL THESE SERVICES WERE ACTUALLY PROVIDED BY THESE OFFICERS, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW HECTIC THEIR WORK HAD BEEN AND WILL BE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

YET THEY KEEP ON LOOKING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MEET THE CHANGING EXPECTATIONS AND DEMANDS OF THEIR CUSTOMERS - THE 2.8 MILLION WORKFORCE AND MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE EAGER TO KNOW MORE ABOUT EMPLOYMENT LAWS AND LABOUR RELATIONS INFORMATION.

AMONG THE OFFICERS PROVIDING CONCILIATION SERVICE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF WAGE CLAIMS AND LABOUR DISPUTES AND PROMOTING HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS, SOME 30 OF THEM ARE IN THE JUNIOR RANK OF ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS WHOSE CHANCES OF EXPOSURE MAY NOT BE TOO EXTENSIVE IN VIEW OF THEIR RELATIVELY SHORT SERVICE IN THE GRADE.

HOWEVER, JUNIOR OFFICERS WORKING IN THE LRD OR NEWCOMERS TO THE DIVISION WILL BE ABLE TO EQUIP THEMSELVES BETTER TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES UNDER A SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME.

WITH A THEME OF "A TOTAL APPROACH TO THE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT" OF ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS, THIS IN-SERVICE PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE JUNIOR OFFICERS WITH CONTINUOUS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN ALL RELEVANT ASPECTS OF WORK THROUGHOUT THEIR SERVING PERIOD IN THE LRD.

THE PROGRAMME COMPRISES SIX PARTS OF ACTIVITIES. ON TOP OF THE LIST IS THE PROVISION OF ON-GOING BRIEFING SESSIONS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS WHICH INCLUDE CONCILIATION SKILLS, TECHNIQUES IN ANSWERING ENQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, PROSECUTION PROCEDURES AND THE HANDLING OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS AND IMPORTED WORKERS.

OTHER TOPICS ARE RELATED TO THE LEGAL PROCEDURES OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, TRADE UNIONS IN HONG KONG, COMMON LAW PRINCIPLES, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE COMPANIES AND BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

IN ORDER TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EXPOSURE OF ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS, LABOUR OFFICERS IN THE LRD WILL ASK THEIR JUNIOR OFFICERS TO JOIN THEM IN PROMOTIONAL VISITS, TO SIT IN DURING MAJOR DISPUTES AND TO HANDLE SOME OF THE CASES INVOLVING IMPORTED WORKERS.

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LABOUR OFFICERS WILL ALSO SPEND SOME TIME EVERY WEEK TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR ASSISTANTS TOPICS TO HELP IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE.

TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF LABOUR RELATIONS IN THE TERRITORY, A COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE MANUAL AND A COMPUTERISED DATABASE OF LEGAL OPINIONS ON INTERPRETATION OF VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT NOTES ARE BEING COMPILED FOR ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS AS A HANDY INFORMATION BANK.

REGULAR BRIEFING SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT REGIONAL LEVEL SO THAT CONCILIATION OFFICERS CAN MAKE USE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THEIR CONCILIATION EXPERIENCE.

ALL ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS WHO ARE NEWLY POSTED TO THE LRD WILL BE BROUGHT UNDER A MENTOR SCHEME TO FACILITATE THEM TO APPROACH THEIR DESIGNATED MENTOR DIRECTLY FOR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE.

THIS MENTOR SCHEME WILL BE REINFORCED IN A WAY THAT THE MENTOR WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF NEW ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE WHENEVER NECESSARY.

ANOTHER SPECIAL FEATURE IN THIS TAILOR-MADE TRAINING PROGRAMME IS THE APPOINTMENT OF LABOUR OFFICERS OR ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS WITH MORE EXPERIENCE AS SUBJECT OFFICERS ON DIFFERENT TOPICS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL ENABLE THE JUNIOR OFFICERS TO CALL UP SUBJECT OFFICERS DIRECTLY WHEN THEY HAVE ANY RELATED PROBLEMS.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MR ALFRED CHAN SAID THE TRAINING PROGRAMME HAD A NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES.

"IT WILL BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF WORK FOR JUNIOR OFFICERS SERVING IN THE LABOUR RELATIONS FIELD AND WILL HELP THEM MAINTAIN A CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE," HE SAID.

"THROUGH TRAINING ACTIVITIES, SUPERVISORS CAN MAINTAIN A CLOSER BOND WITH THEIR SUBORDINATES AND PROVIDE THEM WITH BETTER GUIDANCE.

"ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS WILL WORK WITH GREATER CONFIDENCE AS THEY CAN SEEK IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE FROM SUBJECT OFFICERS WHEN THEY ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS."

MR CHAN SAID ALL RESPECTIVE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICERS IN LRD WERE REQUIRED TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THEIR ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS.

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FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME EXTENDS TO DAY CRECHES

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO SEND THEIR INFANTS TO AIDED DAY CRECHES MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

AT PRESENT, ONLY PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SUBVENTED NURSERIES CAN APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD).

"THE EXTENSION OF THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO FAMILIES WHICH USE DAY CRECHE SERVICE IS TO MEET AN INCREASE IN SUCH A DEMAND," AN SWD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PAST DECADE HAD WITNESSED MARKED SOCIAL CHANGES SUCH AS THE PREVALENCE OF NUCLEAR FAMILIES, AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WORKING MOTHERS AND THE GROWTH OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES.

