DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR GETS AERIAL VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TOOK TO THE AIR THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING FOR A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT HONG KONG'S BUSTLING DEVELOPMENTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SPECIAL ADVISOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THE GOVERNOR BOARDED A ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE DAUPHIN HELICOPTER AT HMS TAMAR AT 9.30 AM FOR 90-MINUTE TOUR.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR AS WELL AS IN THE VARIOUS NEW TOWNS.

SIR DAVID LEARNED OF PLANS THAT WILL BE EMBARKED BY THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE YEARS AHEAD.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS RELEASED

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IN THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1986-FEBRUARY 1987, THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION SHOWED FURTHER IMPROVEMENT WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED STABLE, COMPARED WITH THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 1986, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WERE AT THE LOWEST LEVELS RECORDED SINCE THE NEW SERIES OF LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS WAS INTRODUCED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985. THIS INDICATES THAT CONDITIONS IN THE LABOUR MARKET HAVE TIGHTENED UP FURTHER IN RECENT MONTHS.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1986-FEBRUARY 1987 WAS 2.0 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 2.4 PER CENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 1986 AND 3.0 PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASES OF 0.4 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS PERIOD AND OF 1.0 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1986-FEBRUARY 1987 WAS ESTIMATED AT 52 600, LESS THAN THE FIGURE OF 65 100 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 1986 AND OF 79 900 FOR SAME PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 1986.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1986-FEBRUARY 1987 WAS 1.0 PER CENT, WHICH COMPARES WITH 1.2 PER CENT FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 1986. THE RATE FOR DECEMBER 1985-FEBRUARY 1986 WAS 2.0 PER CENT.

/THE DECREASE .....

THE DECREASE OF 0.2 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIGICANT, WHILE THE DECREASE OF 1.0 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT. THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR DECEMBER 1986-FEBRUARY 1987 WAS 27 400, LESS THAN THE FIGURE OF 33 100 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 1986 AND OF 53 900 FOR DECEMBER 1985-FEBRUARY 1986.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1987 WAS 1.9 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.0 PER CENT. (THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1986-FEBRUARY 1987 WAS ALSO 1.9 PER CENT.)

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 50 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED. IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1987 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE NEXT WEEK AT $9.50 PER COPY.

HK STILL LEADS WORLD IN TWO EXPORT CATEGORIES

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HONG KONG WAS THE LARGEST EXPORTER OF CLOTHING, TOYS AND GAMES IN THE WORLD IN 1985.

HONG KONG WAS ALSO THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF DOMESTIC TYPE FANS (AFTER TAIWAN) AND THE THIRD LARGEST EXPORTER OF COMPLETE WATCHES (AFTER SWITZERLAND AND JAPAN).

FOR EXPORTS OF TRAVEL GOODS AND HANDBAGS AS WELL AS RADIO-BROADCAST RECEIVERS, HONG KONG RANKED FOURTH IN BOTH CATEGORIES (AFTER TAIWAN, ITALY AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA= AND JAPAN, TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA RESPECTIVELY).

DETAILS OF THESE ARE CONTAINED IN THE +HONG KONG REVIEW OF OVERSEAS TRADE IN 1986+ ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $20 PER COPY.

THE REVIEW CONTAINS A BRIEF TEXT ON HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE IN 1986, 13 GRAPHS AND 39 STATISTICAL TABLES WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS.

THE REVIEW PRESENTS A SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE DIRECTION AND COMPOSITION OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN 1986, INCLUDING A CONCISE AND COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF TRADE BY MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS AND BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, AND STATISTICS ON HONG KONG'S EXPORTS PERFORMANCE IN WORLD TRADE AND IN PRINCIPAL OVERSEAS MARKETS COMPARED WITH THOSE OF MAJOR COMPETITORS.

ALSO INCLUDED ARE STATISTICS ON EXCHANGE RATES OF PRINCIPAL FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND THE EFFECTIVE (TRADE-WEIGHTED) EXCHANGE RATE INDEX FOR THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.

