



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1993

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BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS FOR THIRD QUARTER

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MANUFACTURERS REPORTED THAT BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS GENERALLY EXPECT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH ASPECTS IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS EXPECTATION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION OF THE BANKING INDUSTRY IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEMS OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER AND SHORTAGE OF GENERAL STAFF, HOWEVER, EMERGED AGAIN IN THE QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, BROADLY THE SAME BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

THE MAJORITY OF FIRMS FROM THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION REMAINED BROADLY THE SAME IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

HIGH STAFF TURNOVER REMAINED THE BUSINESS PROBLEM MOST CITED. LOOKING AHEAD, IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR RESULTS OF A QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

FOR INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, MANUFACTURERS FROM THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY IN GENERAL REPORTED THAT BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION REMAINED BROADLY THE SAME IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993, WHICH SLIGHTLY FELL SHORT OF THEIR PREVIOUS EXPECTATION OF SOME MILD IMPROVEMENT.

PRICE COMPETITION AND HIGH WAGE RATES CONTINUED TO BE THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEMS. LOOKING AHEAD, IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY REPORTED SIGNIFICANT SEASONAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR ALLEVIATED SOMEWHAT IN THE QUARTER THOUGH PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS REMAINED KEEN. LOOKING AHEAD, SEASONAL DETERIORATION IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS EXPECTATION, MANUFACTURERS FROM THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY REPORTED IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF GENERAL LABOUR FURTHER ALLEVIATED BUT PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED KEEN AND THE PROBLEM OF HIGH MATERIAL PRICES INTENSIFIED IN THE QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, BROADLY THE SAME BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION OF THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993, THOUGH THE IMPROVEMENT WAS LOWER THAN WHAT WAS EXPECTED BEFORE.

/INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS .....

INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS REMAINED THE BUSINESS PROBLEM MOST CITED BY THE MANUFACTURERS FROM THIS INDUSTRY.

ALTHOUGH PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS REMAINED KEEN, THAT FROM OVERSEAS FIRMS EASED SOMEWHAT. LOOKING AHEAD, BROADLY THE SAME BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES INDUSTRY REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF GENERAL LABOUR ALLEVIATED THOUGH HIGH WAGE RATES CONTINUED TO BE A DOMINANT BUSINESS PROBLEM IN THIS INDUSTRY. LOOKING AHEAD, BROADLY THE SAME BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

HIGHER THAN EXPECTED IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION WAS REPORTED BY THE MANUFACTURERS FROM THE PRINTING INDUSTRY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEM OF HIGH WAGE RATES ALLEVIATED SOMEWHAT IN THE QUARTER BUT PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS REMAINED KEEN AND THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR INTENSIFIED. LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS EXPECT FURTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION.

CONTRARY TO WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED BEFORE, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION OF THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY DETERIORATED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

KEEN PRICE COMPETITION, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS AND HIGH WAGE RATES REMAINED DOMINANT IN THE QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS FROM THIS INDUSTRY GENERALLY EXPECT IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, ALTHOUGH SLIGHTLY BELOW PREVIOUS EXPECTATION, BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS REMAINED KEEN IN THE QUARTER WHILE THE PROBLEM OF HIGH MATERIAL PRICES ALLEVIATED. LOOKING AHEAD, FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

KEEN PRICE COMPETITION CONTINUED TO BE THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEM IN THESE TRADES. LOOKING AHEAD, FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

IN LINE WITH THE USUAL SEASONAL TREND, RESTAURANT OPERATORS REPORTED IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ALLEVIATED IN THE QUARTER WHILE THE PROBLEM OF KEEN PRICE COMPETITION INTENSIFIED. LOOKING AHEAD, THE MAJORITY OF THE RESTAURANT OPERATORS EXPECT THAT THE BUSINESS SITUATION WILL FURTHER IMPROVE IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

HOTEL OPERATORS REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION DETERIORATED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993, AS TOURISM REACHED A SEASONAL LOW. THE PROBLEM OF KEEN PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEM.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROBLEMS OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER AND SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED STAFF ALLEVIATED. LOOKING AHEAD, IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

FOR THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES, SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION WAS REPORTED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED STAFF ALLEVIATED IN THE QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, FIRMS FROM THESE TRADES EXPECT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

ABOUT 500 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND TRADES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY.

THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG FROM A SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVE.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND THE LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE' IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE THEN ANALYSED AND THE SUMMARY FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN THE "REPORT ON QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, THIRD QUARTER 1993".

MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN THE DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT REMARKED THAT, IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDED WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY BUY COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$12.5 A COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3223.

WORKING GROUP SET UP TO REVIEW NEEDS OF ELDERLY

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, AS THE ALTERNATE CHAIRMAN.

