



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1994

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LAND REGISTRY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER AND THE YEAR 1993

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THE LAND REGISTRY ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS, MAINLY FLATS, RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION LAST YEAR WAS 133,060, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 1.63 PER CENT AND OF 24.70 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1992 AND 1991 RESPECTIVELY.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN THESE AGREEMENTS WAS \$348.95 BILLION, WHICH WAS UP BY 8.20 PER CENT AND 22.34 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1992 AND 1991 RESPECTIVELY.

DURING THE LAST YEAR, 151,501 ASSIGNMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS, THE MAJORITY BEING RESIDENTIAL, WERE SUBMITTED FOR REGISTRATION.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 157,920 AND 182,997 RECORDED DURING 1992 AND 1991 RESPECTIVELY, THE FIGURE SHOWED A DECREASE OF 4.06 PER CENT AND OF 17.21 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, TOTALLING \$326.70 BILLION, INDICATES INCREASES WHEN COMPARED WITH THE TWO PRECEDING YEARS.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER MORTGAGES (OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES) WAS \$104.03 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF 17.49 PER CENT AND OF 12.94 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1992 AND 1991 RESPECTIVELY.

SEARCHES OF LAND RECORDS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING LAST YEAR TOTALLED 3,328,390, UP BY 3.78 PER CENT AND 5.03 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1992 AND 1991 RESPECTIVELY.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTY OWNERS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT FROM 1,447,391 IN DECEMBER 1991 TO 1,505,003 IN DECEMBER 1992 AND AGAIN BY 5.04 PER CENT TO 1,580,877 IN DECEMBER 1993.

MEANWHILE, THE LAND REGISTRY ALSO RELEASED THE STATISTICS ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION IN THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES LAST MONTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS, MAINLY FLATS, RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION DURING THE MONTH INCREASED BY 13.3 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, AND BY 36.9 PER CENT COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1992.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE AGREEMENTS LODGED FOR REGISTRATION IN RESPECT OF SEVERAL LARGE DEVELOPMENTS IN TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ALL, 10,911 SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS WERE RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION LAST MONTH. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WAS \$31.97 BILLION.

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THERE WERE 11 BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 9,031 OTHER MORTGAGES RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION LAST MONTH, COMPARED WITH NINE AND 11,503 RESPECTIVELY IN DECEMBER 1992.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW BUILDING MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH WAS \$0.67 BILLION COMPARED WITH \$0.13 BILLION IN DECEMBER 1992.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW MORTGAGES OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES DECREASED BY 21.9 PER CENT, FROM \$7.36 BILLION IN DECEMBER 1992 TO \$5.75 BILLION IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, DECREASED BY 1.1 PER CENT, FROM \$2.99 BILLION IN DECEMBER 1992 TO \$2.95 BILLION IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

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THE LAND REGISTRY
Consolidated Monthly Statistics in respect of deeds received for
registration in the Urban and New Territories District Land Registries

Month : December 1993

Item	Nature of Deeds	Number of Deeds received for registration			Consideration (\$)		
		Urban	New Territories	Total	Urban	New Territories	Total
1.	Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Building Units	5,743 (6,002)	5,168 (5,264)	10,911 (11,266)	23,202,641,331.70	8,762,432,103.52	31,965,073,435.22
2.	Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Land	40	313	353	6,593,984,771.56	978,105,587.80	7,572,090,359.36
	Sub-total (1) + (2)	5,783	5,481	11,264	29,796,626,103.26	9,740,537,691.32	39,537,163,794.58
3.	Assignments of Building Units	5,739 (5,871)	3,232 (3,285)	8,971 (9,156)	18,409,083,674.19	4,809,157,601.12	23,218,241,275.31
4.	Assignments of Land	36	688	724	3,239,002,254.56	1,050,914,231.40	4,289,916,485.96
	Sub-total (3) + (4)	5,775	3,920	9,695	21,648,085,928.75	5,860,071,832.52	27,508,157,761.27
5.	Building Mortgages/Building Legal Charges	5	6	11	660,650,000.00	4,754,960.00	665,404,960.00
6.	Other Mortgages/Legal Charges	5,186	3,845	9,031	3,749,322,832.36	2,000,685,106.05	5,750,007,938.41
	Sub-total (5) + (6)	5,191	3,851	9,042	4,409,972,832.36	2,005,440,066.05	6,415,412,898.41
7.	Receipts/Discharges/Releases	4,116	2,653	6,769	2,228,456,751.60	724,326,577.45	2,952,783,329.05
8.	Leases/Tenancy Agreements	467	218	685			
9.	Exclusion Orders	0	6	6			
10.	Others	2,972	2,327	5,299			
	Total	24,304	18,456	42,760	58,083,141,615.97	18,330,376,167.34	76,413,517,783.31