ACCORDING TO THE REVIEW, IMPORTS ROSE BY 19 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS IN 1986, WHICH WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN THE GROWTH RATE OF 4 PER CENT RECORDED IN 1985. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE NOTED DURING 1986 IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA (BY $22 670 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (BY $3 078 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT), WHILE DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE (BY $399 MILLION OR 4 PER CENT) AND BRAZIL (BY $289 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY 19 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS IN 1986, AFTER SUFFERING A DECLINE OF 6 PER CENT IN 1985. THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S. AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY INCREASED (BY $6 532 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT AND BY $3 005 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY), WHILE THAT TO THE U.S.S.R. DECREASED (BY $161 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT).

BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN VALUE TERMS WAS REGISTERED FOR IMPORTS OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $8 923 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT); AS WELL AS ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (BY $6 630 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT).

/ON THE .....

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (BY $1 985 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT); AS WELL AS IN ROAD VEHICLES, INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES (BY $1 284 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT).

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (BY $7 250 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT); AS WELL AS IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY $4 889 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY $325 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT)= AS WELL AS LEATHER, LEATHER MANUFACTURES AND DRESSED FURSKINS (BY $20 MILLION OR 8 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORT TRADE GREW BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS IN 1986 AS COMPARED WITH THE 26 PER CENT GROWTH RATE RECORDED IN 1985. RE-EXPORTS TO THE U.S. AND TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY $7 657 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT, AND BY $1 971 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY $5 130 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT) AND TO THE U.S.S.R. (BY $57 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT).

THE COMMODITIES WITH SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN VALUE TERMS WERE ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (BY $5 714 MILLION OR 75 PER CENT); AS WELL AS TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $4 095 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES, INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES (BY $2 384 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT)= AS WELL AS OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $782 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT).

IN 1986, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN INCREASED BY $16 969 MILLION OR 49 PER CENT, WITH THE LARGEST INCREASE RECORDED IN ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (BY $5 574 MILLION OR 78 PER CENT).

THE U.S. WAS THE LARGEST MARKET, ACCOUNTING FOR 36 PER CENT OF ALL RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN THROUGH HONG KONG; THE MAJOR GROWTH TO THIS MARKET WAS IN ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (BY $3 814 MILLION OR 100 PER CENT).

THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE TRADE IN 1986, REPRESENTING 22 PER CENT OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, INCREASED BY $25 699 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH 1985. IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, AIRBORNE TRADE CONSTITUTED 1 PER CENT OF TOTAL TRADE.

INCREASES IN AIRBORNE TRADE WERE REGISTERED FOR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN (BY $2 059 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT), DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S. (BY $2 893 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT) AND RE-EXPORTS TO THE U.S. (BY $1 691 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT).

/BY COMMODITY .....

BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF INCREASED BY $3 133 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT; WHILE FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY AIR, ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES INCREASED BY $4 858 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT. AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES ROSE BY $1 730 MILLION OR 117 PER CENT.

AS REGARDS SEABORNE TRADE, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 56 PER CENT IN VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN 1986, AN INCREASE OF $37 864 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT OVER 1985 WAS RECORDED. IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, 91 PER CENT OF TOTAL TRADE WAS CARRIED BY SEA.

A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN (BY $2 666 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT), AS WELL AS IN SEABORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND SEABORNE RE-EXPORTS TO THE U.S. (BY $3 655 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT AND BY $6 012 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, THE VALUE OF SEABORNE IMPORTS OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY $5 241 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT; AND THAT OF SEABORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS, INCREASED BY $2 937 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT.

AN INCREASE IN SEABORNE RE-EXPORTS WAS RECORDED IN ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (BY $3 826 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT).

THE REVIEW ALSO PUBLISHES UNIT VALUE INDEXES AND QUANTUM INDEXES WHICH ARE OFTEN USED TO ASSESS THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE.