THIS FOLLOWS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 6 THIS YEAR THAT HE WOULD APPOINT A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW "WHAT MORE COULD AND SHOULD BE DONE TO PROVIDE THE SORT OF INTEGRATED CARE FOR THE ELDERLY THAT THEY NEED AND WHICH HONG KONG CAN AFFORD".

"THE WORKING GROUP WILL CONDUCT A GENERAL REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE AND ADVISE ON THE FORMULATION OF A STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE POLICIES AND SERVICES," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

"IN PARTICULAR, IT WOULD EXAMINE THE DEMAND FOR NURSING HOME PLACES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES."

MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM RELEVANT GOVERNMENT BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES FROM PRIVATE AND SUBVENTED SECTORS:

- \* THE HON HUI YIN-FAT;
- \* THE HON VINCENT CHENG HOI-CHUEN;
- \* PROFESSOR NELSON CHOW WING-SUN;
- \* DR EDGAR CHENG WAI-KIN;
- \* DR OWEN WONG HONG-HIN;
- \* MR STEPHEN NG CHI-WING; AND
- \* DR E K YEOH.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ARE:

- (A) TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AN AGING POPULATION ON THE COMMUNITY;
- (B) TO REVIEW EXISTING POLICIES ON HOUSING, SOCIAL SECURITY, WELFARE SERVICES, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, RESIDENTIAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, HAVING REGARD TO THE PROJECTED GROWTH OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION IN HONG KONG;
- (C) TO IDENTIFY THE DEMAND FOR EACH SERVICE IN THE LIGHT OF (A) AND (B), AND TO ADVISE ON NEW AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS OF MEETING THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES; AND
- (D) TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO CO-ORDINATE SERVICES AND EVALUATE IMPLEMENTATION.

THE WORKING GROUP WILL MEET SHORTLY AND WILL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR BY AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOMED TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS AND COMMENTS TO THE WORKING GROUP.

THEY SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY, WORKING GROUP ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, SEVENTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR.

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MARKET IMPROVEMENT MEASURES GIVE CONFIDENCE

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THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL CLEARING AND SETTLEMENTS SYSTEM HAVE GIVEN MUCH GREATER CONFIDENCE TO INVESTORS, THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION OF THE HONG KONG STOCKBROKERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED, MR CARTLAND SAID MARKET SURVEILLANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN PARTICULAR HAD IMPROVED OUT OF ALL RECOGNITION WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TWO MEASURES.

THESE MEASURES HAD CERTAINLY PROVED THEIR WORTH IN RECENT MONTHS WHEN THE MARKET TURNOVER AT TIMES ROSE TO EXCEPTIONAL LEVELS, HE NOTED.

MR CARTLAND SAID THE AUTHORITIES IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT WERE WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO ALWAYS MOVE FORWARD AND DEVELOP IN ORDER TO KEEP AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION.

"A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MARKET DEVELOPMENT MEASURES ARE ALREADY IN TRAIN OR ABOUT TO APPEAR," HE SAID.

THEY INCLUDED REGULATED SHORTSELLING, OPTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL STOCKS AND THE AUTO MATCHING SYSTEM.

"OTHERS ARE ALSO IN VIEW BUT MAY BE A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE TRACK," HE SAID.

THESE WERE THE POSSIBILITY OF FLOORLESS TRADING, ADOPTING THE NEGOTIATED COMMISSION SYSTEM, AND ALLOWING INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS DIRECT ACCESS TO THE CENTRAL CLEARING AND SETTLEMENTS SYSTEM.

ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS THE EXPANSION OF THE LISTED BOND MARKET IN HONG KONG.

"SOME OF THESE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS PRESENT CHALLENGES AS WELL AS OFFERING OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES," HE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE STOCKBROKING COMMUNITY SHARED THE OBJECTIVES BEHIND THEM OF PROMOTING THE EFFICIENCY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

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LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PLAN FOR MONG KOK APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC) DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PLAN FOR AN AREA IN MONG KOK UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN COVERS AN AREA OF 1.59 HECTARES BOUNDED BY ARGYLE STREET, RECLAMATION STREET, SHANTUNG STREET AND PORTLAND STREET.

THE APPROVED "ARGYLE STREET/SHANGHAI STREET DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PLAN" PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK TO RESTRUCTURE THE EXISTING LAND USE PATTERN OF THE OLD AREA AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

IT ALSO MAKES PROVISION FOR COMMERCIAL, OFFICE, GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, A PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OF ABOUT 1,100 SQUARE METRES AND A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINUS.

"THIS IS THE FOURTH LDC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME PLAN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND IS THE FIRST ONE APPROVED FOR AN AREA IN KOWLOON," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PLAN (NO. S/K3/LDC 1/2) IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION FOR ONE WEEK AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- \* YAU TSIM/MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE,  
MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES,  
GROUND FLOOR, 30 LUEN WAN STREET,  
KOWLOON; AND
- \* PLANNING DEPARTMENT,  
16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING,  
GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE PLAN ARE ON SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND KOWLOON MAP SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 GAZETTED

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THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCESSING OF SUMMONSES IN THE MAGISTRACIES, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

SUMMONSES ARE NOW PROCESSED IN THE MAGISTRACIES BY A COMPUTERISED CASE AND SUMMONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH WAS INTRODUCED ON JULY 1 LAST YEAR. BEFORE THAT DATE SUMMONSES WERE PROCESSED MANUALLY.

