



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR IN LEGCO

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FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY):

MR PRESIDENT,

WE DISCUSS MANY SUBJECTS IN THIS COUNCIL. BUT FEW AFFECT THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE MORE THAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING. IN HONG KONG OF ALL PLACES, WHERE WE HAVE NO NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEPEND ON, WE WILL STAND OR FALL AS AN ECONOMY ON THE SKILLS AND TALENTS OF OUR PEOPLE.

HONG KONG PEOPLE KNOW THIS VERY WELL. HONG KONG PARENTS RECOGNISE THE WORTH OF A DECENT EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN. THEY KNOW THAT EDUCATION AND TRAINING ARE A LADDER TO A BETTER LIFE.

SO THERE IS NOT A PROBLEM WITH MOTIVATION IN HONG KONG. THE DEMAND FOR A GOOD EDUCATION IS THERE. IT IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO DO ALL IT CAN TO MEET THAT DEMAND.

HONG KONG HAS COME ON IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS. 30 YEARS AGO:

- MANY CHILDREN WENT TO PRIMARY SCHOOL ON HOUSING ESTATE ROOF-TOPS;
- WE COULD ONLY PROVIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR ABOUT A THIRD OF THE AGE GROUP;
- THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WAS THE ONLY DEGREE-AWARDING INSTITUTION, OFFERING JUST 400 DEGREE PLACES.

TODAY:

- EVERY ONE OF OUR CHILDREN ATTENDS NINE YEARS OF FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION;
- 85% OF THOSE WHO GO BEYOND SECONDARY THREE CAN GET INTO SUBSIDISED SECONDARY FOUR AND FIVE PLACES IN PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOLS; ANOTHER 10% CAN OPT TO UNDERGO SUBSIDISED CRAFT-LEVEL TRAINING IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

TODAY, A FIFTH OF OUR POPULATION IS UNDERGOING FULL-TIME EDUCATION. BY SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR, NEARLY 20% OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 20 WILL BE ENROLLED IN FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE COURSES IN OUR SEVEN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS. ANOTHER 14,000 WILL BE STUDYING SUB-DEGREE COURSES IN THE TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE TWO TECHNICAL COLLEGES OF THE VTC. 16,000 STUDENTS ARE NOW ENROLLED IN DISTANCE LEARNING DEGREE AND SUB-DEGREE COURSES OFFERED BY THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE.

/IN HONG

IN HONG KONG NO QUALIFIED STUDENT NEED BE DEPRIVED OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE EDUCATION DUE TO LACK OF MEANS. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR NEEDY STUDENTS AT ALL LEVELS - FROM PRE-PRIMARY TO TERTIARY.

SO HONG KONG HAS COME A LONG WAY IN A SHORT TIME. THAT SO MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN EDUCATION IN HONG KONG - ABOVE ALL TO OUR 55,000 TEACHERS. WE ALL - PARENTS, STUDENTS, THE WHOLE COMMUNITY - DEPEND UPON THEM. THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF OUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON THEIR CALIBRE, THEIR QUALITY, THEIR COMMITMENT TO THEIR WORK.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

WE HAVE SET OURSELVES TWO KEY AIMS FOR THE 1990S. FIRST, TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. SECONDLY, TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE IN THE TERTIARY EDUCATION.

ON SCHOOL EDUCATION, WE HAVE HAD THE BENEFIT OF THE ADVICE FROM THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS NUMBER FIVE REPORT. WE ARE ACTING TO IMPLEMENT MOST OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. LET ME TELL YOU SOME OF THE THINGS WE HAVE DONE SO FAR:

- FIRST, THE NEW HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION IS ON TARGET TO OFFER ITS FIRST ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES IN SEPTEMBER 1994 - THANKS TO 15 MONTHS OF HARD WORK BY ITS PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL, LED ABLY BY THE HON SIMON IP. THE NEW GOVERNING COUNCIL IS WORKING TO A TIGHT TIMETABLE TO MOULD THE EXISTING COLLEGES OF EDUCATION INTO THE NEW INSTITUTE. THEIR TOP PRIORITY IS TO COMPLETE THE \$1.9 BILLION NEW CAMPUS PROJECT IN TAI PO BY 1997. IT WILL BE THE MAIN CENTRE FOR ALL TEACHER TRAINING IN HONG KONG. IT IS A VERY BIG PROJECT, AND IT IS ON SCHEDULE.
- SECOND, WE ARE SPENDING OVER \$600 MILLION TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF 60 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 50 SECONDARY SCHOOLS. SHABBY CLASSROOMS DON'T ENCOURAGE EXCELLENCE. WE ARE ALSO PLANNING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MORE SCHOOLS IN THE SECOND PHASE.
- THIRD, WE ARE GRADUALLY REDUCING THE PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO, CUTTING CLASS SIZES, UPGRADING TEACHING POSTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO GRADUATE LEVEL, EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF GRADUATE TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS - AND WE HAVE DEVELOPED DEGREE COURSES FOR SERVING TEACHERS. WE HAVE SET CLEAR TARGETS, AND WE ARE MAKING GOOD, QUIET PROGRESS IN MEETING THEM. SINCE I FIRST ANNOUNCED THESE MEASURES IN MY POLICY SPEECH IN OCTOBER 1992, THE PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO HAS FALLEN FROM 26.9:1 TO 25.2:1 FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND FROM 21.8:1 TO 20.6:1 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS; THE AVERAGE CLASS SIZE FOR PRIMARY ONE HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 36 TO 31; AND BY THIS SEPTEMBER THERE WILL BE 180 NEW GRADUATE POSTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND AN EXTRA 800 GRADUATE POSTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.
- FOURTH, THE COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION HAS JUST BEEN ELECTED. ITS ESTABLISHMENT REPRESENTS A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS GREATER PROFESSIONALISM IN TEACHING.

GOOD, SOLID PROGRESS. BUT, AS EVER, THE FINAL SENTENCE ON THE REPORT CARD READS "COULD DO BETTER". IT IS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO MEET OUR IMMEDIATE TARGETS. WE HAVE CONSTANTLY TO LOOK BEYOND THEM, TO TRY TO DETECT AND ADAPT TO THE NEW NEEDS OF TOMORROW.

LET ME SKETCH OUT HOW WE SEE THOSE NEXT FEW YEARS BY OFFERING MEMBERS A BRIEF TOUR D'HORIZON OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, STARTING, WHERE A SCHOOLING BEGINS, AT THE PRE-PRIMARY LEVEL.

OVER 85% OF OUR CHILDREN BELOW THE AGE OF SIX NOW ATTEND KINDERGARTEN. THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THIS - IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION SHOULD FORM PART OF THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM. PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION IS PLAINLY AN AREA WHERE WE CAN WORK FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS FORMED A SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THIS. WE ARE NOW WAITING FOR THE BOARD'S AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S ADVICE BEFORE DECIDING HOW BEST TO ACT TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF OUR KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION.

AT THE NEXT LEVEL UP, SCHOOL EDUCATION, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS SET UP SPECIAL WORKING GROUPS TO LOOK AT THREE AREAS OF WIDESPREAD CONCERN:

- EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS;
- LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY;
- AND THE WAY IN WHICH WE ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO OUR SCHOOLS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR REPORT LATER THIS YEAR. IT WILL HELP TO GUIDE US AS WE DEBATE THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES.

THE UPGC HAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED A MAJOR CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON ITS INTERIM REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG. THIS IS A GOOD REPORT - FOCUSING SQUARELY ON THE FUTURE. IT HAS PROVOKED LIVELY DEBATE IN THE EDUCATION WORLD, PROMPTING THE UPGC TO EXTEND ITS CONSULTATION PERIOD BY TWO MONTHS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE UPGC'S FINAL REPORT, FURTHER ENRICHED BY THIS EXTRA PERIOD OF CONSULTATION.

FINALLY, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING. THIS IS AN AREA THAT HAS IMPRESSED ME PARTICULARLY SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN HONG KONG. LET ME MAKE JUST ONE POINT; IF HONG KONG IS TO RETAIN ITS CAPACITY TO ADAPT QUICKLY AND SKILFULLY TO A CHANGING ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, IF HONG KONG IS TO COMPETE AS A HIGH-TECH INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE, IT IS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO EDUCATE AND RE-TRAIN OUR WORKFORCE. THE PACE OF CHANGE IN THE MARKETPLACE NEVER SLOWS. IF WE SLACKEN OUR PACE, THEN OUR COMPETITORS SURGE AHEAD. IF WE FAIL TO UPGRADE OUR SKILLS IN THE WORKPLACE, OUR PRODUCTS WON'T MAKE THE GRADE IN THE MARKETPLACE.

WE'RE DOING PRETTY WELL. HONG KONG ALREADY OFFERS A QUARTER OF A MILLION PLACES IN PART-TIME COURSES AND EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES. THE VTC OFFERS 58,000 ALONE. MY SENIOR COLLEAGUE ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, BARONESS DUNN, IS OPENING THEIR NEW TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN CHAI WAN THIS AFTERNOON, WHICH WILL PROVIDE FURTHER PLACES. THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD HAS ALREADY PUT 12,500 TRAINEES THROUGH THEIR COURSES IN UNDER A YEAR.

NOWADAYS, PEOPLE EXPECT TO CHANGE JOBS SEVERAL TIMES IN THEIR CAREERS - CHANGE CAREERS TOO. WE HAVE TO HELP THEM MEET THE CHALLENGE OF SUCH UPHEAVAL. THE BEST WAY - THE ONLY WAY - IS THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING - STARTING AT INFANCY AND CONTINUING THROUGH ADULT LIFE. EDUCATION TODAY ISN'T SOMETHING THAT STARTS ABRUPTLY AT 5 OR 6 AND FINISHES ABRUPTLY AT 15 OR 16. IT STARTS EARLIER - AND IT NEEDN'T FINISH. THAT'S GOOD FOR HONG KONG, GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY. BUT IT'S GOOD FOR US AS HUMAN BEINGS TOO.

MR TIMOTHY HA (THROUGH INTERPRETER): THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT, JUST NOW REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE TEACHERS, MR GOVERNOR HAS GIVEN THEM THE RECOGNITION, AND I AM REALLY GLAD ABOUT THAT. BUT, AT PRESENT THE WASTAGE RATE OF TEACHERS IS STILL VERY HIGH, ESPECIALLY IN THE SECONDARY SECTOR. MR GOVERNOR, WHAT MEASURES DO YOU HAVE IN MIND TO ATTRACT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOIN THE RANKS OF TEACHERS, AND ALSO CONSIDERING THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY ON THE RANKS, WHAT MEASURES DO YOU HAVE TO RETAIN THEM THERE?