DURING 1986, IN TERMS OF TRADE VOLUME, IMPORTS INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 16 PER CENT, WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH 1985.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUMES OF TEXTILE FABRICS (BY 47 PER CENT); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (BY 27 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (BY 26 PER CENT) AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY 17 PER CENT).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FUELS (BY 20 PER CENT) AS WELL AS RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (BY 19 PER CENT).

AS FOR THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR FUELS (BY 176 PER CENT) AS WELL AS FOODSTUFFS (BY 32 PER CENT).

/BASED ON .....

BASED ON UNIT VALUE INDEXES, IMPORT PRICES ROSE BY 5 PER CENT WHILE TOTAL EXPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX, DEFINED AS THE RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX, DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT.

WITHIN TOTAL EXPORTS, THE PRICES OF BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT.

ENQUIRIES ON THE REVIEW MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234915.

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EXTRA HOTLINE ON AIDS SET UP

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP ANOTHER HOTLINE TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH GENERAL INFORMATION ON AIDS -- ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME.

STARTING THIS WEEK, AIDS INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON TWO 24-HOUR HOTLINES 5-8330180 (IN ENGLISH) AND 5-724533 (IN CHINESE) INSTEAD OF THE EXISTING SINGLE BILINGUAL HOTLINE.

CALLERS WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR AN EXTENDED TEN-MINUTE RECORDED PROGRAMME PROVIDING THEM WITH A GENERAL PICTURE OF AIDS, ITS MODES OF TRANSMISSION, SYMPTOMS, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION MEASURES.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW ARRANGEMENT GIVES CALLERS A CHANCE TO CHOOSE THE MEDIUM THEY PREFER, THUS SHORTENING THE TIME REQUIRED FOR LISTENING TO THE BILINGUAL TAPE.

+SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE FIRST HOTLINE SERVICE IN MARCH 1985, A TOTAL OF 13 561 CALLERS HAD MADE USE OF THE SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

OF THE CALLERS, 697 HAD RAISED QUESTIONS AND 523 CALLERS HAD LEFT THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR FURTHER CONTACT.

+IN VIEW OF THE FAVOURABLE RESPONSE AND TO ENABLE MORE PEOPLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON AIDS, ARRANGEMENT WERE THEREFORE MADE TO INSTAL THE SECOND HOTLINE SERVICE,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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SURVEY ON INVESTMENT IN HK'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

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THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WILL SOON BE CONDUCTING A SURVEY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. THIS SURVEY IS NOW CARRIED OUT ANNUALLY (THE 1986 REPORT WAS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR).

THE SURVEY HAS TWO PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES:

* TO UPDATE THE DEPARTMENT'S DATA ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT, IN TERMS OF CAPITAL DEPLOYED, EMPLOYMENT CREATED, NEW OR IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCED, PRODUCTS AND EXPORT PROSPECTS; AND

* TO ASSESS THE RELATIVE MERITS OF HONG KONG AS A LOCATION FOR OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

THE 1987 SURVEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY. INFORMATION GATHERED IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE FURTHER OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND TO ASSIST PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS TO EVALUATE INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES AND ESTABLISH FACTORIES IN HONG KONG.

IT ALSO GIVES THE DEPARTMENT A CLEARER PICTURE OF OVERSEAS PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

THE TARGET OF THE SURVEY ARE MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG WHICH INVOLVE OVERSEAS INTERESTS, AND ARE WHOLLY OR PARTLY OWNED BY :

* COMPANIES OUTSIDE HONG KONG;

* LOCAL COMPANIES WHOSE PARENT COMPANIES ARE OUTSIDE HONG KONG; OR

* PERSONS WHO ARE NOT PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG.

ALL THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REQUESTED TO ASSIST IN THE SURVEY AND TO RETURN COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE MIDDLE OF MAY. THEY ARE INVITED TO APPROACH MRS TRACEY SHUM ON 3-7222426 FOR A COPY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE IF THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT BY THE END OF APRIL.

