



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1992

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EXPLANATORY INFORMATION ON PAA FUNDS PASSED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

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THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT DELAYING CONSTRUCTION AND CRUCIAL DESIGN WORK ON THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK FOR THREE MONTHS WOULD INCREASE COSTS BY NOT LESS THAN \$1.3 BILLION, WHILE A SIX-MONTH DELAY WOULD PRODUCE AN INCREASE OF NOT LESS THAN \$2.5 BILLION.

THESE ESTIMATES ARE CONTAINED IN EXPLANATORY INFORMATION ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT TODAY TO MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, WHO ARE NOW CONSIDERING THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA) TO RECEIVE AN \$8.63 BILLION ADVANCE FROM THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND.

THE FUNDS ARE NEEDED BY THE PAA FOR THE \$9.041 BILLION SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND FOR OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE.

THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN ISSUED ON THE ADVICE OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, WHICH WAS BRIEFED ON THE REQUEST FOR FUNDS LAST FRIDAY.

IT IS CONTAINED IN FOUR ANNEXES TO THE MAIN FINANCE COMMITTEE PAPER ON THE FUNDS, WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY.

A DETAILED ANALYSIS IS PROVIDED OF THE PROPOSED PAA EXPENDITURE, INCLUDING \$1.088 BILLION FOR ON-SITE SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT FOR THE SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT.

"IN CONSIDERING VIEWS PUT FORWARD BY THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED THE START OF CERTAIN DESIGN CONSULTANCIES TO BE LET BY THE PAA.

"IN ORDER TO KEEP COMMITMENTS TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE OVERALL SLIPPAGE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO DEFER SEEKING FUNDING FOR EIGHT OUT OF 13 DESIGN PACKAGES.

"THIS MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING A POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF \$355 MILLION IN THE TOTAL \$8.63 BILLION BEING SOUGHT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE POTENTIAL COST OF DELAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "OUR ESTIMATES SHOW THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF THE OVERALL COST OF THE AIRPORT TO EXTEND VALIDITY DATES, OR TO RE-TENDER, THE SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT. IT WOULD BE JUST AS EXPENSIVE TO DELAY CRUCIAL DESIGN CONTRACTS AT THE AIRPORT."

"THIS DEMONSTRATES HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR THE SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED BEFORE THE CURRENT TENDERS EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 30, AND FOR CRUCIAL DESIGN CONTRACTS TO GO AHEAD.

"PROGRESS ON THESE CONTRACTS WILL ENABLE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME AGREED BY BRITAIN AND CHINA LAST YEAR.

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"ONE OF THE ANNEXES SHOWS THAT DELAYING THE START OF THE SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT, OR COMPLETION OF CRUCIAL DESIGN CONTRACTS, FOR THREE MONTHS WOULD ADD \$1.28 BILLION TO THE \$68.5 BILLION COSTS OF THE AIRPORT, WHILE A SIX-MONTH DELAY WOULD ADD \$2.54 BILLION.

"THE INCREASES WOULD BE CAUSED BY ADDITIONAL WORKS TO PROTECT THE ADVANCE SITE FORMATION WORKS AT CHEK LAP KOK, AND BY THE IMPACT OF INFLATION ON EXPENDITURE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THERE WOULD ALSO BE OTHER COST INCREASES: FOR EXAMPLE THE PAA'S MANAGEMENT COSTS AND OVERHEADS WOULD RISE BY \$103 MILLION FOR A THREE-MONTH DELAY AND \$205 MILLION FOR SIX MONTHS."

IT IS ALSO EXPLAINED IN THE ANNEXES THAT A RE-TENDER OF THE AIRPORT SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT WOULD NOT BENEFIT FROM THE SORT OF FALL IN CONSTRUCTION PRICES, WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN HONG KONG IN RECENT MONTHS.

"THE SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT IS NOT TYPICAL OF WORK IN HONG KONG BECAUSE IT IS SO LARGE AND BECAUSE IT INCLUDES AN UNPRECEDENTED QUANTITY OF MINING AND MARINE DREDGING WORKS. THE DREDGERS WE REQUIRE ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY WORLDWIDE.

