



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNMENT CONFIDENT ABOUT AIRPORT PROJECT	1
CONTRACT SIGNED ON CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE	2
RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL ESTABLISHED	4
PROCESSING OF URBAN TAXI TENDERS COMPLETED	6
WINDY AND CLOUDY IN NOVEMBER	7
175 VBP RETURN TO VIETNAM	9
INT'L LANGUAGE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS ON ECR 4 RECOMMENDATIONS	10
HYDROCARBON OIL DUTIES EXEMPTION PROPOSED FOR DISABLED DRIVERS	11
ROYAL OBSERVATORY CALENDAR 1991 ON SALE	12
FREE TICKETS FOR FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CONCERT	13

GOVERNMENT CONFIDENT ABOUT AIRPORT PROJECT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED AND WELL PREPARED TO BRING THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS TO A SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE NEW AIRPORT WORKS DIVISION, MR RAFAEL HUI, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN A LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR HUI SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW ENGAGED IN A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WILL SEE, OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS OR SO, HONG KONG PROVIDED WITH A WHOLE RANGE OF NEW FACILITIES.

THESE INCLUDE A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, A NEW EXPRESSWAY ALONG NORTH LANTAU, A MAJOR CROSSING BETWEEN THE MAINLAND AND LANTAU, MASSIVE RECLAMATION IN WEST KOWLOON WITH A NEW ROAD LINKING WEST KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, A NEW HARBOUR CROSSING, A NEW RAILWAY SYSTEM, AND MANY OTHER RELATED RESOURCES.

"ALL OF THESE PROJECTS ARE LARGE AND COMPLEX IN THEMSELVES, BUT THERE IS ADDED COMPLEXITY AND CHALLENGE WHEN THE PROBLEMS OF INTERFACING, FINANCING AND BUILDING THEM ALL IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME FRAME ARE CONSIDERED," MR HUI SAID.

HE SAID THE WAY IN WHICH THE TASK OF CO-ORDINATING THESE MAJOR PROJECTS HAS BEEN APPROACHED IS QUITE UNIQUE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

"AFTER THE DECISION ON THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WAS MADE IN LATE 1989, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS WAS ASSIGNED THE CO-ORDINATION ROLE.

"A CONSULTANT IN OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL INC, WAS SELECTED IN EARLY APRIL THIS YEAR.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE NEW AIRPORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE WORKS BRANCH WAS FORMED TO ACT AS THE OVERSEEING AND CO-ORDINATING OFFICE FOR ALL THE PROJECTS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED A NEW APPROACH IN CO-ORDINATION BY CREATING AN INTEGRATED AND MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM CONSISTING OF WORKS BRANCH CIVIL SERVANTS AND BECHTEL PERSONNEL WORKING UNDER ONE ROOF.

THIS TEAM PROVIDES A CO-ORDINATING, PROGRAMMING, MONITORING AND REPORTING SERVICES TO BRANCHES GIVING ADVICE ON THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT, MR HUI SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SKILLS WHICH ONE WOULD EXPECT TO FIND IN SUCH A TEAM, THERE ARE ALSO LEGAL, COMPUTER, INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHIN THIS INTEGRATED TEAM.

MR HUI SAID: "THIS OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT APPROACH REQUIRES CAREFUL BALANCING OF THE COLLECTIVE RESOURCE DEMANDS, PRECISE IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL AREAS, AND A STRONG MANAGEMENT OF THE MANY AND DIVERSE PROGRAMME ELEMENTS EXISTING IN ALL THE PROJECTS."

/HE SAID

HE SAID MOST CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING CONTRACTS HAVE SOME INTER-RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CONTRACTS BUT IN THE CASE OF THE AIRPORT-RELATED CONTRACTS, THERE IS A WHOLE PROGRESSION OF INTERFACES BOTH VERTICAL AND LINEAR.

"BY THAT I MEAN, ON ANY PARTICULAR SITE, ONE CONTRACT USUALLY NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE ANOTHER BEGINS AND EACH SET OF CONTRACTS NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED TO MATCH COMPLETION DATES OF WORKS ON EITHER SIDE.

