



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1985

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MORE BUILDING DEMAND EXPECTED AS PROPERTY VACANCY RATES FALL
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WITH THE SIGNING OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT, ALL THE CURRENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS POINT TO AN EXPANDING BUILDING DEMAND IN HONG KONG IN THE YEARS TO COME.

THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS TODAY WHILE OFFICIATING AT AN OPENING CEREMONY OF THE +HONG KONG INTERBUILD 85+ AT THE HONG KONG EXHIBITION CENTRE, WAN CHAI.

HE SAID THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE 1985 PROPERTY REVIEW, PUBLISHED LATER IN THE DAY, SHOWED THAT IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET, THE VACANCY RATES HAD FALLEN.

+IN THE TOTAL PRIVATE DOMESTIC SECTOR VACANCIES FELL BY FOUR PER CENT, AND AS FAR AS LARGER UNITS ARE CONCERNED, THE POSITION IS EVEN BETTER, WITH A REDUCTION IN VACANCIES FROM 9.9 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL STOCK AT THE END OF 1983 TO 6.4 PER CENT AT THE END OF 1984.

+IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, SUPPLY IN 1984 WAS WELL ABOVE FORECAST, BUT TAKE-UP CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL.+

SPEAKING OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME, MR FORD POINTED OUT THAT THE AUTHORITY WAS NOT ONLY CONCERNED WITH NUMBERS OF FLATS BUT WAS ALSO DETERMINED TO CREATE A GOOD STANDARD OF LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS RESIDENTS. HENCE IT FOR SOME TIME HAD BEEN STIMULATING THE USE OF MORE MECHANISED METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION ON ITS CONTRACTS BY SPECIAL TENDER PROCEDURES.

THIS HAD ATTRACTED A VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM A NUMBER OF LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS. MORE PROGRESS COULD YET BE MADE IN THIS AREA, AND FURTHER INITIATIVES WERE CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED BY THE AUTHORITY.

+WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT AS GOOD AS THE INDUSTRY IS, THERE IS YET STILL ROOM FOR THE ADOPTION OF FURTHER IMPROVED TECHNIQUES. THE SAME PHILOSOPHY APPLIES TO OUR ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR MORE EFFICIENT DESIGNS, AND THE CREATION OF BETTER TOTAL LIVING ENVIRONMENTS,+ MR FORD NOTED.

APART FROM DECENT FLATS, PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS ALSO EXPECTED AN EQUALLY GOOD STANDARD OF SUPPORTING FACILITIES AND PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS, MR FORD CONTINUED.

THE QUALITY OF THESE AMENITIES AND THE EXTERNAL SPACE, AS MUCH AS THE FLATS THEMSELVES, DISTINGUISHED THE DESIGN OF TODAY'S HOUSING ESTATES FROM THEIR OLDER COUNTERPARTS.

NEITHER WAS THE AUTHORITY FOREGETTING THE OLDER ESTATES, AND IT HAD EMBARKED UPON A VERY POSITIVE PROGRAMME OF REDEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PROJECT TO RENEW THE CENTRAL KOWLOON ESTATES.

/ALL THIS

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ALL THIS ACTIVITY IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS, MR FORD OBSERVED, REQUIRED A BUILDING INDUSTRY WHICH COMBINED SOLID PERFORMANCE WITH A SPIRIT OF INNOVATIVENESS AND A WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

HONG KONG NEEDED AN INDUSTRY WHICH CONTINUED TO BUILD ON ITS UNDOUBTED PROVEN ABILITY BY ABSORBING NEW IDEAS AND TECHNIQUES, AND BUILDING PROFESSIONS WHICH WERE CONCERNED WITH ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT.

+I BELIEVE THIS EXHIBITION WILL ASSIST IN ACHIEVING THESE GOALS, AND I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE BODIES REPRESENTING THE INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS ARE AFFIRMING THIS BY THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP,+ MR FORD CONCLUDED.

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PROPERTY MARKET VACANCY RATES FALL

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VACANCY RATES IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET FELL LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE LATEST PROPERTY REVIEW.

THE DECLINE WAS DUE TO A GOOD TAKE-UP OF ALL KINDS OF PREMISES INCLUDING PRIVATE DOMESTIC UNITS, COMMERCIAL SPACE, FLATTED FACTORIES AND OFFICES.

RELEASING THE FINDINGS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT STRESSED THAT THE FIGURES QUOTED WERE PRELIMINARY AND FULL DETAILS WOULD BE PRESENTED IN THE +PROPERTY REVIEW 1985+ EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL.

