



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PRACTICAL ACTION TO PROMOTE HK AS INTERNATIONAL CITY

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STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY IS A CORNERSTONE OF OUR FUTURE, THE HON MARTIN BARROW SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE SECOND DAY OF DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS, MR BARROW SAID DEVELOPING THE STATUS OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY WAS A CREATIVE, POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC THEME THAT COULD RALLY AND INSPIRE THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG AS WELL AS OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND CHINA ITSELF.

THOUGH HONG KONG WAS ALREADY A FLOURISHING INTERNATIONAL CITY IN MANY RESPECTS, THERE WAS STILL MUCH PRACTICAL ACTION THAT WE COULD TAKE TO ACHIEVE THIS VISION OF HONG KONG, HE SAID.

MR BARROW SUGGESTED THAT WE MUST ACHIEVE A HIGHER STANDARD OF ENGLISH; MUST HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO ALLOW PEOPLE WITH PARTICULAR SKILLS AND KNOW-HOW TO COME INTO HONG KONG; MUST AVOID PROTECTIONISM AMONG THE PROFESSIONS AND SHOULD ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, SUCH AS BRANCHES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TO HAVE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS HERE.

HE ALSO SAID THAT WE MUST TAKE GREATER STEPS TO DEVELOP HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.

THE ALREADY ACTIVE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED WITH PROFESSIONAL OUTSIDE HELP, AND THEY SHOULD WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

MEANWHILE, HELP SHOULD BE SOUGHT FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THOSE HONG KONG COMPANIES WHICH HAD BUSINESSES IN SOME OF THE MAJOR CITIES OF THE WORLD, IN PUTTING OVER THE HONG KONG MESSAGE.

"THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD BE IN PARALLEL TO THE INITIATIVES WHICH ARE BEING TAKEN IN HONG KONG SUCH AS SETTING UP AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE, WHICH IS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT," HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD DEVOTE TIME WHILE ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO PROMOTING HONG KONG WHENEVER THE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES AROSE.

NOTING THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION NOT ONLY ALLOWED HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER TO CONTINUE BUT ALSO ENCOURAGED IT TO GROW AND FLOURISH, MR BARROW SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO UNDERLINE THE CRUCIAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN STRENGTHENING HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY AND THE POLITICALLY MORE COMPLEX POINT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE ISSUE OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

TURNING TO THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR AS A VITAL ELEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CITY THEME, MR BARROW STRESSED THE NEED TO STRENUOUSLY AVOID OVER-REGULATION WHICH COULD STIFLE THE VIGOUR AND INNOVATION OF OUR MARKETS.

/"HONG KONG .....

"HONG KONG GREW INTO AN IMPORTANT FINANCIAL CENTRE BECAUSE THERE WERE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF RULES INHIBITING BUSINESS, RATHER THAN BECAUSE IT HAD A COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY SYSTEM," HE SAID.

"IN REVIEWING COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING REGULATIONS AND PLANS FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE COMMONSENSE HANDLING OF SITUATIONS AS THEY ARISE AND THE AVOIDANCE OF NIT-PICKING," HE ADDED.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO STRAY AWAY FROM HONG KONG'S BASIC PHILOSOPHY, AND TO ENSURE THE REGULATORY ORGANISATIONS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT REMAINED LEAN AND TIGHTLY MANAGED, WITH A SENSIBLE APPROACH TO REALITIES.

ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT, MR BARROW SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS WAS WELCOME NEWS TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND TO THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN PARTICULAR.

HOWEVER, IN PARALLEL WITH THESE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, HE SAID WE MUST KEEP UP THE OTHER IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WERE SO VITAL TO MAINTAINING HONG KONG AS AN EXCITING AND VIBRANT CITY FOR VISITORS AND CONTINUE TO OFFER A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE.

THESE INCLUDED THE ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS AT KAI TAK OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS; THE NEED TO ENSURE THE LAYOUT OF THE NEW RECLAMATION GAVE HONG KONG AN EXCITING AND COLOURFUL WATERFRONT; THE COMMITMENT TO TRAINING AND EDUCATION AS WELL AS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN IMMIGRATION POLICY; THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE.

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#### NEED TO REBUILD CONFIDENCE

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THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO REBUILD CONFIDENCE: CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES AND CONFIDENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN US, THE HON EDWARD HO SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MR HO SAID THE RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE LAY ULTIMATELY IN MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG CHINA, HONG KONG AND BRITAIN.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE MUTUAL TRUST IN THE WILL AND DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF ALL THREE GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY, AND TO HAVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

/IT WAS .....

IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO HAVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISTINCTIVE NATURE OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS OF HONG KONG AND CHINA, AND TO HAVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUE MEANING OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS".

TURNING TO EDUCATION, MR HO WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE PROVISION OF FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE PLACES WITHOUT DECREASING SUB-DEGREE PLACES.

IN ORDER TO ATTRACT SUITABLY QUALIFIED TEACHING STAFF WITHOUT CAUSING UNDESIRABLE STAFF MOVEMENTS BETWEEN THE POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE SAME STATUS AS THE UNIVERSITIES, AND SHOULD BE RENAMED TO REFLECT THAT STATUS.

HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF MORE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY OVERSEAS ON CONDITION THAT THEY WOULD RETURN TO HONG KONG TO WORK FOR A GIVEN NUMBER OF YEARS AFTER GRADUATION.

HE SAID YOUNG PEOPLE ALREADY IN EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITIES TO RECEIVE ON THE JOB TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION SO THAT THEY COULD BE EQUIPPED TO OCCUPY MORE RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS LEFT VACANT BY THOSE WHO HAD EMIGRATED.

"TAX INCENTIVES TO EMPLOYERS WHO PROVIDE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED," HE SUGGESTED.

ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID THAT WHILE TOP PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT, ITS ASSOCIATE SUPPORT SERVICES AND TRANSPORT LINKS, IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENTS TO BE PHASED TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT ON RESOURCES.

HE CAUTIONED AGAINST OVER-RELIANCE ON FINANCIAL RETURNS ON SALES OF LAND TO FINANCE THE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

WITH THE HARBOUR RECLAMATION, RELOCATION OF THE AIRPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF PORT FACILITIES, MR HO SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES GAINED TO IMPROVE OUR URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

HE SAID THE METROPLAN UNDER PREPARATION SHOULD ENSURE THAT FUTURE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WOULD CONTAIN ADEQUATE OPEN SPACE, PARKS, PUBLIC AND CIVIC AMENITIES, AND ADEQUATE ROAD RESERVES TO SERVICE A TRULY ATTRACTIVE CITY OF THE FUTURE FOR ITS INHABITANTS.

"WE SHOULD RE-EXAMINE THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THAT THESE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS WOULD BE PROVIDED," HE ADDED.

MR HO ALSO SUGGESTED THAT OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT BY RELOCATING POLLUTING INDUSTRIES TO NEW INDUSTRIAL ZONES NEAR THE NEW AIRPORT, AWAY FROM RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

MEANWHILE, THE PROPOSAL TO BUILD A NEW TOWN NEAR THE NEW AIRPORT SHOULD BE LOOKED AT VERY CAREFULLY FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL POINT OF VIEW, HE SAID.

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POLITICAL PARTIES INEVITABLE

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THE HON RONALD ARCULLI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE INEVITABLE AND ESSENTIAL AS HONG KONG MOVES TOWARDS GREATER POLITICAL MATURITY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID HONG KONG HAD TO AVOID HAVING TOO MANY POLITICAL PARTIES BECAUSE THERE WAS AN INHERENT DANGER THAT IF THERE WAS NO UNITY WITHIN PARTIES, THE STABILITY OF THE LEGISLATURE MIGHT BE AFFECTED.

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MR ARCULLI SAID HE NOTED THAT SOME OF HIS LEGCO COLLEAGUES HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO FORM POLITICAL PARTIES.

HE HOPED VARIOUS LIBERAL GROUPS WOULD IRON OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES TO REORGANISE THEMSELVES INTO A SINGLE COHESIVE AND CREDITABLE PARTY AND NOT MERELY BECAME AN AMALGAM OF GROUPS WITHOUT TRUE UNITY.

"WE MUST AVOID TOO MANY POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THERE IS AN INHERENT DANGER: IT MAY RESULT IN THE LEGISLATURE BEING CONTROLLED BY A MINORITY GROUP ACTING IN CONCERT OR AT LEAST HAVE SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE.