THE COMPUTERISED CASE AND SUMMONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM HAS PROVED TO BE A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OVER THE MANUAL PROCESSING OF SUMMONSES.

"THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM ISSUES STANDARDISED SUMMONS FORMS, KEEPS TRACK OF OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS AND SPEEDS UP COLLECTION OF FINES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW AND A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE IMPROVEMENTS, SOME AMENDMENTS TO THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE ARE REQUIRED.

"THE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS ARE MAINLY INTENDED TO RATIONALISE THE EXISTING OPERATIONAL PRACTICES OF THE COMPUTERISED CASE AND SUMMONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE AMENDMENT BILL IS SCHEDULED FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 24 THIS YEAR.

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DISASTER RELIEF FUND PROPOSED

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A RESOLUTION WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A DISASTER RELIEF FUND TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE, SWIFT PROVISION OF AID IS NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY. THE PROPOSED FUND WILL FORMALISE THE EXISTING AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS AND ALLOW TIMELY RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL APPEALS FOR DISASTER RELIEF.

"HONG KONG, AS A RESPONSIBLE AND COMPARATIVELY WELL-OFF COMMUNITY, HAS A MORAL DUTY TO HELP THE LESS FORTUNATE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE FUND WILL BE ADVISED BY A COMMITTEE. IT WOULD BE CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND WOULD COMPRISE THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, TWO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TWO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS.

"THE COMMITTEE WILL ADVISE ON THE POLICY AND PRACTICES REGARDING THE DISBURSEMENTS OF THE FUND, ADVISE ON THE AWARD OF GRANTS, AND MONITOR THE USE OF GRANTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO ENSURE THAT GRANTS ARE USED FOR THE DESIGNATED PURPOSES, THE AGENCY OR ORGANISATION CONCERNED WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO THE COMMITTEE AN EVALUATION REPORT AND AN AUDITED ACCOUNT ON HOW THE GRANT IS USED ON COMPLETION OF THE AID PROJECT.

"OUR PLAN IS TO ESTABLISH THE FUND IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR WITH AN INITIAL APPROPRIATION OF \$50 MILLION FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE. IT WILL BE TOPPED UP AS NECESSARY," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSAL WILL ENTAIL THE MAKING OF A RESOLUTION UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE. THE RESOLUTION WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

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LICENCE FEES FOR EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES REVISED

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THE FEE FOR THE ISSUE OR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATION WILL BE ADJUSTED FROM DECEMBER 16.

THE ADJUSTMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, IS SET OUT IN THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE LICENCE FEE FOR AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY AND THE FEE FOR THE DUPLICATE LICENCE FOR EACH OF THE BRANCH OFFICE OF THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY HAS BEEN REVISED FROM \$800 AND \$160 TO \$1,000 AND \$200 RESPECTIVELY," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON WISHING TO OPERATE AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY MUST APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR FOR A LICENCE.

AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY THAT OPERATES AT MORE THAN ONE LOCATION IS REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR A DUPLICATE LICENCE FOR EACH BRANCH LOCATION, HE ADDED.

THE FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR. THE PRESENT REVISION IS AIMED AT RECOVERING A HIGHER PROPORTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE LICENCE FEES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON 852 3511 OR 852 3535.

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539 EX-CHINA VIET ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS REPATRIATED

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A TOTAL OF 539 EX-CHINA VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (ECVII'S) WERE REPATRIATED TO HAINAN BY AIR IN A FOUR-DAY REPATRIATION EXERCISE STARTING FROM NOVEMBER 9 (TUESDAY).

THE RETURNEES, COMPRISING 231 MEN, 146 WOMEN, 92 BOYS AND 70 GIRLS, WERE RETURNED ON EIGHT FLIGHTS.

A TOTAL OF 1,043 ECVII'S HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO CHINA FOLLOWING AN AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

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CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO BE IMPROVED  
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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF A SHARP BEND AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC VEHICLE PARK AT 12 MILESTONE CASTLE PEAK ROAD, OPPOSITE HOMI VILLA IN TSUEN WAN.