"EXAMPLES OF VERTICAL INTERFACES ARE THE RECLAMATIONS AND MAJOR BRIDGES WHICH HAVE TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE ROADS, RAILWAYS AND TUNNELS CAN BE STARTED.

"THESE ARE THEN TO BE FOLLOWED BY ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL WORKS FOR SUCH FACILITIES AS LIGHTING, TOLL COLLECTION AND TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE.

"PLANNING THESE TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON COMPLETION DATE WITH ADJACENT CONTRACTS ON SUCH A TIGHT OVERALL SCHEDULE IS AN INVOLVED AND DEMANDING TASK WHERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DELAYS REACH WELL BEYOND THE CONTRACT LIMITS," MR HUI SAID.

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CONTRACT SIGNED ON CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH ENVIROPACE LIMITED TO DEVELOP A CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE ON TSING YI.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, ENVIROPACE LIMITED WILL DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND COMMISSION THE CENTRE, AND WILL OPERATE THE CENTRE FOR 15 YEARS.

IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE TO COLLECT CHEMICAL WASTES FROM THE PREMISES OF WASTE PRODUCERS.

ENVIROPACE LIMITED IS A HONG KONG COMPANY SPECIFICALLY CREATED FOR THE PROJECT. THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY INCLUDE WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL, INC, KIN CHING BESSER LIMITED, AND CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRUST AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

A NUMBER OF RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COMPANIES AND SPECIALIST SUB-CONTRACTORS WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT. THESE INCLUDE BECHTEL ENVIRONMENTAL INC, GMMOM CONSTRUCTION LTD, DAMES AND MOORE INTERNATIONAL AND ABB RAYMOND.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL REPAY THE CAPITAL COST INCURRED BY THE CONTRACTOR IN THE FORM OF AMORTISED PAYMENTS OVER THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF OPERATION.

/THE CAPITAL

THE CAPITAL REPAYMENT COST OF THE FACILITIES WILL BE \$1,300 MILLION AT MONEY-OF-THE PAYMENT -DAY PRICES, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO \$731 MILLION AT PRESENT VALUE. THE CENTRE WILL BE FULLY COMMISSIONED BY LATE 1992.

SPEAKING AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY, EPD'S ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR MIKE STOKOE, SAID THIS EVENT MARKED A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THIS TIME LAST YEAR.

IN ADDITION, IT WOULD PROVIDE A VALUABLE DISPOSAL SERVICE TO MUCH OF HONG KONG'S PRESENT AND FUTURE INDUSTRY, ENABLING THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF DUMPING WASTE CHEMICALS TO CEASE, AND ELIMINATING THE SOURCE OF A MAJOR PORTION OF TOXIC POLLUTION OF COASTAL WATERS.

MR STOKOE SAID HONG KONG CURRENTLY GENERATED ABOUT 100,000 TONNES OF CHEMICAL WASTE ANNUALLY.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF THESE WASTES WERE PROPERLY MANAGED, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE REGULATIONS UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE "CRADLE TO GRAVE" CONTROL OVER CHEMICAL WASTES AS WELL AS ENSURING THAT APPROPRIATE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES WERE ESTABLISHED, HE SAID.

MR STOKOE SAID IN HONG KONG, MOST CHEMICAL WASTES WERE GENERATED IN SMALL-SCALE FLATTED FACTORIES.

"MANY OF THE OWNERS OR MANAGERS OF THESE FACTORIES DO NOT POSSESS THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OR SPACE FOR THE INSTALLATION, PROPER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE IN-HOUSE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES.

"ALSO, MOST ESTABLISHMENTS LACK THE TYPE AND LEVEL OF EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO PROPERLY OPERATE SUCH SPECIALIST TREATMENT PLANTS.

"THE CENTRAL FACILITY, IN CONTRAST, WILL BE OPERATED TO HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY STANDARDS, YET THROUGH THE ECONOMY OF SCALE POSSIBLE IN A LARGE PLANT, IT WILL PROVIDE TREATMENT SERVICES MORE EFFICIENTLY AND CHEAPLY THAN MUCH SMALLER UNITS INSTALLED IN INDIVIDUAL FACTORIES."

MR STOKOE SAID THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE ACTIVITIES TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAD NOT BEEN OVERLOOKED.

"THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE WILL SERVE AS HONG KONG'S DESIGNATED RECEPTION AND DISPOSAL POINT FOR OILY AND NOXIOUS LIQUID WASTES GENERATED FROM SHIPS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HONG KONG'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (MARPOL).

"THE CENTRE WILL BE THE FIRST INTEGRATED CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY TO BE DEVELOPED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF HONG KONG TO INVESTORS LOOKING TO ESTABLISH HIGH-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

/"THE SIGNING

"THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT TODAY EMPHASISED THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSALS IN THE WHITE PAPER PUBLISHED LAST YEAR THAT WOULD LEAD TO A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT IN BOTH THE URBAN AND RURAL AREAS OF HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

THE CENTRE WILL COMPRISE AN OIL/WATER SEPARATION SYSTEM TO TREAT AND RECOVER OIL FROM OILY WASTE WATER, A HIGH TEMPERATURE CHEMICAL WASTE INCINERATOR FOR THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF ORGANIC CHEMICAL WASTES, AND PHYSICAL/CHEMICAL TREATMENT UNITS FOR THE TREATMENT OF INORGANIC CHEMICAL WASTES.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONTRACT IS SIGNED, ENVIROPACE LIMITED WILL UNDERTAKE A DETAILED IMPACT/HAZARD ASSESSMENT SO THAT THE RESULT OF THE ASSESSMENT WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE DETAILED DESIGN OF THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE.

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RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

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THE ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL (RGC) WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

PROPOSALS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH IN HONG KONG'S TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TO ESTABLISH AN RGC WERE ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

THE COUNCIL WILL COME INTO BEING ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR AND OPERATE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC).

ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE:

- * TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE UPGC, ON THE NEEDS OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG IN THE FIELD OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH, INCLUDING THE IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS, IN ORDER THAT A RESEARCH BASE ADEQUATE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ACADEMIC VIGOUR AND PERTINENT TO THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG MAY BE DEVELOPED; AND
- * TO INVITE AND RECEIVE, THROUGH THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS FROM ACADEMIC STAFF AND FOR THE AWARD OF STUDENTSHIPS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS; TO APPROVE AWARDS AND OTHER DISBURSEMENTS FROM FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE UPGC FOR RESEARCH; TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH GRANTS AND TO REPORT AT LEAST ANNUALLY TO THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE UPGC.

/THE RGC

THE RGC WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON JANUARY 5 IN HONG KONG MAINLY TO DECIDE ON ITS MODE OF OPERATION AS WELL AS TO GIVE PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION TO APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS FOR 1991/92. SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE RGC IS EXPECTED TO HAVE \$100M AVAILABLE FOR SUCH GRANTS IN 1991/92 - WHICH IS DOUBLE THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE IN 1990/91.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR TWO YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1. THEY ARE:

CHAIRMAN: PROF DAVID TODD, DEPT OF MEDICINE, HKU
CBE, JP

MEMBERS: PROF PING K. KO DEPT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY PANEL CHAIRMAN PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

PROF A. MCMICHAEL INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR MEDICINE, JOHN RADCLIFFE HOSPITAL, OXFORD PANEL CHAIRMAN BIOLOGY & MEDICINE

PROF G. WILLIAM SKINNER DEPT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS PANEL CHAIRMAN HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

PROF THOMAS MAK CHAIRMAN, DEPT OF CHEMISTRY, CUHK

PROF NELSON CUE HEAD, PHYSICS DEPT, HKUST

PROF M. ANSON HEAD, CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING DEPT, HKP

PROF G. TATE HEAD, INFORMATION SYSTEM DEPT, CPHK

PROF Y.K. FAN DEAN, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, HKBC

DR JAMES FOK BRANCH DIRECTOR, DESIGN AND AUTOMATION BRANCH, HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL

DR EDGAR CHENG MANAGING DIRECTOR, THE WORLDWIDE INVESTMENT CO LTD

DR JAMES S.W. WONG, JP	CHAIRMAN, CHINNEY INVESTMENTS LTD
PROF C.B. HOWE	SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL & AFRICAN STUDIES, DEPT OF ECONOMIC & POLITICAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
PROF Y.W. KAN	LOUIS K DIAMOND PROFESSOR OF HEMATOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN FRANCISCO

THE RGC WILL OPERATE THROUGH THREE SUBJECT PANELS RESPONSIBLE FOR: THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING; BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE; AND HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES; AND A NETWORK OF ACADEMIC REFEREES.

