



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1992

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LUNAR NEW YEAR FLIGHT SITUATION AT KAI TAK EXPLAINED

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A NO-WIN SITUATION HAS BEEN CREATED BY AIRLINES AND TRAVEL AGENTS BY SELLING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR EXTRA FLIGHTS BEFORE THEY HAD ASCERTAINED THAT THE PARKING AND TRAFFIC SLOTS WERE AVAILABLE AT KAI TAK AT THE TIMES THEY REQUIRED, OVER AND ABOVE THE SLOTS ALREADY OCCUPIED BY THE SCHEDULED FLIGHTS WHICH MUST TAKE PRIORITY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHEN PERFORCE THEY WERE OFFERED SLOTS AT OTHER TIMES, THEY WERE UNABLE TO NOTIFY ALL THEIR CUSTOMERS IN TIME OF THE RESULTANT CHANGES.

THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE AIRLINE SCHEDULING CO-ORDINATOR NEVERTHELESS LEFT NO STONES UNTURNED THROUGHOUT THE PAST WEEK TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE FAIT ACCOMPLI, WITHIN THE LIMIT OF THE STANDARDS OF SAFETY.

HOWEVER, RESOURCES ARE NOT UNLIMITED AT KAI TAK AND DESPITE THESE EFFORTS A SMALL NUMBER OF THESE EXTRA FLIGHTS COULD NOT BE ACCOMMODATED ON FEBRUARY 4 AT THE TIMES REQUIRED BY THE AIRLINES CONCERNED.

EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO CONTAIN THE PROBLEMS THUS CAUSED AND TO MINIMISE THE INCONVENIENCE TO THE AFFECTED TRAVELLERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 1991

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH ALL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED DURING DECEMBER LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH,

THE STATISTICS ALSO SHOW THAT FOR THE WHOLE OF LAST YEAR, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 16.2%, BROADLY IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH RATE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN MONEY TERMS.

CONSISTENT WITH THE INCREASE IN DEPOSITS IN DECEMBER, HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS ROSE DURING THE MONTH. HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO SHOWED AN INCREASE.

/DEPOSITS

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, ROSE BY 1.2% IN DECEMBER FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.5% AND 2.4% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS, SAVINGS DEPOSITS AND TIME DEPOSITS GREW BY 1.0%, 1.8% AND 0.9% RESPECTIVELY DURING DECEMBER. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS REGISTERED AN INCREASE OF 16.2%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS ROSE BY 3.0% IN DECEMBER, AFTER INCREASES OF 1.8% AND 0.7% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 2.9% WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 3.1%. DURING 1991, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 8.3%.

DURING DECEMBER, DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY 2.5% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DROPPED BY 3.5% AND 3.2% RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS GREW BY 13.5% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY 9.5% AND 27.3% RESPECTIVELY.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 INCREASED BY 1.8%, 1.6% AND 1.3% RESPECTIVELY IN DECEMBER, COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 1.6%, 2.4% AND 2.3% IN NOVEMBER. FOR THE WHOLE OF 1991, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES INCREASED BY 21.7%, 17.9% AND 15.6% RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 INCREASED BY 1.7%, 2.6% AND 2.3% RESPECTIVELY IN DECEMBER. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN NOVEMBER WERE 1.8%, 1.4% AND 1.4%. OVER THE YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES GREW BY 19.5%, 13.3% AND 11.6% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS ROSE BY 3.5% IN DECEMBER, AFTER RISING BY 3.6% AND 2.9% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLAR INCREASED BY 1.8% WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY ROSE BY 4.3%. COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 19.2% AND 28.6% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG DECREASED BY 0.2% IN DECEMBER, AFTER RISING BY 0.6% IN OCTOBER AND RECORDING NO GROWTH IN NOVEMBER. OVER THE YEAR, SUCH LOANS GREW BY 16.2%.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG INCREASED BY 1.6% IN DECEMBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.7% AND 2.0% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 18.5%.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG GREW BY 5.1% IN DECEMBER, AFTER INCREASES OF 3.8% AND 5.1% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 46.5%.

LOANS TO FINANCE TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG ROSE BY 13.8% DURING DECEMBER, AFTER FALLING BY 2.5% AND 5.9% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 28.5%.

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991, TOTAL LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG (EXCLUDING THOSE FOR TRADE FINANCING) INCREASED BY 4.4%.

OF THESE, LOANS FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING FELL BY 0.05%, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 5.8% AND A DECLINE OF 0.6% IN THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 10.6%.

LOANS TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT SECTOR ROSE BY 3.6% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 6.2% AND 3.7% IN THE PREVIOUS TWO QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 16.3%.

LOANS TO WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE RECORDED A QUARTERLY GROWTH OF 1.6%, COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 4.9% AND 2.9% IN THE PRECEDING TWO QUARTERS. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 7.8%.

LOANS TO FINANCIAL CONCERNS (EXCLUDING AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS) ROSE BY 6.3% THIS QUARTER, AFTER A DECLINE OF 7.6% AND AN INCREASE OF 3.8% IN THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 8.6%.