GOVERNOR: I AGREE WITH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THAT ANY WASTAGE RATE IN A PROFESSION AS VITAL AS TEACHING IS A CONCERN. THE OVERALL WASTAGE RATE IN TEACHING IS AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOWS ABOUT 10% AND THOUGH WE WOULD WISH IT WERE LOWER IT IS NOT AT PRESENT IN OUR JUDGMENT POSING INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS. WE ARE ABLE, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH EXTENDING OUR RECRUITING, AND THROUGH ENABLING PEOPLE TO EXTEND THEIR SERVICE TO DEAL WITH ANY SHORTAGE OF SUPPLY IN TEACHING WHICH IS ENVISAGED. BUT WE DO HAVE TO ENSURE THAT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, FOR YOUNG GRADUATES, FOR EXAMPLE, TEACHING IS DEMONSTRATED AS A SATISFYING PROFESSION, AS AN HONOURABLE PROFESSION, AS A PROFESSION WHICH IS CRUCIAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY. ALL THOSE THINGS ARE TRUE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT IN TERMS OF PROFESSIONAL ESTEEM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE A CONSIDERABLE HELP, AND THAT WE CAN LOOK IN THE FUTURE TO A STATUTORY BASIS FOR THE WORK. I THINK THOSE WHO ENVISAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERAL TEACHING COUNCIL AS IT WERE, MONITORING AND POLICING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, ARE RIGHT IN THEIR ASPIRATIONS. I THINK WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT TEACHING IS PROPERLY RESOURCED, THAT THE TEACHERS THEMSELVES ARE ADEQUATELY REMUNERATED, AND I THINK THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY TEACH ARE REASONABLE. I AM VERY PLEASED THAT ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH IS RESULTING FROM OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME IS FOR INSTANCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STAFF ROOMS IN SCHOOLS WHERE THEY DON'T AT PRESENT EXIST, WHICH MAY BE A SMALL THING BUT I THINK IS QUITE IMPORTANT FOR A TEACHER WHO IS SO BUSY TO RELAX IN FOR A LITTLE WHILE DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY. SO, RESOURCING COMES INTO THE ISSUE AS WELL, AND I HOPE BY A COMBINATION OF MEANS WE WILL BE ABLE TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE ARE ATTRACTED TO WHAT IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROFESSION OF ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY.

MR DAVID LI: ACCORDING TO A REVISED INTERIM REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION 1991 TO 2001 FROM THE UPGC, THE FUNDING TO EACH TERTIARY INSTITUTION IS BASED ON THE QUANTITY OF RESEARCH. WOULD YOU, PLEASE SIR, INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHAT CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO THE QUALITY OF TEACHING IN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING TO EACH OF THESE INSTITUTIONS?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THE UPGC'S REPORT IN ADVOCATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN OUR TERTIARY SECTOR SEES A DETERMINATION OF GRANT ALLOCATION, NOT SOLELY THROUGH QUANTITY BUT THROUGH QUALITY AS WELL, AND QUALITY IS BEST ASSESSED I THINK BY PEER GROUP REVIEW. I DON'T THINK GOVERNMENT IS IN A VERY GOOD POSITION, OR CENTRAL ADMINISTRATORS TO DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF RESEARCH. I THINK THAT IS BEST DONE BY OTHER ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELD. THE HONOURABLE MEMBER HAS OF COURSE TOUCHED ON AN AREA WHICH IS OF SOME CONCERN TO US. WE ARE EXPANDING OUR TERTIARY SECTOR VERY RAPIDLY, THOUGH NOT I UNDERLINE AT THE EXPENSE OF EDUCATION ELSEWHERE. I THINK IT IS RIGHT FOR US TO DO THAT. IT DOES HAVE COSTS; IT ALSO HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE POST-GRADUATE SECTOR, AND IN PARTICULAR FOR RESEARCH AND RESEARCH FUNDING. WE HAVE INCREASED RESEARCH FUNDING FROM \$100 MILLION IN 1991/92 TO ABOUT \$210 MILLION IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR SO THAT I HOPE THAT WE WILL SEE THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MORE POST-GRADUATES' RESEARCH IN HONG KONG AND THE BROADER THE BASE OF POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH THE HIGHER THE QUALITY THAT RESEARCH WILL ATTAIN.

MR PANG CHUN-HOI (THROUGH INTERPRETER): REGARDING THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME, AND THIS IS MUCH NEEDED BY OUR WORKERS. JUST NOW YOU SAID THAT OVER 10,000 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY JOINED THE RETRAINING PROGRAMMES BUT ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM ME IN MARCH CONCERNING ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, CONCERNING THE RETRAINEES, FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUCCESSFULLY RE-EMPLOYED THE PERCENTAGE IS ONLY 21%, AND THIS IS A VERY LOW PERCENTAGE. SO I HOPE THE GOVERNOR CAN TELL THIS COUNCIL, WILL THE GOVERNMENT TAKE FURTHER MEASURES TO INCREASE JOB SEEKING COUNSELLING SO THAT THE RETRAINEES CAN BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING RE-EMPLOYMENT?

GOVERNOR: YES WE CERTAINLY INTEND TO ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP JOB SEEKING COUNSELLING. THAT IS ONE OF OUR PROPOSALS WITH, FOR EXAMPLE INTERVIEWING OF THOSE WHO ARE UNSUCCESSFUL IN LOOKING FOR JOBS AFTER BEING RETRAINED. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER THE FIGURE I'M ABOUT TO GIVE IS ON ALL FOURS WITH THE FIGURE WHICH I DIDN'T RECOGNISE WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER HAD BEEN GIVEN PREVIOUSLY. I BELIEVE I'M RIGHT IN SAYING THAT 70% OF THOSE WHO GO THROUGH OUR RETRAINING PROGRAMMES ARE PLACED SUBSEQUENTLY IN JOBS AND THAT IS I THINK AN ENCOURAGING FIGURE, THOUGH NOT AS GOOD AS I WOULD LIKE IT TO BE. I THINK THAT'S THE OVERALL FIGURE AFTER THE TRAINING OF THE FIRST, AS IT WERE, OR RETRAINING OF THE FIRST 12,500. BY OCTOBER, WE THINK THE FIGURE WILL BE MORE THAN 15,000. IF WE'RE ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT DIFFERENT PARAMETERS FOR OUR FIGURES, IF AS IT WERE, WE'RE HEADING UP DIFFERENT ROADS THEN PERHAPS WE CAN SORT OUT THE POSITION LATER ON, BUT I DO THINK THAT THE 70% FIGURE THAT I'VE GIVEN IS AN ACCURATE ONE.

MR PANG CHUN-HOI (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, I QUOTED THE FIGURE GIVEN TO ME BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR. HE GAVE THAT FIGURE TO ME IN MARCH AND HE SAID THAT FOR THE RETRAINEES WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING EMPLOYMENT THE FIGURE WAS ONLY 21%. THAT WAS A REPLY GIVEN TO ME FROM THE ADMINISTRATION IN MARCH.

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: WELL, EITHER WE'VE MADE SPECTACULAR PROGRESS SINCE MARCH, OR ELSE, WHICH I CAN'T BELIEVE IS THE CASE, THE COMMISSIONER ON THAT OCCASION WAS INACCURATE WHEREAS THE GOVERNOR ON THIS OCCASION IS ACCURATE. PERHAPS IT'S JUST THAT WE'VE MADE PROGRESS SINCE THEN. I CAN CONFIRM THAT THE PLACEMENT RATE FOR THOSE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR JOBS IS 70 - 75% OF THE 12,500 WHO'VE BEEN THROUGH THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME.

ON THE QUESTION OF THOSE WHO DON'T FIND EMPLOYMENT, I CAN TELL THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THAT THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD WILL ORGANISE AN INTENSIVE FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMME FOR RETRAINEES WHO ARE UNABLE TO FIND A JOB FOUR WEEKS AFTER ATTENDING THE FIVE-DAY JOB SEARCH SKILLS COURSE.

WE'LL TRY TO RESOLVE BETWEEN US LATER ON PERHAPS, THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND MYSELF, THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE MARCH FIGURE AND THE FIGURE THAT I'VE JUST GIVEN, BUT IT MAYBE THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DIFFERENT THINGS.

MR HENRY TANG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, I WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

HONG KONG IS A VERY PROSPEROUS AND ECONOMICALLY ADVANCED PLACE. UNFORTUNATELY, EVERY YEAR THE INVESTMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN EDUCATION IS REALLY ON THE LOW SIDE COMPARED TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. FOR INSTANCE, FOR 1994/95 CONCERNING OUR EXPENDITURE FOR EDUCATION, IT ONLY ACCOUNTS FOR 6.5% OF THE OVERALL BUDGET AND IT ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY 3% OF OUR GDP. COMPARED TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAPAN, IT'S FIGURE IS 4.8%, MALAYSIA 5.6%, SINGAPORE AND TAIWAN 4%, WE ARE REALLY ON THE LOW SIDE AND THE ONLY PLACE COMPARED TO WHICH WE HAVE A HIGHER FIGURE IS CHINA WHICH IS 2.4%. HONG KONG IS SO PROSPEROUS AND WEALTHY, DO YOU THINK THAT THE SITUATION I JUST NOW DESCRIBED IS ACCEPTABLE OR IS IT EMBARRASSING?

GOVERNOR: NO, FIRST OF ALL BEFORE DISAGREEING WITH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER, CAN I AGREE WITH HIM AND WISH MYSELF A HAPPY BIRTHDAY AS WELL. I HOPE THAT I WILL ENJOY THE GREATER LONGEVITY WHICH HONG KONG HEALTH STATISTICS SHOWS THE LOT OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THIS COMMUNITY.

I DON'T ACTUALLY HAPPEN TO THINK THAT PERCENTAGE OF GDP IS NECESSARILY A VERY SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR MAKING COMPARISONS ABOUT THE QUALITY OR EVEN THE QUANTITY OF A PRODUCT. IF YOUR GDP EXPANDED VERY SLOWLY BUT YOUR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WAS GOING UP BY FASTER THAN THE TREND RATE OF GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY, THEN IT WOULD LOOK AS THOUGH YOU WERE BEING FRIGHTFULLY VIRTUOUS IF YOU WERE MEASURING EDUCATION SPENDING IN PROPORTION TO GDP, BUT YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY BE SPENDING LESS MONEY IN ABSOLUTE TERMS ON EDUCATION BECAUSE YOUR ECONOMY WASN'T GROWING AS RAPIDLY AS YOU WOULD'VE LIKED. I THINK IT'S ALSO WORTH MAKING, THAT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND TAX AS PROPORTIONS OF GDP ARE MUCH LOWER THAN IN A NUMBER OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, INDEED, THAN IN MOST COUNTRIES. SO THERE ARE SOME PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION WHICH I DOUBT ARE INCLUDED IN THOSE FIGURES. I THINK THE FIGURE OF 3.4% FOR HONG KONG IS THE FIGURE FOR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION.

I THINK IT'S PERHAPS MORE SENSIBLE TO LOOK AT THE PROPORTION OF OUR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHICH GOES ON EDUCATION AND THE FIGURE THERE IS ABOUT 21% AND IT'S REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT THOUGH IT'S CERTAINLY THE HIGHEST OR THE LARGEST PUBLIC EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME WHICH IS AN INDICATION OF THE PRIORITY THAT WE ACCORD. IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN GOING UP BY 6.5% IN REAL TERMS, THAT'S OVER THE INFLATION RATE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND THAT'S BEEN A LARGER FIGURE THAN THE INCREASE IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AS A WHOLE ON OTHER PROGRAMMES.