THE DEPARTMENT STRESSED THAT THE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND RESTRICTED FOR ITS OWN USES. REPORTS WILL BE PREPARED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE AND ALL QUESTIONNAIRES WILL BE DESTROYED AS SOON AS THE REPORTS ARE FINALISED.

PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS CAN BE EXPECTED TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

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CGO TELEPHONE NUMBERS CHANGING

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A NEW PABX SYSTEM WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING TELEPHONE EXCHANGE OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT LOWER ALBERT ROAD AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

WITH EFFECT FROM TUESDAY (APRIL 21), THE PREFIX OF PRESENT CGO TELEPHONE NUMBERS +95+ AND +951+ WILL BE CHANGED TO +8102+ WHILE THE LAST THREE DIGITS OF THE NUMBERS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGE WILL AFFECT OFFICES OF VARIOUS OF BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AND DEPARTMENTS IN THE CGO, INCLUDING THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT, TREASURY AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE ISSUE NO 1, 1987 OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE DIRECTORY SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED IN MAY OR JUNE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH EFFECT FROM TUESDAY (APRIL 21), THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT PRESS OFFICE WILL BE CHANGED AS FOLLOWS:

MR MARK PINKSTONE	SECRETARIAT PRESS OFFICER	5-8102975
MRS JULIANA CHEN	PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER	5-8102976
MRS REBEKAH WONG	SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER	5-8102968
MR DANIEL SIN	SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER	5-8102979
MISS IRENE LAU	INFORMATION OFFICER	5-8102978
MISS MAY CHUNG	ASSISTANT INFORMATION OFFICER	5-8102977

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SPECIAL TREAT FOR TREE PLANTERS

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FANCY BEING PHOTOGRAPHED WITH TELEVISION ARTISTES AND WEARING A T-SHIRT PERSONALLY SILKCREENED BY YOUR IDOLS WITH AN ATTRACTIVE TREE PLANTING LOGO IN THEIR PRESENCE.

THEN COME TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON FRIDAY (APRIL 17).

/ALL YOU .....

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TO BRING ALONG A BLANK T-SHIRT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY AT PAK TAM CHUNG IN SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK FROM 11 AM TO NOON ON THAT DAY. THE FIRST 400 PEOPLE WILL BE AWARDED THE BONUS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR COUNTRY PARKS OFFICER, MR S.P. LAU, SAID THE EVENT WAS PART OF THE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES ARRANGED IN CONJUNCTION WITH TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED.

APART FROM THE SPECIAL TREAT, HE SAID, ANYONE INTERESTED IN PLANTING TREES COULD DO SO AT THE SEVEN DESIGNATED PLANTING SITES DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS AND THE REMAINING SUNDAYS IN APRIL.

THESE SEVEN SITES ARE PAK TAM CHUNG, TAI MO SHAN, BRIDE'S POOL, MUI WO, POKFULAM, QUARRY BAY AND CLEARWATER BAY WHERE DEPARTMENT STAFF WILL BE ON DUTY BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM TO PROVIDE FREE TREE SEEDLINGS AND ADVICE. EACH VOLUNTEER WILL BE AWARDED A SEED PACKET AND A COLOURFUL LEAFLET.

MR LAU SAID, +THE WEATHER CONDITIONS OF THE TWO PREVIOUS SUNDAYS DISAPPOINTED MANY BUT STILL SOME 400 ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DID SHOW UP TO PLANT ABOUT 500 SEEDLINGS.+

+MOREOVER, THE SCHEME IS RECEIVING OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY. TO-DATE, ADVANCE BOOKINGS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR OVER 11 000 STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN THE PROGRAMME IN GROUPS.+

HE URGED ORGANISATIONS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSERVATION EDUCATION UNIT AT 3-7332121 FOR REGISTRATION.

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TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR SEVEN SITES

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF SEVEN SITES.

THREE OF THEM - 135 SQUARE METRES EACH - ARE AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG, AND ARE FOR USE AS INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOPS.

THE TENANCIES ARE THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE OTHER THREE SITES ARE FOR PUBLIC CAR PARKING PURPOSE.