"WE MUST THEREFORE BE ALERT TO SOME OF THE PITFALLS OF POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT AND REALISE THAT WE WILL HAVE TO WORK VERY HARD TO OBTAIN SUCH STABILITY," HE SAID.

MR ARCULLI ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS IN THE OMELCO CONSENSUS FOR 1991 AND 1995 WHEN DECIDING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

BESIDES DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LEGISLATURE AND THE EXECUTIVE, HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO CONSIDER REFORMS IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

"THERE IS A CASE FOR SYNCHRONISING THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THESE BODIES WITH THAT OF THIS COUNCIL SO THAT BY 1995 ALL THEIR MEMBERS WOULD ALSO BE ELECTED BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER.

"THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME AND AN URGENT DECISION IS REQUIRED. IT IS THE EXPECTATION OF THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

MR ARCULLI SAID CHINA WOULD BENEFIT FROM HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT INTO AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE AS A LOT OF INVESTMENT IN CHINA WAS MADE BY HONG KONG OR THROUGH IT.

HE NOTED THAT THERE MIGHT SOMETIMES BE UNDUE WORRIES AND OCCASSIONALLY HICCUPS IN SINO-HONG KONG RELATIONSHIPS.

/BUT MOST .....

BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL WAS FOR HONG KONG TO ENSURE THE CONCEPT OF THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEM, HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY" WOULD WORK, AS IT WOULD BE MEASURED AGAINST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS BECAUSE HONG KONG WAS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY.

ON FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES, MR ARCULLI SAID: "THESE AMBITIOUS PLANS WILL TEST HONG KONG'S RESILIENCE AND RESOURCEFULNESS AND WHILST I AGREE THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO DO IT WE MUST NOT TAKE OUR EYES OFF THE EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON OUR ECONOMY AND BE CAREFUL THAT WE DO NOT MORTGAGE OUR FUTURE FOR AN APPARENT DISPLAY OF CONFIDENCE.

"WE HAVE BEEN TOLD OFTEN ENOUGH IN THE PAST THAT HONG KONG CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE ON TOO MANY CAPITAL PROJECTS AS WE DO NOT WANT THE ECONOMY TO OVERHEAT OR THAT WE MUST BE FRUGAL IN TIMES OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURN.

"IF THOSE OBSERVATIONS WERE TRUE LET US NOT FORGET THEM IN THE YEARS TO COME."

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CALL TO REBUILD HK'S IMAGE ABROAD

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APART FROM THE NEED TO BUILD SELF CONFIDENCE, HONG KONG MUST URGENTLY ENSURE THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO HAVE FAITH IN OUR FUTURE, THE HON PAUL CHENG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MR CHENG SAID HE NOTED IN HIS RECENT TRAVELS ABROAD THAT THERE HAD BEEN A TOTALLY WRONG PERCEPTION OF HONG KONG AROUND THE WORLD AFTER THE JUNE EVENTS IN PEKING.

HE STRESSED THAT TO REBUILD OUR IMAGE, WE MUST SERIOUSLY CONSIDER MOUNTING A CO-ORDINATED CAMPAIGN, AND SEEK PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM A PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM WITH A GLOBAL NETWORK.

CONVINCED THAT A TASK FORCE COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS SHOULD BE FORMED TO SPEARHEAD THIS EFFORT, MR CHENG SAID THAT UNLESS THIS WAS DONE, FOREIGN INVESTMENT WOULD SLIDE AND OUR STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL CENTRE WOULD BEGIN TO ERODE.

NOTING THAT MANY INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVES HAD MADE A LONG TERM COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG, MR CHENG SAID WE SHOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THOSE INTERESTED AND WILLING, TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY IN AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES.

/"WHERE APPROPRIATE .....

"WHERE APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY, WE SHOULD ALSO WELCOME PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIALISTS FROM ABROAD TO PRACTICE AND WORK HERE," HE SAID.

MR CHENG SAID THAT IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY, HONG KONG NEEDED TO CULTIVATE AN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.

HE HOPED THAT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED - CHINA, BRITAIN, THE HONG KONG PEOPLE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITH COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG - WOULD EXERCISE SELF-RESTRAINT TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS.

"LET PRAGMATISM RULE THE DAY FOR IF WE CANNOT MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC VIABILITY AND FREE ENVIRONMENT, ALL ELSE INCLUDING GETTING THE RIGHT POLITICAL MODEL MAY BECOME SECONDARY," HE SAID.

MR CHENG SAID IT WAS IN CHINA'S INTEREST TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REINJECT CONFIDENCE INTO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"BY RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO HONG KONG PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON THE DRAFTING OF THE BASIC LAW WILL GO A LONG WAY TO SHOW HER UNDERSTANDING, FLEXIBILITY AND SINCERITY TOWARDS THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" CONCEPT.

"A PROSPEROUS AND STABLE HONG KONG WILL HELP SPEED UP CHINA'S EVENTUAL EMERGENCE AS A WORLD POWER," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, MR CHENG SAID THAT THE PLANS OUTLINED IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS WOULD HELP MAINTAIN OUR ECONOMIC MOMENTUM AND REGAIN SOME OF OUR LOST CONFIDENCE.

DESCRIBING THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT AS THE "HARDWARE", HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT WE MUST GIVE EQUAL EMPHASIS TO DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE "SOFTWARE".

TO HIM, THE MORE CRITICAL "SOFTWARE" ISSUES INCLUDED EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, THE ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.

ON EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, MR CHENG SAID THAT IN INCREASING THE PLANNED PROVISION OF FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE PLACES FROM 7,000 NEXT YEAR TO 15,000 IN 1995. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THIS WAS NOT DONE AT THE EXPENSE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

HE SAID THAT WE NEEDED TO REVIEW THE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR THE TEACHING PROFESSION TO ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE INTO THE FIELD.

"WE MUST ALSO WELCOME TEACHERS FROM ABROAD TO HELP US RAISE OUR CHILDREN'S STANDARD OF ENGLISH AND WE MUST SEND MORE TEACHERS OVERSEAS TO UPDATE THEIR TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND SKILLS," HE SAID.

ON THE ENVIRONMENT, MR CHENG SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT MORE EFFORTS WOULD BE GIVEN TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

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"WE NEED TO ACT QUICKLY AND WE NEED TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE. GENTLE PERSUASION IS NOT GOING TO WORK," HE SAID.

ON TECHNOLOGY, HE SAID THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW HONG KONG TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WAS GOOD NEWS INDEED.

HE HOPED FOCUS WOULD BE ON APPLIED TECHNOLOGY, ON PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN ON PURE BASIC RESEARCH.

"WE NEED TO FOSTER A CLOSER LINK BETWEEN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"WE ALSO NEED TO LOOK AT POSSIBLE SCHEMES TO ENCOURAGE MANUFACTURERS TO REINVEST IN TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

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TERTIARY EXPANSION PROGRAMME A BLESSING FOR YOUNG

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THE TARGETS THE GOVERNOR OUTLINED IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS FOR THE PROVISION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE COMING YEARS ARE A BLESSING FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, THE HON DAVID CHEUNG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR CHEUNG SAID IN THE POLICY DEBATE THAT FOR THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME TO SUCCEED, TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS MUST COME OUT OF THEIR "IVORY TOWERS", FOREGO THE NOSTALGIC RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAST, AND DESIGN NEW PROGRAMMES AND CURRICULA TO SUIT THE NEEDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THOSE OF THE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID THAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO ATTAIN THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE ACADEMIC STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING.

NOTING THAT THERE WERE MANY YOUNG WORKING PERSONS WHO ASPIRED TO HIGHER ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THEIR CAREER ADVANCEMENT, MR CHEUNG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING ON EXISTING FACILITIES, BOTH IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, BY PROVIDING MORE CO-ORDINATED INPUT TO STREAMLINE THE QUALITY OF THESE FACILITIES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

HE WELCOMED WHOLE-DAY PRIMARY SCHOOLING AND HOPED THAT POSITIVE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO MAKE WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLS EDUCATIONALLY MEANINGFUL.

IN SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, HE WAS WORRIED THAT THE EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION WOULD BE AT THE EXPENSE OF LOWER LEVELS OF EDUCATION.