SO I THINK WE'RE DOING PRETTY WELL, BUT I DON'T DISPUTE THE FACT THAT WE NEED TO DO MORE. THAT'S WHY WE'RE SPENDING ANOTHER \$600 MILLION ON IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS. THAT'S WHY WE'RE SPENDING OVER \$150 MILLION TO GET ADDITIONAL TEACHERS. THAT'S WHY WE'RE SPENDING \$103 MILLION ON REDUCING CLASS SIZES. ALL THOSE FIGURES ADD UP AND I THINK ADD UP IN A WAY WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WOULD AGREE WAS SATISFACTORY, BUT I DON'T DOUBT THAT NOT ONLY WILL EDUCATION NEED TO CONTINUE TO BE OUR BIGGEST SPENDING PROGRAMME IF WE'RE TO HAVE THE QUALITY OF WORKFORCE THAT WE'LL NEED IN THE FUTURE BUT THAT WE'LL HAVE TO SPEND A LOT MORE ON EDUCATION AS WELL, SO AT LEAST ON THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND I CAN MARCH AS ONE.

MR HENRY TANG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, HOW COME THAT FOR ADULT EDUCATION, INSTEAD OF SPENDING \$60 MILLION, WE ARE ONLY HAVING \$51 MILLION THIS YEAR?

GOVERNOR: I THINK I'M RIGHT IN SAYING THAT IF YOU TAKE CONTINUING EDUCATION AS A WHOLE, THE FIGURES THERE ARE GOING UP TOO AND SOME OF THE FIGURES ARE FOR CAPITAL RATHER THAN JUST RECURRENT. FOR EXAMPLE, I ANNOUNCED A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO THAT WE WERE PROVIDING THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE WITH \$150 MILLION SO THAT IT COULD BUY ITS OWN HEADQUARTERS. THAT HAS RECURRENT SAVINGS FOR THE OLI IN DUE COURSE. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER THAT FIGURE IS INCLUDED IN THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S FIGURE OR WHETHER THE \$100 MILLION THAT WE'RE GIVING THE OLI FOR COURSE DEVELOPMENT IS INCLUDED IN THE FIGURE, BUT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS ENTIRELY RIGHT IN SUGGESTING THAT CONTINUING EDUCATION IS AN AREA THAT WE HAVE TO GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO. I THINK HE'LL KNOW THAT THE UPGC IS LOOKING AT THE SUBJECT AT THE MOMENT AND INCLUDING IN IT'S REVIEW THE QUESTION OF SELF-FINANCING AND THAT IS OBVIOUSLY GOING TO HAVE TO SHAPE OUR APPROACH TO THE FUNDING OF THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR IN THE FUTURE.

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO WANT TO DROP-IN TO EDUCATION AT MORE MATURE STAGES OF THEIR LIVES. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THAT AS EASY FOR PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. I MUST SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THOSE I'VE MET IN CONTINUING EDUCATION WHO ARE VERY OFTEN, AFTER A VERY HARD DAY'S WORK, HAVING A HARD EVENING'S WORK ON TOP.

/MR ALFRED TSO

MR ALFRED TSO (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, AS A RESULT OF THE HARD EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE ARE SPENDING MORE MONEY ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH WORK. NOW YOUNGSTERS ARE LEARNING MORE AND MORE FROM THEIR SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS BUT STILL WE HAVE TO LIVE WITH AN EVER-GROWING YOUTH PROBLEM. YOUNGSTERS ARE FACED WITH A LOT OF MATERIALISTIC ATTRACTIVENESS. SOME YOUNGSTERS ARE BECOMING YOUNG PROSTITUTES AND SOME BECOME DRUG ADDICTS. SO, MR GOVERNOR, CAN YOU NOT INCLUDE IN CIVIC EDUCATION ELEMENTS OF POLITICS AND MAKE CIVIC EDUCATION AS A COMPULSORY SUBJECT IN SECONDARY SCHOOL SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A STRONGER SENSE OF BELONGING AMONGST OUR YOUNGSTERS SO THAT THEY KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE TO FACE UP TO AND WHAT TO DO AFTER 1997?

GOVERNOR: THERE'S QUITE A LOT MIXED UP IN THAT QUESTION AND IN RESPONDING TO IT AS POSITIVELY AS POSSIBLE, I'LL TRY TO AVOID THE TEMPTATION TO WHICH POLITICIANS OCCASIONALLY FALL PREY AND START SOUNDING LIKE A BISHOP OR SPIRITUAL LEADER, BECAUSE I THINK THAT PEOPLE THAT WANT MORAL UPLIFT SHOULD, ON THE WHOLE, LOOK TO SPIRITUAL LEADERS RATHER THAN TO POLITICIANS.

IT IS, ALAS, ONE OF THE PARADOXES OF OUR AGE THAT INCREASES IN COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL AFFLUENCE HAVEN'T ELIMINATED SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THAT INDEED WE SEE, QUITE OFTEN, A GROWTH IN SOME SORTS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS ACCOMPANYING GREATER MATERIALISM AND INCREASES IN PEOPLES' DISPOSABLE INCOME. THAT CAN BE PARTLY ADDRESSED AT SCHOOLS AND OUR SCHOOLS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EDUCATING THE WHOLE BOY OR GIRL, SO CIVIC EDUCATION, SO HEALTH EDUCATION, SO TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE TO RESPECT THEMSELVES AS WELL AS OTHERS, ALL THOSE THINGS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF EDUCATION. BUT I THINK THERE IS A TENDENCY, FROM TIME TO TIME, FOR PARENTS TO PUT THE RESPONSIBILITY ON SCHOOLS RATHER THAN SHOULD THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY THEMSELVES. I THINK MOST OF THE INCULCATION OF MORAL STANDARDS AND MORAL VALUES SHOULD BEGIN IN THE HOME AND I DON'T THINK PARENTS CAN EXPECT SCHOOLS TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT MAY BE DEFICIENT IN THE DOMESTIC BACKGROUND. SCHOOLS HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY BUT I THINK THAT PARENTS HAVE TO RECOGNISE THEIR ROLE AS WELL AND I'M VERY PLEASED THAT THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE IS BRINGING PARENTS AND SCHOOL MANAGERS TOGETHER WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE PTA'S AND SO ON, I THINK THAT'S A VERY WELCOME MOVE FORWARD.

AS FOR, AS IT WERE, THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S QUESTION. I THINK THAT THERE IS ALREADY WITHIN SEVERAL SYLLABUSES IN THE CURRICULUM PLENTY OF MATERIAL ABOUT THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE BASIC LAW, THE CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN MODERN CHINA. I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO GO FURTHER IN THAT DIRECTION, BUT IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR EDUCATION THAT YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY LIVE AND I WELCOME THE FACT THAT OUR TEACHERS HAVE PRODUCED SUCH GOOD CURRICULUM MATERIAL ON THOSE SUBJECTS.

PERHAPS I COULD JUST ADD ONE OTHER THING. I AM VERY IMPRESSED AS I GO AROUND FROM DISTRICT BOARD TO DISTRICT BOARD BY THE WORK OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES AND BY THE LIAISON BETWEEN THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES AND OUR SCHOOLS. I THINK THAT WORK IS EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT, NOT LEAST IN DISCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM TAKING PART IN TRIAD ACTIVITY. I HOPE THAT WE CAN SEE THAT SORT OF WORK WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT INCREASE IN THE FUTURE.

DR C H LEONG: GOVERNOR, HONG KONG UNFORTUNATELY STILL HAS A FAIRLY SIZEABLE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS. NOW WHAT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, IF ANY, AND HOW WILL THESE POLICY AND PRINCIPLES BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE RETRAINING OF THESE DISABLED TO GET THEM BACK INTO SOCIETY AND WILL GOVERNMENT TAKE A LEAD IN EMPLOYING THESE PEOPLE SO AS TO REALLY MAKE A GOOD START?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL KNOW THAT WE HAVE BROADENED THE REMIT OF THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD IN ORDER TO COVER THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED AT WORK AND ALAS, THERE ARE ALL TOO MANY WHO FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY. I'VE HAD OCCASION TO SAY BEFORE, NOT LEAST WHEN AT THE SCENE OF APPALLING INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, THAT OUR FIGURES FOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG ARE OBSCENELY HIGH. FOR AN ECONOMY AS SOPHISTICATED AS THIS ONE WE STILL HAVE APPALLINGLY PRIMITIVE STATISTICS FOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY, THOUGH NOT EXCLUSIVELY, IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND WE'VE TAKEN STEPS WITH THE ACTIVE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO TRY TO ADDRESS THAT QUESTION. I'D LIKE TO SAY WITHOUT RESERVATION THAT I THINK THE PRESSURE THAT WE'VE HAD FROM THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG ON THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN WHOLLY IN THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST AND I WELCOME THE INTELLIGENT AND EFFECTIVE LOBBYING THAT THEY HAVE DONE ON THIS ISSUE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN TRY TO ENSURE IN OUR TRAINING AND RETRAINING PROGRAMMES THAT A PROPER REGARD FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IS INCORPORATED. IT SHOULD CERTAINLY BE THE CASE FOR ALL THOSE COURSES RUN BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BUT I WILL CHECK EXACTLY WHAT IS DONE ON THAT FRONT AND LET THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOW.

DR C H LEONG: WILL THE GOVERNMENT TAKE A LEAD ON EMPLOYING THESE PEOPLE, SIR?

GOVERNOR: I ATTENDED, NOT VERY LONG AGO, WHAT WAS CALLED A SUMMIT ON DISABILITY IN WHICH WE TALKED ABOUT THE EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE WHO WERE DISABLED AND WE MADE COMMITMENTS IN GOVERNMENT FOR THOSE DISABLED IN GENERAL RATHER THAN THOSE INJURED AS A RESULT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS. I THINK IT'S DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE TWO BUT WE DO HAVE TO MAKE GREATER EFFORTS IN GOVERNMENT TO EMPLOY THOSE WITH HANDICAP, WHETHER IT'S CAUSED AT WORK OR WHETHER IT'S GENETIC OR WHETHER THERE'S SOME OTHER REASON FOR IT.

DR K C LAM: MR PRESIDENT, UP TO NOW EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN THE UNIVERSITIES IN HONG KONG ARE MAINTAINED AT COMPARABLE LEVELS TO THOSE IN OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES BY A SYSTEM OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS. IN 1997, HONG KONG WILL CEASE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND THE EXTERNAL EXAMINERS SYSTEM PRESUMABLY, WITH THE OTHER PARTS OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, WILL CEASE TO EXIST.

WOULD THE GOVERNOR INFORM THIS COUNCIL WHAT IS BEING DONE NOW AND WHAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT OUR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES WILL REMAIN AT COMPARABLE LEVELS, IN COMPETENCE TO AND ARE RECOGNISED BY MAJOR ACADEMIC CENTRES IN THE WORLD? PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IS THE CASE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING OVERSEAS WHERE A TRAINEE IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO HAVE A RECOGNISED MEDICAL QUALIFICATION BEFORE HE IS ALLOWED TO TOUCH A PATIENT.