THE WORKS WILL CONSIST OF CONSTRUCTION OF A 120-METRE, SINGLE, TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, A PARK FOR COACHES AND PRIVATE CARS AND THE ASSOCIATED EARTHWORKS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

HOMI VILLA HAS BEEN SELECTED AS AN EXHIBITION AND EDUCATION CENTRE FOR THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

BECAUSE THE CENTRE WILL ATTRACT TOURISTS AND HOLIDAY MAKERS AND WILL BRING MORE TRAFFIC ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE SHARP ROAD BEND BE IMPROVED AND A VEHICLE PARK IN THE VICINITY BE MADE AVAILABLE.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

A NOTICE TO INVITE TENDERS HAS BEEN GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER/NEW TERRITORIES, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, THIRD FLOOR, ROOM 304, HO MAN TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 88 CHUNG HAU STREET, KOWLOON. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TELEPHONE 762 3592.

TENDERS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC WORKS TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS TENDER BOX SITUATED IN THE LIFT LOBBY ON 34TH FLOOR OF THE QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG BEFORE NOON ON DECEMBER 3.

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NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SCHEME  
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY POSSESS THE ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO TEACH IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL.

APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FROM MONDAY (NOVEMBER 15) TO DECEMBER 15.

UNDER THE SCHEME, SUITABLE APPLICANTS WHO HAVE OBTAINED THEIR QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING OUTSIDE HONG KONG WOULD BE ASSESSED IF THEIR ACADEMIC STANDARD, PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ARE EQUIVALENT TO THOSE NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS TRAINED LOCALLY, AND EVENTUALLY TO BECOME QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THE FIRST ASSESSMENT WAS COMPLETED IN AUGUST THIS YEAR AND THE PASSING RATE WAS OVER 50 PER CENT.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT, A CANDIDATE MUST:

- \* PRODUCE VALID DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF HAVING SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED A POST-SECONDARY FULL-TIME COURSE OF NOT LESS THAN THREE YEARS, OR EQUIVALENT, IN AN INSTITUTION OUTSIDE HONG KONG;
- \* BE OF GOOD CHARACTER AS TESTIFIED BY TWO REFEREES;
- \* BE ELIGIBLE TO STAY IN HONG KONG AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANY IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT RESTRICTION ON EMPLOYMENT.

THE ASSESSMENT COMPRISES THREE PARTS:

PART I (GENERAL EDUCATION)

CANDIDATES ARE ASSESSED ON THEIR STANDARD OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE SUBJECTS THEY WILL TEACH. EIGHT SUBJECTS ARE OFFERED, COMPRISING CHINESE, ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES (INCLUDING HEALTH EDUCATION), MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ART AND CRAFT. EACH CANDIDATE WILL HAVE TO SELECT TWO SUBJECTS IN PART I;

PART II (MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION)

TWO MEDIA OF INSTRUCTION ARE OFFERED TO ALL CANDIDATES SO THAT THEIR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY AS PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE ASSESSED, INCLUDING CHINESE AND ENGLISH. ALL CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CHINESE AND THOSE WHO DO NOT TAKE ENGLISH IN PART I MUST ALSO TAKE A PAPER ON "ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY" AND

PART III (PROFESSIONAL TRAINING)

THIS PART WILL BE OPEN ONLY TO CANDIDATES WHO CAN PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A FORMAL TEACHER EDUCATION COURSE IN THE RELEVANT SUBJECTS OUTSIDE HONG KONG, INCLUDING EDUCATION THEORY, METHODOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.

CANDIDATES WHO FAILED IN ONLY ONE SUBJECT IN THE LAST ASSESSMENT MAY APPLY TO RESIT THE EXAMINATION ON THAT SUBJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS STIPULATED IN THE "HANDBOOK FOR APPLICANTS".

CANDIDATES WHO FAILED IN MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT (EXCEPT FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY) WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE ALL AGAIN, IF THEY APPLY THIS YEAR.

THE FEE FOR TAKING PARTS I AND II OF THE ASSESSMENT IS \$1,800. FOR PART III, CANDIDATES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY AN ADDITIONAL \$500.

APPLICATION MUST BE MADE IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM. COPIES OF THE APPLICATION FORM, HANDBOOK AND EXAMINATION SYLLABUSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION STARTING FROM MONDAY (NOVEMBER 15) AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- \* NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SECTION, ROOM 1138A, 11TH FLOOR, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI;
- \* YAU TSIM DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE, SEVENTH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, YAU MA TEI; AND
- \* SHA TIN DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE, THIRD FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT OFFICE ON TEL 892 6216 OR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE ON TEL 891 0088.

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GOVERNMENT PLAYS ACTIVE ROLE IN MEETING LOCAL NEEDS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT HESITATED TO PLAN, TO DEVELOP NEW POLICIES, TO ENACT LEGISLATION, AND TO INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GORDON SIU, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF SHUN HING CENTRE, MR SIU SAID THESE NEEDS COULD NOT BE WHOLLY FULFILLED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE EVEN WITH THE BEST WILL IN THE WORLD.

MR SIU SAID THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWED A PATH OF GIVING BUSINESSMEN AND INVESTORS THE ROOM THEY NEEDED TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND THEIR ENTERPRISES, TO THE BENEFIT OF A GROWING ECONOMY, DID NOT MEAN THAT IT HAD BEEN A PASSENGER ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLAYED A LESS VISIBLE ROLE BEHIND THE SCENES, HE SAID.

