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GOVERNMENT PLAYS ROLE IN RAISING TECHNICAL DESIGN STANDARDS

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSCIOUS OF ITS ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF RAISING THE STANDARD OF AESTHETIC AND TECHNICAL DESIGN IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURED GOODS AND HAD TAKEN SEVERAL NEW INITIATIVES IN RECENT YEARS IN THIS RESPECT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

IT WOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF DESIGN COURSES AT THE TERTIARY AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, HE STRESSED.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE 1987 "GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HONG KONG DESIGN" AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG LIVED BY TRADE AND, TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE, MANUFACTURERS MUST PRODUCE GOODS OF INCREASINGLY HIGHER QUALITY AND BETTER DESIGN.

ON WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THROUGH THE SEED-CORN INVESTMENT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED TO THE HONG KONG DESIGN INNOVATION COMPANY IN 1985, SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED COMPANIES WERE NOW ABLE TO OBTAIN REASONABLY PRICED DESIGNS FOR NEW PRODUCTS.

"EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL LAUNCHED A SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME TO HELP LOCAL ENGINEERS OBTAIN OVERSEAS TRAINING IN THE DESIGN OF ADVANCED ELECTRONIC CIRCUITRY.

"AND, OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, NEW FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL SO THAT MANUFACTURERS CAN OBTAIN EXPERT ADVICE ON THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF SOPHISTICATED AUDIO/VISUAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES ALSO PROVIDED VALUABLE SUPPORT TO THE EFFORTS OF MANUFACTURERS TO UPGRADE QUALITY AND DESIGN.

THE FEDERATION DID THIS THROUGH ITS DESIGN COUNCIL, THE DESIGN AND PACKAGING CENTRE AND THROUGH THE "GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HONG KONG DESIGN" COMPETITION, WHICH HAD BEEN HELD UNDER ITS AUSPICES ANNUALLY SINCE 1969.

"THERE IS MORE TO GOOD DESIGN THAN AN AESTHETICALLY PLEASING END-PRODUCT. DESIGN MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED FOR EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL MANUFACTURE AND THE NEED TO MEET THE HIGH STANDARDS REQUIRED IN THE MARKET," SIR DAVID SAID.

"THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE WELL UNDERSTOOD IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

CONGRATULATING THE AMPEX FERROTEC LIMITED ON ITS SUCCESS IN WINNING THIS YEAR'S AWARD, SIR DAVID PRAISED IT FOR HAVING COMBINED AESTHETIC AND PRACTICAL DESIGN QUALITIES IN ITS PRODUCT, THE "ELECTRONIC STILL STORE".

"IT HAS ALL THE FACILITIES NEEDED TO CREATE, REARRANGE AND STORE MANY THOUSANDS OF STILL PICTURES AND GRAPHICS. IT IS AN EXTREMELY VERSATILE TOOL FOR THOSE USING GRAPHICS IN BROADCASTING AND ADVERTISING," SIR DAVID SAID.

SEPTEMBER PRICE, VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE

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STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INDICATED THAT THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 26 PER CENT AND 49 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. HENCE, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 36 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 34 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, SO THAT THE PRICES OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT. PRICES OF IMPORTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

COMPARING SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR WITH SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 24 PER CENT AND 44 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HENCE, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 33 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 35 PER CENT.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT; RE-EXPORT PRICES ROSE BY 3 PER CENT WHILE IMPORT PRICES ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE COMPILED. THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES BY DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR SEPTEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

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AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1987 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986. THESE INCLUDED METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+13 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+8 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+8 PER CENT); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+7 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+5 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+5 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+4 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+3 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+3 PER CENT) AS WELL AS DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+2 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WAS RECORDED IN WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-2 PER CENT). THE PRICES OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED.

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1987 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986, INCLUDING METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+72 PER CENT); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+52 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+38 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+32 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+25 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+25 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+21 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+18 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+16 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+16 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-9 PER CENT) AS WELL AS RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-6 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR SEPTEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE IN SEPTEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986, RANGING FROM 2 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 28 PER CENT FOR FUELS, WHICH WAS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE RELATIVELY LOW IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN SEPTEMBER 1987 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986. SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN SUGAR; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS AS WELL AS RICE. HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD.

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OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 35 PER CENT. THE COMMODITIES WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; FOOTWEAR AS WELL AS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 31 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1987 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986. THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC., EXCEPT GLASS, YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES, CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS AS WELL AS MAN-MADE FIBRES. A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN SEPTEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986.

