



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1977

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL MERCHANDISE TRADE DURING LAST MONTH (SEPTEMBER). THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER WAS \$2,984 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$3,745 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$824 MILLION.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER (LATEST THREE MONTHS) SHOWED INCREASES BY VALUE COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1976 OF 7.5 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 7 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 11.1 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1976, DECREASES BY VALUE OF \$78 MILLION OR 2.5 PER CENT IN EXPORTS AND \$14 MILLION OR 0.4 PER CENT IN IMPORTS, AND INCREASES BY VALUE OF \$23 MILLION OR 2.9 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED.

THE SHORT-TERM CHANGES, SEPTEMBER 1977 COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1977, SHOWED DECREASES OF \$333 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$14 MILLION OR 0.4 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND \$16 MILLION OR 2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS. THE DECLINE IN EXPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING THE SEASONAL PATTERN AFTER THE ANNUAL PEAK IN JULY.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1976 TO SEPTEMBER 1977 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES BY VALUE OF 12.7 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 13.4 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 13.3 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES :

LATEST 3 MONTHS	JULY - SEPT.	JULY - SEPT.	INCREASE OR	
	1977	1976	DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	9,696	9,022	+ 674	+ 7.5
IMPORTS	11,743	10,972	+ 771	+ 7.0
RE-EXPORTS	2,480	2,232	+ 248	+ 11.1

/SAME MONTH

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<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	SEPTEMBER 1977	SEPTEMBER 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,984 (78.4%)	3,061 (79.3%)	- 78	- 2.5
IMPORTS	3,745	3,759	- 14	- 0.4
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	824 (21.6%)	801 (20.7%)	+ 23	+ 2.9

<u>LAST MONTH</u>	SEPTEMBER 1977	AUGUST 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,984 (78.4%)	3,316 (79.8%)	- 333	- 10.0
IMPORTS	3,745	3,759	- 14	- 0.4
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	824 (21.6%)	841 (20.2%)	- 16	- 2.0

<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN. - SEPT. 1977	JAN. - SEPT. 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	25,472 (78.2%)	23,822 (78.6%)	+1,649	+ 6.9
IMPORTS	35,182	31,578	+3,604	+ 11.4
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	7,090 (21.8%)	6,491 (21.4%)	+ 599	+ 9.2

<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	OCTOBER 1976 TO SEPTEMBER 1977	OCTOBER 1975 TO SEPTEMBER 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	34,278	30,409	+3,869	+ 12.7
IMPORTS	46,897	41,341	+5,556	+ 13.4
RE-EXPORTS	9,527	8,405	+1,122	+ 13.3

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MORE INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR TSUEN WAN

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THE GOVERNMENT IS OPENING UP ONE MILLION SQUARE FEET OF NEW LAND NEAR THE SOUTH KWAI CHUNG RECLAMATION FOR LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES, SAID TODAY.

THE LAND WOULD PROVIDE AN ADDED BOOST TO TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN AS +A MIGHTY INDUSTRIAL CENTRE+, HE INDICATED.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST NEW TERRITORIES BRANCH OF THE BANQUE NATIONAL DE PARIS AT KWAI CHUNG, MR. HAYES PRAISED THE BANK FOR ITS FORESIGHT AND ENTERPRISE IN OPENING UP A BRANCH IN THE TOWN.

HE SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 1,300 FACTORIES OPERATING IN 110 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN NORTH AND SOUTH KWAI CHUNG.

