DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 1

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THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (FUEL RESTRICTION) REGULATIONS 1990 WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

THE REGULATIONS WERE PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL EARLIER THIS YEAR AND GAZETTED ON JANUARY 15. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AD HOC GROUP ON THE REGULATIONS.

UNDER THE REGULATIONS, FROM JULY 1 THE USE BY INDUSTRY OF HEAVY, HIGH SULPHUR FUEL OIL IN THE TERRITORY WILL BE BANNED. THE REGULATIONS WILL APPLY TO ALL FACTORIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT BY LIMITING THE SPECIFICATIONS OF LIQUID FUELS TO NO MORE THAN 0.5 PER CENT BY WEIGHT OF SULPHUR AND A MAXIMUM VISCOSITY OF SIX CENTISTOKES, THE REGULATIONS WOULD REMOVE 80 PER CENT OF THE SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND UP TO 90 PER CENT OF SMOKE AND PARTICULATES EMITTED FROM INDUSTRIES PRESENTLY CONSUMING HEAVY, HIGH SULPHUR FUEL OIL.

"THIS WILL BRING ABOUT THE GREATEST SINGLE IMPROVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IN HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT PRESENT, ABOUT 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN AREAS WHERE THE HEALTH-RELATED AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR SULPHUR DIOXIDE ARE NOT BEING MET. MANY PEOPLE ARE AT THE SAME TIME SUFFERING FROM HIGH LEVELS OF SMOKE AND PARTICULATES EMITTED FROM FACTORY CHIMNEYS.

THE REGULATIONS STIPULATE ALSO THAT FOR NON-DOMESTIC USE IN SHA TIN, GASEOUS FUELS ARE THE ONLY PERMITTED FUELS. MOREOVER, THE SULPHUR CONTENT FOR ALL SOLID FUELS USED IN HONG KONG CANNOT EXCEED ONE PER CENT BY WEIGHT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ABOUT 1,000 TO 1,500 INDUSTRIES AND COMPANIES WHICH ARE BURNING HEAVY, HIGH SULPHUR FUEL OIL WILL HAVE TO CHANGE TO USE DIESEL, KEROSENE OR OTHER CLEAN FUELS.

THE REQUIRED MODIFICATION TO THEIR FUEL BURNING APPLIANCES SUCH AS BOILERS SHOULD BE MINOR AND WILL NOT REQUIRE THE BUILDING OF NEW CHIMNEYS.

THE EPD IS SENDING LETTERS TO THE CONCERNED COMPANIES TO INFORM THEM OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW REGULATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE COMPANIES SHOULD CONTACT THEIR EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS NOW TO ADJUST OR MODIFY THEIR FUEL BURNING APPLIANCES.

"IT IS BETTER TO DO THIS EARLY OR ELSE THERE WILL BE TOO MANY PEOPLE APPROACHING THE SUPPLIERS AT THE SAME TIME.

/"COMPANIES WILL .....

"COMPANIES WILL BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION IF THEY ARE STILL USING HEAVY FUEL OIL AFTER JUNE 30," THE SPOKESMAN WARNED.

NORMALLY, ANY MODIFICATIONS TO FUEL BURNING APPLIANCES HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE EPD. A SPECIAL PROVISION HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN INCLUDED IN THE NEW REGULATIONS TO WAIVE THIS REQUIREMENT FOR MODIFICATION WORK NEEDED TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS.

WITH THIS SPECIAL TEMPORARY PROVISION, ANY MODIFICATION WORKS ON FUEL BURNING APPLIANCES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO EFFECT COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW REGULATIONS MAY GO AHEAD STRAIGHTAWAY.

THE EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THAT, IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THESE REGULATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT HAD OBTAINED VIEWS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND DISTRICT BOARDS. DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD WITH THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP ON THE REGULATIONS.

AFTER CONSIDERING VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP, IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT THE EPD WILL EXAMINE CAREFULLY ANY PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD FOR ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO MEET THE INTENT OF THE REGULATIONS, SUCH AS THE USE OF FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION SYSTEMS BY A FEW VERY LARGE INDUSTRIES.