WITH REGARD TO THE OVERALL FIGURE FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL UNITS, ESTIMATED VACANCIES HAD DECREASED FROM 24 400 AT THE END OF 1983 TO 22 400 AT THE END OF 1984, HE SAID.

WITH OVER 30 000 UNITS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1985, IT APPEARED THAT A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND WOULD BE MAINTAINED, HE SAID.

AS FOR THE LARGER PRIVATE UNITS, THERE HAD BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN THE TAKE-UP OF LARGER (100 SQUARE METRES AND OVER) DOMESTIC FLATS, FROM 1 800 IN 1983 TO 2 800 IN 1984. WITH COMPLETIONS DOWN ON FORECAST THE VACANCY RATE HAD FALLEN SIGNIFICANTLY, FROM 9.9 PER CENT AT THE END OF 1983 TO 6.4 PER CENT AT THE END OF 1984.

ABOUT 2 200 NEW LARGE FLATS WERE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1985. +IF 1984'S LEVEL OF DEMAND IS SUSTAINED IT IS THEREFORE LIKELY THAT VACANCIES WILL CONTINUE TO FALL,+ HE SAID.

/SUPPLY OF

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SUPPLY OF COMMERCIAL UNITS IN 1984 HAD BEEN WELL ABOVE FORECAST AND SLIGHTLY EXCEEDED TAKE-UP. AS A RESULT THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE CHANGE IN VACANCIES BETWEEN THE END OF 1983 AND THE END OF 1984.

THE SUPPLY OF NEW COMMERCIAL SPACE IN 1985 WAS FORECAST TO BE MUCH THE SAME AS 1984.

DEALING WITH FLATTED FACTORIES, HE SAID COMPLETIONS IN 1984 HAD BEEN BELOW FORECAST AND LOW FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN SUCCESSION.

+ABOUT 18 PER CENT MORE SPACE WAS TAKEN UP IN 1984 THAN IN 1983. AT 857 000 SQUARE METRES THE TAKE-UP WAS ALMOST DOUBLE THE SUPPLY OF NEW FACTORY SPACE AND AS A RESULT VACANCIES FELL SIGNIFICANTLY, FROM 1 089 000 SQUARE METRES AT THE END OF 1983 TO 657 000 SQUARE METRES AT THE END OF 1984.

+WITH ONLY 559 000 SQUARE METRES FORECAST FOR COMPLETION IN 1985, IF DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL SPACE IS SUSTAINED IT IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN A FURTHER DECREASE IN VACANCIES,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO OFFICES, HE SAID TAKE-UP IN 1984, AT 449 000 SQUARE METRES WAS OVER 20 PER CENT ON 1983'S RECORD FIGURE AND MORE THAN DOUBLE THE SUPPLY OF NEW OFFICE SPACE. AS A RESULT VACANCIES, HAD FALLEN FROM 793 000 SQUARE METRES AT THE END OF 1983 TO 561 000 SQUARE METRES AT THE END OF 1984 (I.E. 13.8 PER CENT OF TOTAL STOCK).

+WITH 332 000 SQUARE METRES FORECAST TO BE COMPLETED IN 1985 THE OVERALL PICTURE REMAINS ONE OF OVERSUPPLY, ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE VARIATION WITHIN SECTORS,+ HE SAID.

FOR CENTRAL, GRADE A OFFICES (SECTION 1), VACANCIES HAD FALLEN ONLY SLIGHTLY. WITH A RECORD SUPPLY FORECAST THE TOTAL SPACE AVAILABLE IN 1985 WOULD BE MORE THAN FIVE TIMES THE AVERAGE ANNUAL TAKE-UP OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

IN CONTRAST, VACANCIES IN GRADE A OFFICES IN OTHER ESTABLISHED CENTRES HAD FALLEN DRAMATICALLY, AS SUPPLY HAD DRIED UP IN THE FACE OF SUSTAINED DEMAND, HE SAID.

A SUMMARY OF SUPPLY, TAKE-UP AND VACANCY IN THE MAIN SECTORS FOLLOWS:

/PRIVATE DOMESTIC

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PRIVATE DOMESTIC (ALL PREMISES)

	SUPPLY	(NO. OF UNITS) TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%*
1982	23 100	19 300	31 200	6.0
1983	21 600	26 200	24 400	4.5
1984	22 300	23 500	22 400	4.0
1985	(30 200)			

+PRIVATE DOMESTIC+ EXCLUDES FLATS BUILT UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME.