"IN ANY CASE, SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE LOWER TENDER PRICES NEEDS TO BE BALANCED AGAINST THE SUBSTANTIAL ESTIMATED COST INCREASES PUBLISHED IN THE ANNEXES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE ASKED ON FRIDAY TO APPROVE \$153.5 MILLION FOR MAJOR CONSULTANCIES CONNECTED WITH GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE FACILITIES COMPRISE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT, WEATHER RADAR EQUIPMENT, AND POSTAL MECHANISATION SYSTEMS. THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP WAS BRIEFED ON THIS SUBJECT ON OCTOBER 23.

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NEW COINS AND BANK NOTES TO BE ISSUED

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EXISTING COINS AND BANK NOTES WILL BE GRADUALLY REPLACED WITH ONES BEARING NEW DESIGNS STARTING FROM EARLY NEXT YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

OUTLINING THE ARRANGEMENTS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DESIGNATE) OF HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY, MR JOSEPH YAM, SAID: "AS THE EXISTING COINS AND BANK NOTES BEAR REFERENCES WHICH WILL BECOME INAPPROPRIATE TO THE STATUS OF HONG KONG AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR) OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THEY NEED TO BE PROGRESSIVELY REPLACED AND WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION."

THIS IS SPECIFIED IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION.

/THE DESIGNS

THE DESIGNS OF THE NEW COINS HAVE BEEN STANDARDISED: THE OBVERSE FEATURES A BAUHINIA FLOWER AND "HONG KONG" IN CHINESE CHARACTERS AND ENGLISH AND THE REVERSE FEATURES THE DENOMINATION IN CHINESE CHARACTERS AND ENGLISH WITH A LARGE ARABIC NUMERAL IN THE CENTRE AND THE YEAR OF ISSUE IMMEDIATELY BELOW IT.

APPROVAL FOR THE NEW DESIGNS HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE RELEVANT UK AUTHORITIES.

THE CHINESE SIDE HAVE ALSO BEEN CONSULTED ON THE NEW DESIGNS AND SUPPORTED THEIR INTRODUCTION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE INTEREST OF SMOOTH TRANSITION.

MR YAM EXPLAINED THAT A PHASED INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW COINS WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF PRODUCTION AND STORAGE CONSTRAINTS.

"THE NEW FIVE-DOLLAR AND TWO-DOLLAR COINS WILL BE INTRODUCED FIRST AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR.

"THE ISSUE OF OTHER COINS WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY, WITH THE NEW ONE-DOLLAR, 50-CENT AND 20-CENT COINS BEING INTRODUCED LATER IN 1993," HE SAID.

"A 10-DOLLAR COIN WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED IN 1994 OR 1995 TO REPLACE THE EXISTING 10-DOLLAR NOTE," HE ADDED.

THE METAL COMPOSITIONS OF NEW COINS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE EXISTING ONES TO FACILITATE WITHDRAWAL BY MACHINE, BUT THE SIZE, WEIGHT AND SHAPE REMAIN THE SAME SO THAT THERE WILL BE MINIMAL DISRUPTION.

MR YAM NOTED THAT COINS HAD A LONG LIFE AND THEREFORE NEEDED TO BE WITHDRAWN UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

"INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES AND BANKS, WHICH RECEIVE A LARGE NUMBER OF COINS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS POINTS FOR SORTING THE OLD FROM THE NEW FOR WITHDRAWAL.

"IT WILL BE A GRADUAL PROCESS AND WILL BE MONITORED CLOSELY, THE NUMBER OF POINTS OF WITHDRAWAL BEING INCREASED IF NECESSARY.

"THE AIM IS TO HAVE THE MAJORITY REPLACED BY 1997," HE SAID.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW FIVE-DOLLAR AND TWO-DOLLAR COINS IN JANUARY 1993, POSTERS WILL BE PUT UP IN BANKING HALLS AND GOVERNMENT POSTER SITES TO FAMILIARISE THE PUBLIC OF THE NEW DESIGNS.

AS FOR THE NEW DESIGNS FOR BANK NOTES, MR YAM EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE TWO NOTE-ISSUING BANKS.

"THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN FINALISED AND HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO THE CHINESE SIDE, WHO RAISED NO OBJECTION.