"THE EPD IS PREPARED TO BRING FORWARD ANY PROPOSALS FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO ACCOMODATE ANY SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVES; ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DOUBT THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE IN SUCH ALTERNATIVE MEASURES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IN EXAMINING THE PROPOSALS, THE EPD WILL ADOPT SEVERAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL AND RELIABLE CONTROL OF POLLUTION.

FIRST, ONLY VERY LARGE COMPANIES CAN MAKE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES SUCH AS FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION WORK. HENCE, THERE WILL BE A MINIMUM SIZE LIMITATION ON THE COMPANIES TO BE CONSIDERED. THIS WILL BE EXPRESSED AS A RATED FUEL CONSUMPTION CAPACITY OF MORE THAN 3,000 LITRES PER HOUR.

SECOND, BECAUSE OF THE VERY SERIOUS THREAT POSED BY INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS TO NEARBY RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN MANY PARTS OF HONG KONG AS WELL AS THE POOR AIR POLLUTION DISPERSION CAPABILITIES IN SHA TIN, OTHER ALTERNATIVES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE IN THE HARBOUR, TSUEN WAN - KWAI CHUNG AND SHA TIN AIR CONTROL ZONES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT MUST ALSO BE SATISFIED THAT THE ALTERNATIVES WERE DESIGNED WITH THE MOST STRINGENT SAFEGUARDS AND WOULD NOT CAUSE OTHER FORMS OF POLLUTION PROBLEMS SUCH AS UNACCEPTABLE WASTEWATER DISCHARGE OR WASTE DISPOSAL.

"UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ANY APPROVED ALTERNATIVE MEASURES ARE ADOPTED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ALL INDUSTRIES TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS," HE ADDED.

ANYONE WHO HAS QUESTIONS OR WANTS TO CLARIFY ON THE REGULATIONS MAY CONTACT THE EPD BY TELEPHONE ON 8351048 OR 8351092. THE OFFICE ADDRESS IS 26TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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CONTRACT FOR LANTAU FIXED CROSSING SITE INVESTIGATION AWARDED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A $38.2 MILLION SITE INVESTIGATION CONTRACT FOR THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING WHICH WILL FORM A VITAL LINK TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ENGINEER/NORTH LANTAU LINK, MR KENNETH LEUNG KWOK-SUN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GAMMON-BACHY SOLETANCHE JOINT VENTURE, MR K.L. CHONG AND MR MARTIN PRATT.

MR LEUNG SAID THE SEVEN-MONTH INVESTIGATION WOULD INVOLVE EXPLORATORY LAND DRILLING ON TSING YI, MA WAN AND LANTAU, AS WELL AS OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE MA WAN CHANNEL AND KAP SHUI MUN TO ASSESS GEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

"THE FINDINGS OF THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR THE DESIGN OF BRIDGE FOUNDATIONS AND BORED TUNNELS ALONG THE ROUTE AND THE ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE SUBMERGED TUBE TUNNEL CROSSING," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT A PURPOSE-BUILT, OCEAN-GOING DRILLING SHIP WOULD BE USED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HONG KONG FOR THE WORK IN THE CENTRE OF THE BUSY SHIPPING CHANNELS.

HELICOPTERS WOULD BE USED TO HELP CARRY OUT THE WORK IN THE ISOLATED AREAS OF LANTAU AND MA WAN.

INVESTIGATION WORK TO BEGIN THIS MONTH WOULD BE SUPERVISED BY CONSULTING ENGINEERS MOTT MACDONALD HONG KONG LTD FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, MR LEUNG SAID.

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DEMAND FOR MANAGERS AND QUALIFIED WORKERS TO GROW

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THE DEMAND FOR PROFESSIONALLY OR TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED WORKERS AND THAT FOR MANAGERS IN PRACTICALLY ALL INDUSTRIES WILL GROW BY SOME 93,000 JOBS OR 26 PER CENT BETWEEN 1989 AND 1996, ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS OF A RECENT STUDY BY THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG, SAID THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE INTERDISCIPLINARY LECTURE OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG WHEN HE DISCUSSED EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION, QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

/MR YEUNG .....

MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE GROWING DEMAND WOULD NOTABLY BE IN THE COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL SERVICES GROUP OF INDUSTRIES, FOLLOWED BY THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES, CONSTRUCTION, MANUFACTURING AND THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES.

"THE PLAIN FACT UNDERLYING OUR PLANS FOR INCREASING THE PROVISION OF FIRST DEGREE PLACES IS THAT HONG KONG BY THE MID 1990'S WILL NEED MANY MORE WORKERS REQUIRING HIGH LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING," HE SAID.

"ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND MANAGERS DO NOT GROW ON TREES. THEY HAVE TO BE EDUCATED, TRAINED AND MOTIVATED.

"AFTER MONTHS OF CONSULTATION WITH AND CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, I CAN NOW SAY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT WE WOULD BUILD FAST ENOUGH TO CREATE THE CAPACITY NEEDED TO ACCOMMODATE 15,000 FIRST DEGREE PLACES BY 1994-95.

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, I THINK OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ARE LIKELY TO RECRUIT SUFFICIENT TEACHERS TO MAN THE NECESSARY COURSES.

"I SAY THIS PARTLY BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN NO FALLING OFF OF INTEREST IN ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT FROM LOCAL OR OVERSEAS SOURCES IN SPITE OF THE EVENTS OF LAST JUNE, AND PARTLY BECAUSE WE HAVE PLANS TO MAKE ACADEMIC WORK IN HONG KONG MORE COMPETITIVE BY AUGMENTING THE LEVEL OF RESEARCH ACTIVITY."

MR YEUNG EMPAHSISED THAT QUALITY IN THE INTERESTS OF ACHIEVING RAPID EXPANSION WOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED OR COMPROMISED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY DETERIORATION IN STANDARDS.

"I HAVE RECENTLY INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL A BILL THAT SEEKS TO CREATE THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION," HE SAID.

"THE COUNCIL WILL BE OUR WATCHDOG FOR ENSURING QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

"I EXPECT THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL WILL EXPAND OVER TIME, AND THAT IT WILL PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT PART IN MAINTAINING LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE REST OF THE WORLD IN THE YEARS AHEAD."

APART FROM EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL, MR YEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE SOME FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS AFFECTING THE FUTURE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, SUCH AS DEVOLUTION OF DECISION-MAKING POWER TO SCHOOLS, MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, ASSESSING PERFORMANCE AND THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SETTING OUT THE BROAD STRATEGY WITHIN WHICH EDUCATIONAL CHANGE WOULD TAKE PLACE, AND IN PROVIDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WOULD SUPPORT INITIATIVE AND INNOVATION IN SCHOOLS.

"THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S FOURTH REPORT, WHICH MIGHT BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR PUBLICATION TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, WILL DEFINE CLEARLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY THE ISSUES WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE EARLY 1990'S TO ENSURE QUALITY IN ALL SECTORS OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM," HE SAID.

"THE REPORT WILL THEN GO ON TO REVIEW PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROVISION OF NINE YEARS FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION."

MR YEUNG SAID THE REPORT WOULD PROPOSE ANSWERS TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS MODIFICATIONS TO THE SCHOOLS CURRICULUM, THE SETTING OF ATTAINMENT STANDARDS AND LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION.

"ONCE WE HAVE DECIDED ON THE FUTURE CONTENT OF EDUCATION, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO GO ON TO CONSIDER THE RIGHT APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION IN THE 1990'S," HE SAID.

"WE INTEND TO DEAL WITH THAT SUBJECT IN THE COMMISSION'S FIFTH REPORT."

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ACADEMY OF MEDICINE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

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HONG KONG MOVED A STEP CLOSER TO THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE WITH ITS PREPARATORY COMMITTEE HOLDING ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE SCOPE AND METHOD OF WORK.

IN PURSUIT OF ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES, EACH TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE SPECIFIC AREA RELATING TO THE FINAL FORMATION OF THE ACADEMY.

CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR DAVID TODD, THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO UNDERTAKE THE PLANNING AND PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

AS THE ACADEMY WILL BE A FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT BODY, THE COMMITTEE WILL FIRST ADDRESS THE ASPECTS OF CONSTITUTION, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; COLLEGES, FACULTIES AND SPECIALTIES; AS WELL AS ACCREDITATION, TRAINING AND EXAMINATION.

/THE PREPARATORY .....

THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AIMS AT PRODUCING A REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION BY EARLY 1991.

ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE INCLUDE:

* DRAFTING THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR THE ACADEMY;

* MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FORMATION OF ACADEMY COLLEGES, FACULTIES AND SPECIALTY BOARDS;

* MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTION OF FOUNDATION FELLOWS;

* MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN INAUGURAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE; AND

* CONSIDERING POSTGRADUATE AND CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXAMINATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE HALNAN REPORT WHICH WAS PRODUCED BY A WORKING PARTY ON POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST OCTOBER.

IT WILL BE A STATUTORY BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISING AND SUPERVISING POSTGRADUATE AND CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG AND THE ACCREDITATION OF SPECIALIST STATUS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WITH THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, POSTGRADUATE TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION WERE RECOGNISED AS NECESSARY FOR ENSURING THE COMPETENCY OF DOCTORS AND PROVIDING AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF MEDICAL CARE TO THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN FIELDS OF MEDICAL SPECIALISATION.

"CURRENTLY, THERE ARE NO LOCAL STANDARDS OF HIGHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING RECOGNISED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"HONG KONG DOCTORS SEEKING HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS USUALLY SIT THE EXAMINATIONS OF VARIOUS ROYAL COLLEGES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE HAD BEEN A GROWING DEMAND WITHIN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMALISED, LOCALLY-BASED, POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES, GEARED TOWARDS STANDARDS DEFINED IN HONG KONG.

"SUCH PROGRAMMES WOULD ENABLE DOCTORS TO ACQUIRE SPECIALIST TRAINING MORE EASILY, HELPING TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED STANDARDS OF PATIENT CARE.

"BETTER TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS WOULD ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF HELPING TO RETAIN DOCTORS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR," HE SAID.

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LADY YOUDE OPENS CLINIC IN NEW TERRITORIES

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EARLY DETECTION AND INTERVENTION ARE VITAL FOR THE PREVENTION OF ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS SUCH AS UNNECESSARY TOOTH EXTRACTIONS AND MORE IMPORTANT THE REHABILITATION OF DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN, LADY YOUDE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PAMELA YOUDE CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE AND SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC IN SHA TIN, SHE SAID THAT THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW PROJECT MARKED ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF HONG KONG.

LADY YOUDE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TO EXPAND THESE SERVICES BY BUILDING MORE CLINICS AND CENTRES MAINLY IN THE NEW TOWNS WHERE THE POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW.

SHE RECALLED THAT WHEN SHE FIRST CAME TO HONG KONG IN 1982 ONLY ABOUT 135,000 CHILDREN TOOK PART IN THE SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE. TODAY, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS HAS INCREASED TO 400,000.

"A COMBINATION OF PARENTAL SUPPORT AND EXCELLENT SERVICE WILL ENSURE THAT THE STANDARD OF ORAL HEALTH AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE," SHE SAID.

LADY YOUDE THANKED THE ANONYMOUS PHILANTHROPIST WHO MADE A $10 MILLION DONATION TOWARDS THE CAPITAL COST OF THE CLINIC.

EARLIER, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CLINIC FORMED PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL PLAN TO DEVELOP HEALTH SERVICES IN AREAS WITH SUCH NEEDS.

THE CLINIC, WITH A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF OVER 4,000 SQUARE METRES, PROVIDES CHILD ASSESSMENT SERVICE AND SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND IN SHA TIN AND NEARBY DISTRICTS.

ON CHILD ASSESSMENT SERVICE, DR LEE SAID IT WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE TERRITORY IN 1977 WHEN THE FIRST CENTRE WAS OPENED IN ARRAN STREET, KOWLOON.