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE INEVITABLE CHANGE IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE COMMONWEALTH IN 1997, WON'T AFFECT THE ACADEMIC LINKS WHICH THIS COMMUNITY HAS WITH NOT JUST THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, BUT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL KNOW THAT THE UPGC CONTAINS A NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED ACADEMICS FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES BUT ALSO FROM ONE OR TWO NON-COMMONWEALTH, CERTAINLY ONE NON-COMMONWEALTH COUNTRY AS WELL. I THINK THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL ALSO KNOW, MUCH BETTER THAN ME, THE EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL LINKS WHICH THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE HAS WHICH WILL SURVIVE AND PROSPER I'M SURE AFTER 1997. SO I HOPE THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997, AFFECTING OR DISRUPTING THE INTERNATIONAL LINKS THAT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG HAS BEYOND OUR SHORES AND BEYOND OUR BOUNDARIES. IF THAT WERE TO BE THE CASE, WHICH I DON'T BELIEVE IT WILL, IT WOULD BE SAD AND DEBILITATING. SO, WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT WE RETAIN AN EXTROVERT, OUTWARD LOOKING INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY AND THAT WAS, OF COURSE, ONE OF THE MAIN THEMES OF THE UPGC'S RECENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AND MISSION STATEMENT WHICH WANTS HONG KONG TO PURSUE AN EXTREMELY OUTWARD LOOKING ROLE.

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK (THROUGH INTERPRETER): WHETHER THE RETRAINING PROGRAMME CAN BE SUCCESSFUL, ONE OF THE VERY IMPORTANT FACTORS IS WHETHER THE EMPLOYERS ARE IN SUPPORT OF IT. MR GOVERNOR I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU THIS: THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS THE BIGGEST EMPLOYER IN HONG KONG, SO AS THE BIGGEST EMPLOYER IN HONG KONG HAS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD. AND ALSO REGARDING THE RECRUITMENT OF CIVIL SERVANTS, HAVE YOU SET ASIDE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF VACANCIES TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RETRAINING GRADUATES, SO AS TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE?

GOVERNOR: WE HAVEN'T, I DON'T BELIEVE, GOT A SET PERCENTAGE FIGURE FOR RECRUITS THAT WE WOULD WANT TO TAKE WHO HAD, AS IT WERE, GRADUATED FROM THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD. I AM NOT SURE THAT THAT WOULD ALWAYS BE APPROPRIATE GIVEN WHAT MAY SOMETIMES BE A SKILLS MISMATCH BETWEEN THE SORT OF POST THAT GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FOR AND THE SORT OF TRAINEES WHO ARE COMING OUT OF THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD. BUT I'LL CERTAINLY LOOK AT THE ISSUE AND SEE IF THERE IS MORE THAT WE CAN DO. AS I SAID EARLIER I THINK THE FIGURE FOR WORK PLACEMENT OF THOSE WHO ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEMES IS PRETTY HIGH, AND WE ARE TRYING TO FURTHER IMPROVE IT SO WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT MANY OF THE 12,500 SHORTLY TO BE 15,000 WHO HAVE BEEN RETRAINED, WHO AREN'T ACTUALLY ABLE TO FIND JOBS.

LAU CHIN-SHEK (THROUGH INTERPRETER) : MR GOVERNOR, CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS BECAUSE EMPLOYERS ARE ACTUALLY FACING THE SAME PROBLEM CONCERNING THE RECRUITMENT OF CIVIL SERVANTS? IF YOU HAVE SYSTEMATIC DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD OR HAVE SYSTEMATIC CO-OPERATION WITH THE BOARD, I'M SURE IT IS GOING TO GO A LONG WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF RETRAINEES OF HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING JOB. SO CAN YOU CONSIDER THIS, CAN YOU CONSIDER CO-OPERATION WITH THE BOARD SO AS TO HELP THE RETRAINEES?

GOVERNOR: CERTAINLY. IF WE HAVEN'T HAD THE SORT OF DIALOGUE WHICH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER UNDERSTANDABLY REQUESTS I'LL ENSURE THAT THOSE DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE.

MR TIK CHI-YUEN (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, YOU COME FROM BRITAIN BUT I JUST HOPE THAT YOU WILL RENDER YOUR FULL SUPPORT TO CHINESE BEING USED AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION. WE HAVE BEEN USING ENGLISH AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR DECADES BUT IT THEN IT HAS NEVER BEEN EFFECTIVE. MANY PARENTS DO NOT WANT TO USE CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION. IN HONG KONG WE STILL FAVOUR ENGLISH AT THE EXPENSE OF CHINESE. I THINK THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PHENOMENON. FOR MANY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENGLISH IS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AND EVEN WHEN THE GOVERNMENT RECRUITS CIVIL SERVANTS FOR CERTAIN POSTS THEY WOULD REQUIRE A PASS IN THE SUBJECT OF ENGLISH BUT THEY DON'T MENTION THE QUALIFICATION AS TO THEIR CHINESE PROFICIENCY. SO MR GOVERNOR, DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO INSTRUCT THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, THAT IS NOT TO FAVOUR ENGLISH AT THE EXPENSE OF CHINESE SO AS TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE WHOLE OF THE SOCIETY?

GOVERNOR: I AM NOT ENTIRELY SURE THAT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, FOR EXAMPLE, I SEE SOME DISTINGUISHED SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON MY RIGHT, I AM NOT SURE THAT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY WOULD AGREE THAT TEACHING IN ENGLISH OVER THE LAST YEAR HAD BEEN A COMPLETE DISASTER AS THE HONOURABLE MEMBER APPEARED TO BE SUGGESTING. THE SUBJECT IS OF COURSE A CONTROVERSIAL ONE AND A MATTER OF CONCERN TO PARENTS AND WE WANT TO PROCEED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE USING VOLUNTARY METHODS RATHER THAN COMPULSION.

WHERE I AGREE WITH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS THAT WE WANT TO SEE YOUNG PEOPLE TAUGHT IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEDIUM. WHAT WE DON'T WANT IS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE TAUGHT IN CHINGLISH RATHER THAN EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO AVOID AT THE MOMENT. THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WILL KNOW THAT MANY PARENTS WHEN IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE SCHOOL WHICH THEIR CHILDREN ATTEND IS GOING TO SHIFT FROM ENGLISH TO CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION DON'T LIKE IT BECAUSE THEY THINK IT'S GOING TO AFFECT THE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES OF THEIR CHILDREN, THEY THINK IT'S GOING TO MEAN THAT THEIR CHILDREN GET A LESS GOOD EDUCATION. IN FACT, ONE OF THE OBVIOUS THINGS THAT ONE CAN AND SHOULD DO, WHERE THAT SHIFT TAKES PLACE, IS TO ENSURE THAT MORE EMPHASIS IS PLACED, ALBEIT WITHIN A CURRICULUM WHICH IS TAUGHT IN CHINESE, ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING ITSELF THROUGH BRIDGING COURSES AND IN OTHER WAYS.

AT PRESENT, WE ARE ENCOURAGING SCHOOLS TO MOVE TO THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION. I HOPE THAT IN DOING THAT WE'LL HAVE AS MUCH UNDERSTANDING FROM PARENTS AS POSSIBLE. AND THAT WOULD OF COURSE BE THE BACKDROP TO THE MUCH GREATER EFFORTS THAT WE ARE TAKING TO ENCOURAGE PROFICIENCY NOT JUST IN ENGLISH BUT IN PUTONGHUA AS WELL. WE SET UP A LANGUAGE FUND FOR WHICH THIS COUNCIL HAS NOW VOTED THE CASH. I THINK THERE ARE TWO MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WHO ARE ON THE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL DETERMINE HOW THE FUND USES ITS MONEY. THAT'S JUST ONE WAY IN WHICH I HOPE THAT WE CAN ENSURE THAT HONG KONG RETAINS THE LINGUISTIC SKILLS THAT IT NEEDS AS ONE OF THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRES IN THE WORLD. OF COURSE, WITH A LIVING LANGUAGE LIKE CANTONESE, IT IS GOING TO PROVIDE THE MAIN CULTURAL BACKDROP FOR PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY BUT IT'S EQUALLY TRUE THAT IN ALL SORTS OF WALKS OF LIFE ENGLISH AND MANDARIN ARE GOING TO BE VERY IMPORTANT AND WAYS OF ENSURING THAT SOMEBODY CAN DO THE JOBS AS ADEQUATELY AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT WILL BE TRUE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AS WELL. AND THERE ARE SOME JOBS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WHICH WILL REQUIRE FROM TIME TO TIME ALL THREE LANGUAGES AND WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE CAN MANAGE THEM ALL.

ROGER LOK: MR PRESIDENT, JUST TO FOLLOW UP THE ANSWER OF THE GOVERNOR. WOULD THE GOVERNOR ELABORATE ON THE WAY FORWARD TO IMPROVE BOTH THE SPOKEN AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE SKILL OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS?

GOVERNOR: WE'LL OBVIOUSLY HAVE GREATER HELP IN FINDING THE WAY FORWARD WHEN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY HAS REPORTED A LITTLE LATER IN THE YEAR. AND I THINK THAT WILL PROVIDE THE SIGNPOSTS FOR THE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE MANAGING THE LANGUAGE FUND ITSELF -THE \$300 MILLION THAT WE HAVE PUT INTO THE LANGUAGE FUND. THERE IS, AND I HEAR IT REGULARLY FROM BUSINESS LEADERS, THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE LOWER STANDARDS OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY. I AM NOT QUITE SURE HOW MUCH THAT IS ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE AND HOW MUCH THERE IS AN OBJECTIVE BASIS TO IT, BUT I THINK THAT AT THE VERY LEAST THEY ARE RIGHT TO BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG, IF IT IS TO RETAIN ITS ECONOMIC POSITION IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD, NEEDS TO HAVE LANGUAGE SKILLS.

DR SAMUEL WONG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR GOVERNOR, A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THE CABLE TELEVISION LICENCE WE WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT A NUMBER OF CHANNELS OR CERTAIN TIME SLOTS WOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF EDUCATION. I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STILL STAND BY THIS POSITION, AND IF SO HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN OBTAINED?

GOVERNOR: I AM AFRAID THAT MY OWN INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THESE MATTERS DOESN'T ENABLE ME TO CONFIRM OR DENY ANY COMMITMENTS MADE ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF TELEVISION. I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE, THOUGH IT JUST SHOWS A PERSONAL PREJUDICE, THAT TELEVISION IS ALL TOO FREQUENTLY AN ALTERNATIVE TO EDUCATION. BUT, I CAN SEE THAT IT CAN PLAY AN EDUCATIONAL ROLE TOO. I KNOW THAT SOME OF OUR TELEVISION COMPANIES HAVE ESTABLISHED A REGIONAL LEAD IN THE PRODUCTION OF CHILDREN'S TELEVISION PROGRAMMES. AS FOR A BROADER EDUCATIONAL ROLE, PERHAPS I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER ABOUT THAT AGAIN. AT THE MOMENT I HAVE TO SAY THAT I DON'T SEE VERY MUCH SIGN OF THE EDUCATIONAL USE OF TELEVISION, EXCEPT PERHAPS IN RELATION TO CONTINUING EDUCATION AND OLI COURSES FROM TIME TO TIME.

MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE GOVERNOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTION, IN FACT A FOLLOW-UP OF MR TIK CHI-YUEN. IT'S REGARDING USING MOTHER TONGUE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

HONG KONG IS A COLONY, SO ALL ALONG OUR LANGUAGE POLICY IS SUCH THAT WE FAVOUR ENGLISH AT THE EXPENSE OF CHINESE AND THIS CONCEPT HAS BEEN FIRMLY INSTILLED OR DEEP-ROOTED IN THE HEART OF EVERYONE. NOW THE COLONIAL DAYS ARE COMING TO A CLOSE. WE HAVE TO BUILD UP A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN HONG KONG AND SO WE NEED A CORRESPONDING LANGUAGE POLICY. EARLIER ON THE GOVERNOR MENTIONED ABOUT HAVING EITHER VOLUNTARY OR MANDATORY MEASURES TO HAVE MOTHER TONGUE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE ONLY WAY. I THINK WE CAN HAVE A THIRD OPTION, THAT IS THE GOVERNMENT CAN ASSIST THOSE SCHOOLS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OPTING TO USE MOTHER TONGUE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, THE GOVERNMENT CAN ASSIST SUCH SCHOOLS TO HAVE A SHIFT SO AS TO HAVE THE JOB DONE BEFORE 1997.

SO MY QUESTION IS, WILL THE GOVERNMENT ASSIST THOSE SCHOOLS? AND ALSO WILL THE GOVERNMENT TRY TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY IN ITS COURSES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE SO AS TO GIVE CHINESE A HIGHER STATUS?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: I REPEAT WHAT I SAID EARLIER. THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO OPT FOR WHATEVER IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AND A LOT OF THE RESISTANCE TO THE IDEA COMES FROM THOSE WHO DON'T SHARE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER'S VIEWS ABOUT ENGLISH, COMES FROM PARENTS WHO THINK THAT TO MOVE AWAY FROM ENGLISH AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, EVEN IF IN PRACTICE ENGLISH HASN'T BEEN USED VERY EFFECTIVELY AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, IS SOMEHOW TO REDUCE THE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE ENJOYING. WE REALLY DO HAVE A MATTER OF PARENTAL EDUCATION I THINK TO DEAL WITH IN TACKLING THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM.

I MUST SAY, I DON'T SEE THE QUESTION OF LANGUAGE TRAINING IN A PARTICULARLY COLONIAL LIGHT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HONG KONG NEEDS, IN ADDITION TO ITS ELOQUENT CANTONESE SPEAKING POPULATION, AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WHO CAN MANAGE IN PUTONGHUA AND IN ENGLISH AND IT'S THE JOB OF GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THAT AS LIKELY AS IT CAN.

IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WE ARE DOING A GOOD DEAL TO INCREASE LANGUAGE TRAINING WITH MORE PUTONGHUA COURSES. BUT I THINK IT'S CLEARLY TRUE THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF JOBS WHICH REQUIRE ENGLISH AS WELL AS CANTONESE OR AS WELL AS PUTONGHUA. PARTICULARLY, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THOSE WORKING IN AREAS LIKE INTERNATIONAL TRADE. SO I THINK IT'S A QUESTION OF KEEPING A BALANCE AND ENSURING THAT WE ENCOURAGE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, RATHER THAN COERCE.

MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PRESIDENT, CONCERNING THE REPLY FROM THE GOVERNOR, ACTUALLY IT REALLY DISAPPOINTS ME. FRANKLY SPEAKING I THINK YOUR VIEWPOINT IS STILL A COLONIAL VIEWPOINT. WILL THE GOVERNMENT TAKE THE LEAD, IF HE STILL THINKS THAT MOTHER TONGUE EDUCATION IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE PROMOTED IN HONG KONG? THEN CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, IF THEY ARE ALREADY ASSESSED TO BE SUITABLE FOR EDUCATION THROUGH CHINESE, THEN THE SCHOOLS SHOULD BE TEACHING THEM IN CHINESE AND WILL YOU, THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS AREA?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I CONGRATULATE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER TO BEGIN WITH. I THINK HE'S THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S ACCUSED ME OF COLONIAL ATTITUDES IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, BUT THE PRIZE HAD TO GO TO SOMEBODY.

I'M NOT SURE WHETHER HE BELIEVES ALL THOSE PARENTS WHO ARE AT PRESENT CONCERNED ABOUT SCHOOLS MOVING FROM TEACHING IN ENGLISH OR ALLEGEDLY TEACHING IN ENGLISH TO TEACHING IN MOTHER TONGUE, I'M NOT SURE WHETHER HE THINKS THOSE PARENTS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT ARE ALSO COLONIALIST. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THERE ARE PARENTS THAT WE HAVE TO LEAD ALONG WHAT I THINK IS THE RIGHT ROAD. I DON'T DISAGREE WITH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER ONE BIT THAT ONE WANTS TEACHING IN THE APPROPRIATE MODE AND THAT THAT WILL VERY OFTEN MEAN, IN HONG KONG, MOVING FROM TEACHING IN ENGLISH TO MOVING TO TEACHING IN THE MOTHER TONGUE. I TOTALLY ACCEPT THAT BUT I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE BEST SERVED BY TRYING TO ENCOURAGE AND LEAD PEOPLE ALONG THAT ROAD RATHER THAN BY DRIVING THEM ALONG IT. THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS ENTIRELY RIGHT THAT WHAT WE WANT IS THE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE IN THE CLASSROOM BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MAKE VERY MUCH SENSE IF CHILDREN ARE BEING TAUGHT IN A LANGUAGE WHICH THEY NEVER WHOLLY GRASPED, IT DOESN'T MUCH HELP IF CHILDREN ARE BEING TAUGHT IN SOMETHING THAT IS HALF CHINESE AND HALF ENGLISH. WHAT WE WANT IS THE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE BUT I HOPE WE CAN LEAD PARENTS AND SCHOOLS IN THIS DIRECTION RATHER THAN DRIVE THEM AND I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY THE VIEW OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS AS WELL.

MR VINCENT CHENG: GOVERNOR I'D LIKE TO ASK THIS QUESTION CONCERNING THE EDUCATION POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. WILL IT ENCOURAGE A MORE DIVERSIFIED EDUCATION POLICY SO THAT PARENTS WILL HAVE SOME KIND OF A CHOICE AS TO WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION THEIR CHILDREN WILL BE RECEIVING, OR WILL YOU ONLY BE VERY RIGIDLY FIXING THE MODE OF EDUCATION, SO THAT THE PARENTS DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE WITH REGARD TO THE CHOICE. SO WILL PARENTS BE GIVEN A CHOICE.

GOVERNOR: YOU CAN'T CONCEIVABLY BE AGAINST GIVING PARENTS MORE CHOICE IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN, IT WOULD BE LIKE BEING AGAINST MOTHERHOOD. WE ALL WANT TO SEE PARENTS HAVING AS EXTENSIVE A CHOICE AS POSSIBLE, WHILE RECOGNISING IN RUNNING AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT CHOICE INEVITABLY HAS LIMITS. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE PARENTS INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS THAN IS AT PRESENT THE CASE. THAT IS WHY I WELCOME, AS I SAID EARLIER THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE, AND THAT'S WHY I WELCOME THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PTAS. I THINK PARENTS THEMSELVES WELCOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE, I THINK THEY PARTICULARLY WELCOME MORE INFORMATION WHEN THEY CAN UNDERSTAND THE BULLETINS AND MEMORANDA WHICH'RE SENT TO THEM ABOUT THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN WHICH IS SOMETIMES WRITTEN IN A, I THINK, RATHER FIERCE BUREAUCRATISE. SO, YES I AM IN FAVOUR OF EXTENDING CHOICES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, THOUGH THERE ARE ALWAYS GOING TO BE PRACTICAL LIMITS BECAUSE OF THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF GOVERNMENT PROVIDING FOR EVERY SORT OF OPTION IN EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD. I THINK IF I CAN JUST ADD ONE POINT THAT THE WAY IN WHICH HONG KONG HAS LEANT SO HEAVILY AND SO PROPERLY ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF SCHOOLS IS ITSELF AN ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING A GREATER CHOICE.

MR VINCENT CHENG: THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT HAVE COMPLETELY GOT MY QUESTION. I REALLY WISH TO CONVEY AN OPINION THAT, BECAUSE THERE ARE COLLEAGUES CALLING FOR MODIFIED EDUCATION WHICH I AM ALL FOR, BUT I ALSO HAPPEN TO THINK THAT PARENTS, IF THEY WANT THEIR KIDS TO LEARN MORE ENGLISH, THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.

GOVERNOR: I AM SURE THAT'S THE SORT OF CHOICE THAT ONE WELCOMES, AND IT'S WHY AT THE RISK OF APPEARING IN MY MARXIST COLONIAL ROLE. IT'S WHY I ANSWERED EARLIER QUESTIONS IN THE WAY I DID. I THINK THAT THE MORE FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE ENCOURAGING AN APPROPRIATE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION POLICY, THE MORE WE CAN ESTABLISH BRIDGING COURSES, INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES, THE MORE WE CAN ENCOURAGE BETTER LANGUAGE SKILLS THROUGH THE TARGET-ORIENTED CURRICULUM, THE MORE WE CAN DEVELOP THE VOCATIONAL ENGLISH PROGRAMME AS WELL AS EQUIVALENTS TO ALL THOSE THINGS IN MANDARIN. THE MORE WE CAN DO THOSE THINGS THE WIDER THE PARENTS' CHOICES AND THE WIDER PUPILS' CHOICES WILL BE.

/MRS SELINA CHOW:

MRS SELINA CHOW: GOVERNOR, I AM SORRY TO BELABOUR THE POINT, BUT I STILL HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION. I'M AFRAID WHAT WAS SAID JUST NOW BY THE PREVIOUS SPEAKER HAS IN FACT CONFUSED THE ISSUE SOMEWHAT. I DON'T THINK HERE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DEPRIVING PARENTS OF CHOICES, WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS WHAT YOU SAID SIR, LEADING PEOPLE ON THAT ROAD RATHER THAN DRIVING THEM. NOW THE CRITICISM THAT WE HAVE, MEMBERS, OF PARTICULARLY OF THE EDUCATION PANEL, IS THAT WE CANNOT SEE THE GOVERNOR LEADING PEOPLE ON THAT ROAD. WE IN FACT SEE THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING BLIND CHOICES OF PARENTS WHO INSIST THAT THEIR CHILDREN SHOULD RECEIVE EDUCATION, IN ENGLISH, IN THE MEDIUM OF ENGLISH WHEN THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO DO SO AND THE TEACHERS TEACHING THEM ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO DO SO EITHER. WE HAVE A PROBLEM WHERE THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FOR YEARS AS A RESULT OF THAT. WE WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION TO LEAD.

NOW WE ARE NOT SATISFIED THAT WHAT IS BEING DONE NOW IS ENOUGH ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT, IN THE WAY OF LEADING, BECAUSE ALREADY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS GIVEN A GRACE PERIOD IN WHICH TO, SO TO SPEAK, SOFT LAND INTO THE MORE VIABLE RATIO OF HAVING SCHOOLS TEACHING IN CHINESE AND IN ENGLISH, PROPERLY CATERING FOR THE CHILDREN'S CAPABILITIES. BUT AS YOU KNOW SIR, I MEAN YOU MENTIONED THE CONTROVERSY, RECENTLY THAT RESISTANCE HAS COME ON VERY VERY STRONG AND THE SCHOOLS ARE RESISTING BECAUSE THE PARENTS ARE RESISTING. NOW I AGREE WITH YOU THAT PARENTAL EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT BUT THAT IS NOT THE ONLY THING WE CAN RELY ON. WE MUST SEE GOVERNMENT PLAYING A LEAD AND THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT PLAYING A LEAD. CAN I ASK YOU SIR, WHAT YOU SIR, I MEAN PERSONALLY YOU'VE SAID YOU'RE SO, YOU PLACE SO MUCH IMPORTANCE ON THIS ISSUE, WHAT YOU SIR WILL DIRECT TO GOVERNMENT TO PLAY THAT LEAD WHICH IS SADLY NEEDED AND BADLY NEEDED?