IT INCLUDED HELPING TO MOBILISE PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES, REGULATING AND MONITORING KEY PUBLIC SERVICES WHERE NECESSARY, AND GIVING THE OCCASIONAL NUDGE TO ENSURE THAT KEY UTILITY AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WERE AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO NEEDED THEM AND AT PRICES THAT WERE FAIR AND AFFORDABLE.

THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT HONG KONG EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST 40 YEARS DID NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT, MR SIU SAID.

"IT IS THE PRODUCT OF VISION, EXPERTISE, AND THE SHEER HARD WORK OF INDIVIDUALS, OF PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT," MR SIU SAID.

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## NEW POST OFFICE TO OPEN IN KWAI FONG

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A NEW POST OFFICE LOCATED AT SHOP NO. 4-10, GROUND FLOOR, KWAI KIN HOUSE, KWAI FONG ESTATE, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL OPEN AT 9.30 AM ON NOVEMBER 22.

THE OFFICE WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING POST OFFICE AT BLOCK 7, KWAI FONG ESTATE WHICH WILL CLOSE FOR BUSINESS AT 1 PM ON NOVEMBER 20.

THE BUSINESS HOURS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE NEW OFFICE WILL BE THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE EXISTING ONE.

"FITTED OUT TO OUR LATEST STANDARDS, THE NEW OFFICE IS MORE SPACIOUS WITH A BETTER COUNTER LAYOUT TO PROVIDE A BETTER QUALITY OF SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS," THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, SAID.

A SPECIAL HANDBACK SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL PHILATELISTS AT THE KWAI FONG POST OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 22.

UNREGISTERED FULLY POSTAGE PRE-PAID "FIRST DAY COVER" PREPARED PRIVATELY, AND BEARING A LOCAL ADDRESS, WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER AND BE IMPRESSED WITH THE NORMAL POST OFFICE DATESTAMP FOR THE PERSON PRESENTING THEM.

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## RECLAMATION PLANNED FOR STANLEY BAY

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION WORK WITHIN A 1.7-HECTARE AREA ALONG THE WESTERN PORTION OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT STANLEY BAY TO PROVIDE 4,000 SQUARE METRES OF LAND, AND TO CONSTRUCT A SEAWALL AND A PUBLIC PIER.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE RECLAIMED LAND WILL BE USED FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF MURRAY HOUSE, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A DRAINAGE CULVERT.

WORKS OF RECLAMATION AND SEAWALL WILL BEGIN IN MID-1994 AND BE COMPLETED BY MID-1996, WHILE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PUBLIC PIER WILL START IN MID-1996 FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1997.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS BEFORE JANUARY 12 NEXT YEAR.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED PLANS, CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN; AND AT THE STANLEY SUB-OFFICE OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 14 WONG MA KOK ROAD, STANLEY, HONG KONG.

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SHEUNG WAN PRIVATE STREET RESUMED FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT

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A SMALL SECTION OF A PRIVATE SERVICE LANE AND A SMALL PRIVATE SECTION OF BONHAM STRAND, BOTH IN SHEUNG WAN, HAVE BEEN REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE, THE GAZETTE NOTIFIED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE REVERTED SECTIONS ARE LOCATED IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND SHUN LOONG MANSION.

A PLAN (NO. MH4924A) INDICATING THE LOCATION OF THE SECTIONS AND A COPY OF THE GAZETTE NOTICE WILL BE REGISTERED IN THE LAND REGISTRY.

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NEW CLINIC FOR SAI WAN HO

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A CLINIC WILL BE BUILT AT TAI ON STREET, SAI WAN HO, TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE FOUR-STOREY BUILDING WILL HOUSE A ONE-STOREY CAR PARK ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND HEALTH AND LABORATORY FACILITIES ON THE UPPER FLOORS.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS TO UNDERTAKE THE WORKS, WHICH WILL BEGIN IN MARCH NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN MAY 1995.

ONLY CONTRACTORS ON THE APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS LIST I IN GROUP C FOR BUILDING WORKS AND LIST II FOR BUILDING WORKS MAY TENDER FOR THE PROJECT.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON DECEMBER 10 THIS YEAR.

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FIRE SERVICES ACHIEVE HIGHER PERFORMANCE TARGET

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS ACHIEVED BETTER RESULTS REGARDING THE STANDARD RESPONSE TIME FOR BOTH FIRE AND EMERGENCY AMBULANCE CALLS SET IN ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGE LAST YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN, AT A CEREMONY TO DEPOSIT A TIME CAPSULE TO MARK THE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE NEWLY COMPLETED LAI KING FIRE STATION IN KWAI CHUNG.

HE SAID THIS YEAR THE TARGET RATE WAS 85 PER CENT FOR RESPONDING TO FIRE CALLS WITHIN SIX MINUTES AND 91.5 PER CENT FOR RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY AMBULANCE CALLS WITHIN 10 MINUTES.