"THE UNIQUE FEATURE OF THIS SERVICE IS THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH ADOPTED IN ASSESSMENT," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC, DR LEE SAID IT WOULD BENEFIT THE 71,000 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN RESIDING IN SHA TIN, TAI PO, FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI AREAS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE 400,000 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AT PRESENT PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SCHEME REPRESENTED THREE-QUARTERS OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL POPULATION.

/ON FUTURE .....

ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, DR LEE SAID FOUR MORE CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRES AND TWO SCHOOL DENTAL CLINICS WOULD BE BUILT IN THE NEXT DECADE.

THE CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE OPENED TODAY PROVIDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT, WHILE THE SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC PROVIDES BASIC DENTAL SERVICE AS WELL AS PREVENTIVE SERVICE AND DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

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POSTPAK PADDED ENVELOPES ON SALE FROM MARCH 15

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THE INTRODUCTION OF POSTPAK PADDED ENVELOPES WHICH WILL BE SOLD IN ALL POST OFFICES (EXCEPT MOBILE POST OFFICES) FROM MARCH 15.

THE LIGHT WEIGHT OF THE ENVELOPES MEANS SAVING ON POSTAGE AND THE DESIGN ACCORDS EXCELLENT PROTECTION TO ITEMS BEING SENT BY POST.

POSTPAK PADDED ENVELOPES ARE MADE OF HEAVY DUTY KRAFT PAPER LAMINATED TO A CUSHION LINER OF AIR BUBBLES, AND ARE SUITABLE FOR SENDING ITEMS SUCH AS VIDEO OR CASSETTE TAPES AND BOOKS THROUGH THE POST. THE ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN FOUR POPULAR SIZES AND ARE PRICED AS FOLLOWS:

SIZE CODE	DIMENSIONS (MM)	PRICE
00	229 X 127	$3.00
2	280 X 215	$4.50
5	381 X 266	$6.00
7	483 X 361	$9.50

SAMPLES ARE ON DISPLAY AT ALL POST OFFICES. EXPLANATORY LEAFLETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

TO COMMEMORATE THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE ENVELOPES, A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN AT ALL POST OFFICES ON MARCH 15.

ENVELOPES PURCHASED OVER THE COUNTER, LOCALLY ADDRESSED AND SUFFICIENTLY PREPAID IN POSTAGE, WILL BE DATESTAMPED AND HANDED BACK TO CUSTOMERS CONCERNED.

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DECEMBER RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN DECEMBER 1989, ESTIMATED AT $10,044 MILLION, INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1988 WHILE THEIR VOLUME DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARING THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1989 WITH 1988, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 6 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

THIS SUGGESTED THAT BOTH CONSUMER AND TOURIST EXPENDITURES WERE RELATIVELY WEAK IN 1989, PARTICULARLY IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1988, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS IN DECEMBER 1989 ROSE BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME. HOWEVER, CONSUMER DURABLES DROPPED BY 9 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS ROSE BY 14 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DROPPED BY 8 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 10 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS RECORDED DECREASES OF 11 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 16 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING THE YEAR 1989 WITH THE YEAR 1988, SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 14 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FUELS WENT UP BY 10 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES FELL BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS REGISTERED AN INCREASE OF 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT A DECREASE OF 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

/ANALYSED BY .....

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS AND "MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS" INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE AND 3 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME. DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 11 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

HOWEVER, CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 15 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1989, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR DECEMBER 1989 INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 13 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

FUELS ROSE BY 11 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES ROSE BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS WENT UP BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 15 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 30 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 20 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

HOWEVER, MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECLINED BY 13 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR NOVEMBER 1989 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR DECEMBER 1989.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1989 (A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES, (B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND (C) BY SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF DECEMBER 1989 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR NOVEMBER 1989 AND WITH THOSE FOR DECEMBER 1988, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE YEAR 1989 WITH THE YEAR 1988, ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE DECEMBER 1989 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT $1 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. 5565240).

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/TABLE 1 : .....