THE RATE OF INCREASE IN LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME) SLOWED DOWN TO 5.4% THIS QUARTER, FROM 9.4% AND 9.3% IN THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS RESPECTIVELY. FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE, THESE LOANS GREW BY 34.9%.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBERS OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY ONE EACH TO 160 AND 157 RESPECTIVELY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS INCREASED BY ONE TO 52.

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - DECEMBER 1991

	(HK\$mn)			
	Dec 1991	Earlier months (% change to Dec 1991)		
		Nov 1991	Sep 1991	Dec 1990
<u>Money Supply</u>				
M1 - HK\$	111,769	109,822 (1.8)	108,539 (3.0)	91,826 (21.7)
Foreign currency	16,728	16,488 (1.5)	17,221 (-2.9)	15,683 (6.7)
Total	128,497	126,309 (1.7)	125,761 (2.2)	107,509 (19.5)
M2 - HK\$*	636,042	625,891 (1.6)	607,616 (4.7)	539,667 (17.9)
Foreign currency*	734,948	710,842 (3.4)	693,450 (6.0)	670,383 (9.6)
Total	1,370,990	1,336,733 (2.6)	1,301,066 (5.4)	1,210,050 (13.3)
M3 - HK\$*	660,117	651,596 (1.3)	634,385 (4.1)	571,215 (15.6)
Foreign currency*	777,225	753,714 (3.1)	736,043 (5.6)	716,813 (8.4)
Total	1,437,342	1,405,310 (2.3)	1,370,428 (4.9)	1,288,028 (11.6)
Notes and coins in circulation	49,177	47,512 (3.5)	46,638 (5.4)	43,261 (13.7)
of which held by public	42,608	41,355 (3.0)	40,257 (5.8)	37,693 (13.0)
<u>Total Deposits</u>				
Total Demand deposits	85,889	84,955 (1.1)	85,504 (0.5)	69,815 (23.0)
Total Savings deposits	314,052	307,303 (2.2)	281,731 (11.5)	231,672 (35.6)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	911,491	887,089 (2.8)	877,155 (3.9)	853,632 (6.8)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	39,627	41,068 (-3.5)	40,395 (-1.9)	43,784 (-9.5)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	23,547	24,331 (-3.2)	25,668 (-8.3)	32,368 (-27.3)
HK\$ deposits*	604,162	596,751 (1.2)	580,212 (4.1)	520,115 (16.2)
US\$ deposits*	311,422	302,712 (2.9)	297,719 (4.6)	294,913 (5.6)
Other foreign currency deposits*	459,023	445,283 (3.1)	432,522 (6.1)	416,243 (10.3)
All deposits	1,374,606	1,344,746 (2.2)	1,310,453 (4.9)	1,231,271 (11.6)
Foreign currency swap deposits	40,235	38,957 (3.3)	45,008 (-10.6)	67,733 (-40.6)
<u>Total Loans and advances</u>				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	82,637	82,837 (-0.2)	82,297 (0.4)	71,087 (16.2)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	12,384	10,885 (13.8)	11,866 (4.4)	9,637 (28.5)
Other loans for use in H.K.	816,767	803,683 (1.6)	782,172 (4.4)	689,368 (18.5)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,293,387	1,231,048 (5.1)	1,119,381 (15.5)	882,678 (46.5)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	38,598	39,696 (-2.8)	39,016 (-1.1)	135,839 (-71.6)
Loans in HK\$	723,832	711,178 (1.8)	690,896 (4.8)	607,018 (19.2)
Loans in foreign currencies	1,519,940	1,456,971 (4.3)	1,343,836 (13.1)	1,181,591 (28.6)
Total loans and advances	2,243,773	2,168,149 (3.5)	2,034,732 (10.3)	1,788,609 (25.4)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits. Starting from April 1991, swap deposits can further be broken down into US dollar and non-US dollar foreign currency swap deposits.

Note : 'Restricted licence banks' and 'deposit-taking companies' were known as 'licensed deposit-taking companies' and 'registered deposit-taking companies' respectively before 1 February 1990.

MEMORANDUM SIGNED ON WATER QUALITY AND FLOW SURVEY

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AS PART OF THE ON-GOING LIAISON BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME, A DELEGATION FROM GUANGDONG VISITED THE TERRITORY THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARINE AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

DURING THEIR VISIT, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE DETAILS OF A WATER QUALITY AND FLOW SURVEY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY MUTUAL CO-OPERATION. A FORMAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED BY THE LEADER OF THE GUANGDONG DELEGATION, MR ZHANG LI-MIN AND BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR WATER POLICY, MR MIKE STOKOE.

THE SURVEY WILL BE PART OF THE ON-GOING DATA GATHERING TO DEVELOP COMPUTER MODELS FOR ASSESSING EFFECTS ON MARINE WATERS OF DISCHARGES OF EFFLUENTS.

THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE STRATEGIC DISPOSAL SCHEME WHICH IS PROCEEDING AS PLANNED AND WHICH WILL SOON PROCEED TO THE DESIGN OF THE INITIAL KOWLOON SECTION.

SURVEY WORK HAS BEEN PROCEEDING WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS FOR THE PAST 18 MONTHS AND THE NEW SURVEY WILL COMPLEMENT THIS DATA. A CORRESPONDING GEOLOGICAL SITE INVESTIGATION IS ALSO BEING CARRIED OUT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THE SCHEME PLEASE CONTACT EPD'S PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER FOR WATER POLICY, MR PAUL HOLMES, ON TEL. 835 1234.

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NEW ROAD TO EASE TRAFFIC OF BUSY CORRIDOR OPEN

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A NEW SLIP ROAD DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK FOR TRAFFIC BETWEEN CHING CHEUNG ROAD AND CONTAINER PORT ROAD IN KWAI CHUNG WAS OPENED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, DR NIP KAM-FAN.

THE NEW SLIP ROAD IS ONE IN A SERIES OF PROJECTS UNDER A \$700 MILLION COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME UNDERTAKEN BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT SINCE 1987 WITH THE AIM OF EASING THE TRAFFIC BURDEN OF THE KWAI CHUNG ROAD CORRIDOR.

APART FROM BEING THE MAIN ARTERY OF THE KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT ROAD NETWORK, THE CORRIDOR ALSO SERVES AS ONE OF THE MAIN LINKS BETWEEN KOWLOON AND THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

THE OPENING OF THE CHING CHEUNG SLIP ROAD WOULD ENABLE CONTAINER TRUCKS, WHICH HAD BEEN A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE HEAVY TRAFFIC BURDEN IN THE AREA, TO ENTER AND LEAVE THE PORT AREA DIRECT VIA CHING CHEUNG ROAD WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH THE ALREADY BUSY KWAI CHUNG ROAD CORRIDOR, DR NIP SAID.

THE WHOLE COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TO KWAI CHUNG ROAD IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN TWO STAGES WITH WORKS AT THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE ROAD HAVING ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED.

DR NIP SAID THE RESULTING OPENING OF THREE FLYOVERS, SEVERAL FOOTBRIDGES AND OTHER GROUND LEVEL WIDENING WORKS HAD ALREADY BROUGHT ABOUT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT TO TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

WORKS ON THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE MAIN ROUTE, WHICH FORMS THE LAST PHASE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME, HAD ALSO BEEN PROGRESSING WELL WITH THE COMPLETION OF A COUPLE OF NEW ROAD LINKS AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL INTERCHANGE RECENTLY PLUS THE NEW SLIP ROAD TODAY, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE WHOLE PROJECT WOULD BE COMPLETED BY MID 1993. BY THEN THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD WOULD BE WIDENED TO A DUAL FIVE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WHICH SHOULD REMOVE THE LAST TRAFFIC BOTTLENECK IN THE REGION.

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FREE BOOKMARKS FOR VISITORS TO CAREERS EXPO

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VISITORS TO THE EDUCATION & CAREERS EXPO '92 WILL RECEIVE FREE OF CHARGE A BOOKMARK, THE DESIGN OF WHICH OUTMATCHED 540 ENTRIES IN A COMPETITION.

THE LAMINATED BOOKMARK FEATURES A BLOOMING PLANT ON ONE SIDE AND SEVERAL SEEDLINGS GROWING HEALTHILY IN THE "RIGHT SOIL" ON THE OTHER SIDE.

MORE THAN 65 SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THE CAREERS BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION WHICH WAS ORGANISED BY THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AS AN ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY OF THE EXPOSITION.

"THE ENTRIES ARE OF A VERY HIGH STANDARD AND THROUGH WORDS AND GRAPHICS THE DESIGNS VIVIDLY DEPICT THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING THE RIGHT CAREERS," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER MRS CLARE SIU SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

/THE WINNER

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THE WINNER OF THE COMPETITION IS NG TSZ-SUN OF KWUN TONG VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE, THE FIRST RUNNER-UP IS HO PUI-YEE OF ST CLARE'S GIRLS' SCHOOL, AND THE SECOND RUNNER-UP IS NG HON-KEI OF KWUN TONG VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE.

THEY WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXPOSITION ON FEBRUARY 20 (THURSDAY).

THE EXPOSITION, ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, WILL PROVIDE THE LATEST INFORMATION ON A WIDE RANGE OF CAREERS AND EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, MRS SIU SAID.

"MORE THAN 200 EXHIBITORS FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF TRADES, INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AS WELL AS LOCAL AND OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTES WILL TAKE PART.

"THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CAREERS SECTION OF THE EXPOSITION.

"A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF CAREERS TALKS AND VIDEO SHOWS ON VARIOUS CAREERS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR STUDENTS," MRS SIU SAID.

THE EDUCATION & CAREERS EXPO '92 WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM FEBRUARY 20 TO 23. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	31.1.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	1.2.92	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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