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"THE NEW BANK NOTES WILL BE PROGRESSIVELY INTRODUCED FROM THE BEGINNING OF 1993.

"THE REPLACEMENT OF BANK NOTES WILL BE EFFECTED THROUGH THE NATURAL PROCESS OF WITHDRAWING FROM CIRCULATION THOSE USED BANK NOTES WHICH ARE NO LONGER OF GOOD CIRCULATION QUALITY," MR YAM SAID, NOTING THAT BANK NOTES HAD AN AVERAGE LIFE OF ABOUT TWO YEARS.

SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE BY THE TWO NOTE-ISSUING BANKS ABOUT THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BANK NOTES CLOSER TO THE DATE OF INTRODUCTION.

MR YAM POINTED OUT THAT SOME BANK NOTES AND COINS OF EXISTING DESIGNS WOULD INEVITABLY REMAIN IN CIRCULATION AFTER 1997.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE UP TO THE SAR GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE WHETHER A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME SHOULD BE SET FOR SUCH BANK NOTES AND COINS TO BE EXCHANGED INTO NEW BANK NOTES AND COINS, AND BE WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION ALTOGETHER.

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PRODUCING COMMEMORATIVE PROOF AND UNCIRCULATED COIN SETS FEATURING THE NEW DESIGNS EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE SETS WILL EACH CONTAIN SEVEN COINS RANGING FROM THE 10-CENT TO THE 10-DOLLAR COIN. THE COINS WILL BE DATED 1993.

WORLDWIDE SALES OF THE PROOF SETS WILL BE LIMITED TO 30,000, OF WHICH 25,000 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN HONG KONG.

"THERE WILL BE NO ISSUE LIMIT FOR THE UNCIRCULATED SETS.

"THE TARGET DATE FOR LAUNCHING SALES IS MID-JANUARY 1993," MR YAM SAID.

"THE SETS WILL BE SOLD AT A PREMIUM AND DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBSTANTIAL DUE TO THEIR NUMISMATIC VALUE," HE ADDED.

NET PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE COMMEMORATIVE COIN SETS WILL BE CREDITED TO THE SPECIAL COIN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT AND THEREAFTER USED TO FINANCE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, CAREFULLY SELECTED PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN EARLIER INSTANCES.

THE SALE OF THE COMMEMORATIVE COIN SETS WILL BE LAUNCHED BY A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

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JUNE SALARY INDICES FOR MANAGERS AND PROFESSIONALS

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THE AVERAGE SALARY LEVEL FOR MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, AS INDICATED BY THE OVERALL NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (A), WAS 10.4% HIGHER IN JUNE THIS YEAR THAN IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

THE OVERALL NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (B), WHICH MEASURES CHANGES IN THE AVERAGE SALARY LEVEL ONLY FOR THOSE MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES WHO REMAINED IN THE SAME OCCUPATION AND IN THE SAME COMPANY IN BOTH 1991 AND 1992, ROSE BY 13.8% OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE FINDINGS OF THE 1992 SURVEY OF SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT) RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

BOTH SALARY INDICES (A) AND (B) ARE DESIGNED TO MEASURE CHANGES IN SALARY LEVELS.

HOWEVER, BY CONFINING TO THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO REMAINED IN THE SAME OCCUPATION AND IN THE SAME COMPANY IN 1991 AND 1992, THE SALARY INDEX (B) ONLY ACCOUNTS FOR SALARY CHANGES DUE TO GENERAL INCREMENT, MERITORIOUS INCREASE AND GAIN IN SENIORITY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SALARY INDEX (A) TAKES INTO ACCOUNT EFFECTS OF LABOUR MOBILITY AS WELL.

THE RATE OF INCREASE OF THE SALARY INDEX (B) IS USUALLY HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE SALARY INDEX (A) BECAUSE THE SALARY INDEX (A) INCLUDES THE SALARIES OF NEWLY RECRUITED AND NEWLY PROMOTED EMPLOYEES, WHO TEND TO BE PAID COMPARATIVELY LOWER SALARIES THAN THOSE ALREADY IN THE SAME RANK.

BETWEEN JUNE 1991 AND JUNE 1992, THE NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (A) FOR LARGE COMPANIES INCREASED BY 9.7% AND THAT FOR MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES BY 10.6%.