HE NOTED THAT SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE STILL WAITING FOR FUNDS TO RE-INSTATE THE POST OF VICE-PRINCIPAL, TO COMPUTERISE ADMINISTRATION AND TO INCREASE LABOUR-SAVING EQUIPMENT FOR EFFICIENCY.

/IN LANGUAGE .....

IN LANGUAGE MATTERS, MR CHEUNG REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT THE USE OF ENGLISH AS THE MAJOR MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS WAS EDUCATIONALLY UNSOUND.

HE SAID THAT WE MUST DEVELOP FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CHINESE STREAM A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR FURTHER STUDIES AND BETTER EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS.

MR CHEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN STREAMING PUPILS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LANGUAGE ABILITY AT THE END OF PRIMARY SIX. HE SAID THIS WAS POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND WOULD BRING DISRUPTION TO THE EDUCATIONAL SCENE.

HE WELCOMED THE SETTING UP OF A COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHARTER FOR YOUTH.

ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE POLITICAL SYSTEM, MR CHEUNG SUPPORTED THE OMELCO CONSENSUS.

"IT WAS THE OUTCOME OF A GREAT AMOUNT OF GIVE AND TAKE AMONG MEMBERS WHO HAVE THE OVERALL WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY AT HEART AND WHO, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS AND CONSTITUENCIES, REPRESENT A WIDE SPECTRUM OF OUR POPULACE.

"I EARNESTLY HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THIS AND SET IN TRAIN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EFFECTING THE NECESSARY CHANGES FROM 1991 ONWARDS," HE SAID.

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#### ASSURANCES FOR CIVIL SERVICE URGED

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THE GOVERNMENT MUST PROVIDE UNWAVERING AND CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES TO THE CIVIL SERVICE THAT CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, AND PARTICULARLY PENSIONS, WILL REMAIN INTACT AFTER THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY, THE HON NELLIE FONG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MRS FONG SAID SHE STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT CERTAIN THINGS MUST BE DONE TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SHE SAID THE PRESENT CIVIL SERVICE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE WAS MUCH TOO RIGID AND BUREAUCRATIC FOR THE DYNAMIC NEEDS OF HONG KONG. THERE WAS A NEED FOR INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS TO BE GRANTED GREATER AUTONOMY AND FLEXIBILITY.

THERE WAS ALSO A NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RIGOROUS TRAINING AND MOTIVATIONAL SCHEMES, THE ENHANCEMENT OF PROMOTION PROSPECTS, IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS AND INSTALLATION OF PROGRAMMES TO ENGENDER A RENEWED SENSE OF PRIDE AND ACHIEVEMENT IN BEING PART OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

"AS 1997 APPROACHES, I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE BACKBONE OF THE TERRITORY, SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR AN EFFICIENT, STABLE HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

ON THE POLICE FORCE, MRS FONG SAID THAT LAW AND ORDER WAS THE BOTTOM LINE FOR MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING INVESTORS, IN REMAINING IN THE TERRITORY.

SHE THEREFORE BELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO ITS UTMOST TO BUILD UP AN EFFECTIVE, DISCIPLINED POLICE FORCE TO GUARD THE TERRITORY AGAINST UNCERTAINTIES IN THE INTERMEDIATE YEARS AND BEYOND 1997.

ON THE ECONOMY, MRS FONG SAID CHINA WAS THE KEY TO HONG KONG'S SUCCESS.

"INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMEN CANNOT, AND WILL NOT, IGNORE CHINA, AS AN ECONOMIC ENTITY, AND THAT GIVES US A WHOLE EXTRA LEVEL OF OPPORTUNITIES," SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THAT AS THE 21ST CENTURY DAWNED, INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS WOULD LOOK CLOSELY AT THE EXPANDING CHINESE ECONOMY. THEY WOULD LOOK TO HONG KONG AS THE PLACE TO SET UP THEIR CORE OFFICES FOR THEIR OPERATIONS AND EXPANSION INTO A MAJOR PART OF CHINA.

HONG KONG'S VALUE TO CHINA WENT FAR BEYOND ITS ENTREPOT FUNCTIONS FOR CHINA, AND FAR BEYOND THE CAPITAL THAT HONG KONG INVESTED TO USE CHINA AS A MANUFACTURING BASE FOR THE TERRITORY'S EXPORTS.

HONG KONG'S VALUE LAY IN ITS PEOPLE, IN HONG KONG PEOPLE'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE BRIDGE AND THE SUPPORT FUNCTION FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS IN RELATION TO THEIR INVESTMENT IN CHINA, SHE SAID.

"IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT THIS GOVERNMENT DOES ALL IT CAN TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE STRENGTHS WE CURRENTLY POSSESS IN HONG KONG, AN INTERNATIONAL CITY WE PROUDLY CALL OUR HOME," SHE SAID.

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RIGHT OF ABODE CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE

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UNTIL A SAFE AND SECURE FUTURE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IS GUARANTEED BY CONCRETE ACTION TAKEN OR LED BY BRITAIN, OMELCO MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE THEIR CRUSADE FOR RIGHT OF ABODE FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE, THE HON MIRIAM LAU SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

ANY SCHEME WHICH RESTORED THE RIGHT OF ABODE FOR ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE WAS NOWHERE NEAR FULFILMENT BY BRITAIN OF ITS OBLIGATION TO HONG KONG, MRS LAU SAID IN THE POLICY DEBATE.

/"I FIRMLY .....

"I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE STAND WHICH OMELCO HAS TAKEN REPRESENTS THE STAND OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, THAT IS THAT BRITAIN HAS A DIRECT AND CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO RESTORE FULL BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TO OUR 3.25 MILLION BRITISH SUBJECTS IN HONG KONG AND A MORAL OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE FUTURE FOR THE ENTIRE POPULATION," SHE SAID.

NO MATTER HOW FAIR BRITAIN THOUGHT THE SCHEME WAS, ANY DISCRIMINATORY AND ELITIST TREATMENT OF THOSE "SCREENED IN" MUST PROVOKE ACUTE RESENTMENT AMONG THOSE WHO WERE "SCREENED OUT".

THE RESULT WAS THAT DIVISIVENESS WITHIN THE SOCIETY COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. FRUSTRATION AND PERHAPS EVEN PANIC MIGHT ENSUE.

"HOW TO DEAL WITH AND PACIFY THE STRONG REACTIONS THAT WILL INEVITABLY ARISE OUT OF THAT DIVISIVENESS WILL BE A PROBLEM FOR THIS GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH," SHE SAID.

THE PRESENT ESCALATING RATE OF EMIGRATION WAS ALARMING AND GAVE REAL CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

HONG KONG WAS BLEEDING PROFUSELY AS ITS PROFESSIONALS, ENTREPRENEURS AND TALENTED PEOPLE LEFT, AND UNLESS THE FLOW WAS ABATED, THE RESULTING ANAEMIA WAS BOUND TO EVENTUALLY DEBILITATE THE ECONOMY.

MRS LAU SAID ANOTHER AREA WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY UNDERMINED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE WAS THE MANNER IN WHICH DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO TAKE AN INDECISIVE COURSE.

"INSTEAD OF OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TAKING ITS NATURAL COURSE AT A PACE BEFITTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SOCIETY, THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION SEEMS TO BE SUCH THAT CHINA ACTUALLY DICTATES HOW MUCH DEMOCRACY HONG KONG SHOULD GET BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997," SHE SAID.

SHE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT, HAVING NOTED THE WIDELY HELD VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SOMEWHAT FASTER RATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN 1991, SHOULD NOT SEE FIT NOW TO ANNOUNCE THE REVISED COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THAT YEAR.

THE OMELCO PROPOSAL FOR POLITICAL REFORM FOR 1991 REPRESENTED A MASTERPIECE OF COMPROMISE ARRIVED AT AFTER FULL ARGUMENT AND CAREFUL DELIBERATION.

IT WAS QUICK ENOUGH FOR THE LIBERALS, SLOW ENOUGH FOR THE CONSERVATIVES AND FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ENABLE CONVERGENCE TO BE MADE WITH ALMOST ANY LATER MODEL UNDER THE POST-1997 POLITICAL INSTITUTION.