"WE ARE CONSIDERING RAISING THE TARGETS NEXT YEAR TO PROVIDE A BETTER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST 125 YEARS, MR LAM SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD BUILT UP ITSELF THROUGH NUMEROUS TRYING TIMES.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS INCLUDED THE CATASTROPHIC HAPPY VALLEY RACECOURSE FIRE IN 1918 WHICH CLAIMED MORE THAN 600 LIVES, THE SHEK KIP MEI SQUATTER FIRE IN 1953 WHICH MADE 53,000 PEOPLE HOMELESS, THE LAN KWAI FONG TRAGEDY ON THE NEW YEAR'S DAY THIS YEAR AND THE RECENT INCIDENT INVOLVING A CHINA AIRLINE JUMBO JET AT KAI TAK.

"IN ALL THESE INCIDENTS, THE SERVICE HAS ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION OF BEING AN 'ELITE' BRIGADE BY PROVIDING A GOOD SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY," MR LAM SAID.

ON THE HIGH EFFICIENCY OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF IN THE RESCUE WORK DURING THE RECENT JUMBO JET INCIDENT, HE BELIEVED THIS WAS A RECORD THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES COULD BE PROUD OF WHEN COMPARED WITH THE STANDARD OF ANY FIRE BRIGADE IN THE WORLD.

REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT'S PART IN HELPING TO CARRY AND DISTRIBUTE WATER TO THE TUEN MUN RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY WATER SUSPENSION LAST WEEK, MR LAM SAID IT DEMONSTRATED THAT ITS SERVICES WERE DIVERSIFIED, WHICH WENT BEYOND JUST FIRE EXTINCTION AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

"IT ALSO SHOWS THAT WE ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH VARIOUS SERVICES WITHIN OUR CAPABILITY," HE ADDED.

COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS STORED IN THE TIME CAPSULE INCLUDED THE DIRECTOR'S SPEECH, ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL JOURNAL, FIRE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL, DEPARTMENTAL BIENNIAL REVIEW, 'ELITE' NEWSLETTER, FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE, STAFF LIST AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF NOTABLE INCIDENTS.

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SAN HING TSUEN INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE UPGRADED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PHASE II WORKS OF THE RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING AREAS PILOT PROJECT AT SAN HING TSUEN IN TUEN MUN TO IMPROVE ITS INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE WORKS COMPRISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LOCAL ROAD NETWORK OF ABOUT 900 METRES LONG WITH ADJACENT CAR-PARKING AREAS.

LAYING OF WATER MAINS, FOUL SEWERS, STORMWATER DRAINS, LANDSCAPING, REPROVISIONING OF WALLS, FENCES AND GATES TO AFFECTED PREMISES WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED.

WORKS WILL START IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR AND WILL COMPLETE IN JUNE 1995.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

A NOTICE TO CALL FOR TENDERS HAS BEEN GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIONAL HIGHWAYS ENGINEER/NEW TERRITORIES, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, THIRD FLOOR, ROOM 314, HO MAN TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 88 CHUNG HAU STREET, KOWLOON. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TELEPHONE 762 3530.

TENDERS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TENDER BOX AT THE LIFT LOBBY ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON DECEMBER 3.

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AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR OCTOBER

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE INFORMATION NORMALLY CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS OBTAINED AT ITS MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

THE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THE FOLLOWING THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY:

- \* LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN DISTRICTS,
- \* COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND
- \* DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO<sub>2</sub>), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO<sub>2</sub>), RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP).

THE GASEOUS POLLUTANTS ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY WHILE PARTICLE SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED FOR 24 HOURS, ONCE EVERY SIX DAYS.

DURING OCTOBER, LEVELS OF TSP WERE HIGHEST ON THE STREET LEVEL SITE AT MONG KOK.

ON OCTOBER 7, CONCENTRATIONS ALMOST REACHED THE 24-HOUR AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE VALUE OF 260 UG/CUBIC METER.

THE HIGH TSP LEVELS ON THAT DAY ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE ARISEN BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN NO RAIN FOR FIVE DAYS AND THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY WAS LOW.

VERY SIMILAR CONDITIONS OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 31, AND THESE ALSO LED TO HIGH TSP LEVELS.

/DESPITE THE .....

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1993

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DESPITE THE DAYS OF HIGHER CONCENTRATIONS, THE MONTHLY AVERAGE TSP LEVEL OF 147 UG/CUBIC METER AT MONG KOK WAS CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR WHEN THE AVERAGE WAS 212 UG/CUBIC METER.

SINCE THE OTHER TWO SITES EXPERIENCED ONLY SLIGHTLY LOWER MONTHLY AVERAGES THIS YEAR THAN LAST YEAR, THE SIGNIFICANT DECREASE AT MONG KOK IS ATTRIBUTED TO A DECREASE IN LOCAL EMISSIONS.