Note : Figures in brackets denote number of units involved

THE LAND REGISTRY
Comparison of Monthly Statistics

Month : December 1993

Item	1993 December	1993 November	1992 December	December 1993					
				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with					
				November 1993		December 1992			
				No. or Consideration	Percentage	No. or Consideration	Percentage		
1. Agreements for Sales and Purchase of Building Units									
(a) No.	10,911	9,629	7,970	+ 1,282	+ 13.3	+ 2,941	+ 36.9		
(b) Consideration	\$31,965,073,435.22	\$23,197,505,316.78	\$20,359,253,785.70	+ \$8,767,568,118.44	+ 37.8	+ \$11,605,819,649.52	+ 57.0		
2. Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Land									
(a) No.	353	284	398	+ 69	+ 24.3	- 45	- 11.3		
(b) Consideration	\$7,572,090,359.36	\$2,972,602,872.20	\$4,902,880,568.20	+ \$4,599,487,487.16	+ 154.7	+ \$2,669,209,791.16	+ 54.4		
Sub-total of (1) + (2)									
(a) No.	11,264	9,913	8,368	+ 1,351	+ 13.6	+ 2,896	+ 34.6		
(b) Consideration	\$39,537,163,794.58	\$26,170,108,188.98	\$25,262,134,353.90	+ \$13,367,055,605.60	+ 51.1	+ \$14,275,029,440.68	+ 56.5		
3. Assignments of Building Units									
(a) No.	8,971	11,984	10,350	- 3,013	- 25.1	- 1,379	- 13.3		
(b) Consideration	\$23,218,241,275.31	\$22,712,844,987.58	\$19,590,437,032.30	+ \$505,396,287.73	+ 2.2	+ \$3,627,804,243.01	+ 18.5		
4. Assignments of Land									
(a) No.	724	749	872	- 25	- 3.3	- 148	- 17.0		
(b) Consideration	\$4,289,916,485.96	\$5,580,848,908.50	\$4,913,744,670.08	- \$1,290,932,422.54	- 23.1	- \$623,828,184.12	- 12.7		
Sub-total of (3) + (4)									
(a) No.	9,695	12,733	11,222	- 3,038	- 23.9	- 1,527	- 13.6		
(b) Consideration	\$27,508,157,761.27	\$28,293,693,896.08	\$24,504,181,702.38	- \$785,536,134.81	- 2.8	+ \$3,003,976,058.89	+ 12.3		
5. Building Mortgages/Building Legal Charges									
(a) No.	11	10	9	+ 1	+ 10.0	+ 2	+ 22.2		
(b) Consideration	\$665,404,960.00	\$325,899,900.00	\$132,885,000.00	+ \$339,505,060.00	+ 104.2	+ \$532,519,960.00	+ 400.7		
6. Other Mortgages/Legal Charges									
(a) No.	9,031	11,711	11,503	- 2,680	- 22.9	- 2,472	- 21.5		
(b) Consideration	\$5,750,007,938.41	\$6,430,063,424.93	\$7,359,133,695.89	- \$680,055,486.52	- 10.6	- \$1,609,125,757.48	- 21.9		
Sub-total of (5) + (6)									
(a) No.	9,042	11,721	11,512	- 2,679	- 22.9	- 2,470	- 21.5		
(b) Consideration	\$6,415,412,898.41	\$6,755,963,324.93	\$7,492,018,695.89	- \$340,550,426.52	- 5.0	- \$1,076,605,797.48	- 14.4		
7. Receipts/Discharges/Releases									
(a) No.	6,769	7,661	7,232	- 892	- 11.6	- 463	- 6.4		
(b) Consideration	\$2,952,783,329.05	\$2,306,106,240.52	\$2,985,039,660.63	+ \$646,677,088.53	+ 28.0	- \$32,256,331.58	- 1.1		