"WHAT OMELCO HAS PROPOSED CERTAINLY FALLS WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND I URGE GOVERNMENT TO PROSCRASTINATE NO FURTHER IN FINALISING THE POLITICAL SYSTEM FOR 1991 UPON THE LINES OF THE OMELCO CONSENSUS," SHE SAID.

/MRS LAU .....

MRS LAU WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE IN REGARD TO THE ENACTMENT OF A BILL OF RIGHTS.

WHAT WORRIED HER TO SOME EXTENT WAS THE FACT THAT THERE WOULD BE A FREEZE PERIOD, AS YET UNDEFINED, AFTER ENACTMENT OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS WHEN EXISTING LAWS COULD NOT BE CHALLENGED AGAINST THE STANDARD OF THE NEW BILL.

SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE FREEZE PERIOD SHOULD NOT EXCEED TWO YEARS, AND THAT WORK ON REVIEWING EXISTING LEGISLATION SHOULD COMMENCE WITHOUT AWAITING ENACTMENT OF THE BILL.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO GIVE SOME FORM OF UNDERTAKING THAT PENDING FULL ENACTMENT OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, IT WOULD REFRAIN FROM ENFORCING THOSE EXISTING LAWS WHICH WERE INCONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE BILL.

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#### HEALTH POLICY NEEDS COMPLETE REVIEW

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THERE IS A REAL AND URGENT NEED FOR A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE HEALTH POLICY IN HONG KONG, DR THE HON LEONG CHE-HUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

DR LEONG SAID IN THE POLICY DEBATE THAT THE FAULTS OF THE EXISTING MEDICAL SERVICE LAY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO DEMONSTRATE A STRONG COMMITMENT IN THE DELIVERY OF A SATISFACTORY MEDICAL SERVICE, AND IN THE LACK OF A WORKABLE POLICY FOR NOW, AND THE FUTURE.

"IT IS EXACTLY THESE TWO FAULTS THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE DISCONTENT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE DOCTORS CULMINATING IN THEIR INDUSTRIAL ACTION; THE DISPUTE OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE; THE SHAMBLES OF THE GOVERNMENT CLINICS AND HOSPITALS; THE WASTAGE RATE OF GOVERNMENT DOCTORS, THE OVER-SUPPLY OF DENTISTS AND, OF COURSE, THE DISSATISFACTION OF THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

DR LEONG SAID IT WOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF HARD WORK TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION.

HE SAID THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WORKING PARTY AND THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE WERE IMPORTANT BUT THEY WOULD NOT WORK WITHOUT FIRM GOVERNMENT CONVICTION.

"IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEFINE ITS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE," HE SAID.

THE LAST WHITE PAPER ON MEDICAL POLICY: "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG" WAS PUBLISHED SOME 15 YEARS AGO AND ANOTHER REVIEW WAS LONG OVERDUE, DR LEONG SAID.

/DR LEONG .....

DR LEONG SAID AN ISSUE THAT NEEDED DETAILED DELIBERATION WAS MEDICAL MANPOWER.

"WITH THE EXPECTED EXODUS IN THE RUN UP TO 1997, THERE WILL BE A CRISIS OF MANPOWER SHORTAGE IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

"THE IDEA OF EMPLOYMENT FROM OVERSEAS WILL NEVER DO, FOR THEY WILL NEVER REPLACE THE LOSS OF EXPERTISE OF WELL TRAINED LOCAL STAFF," HE SAID.

DR LEONG BELIEVED THAT THE IDEA OF UTILISATION OF AVAILABLE MANPOWER FROM THE LARGE POOL OF PRIVATE DOCTORS DESERVED CONSIDERATION.

HE SAID THE RIGID BARRIER THAT DIVIDED THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF HONG KONG INTO EITHER COMPLETELY PRIVATE OR COMPLETELY PUBLIC WAS TO NOBODY'S BENEFIT, AND THE SITUATION COULD BE IMPROVED BY BETTER INTEGRATION OF THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS.

HE SUGGESTED OFFERING ALL DOCTORS WHO HAD REACHED CONSULTANT STATUS THE CHOICE OF FULL SALARY CONTRACTS; OR PART TIME CONTRACTS, OR SESSIONAL CONTRACTS FOR EXPERTISE ON OCCASIONAL NEEDS.

DR LEONG SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR MEDICAL MANAGERS.

HE SAID WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION WAS TRYING TO PROMOTE A BETTER HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT CONCEPT THROUGH THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, IT HAD FALLEN SHORT OF THE NEED FOR PEOPLE TO MANAGE 35 PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

ON MEDICAL FUNDING, DR LEONG SAID THREE ISSUES NEEDED TO BE PROPERLY ADDRESSED. THEY WERE THE SOURCE, THE DISTRIBUTION OF USE AND THE PROPER MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT UTILISATION.

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE CURRENT SYSTEM, THE FUND WAS POORLY MANAGED AS THERE WAS NO DEMAND TO PROVE COST-BENEFIT, COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND COST-EFFICIENCY.

FURTHERMORE, THERE WAS NO INCENTIVE FOR THE CLINICAL UNITS TO SAVE AS ALL UNUSED FUNDS WENT BACK TO GENERAL REVENUE.

"SERVICE AND CARE IS PROVIDED TO ALL IN A HAPHAZARD MANNER, THERE IS NO DESIGNATION OF WHOM IN THE COMMUNITY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

"SINCE THE AVAILABLE FUNDING RESOURCES WILL NOT BE ADEQUATE TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR ALL IN HONG KONG, AVAILABLE CARE WILL ONLY BE PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO RECEIVE AND EVEN THEN ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT MUST GIVE A DEFINITE DIRECTION OF HEALTH ECONOMICS AND UNLESS SUCH FUNDING ISSUES WERE PROPERLY ADDRESSED, THE MERE IMPROVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND STAFF BENEFIT OF THE PROPOSED HOSPITAL AND PRIMARY CARE SYSTEM WOULD NOT PROVIDE THE REFORMS THAT THE PUBLIC MEDICAL SERVICES NEEDED, HE SAID.

/DR LEONG .....

DR LEONG ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING AND TO INTRODUCE SOME KIND OF A MEANS TEST TO IDENTIFY WHICH SECTOR OF THE POPULATION COULD NOT DO WITHOUT SUBSIDISED MEDICAL CARE.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT MUST DEFINE WHICH PART AND WHAT LEVEL OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES THAT IT WAS WILLING TO PROVIDE FOR EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG.

ON DENTAL SERVICE, DR LEONG REGRETTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FAILED TO INTRODUCE A GENERAL DENTAL SERVICE DESPITE THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THIS IN THE WHITE PAPER ON MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED 15 YEARS AGO.

ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID THAT WHATEVER POLITICAL MODEL THAT ONE LOOKED AT FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, IT MUST NOT HAVE ANY CONFLICTS WITH THE BASIC RIGHT THAT EVERY CITIZEN WAS ENSURED IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

"THE IMPORTANT ISSUES BEING THAT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR ANY ELECTORAL SYSTEM SHOULD BE EQUAL, FAIR, OPEN AND FREE.

"THE OMELCO CONSENSUS ON THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE IN THE RUN UP TO 1997 AND BEYOND SATISFIES ALL THESE PRINCIPLES. WHAT IS MORE IS IT MATCHES WITH THE WISH OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR A FASTER DEMOCRATISATION AT A STEADY PACE," HE SAID.

ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS, DR LEONG SAID HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION THAT IT WOULD TAKE TWO TO FIVE YEARS TO GO THROUGH ALL THE LEGISLATION TO ENSURE IT WOULD NOT BE CONTRADICTORY TO THIS BILL.

HE PROPOSED THE SETTING UP OF A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WITH MEMBERS FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR AND ACADEMICS, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS.

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ADOPTION OF OMELCO MODEL FOR POLITICAL REFORM URGED

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THE HONG KONG AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ADOPT THE OMELCO CONSENSUS PROPOSALS ON POLITICAL REFORM AND BRING THEM INTO EFFECT IN 1991, THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

A DEVELOPMENT OF THIS KIND WOULD BE A REAL BOOST TO CONFIDENCE, MR MCGREGOR SAID IN THE POLICY DEBATE.

WHATEVER MODEL WAS ADOPTED AFTER 1997 WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF A SYSTEM ALREADY IN SUCCESSFUL OPERATION, HE SAID.

/ON LABOUR .....