LEVELS OF NO<sub>2</sub> AT MONG KOK WERE HIGH THROUGHOUT THE MONTH BUT DID NOT EXCEED THE 150 UG/CUBIC METER 24-HOUR LIMIT.

THE FOUR POLLUTANTS DISCUSSED HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS. SO<sub>2</sub> MOSTLY ORIGINATES FROM THE COMBUSTION OF SULPHUR CONTAINING FOSSIL FUELS.

NO<sub>2</sub> IS FORMED EITHER DIRECTLY DURING COMBUSTION OR, BY THE ATMOSPHERIC OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO) WHICH IS ALSO PRODUCED DURING COMBUSTION.

VEHICLE EXHAUST IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF NO AND NO<sub>2</sub>.

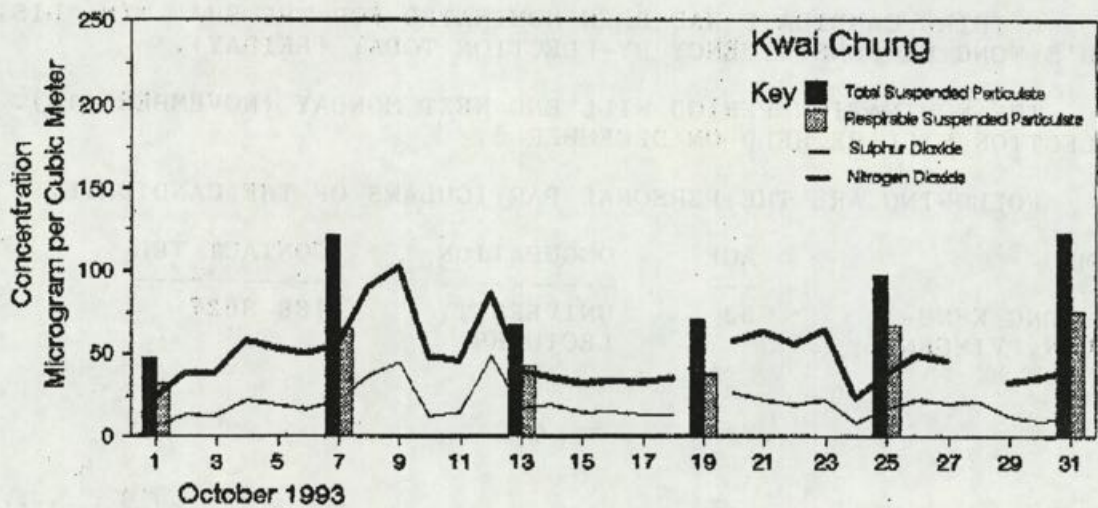
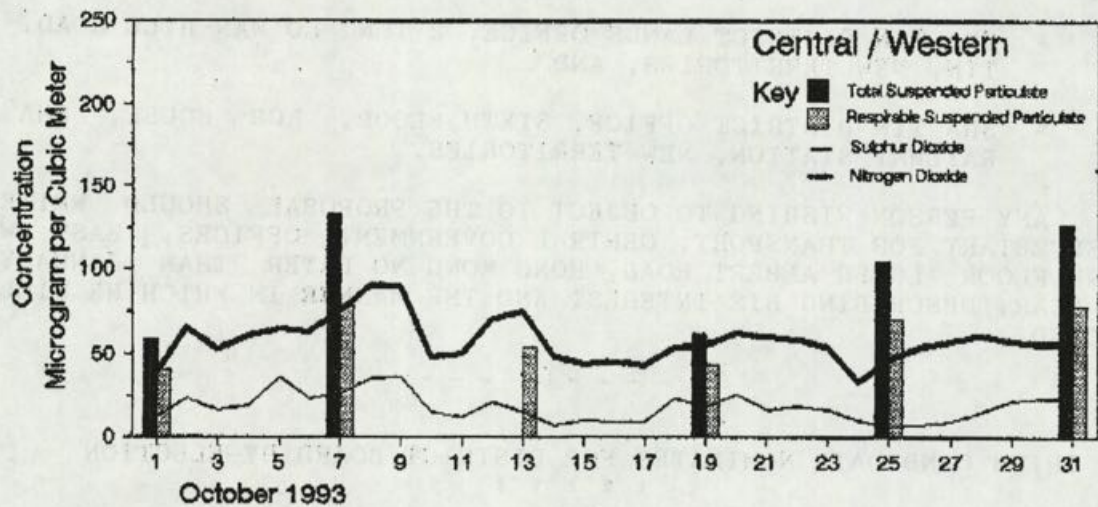
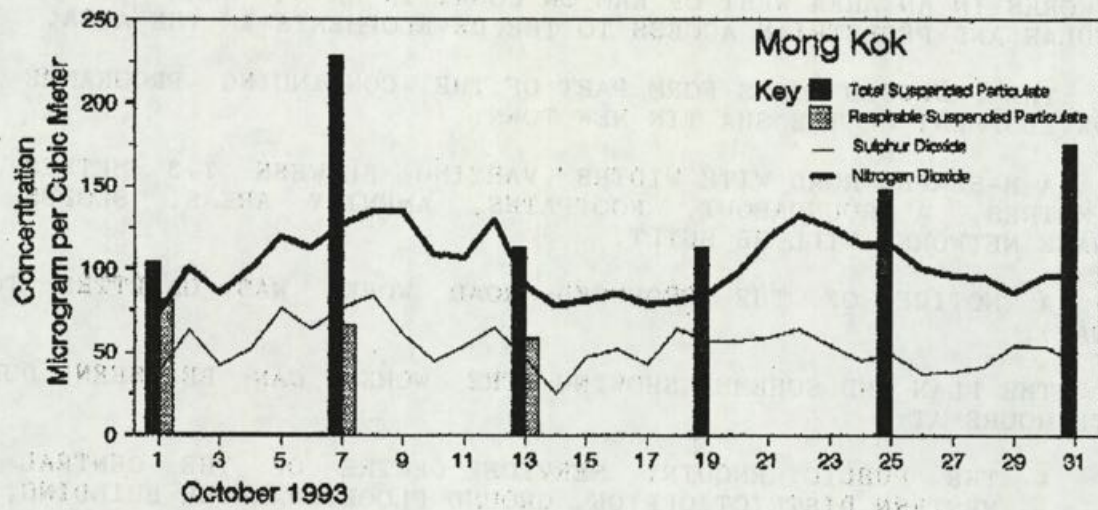
IT IS ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICLES; OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND SOIL DUST.

THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY MONITORS AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT EIGHT STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED ABOVE. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR RAYMOND LEUNG ON TELEPHONE 594 6401.

/HONG KONG .....

### Hong Kong Air Quality Report for October 1993



## ROAD WORKS PROPOSED FOR MA ON SHAN

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO CARRY OUT ROAD WORKS IN AN AREA WEST OF KAM ON COURT IN MA ON SHAN TO PROVIDE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

THE PROPOSED WORKS FORM PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

A M-SHAPED ROAD WITH WIDTHS VARYING BETWEEN 7.3 METRES AND 19.1 METRES, A ROUNDABOUT, FOOTPATHS, AMENITY AREAS, SLOPES AND DRAINAGE NETWORKS WILL BE BUILT.

A NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED ROAD WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE WORKS CAN BE SEEN DURING OFFICE HOURS AT:

- \* THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- \* SHA TIN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES, AND
- \* SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN RAILWAY STATION, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NO LATER THAN JANUARY 11 NEXT YEAR, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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## THIRD CANDIDATE NOMINATED FOR DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION

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A THIRD CANDIDATE HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WONG UK CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NOMINATION PERIOD WILL END NEXT MONDAY (NOVEMBER 15). THE BY-ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 5.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATE:

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL
MR WONG KENG- CHUEN, VINCENT	33	UNIVERSITY LECTURER	788 8627

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1993

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APPOINTMENTS TO SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD APPOINTED DR YORK CHOW THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR A PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 2 THIS YEAR TO MARCH 31 NEXT YEAR.

DR CHOW SUCCEEDS MR HOWARD YOUNG WHO HAS RESIGNED OWING TO COMMITMENTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HOWEVER, MR YOUNG CONTINUES TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD UNTIL MARCH 31 NEXT YEAR.

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INTER-PRIMARY SCHOOL QUIZ COMPETITION

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PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A TELEVISED QUIZ COMPETITION THAT IS AIMED AT DEVELOPING TALENT AND HEALTHY HOBBIES AS WELL AS PROMOTING ACADEMIC AND CIVIC AWARENESS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID 27 TEAMS, EACH COMPRISING THREE TO FIVE PRIMARY 4-6 STUDENTS, WOULD BE SELECTED TO TAKE PART.

THE YOUNG CONTESTANTS WILL BE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER ON THEIR COMPREHENSION AND KNOWLEDGE OF VARIOUS SUBJECTS, CIVIC EDUCATION, NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS, REACTION TO GAMES AS WELL AS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES AND BOOK COUPONS.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND ITS HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTHERN CENTRE, WAN CHAI.

APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, 29TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, BEFORE NOVEMBER 20.

THE COMPETITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

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317 RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 317 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER A VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 113 MEN, 91 WOMEN, 57 BOYS AND 56 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 176TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 9,181 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 35,493 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,865
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,135
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,265
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,735
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.1 *+0.0* 12.11.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.43 PCT	12 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.30	3.34
1 MONTH	2.69 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.47	3.58
3 MONTHS	2.85 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.86	3.88
6 MONTHS	2.99 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.05	4.04
12 MONTHS	3.29 PCT	36 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.05	4.60

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,393 MN

CLOSED 12 NOVEMBER 1993

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