



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1989

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN OCTOBER 1989, AT \$101,613 MILLION, GREW BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1988, ACCORDING TO THE DETAILED FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF TRADE IN OCTOBER 1989 RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT TO \$20,849 MILLION IN OCTOBER 1989. HOWEVER, RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 20 PER CENT TO \$31,985 MILLION, THUS BRINGING TOTAL EXPORTS IN OCTOBER 1989 TO \$52,834 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 13 PER CENT OVER OCTOBER 1988.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT TO \$48,779 MILLION.

TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1989, AT \$940,543 MILLION, INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT TO \$184,776 MILLION, WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT TO \$286,773 MILLION.

THUS, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT TO \$471,549 MILLION. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT TO \$468,993 MILLION.

COMPARING OCTOBER 1989 WITH OCTOBER 1988, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TAIWAN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY BY 58 PER CENT. DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, CANADA, SINGAPORE, THE USA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ALSO INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS, BY 10 PER CENT, 8 PER CENT, 7 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE NETHERLANDS BY 19 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE, CHINA, TAIWAN, ITALY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED BY 32 PER CENT, 24 PER CENT, 12 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS IN OCTOBER 1989 OVER OCTOBER 1988. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, JAPAN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECREASED BY 23 PER CENT, 11 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

RE-EXPORTS TO THE USA, CANADA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS IN OCTOBER 1989 OVER OCTOBER 1988, BY 54 PER CENT, 47 PER CENT, 40 PER CENT, 26 PER CENT, 26 PER CENT AND 25 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA DECREASED BY 9 PER CENT.

/COMPARING JANUARY

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COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, THE MARKETS WITH SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED TAIWAN (+26 PER CENT), JAPAN (+18 PER CENT), CHINA (+18 PER CENT) AND SINGAPORE (+14 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA AND AUSTRALIA ALSO INCREASED, BY 9 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS.

HOWEVER, THOSE TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE NETHERLANDS DECREASED, ALL BY 4 PER CENT. DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE USA, THE LARGEST MARKET, INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT.

IMPORTS IN JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1989 FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS COMPARED WITH THOSE IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS FROM CHINA (+31 PER CENT), ITALY (+29 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+23 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+21 PER CENT) AND THE USA (+14 PER CENT). IMPORTS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND JAPAN ALSO INCREASED, BY 8 PER CENT, 7 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE USA, CANADA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS, BY 55 PER CENT, 51 PER CENT, 47 PER CENT, 44 PER CENT, 39 PER CENT AND 32 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED FOR VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, TAIWAN AND CHINA, BY 28 PER CENT, 20 PER CENT AND 17 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

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 OCTOBER 1989 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY JANUARY 1990.

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, NOTABLE INCREASES IN VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$4,356 MILLION OR 8 PER CENT); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,303 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT); TEXTILES (BY \$1,241 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT) AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$919 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$1,218 MILLION OR 5 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$682 MILLION OR 5 PER CENT).

TABLE 2 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

/THE CHANGES

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE MORE NOTABLE ONES WERE CLOTHING (BY \$10,960 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT); TEXTILES (BY \$9,521 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$7,789 MILLION OR 33 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$7,025 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$1,898 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT) AND ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$515 MILLION OR 6 PER CENT).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, NOTABLE INCREASES IN VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$12,122 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY \$10,978 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT); TEXTILES (BY \$7,828 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$7,131 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$1,084 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT) AND ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$208 MILLION OR 6 PER CENT).