AS REGARDS THE NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (B), THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES WERE 13.9% AND 13.8% RESPECTIVELY.

BY DEFLATING THE NOMINAL SALARY INDICES BY THE HANG SENG CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, THE REAL SALARY INDICES ARE OBTAINED TO MEASURE CHANGES IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EARNED.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE REAL SALARY INDEX (A) AND THE REAL SALARY INDEX (B) REGISTERED INCREASES OF 0.4% AND 3.5% RESPECTIVELY IN JUNE 1992.

AMONG THE MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COVERED IN THE SURVEY, 68% OF THEM WERE ENTITLED TO PROFIT-SHARING BONUS, 38% TO HOUSING BENEFITS OF SOME KIND AND 79% TO PROVIDENT/RETIREMENT FUND OR PENSION.

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IT WAS ALSO FOUND THAT 85% OF THEM WERE ENTITLED TO GUARANTEED YEAR-END BONUS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING THE ANNUAL SURVEY OF SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT) SINCE 1984 TO MEASURE CHANGES IN SALARY RATES FOR MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

A SAMPLE OF ABOUT 200 LARGE AND MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES IS COVERED IN THE SURVEY. BOTH LOCAL AND EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES WORKING IN COMMON OCCUPATIONS OF MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS ARE ENUMERATED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE SALARY RATE IS DEFINED TO INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO BASIC SALARIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE, GUARANTEED YEAR-END BONUS, COMMISSION AND TIPS, AND OTHER GUARANTEED AND REGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE TOTAL PAY PACKAGE OF EMPLOYEES AT MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS, SUCH AS PROFIT-SHARING BONUS AND HOUSING BENEFITS, ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF THE SALARY RATE.

HOWEVER, STATISTICS ON FRINGE BENEFITS ARE SEPARATELY COMPILED. THEY ARE EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGES OF EMPLOYEES INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY ENTITLED TO THEM.

DETAILS OF THE SALARY MOVEMENT, AVERAGE SALARY RATE FOR MAJOR OCCUPATIONS AND STATISTICS ON EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENT TO VARIOUS FRINGE BENEFITS, TOGETHER WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY METHODOLOGY, ARE PUBLISHED IN THE "1992 REPORT OF SALARY AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT)".

THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT \$25 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SALARY INDICES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE 582 4746 OR 582 5595.

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Nominal Salary Indices (A) and (B) analysed
by major economic sector for June 1992

(June 1983 = 100)

Selected major economic sector	Nominal Salary Index (A)	Nominal Salary Index (B)
Manufacturing, electricity, gas and steam	260.1 (+14.5)	323.5 (+14.1)
Building and construction and related trades	258.7 (+9.3)	356.7 (+12.1)
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades	265.3 (+11.5)	360.8 (+14.9)
Transport, storage and communication	225.2 (+7.3)	322.6 (+13.6)
Financial institutions and insurance	291.8 (+8.8)	384.5 (+15.0)
All sectors above	264.0 (+10.4)	353.5 (+13.8)

Note : All indices are rounded to one decimal place.

Figures in brackets are percentage changes for June 1992 over June 1991 and are calculated from indices rounded to one decimal place.

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STATEMENT ON MEDICAL SURVEY

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE RESULTS OF AN OPINION SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE HONG KONG PUBLIC DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION AND THE GOVERNMENT DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION AMONG PUBLIC HOSPITAL DOCTORS LAST MONTH, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- * IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS ALWAYS A MATTER OF CONCERN NOT ONLY TO THE STAFF BUT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
- * WE HAVE NOTED THE LOW RESPONSE RATE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES WHICH REPRESENTED ONLY 13 PER CENT OF ALL PUBLIC HOSPITAL DOCTORS.
- * IN THAT CONTEXT AND PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE OF DETAILED ANALYSIS, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON THE VALIDITY OR OTHERWISE OF THE SURVEY CONCERNED.

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EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD STARTS WORK

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THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD SET UP TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION AND AVAILABILITY OF RETRAINING COURSES FOR THE BENEFITS OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES MET FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY (TUESDAY).