FOR THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 65 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1987 WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986. THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY, TEXTILE MACHINERY AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR SEPTEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER 1987 WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1986, RANGING FROM 11 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 61 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 24 PER CENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1987 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND DECEMBER 12, 1987 AT $2.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL NO. : 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL NO. : 5-8234918).

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TABLE 1 : INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JAN-SEP 1987 WITH JAN-SEP 1986			COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1987 WITH SEPTEMBER 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	29	8	20	30	8	21
TEXTILE FABRICS	60	5	52	34	8	25
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	48	4	42	19	3	16
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	11	5	6	37	4	32
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	24	3	21	1	7	-6
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	12	-2	15	52	*	52
FOOTWEAR	21	4	17	25	5	18
METAL MANUFACTURES	29	2	27	43	3	38
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	60	3	56	93	13	72
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	18	1	17	23	-2	25
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	3	4	-2	-4	5	-9
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	21	3	17	19	2	16
ALL COMMODITIES	30	3	26	28	3	24

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NOTES FOR TABLES 1 TO 3 :

* INSIGNIFICANT, I.E. LESS THAN 0.5%

PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE CALCULATED FROM TRADE INDEXES TAKEN TO MORE DECIMAL PLACES THAN THOSE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS". THEY MAY THEREFORE DIFFER FROM THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES TO BE COMPUTED FROM THE PUBLISHED FIGURES.

TABLE 2 : INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JAN-SEP 1987 WITH JAN-SEP 1986			COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1987 WITH SEPTEMBER 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	12	1	11	16	2	14
CONSUMER GOODS	43	4	38	39	3	35
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	41	3	37	37	4	31
FUELS	*	-1	2	20	28	-6
CAPITAL GOODS	48	7	38	71	4	65
ALL COMMODITIES	39	4	34	40	4	35

TABLE 3 : INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JAN-SEP 1987 WITH JAN-SEP 1986			COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1987 WITH SEPTEMBER 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	16	-1	18	9	-1	11
CONSUMER GOODS	60	2	56	51	3	47
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	50	2	47	47	5	41
FUELS	4	8	-4	-4	27	-24
CAPITAL GOODS	46	*	46	61	*	61
ALL COMMODITIES	51	2	49	48	3	44

POPULATION OF 6.1M IN 1996: REPORT

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THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG IS EXPECTED TO GROW FROM 5.5 MILLION IN 1986 TO SOME 6.1 MILLION IN 1996, AND TO 6.5 MILLION IN 2001.

THE AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY. THE MEDIAN AGE OF THE POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM 29 IN 1986 TO 40 BY 2006.

THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE IS EXPECTED TO FALL FROM 23 PER CENT IN 1986 TO 17 PER CENT IN 2006, WHILE THE PROPORTION AGED 65 AND OVER IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM EIGHT PER CENT TO 12 PER CENT.

THE PROPORTION IN THE WORKING AGE (THOSE AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS) IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE SLIGHTLY FROM 69 PER CENT TO 71 PER CENT.

THIS AND OTHER INFORMATION IS PUBLISHED IN A REPORT ENTITLED "HONG KONG POPULATION: A 20-YEAR PROJECTION (1986 VERSION)". THE REPORT CONTAINS THE RESULTS OF POPULATION PROJECTIONS MADE BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IN 1987, ON THE BASIS OF DATA COLLECTED IN THE 1986 BY-CENSUS.

APART FROM PRESENTING THE PROJECTED POPULATION BY SEX AND QUINQUENNIAL AGE FOR THE 20 YEARS FROM 1982, IT ALSO DESCRIBES THE FERTILITY, MORTALITY AND MIGRATION TRENDS IN THE 1970'S AND THE EARLY 1980'S AND THE ASSUMPTIONS ON WHICH THE PROJECTIONS ARE BASED.

COPIES OF THE REPORT MAY NOW BE PURCHASED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, HONG KONG.

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ANNUAL BORDER REVIEW MEETING

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OFFICIALS FROM GUANGDONG PROVINCE LED BY MR HUANG QUN, DIRECTOR OF THE PROVINCIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE, ARE VISITING HONG KONG FROM DECEMBER 6 TO 11 TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF BORDER LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS. THEY ARE HERE AT THE INVITATION OF THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR DICK CLIFT.

THE BORDER LIAISON SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND CONTROL AT THE BORDER BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THEIR GUANGDONG COUNTERPARTS.