ON LABOUR SUPPLY, MR MCGREGOR SAID FOR MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE NEW AIRPORT, PRESUMABLY THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT ALLOW UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED LABOUR TO BE IMPORTED FROM CHINA AND KEPT ON SITE UNDER ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG EMPLOYEES.

"IF THAT IS THE INTENTION, I JOIN OTHER COLLEAGUES IN THIS COUNCIL IN SAYING THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF ARRANGEMENT THAT EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN REQUESTING FOR SOME TIME WITHOUT SUCCESS," HE SAID.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADING WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, MR MCGREGOR SUGGESTED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES BE ALLOWED TO OPEN TRADE OFFICES HERE.

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER SETTING UP AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD WHICH WOULD OVERSEE AND ADVISE UPON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

ON THE SUBJECT OF GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, MR MCGREGOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADOPT THE PRINCIPLE OF NOMINATED REPRESENTATION WHEN CONSIDERING MEMBERSHIP OF THESE BODIES.

HE SAID THE SETTING UP OF AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY WAS A WISE DECISION. THE NEW AIRPORT AUTHORITY WOULD DO A BETTER JOB THAN WOULD BE THE CASE IF A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAD THE TASK OF WORKING TOGETHER ON THIS PROJECT, HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SAME CONSIDERATION SHOULD APPLY TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PORT, AND THAT A PORT AUTHORITY OR A PORT COMMISSION BE SET UP.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A WHOLESALE TAX BEING INTRODUCED, MR MCGREGOR SAID THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS "4,000 PER CENT NOT IN FAVOUR" OF THE IDEA.

THIS WAS A THOROUGHLY UNATTRACTIVE POSSIBILITY AND SHOULD BE LAID DECENTLY TO REST.

"IN MY VIEW, IT SHOULD ALSO TAKE THE EQUALLY UNATTRACTIVE SOFT DRINKS AND COSMETICS TAXES WITH IT," HE SAID.

ON THE MATTER OF "BOAT BRIDES", MR MCGREGOR ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER DECLARING AN AMNESTY FOR ALL BOAT BRIDES WHO HAD BEEN WAITING FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS TO RETURN TO HONG KONG.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE DEATH PENALTY BE REMOVED ALTOGETHER FROM THE STATUTE BOOK.

REFERRING TO THE CIVIL SERVICE, HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED THAT OVERALL GROWTH WOULD BE REVISED DOWNWARDS TO TWO PER CENT IN 1989-90 BY DELETING VACANCIES, AND KEPT DOWN TO TWO PER CENT FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID A DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH ACROSS-THE-BOARD MEASURES COULD FALL VERY UNEVENLY ON DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES AND VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.

"A LARGE DEPARTMENT IN A NO-GROWTH AREA MAY BE HARDLY AFFECTED, WHEREAS THE EFFECT ON A SMALL, RAPIDLY GROWING DEPARTMENT COULD BE DEVASTATING," HE NOTED.

HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPANDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME, WHICH DEPENDED ON A SMALL BUT RAPIDLY GROWING DEPARTMENT, WOULD NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY TOO RIGID AN APPLICATION OF THE STRINGENT LOW GROWTH POLICY.

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POLICY ON IMPORTING LABOUR SHOULD BE RELAXED

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THE HON JAMES TIEN SUGGESTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HONG KONG SHOULD ADOPT A DUAL APPROACH AND RELAX ITS IMPORTATION OF LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION POLICIES TO HELP SOLVE THE MANPOWER SHORTAGE.

HE SAID THAT GIVEN THE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEM OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND THE RECENT "BRAIN DRAIN" OF PROFESSIONALS AND SKILLED WORKERS, SOCIETY SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO FILL THE JOBS AVAILABLE.

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MR TIEN SAID AN IMPORTATION OF LABOUR POLICY COULD BE DEvised TO ALLOW IN NON-PROFESSIONALS, OR SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS, TO WORK IN THE MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES UNDER LIMITED QUOTA SCHEMES WITH SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS.

AS FOR AN IMMIGRATION POLICY, HE SUGGESTED THAT A POINTS SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THAT IN OVERSEAS COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ADOPTED TO ALLOCATE HIGH PRIORITIES TO PROFESSIONALS AND SKILLED WORKERS WHO COULD BE BROUGHT IN FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

ON FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, MR TIEN NOTED THAT THE PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECTS WOULD ACCOUNT FOR \$127 BILLION.

IF THE PROJECTS WERE SPLIT AT A 60:40 RATIO BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS THIS WOULD MEAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD HAVE TO INVEST \$50 BILLION AND THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE UP THE BALANCE, HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT THE ACCUMULATED FISCAL SURPLUS WOULD AMOUNT TO \$71 BILLION BY THE END OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, AND THAT MIGHT OPEN THE SCOPE FOR BORROWING, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT COULD RELY ON THE REPORTED \$200 BILLION IN THE FORM OF THE EXCHANGE FUND.

/BUT AN .....

BUT AN INFLUENTIAL PRIVATE REPORT HAD SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO SPEND \$550 BILLION ON ALL CAPITAL WORKS BETWEEN NOW AND 2004, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRY TO EVEN OUT ALL MAJOR PROJECTS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY UPS AND DOWNS.

ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, MR TIEN SAID HE HAD INDICATED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE OMELCO CONSENSUS AND THE SO-CALLED 4-4-2 MODEL, AND HE BELIEVED THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE PROPOSED WOULD ALLOW FOR A SUITABLE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT.

HE ADDED THAT SUPPORTING OTHERS DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN A CHANGE OF HEART OR LOSS OF FACE.

"COMPROMISE AND CONSENSUS IS SOMETHING WE ALSO TRIED TO ACHIEVE WITHIN OMELCO, BUT COMPROMISE AND CONSENSUS WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE OMELCO IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, HOWEVER, IS TO ACHIEVE A BASIC LAW RESPONSIVE TO THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT BOTH HERE AND IN CHINA.

"THESE MATTERS REQUIRE ABOVE ALL TO BE DISCUSSED CALMLY AND WITHOUT PETTINESS. THE LAST THING WE NEED IS A WAR OF NERVES... CARRIED ON ABOUT, AND AGAINST, THIS TERRITORY," HE SAID.

MR TIEN SAID THE RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE WAS A DIFFICULT PROPOSITION AND HE WAS NOT CONFIDENT THAT THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW WOULD ACCORD WITH THE WISHES OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

HE ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT SEE A MODEL IN WHICH HONG KONG PEOPLE HAD CONFIDENCE, GIVEN THE CURRENT UNCOMPROMISING ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL MISTRUST.

"HENCE, WE NEED TO ASSURE THAT, BETWEEN MAY 1990 AND 1997, THE DOOR CAN BE KEPT OPEN TO CHANGE. OUR HOPES REST UPON A CHANGE OF HEART WITHIN CHINA ITSELF.

"OUR HOPES ALSO REST UPON RECONCILIATION AND UNDERSTANDING, REFERRED TO BY PREMIER LI PENG THIS WEEK TO THE VISITING FORMER US PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON," HE SAID.

STABLE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT KEY TO PROSPERITY

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POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE THE CONFIDENCE CRISIS THAT IS LOOMING OVER HONG KONG'S HORIZONS, AND IT IS UP TO ALL SIDES TO ENSURE A STABLE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SO ESSENTIAL TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY, THE HON PETER WONG HONG-YUEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE ALSO URGED THE LOCAL BASIC LAW DRAFTERS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG AND STRIKE A REASONABLE BALANCE WITH CHINA.

"IF THEY NEGOTIATE FOR THE OVERALL GOOD OF CHINA AND HONG KONG, EVERYONE THEN WILL BE THE BENEFICIARY AND NONE WILL BE THE LOSER," HE SAID.

SPEAKING IN THE POLICY DEBATE, MR WONG SAID THE PROJECTED \$127 BILLION INVESTMENT IN THE NEW AIRPORT AND PORT DEVELOPMENT WAS AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN HONG KONG.

BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD TO ENSURE THAT THE ECONOMY WOULD NOT BECOME OVERHEATED AS A RESULT.

"SO FAR AS THE FUNDING OF THE PROJECT IS CONCERNED, I WAS UNHAPPY TO HEAR THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REMARK THAT TAXES WILL HAVE TO GO UP, OR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STABILISE THE YIELD.