+TSUEN WAN IS A MIGHTY INDUSTRIAL CENTRE GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING ALL THE TIME,+ HE SAID. +I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE SUITABLE PLACE FOR BANKING ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR ONE OFFERING THE TYPE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PROMOTION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BNP.+

MR. HAYES POINTED OUT THAT THE BANK'S LOCATION -- AT A BUSY INTERSECTION CLOSE TO THE NORTH KWAI CHUNG INDUSTRIAL AREA -- HAD EASY ACCESS TO THE TA LIN PAI ROAD INDUSTRIAL AREA NOW NEARING THE END OF INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

THE BRANCH WAS ALSO CLOSE TO THE CONTAINER PORT AND THE AREA WHERE ONE MILLION SQUARE FEET OF LIGHT INDUSTRIAL LAND IS TO BE OPENED UP. THE BULK OF THIS LAND HAD ALREADY BEEN DISPOSED OF BY LAND EXCHANGE, HE ADDED.

MR. HAYES SAID THE BANK'S TRADE AND INDUSTRY PROMOTION SERVICES WOULD BENEFIT THE MANY NEW INDUSTRIES BEING ESTABLISHED IN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

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FURTHER MOVE TO GO METRIC
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO TAKE A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE METRIC SYSTEM LATER THIS YEAR WHEN THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN THE WATERWORKS REGULATIONS WILL BE CONVERTED TO METRIC UNITS AND THE OPPORTUNITY WILL BE TAKEN TO UPDATE REFERENCES TO BRITISH STANDARDS CONTAINED IN THE REGULATIONS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE CHANGES ARE OF A PURELY TECHNICAL NATURE AND WILL NOT AFFECT THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER.

DOMESTIC WATER USERS, HE STRESSED, WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THEIR METERS READ IN IMPERIAL UNITS AND THEIR BILLS CHARGED ACCORDING TO THE IMPERIAL UNIT OF 1,000 GALLONS.

+ IN OTHER WORDS, DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLDERS WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THEIR WATER BILLS AS THEY HAVE BEEN DOING UP TO NOW UNTIL THE WATERWORKS BILLING SYSTEM HAS BEEN COMPUTERISED TO DEAL WITH DOMESTIC ACCOUNTS. THIS WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS AT WHICH TIME CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE TIMING OF THE CHANGE OVER TO METRIC,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT CHANGES WHICH ARE COMING INTO EFFECT NOW ARE TECHNICAL ONES RELATED TO PIPES, FITTINGS, TAPS AND VALVES. THEY ARE CONTAINED IN THE WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 WHICH WAS GAZETTED TODAY AND WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON DECEMBER 1.

THE METRIC MEASUREMENTS IN MOST CASES HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT TO EXACT EQUIVALENTS TO THE NON-METRIC MEASUREMENTS NOW BEING USED.

HE SAID THAT THE CONVERSION TO METRIC SPECIFICATIONS WOULD MEAN NO DIFFERENCE IN COST SUCH AS FOR CONNECTIONS OR FIRE SERVICE CHARGES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE AMENDED REGULATIONS WILL IMPOSE NO HARDSHIP ON IMPORTERS WHO CAN USE EXISTING STOCKS OF PIPES OR FITTINGS PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE WATERWORKS OFFICE AND MAY CONTINUE TO USE SUCH MATERIALS WHILE THEY CONTINUE TO BE GENERALLY MANUFACTURED.

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MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FLYOVER COMPLEX FOR TSUEN WAN
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A MAJOR FLYOVER COMPLEX AT THE JUNCTION OF TEXACO ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN WILL SHORTLY BE BUILT TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT THIS ROAD JUNCTION.

THIS IS THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR PROJECT AND IS PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK WERE INVITED TODAY BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE P.W.D.

MR. CHEN SHAO-CHI, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (N.T.) DIVISION, SAID WORK WOULD BEGIN IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 27 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

+THE WORK WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 230-METRE-LONG FLYOVER WHICH WILL CARRY FOUR LANES OF TRAFFIC OVER CASTLE PEAK ROAD,+ HE SAID.

+FROM THIS JUNCTION IT WILL CONNECT WITH THE ROAD SYSTEM WHICH IS BEING BUILT AS PART OF TSUEN WAN NORTH DEVELOPMENT STAGE ONE.+

MR. CHEN SAID THAT SLIP ROADS WOULD ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED TO LINK CASTLE PEAK ROAD WITH TEXACO ROAD AND WITH KWOK SHUI ROAD.