TABLE 6 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS. THE OCTOBER 1989 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS SUMMARY" WILL BE ON SALE AROUND DECEMBER 15, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$9.50 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN OCTOBER 1989 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN END-DECEMBER AT \$17.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 5-8234915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	OCT 89 OVER OCT 88 (%)	JAN-OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 89 OVER JAN-OCT 88 (%)
USA	7,513	+ 6	59,574	+ 1
CHINA	4,002	+ 10	35,966	+ 18
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,191	+ 3	12,634	- 4
UK	1,203	- 19	12,015	- 4
JAPAN	1,259	+ 1	10,850	+ 18
CANADA	550	+ 8	5,311	+ 9
SINGAPORE	533	+ 7	4,799	+ 14
NETHERLANDS	351	- 13	3,830	- 4
TAIWAN	490	+ 58	3,553	+ 26
AUSTRALIA	378	*	3,481	+ 5

NOTE: * DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	OCT 89 OVER OCT 88 (%)	JAN-OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 89 OVER JAN-OCT 88 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,932	+ 11	58,224	+ 8
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	2,722	- 3	23,589	- 5

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PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,891	- 2	16,176	+ 5
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,638	+ 3	14,948	+ 4
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,496	+ 12	13,765	+ 10
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,445	- 14	13,429	- 5

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	OCT 89 OVER OCT 88 (%)	JAN-OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 89 OVER JAN-OCT 88 (%)
CHINA	18,356	+ 24	161,335	+ 31
JAPAN	7,664	- 11	78,903	+ 6
TAIWAN	4,417	+ 12	42,817	+ 21
USA	3,760	*	38,857	+ 14
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,827	- 23	21,671	+ 4
SINGAPORE	2,286	+ 32	18,528	+ 23
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,076	- 3	11,375	+ 8
UK	1,095	+ 5	10,896	+ 4
ITALY	846	+ 6	8,441	+ 29
SWITZERLAND	851	+ 3	7,902	+ 7

NOTE: * DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	OCT 89 OVER OCT 88 (%)	JAN-OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 89 OVER JAN-OCT 88 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5,811	+ 8	60,042	+ 19
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,966	+ 3	47,669	+ 13
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,647	+ 40	36,419	+ 43
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,583	+ 2	32,758	+ 27
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	3,869	+ 32	31,100	+ 33
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,790	+ 6	24,429	+ 12

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	OCT 89 OVER OCT 88 (%)	JAN-OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 89 OVER JAN-OCT 88 (%)
CHINA	8,328	- 9	86,675	+ 17
USA	7,849	+ 54	59,637	+ 51
JAPAN	2,208	+ 17	18,566	+ 32

/TAIWAN 1,412

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TAIWAN	1,412	+ 16	13,572	+ 20
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,124	+ 13	11,132	+ 14
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,204	+ 40	10,560	+ 55
SINGAPORE	991	+ 25	8,984	+ 28
UK	847	+ 26	7,462	+ 44
AUSTRALIA	568	+ 26	4,788	+ 39
CANADA	535	+ 47	4,481	+ 47

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	OCT 89 OVER OCT 88 (%)	JAN-OCT 1989 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 89 OVER JAN-OCT 88 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3,605	+ 16	35,332	+ 28
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,898	+ 59	35,240	+ 52
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3,736	+ 50	30,800	+ 55
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,940	+ 4	27,823	+ 21
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,791	+ 28	22,370	+ 47
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,220	+ 17	10,935	+ 31

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GOVERNOR VISITS ATV

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED ASIA TELEVISION LIMITED (ATV). THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE GOVERNOR HAD VISITED THE STATION SINCE ITS LICENCE WAS RENEWED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR WAS GREETED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, DR CHENG YU-TUNG; THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, MR LIM POR-YEN; AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ATV WHO BRIEFED HIM ON THE COMPANY'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

"I AM PLEASED TO SEE THE COMMITMENT THAT ATV IS DEMONSTRATING TOWARD THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN HONG KONG.

"THE COMPANY HAS CLEARLY BECOME A MORE COMPETITIVE FORCE OVER THE PAST YEAR IN TERMS OF ITS PROGRAMMING AND MARKETING.