THE LAND REGISTRY

Summary of Statistics for 1993 & Comparison with 1992 and 1991

Item	1993 1.1.93 - 31.12.93	1992 1.1.92 - 31.12.92	1991 1.1.91 - 31.12.91	1993 Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with					
				1992		1991			
				No. or Consideration	Percentage	No. or Consideration	Percentage		
1. Agreements for S/P of Building Units									
(a) No.	133,060	135,261	176,701	-	2,201	- 1.63	-	43,641	- 24.70
(b) Consideration (\$ billion)	348.95	322.50	285.24	+	26.45	+ 8.20	+	63.71	+ 22.34
2. Assignments of Building Units									
(a) No.	151,501	157,920	182,997	-	6,419	- 4.06	-	31,496	- 17.21
(b) Consideration (\$ billion)	326.70	296.06	227.01	+	30.64	+ 10.35	+	99.69	+ 43.91
3. Assignments of Land									
(a) No.	8,017	10,249	6,704	-	2,232	- 21.78	+	1,313	+ 19.59
(b) Consideration (\$ billion)	81.79	58.23	41.07	+	23.56	+ 40.46	+	40.72	+ 99.15
4. Building Mortgages / Building Legal Charges									
(a) No.	100	117	156	-	17	- 14.53	-	56	- 35.90
(b) Consideration (\$ billion)	10.51	5.79	8.96	+	4.72	+ 81.52	+	1.55	+ 17.30
5. Other Mortgages/Legal Charges									
(a) No.	155,652	168,478	213,081	-	12,826	- 7.61	-	57,429	- 26.95
(b) Consideration (\$ billion)	104.03	88.54	92.11	+	15.49	+ 17.49	+	11.92	+ 12.94
6. Public Search (Nos.)	3,328,390	3,207,280	3,168,942	+	121,110	+ 3.78	+	159,448	+ 5.03
7. Property Owners (at the end of the period)	1,580,877	1,505,003	1,447,391	+	75,874	+ 5.04	+	133,486	+ 9.22

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MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO BUSINESS PLEDGED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND UPKEEPING AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS MOST CONDUCTIVE TO MANUFACTURING UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF MINIMUM INTERVENTION WITH NORMAL MARKET FUNCTIONING, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 1993/94 SHA TIN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES FESTIVAL, MISS YUE SAID THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL AND OTHER PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS HAD IN RECENT YEARS PROVIDED VARIOUS SERVICES TO MANUFACTURERS TO HELP THEM IMPROVE QUALITY, UPGRADE PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVE DESIGN.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO HELPED MANUFACTURERS TO IDENTIFY SOURCE AND APPLY NEW PRODUCTION AND PROCESS TECHNIQUES, SHE ADDED.

SHE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

BUILT AT A COST OF \$250 MILLION, THE CENTRE WILL PROVIDE INCUBATOR'S SERVICE FOR TECHNOLOGY-BASED BUSINESSES, PROMOTE THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT.

"TO ENABLE LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES TO DEVELOP IN THE DIRECTION OF HIGH VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A \$200 MILLION APPLIED R&D FUND EARLY LAST YEAR TO ENCOURAGE MANUFACTURERS TO INVEST IN TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EQUITY PARTICIPATION OR LOAN PROVISION.

"MOREOVER, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$180 MILLION IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1994/95 TO SUBSIDISE PROJECTS WHICH ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG," MISS YUE SAID.

ON MANPOWER TRAINING, MISS YUE SAID APART FROM EXPANDING TERTIARY EDUCATION PLACES TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND MANAGEMENT TALENTS, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROVIDED TECHNICAL TRAINING REQUIRED BY THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES THROUGH THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND OTHER INDUSTRY SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS.