* VACANCY AT THE END OF THE YEAR AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STOCK.

PRIVATE DOMESTIC (LARGER UNITS - 100 M² AND OVER)

	SUPPLY	(NO. OF UNITS) TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1982	2 500	1 200	3 800	9.1
1983	2 600	1 800	4 400	9.9
1984	1 400	2 800	2 900	6.4
1985	(2 200)			

COMMERCIAL

	SUPPLY	('000 M) ² TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1982	368	198	545	10.7
1983	270	243	541	10.1
1984	255	229	550	9.9
1985	(243)			

FLATTED FACTORIES

	SUPPLY	('000 M) ² TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1982	1 041	571	1 219	10.5
1983	621	727	1 089	8.9
1984	429	857	657	5.2
1985	(559)			

/OFFICES (ALL)

OFFICES (ALL)

	SUPPLY	('000 M) TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
1982	546	253	573	17.6
1983	591	371	793	20.6
1984	219	449	561	13.8
1985	(332)			

OFFICES (SECTORAL ANALYSIS)

	SUPPLY	('000 M) TAKE-UP	VACANCY	%
<u>SECTOR I CENTRAL, GRADE A OFFICES</u>				
1982	93	66	98	14.5
1983	40	44	94	13.2
1984	30	33	91	12.2
1985	(168)			

SECTOR II SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CAUSEWAY BAY AND TSIM SHA TSUI,

GRADE A + CENTRAL, GRADE B OFFICES

1982	179	133	119	12.4
1983	234	118	235	19.7
1984	11	139	107	8.9
1985	(93)			

SECTOR III REMAINDER

1982	274	54	356	22.0
1983	317	209	464	23.9
1984	178	277	363	17.2
1985	(71)			

FURTHER ENQUIRIES REGARDING THIS RELEASE SHOULD, IN FIRST INSTANCE, BE DIRECTED TO EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

MR KENNETH PANG TSAN-WING (5)7957604
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

MR M.J. WILLIAMS (5)7957613
TECHNICAL SECRETARY

NEW POLICY FOR RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING IN THAS

* * * *

MORE THAN 600 FAMILIES AT TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS HAVE SO FAR BENEFITED FROM A NEW MEASURE DESIGNED FOR THE RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING IN THAS.

+UNDER THIS MEASURE INTRODUCED LAST YEAR, CASUAL VACANT THA UNITS NOT LARGER THAN 7.43 SQUARE METRES MAY BE ALLOCATED ADDITIONALLY TO FAMILIES LIVING AT A DENSITY OF LESS THAN 1.86 SQUARE METRES PER PERSON,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY.

HE SAID THE SUPPLY OF SUCH VACANT UNITS WERE EXPECTED TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE WHEN SINGLE PERSONS AND TWO-PERSON FAMILIES IN THAS BEGAN TO BE ALLOCATED PUBLIC HOUSING.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, THA RESIDENTS ARE BEING MORE QUICKLY REHOUSED TO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES. FOR EXAMPLE, 16 000 THA RESIDENTS WERE ALLOCATED PUBLIC HOUSING IN 1983-84.

+THE DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED A PROGRAMME TO CLEAR OLD EXISTING THAS IN ADDITION TO THOSE THAT ARE BEING CLEARED FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. THIS WILL INCREASE THE RATE OF REHOUSING OF THA FAMILIES.

+WITH AN INCREASED SUPPLY OF SMALL VACANT UNITS AND A MUCH FASTER RATE OF REHOUSING TO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE PROBLEM OF OVERCROWDING IN THAS WILL SOON BE FURTHER REDUCED TO A VERY LARGE EXTENT.

+BEFORE THEN, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO CONSIDER RELAXING THE DENSITY OF 1.86 SQUARE METRES SINCE IT WOULD CREATE AN UNFAIR SITUATION IN WHICH MORE NEEDY FAMILIES WOULD HAVE TO COMPETE WITH THE LESS NEEDY ONES.

+ALL FAMILIES ADMITTED INTO THAS SINCE OCTOBER 1983 HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED SPACES AT THE PRESENT STANDARD OF AN AVERAGE OF 3.4 SQUARE METRES PER PERSON. THIS WILL MINIMISE THE DEGREE OF OVERCROWDING AMONG NEW FAMILIES.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF LAND FOR BUILDING THAS, VACANT THA UNITS LARGER THAN 7.43 SQUARE METRES HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR REHOUSING NEW FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CLEARANCE AND NATURAL DISASTERS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THERE WERE ABOUT 1 000 SUCH VACANT UNITS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY FOR ABOUT 3 000 PERSONS, OVER 2 000 NATURAL DISASTER VICTIMS WERE WAITING TO BE ALLOCATED THA SPACES.

+IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER THE COMING SIX MONTHS, THERE IS A DEMAND FOR 10 000 THA SPACES ARISING FROM CLEARANCE ALONE, NOT TO MENTION DEMAND FROM POSSIBLE NATURAL DISASTERS OVER THIS PERIOD.

+UNDER THE PRESENT VERY TIGHT SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION, IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO CONSIDER MAKING USE OF THESE LARGER UNITS FOR RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING WITHOUT AFFECTING DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCE AND REHOUSING OF VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS.+

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SHA TIN GETS +TIMELY+ NEW TOWN PLAZA
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THE COMPLETION OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA WAS A TIMELY ADDITION TO THE DISTRICT, WHICH HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A BOOMING NEW TOWN OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, AND WAS STILL GROWING, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+THE PLAZA HAS PROVEN TO BE A MAJOR ATTRACTION FOR SHOPPERS NOT ONLY FROM SHA TIN, BUT ALSO FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AS WELL AS KOWLOON,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW TOWN PLAZA, MR AKERS-JONES SAID: +THE COMPLETION OF THE PLAZA MARKS A MAJOR STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE.+

+STANDING IN THIS MODERN AND IMPRESSIVE SHOPPING COMPLEX, IT IS NOT EASY TO RECOLLECT THAT LESS THAN A DECADE AGO, ON THIS VERY SITE, STOOD THE OLD SHA TIN MARKET,+ HE SAID.

+THE OLD MARKET COMPRISED OF ROWS OF SIMPLE STRUCTURES AND WAS THEN THE HEART OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES FOR THE RURAL MARKET TOWN OF SHA TIN, SERVING A SMALL SCATTERED POPULATION OF LESS THAN 30 000 IN 40 ODD VILLAGES,+ HE SAID.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID THAT IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE POPULATION IN SHA TIN HAD INCREASED TENFOLD TO 300 000 RESIDENTS AND WAS STILL GROWING.

THE PLAZA, HE SAID, FORMED AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT PART OF THE SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE AND WAS THE BIGGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+ITS ARCADES, UNIQUE MUSICAL FOUNTAIN, COLOURFUL SHOPS AND DEPARTMENT STORE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RECREATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES ALL ADD TO THE COLOUR AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN SHA TIN,+ HE SAID.

OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE TOWN CENTRE AREA INCLUDED THE CENTRAL TOWN PARK SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR, AND THE CULTURAL COMPLEX DUE FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1986.

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'ACCORD HELPS INVESTMENT DECISIONS'

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THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT HAD REMOVED UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT HONG KONG'S POLITICAL FUTURE, THUS BENEFITING THE MAKING OF INVESTMENT DECISIONS, THE PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, MR DAVID CHEUNG, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON AT A SEMINAR ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE AND JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE CITIBANK ON +HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING FUTURE+.

THE AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO DECIDE ITS OWN ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TRADE POLICIES, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND TRADE AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE. IN SHORT, THE AGREEMENT PROVIDED ADEQUATELY FOR A CONTINUATION OF LIFE IN HONG KONG AND OF ALL THOSE FACTORS WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG A SUCCESS, HE SAID.

ON OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT, MR CHEUNG SAID THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WOULD INCREASE.

THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S OVERSEAS INVESTMENT PROMOTION OFFICES WAS ALSO INCREASING.

MR CHEUNG STRESSED THE NEED TO INTRODUCE MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TO UPGRADE AND WIDEN THE RANGE OF PRODUCTS, SO AS TO MAINTAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE IN OVERSEAS MARKETS.

+THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THE NEED OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND HAS A +ONE-STOP+ UNIT TO ASSIST INDUSTRIALISTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN INVESTING HERE,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

THE UNIT ASSISTS INVESTORS BY INTRODUCING LOCAL INVESTORS TO THOSE FROM OVERSEAS WHO WANT TO ESTABLISH MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS HERE IN JOINT VENTURES, PROVIDING QUICK AND COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT HONG KONG FOR INVESTORS, GUIDING AND FACILITATING INVESTORS DEALING WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISING INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION MISSIONS FOR LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS.

MR CHEUNG SAID THAT EACH YEAR THE DEPARTMENT ORGANISED INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION MISSIONS OVERSEAS TO ATTRACT FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN TO INVEST IN HONG KONG.