"THE PUBLIC HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STANDARD AND VARIETY OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, SIR DAVID TOURED SEVERAL OPERATIONAL DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE NEWS AND PRODUCTION DEPARTMENTS TO GAIN A BETTER PICTURE OF THE WAY THE DEPARTMENTS OPERATED.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE EFFICIENCY AND DEDICATION OF THE STAFF AND BY ATV'S PLANS FOR NEW PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

AT THE NEWS CENTRE, THE GOVERNOR OBSERVED A LIVE NEWS BROADCAST IN CHINESE.

"LIVING IN A DYNAMIC, COSMOPOLITAN CITY WHICH IS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, HONG KONG PEOPLE RELY ON OUR NEWS REPORTERS FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE AND ACCURATE NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM AROUND THE WORLD. ATV PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN MEETING THESE NEEDS," SIR DAVID SAID.

IN THE STUDIOS, THE GOVERNOR WATCHED THE REHEARSAL OF A COSTUME DRAMA AND THE FILMING OF A TALK SHOW.

"THE 1990'S WILL BE CHALLENGING YEARS FOR THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF CABLE TV AND A SECOND COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION.

"WITH THEIR OBVIOUS COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BROADCASTING IN TERMS OF PROGRAMMING, STAFFING AND FACILITIES, THE TWO WIRELESS TV STATIONS SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER THE COMMUNITY HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMMES.

"I FEEL SURE THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE COMING DECADE," SIR DAVID SAID.

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CONSUMER COUNCIL CATERES TO CONSUMERS' WIDE-RANGING NEEDS

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CREATED INITIALLY TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY TO COUNTER PROFITEERING IN A PERIOD OF HIGH INFLATION, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAS EVOLVED INTO A MOST PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION, CATERING TO THE WIDE-RANGING NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S EVER MORE SOPHISTICATED CONSUMERS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S NEW OFFICE HEADQUARTERS IN CHINA-HONG KONG CITY, MR CHAN SAID THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD MADE A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS IN THE PAST 15 YEARS.

"THERE ARE, OF COURSE, A NUMBER OF AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR CONSUMER PROTECTION REGIME ARE STILL NECESSARY.

"THE ADVANCE OF TECHNOLOGY, AND THE CONSTANT STREAM OF NEW PRODUCTS COMING ON THE MARKET ARE BRINGING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PRODUCE, NEW PROBLEMS FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE CHARGED WITH LOOKING AFTER THE CONSUMERS' INTERESTS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN BELIEVED THAT THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WOULD REMAIN VIGILANT IN THE FACE OF THESE CHALLENGES.

"AND I AM SURE THAT, WITH THE VALUABLE EXPERIENCE WHICH HAS BEEN BUILT UP OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, THE COUNCIL WILL ACHIEVE EVEN MORE IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS," HE SAID.

TODAY'S OCCASION ALSO COINCIDES WITH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S CELEBRATION OF ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY.

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SHA INSPECTS TSIM SHA TSUI BUILDINGS

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON INSPECTED TWO BUILDINGS IN TSIM SHA TSUI TO UPDATE HIMSELF ON MANAGEMENT MATTERS OF THE BUILDINGS.

DURING HIS VISIT TO THE CHUNG KING AND MIRADOR MANSIONS, MR TSAO TOURED THE ARCADES AND GUESTHOUSES THERE.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER LI KWOK-CHOI ON THE MEASURES TAKEN BY BOTH THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE RESIDENTS TO TACKLE FIRE HAZARDS IN THE BUILDINGS.

/MR TSAO

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MR TSAO SAID AFTER THE VISIT: "CHUNG KING MANSION HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF CONCERN TO BOTH THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE AS FAR AS FIRE HAZARD AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT ARE CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE LATEST FIRE IN THE BUILDING LAST MONTH. I HAVE COME TO GAIN A FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND."

MR TSAO WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (BUILDING MANAGEMENT) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR AUGUSTINE CHENG, AND THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WONG HON-HO.

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RS UPDATED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN TAI PO
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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, VISITED TAI PO THIS (MONDAY) MORNING TO BE UPDATED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW TOWN.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR THOMAS YIU.

