



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FINAL REPORT ON LAND AUCTIONS PUBLISHED

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THE REVIEW PANEL ON LAND AUCTIONS TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED ITS FINAL REPORT WHICH RECOMMENDS THAT NO DRASTIC CHANGES BE MADE TO THE PRESENT LAND DISPOSAL SYSTEM AND AUCTION ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE GENERALLY REGARDED AS EFFECTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, THE PANEL PROPOSED THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM SHOULD BE FINE TUNED WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- * THE "GUIDELINES ON CONDUCT OF AUCTIONS" RECOMMENDED BY THE PANEL IN ITS INTERIM REPORT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED IN THE LIGHT OF ITS SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION IN THE LAST THREE AUCTIONS.
- * AUCTIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY EXPERIENCED AUCTIONEERS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SALE OF PROMINENT OR SPECIAL LOTS.
- * WHERE OVERALL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED LARGE LOTS SHOULD BE BROKEN UP INTO SMALLER ONES. THIS WOULD BRING MORE SITES WITHIN THE REACH OF SMALL DEVELOPERS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE DETERRED FROM BIDDING BECAUSE OF THE HIGH COST AND COMPLEXITY OF DEVELOPING A LARGE SITE.
- * THERE SHOULD BE FLEXIBILITY IN FORMULATING AN AUCTION TIMETABLE WITH DUE REGARD TO SPECIAL EVENTS AND SEASONAL FACTORS WHICH COULD AFFECT THE MARKET. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON LAND MATTERS WHICH COULD IMPACT ON LAND PRICES SHOULD BE AVOIDED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE AND AFTER AN AUCTION.
- * SALE BY TENDER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DURING A PARTICULAR PERIOD OF TIME WHEN PUBLIC AUCTIONS MAY NOT BE DESIRABLE DUE TO MARKET SENSITIVITY.
- * OTHER FORMS OF LAND DISPOSAL SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED WHERE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN AN AUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE SMALL OR WHERE CRITERIA OTHER THAN PRICE, SUCH AS DESIGN OR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS, ARE IMPORTANT IN DEVELOPING THE LOT.

THE PANEL HAS ALSO CONSIDERED AN ELECTRONIC BIDDING SYSTEM BEING EXAMINED IN SINGAPORE.

THE SYSTEM, WHICH ALLOWS BIDS BE MADE FROM ELECTRONIC DEVICES ISSUED TO INTERESTED PARTIES, COULD REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF COLLUSION SINCE BIDS WOULD ONLY BE SHOWN ON A SCREEN IN THE FRONT OF THE BIDDING HALL AND BIDDERS WOULD NOT KNOW AGAINST WHOM THEY WERE BIDDING.

HOWEVER, THE SYSTEM WOULD DAMPEN AN ACTIVE BIDDING ATMOSPHERE, AND HENCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF AN AUCTION. MOREOVER, ITS INTRODUCTION IN SINGAPORE AWAITS THE RESOLUTION OF TECHNICAL COMPLICATIONS.

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IN VIEW OF THIS, THE PANEL HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MONITOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM IN SINGAPORE AND REVIEW THE MATTER IN DUE COURSE.

THE PANEL ALSO CONSIDERED THAT INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF PRE-REGISTERING BIDDERS SHOULD NOT BE RECOMMENDED AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE IT COULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BIDDERS BY EXCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE NOT REGISTERED BEFOREHAND.

MOREOVER, IT WOULD NOT FIND FAVOUR WITH BIDDERS WHO PREFER TO KEEP THEIR IDENTITIES AND INTENTIONS CONFIDENTIAL PRIOR TO AN AUCTION.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY THANKED MEMBERS OF THE PANEL, PROFESSOR C K LEUNG, MS AUDREY EU AND MR NICK BROOKE FOR THE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT THEY HAD PUT INTO THE REVIEW WHICH HAD BEEN COMPREHENSIVE.