"I WAS UNHAPPY BECAUSE THIS IS BASICALLY PROJECT FINANCING AND SHOULD NOT COME OUT OF THE GENERAL REVENUES OVER THE LONG TERM. IT WOULD BE VERY WRONG TO USE THE AIRPORT AS THE EXCUSE TO BRING IN SALES TAX.

"THE USE OF THE HONG KONG SAR GOVERNMENT LAND FUND TRUST WOULD SEEM A BETTER ALTERNATIVE," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THE MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS WOULD LEAD TO INFLATION IF ACTIVITIES WERE NOT CAREFULLY PLANNED.

HE ALSO SAID THERE MIGHT BE A NEED TO LIBERALISE THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR TO MEET THE SURGE IN DEMAND BUT SUCH A POLICY SHOULD BE EXERCISED CAREFULLY IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE.

OVERSEAS AND LOCAL CONSORTIA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRY TO OBTAIN THE BEST TERMS.

AS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROJECTS THROUGH THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW THE CAPABILITY OF SENIOR OFFICIALS TO PICK THE MOST SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE SPECIAL JOB, AND IF SUCH PERSON COULD NOT BE FOUND IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, IT SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO BRING IN OVERSEAS EXPERTS.

/MR WONG .....

MR WONG ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONDUCT A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON THE RESIDENTS OF NORTH LANTAU AND SOUTH NEW TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF THE PROJECTS ON TOWN PLANNING PROGRAMMES IN THESE TWO AREAS.

TURNING TO A SHORTAGE OF ACCOUNTANTS IN HONG KONG, MR WONG SAID A RECENT SURVEY SHOWED HONG KONG WAS 2,200 ACCOUNTANTS SHORT WITHIN THE PROFESSION AND GOVERNMENT, BUT THE UNIVERSITIES WERE REFUSING TO OFFER DEGREE COURSES IN THIS DISCIPLINE.

HE SAID THAT WITH THE GOVERNMENT PLACING GREATER DEMAND ON THE PROFESSION AND YET DECLINING TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRAINING IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR OR REALISTIC TO THE PROFESSION.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO INCLUDING ACCOUNTANCY IN TERTIARY EDUCATION WHEN ALLOCATING PRIORITIES BECAUSE IMPORTATION OF SKILLED ACCOUNTANTS TO FILL THE GAPS COULD ONLY PROVIDE TEMPORARY RELIEF.

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TRIPARTITE EFFORT URGED TO DISPEL DISTRUST

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THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON THE CHINESE, BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS TO JOIN HANDS TO DISMANTLE THE BARRIERS OF SUSPICION AND DISTRUST AMONG THEM.

"FOR A START, I PLEAD THAT THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES SHOULD NOT ALLOW ANY SUSPICIONS TO IMPEDE OBJECTIVE AND RATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG," MR CHEONG SAID IN THE POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HONG KONG COULD NOT, AND WOULD NOT, SURVIVE IF IT WERE TO DEVELOP INTO A BASE OF SUBVERSION.

"WE HAVE NEITHER THE WISH NOR THE ABILITY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT CHINA ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT THE DIFFERENCES IN VALUES AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES BETWEEN THE TWO SOCIETIES BE WELL UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED BY THE LEADERSHIP IN CHINA," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT CHINA WORKED WITH HONG KONG WITH SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING. BLATANT DEPLOYMENT OF STRONG AND HARD TACTICS ARISING OUT OF A FATHER-KNOWS-BEST ATTITUDE WOULD NOT BE CONDUCTIVE TO THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS".

AS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HE SAID HIS PLEA WAS THAT THEY SHOULD, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, SHED THE YOKE OF DOUBT AND WORRY.

/"WHILST NO .....

"WHILST NO ONE CAN KNOW FOR SURE HOW BAD OR HOW WELL WE WILL FARE IN THE FUTURE, WE MUST NOT BE DETERRED FROM WORKING HARD FOR OUR OWN FUTURE," HE SAID.

MR CHEONG SAID OPEN AND PERSISTENT CHALLENGE TO CHINA'S CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND ITS LEGITIMACY WAS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"WHATEVER DIFFERENCES THERE MAY BE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THEY MUST BE RESOLVED THROUGH BUSINESS-LIKE NEGOTIATIONS AND NOT CONSTANT DEPLOYMENT OF PRESSURE GROUP TACTICS," HE SAID.

AS FOR BRITAIN, HE SAID HIS PLEA WAS THAT BRITISH POLITICAL LEADERS SHOULD STEP OUT OF THE CONSTRAINTS OF THEIR PERCEIVED POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY.

BRITAIN MUST UNDERSTAND, CONSIDER AND IMPLEMENT MEASURES DESIGNED TO UNDERPIN THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG.

"UK IS BOUND UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF THE JOINT DECLARATION TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY TO HONG KONG. THEREFORE, UK PROVIDING SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS TO BOTH THE NATIONALITY AND THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ISSUES WOULD CERTAINLY BE THE WELCOME FIRST STEPS," HE SAID.

MR CHEONG SAID THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY SPEECH WAS TIMELY. IT STARKLY REMINDED HONG KONG THAT WHATEVER EMOTIONS AND FEARS ARISING OUT OF CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO FOCUS AT ALL TIMES ON WHAT LIFE FOR CITIZENS WAS ALL ABOUT.

"THAT IS, WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE OUR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE, EDUCATION, TRANSPORT, ETC. WE CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT PERENNIALY LIVE ON HOPE OR FEARS," HE SAID.

THE ONE PILLAR TO HONG KONG'S STABILITY MUST BE THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF INTEGRITY AND MORALE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR CHEONG SAID.

"IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD PLEAD THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONTAIN THE GROWTH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BE IMPLEMENTED WITH A DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY," HE SAID.

TURNING TO EDUCATION, MR CHEONG SAID THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THE DRAIN ON TALENT CAUSED BY EMIGRATION, HONG KONG NEEDED TO RECONSIDER THE INPUT INTO THE POST-SECONDARY CURRICULUM AND THE SORT OF GRADUATES THE COMMUNITY AND THE ECONOMY NEEDED.

"THIS CALLS FOR A CLOSER DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION, THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS AND ACADEMIA.

"IT IS PERHAPS HIGH TIME FOR A REVIEW TO RATIONALISE THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF OUR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION TO CROSS-MATCH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DIFFERENT SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT AS THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY HAD BEEN DECIDED AND WAS IRREVOCABLE, HONG KONG MUST NOW CONSIDER HOW TO INSTILL IN FUTURE GENERATIONS THE KNOWLEDGE, VALUES AND SKILLS FOR A LIFE IN A TERRITORY WITHIN THE NATION OF CHINA.

ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MR CHEONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INVEST VIGOROUSLY IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

"WE MUST RECOGNISE THAT HONG KONG IS VERY MUCH BEHIND KOREA, TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE IN THIS FIELD AND IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN OUR PLACE IN THE FAST MOVING ECONOMIC WORLD, WE NEED TO START THE PROCESS OF, NOT CATCHING UP, BUT OF NOT BEING LEFT TOO FAR BEHIND," HE SAID.

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MEMBERS COMPLETE SPEECHES IN POLICY DEBATE

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY) COMPLETED THEIR SPEECHES ON THE MOTION THAT THE GOVERNOR BE THANKED FOR HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL.

TWENTY-TWO MEMBERS SPOKE ON THE MOTION IN THE SECOND DAY OF THE ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE. THE SITTING BEGAN AT 2.30 PM AND ENDED AT 8.55 PM.

TWENTY-TWO MEMBERS ALSO SPOKE IN YESTERDAY'S SITTING.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS WHEN THE DEBATE RESUMES AT THE COUNCIL'S NEXT SITTING ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 8). THAT SITTING WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM.

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HK'S MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS REMAIN COMPETITIVE

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HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS REMAIN AS COMPETITIVE AS EVER IN ITS MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS AND ITS TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES, ELECTRONICS, TOYS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS INDUSTRIES ARE WORLD-FAMOUS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRADE FAIR AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

MR CHAN SAID MANUFACTURING HAD BEEN THE MAINSTAY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, ACCOUNTING FOR SOME 22 PER CENT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND 32 PER CENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN 1988.

BEING ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EXTERNALLY ORIENTED ECONOMIES, HONG KONG EXPORTS ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF ITS MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS.