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for December 1989 (Provisional Figure) = HK$10,044million
for November 1989 (Revised Figure) = HK$ 8,826million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR NOVEMBER 1989 AND DECEMBER 1989

(Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	November 1989 (Revised figures)	December 1989 (Provisional figures)	December 1989 compared with November 1989 Points	December 1989 compared with November 1989 %	December 1989 compared with December 1988 Points	December 1989 compared with December 1988 %	Jan.-Dec. 1989 compared with Jan.-Dec. 1988 Points	Jan.-Dec. 1989 compared with Jan.-Dec. 1988 %
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	158	179	22	14	5	3	8	6
	Volume	120	135	15	13	-4	-3	-2	-1
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	154	167	13	9	18	12	18	14
	Volume	121	131	9	8	5	4	4	4
Fuels	Value	117	130	13	11	17	16	10	10
	Volume	114	124	10	9	2	2	3	2
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	181	237	56	31	20	9	12	7
	Volume	124	162	38	31	2	1	-3	-2
Consumer durables	Value	147	154	7	5	-16	-9	-5	-3
	Volume	110	117	7	6	-16	-12	-10	-8
Other consumer goods	Value	165	192	27	16	1	1	8	5
	Volume	124	142	18	15	-7	-5	-1	-1
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES (see note 1 below)									
Supermarkets	Value	171	207	36	21	26	14	22	14
	Volume	129	155	26	20	6	4	4	3
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	263	230	-33	-13	-29	-11	31	13
	Volume	171	149	-22	-13	-28	-16	10	6
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	112	131	20	18	-12	-8	-16	-12
	Volume	91	107	16	18	-12	-10	-16	-15
Department stores	Value	220	287	67	30	41	17	21	11
	Volume	154	200	46	30	15	8	3	2

NOTES : 1. In order to analyse the sales of certain trades WITHIN major trade groups, the value and volume indexes in respect of the following selected trades are compiled :

(a) "Supermarkets" - a trade in the "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" group.

(b) "Motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.

(c) "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.

(d) "Department stores" - a trade in the "Other consumer goods" group.

2. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.

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/12 .....

APPLY NOW FOR YOUTH PROJECT GRANTS

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YOUTH GROUPS ARE NOW INVITED TO APPLY FOR GRANTS UNDER THE "OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME" (OYS) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT THEIR PLANNED PROJECTS.

THE PROJECTS SHOULD BE INNOVATIVE AND HAVE MEANINGFUL CONTENT. THEY MAY BE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS, RURAL AREA AND DEPRIVED AREA SERVICE, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, REHABILITATION SERVICE AND SERVICE FOR .THE ELDERLY, OR COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

EACH OF THE APPROVED PROJECTS WILL BE GRANTED A SUBSIDY OF UP TO $5,000.

A SWD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE OYS WAS INTRODUCED IN 1974 TO PROMOTE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE; ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY; AND HELP TO DEVELOP THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL HELP.

"YOUTH GROUPS WISHING TO APPLY FOR GRANTS MAY SUBMIT THEIR PROJECT PROPOSALS THROUGH THE SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (YOUTH) OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT BY APRIL 30 THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

"EACH PARTICIPATING GROUP SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN MEMBERS AGED BETWEEN 13 AND 25, AND SHOULD BE SPONSORED BY A SCHOOL, YOUTH AGENCY, OR AN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION.

"GROUPS WITHOUT SPONSORS MAY ALSO APPLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SWO (YOUTH) OF THEIR DISTRICT," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS, EACH DISTRICT WILL SELECT A MOST OUTSTANDING PROJECT, WHICH WILL OBTAIN A DISTRICT BEST OYS AWARD, TO COMPETE FOR THE HONG KONG BEST OYS AWARD.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE PROJECTS WOULD BE ASSESSED ON THE EXTENT OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY OF THE PROJECT, THE EXTENT OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS, OPTIMUM USE OF RESOURCES AND INNOVATION.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHEME AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE VARIOUS YOUTH OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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GOOD STUDENT AWARD PRESENTATION ON SATURDAY

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FORTY SECONDARY STUDENTS FROM CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE PRESENTED GOOD STUDENT AWARDS ON SATURDAY (MARCH 10).

THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED, UNDER THE DISTRICT'S GOOD STUDENT AWARD SCHEME, FROM MORE THAN 100 CONTESTANTS NOMINATED BY SCHOOLS FOR THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, CONDUCT AND PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR OR SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES.

THE TOP FOUR STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN A FREE OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR NEXT MONTH.

OFFICIATING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, PROF POON CHUNG-KWONG; THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI; CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR AMBROSE LAU HON-CHUEN; AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER.

OTHER GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR WU CHOR-NAM; POLICE COMMANDERS OF THE CENTRAL AND THE WESTERN DISTRICTS, MR CHRIS GLOVER AND MR ROBERT TOAL; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHEME'S WORKING GROUP, MR LEUNG CHUNG-POR.

THE SCHEME HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICES OF THE TWO DISTRICTS.

THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE MOUNT CAMERON OF HONG KONG LIONS CLUB, MAN ON TOSHIBA LTD, BANGKOK BANK AND THE PHOENIX LIONS CLUB ARE JOINTLY SPONSORING THE SCHEME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 1989-90 CENTRAL AND WESTERN GOOD STUDENT AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 10) AT THE MACAU (YAT YUEN) CANIDROME CLUB, 38TH FLOOR, SHUN TAK CENTRE, 200 CONNAUGHT ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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/14 .....

PARTIAL SERVICE AT TUEN MUN NEW ID CARD ISSUE OFFICE
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT DUE TO SUSPENSION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, THE TUEN MUN NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE WILL NOT ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS FROM 1.30 PM TO 6 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 10).

THE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, CHI LOK FA YUEN, TUEN MUN.

"HOWEVER, RESIDENTS MAY COLLECT THE IDENTITY CARDS THEY HAD APPLIED FOR AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS AT THIS OFFICE DURING THAT PERIOD," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"SERVICE WILL RESUME NORMAL AFTER 6 PM THAT DAY," HE ADDED.

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CLEAN-UP OPERATION AT TIU KENG LENG
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A CLEAN-UP OPERATION AIMED AT AROUSING RESIDENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WILL BE HELD AT TIU KENG LENG, TSEUNG KWAN O, TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ORGANISED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, THE OPERATION IS PART OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES BEING ARRANGED IN THE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

ABOUT 250 STUDENTS FROM TIU KENG LENG SECONDARY SCHOOL, TIU KENG LENG PRIMARY SCHOOL, MING YUEN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MING YUEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, QUEEN MAUD MIDDLE SCHOOL AND QUEEN MAUD PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL TAKE PART IN THE OPERATION.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MR HO KOON-SHUN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TIU KENG LENG CLEAN-UP OPERATION, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT VAN WILL PICK UP REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE CHOI HUNG MTR STATION NEAR NGAU CHI WAN MARKET COMPLEX. IT WILL DEPART FOR TIU KENG LENG SECONDARY SCHOOL AT 8.30 AM. THE INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF WING HONG FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (THURSDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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RIGHT TURN BANS ON CERTAIN VEHICLES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 10), VEHICLES OVER SEVEN METRES IN LENGTH WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT FROM BROADWOOD ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI HANG ROAD, AND FROM TURNING RIGHT OR LEFT FROM BLUE POOL ROAD WESTBOUND AT ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI HANG ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING WEIGHT LIMIT APPLYING AT THESE LOCATIONS IN HAPPY VALLEY WILL BE CANCELLED.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF WO TONG TSUI STREET, KWAI CHUNG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT WO TONG TSUI STREET EASTBOUND BETWEEN KWONG FAI CIRCUIT AND KWAI CHUNG ROAD IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1 AM TO 5.30 AM FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR TWO NIGHTS BECAUSE OF FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION.

VEHICLES ON EASTBOUND WO TONG TSUI STREET HEADING FOR KWAI CHUNG ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWAI HING ROAD AND KWAI ON ROAD.

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LONG VEHICLE BAN IN YUEN LONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 10), VEHICLES EXCEEDING 10 METRES IN LENGTH WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD IN YUEN LONG LEADING FROM CASTLE PEAK ROAD (PING SHAN) TO LEE CHEUNG WO DRIED BEANCURD AND SAUCE FACTORY.

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