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS APPOINTMENT, THE RGC CHAIRMAN, PROF DAVID TODD, SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THIS SIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INCREASING COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH.

HE SAID: "THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE EVOLUTION OF HONG KONG'S TERTIARY EDUCATION AND AN ADEQUATE RESEARCH BASE IS A PREREQUISITE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION".

HE EXPLAINED THAT INCREASED FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WILL HELP TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN ACADEMIC STAFF OF HIGH CALIBRE, AND PRODUCE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ACADEMICS TO STAFF OUR EXPANDING INSTITUTIONS.

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PROCESSING OF URBAN TAXI TENDERS COMPLETED

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THE AVERAGE PREMIUM ACCEPTED IN THE LATEST TENDERS FOR 150 URBAN TAXI LICENCES IS \$909,562.03, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS IS 10.85 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE OF \$820,545.80 IN THE LAST TENDER EXERCISE IN JULY LAST YEAR.

A TOTAL OF 236 TENDERS WERE RECEIVED WHEN ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 16.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE HIGHEST TENDER ACCEPTED WAS \$931,200 AND THE LOWEST \$905,288.

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THE AMOUNTS THEY OFFERED WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE GAZETTE.

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WINDY AND CLOUDY IN NOVEMBER

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NOVEMBER 1990 WAS ON THE WHOLE WINDY AND RELATIVELY CLOUDY WITH STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL HOISTED ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (THURSDAY).

HOWEVER, APART FROM AN INTENSE COLD SURGE TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH, THE NORTHEAST MONSOON DID NOT BRING UNSEASONABLY LOW TEMPERATURES. ON THE CONTRARY, THE MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 20.4 DEGREES WAS THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL WAS 36.9 MILLIMETRES, SIX PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL OF 34.7 MILLIMETRES FOR NOVEMBER.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF 2,046.8 MILLIMETRES SINCE JANUARY 1, 1990 REMAINED SEVEN PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 2,199.4 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE FINE WEATHER AT THE END OF OCTOBER CONTINUED INTO THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF NOVEMBER. CONDITIONS TURNED CLOUDY ON NOVEMBER 3 AND RAIN MOVED IN FROM WESTERN GUANGDONG TO AFFECT THE TERRITORY DURING THE AFTERNOON.

THE FRESHENING OF EASTERLIES THE NEXT MORNING MAINTAINED THE CLOUDY WEATHER AND BROUGHT FURTHER RAIN LATER IN THE DAY. THE RAIN, THOUGH LIGHT, WAS QUITE PERSISTENT AND LASTED TILL THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 5.

FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS, FRESH EASTERLIES AND CLOUDY CONDITIONS PREVAILED WITH LIGHT RAIN FALLING MAINLY IN THE EVENINGS.

A COLD FRONT CROSSED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 9 BRINGING STRONG NORTHERLY WINDS, RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS AS WELL AS A FEW DEGREES DROP IN TEMPERATURES.

THE RAIN GRADUALLY EASED OFF EARLY THE NEXT DAY AS DRIER CONDITIONS SET IN. THE CLOUDS THINNED OUT AND SUNNY PERIODS APPEARED ON NOVEMBER 10 AND 11.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN ENHANCED NORTHEAST MONSOON IN THE PRESENCE OF TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, THE WEATHER WAS RATHER WINDY FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS.

WITH THE FORMATION OF TROPICAL STORM NELL NORTH OF NANSHA, EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED ON NOVEMBER 12. THE WEATHER STAYED MAINLY FINE AS NELL MOVED TOWARDS VIETNAM.

NO SOONER HAD IT DISSIPATED OVER LAND WHEN TYPHOON MIKE VENTURED INTO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDY ON NOVEMBER 15 AND RAIN STARTED IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE EASTERLIES INCREASED FURTHER AND BY THE NEXT DAY, WINDS BECAME GENERALLY STRONG WHILE MIKE TURNED NORTH TOWARDS HAINAN ISLAND.