"WE GENERALLY IMPORT RAW MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR PRODUCTION AND ALSO THE INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY WE USE IN MANUFACTURING PROCESS," MR CHAN SAID.

AT PRESENT, HE ADDED, TWO-THIRDS OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY WAS IMPORTED, PARTICULARLY THOSE REQUIRED TO USE MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES.

"BUT THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT OUR OWN PRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY IS UNIMPORTANT. IN RECENT YEARS OUR MACHINERY MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS ABILITY IN WINNING EXPORT ORDERS," MR CHAN SAID.

LAST YEAR, THE VALUE OF THE EXPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY WAS OVER \$4,000 MILLION WHICH WAS NEARLY THREE TIMES THE FIGURES IN 1981.

MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG WAS NOW FACING KEEN COMPETITION IN ITS MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS AND THE INCREASING DEMAND FROM ITS CONSUMERS FOR EVER-HIGHER QUALITY STANDARD IN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS.

MR CHAN STRESSED THAT HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS HAD TO MOVE FURTHER INTO THE DIRECTION OF ADOPTING HIGHER TECHNOLOGY-BASED PRODUCTION METHODS AND MORE SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTION MACHINERY WAS ALSO MUCH NEEDED.

HONG KONG-MANUFACTURED INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY, PARTICULARLY THE MACHINERY USED FOR PLASTICS MOULDING, METAL PROCESSING, PRINTING, TEXTILES MANUFACTURE AND ELECTROPLATING, IS ALSO ON DISPLAY AT THE FAIR.

AUGUST RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY RELEASED

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THE TOTAL VALUE OF RETAIL SALES IN AUGUST 1989, ESTIMATED AT \$8,922 MILLION, INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1988 WHILST THEIR VOLUME DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SLUGGISH PERFORMANCE WAS ATTRIBUTABLE IN PART TO A SLACKENING IN LOCAL CONSUMER SPENDING AND IN PART TO A SETBACK IN TOURISM.

COMPARED WITH AUGUST 1988, RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO WENT UP BY 17 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FUELS ROSE BY 12 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS DECREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 14 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES DROPPED BY 9 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 13 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES OF SUPERMARKETS WENT UP BY 18 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME. SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 5 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS SHOWED PRACTICALLY NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE BUT WENT DOWN BY 6 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECREASED BY 14 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 16 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO AUGUST 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 8 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT HAD PRACTICALLY NO CHANGE IN VOLUME. SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 15 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FUELS WENT UP BY 8 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT HAD PRACTICALLY NO CHANGE IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES ROSE BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT FELL BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS WENT UP BY 7 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

/ANALYSED BY .....

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 17 PER CENT IN VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS SALES ROSE BY 13 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. DEPARTMENT STORES SALES WENT UP BY 11 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

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

WHEN COMPARED WITH JULY 1989, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR AUGUST 1989 INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

FUELS SHOWED PRACTICALLY NO CHANGE IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME, WHILST SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES ROSE BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 11 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILST THOSE FOR CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS WENT UP BY 7 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, DEPARTMENT STORES SALES ROSE BY 15 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 16 PER CENT IN VOLUME. MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WENT UP BY 11 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

HOWEVER, SUPERMARKETS SALES DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR JULY 1989 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR AUGUST 1989.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN JULY AND AUGUST 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 AUGUST 1989 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR JULY 1989 AND WITH THOSE FOR AUGUST 1988, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1989 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE AUGUST 1989 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 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.: 5-565240).

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for August 1989 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$ 8,922million  
 for July 1989 (Revised Figure) = HK\$ 8,434million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES  
FOR JULY 1989 AND AUGUST 1989

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

Item	Index of Retail Sales	July	August	August 1989 compared with July 1989		August 1989 compared with August 1988		Jan.-Aug. 1989 compared with Jan.-Aug. 1988	
		1989	1989	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
<b>(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES</b>									
	Value	151	159	9	6	4	2	11	8
	Volume	118	124	7	6	-4	-3	#	#
<b>(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS</b>									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	147	146	-1	-1	21	17	18	15
	Volume	115	114	-2	-1	8	8	4	4
Fuels	Value	119	119	#	#	12	12	7	8
	Volume	118	118	#	#	2	2	2	2
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	148	159	11	7	-9	-5	17	10
	Volume	108	116	9	8	-19	-14	#	#
Consumer durables	Value	138	154	16	12	-15	-9	2	1
	Volume	105	117	12	11	-17	-13	-7	-5
Other consumer goods	Value	164	176	12	7	4	2	11	7
	Volume	127	137	10	8	-4	-3	1	1
<b>(C) BY SELECTED TRADES</b>									
(see note 1 below)									
Supermarkets	Value	195	194	-1	-1	29	18	20	13
	Volume	150	149	-1	-1	9	6	2	2
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	237	267	31	13	#	#	57	25
	Volume	158	177	19	12	-11	-6	28	17
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	108	119	12	11	-20	-14	-16	-12
	Volume	88	98	10	11	-18	-16	-17	-15
Department stores	Value	190	218	28	15	11	5	21	11
	Volume	141	163	22	16	-6	-4	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 :

- "Supermarkets" - a trade in the "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" group.
  - "Motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
  - "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
  - "Department stores" - a trade in the "Other consumer goods" group.
- Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.
  - "#" denotes a figure within  $\pm 0.5$ .

SECOND QUARTER SURVEY ON EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING  
\* \* \* \* \*

TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA BY HONG KONG FIRMS, IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1988 THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INITIATED A SAMPLE SURVEY TO ENABLE IT TO SPLIT HONG KONG'S EXPORTS - BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS - INTO THOSE WHICH WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH WERE NOT.

THE RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

THE RESULTS SHOW THAT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 SOME 76 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING. FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA THE FIGURE WAS 46 PER CENT. THUS, FOR OVERALL EXPORTS TO CHINA, SOME 54 PER CENT WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING.

IN VALUE TERMS, THESE PROPORTIONS IMPLY THAT SOME \$8,366 MILLION OF THE \$11,017 MILLION OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING.

FOR RE-EXPORTS THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES WERE \$12,371 MILLION OUT OF \$27,178 MILLION, AND FOR TOTAL EXPORTS \$20,737 MILLION OUT OF \$38,195 MILLION.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE EXPORTING OF RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES FROM HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING, WITH THE RESULTING PROCESSED GOODS BEING SUBSEQUENTLY RE-IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG.

A SAMPLE OF TRADE DECLARATIONS IN RESPECT OF EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) TO CHINA WERE SELECTED FOR ENUMERATION TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM ESTABLISHMENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE EXISTING INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SYSTEM OF RECORDING TRADE FLOWS, ALL MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ACROSS THE BORDER, FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE, ARE RECORDED AS EXTERNAL TRADE.

THUS THE MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTWARD PROCESSING ARE CORRECTLY INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS.

"THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY FACILITATE A MORE INFORMED ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF HONG KONG-CHINA TRADE, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE DISPOSITION OF THE GOODS AFTER THEY HAVE ENTERED CHINA.

"THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE THUS A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989 WILL BE INCLUDED IN PART I OF THE SEPTEMBER 1989 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WHICH WILL BE ON SALE IN END-NOVEMBER 1989 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$17.5 PER COPY.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1989

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LEAFLET ON ROYAL VISIT FOR RELEASE ON MONDAY  
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A LEAFLET FOR THE VISIT TO HONG KONG OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES WILL BE RELEASED ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 6).

THE LEAFLET INCLUDES DETAILS OF THE VISIT PROGRAMME AND THE BIOGRAPHIES OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES.

IT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COLLECTION, FREE OF CHARGE, AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AND THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES MARKETING OFFICE AT 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL.

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SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE TO COMMEMORATE ROYAL VISIT  
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A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS ON "THE ROYAL VISIT 1989" WILL BE ISSUED ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 8) TO COMMEMORATE THE VISIT OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES TO HONG KONG, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THERE WILL BE FOUR DENOMINATIONS, 60 CENTS, \$1.40, \$1.80 AND \$5. IN ADDITION, A SOUVENIR SHEET AT \$5 WILL BE ISSUED.

THE STAMPS AND THE SOUVENIR SHEET ARE NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE. A DISPLAY AT THE SOUTH GALLERY, LEVEL 3, SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 4 AND 5).