THE SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1981. SINCE THEN REVIEWS HAVE BEEN HELD ALTERNATELY IN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG. THE LAST TOOK PLACE IN HAINAN IN DECEMBER 1986.

WHILE HERE THE GUANGDONG DELEGATION WILL ALSO VISIT PLACES OF INTEREST.

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BETTER SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ELDERLY

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SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE ELDERLY HAS TAKEN A BIG STRIDE FORWARD THIS YEAR FOLLOWING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF A HIGHER RATE OF OLD AGE ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE AGED OVER 70 AND AN EXTENSION OF THE ALLOWANCE TO THOSE OVER 65, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MISS ELAINE CHUNG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL BUTTERFLY ESTATE SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN TUEN MUN, MISS CHUNG SAID THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THAT FROM APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR, THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE AGED OVER 70 WOULD BE RAISED FROM $255 TO $320 A MONTH.

FROM SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR, THOSE IN THE 68-69 AGE GROUP WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN OLD AGE ALLOWANCE OF $280 PER MONTH.

MISS CHUNG SAID THAT OVER THE YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR HAD BEEN WORKING CLOSELY IN DEVELOPING SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

"THERE ARE NOW 88 SOCIAL CENTRES, 12 MULTI-SERVICES CENTRES AND FOUR DAY-CARE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN VARIOUS KINDS OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY HAS ALSO INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. THERE ARE 1,445 HOSTEL PLACES, 3,845 HOME PLACES, 1,470 PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND 595 PLACES IN THE TWO HOUSING SCHEMES FOR THE ELDERLY," SHE SAID.

MISS CHUNG ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN JULY THIS YEAR TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN EXISTING ELDERLY SERVICES AND EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THESE SERVICES.

SHE SAID THAT DURING THESE SIX MONTHS, THE COMMITTEE HAD COMPLETED A REVIEW ON THE RESIDENTIAL AND CARE AND ATTENTION SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

"IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE COMMITTEE PLANS TO PROVIDE MORE SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN THE AREAS OF HOUSING, TRANSPORT, FINANCIAL NEEDS, COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICES AND HOME HELP SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY," SHE SAID.

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UC COMMITTEE ENDORSED OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN

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URBAN COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUDGET OF THE 1988/89 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN DETERMINED AT $4 MILLION, MEMBERS OF THE UC KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE LEARNED AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TODAY (MONDAY).

THEY ALSO ENDORSED AN EIGHT-PHASE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR'S CAMPAIGN WHICH WOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR APROVAL.

IT WAS AGREED AT THE MEETING THAT SUBJECT TO THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE JOINT COUNCIL COMMITTEE, A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL BE MOUNTED TO TIE IN WITH THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME.

THE BUDGET FOR THE TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL BE MAINTAINED AT A LEVEL SIMILAR TO THIS YEAR'S $2.1 MILLION.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE UC KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE SAID AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD CARRIED OUT A BLITZ OPERATION AGAINST LITTERING BY FILIPINA MAIDS IN CENTRAL LAST SUNDAY (DECEMBER 6). A TOTAL OF 37 SUMMONSES WERE ISSUED.

"THE CENTRAL DISTRICT HAS BECOME A POPULAR MEETING AREA FOR FILIPINA MAIDS DURING HOLIDAYS, AND THE DEPARTMENT HAS TO MAKE A LOT OF EFFORT IN CLEARING THE RUBBISH LEFT BEHIND," HE SAID.

THE OPERATION WAS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF BLITZ OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

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KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN SOUTHERN

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED TODAY (MONDAY) WITH A CLEAN FORESHORE EXERCISE ALONG THE ABERDEEN WATERFRONT.

THE CLEAN UP EXERCISE STARTED OFF WITH VISITS BY THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MADAM MA YUET-HAR, AND MEMBERS TO VESSELS ANCHORED ALONG THE WATERFRONT TO PROMOTE THE AWARENESS ON THE NEED TO FIGHT POLLUTION AND TO KEEP THE HARBOUR CLEAN.

STAFF FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT THEN CONDUCTED SPECIAL CLEAN UP OPERATIONS IN THE WATERS OF THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER. VOLUNTEERS FROM THE FISHING COMMUNITY ALSO JOINED IN THE OPERATIONS.