IN ADDITION, THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF SHING MUN ROAD WOULD BE WIDENED AND REALIGNED, AND AT LEAST 250 METRES OF KWOK SHUI ROAD WOULD BE RECONSTRUCTED.

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS AND TO MINIMISE THE INTERFERENCE TO TRAFFIC, HE ADDED, GRADE SEPARATED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY SEPARATE RAMPS AND STAIRS TO THE FLYOVER.

TWO PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS WOULD BE BUILT -- ONE ACROSS TEXACO ROAD AND THE OTHER ACROSS THE LINK ROAD FROM KWOK SHUI ROAD TO CASTLE PEAK ROAD, AND A FOOTBRIDGE WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED AT THE JUNCTION OF SHING MUN ROAD, KWOK SHUI ROAD AND THE EXTENDED TEXACO ROAD.

MR. CHEN POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE CONSTRUCTION IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME DELAYS TO TRAFFIC.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE SCHEME HAD BEEN DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE DELAY WOULD BE REDUCED TO THE MINIMUM.

AT THE SAME TIME, TENDERS WERE ALSO INVITED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF YIP SHING STREET AT KWAI CHUNG.

/MR. CHEN

MR. CHEN SAID THAT IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IN THIS INDUSTRIAL AREA, THE EXISTING YIP SHING STREET WOULD BE RECONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE A TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OF 7.3 METRES WIDE TOGETHER WITH A 2.75 METRES FOOTPATH ON ONE SIDE.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

THE WORK WILL START IN EARLY 1978 AND WILL TAKE 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE SO AS TO EMPOWER THE HIGH COURT AND THE DISTRICT COURT TO AWARD COSTS TO PEOPLE ACQUITTED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ALSO SEEKS TO CONFER THE SAME POWER ON THE COURT OF APPEAL IN AWARDING COSTS TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY APPEALED AGAINST CONVICTIONS IN THE DISTRICT COURT OR THE HIGH COURT +EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE A RETRIAL IS ORDERED AND CASES OF SUBSTITUTED VERDICTS OR CONCERNING DISABILITY+.

UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, APPLICATIONS FOR COSTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE DIRECT SCRUTINY OF THE TRIAL OR APPEAL JUDGE, AND A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PRINCIPLE WOULD BE THAT AWARDS WOULD BE LIMITED TO SUMS THAT WERE REASONABLY SUFFICIENT TO COMPENSATE FOR ANY EXPENSES PROPERLY INCURRED.

AT PRESENT, COSTS UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$2,000 MAY BE AWARDED TO ACQUITTED DEFENDANTS IN SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE WHICH ALSO ENABLES THE HIGH COURT TO AWARD COSTS TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY APPEALED AGAINST CONVICTIONS BY MAGISTRATES.

BUT, ACQUITTED DEFENDANTS IN CRIMINAL CASES IN THE DISTRICT COURT, THE HIGH COURT AND THE COURT OF APPEAL MUST AT THE MOMENT BEAR THEIR OWN COSTS EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE THE DEFENDANTS ARE ACQUITTED ON CHARGES UNDER THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE AND WHERE AN APPLICATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR A REVIEW OF SENTENCE IS REFUSED.

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COUNTRY PARKS SIGNBOARD COMPETITION
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A COUNTRY PARK SIGNBOARD DESIGN COMPETITION IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY WITH THE AIM OF SELECTING AN APPROPRIATE DESIGN FOR ITS PARKS' SIGNBOARDS.

ENTRIES ARE INVITED FROM PEOPLE UNDER 30, AND THE WINNING DESIGN MAY BECOME STANDARD FOR ALL COUNTRY PARKS, OR IF A VARIETY OF COMMENDABLE DESIGNS ARE SUBMITTED THEY MAY BE USED AT EACH PARK.