GOVERNOR: WELL, WE'RE AT PRESENT, AS THE HONOURABLE LADY KNOWS, AT A STAGE IN WHICH WE'RE ENCOURAGING SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHICH IN THEIR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES IS THE APPROPRIATE MEANS OF INSTRUCTION AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM FURTHER HAVING MADE THAT DETERMINATION, AND IF NECESSARY, TO CHANGE THE POLICY OF THE SCHOOL. WE ARE, BEFORE LONG, GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE FROM ENCOURAGEMENT TO FIRM GUIDANCE; AND WHEN THERE IS FIRM GUIDANCE I HAVE TO SAY TO THE HONOURABLE LADY THERE WILL BE A LOT OF RESISTANCE FROM A LOT OF PARENTS AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WHEN THAT RESISTANCE FROM PARENTS COMES, TO A POLICY WHICH I THINK IS RIGHT AND THE HONOURABLE MEMBER THINKS IS RIGHT, THAT WE'LL HAVE AS A GOVERNMENT THE SUPPORT OF THE HONOURABLE LADY AND SOME OF HER COLLEAGUES IN SEEING A DIFFICULT POLICY THROUGH BECAUSE I DON'T THINK THAT ONE SHOULD UNDER-ESTIMATE THE AMOUNT OF RESISTANCE THAT THERE WILL BE FROM SOME PARENTS, IN MY JUDGMENT WRONGLY AND IN THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS JUDGMENT WRONGLY, BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT AND IT WILL NEED A GOOD DEAL OF FIRMNESS FROM TIME TO TIME IN DOING SO.

SO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER CHIDES THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT BEING SUFFICIENTLY ROBUST IN PRESSING THIS POLICY. I'M SURE THAT I WILL NEVER HAVE OCCASION TO HAVE TO CHIDE THE HONOURABLE LADY FOR NOT SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT WHEN IT IS BEING MORE ROBUST.

THE PRESIDENT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS I NOW ADJOURN THE SITTING UNTIL WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY, 1994. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN ME IN THE ANTE-CHAMBER.

HK'S REPUTATION AS A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD IMPORTANT

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HONG KONG MUST VIGOROUSLY PROTECT ITS REPUTATION AS A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE DUTCH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, SIR HAMISH SAID HONG KONG'S DEVOTION TO PRESERVING THIS LEVEL PLAYING FIELD WAS THE KEY TO THE TERRITORY'S SUCCESS, THE ENVY OF OTHERS AND A GREAT ATTRACTION TO INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS AND BUSINESSMEN.

SIR HAMISH SAID HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD WAS A COMMITMENT TO FAIR COMPETITION, MOST RELEVANT TO A TENDER SITUATION, WHERE NO DISCRIMINATION SHOULD BE ALLOWED.

"IN TRADE TERMS IT MEANS THAT HONG KONG IS A FREE PORT, RAISING NO TARIFFS ON IMPORTS, NOR RESTRICTING OR DISCOURAGING IMPORTS IN ANY OTHER WAY.

"IN DOMESTIC TERMS A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD HAS MEANT NO SUBSIDIES TO INDUSTRY OR SERVICES, NO SPECIAL DEALS OR PRIVILEGES. REGULATION AND PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION ARE ONLY THERE WHEN STRICTLY NECESSARY.

"ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE BUSINESS SECTOR ARE READY RESOURCE TO IMPARTIAL JUSTICE; FREEDOM FROM OFFICIAL CORRUPTION; AND BUSINESS ETHICS, WHICH ARE AMONG THE BEST IN THE REGION," HE SAID.

SIR HAMISH SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE PLAYING FIELD LEVEL IN HONG KONG BECAUSE IT BELIEVED VERY STRONGLY IT WAS RIGHT IN PRINCIPLE TO DO SO.

AS A RESULT, HE ADDED, THE LEVEL PLAYING FIELD HAD KEPT OUR ECONOMY LEAN, FIT AND ADAPTABLE.

"GDP PER CAPITA HAS RISEN STEADILY, UP FROM US\$5,875 10 YEARS AGO TO A FORECAST US\$20,600 THIS YEAR. REAL WAGES HAVE RISEN, AND WITH THEM STANDARDS OF LIVING."

SIR HAMISH SAID THE MOST RECENTLY UPDATED INDICATORS OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS WERE FIGURES PUBLISHED BY THE GATT IN GENEVA ABOUT A FORTNIGHT AGO WHICH SHOWED THAT WITH TOTAL TRADE VALUED AT \$2,119 BILLION IN 1993 HONG KONG HAD BECOME THE WORLD'S EIGHTH LARGEST TRADING ENTITY.

"WE WERE THE WORLD'S SEVENTH LARGEST IMPORTER BY VALUE AND EIGHTH LARGEST EXPORTER.

"EXCLUDE TRADE BETWEEN MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THOSE FIGURES BECOME FOURTH AND FIFTH RESPECTIVELY. REMARKABLE FIGURES FOR SUCH A SMALL PLACE AND A POWERFUL DEMONSTRATION OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS," HE SAID.

SIR HAMISH NOTED THAT THE NETHERLANDS WAS FIFTH AMONG OVERSEAS INVESTORS IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY.

"TWENTY-SIX DUTCH COMPANIES HAVE THEIR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS HERE AND MANY MORE HAVE REGIONAL OFFICES.

"FINANCIAL SERVICES, SHIPPING, OIL SUPPLY, ELECTRONICS AND TRADING ARE WELL-SERVED BY THE PRESENCE OF LARGE, WELL-KNOWN DUTCH COMPANIES.

"AND THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT IS BENEFITING ENORMOUSLY FROM DUTCH ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE," HE SAID.

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CONDOLENCES TO JOHN SMITH'S FAMILY

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (THURSDAY):

"I WAS VERY SAD TO LEARN THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, JOHN SMITH.

"HE WAS A GOOD AND DECENT MAN, WIDELY RESPECTED REGARDLESS OF PEOPLES' INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL OPINIONS.

"I SHOULD LIKE TO OFFER MY CONDOLENCES TO HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTERS, AND TO HIS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS."

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LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS ON VOTER REGISTER COMPILATION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS ON THE COMPILATION OF THE VOTER REGISTER.

THE AMENDMENTS ARE SET OUT IN THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (NO. 2) BILL 1994 TO BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

UNDER THE BILL, ELECTORS ON THE EXISTING FINAL REGISTER WHO HAVE EITHER CEASED TO ORDINARILY RESIDE IN HONG KONG OR HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESSES WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE REGISTRATION OFFICER WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED IN A NEW REGISTER.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE (REO) WITH A PROPER LEGAL BASIS TO OMIT, WHEN COMPILING A NEW VOTER REGISTER FOR THE YEAR, THE NAME OF ANY PERSON IN THE EXISTING FINAL REGISTER WHOM THE REGISTRATION OFFICER HAS REASON TO BELIEVE IS NO LONGER ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED AS AN ELECTOR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXISTING ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE HAD LONG CONTAINED GENERAL PROVISIONS WHICH ALLOWED REGULATIONS TO BE MADE IN RELATION TO THE COMPILATION, REVISION AND CORRECTION OF THE VOTER REGISTERS.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, HE ADDED, MERELY SOUGHT TO REMOVE ANY DOUBT BY ADDING A CLEAR SPECIFIC ENABLING PROVISION AUTHORISING THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO OMIT ELECTORS FROM THE VOTER REGISTER UNDER CERTAIN PRESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES.

"IF THE REGISTRATION OFFICER HAS NO SUCH AUTHORITY, THE ACCURACY OF THE VOTER REGISTER WOULD BE GREATLY AFFECTED AS THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT HONG KONG AND THOSE WHO HAVE MOVED WOULD ALL REMAIN ON THE VOTER REGISTER AND CONTINUE TO BE QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THEIR OLD CONSTITUENCIES.

"THIS WILL EVENTUALLY UNDERMINE THE WHOLE BASIS OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS. THERE IS THEREFORE AN URGENT NEED TO AMEND THE PRIMARY LEGISLATION TO ENABLE THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO OMIT SUCH ELECTORS FROM THE VOTER REGISTER," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ANY ELECTOR SO OMITTED FROM THE REGISTER COULD APPLY FOR RE-REGISTRATION PROVIDED HE HAD RESUMED ORDINARY RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG OR WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE A NEW RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, AS THE CASE MIGHT BE.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 18.

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37 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS PROMOTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THE SUBSTANTIVE PROMOTIONS OF 18 OFFICERS TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C AND 19 OFFICERS TO SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1994.

"STAFF GRADE C RANK IS THE FIRST DIRECTORATE RANK IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE; IT IS THEREFORE A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT STEP IN AN OFFICER'S CAREER," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

OFFICERS AT THIS RANK TYPICALLY OCCUPY POSTS OF PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, DISTRICT OFFICER IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, OR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN DEPARTMENT WHICH ARE VITAL TO THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE GOVERNMENT.

"THE SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER RANK IS ALSO A RELATIVELY SENIOR LEVEL IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND OFFICERS PROMOTED TO IT ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF PERFORMING A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE GRADE, OFFICERS ARE GENERALLY ASSESSED ON MERIT, WITH EMPHASIS ON THEIR PERFORMANCE, POTENTIAL AND POSTABILITY.

"PROMOTION IS A RECOGNITION THAT THE OFFICERS CONCERNED ARE ABLE AND READY TO PERFORM THE MORE DEMANDING DUTIES IN A HIGHER RANK," HE SAID.

"AS THE CIVIL SERVICE IS BECOMING MORE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE, WE NEED OFFICERS WITH THE ABILITY TO FORMULATE AND EXPLAIN GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO THE PUBLIC, AND TO DEFEND POLICIES CONVINCINGLY," HE ADDED.

"IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 37 OFFICERS BEING PROMOTED THIS TIME WHO HAVE THE ABILITY AND CONVICTION TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND BEYOND. THIS IS A GOOD SIGN FOR THE FUTURE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ACC MEMBERS BRIEFED ON LATEST PROGRESS OF ACP

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MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS TODAY (THURSDAY) SAW THE EXTENSIVE PHYSICAL PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP).

DURING THE FOUR-HOUR BOAT TOUR, MEMBERS WERE GIVEN A BRIEFING ON PROGRESS BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, MR JOHN BURRETT.

THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RESPECTIVE PROJECT OFFICES ON THE PROGRESS OF INDIVIDUAL ACP PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION PHASE I, THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND THE ROUTE 3.