/HOURLY MEAN

HOURLY MEAN WINDS OF NEARLY 80 KILOMETRES PER HOUR AND MAXIMUM GUST OF 104 KILOMETRES PER HOUR WERE RECORDED OFFSHORE AT WAGLAN ISLAND ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 17. THE ROUGH SEAS LED TO THE SUSPENSION OF HYDROFOIL SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAU.

APART FROM A RELATIVE LULL ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 16, LIGHT RAIN FELL ALMOST INCESSANTLY BEFORE THE WEATHER IMPROVED ON NOVEMBER 18.

WARMER CONDITIONS AND FINE WEATHER RETURNED ON NOVEMBER 19, AND TEMPERATURES ON THE FOLLOWING DAY CLIMBED TO A MAXIMUM OF 27.7 DEGREES, THE HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH.

THE WARM WEATHER, HOWEVER, WAS SHORT-LIVED AS A COLD FRONT REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST THAT EVENING. WINDS FRESHENED FROM THE NORTH AND THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDIER ON THE FIRST DAY AFTER THE FRONTAL PASSAGE.

THE CLOUDS SOON CLEARED AWAY ON NOVEMBER 22 AS A FINE SPELL SET IN. WINDS TURNED EASTERLY AND REMAINED FRESH THAT DAY BEFORE MODERATING ON NOVEMBER 23.

MEANWHILE, THE PRESENCE OF TYPHOON PAGE AND TYPHOON OWEN OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC INDUCED INCREASING OFF-LAND FLOW OVER THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS.

MINOR REPLENISHMENTS OF COOL AIR FROM INLAND REGIONS LED TO A PROGRESSIVE FALL IN TEMPERATURES FROM NOVEMBER 26 ONWARDS. AT THE SAME TIME, A MAJOR OUTBREAK OF COLD AIR WAS ADVANCING TOWARDS SOUTHERN CHINA.

THE NORTHERLIES FRESHENED EARLY ON NOVEMBER 30 AND BECAME STRONG THAT EVENING, PARTICULARLY ON HIGH GROUNDS AND IN EXPOSED PLACE.

HOURLY MEAN WINDS OF 90 KILOMETRES PER HOUR AND MAXIMUM GUST OF 130 KILOMETRES PER HOUR WERE RECORDED AT TATE'S CAIRN.

WHILE THE WEATHER STAYED FINE, BOTH THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE DROPPED MARKEDLY. BY MIDNIGHT ON NOVEMBER 30, THE TEMPERATURE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAD FALLEN TO 15.6 DEGREES, THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH AND THE LOWEST SO FAR IN THE CURRENT COOL SEASON.

DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, FIVE TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER. A THUNDERSTORM WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 9. YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNINGS WERE ISSUED FOR NOVEMBER 4, 10 TO 12, 24, AND 25.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
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WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	NOVEMBER 9 11.25 AM	NOVEMBER 10 NOON

/WINTER MONSOON

WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	NOVEMBER 16 12.45 AM	NOVEMBER 18 NOON
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	NOVEMBER 30 7.15 PM	DECEMBER 2 4.50 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	160.6 HOURS ;	30.9 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	10.83 MJ/SQ.M ;	2.71 MJ/SQ.M BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	36.9 MM ;	2.2 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	56 PER CENT ;	4 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	73 PER CENT ;	4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	24.2 DEGREES ;	0.2 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	22.1 DEGREES ;	0.8 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	20.4 DEGREES ;	1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	17.0 DEGREES ;	2.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	83.9 MM ;	51.3 MM BELOW NORMAL

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175 VBP RETURN TO VIETNAM
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A GROUP OF 175 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE TODAY (THURSDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 62 MEN, 43 WOMEN, 34 BOYS AND 36 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 44TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 6,095 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY.

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INT'L LANGUAGE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS
ON ECR 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

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THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE KEY ISSUES ON PLANNING, MANAGING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LANGUAGE TEACHING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN THE NINETIES WILL BE OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 17) AT THE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

THE THREE-DAY EVENT, ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A CONFERENCE EXTRA ON DECEMBER 20 (THURSDAY) IN WHICH A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS WILL FOCUS ON SIX HONGKONGBANK FOUNDATION LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN RELATION TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4.