"IN 1992 AND 1993, THE GOVERNMENT GRANTED A TOTAL OF \$405 MILLION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE EMPLOYEES RE-TRAINING SCHEME AND THE NEW TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SCHEME.

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"THESE TWO SCHEMES ARE AIMED RESPECTIVELY AT HELPING WORKERS IN CHANGING THEIR JOBS AND SUBSIDISING MANUFACTURERS TO SEND THEIR EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND COURSES ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN HONG KONG OR OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE BENEFICIAL TO THEIR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT," SHE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THROUGH THESE SERIES OF MEASURES, HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO FURTHER DEVELOP AND ENGAGE IN INNOVATIVE DESIGN, EFFICIENT AND HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTION AND MOVE INTO HIGH VALUE-ADDED MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS, SHE ADDED.

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WEATHER OF 1993
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1993 WAS AN EVENTFUL YEAR IN TERMS OF WEATHER.

EXTREMES IN SEASONAL TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS WERE MARKED BY A PROLONGED COLD SPELL IN JANUARY AND AN UNUSUALLY HOT AND DRY SUMMER IN JULY AND AUGUST.

IN A YEAR OF FREQUENT TROPICAL CYCLONE ACTIVITY, THE NO.8 GALE OR STORM SIGNALS WERE HOISTED FOUR TIMES, JUST ONE SHORT OF THE RECORD SET IN 1964.

THE RATHER LONG TYPHOON SEASON SPANNED FROM LATE JUNE TO EARLY NOVEMBER.

APART FROM SEASONAL MONSOON RAIN IN JUNE, THERE WERE ALSO SEVERE RAINSTORMS OCCURRING WITH THE PASSAGE OF TROPICAL CYCLONES, MOST NOTABLY DURING DOT IN SEPTEMBER AND IRA IN NOVEMBER.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL IN 1993 AMOUNTED TO 2,343.9 MILLIMETRES, SIX PER CENT ABOVE THE ANNUAL MEAN OF 2,214.3 MILLIMETRES.

ONE OF THE MOST PERSISTENT COLD SPELLS IN HONG KONG OCCURRED IN JANUARY.

DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WERE BELOW 12 DEGREES FOR 16 CONSECUTIVE DAYS FROM JANUARY 15 TO 30 AND DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURES WERE BELOW 12 DEGREES FOR 11 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, THE LONGEST DURATION SINCE 1887.

FREEZING CONDITIONS WERE EXPERIENCED ON HIGH GROUND ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 16 AND TEMPERATURES AT TAI MO SHAN WENT DOWN TO -2.0 DEGREES. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 33.5 MILLIMETRES WAS 43 PER CENT ABOVE THE JANUARY NORMAL OF 23.4 MILLIMETRES.

WITH NO SIGNIFICANT SURGES OF COLD AIR FROM THE NORTH, FEBRUARY WAS UNSEASONABLY MILD. THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURES OF 18 DEGREES AND THE MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 16.3 DEGREES WERE BOTH THE FOURTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR FEBRUARY.

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THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 1 MILLIMETRE WAS ONLY ABOUT TWO PER CENT OF THE FEBRUARY NORMAL OF 48 MILLIMETRES, MAKING IT THE SEVENTH DRIEST FEBRUARY ON RECORD.

MARCH WAS WARMER, CLOUDIER AND MORE HUMID THAN NORMAL. THE FIRST THUNDERSTORM OF THE YEAR OCCURRED ON MARCH 16.

HOWEVER, THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 49 MILLIMETRES FELL SHORT OF THE MARCH NORMAL OF 66.9 MILLIMETRES BY 27 PER CENT.

APRIL WAS RELATIVELY COOL AND CLOUDY WITH ACTIVE LATE-SEASON SURGES OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON.

ALTHOUGH RAIN WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FOR 23 DAYS IN THE MONTH, THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 136.3 MILLIMETRES WAS STILL 16 PER CENT BELOW THE APRIL NORMAL OF 161.5 MILLIMETRES.