TAI PO WILL HAVE A POPULATION IN EXCESS OF 250,000 IN THE LATE 1990'S, WHEN THE DISTRICT IS FULLY DEVELOPED.

THE HOUSING PROJECTS IN FU HENG ESTATE AND WAN TAU TONG ESTATE WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1991-92 AND 1992-93 RESPECTIVELY.

IN THE MEANTIME, WORK ON RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING A LEISURE WALKWAY, A JOGGING TRAIL, CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS AND SITTING-OUT AREAS ALONG THE WATERFRONT OF TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HAS COMMENCED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY 1991-92.

IN ADDITION, A STADIUM, COMPRISING SWIMMING POOLS, A SPORTS COMPLEX AND INDOOR RECREATION CENTRES, WILL BE OPENED IN LATE 1991.

BEFORE CONCLUDING HIS VISIT, MR HSU MET AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE DUE TO OPEN
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THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE USE, LANGUAGE TEACHING AND CURRICULUM WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE FROM WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY (DECEMBER 13-15).

MORE THAN 260 PARTICIPANTS FROM 21 COUNTRIES AND HONG KONG WILL TAKE PART IN THE THREE-DAY EVENT WHICH IS ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION.

/SOME 130

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SOME 130 ENGLISH AND 100 CHINESE PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED. THERE WILL ALSO BE FOUR WORKSHOPS AND A PANEL DISCUSSION ON LANGUAGE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING LANGUAGE USE.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG, AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, WILL JOINTLY OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONFERENCE AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, THEATRE ONE, LEVEL TWO, AT 8.45 AM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 13).

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SEMINAR ON HOW TO SOLVE TEACHERS' PROBLEMS

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A SEMINAR ON WHAT TEACHERS CAN DO TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL WILL BE HELD FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IN GASCOIGNE ROAD, YAU MA TEI, ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 16).

THE ONE-DAY SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION, WILL CONSIST OF PLENARY PRESENTATIONS BY VISITING SPEAKERS AND PRACTISING LOCAL TEACHERS, AND THERE WILL ALSO BE GROUP AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR INCLUDE PROFESSOR JOHN SINCLAIR FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM WHO WILL SPEAK ON "IMPROVING CLASSROOM INTERACTION"; PROFESSOR LI YING-CHE FROM THE UNITED STATES ON "PROSPECT FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN HONG KONG"; DR JOHN ROBIN, ALSO FROM THE UNITED STATES, ON "MAKING LEARNING MORE EFFECTIVE"; AND PROFESSOR LIN TAO FROM CHINA ON "A DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM OF FOREIGNERS AND CHINESE IN PUTONGHUA PRONUNCIATION LEARNING".

DR THEODORE RODGERS, FROM THE UNITED STATES, WILL SPEAK ON "IMPROVING OUR CLASSROOM TEACHING MATERIALS", AND PROFESSOR XU SI-YI, FROM CHINA, ON "USING LITERARY WORKS TO TEACH LANGUAGE".

SCHOOL HEADS ARE ADVISED TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE TO THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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FUNDS APPROVED FOR UPGRADING COMPUTER SYSTEM

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THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING IS TO UPGRADE ITS COMPUTER SYSTEM TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED WORKLOAD GENERATED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASLE AGREEMENT ON CAPITAL CONVERGENCE AND OTHER ADDITIONAL WORK, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"BASED ON CONSULTANTS' STUDIES, IT IS ASCERTAINED THAT THE OFFICE WILL NEED A COMPUTER SYSTEM SUPPORTING MORE THAN 70 WORKSTATIONS AND A LARGE DATABASE INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF A MID-RANGE TO MAINFRAME COMPUTER SYSTEM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE NEW SYSTEM WILL ALSO ENABLE THE OFFICE TO ESTABLISH A MORE EFFECTIVE ONGOING PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION SYSTEM TO ACHIEVE ITS GOAL OF PROMOTING A SOUND AND STABLE BANKING SYSTEM.