/THE FIRST .....

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT WESTERN RECLAMATION OFF CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND MEASURES 14 640 SQUARE METRES. THE TENANCY IS ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE ON MONTHLY BASIS.

ALSO LOCATED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE OTHER IS AT SMITHFIELD, KENNEDY TOWN, AND COVERS AN AREA OF 2 925 SQUARE METRES. THE TENANCY IS THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE THIRD PARKING SITE MEASURES 2 580 SQUARE METRES AND IS LOCATED OFF FUK TONG ROAD, KWUN TONG. THE TENANCY IS ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE LAST SITE, FOR STORING DANGEROUS GOODS, IS AT TAI LEI ISLAND, PENG CHAU, AND MEASURES 150 SQUARE METRES.

THE TENANCY IS ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR TENDERS IS AT NOON ON MAY 1.

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PRESS TOUR OF MONG KOK BUILDING

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A PRESS TOUR HAS BEEN ARRANGED TO A MULTI-STOREY BUILDING IN MONG KOK TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO LEARN ABOUT A $2.7 MILLION RENOVATION PROJECT THAT HAS HELPED RECTIFY STRUCTURAL DEFECTS AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS.

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAD EARLIER DECLARED THE 23-YEAR-OLD BUILDING LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AND HAD ORDERED OWNERS TO CARRY OUT REPAIRS TO THE EXTERNAL WALLS AND COMMON AREAS.

THE BUILDING, WHICH COMPRISES SOME 350 DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL UNITS AND ACCOMMODATES ABOUT 1 800 RESIDENTS, ALSO SUFFERED FROM A NUMBER OF MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AND WAS IDENTIFIED AS ONE OF THE TARGETS FOR IMPROVEMENT BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM.

A BRIEFING WILL BE HELD BY THE HOUSING MANAGER, MR CHONG SZE-CHIU, TO EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND OF THE RENOVATION PROJECT AND REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE TEAM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW FOR THE BRIEFING BEFORE STARTING THE TOUR.

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COMMITTEE TO MEET ON SOCIAL SERVICES

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD STANDING ORDERS, PROCEDURES FOR RECOMMENDING DISTRICT BOARD GRANTS AND WORK REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR 1986-87.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING - ANTI-DRUGS CAMPAIGN IN TUEN MUN, FOURTH REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON REVIEWING THE SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, YOUTH PROBLEMS IN TUEN MUN, PROVISION OF CHILDREN I.D. CARD SERVICES, AND THE VIEWS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL CHILD CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS ON PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD.

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DRAFT NOISE CONTROL BILL TO BE DISCUSSED

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT NOISE CONTROL BILL.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO COMMENT ON A PROPOSAL BY THE BOARD'S FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THREE BOARD MEMBERS HAVE JOINTLY SUBMITTED A WRITTEN QUESTION, INVITING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER, MR LIU LIT-FOR, ELECTED FROM THE ISLAND WEST CONSTITUENCY, TO CLARIFY HIS POSITION ON THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AT THE MEETING.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS BY VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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REMINDER TO MAINTAIN CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED BUILDING CONTRACTORS TO TAKE ADEQUATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT WORKERS WORKING AT HEIGHT IN CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THIS FOLLOWED A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A CONTRACTOR OF A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, WAS FINED $10 000 BY A TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE SUITABLE GUARD RAILS AROUND THE EDGE OF A BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

THE CASE INVOLVED A WORKER WHO FELL TO THE GROUND FLOOR AND SUSTAINED SERIOUS INJURIES WHEN WORKING ON AN UNGUARDED CONCRETE SHADE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE BUILDING.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITE (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, THE CONTRACTOR SHOULD ENSURE THAT EVERY CORNER, BREAK, EDGE OR OTHER DANGEROUS PLACE THROUGH OR FROM WHICH ANY PERSON ON THE SITE IS LIABLE TO FALL FOR MORE THAN TWO METRES MUST BE PROVIDED WITH EITHER SUITABLE RAILS OF ADEQUATE STRENGTH OR FIXED COVERINGS TO PREVENT THE FALL OF PERSONS, MATERIALS AND ARTICLES.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO CONTRAVENES SAFETY REGULATIONS IS LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $50 000.