ON INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION AND TRADE WITH CHINA, MR CHEUNG SAID HONG KONG AND CHINA COULD CO-OPERATE IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANY LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS HAD ALREADY TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS TO EXPAND AND DIVERSIFY THEIR BUSINESSES.

MAIN TASKS TO HELP DISABLED OUTLINED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE MAIN REHABILITATION TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS FACING HONG KONG'S HALF MILLION DISABLED PEOPLE.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR MARTIN LEWIS AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST.

MR LEWIS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN PROVIDING TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED, THERE WAS STILL A NEED FOR A CONSCIOUS TRANSPORT POLICY FOR THE DISABLED EMBODIED IN THE OVERALL TERRITORY-WIDE POLICY.

THE TRANSPORT POLICY FOR THE DISABLED WOULD HAVE TO IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF EACH DISABILITY, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THOSE PERSONS INCAPABLE OF USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

+IT IS OUR 1985 RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH HOW THESE NEEDS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND MET, THROUGH A WORKING PARTY THAT HAS JUST BEEN SET UP,+ MR LEWIS SAID.

ANOTHER TASK TO BE TACKLED, HE SAID, WAS THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED. MR LEWIS CALLED UPON THE MEDIA TO SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION IN REHABILITATION WHICH WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE THIS YEAR.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO RTHK FOR PRODUCING ITS AWARD-WINNING FILM +BORN TO LIVE+, AND GAVE EXAMPLES OF OVERSEAS TV PROGRAMMES, SUCH AS +IRONSIDE+ WHICH BROUGHT DISABLED PEOPLE INTO PROGRAMMES.

HE FELT, PARTICULARLY, THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE EDUCATED MORE ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE MENTALLY ILL AND THEIR NEED FOR REHABILITATION.

+ONE IN NINE OF US ARE THOUGHT TO SUFFER FROM MENTAL ILLNESS AT SOME STAGE DURING OUR LIVES, SO IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE IS SOME UNDERSTANDING AS TO HOW BEST PEOPLE CAN REINTEGRATE INTO NORMAL LIFE.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS MUCH IGNORANCE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF MENTAL ILLNESS. IT WAS ALSO NOT MUCH KNOWN THAT, COMPARATIVELY, MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE WERE NO MORE DANGEROUS THAN OTHERS.

+WE MUST GET ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT THE MENTALLY ILL, AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN TREATED IN HOSPITAL, MUST SOMEHOW ADJUST TO THE COMMUNITY AGAIN, AND THE HALF-WAY HOUSES ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY LIFE,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER 1985 RESOLUTION, SAID MR LEWIS, WAS TO ADVANCE THE ARGUMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPEECH THERAPY COURSE IN HONG KONG. +THE SHORTAGE OF SPEECH THERAPISTS IS PERHAPS THE SINGLE BIGGEST SHORTFALL IN REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG. WE NEED ABOUT 130 AND AT THE LAST COUNT WE HAD ONLY 12 WORKING WITH THE CHINESE POPULATION,+ HE SAID.

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EPCOM INSPECTS EPA WORK

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR GERALD FORSGATE TODAY VISITED THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE WORK OF THE OFFICE.

THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE COMMISSIONER, DR STUART REED AND THE HEADS OF THE FOUR DIVISIONS SET UP TO TACKLE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG.

THEY WERE GIVEN DETAILS OF SOME OF THE MORE OBVIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR ENVIRONMENT IN OUR DAILY LIFE, INCLUDING A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF PILING NOISE, A MORE ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF AIR POLLUTION IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS, AND STRICTER CONTROL OF WATER QUALITY IN OUR HARBOUR AND BEACHES TO PREVENT FUNGI AND BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION.

THEY WERE INFORMED OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE AGENCY, INCLUDING A MEANS TO TEST THE LIKELY NOISE POLLUTION LEVELS IN NOISE SENSITIVE BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS SCHOOLS AND HOUSING ESTATES, BY THE USE OF LARGE-SCALE MODELS.

MR JOHN CHAMBERS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMULATING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY WITH THE HELP OF THE EPA, ALSO TOOK PART IN THE VISIT.

THE WORK OF THE EPA INVOLVES DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES, ESTABLISHING QUALITY OBJECTIVES, MONITORING LONG-TERM POLLUTION TRENDS, ASSESSING AND ADVISING ON THE IMPACT OF MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT PROJECTS.