IT IS TASKED TO IDENTIFY PARTICULAR OCCUPATIONS THAT HAVE HIGH VACANCY RATES AND OF WHICH LOCAL EMPLOYEES MAY SECURE EMPLOYMENT BY ATTENDING RETRAINING COURSES TO ACQUIRE NEW OR ENHANCED VOCATIONAL SKILLS.

IT WILL ALSO LIAISE WITH TRAINING BODIES, OTHER RELATED ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON THE DESIGN, ADMINISTRATION AND AVAILABILITY OF RETRAINING COURSES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD IS DR SAMUEL WONG PING-WAI AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN IS MR LARRY TCHOU MING-HONG.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE:

- * MR HO SAI-CHU, DR LUI MING-WAH, MR HENRY TANG YING-YEN AND MRS HELEN PRICE REPRESENTING EMPLOYERS;
- * MR CHEUNG WOOD-LUN, MR LEUNG FU-WAH, MR LEUNG TSZ-LEUNG AND MS LI FUNG-YING REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES;
- * THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE;
- * THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY;

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- * THE CENTRE MANAGER OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY;
- * THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE; AND
- * A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FROM THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, MEMBERS DISCUSSED THE PLANNED RETRAINING COURSES RECOMMENDED BY THE COURSE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, PROPOSED TARGETS OF RETRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT-LINKED RETRAINING PROGRAMMES.

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COMMITTEE DISCUSSES WIDE-RANGING TRANSPORT ISSUES

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MET TODAY (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS A FARE INCREASE APPLICATION FROM THE STAR FERRY COMPANY, THE COMPULSORY FITTING OF REAR SEAT BELTS IN NEW PRIVATE CARS AND THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINT UNIT'S THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT FOR 1992.

AT THE MEETING, TAC MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED OF A PLAN TO RECONSTRUCT A SECTION OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND A PERFORMANCE PLEDGE SCHEME OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

ON STAR FERRY'S FARE INCREASE APPLICATION, MEMBERS NOTED THAT FARES WERE LAST REVISED IN SEPTEMBER 1990.

GIVEN THE RISING OPERATING COSTS AND LOW PATRONAGE GROWTH, THE AFTER-TAX PROFIT OF THE COMPANY WITHOUT A FARE RISE IS EXPECTED TO DROP SIGNIFICANTLY FROM \$9 MILLION IN 1991 TO \$6.5 MILLION IN 1992 AND THEN TO \$3.3 MILLION IN 1993.

THE STAR FERRY IS SEEKING FARE INCREASES WITH EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR AT AN AVERAGE INCREASE RATE LOWER THAN THE INFLATION RATE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1990 AND FEBRUARY 1993, WHICH IN TERMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX A IS ESTIMATED AT 27 PER CENT.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT IN THE CALCULATION OF THE FARE INCREASES, IT WAS ASSURED THAT THE POTENTIAL LOSS IN REVENUE ARISING FROM THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF THE FREE TRAVEL SCHEME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WOULD NOT BE PASSED ON TO OTHER PASSENGERS.

THE MEETING WAS ALSO INFORMED OF A PLAN BY STAR FERRY TO INTRODUCE A FOUR-DAY TOURIST TICKET FOR UNLIMITED TRAVEL ON SCHEDULED SERVICES OF BOTH STAR FERRY AND HK TRAMWAYS AT \$20 EACH.

TAC'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FARE INCREASES WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD BETWEEN THE TOLL PLAZA AND SHA TIN ROAD, MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WOULD EXPEDITE THE WORK BY CARRYING OUT SOME QUIETER WORK THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.

AS A RESULT, THE RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD WOULD BE SHORTENED FROM 20 TO 16 MONTHS. WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JULY NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN NOVEMBER 1994.

STAGE ONE OF THE RECONSTRUCTION WILL INVOLVE THE CLOSURE OF ONE OF THE FOUR TRAFFIC LANES BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND SHA TIN ROAD. TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION, TIDAL FLOW TRAFFIC WILL BE INTRODUCED DURING MORNING AND EVENING PEAK HOURS.