THE PARTY THEN WENT ON SHORE AT THE TSING YI WORKS SITE OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE, WHICH IS PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

FROM A VANTAGE POINT ON SITE, MEMBERS SAW THE TWIN BRIDGE TOWERS, WHICH IS AT THEIR FULL HEIGHT OF 206 METRES. THEY WERE TOLD THAT SINCE THEIR LAST VISIT IN SEPTEMBER, THE BRIDGE HAD BEEN LINKED BY CABLE WIRES.

ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE WORKS ON WHAT IS THE WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE CARRYING BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED.

AFTER LEAVING TSING YI, MEMBERS CONTINUED THEIR BOAT TOUR ALONG THE NORTH LANTAU COAST TO VIEW PROGRESS ON THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY AND THE TUNG CHUNG DEVELOPMENT.

THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY IS NOW 40 PER CENT COMPLETED AND AT TUNG CHUNG, RECLAMATION, LAND FORMATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN PHASES.

ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THE WORKS ON TUNG CHUNG HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED.

ON THE NEW AIRPORT SITE AT CHEK LAP KOK, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, DR HENRY TOWNSEND, TOLD MEMBERS THAT OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE AIRPORT SITE HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND MORE THAN 680 HECTARES OF LAND HAD BEEN FORMED.

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HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR MARCH RELEASED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) RELEASED DETAILED STATISTICS ON EXTERNAL TRADE WITH BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY AND COMMODITY FOR MARCH 1994.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN MARCH 1994, AT \$71.1 BILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 12% OVER MARCH 1993.

AMONGST THIS, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS, THE UNITED STATES, TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE INCREASED BY 30%, 22%, 16%, 13%, 6.6%, 6.5%, 2.1% AND 1.8% RESPECTIVELY.

NEVERTHELESS, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO FRANCE AND GERMANY DECREASED BY 14% AND 5.6% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAIN DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 WAS \$197.3 BILLION, 13% HIGHER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST OF THE MAIN DESTINATIONS: THE UNITED KINGDOM (+25%), JAPAN (+21%), CHINA (+19%), THE NETHERLANDS (+15%), THE UNITED STATES (+15%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+14%), GERMANY (+8.1%), SINGAPORE (+7.8%) AND FRANCE (+1.2%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN DECREASED BY 5.1%.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$5.8 BILLION OR 42%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$2.7 BILLION OR 19%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$1.7 BILLION OR 16%); ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$1.7 BILLION OR 22%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$1.3 BILLION OR 21%) AND CLOTHING (BY \$1.2 BILLION OR 6.4%).

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN MARCH 1994, AT \$15.9 BILLION, DECREASED BY 8.2% OVER MARCH 1993.

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM (-27%), GERMANY (-21%), CANADA (-20%), THE UNITED STATES (-7.4%), CHINA (-7.0%), THE NETHERLANDS (-4.3%), JAPAN (-3.2%) AND TAIWAN (-2.0%).

/HOWEVER, THE

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE INCREASED BY 40% AND 9.1% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAIN DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA (-18%), CHINA (-12%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-11%), GERMANY (-10%), JAPAN (-8.2%), THE NETHERLANDS (-7.1%), THE UNITED STATES (-5.0%) AND TAIWAN (-3.7%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE INCREASED BY 17% AND 2.6% RESPECTIVELY.

TAKING ALL DESTINATIONS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994, AT \$44.7 BILLION, DECREASED BY 8.1% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993. THIS REFLECTED PARTLY THE CONTINUED STRUCTURAL SHIFT TO RE-EXPORTS AND PARTLY THE WEAK DEMAND IN THE OVERSEAS MARKETS.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$876 MILLION OR 19%); CLOTHING (BY \$721 MILLION OR 5.3%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$667 MILLION OR 21%); TEXTILES (BY \$569 MILLION OR 15%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$463 MILLION OR 12%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING MAINLY OF JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES (BY \$114 MILLION OR 2.6%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, AN INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$62 MILLION OR 1.2%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN MARCH 1994, AT \$96.2 BILLION, INCREASED BY 11% OVER THAT IN MARCH 1993.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAIN SUPPLIERS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING MARCH 1994 WITH MARCH 1993, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL OF THE MAIN SUPPLIERS INCREASED: ITALY (+27%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+13%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+13%), GERMANY (+12%), TAIWAN (+10%), MALAYSIA (+8.9%), CHINA (+8.7%), THE UNITED STATES (+8.2%), SINGAPORE (+6.0%) AND JAPAN (+5.7%).

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL OF THE MAIN SUPPLIERS INCREASED: MALAYSIA (+25%), ITALY (+24%), CHINA (+13%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+13%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+11%), SINGAPORE (+10%), GERMANY (+6.4%), TAIWAN (+6.2%), THE UNITED STATES (+4.7%) AND JAPAN (+1.0%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 WAS \$255.9 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF 9.8% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE 10 PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF MOST PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$6.3 BILLION OR 35%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$3.6 BILLION OR 15%); NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$2.0 BILLION OR 28%); TEXTILES (BY \$1.7 BILLION OR 7.6%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$1.6 BILLION OR 18%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1.4 BILLION OR 13%); AND CLOTHING (BY \$1.1 BILLION OR 6.1%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, A DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$2.2 BILLION OR 17%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MARCH 1994 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY JUNE 1994.

DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE MARCH 1994 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN MARCH 1994 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$86 PER COPY ON MAY 27.

THE REPORT CAN BE PURCHASED EITHER AT (I) THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR (II) THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL NO. 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL NO. 582 4915).

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TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 94 OVER MAR 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 94 OVER JAN-MAR 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	28,385	+ 29.9	69,418	+ 19.2
UNITED STATES	12,927	+ 6.5	39,045	+ 14.8
JAPAN	3,802	+ 13.1	11,153	+ 21.2
GERMANY	2,900	- 5.6	9,650	+ 8.1
UNITED KINGDOM	1,834	+ 15.9	5,807	+ 25.4
TAIWAN	1,896	+ 2.1	5,030	- 5.1
SINGAPORE	1,550	+ 1.8	4,301	+ 7.8
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,534	+ 21.9	3,811	+ 13.9
NETHERLANDS	997	+ 6.6	3,062	+ 15.4
FRANCE	909	- 13.6	2,967	+ 1.2

/TABLE 2 :

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 94 OVER MAR 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 94 OVER JAN-MAR 93 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	7,256	- 1.0	21,176	+ 4.8
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,485	- 14.4	20,148	+ 6.4
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	6,970	+ 32.6	19,502	+ 42.3
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	6,419	+ 20.3	16,917	+ 18.7
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,267	+ 5.7	15,771	+ 5.9
FOOTWEAR	3,706	+ 11.6	12,209	+ 16.5
ROAD VEHICLES	4,272	+ 44.9	9,545	+ 21.9
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,016	+ 8.6	8,525	+ 15.3
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,768	+ 23.8	7,677	+ 20.7
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,064	- 2.5	6,398	+ 12.9

/TABLE 3 :

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 94 OVER MAR 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 94 OVER JAN-MAR 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,014	- 7.0	12,388	- 11.5
UNITED STATES	3,671	- 7.4	11,021	- 5.0
SINGAPORE	1,062	+ 9.1	2,756	+ 2.6
GERMANY	760	- 20.7	2,636	- 10.4
JAPAN	900	- 3.2	2,265	- 8.2
UNITED KINGDOM	629	- 27.5	2,091	- 10.9
TAIWAN	500	- 2.0	1,381	- 3.7
NETHERLANDS	335	- 4.3	1,015	- 7.1
CANADA	239	- 20.0	852	- 17.9
PHILIPPINES	259	+ 40.2	663	+ 17.4

/TABLE 4 :

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 94 OVER MAR 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 94 OVER JAN-MAR 93 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3,620	- 13.4	12,862	- 5.3
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,101	+ 10.6	5,251	+ 1.2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,658	- 4.6	4,235	- 2.6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,425	- 15.9	3,720	- 19.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,160	- 11.5	3,256	- 12.4
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,176	- 18.5	3,161	- 15.3
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,035	- 15.4	2,483	- 21.2
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	379	- 5.5	1,022	- 5.7
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	339	+ 6.9	813	+ 0.8
MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	302	+ 3.5	762	- 2.1

/TABLE 5 :

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 94 OVER MAR 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 94 OVER JAN-MAR 93 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	33,725	+ 8.7	93,432	+ 12.8
JAPAN	16,663	+ 5.7	41,280	+ 1.0
TAIWAN	8,642	+ 10.1	22,013	+ 6.2
UNITED STATES	6,734	+ 8.2	18,418	+ 4.7
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4,651	+ 12.7	11,988	+ 11.1
SINGAPORE	4,041	+ 6.0	11,192	+ 10.1
GERMANY	2,456	+ 12.2	6,233	+ 6.4
UNITED KINGDOM	2,008	+ 13.4	5,480	+ 12.6
ITALY	1,762	+ 27.5	4,513	+ 24.4
MALAYSIA	1,440	+ 8.9	4,252	+ 25.0

/TABLE 6 :

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	MAR 94 OVER MAR 93 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAR 1994 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAR 94 OVER JAN-MAR 93 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	10,748	+ 21.4	27,977	+ 14.8
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	9,132	+ 29.7	24,474	+ 34.6
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	9,502	+ 6.1	23,453	+ 7.6
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,487	- 5.2	19,734	+ 6.1
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,232	+ 9.0	16,763	+ 7.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,527	+ 17.4	11,746	+ 13.0
FOOTWEAR	3,616	+ 20.2	10,768	+ 17.9
ROAD VEHICLES	4,201	- 22.0	10,696	- 17.1
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	3,743	+ 31.5	9,337	+ 27.6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	3,453	+ 8.6	9,133	+ 9.3

STRATEGY FOR ARTS DEVELOPMENT BEING FORMULATED

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THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED HONG KONG ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HKADC) IS GETTING ON WITH THE WORK OF FORMULATING A STRATEGY FOR PLANNING AND PROMOTING THE BROAD DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARTS.

THE COUNCIL HAS ALREADY HELD ONE MEETING SINCE ITS INAUGURATION IN LATE APRIL AND ITS COMMITTEES ARE NOW TACKLING THE DETAILED ISSUES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HKADC SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN SET UP ON THE BASIS OF THE SOLID FOUNDATIONS THAT HAD BEEN LAID DOWN BY THE WORKING GROUP OF THE HKADC IN ITS PROGRESS REPORT.

THE WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE, OBJECTIVES AND SO ON THAT THE HKADC NEEDS TO ENABLE IT TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IN THE COURSE OF ITS WORK, THE WORKING GROUP HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE ARTS COMMUNITY AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

UPON THE COMPLETION OF ITS WORK, THE WORKING GROUP HAD PREPARED A PROGRESS REPORT SETTING OUT DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER MATERIALS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND WORK OF THE HKADC.

THIS PROGRESS REPORT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP.

THE GOVERNOR HAD REPLIED THANKING THE WORKING GROUP FOR ALL OF ITS HARD WORK AND ALSO STATING CLEARLY THAT THE HKADC SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED LAST MONTH ALONG THE LINES SET OUT IN THE PROGRESS REPORT, INITIALLY AS A NON-STATUTORY BODY AND, WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, AS A STATUTORY BODY.

THE PROGRESS REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. THOSE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING COPIES CAN WRITE TO THE HKADC SECRETARIAT AT 40TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG OR TELEPHONE 594 5699.