THE WEATHER IN MAY WAS TYPICAL OF THE SEASON IN BOTH TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION.

MOST OF THE RAIN WAS ASSOCIATED WITH MONSOON TROUGHS WHICH AFFECTED THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL WAS 338.4 MILLIMETRES, SEVEN PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL OF 316.7 MILLIMETRES FOR MAY.

WITH MOIST SOUTHWEST MONSOON AND THE PRESENCE OF ACTIVE TROUGHS NEAR THE SOUTH CHINA COAST, JUNE WAS CLOUDIER THAN NORMAL AND UNUSUALLY HUMID.

THE MEAN DEW POINT OF 25.2 DEGREES WAS THE SECOND HIGHEST RECORDED IN JUNE. TORRENTIAL DOWNPOURS ON JUNE 11 AND 16 CAUSED WIDESPREAD FLOODING IN THE URBAN AREAS, NECESSITATING THE ISSUANCE OF RED RAINSTORM WARNINGS ON BOTH OCCASIONS AND ALSO THE BLACK RAINSTORM WARNING IN THE LATTER CASE.

THE FIRST TROPICAL CYCLONE IN THE YEAR TO AFFECT HONG KONG WAS TYPHOON KORYN WHICH NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF THE NO.8 GALE OR STORM SIGNAL ON JUNE 27.

WITH ONLY ONE RAIN-FREE DAY IN THE MONTH, THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 485.2 MILLIMETRES WAS 29 PER CENT ABOVE THE JUNE NORMAL OF 376 MILLIMETRES.

JULY WAS UNUSUALLY HOT.

THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27.6 DEGREES AND THE MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE OF 29.4 DEGREES RANKED RESPECTIVELY THE HIGHEST AND SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR JULY.

OVERALL IT WAS A RELATIVELY DRY MONTH DESPITE MORE THAN 100 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN DURING THE PASSAGE OF SEVERE TROPICAL STORM LEWIS. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 213.7 MILLIMETRES WAS 34 PER CENT BELOW THE JULY NORMAL OF 323.5 MILLIMETRES.

THE VERY HOT AND DRY CONDITIONS CONTINUED INTO AUGUST.

/THE MONTHLY

THE MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 26.8 DEGREES WAS THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR AUGUST.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO 182.8 MILLIMETRES ONLY, LESS THAN HALF OF THE AUGUST NORMAL OF 391.4 MILLIMETRES. THIS WAS DESPITE THE STORMY WEATHER BROUGHT BY TYPHOON TASHA ON AUGUST 20 WHEN THE NO.8 GALE OR STORM SIGNAL WAS HOISTED FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE YEAR.

THEN CAME THREE TYPHOONS IN QUICK SUCCESSION WITHIN A FORTNIGHT IN SEPTEMBER.

BECKY AND DOT NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF THE NO.8 GALE OR STORM SIGNALS ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND 26 RESPECTIVELY.

THE 223.9 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN BROUGHT BY DOT ON SEPTEMBER 26 WAS THE THIRD HIGHEST DAILY AMOUNT ON RECORD FOR SEPTEMBER.

BY EARLY NEXT MORNING, THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS INUNDATED WITH FLOOD WATER AS DEEP AS SEVEN METRES IN SOME AREAS.

WITH A MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 655.9 MILLIMETRES, MORE THAN TWICE THE SEPTEMBER NORMAL OF 299.7 MILLIMETRES, SEPTEMBER 1993 BECAME THE FIFTH WETTEST SEPTEMBER ON RECORD.

OCTOBER WAS MUCH DRIER AND SLIGHTLY COOLER THAN NORMAL.

THIS WAS DUE TO THE DOMINANCE OF CONTINENTAL ANTICYCLONES WHICH LED TO THE THIRD-HIGHEST OCTOBER MONTHLY MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,016.2 HECTOPASCALS. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 87.8 MILLIMETRES WAS 39 PER CENT BELOW THE OCTOBER NORMAL OF 144.8 MILLIMETRES.