STAGE TWO OF THE RECONSTRUCTION WILL INVOLVE THE CLOSURE OF ONE OF THE FIVE TRAFFIC LANES BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND THE TOLL PLAZA.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN TWO-LANE TRAFFIC IN EACH DIRECTION, THE EXISTING BUS LANE ON THIS SECTION OF THE ROAD MAY HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED DURING STAGE TWO OF THE RECONSTRUCTION.

DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD, THE SPEED LIMIT ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD WILL BE REDUCED FROM 70 TO 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR AND THERE WOULD BE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY TO INFORM MOTORISTS OF THE WORKS.

TODAY'S MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED A PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE FITTING OF REAR SEAT BELTS IN NEW PRIVATE CARS A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT.

MEMBERS ADVISED THAT THE FITTING AND WEARING OF REAR SEAT BELTS SHOULD BE MADE A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT SIMULTANEOUSLY IF THE PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

ON THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE SCHEME, MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD IMPLEMENT THE SCHEME WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 14, 1992.

THE SCHEME, WHICH AIMS TO PROVIDE BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICES TO PEOPLE APPLYING FOR VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENCES, WILL BE MONITORED BY TAC.

THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINT UNIT (TCU) FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1992 WAS TABLED AT TODAY'S MEETING.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE AIR HORN, WHICH REPLACED THE FOOTGONG AS THE AUDIBLE WARNING SYSTEM ON TRAM IN AUGUST, WAS THE CAUSE OF SEVERAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE NOISE LEVEL WHEN IT WAS SOUNDED.

BUT, ACCORDING TO THE HK TRAMWAYS, SINCE THE AIR HORN WAS INTRODUCED, THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RATE OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING TRAMS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER HAD DROPPED BY 30 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE MONTHLY AVERAGE FOR JANUARY TO JULY THIS YEAR.

AS A RESULT OF THESE COMPLAINTS AND IN VIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AIR HORN TO REDUCE TRAM ACCIDENTS, THE HK TRAMWAYS WILL BE ASKED TO ADVISE THEIR MOTORMEN TO USE THE AIR HORN ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY SO AS TO MINIMISE THE LEVEL OF NOISE.

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IN THE THIRD QUARTER COVERING JULY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 1992, TCU RECEIVED 2,894 COMPLAINTS/SUGGESTIONS COMPARED WITH 2,398 IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

THE INCREASE IS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION.

ALL COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND WHERE JUSTIFIED, THE CASES WILL BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY FOR ACTION.

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NEW PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT MR BOWEN LEUNG PO-WING WILL BE ATTACHED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE FROM DECEMBER 7 THIS YEAR.

HE WILL SUCCEED MR RICHARD HOARE AS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR LATER IN THE MONTH.

AS ARRANGED SOME TIME AGO, MR HOARE WILL THEN ATTEND A TRAINING COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MR LEUNG, AGED 43, FIRST JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN 1973 AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

HE ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, MR LEUNG SERVED IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE THEN HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

FROM 1984 TO 1990, HE SERVED IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION BOTH AT THE HEADQUARTERS AND MONG KOK, YAU MA TEI AND EASTERN DISTRICTS.

HE TOOK UP HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS IN SEPTEMBER 1990.

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SERVICE EXPANDS TO CARE FOR UNATTENDED CHILDREN
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS FURTHER EXPANDED ITS OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE THIS MONTH, A CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER, MRS KATHERINE SHIN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE SERVICE IS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT INTRODUCED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN NOVEMBER 1989 WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING THE RISK OF LEAVING UNATTENDED YOUNG CHILDREN AT HOME.

"A REVIEW OF THE PROJECT HAS INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY, WE THEREFORE EXTEND THE PROJECT FOR A FURTHER 12 MONTHS," MRS SHIN SAID.

A TOTAL OF 75 CHILD CARE CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT, OFFERING 225 PLACES TO CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX.

SHE APPEALED TO PARENTS WHO HAD TO LEAVE HOME FOR URGENT ENGAGEMENT TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE SERVICE, RATHER THAN LEAVING YOUNG CHILDREN UNATTENDED AT HOME.

"A FLEXIBLE MODE OF FEE CHARGING HAS ALSO BEEN ADOPTED FOR PARENTS WHO NEED THE SERVICE FOR A SHORT SPAN OF TIME," SHE SAID.