"MOREOVER, WITH THE UPGRADED COMPUTER FACILITIES, THE OFFICE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ENTERTAIN THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AND STREAMLINE THE CENTRALISED PROCESSING OF ALL BANKING AND MONETARY STATISTICS," HE ADDED.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED LAST WEEK THE REVISED FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF REPLACING THE EXISTING COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION SYSTEM IN THE OFFICE ESTIMATED AT \$32 MILLION IN NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND \$4.9 MILLION IN ANNUALLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

"TENDERS WILL BE CALLED FOR IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME AND THE SYSTEM IS SCHEDULED TO BE OPERATIONAL BY APRIL 1991," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AS THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD BE MAINLY USED FOR BANKING SUPERVISION PURPOSES, THE MAJORITY OF THE COSTS INCURRED WOULD BE RECOVERED FROM LICENCE OR REGISTRATION FEES COLLECTED FROM BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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EYE CARE FOR ELDERLY IN MONG KOK

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MORE THAN 3,000 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN MONG KOK WILL BENEFIT FROM AN EYE CARE CAMPAIGN TO BE HELD BETWEEN DECEMBER 19 AND JANUARY 5.

PART OF THE MONG KOK FESTIVAL 1989-90, THE CAMPAIGN WILL PROVIDE FREE CHECK-UPS AND SPECTACLES FOR THOSE AGED 60 AND OVER.

IT IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD AND THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE HONG KONG OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION AND THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE.

/SPEAKING AT

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SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON, THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR WONG YUEN-WEI, SAID THE CAMPAIGN WOULD PROVIDE FREE EYE CARE SERVICES AND INFORMATION TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS IN MONG KOK DISTRICT.

THE DIRECTOR OF HOSPITAL SERVICES, DR T.Y. CHAU, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CAMPAIGN'S OPENING CEREMONY ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 16).

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO GIVE A TALK ON COMMON EYE DISEASES AMONG THE ELDERLY.

OPTOMETRISTS WILL CARRY OUT CHECK-UPS FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS AT FOUR DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ON 14 DAYS DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

ELDERLY PEOPLE CAN OBTAIN SPECTACLES FREE OF CHARGE, IF REQUIRED, AT DESIGNATED SHOPS.

"A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE CAMPAIGN IS THAT WE HAVE SECURED THE SUPPORT OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS IN OFFERING PREFERENTIAL SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY BY CHARGING ONLY \$50 PER CONSULTATION, EXCLUDING OPERATION FEES," MR WONG SAID.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR LAI KWOK-WING, SAID THE GROUP HAD JOINED HANDS WITH DISTRICT BOARDS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN ORGANISING NINE EYE CARE CAMPAIGNS IN THE PAST. SO FAR, MORE THAN 30,000 SENIOR CITIZENS HAD RECEIVED FREE CHECK-UPS AND SPECTACLES.

THE BUDGET FOR THE MONG KOK EYE CARE CAMPAIGN IS \$295,000, OF WHICH \$275,000 WILL BE CONTRIBUTED BY THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND THE BALANCE BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND PLACES FOR THE FREE EYE CHECK-UP SERVICES WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM DAILY:

DECEMBER 19-20	YANG MEMORIAL SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE
DECEMBER 21-23	HK VERNACULAR NORMAL SCHOOLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOOL
DECEMBER 27-29	KEI WING PRIMARY SCHOOL
JANUARY 2-5	CHAN HING SCHOOL SERVICES CENTRE

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NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR FIGHT CRIME AWARD SCHEME

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TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO MAKE NOMINATIONS FOR THE TSUEN WAN CITIZEN FIGHT CRIME AWARD SCHEME.