ABOUT 100 PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED BY WORLD EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF LANGUAGE STUDIES.

THEY INCLUDE:

- * DR THELMA HENDERSON, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, BRITAIN;
- * PROF BERNARD SPOLSKY, BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY, ISRAEL;
- * PROF MERRILL SWAIN, ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION, CANADA;
- * PROF XU JIALU, BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY, CHINA;
- * PROF ZHU ZUOREN, UNIVERSITY OF HANGZHOU, CHINA;
- * PROF JACK RICHARDS, CITY POLYTECHNIC;
- * PROF CHIU LING-YEONG, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG; AND
- * PROF SIU PING-KEE, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

"THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'WHERE FROM HERE?' WILL END WITH A PANEL DISCUSSION ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 19)," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE CONFERENCE EXTRA ON DECEMBER 20 WILL BEGIN WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION, DR V. BICKLEY, TO THE HONGKONGBANK FOUNDATION LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND'S PROJECTS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO THE ECR 4, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE:

- * TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENTS IN ENGLISH AT PRIMARY 3, PRIMARY 6 AND SECONDARY 3;
- * PRIMARY TO SECONDARY BRIDGING COURSE;

/* POST-SCHOOL

- * POST-SCHOOL PRE-EMPLOYMENT LANGUAGE NEEDS ANALYSIS AND BRIDGING PROGRAMMES;
- * MINIMUM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS AND ENGLISH COURSES FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION TRAINEE TEACHERS;
- * MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS OF PUTONGHUA AND THE DESIGN OF PUTONGHUA COURSES AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS; AND
- * SECONDARY TO TERTIARY BRIDGING PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH FOR CHINESE-MEDIUM STUDENTS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE THREE-DAY INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE EVENT ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT 8.30 AM IN THE LEVEL 2 THEATRE FOYER. OFFICERS FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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HYDROCARBON OIL DUTIES EXEMPTION PROPOSED FOR DISABLED DRIVERS

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THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (RDCC) TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED AND ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A HYDROCARBON OIL DUTIES EXEMPTION SCHEME FOR DISABLED DRIVERS.

SPEAKING AT A RDCC MEETING, THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALAN WONG, SAID ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN TO AMEND THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES REGULATIONS TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TO EXEMPT DISABLED DRIVERS FROM THE PAYMENT OF DUTIES ON HYDROCARBON OIL SUBJECT TO A MONTHLY CONSUMPTION LIMIT.

"THE RELEVANT DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE UNDER PREPARATION AND WILL BE ISSUED TO THE LAW DRAFTMAN IN DUE COURSE," HE SAID.

"MEANWHILE, THE REHABILITATION DIVISION IS WORKING OUT THE OPERATIONAL DETAILS OF THE SCHEME JOINTLY WITH THE OIL COMPANIES, THE DISABLED DRIVERS' CLUB AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

"IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE SCHEME CAN BE IMPLEMENTED NEXT SUMMER."

/AT PRESENT

AT PRESENT THERE ARE ABOUT 1,100 DISABLED DRIVERS HOLDING VALID DRIVING LICENCES, AND ABOUT 600 OF THEM ARE REGISTERED PRIVATE CAR OWNERS.

"ALLOWING FOR A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CAR OWNERS AS A RESULT OF THE NEW CONCESSION AND A MONTHLY CONSUMPTION LIMIT OF 200 LITRES, THE REVENUE FOREGONE WOULD BE AROUND \$7.3 MILLION PER YEAR," MR WONG SAID.

MEANWHILE, RDCC MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED THE QUEEN ELIZABETH FOUNDATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED REPORT AND ACCOUNT 1989-90.

IN 1989-90, THE COUNCIL OF THE QE FOUNDATION APPROVED A TOTAL OF \$2.6 MILLION IN RESPECT OF SEVEN PROJECTS. IN ADDITION, OVER \$1.8 MILLION WERE PAID OUT AS THE SECOND INSTALMENT OF THE GRANTS APPROVED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

RDCC MEMBERS NOTED THAT PROJECTS WHICH AIMED AT IMPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ADULTS CONTINUED TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

THE MAJOR PROJECTS SPONSORED IN THE YEAR INCLUDED A JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT SERVICE, A PILOT SCHEME ON SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT, THE PUBLICATION OF A DIRECTORY OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND THE PRODUCTION OF A VIDEO FILM ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

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ROYAL OBSERVATORY CALENDAR 1991 ON SALE

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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY CALENDAR 1991, UNDER THE THEME "CLIMATE AND ITS APPLICATION", IS NOW ON SALE.