UNDER THE SCHEME, THE CENTRES OFFER SHORT-TERM TEMPORARY CARE ON SESSIONAL BASIS, CHARGING FEES IN THE RANGE OF \$10 TO \$15 PER ADMISSION.

CHARGES AT PRESENT ARE AT A RATE OF \$25 FOR HALF-DAY AND \$50 FOR FULL-DAY CARE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE SERVICE MAY CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255 OR THE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD-CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ON 836 3114.

"PARENTS COULD ALSO SEEK HELP FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S 30 FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY," MRS SHIN ADDED.

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ENJOY A DAY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
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ABOUT 700 TRAIL WALKERS AND A PRODUCTION TEAM OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG'S "TAKE IT EASY" PROGRAMME WILL BE STROLLING THE FAMILY WALK IN SAI KUNG THIS SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 29) TO MARK THE LAUNCHING OF THE "ENJOY COUNTRYSIDE DAY".

THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD, MR CARLOS CHEUNG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 9.30 AM AT SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE, PAK TAM CHUNG, SAI KUNG.

/ORGANISED BY

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ORGANISED BY THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND COMMITTEE, THE EVENT AIMS TO AROUSE PUBLIC INTEREST IN ENJOYING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND TO PARTICIPATE IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS HIKING AND PICNICKING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY IN SAI KUNG AND JOIN THE WALK.

THEY ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO ORGANISE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON TEL 594 5660.

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MOTION DEBATE ON NORTHWEST NT TRANSPORT

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL DEBATE A MOTION THAT CALLS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXTERNAL TRANSPORT NETWORK OF NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE MOTION WILL BE PROPOSED BY THE HON WONG WAI-YIN.

MEMBERS WILL ASK 19 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER FOUR BILLS THAT WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THE BILLS ARE THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 1992, EXEMPTIONS FROM REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF POWERS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL AND IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

AT THE MEETING, THE HON K K FUNG, THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK AND THE HON ALBERT CHAN WILL EACH MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

IN ADDITION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MOVE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE STANDING ORDERS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO BRIEF MEMBERS ABOUT HIS RECENT OVERSEAS VISITS AT A SITTING OF THE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 1.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS ORDINANCE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS IN THE PUBLIC GALLERIES BY CALLING 869 9492.

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WANG TAU HOM METHADONE CLINIC ON MOVE

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCES THAT THE WANG TAU HOM METHADONE CLINIC WILL MOVE TO THE LI KEE MEMORIAL DISPENSARY AT 99 CARPENTER ROAD, KOWLOON CITY NEXT TUESDAY (DECEMBER 1).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE CLINIC WOULD THEN BE OPERATED UNDER THE NAME OF LI KEE METHADONE CLINIC.

THOSE PATIENTS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED THE WANG TAU HOM METHADONE CLINIC BUT WISH TO RE-REGISTER CAN PROCEED TO THE LI KEE METHADONE CLINIC ON TUESDAY OR FRIDAY EVENINGS.

THE RELOCATION WILL NOT AFFECT THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE WANG TAU HOM JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

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201 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME

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A GROUP OF 201 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 89 MEN, 44 WOMEN, 38 BOYS AND 30 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 135TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 11,116 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 25,096 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	24 NOV 92	24 NOV 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q248	H278
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,270 MN	HKD 670 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 800 MN	HKD 300 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.71 PCT	3.88 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.77 PCT	3.88 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 33 PCT	ABOUT 93 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.74 PCT	3.94 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 30 NOVEMBER 1992 -

TENDER DATE	1 DEC 92	1 DEC 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q249	Y297
ISSUE DATE	2 DEC 92	2 DEC 92
MATURITY DATE	3 MAR 93	1 DEC 93
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 800+160 MN	HKD 200+60 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.5 *-0.1* 24.11.92	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.07 PCT	15 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.26	4.48
1 MONTH	3.35 PCT	18 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.26	4.66
3 MONTHS	3.69 PCT	21 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.29	4.86
6 MONTHS	3.82 PCT	24 MONTHS	2411	4.625	99.27	5.08
12 MONTHS	4.27 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,069MN

CLOSED 24 NOVEMBER 1992

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