THE SCHEME IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE POLICE, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE TSUEN WAN ROTARY CLUB.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME IS TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO ASSIST THE POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY TO PREVENT AND FIGHT CRIME," THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR SIN SIU-WAH, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"NOMINATION FORMS, IN THE FORMAT OF PRE-PAID ENVELOPES, ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRES OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE TSUEN WAN POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE.

"THE CLOSING DATE OF NOMINATION IS FEBRUARY 15 NEXT YEAR AND A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS WILL BE SET UP TO SELECT THE WINNERS," HE SAID.

RESULTS OF THE AWARD SCHEME WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN MARCH. WINNERS AND THEIR NOMINATORS WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND A CEREMONY AT WHICH CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION AND SOUVENIRS WILL BE PRESENTED.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 0-4925327 OR 0-4984582.

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DB TO DISCUSS DRAFTING OF WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE DRAFTING OF A WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO RAISE QUESTIONS ON VARIOUS ISSUES, INCLUDING A HUMAN RIGHTS BILL, FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF WAN CHAI NORTH, AND ADVERTISING SIGNS ON THE EXTERNAL WALLS OF BUILDINGS.

THEY WILL ALSO ENQUIRE ABOUT FOOD INSPECTION IN WAN CHAI, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING ASIDE A CHANNEL ON CABLE TELEVISION FOR PROMOTING THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

/OTHER AGENDA

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE A PROGRESS REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT, PROGRESS REPORTS BY DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES, AS WELL AS A REPORT BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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RESUMPTION AND REPAIR OF PRIVATE STREETS IN EASTERN

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO RESUME AND REPAIR MERLIN STREET, SHELL STREET, AND KAM PING STREET PHASE I IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) SAID THAT THESE STREETS WERE UNDER PRIVATE MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP AND WERE NOT PROPERLY MANAGED AND MAINTAINED.

"THE STREETS ARE GENERALLY NOT IN GOOD REPAIR AND ARE PARTLY OCCUPIED BY STALLS.

"THE SITUATION HAS SOMETIMES GIVEN RISE TO CONSIDERABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ON RESUMPTION AND COMPLETION OF THE REPAIR WORKS, THE STREETS COULD THEN BE PROPERLY MANAGED BY GOVERNMENT.

THE PROPOSED WORKS INVOLVE THE REPAIR OF THE DEFECTIVE FOOTPATH, CARRIAGEWAY, AND DRAINS WITHIN THE PRIVATE STREETS.

WORKS ON THESE PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

NOTICES CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE LAST FRIDAY (DECEMBER 8).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;

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- * HONG KONG EAST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI;
- * EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 880-886 KING'S ROAD, GROUND AND FIRST FLOORS, NORTH POINT.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 6 NEXT YEAR.

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RECLAMATION AT TUI MIN HOI AUTHORISED

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AUTHORISATION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GRANT SHORT TERM TENANCIES FOR BOATYARD PURPOSES AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG.

RECLAMATION AND ERECTION OF STRUCTURES FOR THE PURPOSES OF BOAT REPAIRING AND SLIPWAYS WILL BE ALLOWED WITHIN THE TENANCY AREAS, PART OF WHICH IS WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 6,180 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED.

THE WORK WILL COMMENCE LATER THIS MONTH AND WILL BE COMPLETED ABOUT JUNE NEXT YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE UNDERTAKING MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 7 NEXT YEAR.

HE SHOULD STATE IN HIS SUBMISSION THE SUM OF MONEY WHICH HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT IN FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS CLAIM AND SHOULD SUBMIT SUCH PARTICULARS WHICH HE POSSESSES TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM.

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RO CALENDAR FOCUSSES ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY 1990 CALENDAR, HAVING THE THEME "THE 1990s : AN INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION", IS NOW ON SALE.