NOVEMBER WAS UNUSUALLY CLOUDY AND HUMID.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 144.6 MILLIMETRES, MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THE NOVEMBER NORMAL OF 35.1 MILLIMETRES, AND THE 131.2 HOURS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE IN THE MONTH WERE RESPECTIVELY THE FIFTH HIGHEST AND SIXTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR NOVEMBER.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT WAS THE LATE-SEASON PASSAGE OF TYPHOON IRA EARLY IN THE MONTH.

RAIN ASSOCIATED WITH IRA WAS QUITE EXCEPTIONAL AS INTENSE CONVECTION EMBEDDED WITHIN ONE OF ITS TRAILING RAINBANDS BROUGHT CONCENTRATED HEAVY RAIN OF MORE THAN 700 MILLIMETRES TO THE WESTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY ON NOVEMBER 4 AND 5.

THERE WERE EXTENSIVE LANDSLIDES IN LANTAU AND WIDESPREAD FLOODING IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

AN INUNDATED WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN TUEN MUN AND A BURST OF WATER MAINS IN CHEUNG CHAU RESULTED IN THESE AREAS HAVING NO FRESH WATER SUPPLY FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR DAYS.

DECEMBER WAS SLIGHTLY COOLER AND CLOUDIER THAN NORMAL.

APART FROM A HUMID SPELL EARLY IN THE MONTH, IT WAS RATHER DRY. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 15.7 MILLIMETRES WAS 42 PER CENT BELOW THE DECEMBER NORMAL OF 27.3 MILLIMETRES.

THE WINTER MONSOON WAS ACTIVE BEFORE CHRISTMAS, GIVING RISE TO SOME COLD MORNINGS AND DAYS OF LOW HUMIDITY.

WITH THE WINTER MONSOON BECOMING MORE SUBDUED, THE WEATHER TURNED NOTICEABLY MILDER DURING THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE NEW YEAR.

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LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS SALE BY AUCTION

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ONE HUNDRED CAR REGISTRATION MARKS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION TODAY (SATURDAY) FOR A TOTAL OF \$5,606,000.00 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION MARK FU2 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$1,100,000.

ANOTHER REGISTRATION MARK 1964 AND DL3 WERE SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$320,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 EACH FOR FN8958, FN5331, FN8295, FN3915, FN7307, FN7455, FN5996.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S MORNING SESSION AUCTION:

	\$		\$		\$		\$
FN1268	8,000	FN882	30,000	EN318	35,000	FM329	45,000
FM728	20,000	FM1938	8,000	FM903	40,000	FN8293	8,000
*FC4	105,000	*FT333	80,000	*576	210,000	*DL3	320,000
AL2808	15,000	AK8613	12,000	FM633	22,000	FM809	10,000
FM889	40,000	FM3383	21,000	AU417	14,000	CF6811	9,000
FN877	10,000	FN902	7,000	FM6882	9,000	FM9008	12,000
CA283	100,000	BM3999	45,000	DD3408	7,000	FN9336	8,000
*8146	50,000	*FT11	115,000	*FK20	105,000	*DK12	200,000
FN8111	13,000	FF638	30,000	FN3381	5,000	FM4898	8,000
FM330	30,000	FM8300	9,000	FM814	8,000	FM852	3,000
FM578	2,000	FN8958	1,000	*CK95	90,000	FN4809	4,000
AX6521	5,000	FN5331	1,000	FM3208	9,000	*FT34	35,000
FN8295	1,000	FM2627	3,000				

/FOLLOWING ARE

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AFTERNOON SESSION AUCTION:

FN1668	\$ 55,000	EC128	\$ 170,000	FM328	\$ 100,000	FN9189	\$ 7,000
FM7388	14,000	FN4483	11,000	EM233	45,000	FM9005	5,000
*1964	320,000	*591	165,000	*1965	260,000	*FU2	1,100,000
FN562	5,000	FN3336	12,000	AA1230	60,000	FM6900	5,000
HK1042	38,000	HK1096	52,000	FM921	5,000	FN1963	16,000
FF8368	10,000	FN3280	16,000	FN9311	5,000	DA216	21,000
FM8819	9,000	BT382	34,000	EN3338	50,000	FN122	23,000
*DK23	85,000	*XX95	250,000	*FK22	250,000	*FT202	35,000
FN118	70,000	FM8038	13,000	HK491	55,000	FN6631	3,000
FN639	19,000	FN1230	9,000	FM4899	3,000	FM9890	4,000
FM9331	2,000	FN3915	1,000	*4750	113,000	AW8613	16,000
FM8155	WITHDRAWN	FN7455	1,000	*FT4000	83,000	FN5996	1,000
FN5996	1,000	FN8275	WITHDRAWN				

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE CAR REGISTRATION MARKS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO CARS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 209TH AND 210TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO \$233,339,905.

THERE WAS NO BIDDER FOR FM8155 AND FN8275. THESE CAR REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANTS.

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YOUNG MUSICIAN INVITED TO ATTEND MUSIC CAMP

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A TALENTED YOUNG STRING PLAYER FROM HONG KONG WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE INTENSIVE TRAINING IN SYMPHONIC MUSIC PERFORMANCE BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE WORLD YOUNG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN THE 1994 INTERLOCHEN ARTS CAMP AT INTERLOCHEN IN MICHIGAN, THE UNITED STATES.

RECOGNISED AS A PREMIER FINE ARTS CAMP IN THE WORLD, THE ANNUAL MUSIC CAMP WILL BE HELD FROM JUNE 26 TO AUGUST 22 THIS YEAR.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN MASTER CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS TO EXCHANGE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND ENJOY PERFORMANCES BY SOME OF THE MOST RENOWNED ARTISTS IN THE WORLD.

INTERESTED MUSICIANS AGED BETWEEN 14 TO 18 BY JUNE 26 THIS YEAR AND WHO HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR NOT LESS THAN THREE YEARS, AND ATTAINED GRADE VIII (PRACTICAL) IN THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC EXAMINATION OR EQUIVALENT ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE CAMP.

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PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE WITH ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE AND A REASONABLE COMMAND OF ENGLISH.

APPLICANTS WILL HAVE TO ATTEND AN AUDITION ARRANGED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE IN MID-MARCH.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH RETURN AIR PASSAGE DONATED BY CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LIMITED AND A LOCAL ORGANISATION.

THE FEES FOR THE CAMP WILL BE MET BY THE CAMP ORGANISER.

THE SELECTED CANDIDATE WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR HIS/HER PERSONAL INSURANCE ABROAD, AND TO PLACE A SUM OF U.S.\$300 IN HIS PERSONAL ACCOUNT WITH THE INTERLOCHEN ARTS CAMP TO MEET MINOR PERSONAL EXPENSES.

THE FINAL DECISION REGARDING THE SELECTION OF PARTICIPANT RESTS WITH THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE KWUN TONG MUSIC CENTRE, THIRD FLOOR, NGAU TAU KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 21 ON WAH STREET, NGAU TAU KOK BY FEBRUARY 14.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 796 2891.

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WATER CUTS IN HK WEST & KOWLOON EAST

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 17) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE WATER CUT WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT 158A-188 CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST, 200, 426, 428 AND ODD NUMBERS OF 271-375 DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, ODD NUMBERS OF 443-453 QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, EVEN NUMBERS OF 4-16 HILL ROAD, 8 AND 8A WHITTY STREET, KA ON STREET, 6-7 CHIU KWONG STREET, FUNG MAT ROAD AND THE WESTERN POLICE STATION.

MEANWHILE, OWING TO CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO MOST PREMISES IN EAST KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 18) TO 10 AM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 20).

THE AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON BAY, CHOI HUNG, PING SHEK, CHOI WAN, SHUN LEE, SHUN ON, SHUN TIN, SAU MAU PING, LAM TIN, NGAU TAU KOK, KWUN TONG, CHA KWO LING AND DIAMOND HILL.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,230
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,770
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,180
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,820

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 127.4 *-0.1* 15.1.94

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