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'LAST DAY' ELECTION REMINDER

TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IS THE LAST DAY TO ENTER AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE MARCH 7 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION REMINDED POTENTIAL CANDIDATES THAT NOMINATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RECEIPT FOR \$1 000 DEPOSITED WITH THE TREASURY IN RESPECT OF THEIR CANDIDACY.

ALTHOUGH THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS AT DISTRICT OFFICES IS 5.30 PM TOMORROW, THE DAILY CLOSING TIME OF TREASURY OFFICES IS 4 PM, HE SAID.

+POTENTIAL CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO SIGN UP TOMORROW ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO ARRANGE TO PAY THE \$1 000 DEPOSIT BEFORE 4 PM.

+THE DEPOSIT IS REFUNDABLE IF A NOMINATION IS NOT ACCEPTED,+ HE SAID.

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YAU MA TEI FACELIFT IN FULL SWING

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YAU MA TEI DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN GOES INTO FULL SWING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) WITH A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A MAJOR YEAR-END CLEAN-UP EXERCISE, THE DEMOLITION OF OBSOLETE SIGNBOARDS AND INITIATION OF AREA PATROLS TO IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS.

THE CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED EARLIER THIS MONTH WITH A SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT, WHICH WAS WELL RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS CORPORATIONS.

FROM TOMORROW, AREA PATROLS, COMPRISING YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD AND AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, WILL SET OUT ON INSPECTIONS OF FOUR AREAS TO IDENTIFY MINOR STREET MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

THE TEAMS WILL LIST THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE AREAS AND PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS. THE LIST WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE AND BE FORWARDED TO GOVERNMENT FOR ACTION.

A MAJOR YEAR-END CLEAN-UP EXERCISE WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT DURING THE SIX DAYS BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 14.

THE EXERCISE, JOINTLY CARRIED OUT WITH THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WILL INCLUDE THE CLEANING OF STREETS AND BACKLANES AND A MAJOR INSPECTION OF THE COMMON AREAS OF 16 MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.

DURING THE CLEAN-UP, RESIDENTS SHOULD USE THE OFF-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WHICH WILL BE OPENED FROM 7 AM TO 11 PM DAILY. FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE LOCATIONS OF THE RCPS, RESIDENTS MAY CALL THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE ON 3-323791 OR THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S YAU MA TEI CLEANSING OFFICE ON 3-884111 EXTENSION: 304.

AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, THE DISTRICT BOARD, TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS OWNERS CORPORATIONS, WILL TEAR DOWN SIGNBOARDS WHICH WERE IDENTIFIED IN A SURVEY LAST NOVEMBER AS BEING OBSOLETE OR ABANDONED.

IN ADDITION, A LARGE NUMBER OF SIGNBOARDS IDENTIFIED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AS BEING DANGEROUS, WILL BE TORN DOWN IN PHASES.

/THE ENVIRONMENTAL

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN IS FUNDED BY THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD AND CO-ORDINATED BY A SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CAMPAIGN'S AREA PATROLS. A LIST OF THE AREAS AND TIME OF THE PATROLS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AREA	DATE	TIME	ASSEMBLE PLACE
TSIM SHA TSUI	JANUARY 31	10.30 AM	TSIM SHA TSUI SUB-OFFICE
EAST AREA	FEBRUARY 2	10 AM	YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE
NORTH AREA	FEBRUARY 7	2.30 PM	YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE
SOUTH AREA	FEBRUARY 13	9.30 AM	YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE

HUGE MAP SHOWS WAN CHAI CONSTITUENCIES

A MAP OF THE FIVE CONSTITUENCIES OF WAN CHAI DISTRICT HAS BEEN PAINTED ON A HUGE BOARD AND HUNG ON A WALL IN MORRISON HILL ROAD.

ABOUT 10 VOLUNTEERS SPENT LAST SUNDAY (JANUARY 27) PAINTING THE FIVE AREAS ON THE MAP, WHICH MEASURES 1.83 METRES BY 6.1 METRES.

ALSO PAINTED ON THE MAP IS THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD LOGO AND THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SLOGAN.

SHOWN CLEARLY IN DIFFERENT COLOURS ARE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FIVE CONSTITUENCIES -- WAN CHAI WEST, WAN CHAI EAST, CAUSEWAY BAY CENTRAL, HAPPY VALLEY, AND TAI HANG AND SO KON PO.

WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG AND AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND YOUNG TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED MORRISON HILL ROAD TO INSPECT THE MAP.