NATURAL DISASTERS CAN INFLICT ENORMOUS DAMAGE ON SOCIETY, AND EVEN DISRUPT NATIONAL ECONOMIES. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DESIGNATED THE 1990'S AS THE "INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION" TO FOSTER CONCERTED EFFORTS AMONG GOVERNMENTS TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAS PREPARED THE 1990 CALENDAR TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION, AND TO GIVE PUBLICITY TO THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE.

THE CALENDAR IS BILINGUAL, AND CONTAINS, IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL INFORMATION ON SUNRISE AND SUNSET, TIDES AND ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS, A REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS ON METEOROLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL HAZARDS.

INCLUDED ARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE LAST OCTOBER, THE HOLE IN THE OZONE LAYER ABOVE THE ANTARCTIC, FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS IN HONG KONG.

THIS ATTRACTIVE WALL CALENDAR SHOULD MAKE A SPLENDID GIFT. IT IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, 134A NATHAN ROAD, AT \$37 A COPY.

PERSONS WHO BUY THIS ATTRACTIVE CALENDAR WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF PURCHASING A COPY OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S CENTENARY PUBLICATION TITLED "FROM TIME BALL TO ATOMIC CLOCK" AT A REDUCED PRICE OF \$19. THIS BOOK, WHICH NORMALLY COSTS \$34 A COPY, TRACES THE HISTORY AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY THROUGH A CENTURY.

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NEW CENTRAL POST OFFICE OPENS IN TUEN MUN

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A NEW TUEN MUN CENTRAL POST OFFICE OPENED AT NOON TODAY (MONDAY).

IT IS LOCATED ON THE PODIUM LEVEL OF THE LIBRARY AND POST OFFICE BUILDING AT 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

IT HOUSES THE MAIL DELIVERY OFFICE SERVING THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT, AND A COUNTER OFFICE WHICH PROVIDES THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES AND 800 PRIVATE POST OFFICE BOXES.

/BUSINESS HOURS

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BUSINESS HOURS ARE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY.

THE POST OFFICE BOX LOBBY IS OPEN ON MONDAY TO SATURDAY FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 0-4526550.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC WONG; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, MR LAU WONG-FAT; AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST
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MUSIC LOVERS LIVING, STUDYING OR WORKING IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE EIGHTH CENTRAL AND WESTERN SINGING CONTEST TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT'S CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION, THE SINGING CONTEST IS AIMED AT PROMOTING RESIDENTS' INTEREST IN SINGING.

IT IS DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES -- CLASSICAL SONG (SOLO), POP/FOLK SONG (SOLO) AND POP/FOLK SONG (GROUP) -- AND IS OPEN TO PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 30.

PARTICIPANTS ARE FREE TO SELECT A SONG WHICH SHOULD HAVE A POSITIVE THEME. NO ACCOMPANIMENT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISER.

AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 4 AND 6. CONTESTANTS OF SATISFACTORY STANDARD WILL BE SELECTED TO ENTER THE FINALS TO BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL ON JANUARY 21.

THE CHAMPION, AND THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP IN EACH CATEGORY WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES AND CASH PRICES OF \$1,000, \$700 AND \$500 RESPECTIVELY. ALL FINALISTS WILL BE GIVEN SOUVENIRS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE HONG KONG MUSIC CENTRE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, AND AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 20. FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON TEL. 5-8523485 OR 5-283257.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 49.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 291.349 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 233.804 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 39.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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FRESH WATER CUTS IN MONG KOK AND FANLING

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN MONG KOK WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 13) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT SOME PREMISES AT PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, NATHAN ROAD, NULLAH ROAD, TUNG CHOI STREET AND SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET SOUTH.

ALSO TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN FANLING WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 14) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY PING CHE ROAD AND LIN MA HANG ROAD, INCLUDING TONG FONG, LEI UK, FUNG WONG WU, CHOW TIN TSUEN, KAN TAU WAI, TSUNG YUEN HA, HA HEUNG YUEN, HEUNG YUEN WAI, AND TA KWU LING POLICE AND FIRE STATION.

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