"IN ADDITION, THERE IS GROWING PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT CHILDREN BEING LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE LED TO AN INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR THE DAY CRECHE SERVICE," HE SAID.

DAY CRECHES PROVIDE CARE AND CATER FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TWO.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID UNDER THE EXTENDED FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DIRECTLY HELP PARENTS PAY THE DAY CRECHE FEES ACCORDING TO A SLIDING SCALE, BASED ON THEIR NET INCOME, UP TO THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE FEE.

"TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR A PLACE IN A DAY CRECHE, A CHILD MUST BE UNDER TWO AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION.

"SUCH A CHILD CAN CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UP TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR EVEN AFTER HE/SHE HAS ATTAINED THE AGE OF TWO," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SHOULD ALSO MEET ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- * CHILDREN WHO CANNOT RECEIVE PROPER CARE AT HOME AS A RESULT OF ONE PARENT WORKING FULL-TIME AND THE OTHER WORKING 104 HOURS OR MORE IN A MONTH;
- * CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE CHRONICALLY ILL, DISABLED, OR IN LONG TERM HOSPITAL CARE;
- * CHILDREN OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES OR CHILDREN FROM BROKEN FAMILIES;
- * CHILDREN THEMSELVES HAVING A NEED FOR FULL DAY CARE;
- * CHILDREN CONSIDERED TO HAVE NEED FOR CARE BECAUSE OF SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS;

/* CHILDREN FROM

* CHILDREN FROM LARGE FAMILIES; OR

* CHILDREN REFERRED AND RECOMMENDED BY SOCIAL WORKERS.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE MADE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, BUT SHOULD PREFERABLY BE LODGED THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE DATE OF THE CHILD'S ADMISSION TO A DAY CRECHE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT STARTING THIS MONTH, STAFF FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS WOULD GO TO THE DAY CRECHES TO HELP THE PARENTS TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR FEE ASSISTANCE IN BATCHES.

PARENTS WHO HAVE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME CAN APPROACH THEIR RESPECTIVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS OR CONTACT THE CHILD CARE CENTRE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ON TEL 836 3114.

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DRAWING COMPETITION FOR PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE BEING INVITED TO A DRAWING COMPETITION ON THE FEATURES OF THE PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST WHICH WAS SET UP IN LATE 1992 AIMING AT PRESERVING AND PROMOTING HONG KONG'S HERITAGE.

THE DRAWING COMPETITION AIMS TO HELP PROMOTE VISITS TO THE TRAIL. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THROUGH THE PAINTING BRUSHES OF ARTISTS, THE UNIQUE AND ELEGANT FACETS OF THE HISTORICAL STRUCTURES ALONG THE TRAIL CAN BE CAPTURED.

THE PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG. IT WAS OPENED IN DECEMBER 1993 WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE TRAIL, LOCATED AT PING SHAN, YUEN LONG, IS ABOUT ONE KILOMETRE LONG. IT LINKS UP A NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE STRUCTURES WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE, PROVIDING VISITORS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECAPTURE ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE OLD DAYS IN A CONVENIENT HALF-DAY EXCURSION.

UNIQUE MONUMENTS ALONG THE TRAIL INCLUDE TSUI SHING LAU (HONG KONG'S ONLY HISTORIC PAGODA), TANG ANCESTRAL HALL (THE LARGEST ANCESTRAL HALL IN THE TERRITORY), SHEUNG CHEUNG WAI (A WALLED VILLAGE), KUN TING STUDY HALL (BUILT FOR STUDENTS PREPARING FOR THE IMPERIAL CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION), HUNG SHING TEMPLE AND YEUNG HAU TEMPLE TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL OTHER CHINESE BUILDINGS.

THE DRAWING COMPETITION IS A TERRITORY-WIDE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. A PARTICIPANT MAY SUBMIT ANY NUMBER OF ENTRIES BUT HE/SHE CAN ENTER ONLY ONE CATEGORY (PRIMARY, SECONDARY OR OPEN).

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ENTRIES CAN BE PRODUCED IN ANY MEDIUM YET THE DIMENSION OF AN ENTRY SHOULD NOT EXCEED ONE METRE.

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER WITH COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS TO THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE, 136 NATHAN ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON DURING AUGUST.

THE ENTRY FORM SHOULD BE PLACED IN AN ENVELOPE STUCK TO THE BACK OF THE ENTRY.

THE WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE SELECTED BY A PANEL COMPRISING THREE RENOWNED ARTISTS AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST. RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER 1994.

WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION WILL GET:

I) PRIMARY STUDENT GROUP

FIRST	STATIONERY COUPON OF \$3,000
SECOND	STATIONERY COUPON OF \$2,000
THIRD	STATIONERY COUPON OF \$1,000
MERIT (5)	STATIONERY COUPON OF \$500

II) SECONDARY STUDENT GROUP

FIRST	\$3,000
SECOND	\$2,000
THIRD	\$1,000
MERIT (5)	\$500

III) OPEN GROUP

FIRST	\$6,000
SECOND	\$4,000
THIRD	\$3,000
MERIT (5)	\$1,000

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE, DISTRICT OFFICES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 721 2326.