



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1985

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HK GROUP BACK FROM GUANGZHOU

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A GROUP OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, LED BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, RETURNED TO HONG KONG THIS MORNING AFTER A THREE-DAY VISIT TO GUANGZHOU.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR TOM TOMLINSON; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, MR LAU JONG-MING; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SUPPLIES AND DISTRIBUTION, MR LI CHUEN AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, THE GROUP WENT TO CHINA AT THE INVITATION OF THE GUANGDONG WATER CONSERVANCY AND HYDRO POWER BUREAU.

ON ARRIVAL AT GUANGZHOU, THE PARTY WERE WARMLY RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU, MR LI DE CHENG AND HIS SENIOR STAFF.

DURING THEIR STAY, DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE SUPPLY OF WATER TO HONG KONG FROM THE EAST RIVER SYSTEM. THE DELEGATION ALSO TOURED CERTAIN HYDRO-POWER AND WATER RESERVOIR INSTALLATIONS NEAR GUANGZHOU.

OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES WAS THE PROBLEM OF HIGH INCREASE IN COSTS RELATING TO THE ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND INSTALLATIONS, ELECTRICITY, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THEIR WATER-GATHERING STORAGE AND CONVEYANCE SYSTEM, WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE THREE YEAR PERIOD SINCE THE RATE OF CHARGE WAS LAST REVISED ON JANUARY 1, 1982.

DETAILED INFORMATION AND EXPLANATION WERE GIVEN TO THE DELEGATION IN A FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT. VERY GOOD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED IN THE DISCUSSION.

MR CHAN SAID HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE CASE FOR A REVISION OF THE WATER CHARGE RATE HAD BEEN MADE.

HE SAID A REPORT WOULD BE MADE TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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DECEMBER ORDERS-ON-HAND,
EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL FIGURES RELEASED
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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECLINED SLIGHTLY IN DECEMBER 1984 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S VOLUME, ACCORDING TO SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

WHILE SOME INCREASES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND WERE REPORTED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES. THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY RECORDED NO CHANGE IN THE VOLUME OF ORDERS.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECLINED SLIGHTLY IN DECEMBER 1984 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S EMPLOYMENT. AMONG INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES, DECREASES WERE REPORTED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES. MOST OTHER INDUSTRIES RECORDED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT.

INCREASES IN PAYROLL AND IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE REPORTED BY MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, DUE TO THE PAYMENT OF YEAR-END BONUSES AND DOUBLE PAY. THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION WAS THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, WHICH SHOWED A DECLINE IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS DUE TO LESS OVERTIME WORKED.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES SECTORS REMAINED STABLE. WHILE PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR ROSE MODERATELY, THOSE IN THE SERVICES SECTORS SHOWED SIGNIFICANT INCREASE. THOSE INCREASES WERE DUE TO THE PAYMENT OF YEAR-END BONUSES AND OVERTIME ALLOWANCES.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE TABLES BELOW.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1983.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD GIVE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1984 WILL SOON BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

/ENQUIRIES ABOUT

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 3-7212768.

A. ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	(% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR DECEMBER 1984
	OCT 1984	NOV 1984	DEC 1984	
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	-1	-1	-2	4.63
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	1	-2	*	2.25
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-5	*	5	4.28
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-8	1	1	3.31
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-2	2	-2	5.44
OTHERS	-1	-1	*	4.33
<u>ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>4.48</u>

B. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

<u>INDUSTRY/SERVICES</u>	PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED (% CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)			PER CAPITA EARNINGS			PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR DEC 1984 HK\$
	OCT 1984	NOV 1984	DEC 1984	OCT 1984	NOV 1984	DEC 1984	
<u>MANUFACTURING</u>	*	-2	-1	2	-1	8	2 950
FOOD AND DRINKS	-2	-1	*	-5	-4	6	3 670
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	*	-1	*	4	-1	6	2 556
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	1	*	*	4	-1	14	3 081

/PLASTIC PRODUCTS

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PLASTIC PRODUCTS	2	-2	1	1	-3	-3	2 486
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-2	-5	-1	-2	1	2	2 399
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	*	-3	-2	3	*	10	2 826
OTHERS	*	*	*	2	*	10	4 145
** CONSTRUCTION	-1	1	*	4	*	6	4 292
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SERVICES	*	*	*	-3	-2	28	6 332
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BANKS	*	*	*	*	*	71	7 547
HOTELS	1	*	*	*	*	32	4 186
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*	*	-5	-3	7	5 468
OTHERS	1	1	*	-2	-1	28	7 667

* CHANGES WITHIN ⁺-0.5%

** PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS NOT INCLUDED.

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LICENCE REVOKED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF ALLIED PACIFIC CORPORATION AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED TODAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 14(2) OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

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MORE FISH MARKETS PLANNED
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A NEW FISH MARKET IS BEING BUILT AT YIM TIN TSAI, TAI PO BY THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION (F.M.O.) AND TWO MORE ARE BEING PLANNED AT YAU TONG AND TUEN MUN, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE F.M.O. LUNAR NEW YEAR ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY AT THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET TODAY (TUESDAY), DR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID CATCHES MADE BY THE FISHING FLEET DURING 1984 INCREASED BY SIX PER CENT IN WEIGHT AND 11 PER CENT IN VALUE OVER THE FIGURES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

DR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAD CONTINUED TO HELP FISHERMEN INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY AND FISHING EFFICIENCY BY PROVIDING LOANS THROUGH VARIOUS LOAN FUNDS, TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO UNDERTAKE FISHERIES STUDIES.

LAST YEAR, 136 LOANS TOTALLING \$9.8 MILLION WERE ISSUED TO FISHERMEN FOR PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES. SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND LOANS AMOUNTING \$278 000 WERE GIVEN TO 10 STUDENTS UNDERTAKING LOCAL AND OVERSEAS STUDIES AT TERTIARY INSTITUTES IN VARIOUS SUBJECTS RELEVANT TO FISHERIES.

ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR FISHERMEN, DR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID 4 800 FISHERMEN HAD ATTENDED COURSES FOR COXSWAINS, ENGINEERS AND OTHER SPECIAL COURSES IN NAVIGATION, RADIO COMMUNICATION AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE LAST 33 YEARS.

AT THE CEREMONY, DR RIDDELL-SWAN PRESENTED PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES TO FOUR FISHERMEN WHO HAD SAVED A TOTAL OF 12 LIVES AT SEA.

HE ALSO PRESENTED LONG SERVICE MEDALS TO 19 EMPLOYEES OF THE F.M.O. WHO HAD BEEN WITH THE ORGANISATION FOR 25 YEARS.

MRS RIDDELL-SWAN PRESENTED PRIZES TO 28 FISHERMEN WHO HAD LANDED THE MOST FISH AT THE F.M.O. MARKETS LAST YEAR.

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BULLETIN HOLIDAYS
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NO DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED OVER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FROM WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 20, 21 AND 22).

PUBLICATION WILL RESUME ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 23).

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