A SPECIAL POSTMARK WILL BE INTRODUCED TO CANCEL FIRST DAY COVERS ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 8).

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE WELSH DRAGON DATESTAMP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$10.30 AT THE DESIGNATED COUNTERS OF THE FOLLOWING 20 POST OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY:

HONG KONG ISLAND  
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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE  
CAUSEWAY BAY POST OFFICE  
GENERAL POST OFFICE  
PEAK POST OFFICE  
SAI YING PUN POST OFFICE  
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

/KOWLOON .....

KOWLOON

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AIRPORT POST OFFICE  
CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE  
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE  
KOWLOON BAY POST OFFICE  
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
KWUN TONG POST OFFICE  
MONG KOK POST OFFICE  
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

NEW TERRITORIES

-----  
SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
TAI PO POST OFFICE  
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE  
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE  
TUEN MUN SAN HUI POST OFFICE  
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

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NEW DO TO VISIT ISLANDS RURAL COMMITTEES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE NEW ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KIM SALKELD, WILL CALL ON THE FOUR RURAL COMMITTEES ON LANTAU ISLAND AND THE NORTH LAMMA RURAL COMMITTEE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO MEET LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH VILLAGERS.

MR SALKELD WILL VISIT THE MUI WO, SOUTH LANTAU, TUNG CHUNG AND TAI O RURAL COMMITTEES ON LANTAU AND THEN GO TO LAMMA, WHERE HE WILL VISIT THE NORTH LAMMA RURAL COMMITTEE AT YUNG SHUE WAN.

LAST WEEK, HE VISITED THE PENG CHAU, CHEUNG CHAU AND SOUTH LAMMA RURAL COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER MR SALKELD'S VISIT TO THE TUNG CHUNG RURAL COMMITTEE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 11 AM.

A PRESS LAUNCH, MD 1, WILL LEAVE FOR TUNG CHUNG FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT PIER IN CENTRAL AT 9.15 AM.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1989

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SEMINAR IN EASTERN ON RULE OF LAW  
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SOCIAL WORKERS, TEACHERS AND CIVIC EDUCATION ADVOCATES WILL TAKE PART IN A WHOLE-DAY SEMINAR IN EASTERN DISTRICT ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 4) TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES IN THE PROMOTION OF THE RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

SPEAKERS IN THE MORNING SESSION WILL BE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR DAVID CHEUNG; SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, MR CHEUNG PING-LEUNG; AND A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, MISS NORA YAU.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION WILL TAKE THE FORM OF WORKSHOPS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE PRACTICAL WAYS TO INSTIL THE CONCEPTS OF RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PUBLIC, AND ESPECIALLY IN YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE ELDERLY.

THE SEMINAR HAS BEEN CO-ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE AS PART OF A CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CIVIC EDUCATION SEMINAR ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 4) ON THE NINTH FLOOR, GRAND PLAZA HOTEL, 2 KORNHILL ROAD, QUARRY BAY. THE SEMINAR WILL START AT 10 AM.

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SEMINAR TO REVIEW PRESSURE EQUIPMENT SAFETY  
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THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) STARTED A SEMINAR TO EXAMINE THE WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF SAFETY IN THE USE OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT.

THE TWO-DAY RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO REVIEW THE LATEST ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD.

MORE THAN 40 PEOPLE ARE TAKING PART IN THE SEMINAR, INCLUDING STAFF OF THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIVISION, OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND APPOINTED EXAMINERS OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT.

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/SUBJECTS FOR .....

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION INCLUDE RECOGNITION OF INSPECTION BODIES, REGISTRATION OF INSPECTION OF THERMAL OIL HEATER, CASE STUDIES OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING DUAL EVAPORATION BOILER AND STEAM RECEIVERS AND REVIEW OF CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR PRESSURE EQUIPMENT.

THE SEMINAR WAS OPENED THIS MORNING BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR HAROLD KWOK, AT THE LEI YUE MUN PARK HOLIDAY VILLAGE.

MR KWOK TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS THAT A PRESSURE EQUIPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP TO ADVISE THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS AUTHORITY ON MATTERS RELATING TO EFFECTIVE CONTROL ON THE USE OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT.

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD COMPRISE SOME 10 MEMBERS REPRESENTING USERS, MANUFACTURERS, INSPECTION BODIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

"THE ADVICE FROM THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WILL BE INVALUABLE IN ADOPTING NEW TECHNIQUES IN HONG KONG AND ENHANCING THE STANDARD OF SAFETY IN THIS FIELD," MR KWOK SAID.

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#### PUBLICITY MOUNTED FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL

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A PUBLICITY DRIVE IS BEING HELD TO PROMOTE THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL WHICH BEGINS ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 4).

THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL, WHICH AIMS TO FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG RESIDENTS, WILL PROVIDE MORE THAN 20 CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, ARTS AND CIVIC EDUCATION EVENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT YELLOW AND BLUE BUNTING BEARING THE FESTIVAL LOGO HAVE BEEN PUT UP AT MAJOR THOROUGHFARES.

THE FOUR "WELCOME TO SOUTHERN DISTRICT" SIGNBORDS IN WONG NAI CHUNG GAP ROAD, SHEK O ROAD, POK FU LAM ROAD AND AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE ROAD HAVE ALSO BEEN REDECORATED TO CREATE A FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE, HE SAID.

BANNERS AND BILLBOARDS PUBLICISING THE VARIOUS FESTIVAL EVENTS HAVE BEEN MOUNTED ON ROADSIDE RAILINGS, WHILE MORE THAN 5,000 POSTERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS, SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

A TOTAL OF 35,000 COPIES OF A NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT GIVING DETAILS OF THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME HAVE BEEN PRINTED, OF WHICH 22,500 HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED ALONG WITH THE DISTRICT NEWSPAPER, THE "SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEWS".

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THE SUPPLEMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT ABERDEEN CENTRE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES IN STANLEY VILLAGE ROAD, LEI TUNG ESTATE AND WAH FU ESTATE. THE DISPLAY WINDOWS OF THOSE OFFICES HAVE ALSO BEEN DECORATED TO PUBLICISE THE FESTIVAL.

IN ADDITION, A FULL-PAGE COLOUR ADVERTISEMENT WILL APPEAR ON A LOCAL CHINESE DAILY ON SATURDAY TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL.

A BROADCAST VAN WILL TOUR THE DISTRICT TO DISTRIBUTE PROGRAMME LEAFLETS AND SOUVENIRS TO RESIDENTS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL OPENS TOMORROW  
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THE 10TH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING AT LUT SAU HALL IN TAI YUK ROAD WITH A SPECTACULAR VARIETY SHOW.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

IN THE FOLLOWING NINE DAYS, OVER 20 EVENTS INCLUDING OPERAS, DRAMAS, FILM SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES WILL BE HELD AT A NUMBER OF VENUES.

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND NANYANG COMMERCIAL BANK'S BRANCH OFFICE IN TAI TONG ROAD, YUEN LONG.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FOR SOME EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, DISTRICT BOARD, YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND THE LONG PING COMMUNITY HALL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 10TH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT LUT SAU HALL, TAI YUK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN THE YUEN LONG SPORTS ASSOCIATION OPPOSITE THE HALL AT 6.30 PM PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY.

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UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN KENNEDY TOWN TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES AT THE REAR LANE OF 4-8 NORTH STREET, KENNEDY TOWN, HONG KONG SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON FEBRUARY 21 THIS YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES WITH WHICH THE OWNER HAS FAILED TO COMPLY.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 28 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT IS INTENDED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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LEI YUE MUN FERRY FARE AND TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN TSUEN WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 4), THE MAXIMUM ADULT FARES CHARGEABLE ON THE FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN SAM KA TSUEN AND LEI YUE MUN WILL BE \$1 PER SINGLE JOURNEY, WHILE THOSE FOR CHILDREN AGED UNDER 12 YEARS WILL BE 50 CENTS PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY, THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE SECTION OF TAI HO ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH HOI PA STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 65 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STADIUM PATH

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT STADIUM PATH IN HAPPY VALLEY WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 4) FOR THE HOLDING OF THE PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME OPENING CEREMONY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PARKING SPACES ALONG STADIUM PATH WILL BE SUSPENDED.

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