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SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES FOR TIN HAU WORSHIPPERS

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UP TO 70 000 WORSHIPPERS ARE EXPECTED TO CONVERGE ON THE JOSS HOUSE BAY TEMPLE TO CELEBRATE THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL DURING THE TWO-DAY WORSHIP CEREMONY STARTING SUNDAY (APRIL 19).

SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES WILL BE ARRANGED BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY TO TAKE WORSHIPPERS TO JOSS HOUSE BAY.

THE FIRST FERRY WILL DEPART FROM THE NORTH POINT EAST FERRY PIER AT 8.30 AM ON SUNDAY AND THE LAST FERRY FROM JOSS HOUSE BAY TO NORTH POINT WILL LEAVE AT 4 PM ON MONDAY (APRIL 20).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT SINCE CAR PARKING SPACES OUTSIDE THE CLEAR WATER BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB WILL BE RESERVED FOR RELATED GOVERNMENT VEHICLES ONLY, WORSHIPPERS SHOUND MAKE USE OF FERRY SERVICES TO REACH THE TEMPLE.

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THE BURNING OF PAPER OFFERINGS AND BRINGING MORE THAN THREE BURNING JOSS STICKS INTO THE TEMPLE WILL BE PROHIBITED. HOWEVER, SUFFICIENT INCINERATORS WILL BE PROVIDED OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE FOR BURNING OF PAPER AND JOSS STICKS.

THE PUBLIC ARE ALSO ADVISED TO THROW RUBBISH INTO LITTER BINS NEARBY AND NOT TO USE LOUDHAILERS OR REBROADCAST TAPES WITHIN THE TEMPLE AREA.

DURING THE TWO DAYS, FERRIES WILL BE OPERATING OVERNIGHT SERVICES FROM APRIL 19 AND RESIDENTS LIVING NEAR THE NORTH POINT EAST FERRY PIER SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE CROWD AND THE INCONVENIENCE WHICH MAY BE CAUSED.
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KWUN TONG, CLEAR WATER BAY WATER CUTS
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWUN TONG AND CLEAR WATER BAY WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM ON SATURDAY (APRIL 18) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

IN KWUN TONG, THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL VILLAGES AND PREMISES ALONG SHUN ON ROAD, LEE ON ROAD, SHUN KING STREET, SHUN CHING STREET, NGAU CHI WAN STREET, FUNG SHING STREET FROM PING TIN STREET TO NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, JATS INCLINE, HONG NING ROAD FROM HIP WO STREET TO KUNG LOK ROAD, KUNG LOK ROAD, HONG LEE ROAD, ON SHIN ROAD, ON TAK ROAD, CHUN WAH ROAD, HIP WO STREET FROM SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD TO HIU KWONG STREET, HIU KWONG STREET FROM HIP WO STREET TO SAU MAU PING ROAD AND SAU MAU PING ROAD FROM SHUN LEE TSUEN ROAD TO HIU KWONG STREET, INCLUDING BLOCKS 1 TO 5 AND 9 TO 12 OF UPPER NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE, PHASES I, II AND III OF LOK WAH ESTATE, BLOCKS 1-17 AND 32-40 OF SAU MAU PING ESTATE, CHOI WAN ESTATE, SHUN LEE ESTATE, SHUN TIN ESTATE AND SHUN ON ESTATE.

IN CLEAR WATER BAY, THE STOPPAGE WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG PO LAM ROAD FROM MA YAU TONG TO RENNIE'S MILL, CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD FROM HIRAM'S HIGHWAY TO TAI AU MUN AND HIRAM'S HIGHWAY FROM CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD TO HO CHUNG, INCLUDING MA YAU TONG, RENNIE'S MILL AND MARINA COVE.

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