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MEANWHILE, MARINE DEPARTMENT'S PATROL VESSELS ALSO BROADCAST THE KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE DURING THEIR PATROL IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN PROGRAMME IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE. IT WILL RUN UNTIL FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE A BLACK SPOTS CLEAN UP EXERCISE, A CLEAN BUILDING COMPETITION, A SPECIAL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE IN ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER AND A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THROWING LITTER FROM WINDOWS OF RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS.

VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, AS WELL AS DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS AND AREA COMMITTEES WILL TAKE PART IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

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COMPUTER COURSE FOR SHIPBUILDING, REPAIR DESIGNERS AND DRAUGHTSMEN

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THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR A COURSE ON THE USE OF PERSONAL COMPUTER IN SHIPBUILDING, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DRAFTING.

THE COURSE, ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL'S SHIPBUILDING, SHIP REPAIR AND OFFSHORE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, IS DESIGNED FOR DESIGNERS AND DRAUGHTSMEN IN THE INDUSTRY.

THE BOARD RECKONS THAT THE TRAINING ON COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING AND DESIGN WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE INDUSTRY'S PRODUCTIVITY.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN LECTURES AND PRACTICAL HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE, AND WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE USE OF A HIGH POWER DESK MICRO-COMPUTER WITH HIGH RESOLUTION COLOUR GRAPHIC CAPABILITY.

CLASS MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE MICRO CAD TRAINING CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL ON FOUR SATURDAYS STARTING FROM JANUARY 23.

COURSE FEE IS $2,800. PARTICIPANTS MUST BE SPONSORED TO THE COURSE BY EMPLOYERS, AND WILL BE REIMBURSED HALF OF THE FEE IF THEY HAVE AN ATTENDANCE RECORD OF NOT LESS THAN 80 PER CENT.

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION IS DECEMBER 16.

ENQUIRIES ON THE COURSE CAN BE MADE TO SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, MR LEUNG CHEE-HUNG, ON 5-8932341 EXT. 257.

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1987 ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATISTICS ON SALE

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED THE 1987 EDITION OF THE HONG KONG ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATISTICS.

THIS ANNUAL PUBLICATION IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS. IT BRINGS TOGETHER IN ONE VOLUME UP-TO-DATE STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS OF HONG KONG.

THE REPORT COVERS STATISTICS ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS, LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES, TRANSPORT AND SERVICES, EXTERNAL TRADE, GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, PUBLIC FINANCE, MONEY AND BANKING, PRICES AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, FOOD SUPPLIES, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION, HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE, LAW AND ORDER, AND CULTURE AND RECREATION. ALTOGETHER, THERE ARE 299 TABLES IN 20 SECTIONS, COVERING WHEREVER POSSIBLE A 10-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1977 TO 1986.

THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT $95 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING G/F CONNAUGHT PLACE AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALE COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19/F, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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DONATION FOR PRINTING BOOKLET FOR PARENTS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS TO PRODUCE A BOOKLET GIVING POINTERS TO PARENTS ON HOW TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN IN A POSITIVE MANNER AND TO PREVENT THEM FROM PICKING UP BAD HABITS.

THE WONG TAI SIN SIK SIK YUEN WILL DONATE $100,000 TOWARDS THE PRINTING COST OF THE BOOKLET AND A CHEQUE FOR THE AMOUNT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, AT A BRIEF CEREMONY AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS TOMORROW (TUESDAY) MORNING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, LEE GARDENS, THIRD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY,AT 11.30 AM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 8).

LIGHTING DISPLAY TO LAUNCH MONG KOK FESTIVAL

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THE SECTION OF NATHAN ROAD BETWEEN BOUNDARY STREET AND DUNDAS STREET WILL BE ILLUMINATED WITH THOUSANDS OF LIGHT BULBS TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST MONG KOK FESTIVAL AND THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE SIX-WEEK FESTIVAL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY), THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST-EVER CHRISTMAS LIGHTINGS PUT UP IN THE DISTRICT AND WAS SPECIALLY ARRANGED TO TIE IN WITH THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL.

"THE DISPLAY, COSTING MORE THAN $300,000, WAS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS," HE SAID.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL, THE LIGHTINGS WILL BE OFFICIALLY SWITCHED ON BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR T.H. CHAU, ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 10) EVENING. THE LIGHTINGS WILL STAY ON FOR TWO MONTHS.

MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS BRENDA FUNG, POINTED OUT THAT "HOME IN MONG KOK" WAS THE THEME FOR THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL WHICH AIMED AT PROMOTING THE IMAGE AND PROSPERITY OF THE DISTRICT.

"IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THROUGH THE FESTIVAL, RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF DISTRICT BELONGING AND CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE BOARD AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WILL BE STRENGTHENED," SHE SAID.

MRS FUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE ACTIVITIES WERE SO DESIGNED SO THAT BOTH LOCAL RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE OF OTHER DISTRICTS WOULD ATTAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISTRICT.

"THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF THIS FESTIVAL IS THE OUTCOME OF FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION AMONG COMMUNITY BODIES, LOCAL COMMERCIAL CONCERNS, THE DISTRICT BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS," SHE STRESSED.

A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN LINED UP TO PROVIDE FREE ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION FOR RESIDENTS DURING THE FESTIVAL.

A SOCIAL DANCE GATHERING WAS HELD LAST FRIDAY TO HERALD THE APPROACH OF THE FESTIVAL.

A LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION ON FISHES, BIRDS AND FLORAL PLANTS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (DECEMBER 12 AND 13) IN THE GARDENS OF THE BOUNDARY STREET INDOOR GAMES HALL.

THE EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED IN VIEW OF THE WELL-KNOWN BIRD TRADE IN HONG LOK STREET WHICH IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE 'BIRD STREET', THE LARGE NUMBER OF GOLDFISH-MONGERS IN THE DISTRICT, AS WELL AS THE WHOLESALE TRADE OF CUT FLOWERS AND POT PLANTS IN FLOWER MARKET ROAD.

/A TRADE .....

A TRADE FAIR WILL BE HELD AT MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND FROM DECEMBER 20 TO 26 TO PROMOTE TRADE AND INDUSTRY. BOOTHS WILL BE SET UP TO DISPLAY GOODS AND SERVICES, DEMONSTRATE THE SKILLS OF VARIOUS TRADES AND ILLUSTRATE THE LIVELIHOOD OF MONG KOK RESIDENTS.

FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE, A MARATHON RACE AND A TELEMATCH WILL BE ORGANISED TO GIVE SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS CHANCES TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS.

ALSO A PRICE CONCESSION SCHEME FOR CONSUMERS SUPPORTED BY LOCAL SHOPS, DEPARTMENT STORES AND RESTAURANTS WILL BE HELD DURING THE FESTIVAL PERIOD.

THE FESTIVAL WILL CONCLUDE ON JANUARY 17 NEXT YEAR WITH A CONCERT PERFORMED BY POPULAR SINGERS AND TELEVISION ARTISTES IN MONG KOK STADIUM.

TO PROMOTE THE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES, A PUBLICITY VAN WILL TOUR THE DISTRICT TO DISTRIBUTE PROGRAMME LEAFLETS AND SOUVENIRS.

AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN ALSO THANKED LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES, BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

"THEY HAVE ORGANISED SOME 50 PRELUDE EVENTS TO HELP PROMOTE THE THEME OF THE FESTIVAL AND THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE," HE SAID.

ALSO ATTENDING THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE'S PRESIDENT, MR HO KWONG-HUNG, AND THE HONORARY CONSULTANT, MR KONG WING-ON.

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ANTI-TRIAD SEMINAR IN WAN CHAI

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AN ANTI-TRIAD SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE ASIA HOTEL IN HAPPY VALLEY.

AS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN, THE SEMINAR WILL LOOK INTO METHODS TO TACKLE THE EXPANSION OF TRIAD ACTIVITIES.

THE SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE DISTRICT ANTI-TRIAD SQUAD, MR CHOW WING-TAT; PRINCIPAL OFFICER OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR LAM LOU; AND SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER, MRS REBELLA HO.

/RESIDENTS ARE .....

RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR WHICH WILL START AT 4.30 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ANTI-TRIAD SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN ASIA HOTEL, 1A WONG TAK STREET, HAPPY VALLEY. THE SEMINAR WILL START AT 4.30 PM.

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KING'S ROAD SLIP ROAD TO OPEN TO TRAFFIC

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THE NEW SLIP ROAD LEADING TO KING'S ROAD IN QUARRY BAY UNDERNEATH THE KING'S ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC FROM 2 PM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 9).

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH IN CENTRAL

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EDINBURGH PLACE NORTH IN CENTRAL BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND H.M.S. TAMAR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT EMERGENCY VEHICLES FROM 7 PM TO 10.30 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 10).

THE MEASURE IS FOR THE HOLDING OF CANDLELIGHT VIGIL BY THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HONG KONG SECTION.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 63.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 371.277 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 364.992 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 62.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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