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BEACH WATER GRADES

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BI-WEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATER IS USUALLY SAMPLED.

/THE GRADING

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH THAT HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATER IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

"BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR SHORTER IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS:

- * GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- * GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCILS IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT, FOUR GAZETTED BEACHES, ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, OLD CAFETERIA, AND ROCKY BAY, ARE CLOSED TO SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE BEACHES HAS BEEN MADE BY THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS ON THE BASIS OF RECENT BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THE BEACHES. THEY ARE INDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 28.4.94)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 12.5.94)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	2	2
DEEP WATER BAY	1	1
HAIRPIN	2	2
MIDDLE BAY	1	2
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	1	1
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	3	3
BUTTERFLY	2	2
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	1	1
SILVERMINE BAY	2	2
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	1
TUNG O*	1	1

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	3	4
CASAM	2	3
GEMINI	3	3
HOI MEI WAN	2	3
LIDO	2	3
TING KAU	3	3
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

MIDDLE BAY FROM "1" TO "2"; CASAM, HOI MEI WAN AND LIDO FROM "2" TO "3"; AND APPROACH FROM "3" TO "4".

ALL OF THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

THE GENERAL DETERIORATION OF BEACH WATER QUALITY IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT IS PROBABLY DUE TO THE RECENT HEAVY RAINFALL WHICH WOULD HAVE CAUSED THE POLLUTANTS IN THE BEACH HINTERLAND TO BE FLUSHED INTO THE SEA WATER.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT DR MALCOLM BROOM, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, ON 835 1234.

17 LIFE-SAVERS COMMENDED

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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, HAS HIGHLY COMMENDED 17 BRAVE RESIDENTS FOR SAVING LIVES AT SEA OR IN SWIMMING POOLS LAST YEAR.

DR LEE MADE THE REMARKS AT THE ANNUAL PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB AT REPULSE BAY THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS, DR LEE PRESENTED RESCUE STARS, CERTIFICATES AND LUCKY TIN HAU COINS TO THE THREE FISHERMEN, SIX REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBERS AND EIGHT OCEAN PARK EMPLOYEES.

TWO OF THE FISHERMEN, MR LAI PAK-SING AND MR CHUNG AH-PAK, WERE JOINTLY AWARDED A TIN HAU TROPHY.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, DR LEE SAID THE CIVIC-MINDED CITIZENS, WHO HAD SAVED 15 LIVES LAST YEAR, DESERVED PRAISE AND SET GOOD EXAMPLES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

HE THANKED THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB FOR ITS COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE PAST 38 YEARS.

"LAST YEAR ALONE, THE CLUB HELPED BRING TO SAFETY 778 DROWNING CITIZENS THROUGH ITS 4,728 MAN-TIMES OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES AT BEACHES, SWIMMING POOLS AND OTHER COMMUNITY WATER SPORTS ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB, MR LAU HON-WAH AND MR CHAN CHI-YAT.

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HKIED SEEKS LOGO

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THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED) IS INVITING ENTRIES TO A COMPETITION ON THE DESIGN OF A LOGO TO BE ADOPTED BY THE INSTITUTE.

THE HKIED IS BEING ESTABLISHED BY SUBSUMING THE EXISTING FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION WITH THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF ITS GOVERNING COUNCIL.

THE INSTITUTE WILL BEGIN OFFERING COURSES IN SEPTEMBER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INSTITUTE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE LOGO SHOULD DEPICT THE HKIED AS A TERTIARY INSTITUTE FOR THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND AS A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

"THE LOGO SHOULD BE DISTINCTIVE, ARTISTIC AND EASY TO REMEMBER AND RECOGNISE, PREFERABLY SHOWING THE CONCEPT OF AMALGAMATING THE EXISTING FIVE COLLEGES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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"A CASH PRIZE OF \$1,000 EACH WILL BE AWARDED TO THE BEST 10 ENTRIES WHILE THE CHAMPION ENTRY ADOPTED BY THE HKIED AS ITS LOGO WILL BE GIVEN \$5,000 IN ADDITION," HE SAID.

THE SIZE OF THE LOGO SHOULD NOT BE SMALLER THAN 15 CM BY 15 CM AND MUST BE SUBMITTED ON A4 PAPER.

THERE ARE NO COLOUR RESTRICTIONS AND THE DESIGN MUST BE IN TWO-DIMENSIONAL FORM.

THE COMPETITION IS OPEN TO ALL AND ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 18 (SATURDAY).

ENTRY FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1156, 11TH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI DURING OFFICE HOURS.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON TEL 892 6661.

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STUDENTS TAKE PART IN VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

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ABOUT 210 STUDENTS FROM SEVEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN WAN CHAI TOOK PART IN A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IN THE DISTRICT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY WERE DEPLOYED TO 42 STRATEGIC LOCATIONS IN THE AREA TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST PASSERS-BY TO BECOME VOTERS.

BEFORE SETTING OFF, A CEREMONY TO MARK THE LAUNCHING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT VOTER REGISTRATION PUBLICITY DAY WAS HELD IN SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND.

WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER MR PETER MANN CALLED UPON THOSE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE SEPTEMBER DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION.

THE EVENT WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE CIVIC EDUCATION WORKING GROUP OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD.

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SAFETY AND HEALTH IN WORK PLACES URGED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED 20 FACTORY AND CONSTRUCTION SITE OPERATORS FOR FAILING TO TAKE REASONABLY PRACTICABLE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE IN DECEMBER 1990.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY A SUPERINTENDENT OF FACTORY INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR PANG KWOK-LAM, AT A SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR PANG SAID MANAGEMENT IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES MIGHT FIND IT COMPLICATED TO FOLLOW THE FIVE PARTICULAR AREAS OF DUTIES AS STIPULATED IN THE PROVISIONS, BUT WHAT IT ACTUALLY REQUIRED WAS A COMPLETE SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

"ALL MANAGERS HAVE TO DO IS TO APPLY THEIR MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES INTO THE FIELD OF SAFETY AND HEALTH, AND THINGS WILL AUTOMATICALLY FALL INTO THEIR PLACES.

"TO INCREASE MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY, IT IS ADVISABLE TO ADOPT A UNIFORM APPROACH BY INTEGRATING PRODUCTION, QUALITY, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT INTO ONE SINGLE SYSTEM," HE ADDED.

MR PANG NOTED THAT UNDER THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE ALL WORK PLACES WERE SAFE AND HEALTHY.

TODAY'S SYMPOSIUM WAS ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION AND CO-ORGANISED BY SHELL COMPANIES IN CHINA AND HONG KONG.

THE EVENT, WHICH ATTRACTED SOME 230 PARTICIPANTS, WAS SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS.

THE CHEMICALS HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER OF SHELL COMPANIES IN CHINA AND HONG KONG, MR DICKSON NGAI, ALSO GAVE A SPEECH ABOUT RESPONSIBLE CARE INITIATIVE.

ANOTHER SPEAKER AT THE SYMPOSIUM WAS MR LUI TIT-LOK FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WHO PROVIDED ADVICE ON DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WASTE.

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PUBLIC WORKS ON DISPLAY

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW HONG KONG HAS TRANSFORMED FROM A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE 150 YEARS AGO INTO AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN A ROVING EXHIBITION TO MARK 150 YEARS OF PUBLIC WORKS IN HONG KONG.

THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT POPULAR LOCATIONS INCLUDING SHOPPING CENTRES AND AN MTR STATION OVER SEVEN WEEKENDS BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST, IS ORGANISED BY THE WORKS BRANCH AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION WILL TAKE PLACE THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (MAY 14 AND MAY 15) AT THE PEDESTRIAN DECK OF THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE.

VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE SHORT FILMS ON A FULL-SIZE VIDEO WALL ON HOW PUBLIC MONEY IS SPENT ON BUILDING MORE HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, PARKS, ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

THEY WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO SEE IMPRESSIVE MODELS OF SOME OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING TSING MA BRIDGE, DEVELOPMENTS AT THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION, THE AWARD-WINNING KOWLOON WALLED CITY PARK, AND THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME IN MINIATURE WHICH WILL BE DISPLAYED WHERE THE VENUE PERMITS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO FEATURE DISPLAY PANELS CONTAINING CHARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS WITH SHORT DESCRIPTIONS TO EXPLAIN THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORKS BRANCH, THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATING OFFICE, AND SEVEN WORKS DEPARTMENTS, NAMELY ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DISPLAY IS A SET OF FIVE PANORAMIC-VIEW PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH SHOW THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE SKYLINE OF KOWLOON PENINSULA AND HONG KONG ISLAND OVER THE PAST 150 YEARS.

THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN VIRTUALLY FROM THE SAME ANGLE AT BEACON HILL WITH THE EARLIEST PICTURE DATED 1862 AND THE LAST ONE JUST LAST MONTH.

A POCKET-SIZE ADDRESS-TELEPHONE NOTEBOOK WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

/THE EXHIBITION

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THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM. APART FROM LOK FU, IT WILL ALSO BE MOUNTED AT THE FOLLOWING DATES AND VENUES:

VENUE -----	DATE ----
* CITYPLAZA, TAIKOO SHING WEST BRIDGE	MAY 28 - 29
* MTR CENTRAL STATION	JUNE 11 - 14
* HARBOUR CITY OCEAN GALLERIES EXHIBITION CORNER	JUNE 25 - 26
* WHAMPOA GARDEN HONG KONG STREET PLACE	JULY 9 - 10
* TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA 1/F CORRIDOR A	JULY 23 - 24
* FANLING CENTRE SHOPPING ARCADE	AUGUST 6 - 7

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MISS ELAINE CHUNG, TOGETHER WITH WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN KAM-MAN, AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALDAN KWOK, WILL OPEN THE PUBLIC WORKS EXHIBITION AT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE II PEDESTRIAN DECK AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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PO LEUNG KUK DIRECTORS VISIT SWD

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THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PO LEUNG KUK TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, AND EXCHANGED WITH HIM VIEWS ON WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE COMING YEAR.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN, MR WONG MAN-KON, OUTLINED THE KUK'S CHILD CARE, REHABILITATION AND ELDERLY SERVICES AS WELL AS PLANNED PROJECTS TO MR STRACHAN.

HE ALSO THANKED THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR OFFERING INVALUABLE ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO THE KUK.

DURING THE VISIT, MR STRACHAN ASSURED THE BOARD MEMBERS THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM IN PROVIDING WELFARE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9399.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPERS FOR THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 2.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE PRESS ROOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, 8 JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PAPERS ARE NOT FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
	-----	-----	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,740	0930	+850
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,346	1000	+750
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+735
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+936	1200	+935
LAF TODAY	-1,330	1500	+936
		1600	+936
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER		TWI 125.0 *-0.1*	12.5.94

/HONG KONG

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.31	19 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.35	6.08
1 MONTH	3.72	22 MONTHS	2602	4.40	96.96	6.34
3 MONTHS	4.36	30 MONTHS	3610	4.20	94.31	6.86
6 MONTHS	4.94	33 MONTHS	3701	4.60	94.42	7.01
12 MONTHS	5.47	36 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.64	7.17

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 39,745 MN

CLOSED 12 MAY 1994