MR LAM SAID THE MAP WILL PROVIDE RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT WITH AN IDEA OF HOW THEIR CONSTITUENCIES ARE DIVIDED.

+AS PART OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S PUBLICITY PROJECT, I HOPE THE MAP WILL SERVE AS A REMINDER TO REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE DISTRICT TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AND TO CAST THEIR BALLOT IN THE MARCH 7 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS,+ MR LAM SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1985

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+OPEN LEARNING+ SPREADING WORLD WIDE
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+OPEN LEARNING+ WAS RAPIDLY EXPANDING ROUND THE WORLD, MR STUART DALZIEL, A VISITING EXPERT IN THIS FIELD, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY.

THIS ENABLED PEOPLE TO LEARN WHAT THEY NEEDED, AT A TIME AND PLACE, AND IN A FORM WHICH SUITED THEM BEST, HE EXPLAINED.

FORMERLY DIRECTOR OF THE MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, HE HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TO ADVISE ITS MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE -- MDC -- ON THE PROMOTION OF NEW MANAGEMENT TEACHING PROGRAMMES. HE HAD BEEN IN HONG KONG TWICE BEFORE, TO HELP THE MDC IDENTIFY THE NEED FOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES BY OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING IN HONG KONG.

IN BRITAIN, HE SAID, THERE WAS A BIG DEMAND FOR OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMMES GEARED TO THE TRAINING OF TECHNICAL AND SUPERVISORY SKILLS.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE +OPEN TECH PROGRAMME+ LAUNCHED BY THE MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION'S +OLD TECH UNIT,+ IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, HE SAID THAT IT WAS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT MORE THAN 100 000 WORKING ADULTS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

HE HAD COME +TO FIND OUT THE REAL NEEDS IN HONG KONG+, AND STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING +WOULD PRESENT BOTH A CHALLENGE AND A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO MANAGEMENT TRAINING HERE,+ HE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MDC, DR ROBERT TRICKER, SAID THAT LESS THAN EIGHT PER CENT OF THE 200 000 MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS FROM HONG KONG'S MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS RECEIVE MANAGEMENT TRAINING OF ANY KIND.

+THEREFORE, IT IS IMPERATIVE TO STEP UP MANAGEMENT TRAINING TO ENSURE THE HONG KONG ECONOMY IS PROVIDED WITH EFFECTIVE AND ADAPTABLE MANAGEMENT AT EVERY LEVEL,+ DR TRICKER SAID.

+THE COUNCIL IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A REPORT BY MR DALZIEL A FEW MONTHS LATER ON HOW OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING CAN BE PROMOTED TO CATER FOR THE NEED OF HONG KONG.

LATER IN THE DAY, MR DALZIEL ALSO CONDUCTED A WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT BY OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING FOR 100 MANAGEMENT TEACHERS, TRAINERS AND EXECUTIVES CONCERNED WITH EDUCATIONAL POLICY IN THIS FIELD.

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THREE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS HELD IN RAID
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THREE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE ARRESTED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICERS IN A RAID ON A CLEANING SERVICE COMPANY IN TAI PO LAST (TUESDAY) NIGHT.

THE THREE MEN, AGED BETWEEN 20 AND 30, WERE BEING DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE OWNER OF THE COMPANY IN TAI YUEN ESTATE IS ALSO UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SUSPECTED OFFENCES INCLUDING HARBOURING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND EMPLOYING PERSONS WHO ARE NOT LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE.

TWELVE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS HAD TAKEN PART IN YESTERDAY'S OPERATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TALKS FOR TEACHERS
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FOUR TALKS ON THE TEACHING OF CHINESE LITERATURE WILL BE GIVEN IN MARCH FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

THE TALKS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON FOUR SATURDAY MORNINGS.

MR H.L. LO OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WILL SPEAK ON +THE APPRECIATION OF CHINESE DRAMA+, AND MR CHENG MAN-LEUNG OF NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK SOUTH DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL WILL SPEAK ON THE ORGANISATION OF TEACHING ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH CHINESE LITERATURE.

MR K.C. YU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHINESE, CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WILL SPEAK ON +THE APPRECIATION OF MODERN CHINESE POETRY+, AND MR LO KUEN-PO OF CHEN ZAO MEN COLLEGE WILL SPEAK ON +THE TEACHING OF THE HISTORY OF CHINESE LITERATURE+.

SCHOOL HEADS WISHING TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE TALKS SHOULD APPLY TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, 9A BONHAM ROAD, 1/F, BEFORE FEBRUARY 15.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE CENTRE ON 5-488230.