FIVE ATTRACTIVE CASH PRIZES OF \$500, \$300 AND THREE \$100 WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNING ENTRIES.

THE SIGNBOARDS WILL BE MADE OF MATERIALS FOUND IN EACH PARK AND PLACED AT THE ENTRANCES OF THE PARKS. THE ARTWORK OF THE DESIGNS SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE ABLE TO BE PRODUCED IN WOOD, STONE OR CEMENT.

ENTRIES MUST BE 15 INCHES IN HEIGHT BY 30 INCHES IN WIDTH AND INCLUDE THE NAME OF A COUNTRY PARK IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE (THE CHINESE CHARACTERS WRITTEN VERTICALLY) AND THE COUNTRY PARK LOGO IN AN APPROPRIATE BORDER.

THEY SHOULD BE MOUNTED ON CARDS AND MARKED ON THE BACK IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE THE DESIGNER'S NAME, AGE, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL, AND SENT TO:

THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY,
C/O AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT,
393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

STUDENT ENTRIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS BEFORE NOVEMBER 30. RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 5 AND PRIZES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT A LATER DATE.

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FIRING PRACTICE

FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON
13 DAYS NEXT MONTH (NOVEMBER).

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE
AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING
PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
NOVEMBER 1 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. -- 10 P.M.
NOVEMBER 2 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M.-- 6 P.M.
NOVEMBER 3 (THURSDAY)	8 A.M. -- 10 P.M.
NOVEMBER 4 (FRIDAY)	8 A.M. -- 4.30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 7 (MONDAY)	8.30 A.M. -- 6 P.M.
NOVEMBER 8 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. -- 10 P.M.
NOVEMBER 9 (WEDNEEDAY)	8 A.M. -- 4.30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 16 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 A.M. -- 5 P.M.
NOVEMBER 18 (FRIDAY)	8.30 A.M. -- 5 P.M.
NOVEMBER 22 (TUESDAY)	8.30 A.M. -- 5 P.M.
NOVEMBER 28 (MONDAY)	11 A.M. -- 4.30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 29 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. -- 5 P.M.
NOVEMBER 30 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. -- 5 P.M.

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FIRE SERVICES DIRECTOR TO OPEN ATHLETIC EVENT
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THE SPORTS AND WELFARE CLUB OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS TO HOLD ITS THIRD ATHLETIC EVENT AT THE MONG KOK STADIUM IN BOUNDARY STREET TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

OVER 800 MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WILL TAKE PART.

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 12 TRACK AND SIX FIELD EVENTS WHICH INCLUDE THE 1,500 METRE, 5,000 METRE, 4X800 METRE RELAY, HIGH JUMP, LONG JUMP, DISCUS, JAVELIN AND SHOT PUT.

IN ADDITION, REPRESENTATIVES FROM EIGHT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN THE 4X100 METRE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL INVITATION RELAY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SPORTING EVENT WILL BE OFFICIALLY DECLARED OPEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. F.M. WATSON, AT 10 A.M. TOMORROW. YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT.

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US ENGINEERS INSPECT HK ROAD PROJECTS
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A GROUP OF TEN ENGINEERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, WHO ARE HERE AFTER ATTENDING THE EIGHTH WORLD MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION IN TOKYO, TODAY VISITED SOME OF THE MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS IN HONG KONG.

THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY ENGINEERS OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

AMONG THE PROJECTS THEY VISITED WERE THE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN TUEN MUN HIGHWAY - THE FIRST STAGE OF WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC EARLY NEXT YEAR - AND THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL.

THE GROUP ALSO VISITED A NUMBER OF MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SITES.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, THE VISITORS WERE GIVEN A BRIEFING BY MR. STAN BARDEN, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER.

SO FAR, MORE THAN 100 ENGINEERS FROM THE TOKYO CONFERENCE HAVE VISITED MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS IN HONG KONG.

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