APART FROM ITS BETTER KNOWN WEATHER FORECASTING SERVICE, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IS ALSO A CLIMATOLOGICAL STATION WITH METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS DATING BACK TO 1884. ITS COMPREHENSIVE DATA SET COVERS MANY ASPECTS OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION.

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS WHICH WITNESS THE PROSPEROUS GROWTH OF HONG KONG AS A METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY AND AN INTERNATIONAL CITY, CLIMATE INFORMATION REMAINS A VALUABLE REFERENCE AND PLANNING MATERIAL FOR PROJECTS OF VARIOUS SCALES.

UNDER THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING INFLUENCE OF NATURE, CHANGES IN CLIMATE AND SEASONS ARE ALSO TOPICS OF GENERAL INTERESTS FOR PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE.

THE THEME OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY CALENDAR 1991 SERVES TO HIGHLIGHT THE APPLICATION ASPECT OF CLIMATOLOGY. IT DEMONSTRATES HOW A SOUND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR CLIMATE CAN LEAD TO AN EFFECTIVE UTILISATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND A HARMONIOUS CO-EXISTENCE WITH THE FORCES OF NATURE.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL INFORMATION ON SUNRISE AND SUNSET, TIDES, AND ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS, THE CALENDAR ALSO CONTAINS A REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATING THE APPLICATION OF CLIMATE INFORMATION TO BUILDING DESIGNS, COASTAL ENGINEERING WORKS, ENERGY SAVINGS, HAZARD PREVENTION, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, RECREATIONAL PLANNING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

INCLUDED ARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DESIGN OF THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT AT THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS ATTRACTIVE WALL CALENDAR IS BILINGUAL. NOT ONLY DOES IT PROVIDE USEFUL GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION, IT SHOULD ALSO MAKE A SPLENDID SEASONAL GIFT. IT IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, 134A NATHAN ROAD, AT \$40 A COPY.

BUYERS OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY CALENDAR WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF PURCHASING A COPY OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S CENTENARY PUBLICATION TITLED "FROM TIME BALL TO ATOMIC CLOCK" AT A REDUCED PRICE OF \$19. THIS BOOK, WHICH NORMALLY COSTS \$34 A COPY, TRACES THE HISTORY AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY THROUGH A CENTURY.

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FREE TICKETS FOR FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CONCERT
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THREE POPULAR SINGERS WILL PERFORM IN THE FINAL OF A FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE) SINGING CONTEST TO BE HELD AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, EARLY NEXT MONTH.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE FLE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, THE MUSIC OFFICE AND COMMERCIAL RADIO 1, THE FREE CONCERT WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 5, BEGINNING AT 8 PM.

THE TWO-HOUR SHOW WILL BE RECORDED AND BROADCAST ON CR1 THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FLE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, MRS AMELIA TO, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IN ADDITION TO THE 12 FINALISTS, THE CONCERT WOULD FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY SINGERS MISS ELIZA CHAN, MR DANNY CHAN AND MR ANTHONY LUN.

MRS TO SAID THIS YEAR'S FLE PUBLICITY PACKAGE ALSO INCLUDED PUBLICITY MATERIALS SUCH AS POSTERS, A RADIO PROGRAMME, A TV COMMERCIAL AND A BOOKLET.

"A SERIES OF FLE ACTIVITIES WILL BE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL," SHE SAID.

"WE HOPE THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES, THE MESSAGE OF 'HARMONIOUS FAMILY' CAN REACH EVERY FAMILY IN THE TERRITORY," SHE ADDED.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE CONCERT ARE NOW AVAILABLE, ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS, FROM ALL SWD YOUTH OFFICES, MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, AND COMMERCIAL RADIO IN BROADCAST DRIVE.

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