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MORE TIME FOR POSTER DESIGN ENTRIES

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE METRICATION COMMITTEE POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION ON THE USE OF METRIC WEIGHING MACHINES HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MARCH 6.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE MANY STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO TAKE THEIR MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS IN FEBRUARY, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, AND MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SUBMIT THEIR ENTRIES BY THE EARLIER DEADLINE DATE.

THE POSTPONEMENT WAS TO ENABLE AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITION.

HE REMINDED PARTICIPANTS THAT ALL ENTRIES MUST BE OF A2 SIZE (420 MM X 594 MM) AND SHOULD BE SENT TO THE METRICATION COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT AT 31/F, UNITED CENTRE, 95 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

THERE WAS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES FROM EACH PARTICIPANT.

TOP PRIZE WILL BE A \$2 000 SCHOLARSHIP, AND FIRST AND SECOND PRIZES WILL BE BOOK OR STATIONERY TOKENS WORTH \$1 500 AND \$1 000.

THERE WILL ALSO BE 10 MERIT PRIZES IN THE FORM OF BOOK OR STATIONERY TOKENS, EACH WORTH \$200.

THE POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE METRICATION COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE THE USE OF METRIC WEIGHING MACHINES AMONG HAWKERS, MARKET-GOERS AND HOUSEWIVES.

THE WINNING DESIGNS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT EXHIBITIONS, MARKETS AND HOUSING ESTATES.

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CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS COMPLETE SPECIAL COURSE

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THIRTY-THREE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS RECEIVED CERTIFICATES TODAY ON COMPLETION OF AN INTENSIVE COURSE ON ANTI-DISTURBANCE AND RIOT CONTROL IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS.

EIGHT OF THEM ARE PRISON OFFICERS FROM SRI LANKA, ON ATTACHMENT TO THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR TRAINING.

/THE PRESENTATION

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THE PRESENTATION WAS MADE BY MR PI WING-LEE, PRINCIPAL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, IN STANLEY.

IT WAS ONE OF MANY DEVELOPMENT COURSES RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT TO TRAIN ITS OFFICERS IN VARIOUS SPECIALISED AREAS OF WORK, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

OTHER TRAINING COURSES COVER SUCH SUBJECTS AS MANAGEMENT, CASE AND GROUP WORK, COUNSELLING AND SECURITY.

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SAFETY DISPLAY TO BE OPENED
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH EXHIBITION, +SAFETY EXTRAVAGANZA+, WILL BE OPENED IN THE FOOTBRIDGE GALLERY, LEVEL 3, OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA, ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 1), AT 3 PM.

MR DARWIN CHEN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, DISTRICT OFFICER, SHA TIN AND MR K.M. CHAN, PROJECT DIRECTOR OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

THE EXHIBITION WILL COMPRISE A 15-MINUTE SOUND-ON-SLIDE SHOW, SAFETY FILMS, STATIC DISPLAYS AS WELL AS SIX SPECIALISED AUDIO-VISUAL SERIES ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

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OLD TOILET BEING REDEVELOPED
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AN OLD TOILET AT SAI YEE STREET IS BEING REDEVELOPED.

A \$836 000-CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE JOB OF DEMOLISHING THE OLD TOILET AND CONSTRUCTING A NEW TWO-STOREY BUILDING THERE.

THE GROUND FLOOR WILL BE A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT WITH ANCILLARY FACILITIES SUCH AS HANDCART WASHING SPACE, AN OFFICE, A CUBICLE FOR THE DISABLED AND A STOREROOM.

THE FIRST FLOOR WILL HAVE TOILETS, A STOREROOM AND AN ATTENDANT'S ROOM.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE
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TRAFFIC ON SAI CHEUNG STREET IN KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 1) TO FACILITATE SLOPE WORK AT BELCHER'S STREET.

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ROAD CLOSURE
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THE TEMPORARY ROAD LINKING CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD IN TUEN MUN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC, FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 1) FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

MOTORISTS TRAVELLING BETWEEN BUTTERFLY ESTATE AND SAM SHING ESTATE SHOULD USE ROAD D8 AND PUI TO ROAD.

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HUNG HOM SALT WATER MAINS WORK
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN HUNG HOM WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE DAYS FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO 10 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 5) TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS REPAIR WORK.

AFFECTED PREMISES ARE THOSE ALONG HOK YUEN STREET, CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, AND HONG CHONG ROAD.

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