"THEY HAVE MADE VERY CONSTRUCTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FURTHER IMPROVE OUR LAND DISPOSAL SYSTEM AND AUCTION ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THEY HAVE ALSO CONFIRMED IN GENERAL WORK WELL.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED ALL THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS AND WILL IMPLEMENT THEM AS SOON AS IT IS PRACTICABLE TO DO SO," MR EASON SAID.

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HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME
AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO IMMEDIATE PROBLEM
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME INDICATED SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN WATER QUALITY IN VICTORIA HARBOUR IF WORKS WERE COMPLETED IN TIME.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WAS CARRIED OUT IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S STANDARD REQUIREMENT FOR SUCH A STUDY BEFORE ANY PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT MIGHT COMMENCE.

UNDER THE HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME, ALL WASTEWATER IN THE MAIN URBAN AREAS WOULD BE COLLECTED AND CHANNELLED TO STONECUTTERS ISLAND WHERE IT WILL GO THROUGH A CHEMICALLY ENHANCED SEDIMENTATION PROCESS BEFORE DISCHARGE INTO THE WESTERN HARBOUR.

THIS TREATMENT PROCESS, WHEN COMMISSIONED IN EARLY 1997, WOULD HELP CURTAIL HARBOUR POLLUTION BY 70%: REMOVING OVER 95% OF BACTERIAL POLLUTION (MEASURED BY E.COLI COUNTS), UP TO 80% OF SUSPENDED SOLIDS, 70% OF TOXIC METALS AND 65% OF THE ORGANIC POLLUTION (MEASURED BY BIOLOGICAL OXYGEN DEMAND).

THE TREATMENT PROCESS TO BE PROVIDED AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND IS COMMONLY ADOPTED BY MODERN CITIES IN THE STATES AND NORTHERN EUROPE. IT WOULD NOT PRE-EMPT ANY LONG-TERM SEWAGE DISPOSAL OPTIONS.

THE OCEANIC OUTFALL AS PROPOSED UNDER THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME OR OTHER SECONDARY TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES ALL NEED TO BE BUILT ON THIS FOUNDATION TREATMENT PROCESS.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CLARIFIED THAT OCEANIC OUTFALL WAS NOT THE ONLY OPTION BEING CONSIDERED.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING OTHER OPTIONS TO FURTHER UPGRADE THE TREATMENT PROCESS AND DISPOSE OF THE TREATED EFFLUENT WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS. THE REVIEW RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CLARIFIED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION COST OF THE HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME WAS \$8 BILLION, NOT \$68 BILLION QUOTED IN SOME RECENT PRESS REPORTS. THIS WILL BE FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN FULL.

WORKS UNDER THE HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME ARE SUBJECT TO NORMAL PUBLIC TENDER PROCEDURES.

THERE COULD NOT BE PREFERENTIAL AWARD OF CONTRACTS TO A PARTICULAR GROUP OF FIRMS.

IN FACT, OF THE CONTRACTS LET SO FAR, MOST OF THESE HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS.

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INTEREST RATES ON MOST TIME DEPOSITS UP IN OCTOBER: BULLETIN
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THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN, PUBLISHED BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA) TODAY (THURSDAY) INDICATES THAT INTEREST RATES ON TIME DEPOSITS WITH MATURITIES OF MORE THAN ONE MONTH HAVE GENERALLY RISEN FOLLOWING THE REMOVAL OF THE INTEREST RATE CAP ON SUCH DEPOSITS ON OCTOBER 1.

ACCORDING TO THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN, AVERAGE INTEREST RATES ON DEPOSITS FIXED FOR THREE MONTHS WERE UP 61 BASIS POINTS TO 5.36 PER CENT IN OCTOBER.

THE AVERAGE RATES ON DEPOSITS FIXED FOR SIX MONTHS AND ONE YEAR ROSE 69 BASIS POINTS TO 5.69 PER CENT AND 43 BASIS POINTS TO 6.18 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THESE AVERAGE RATES ARE BASED ON THE MAXIMUM RATES ON TIME DEPOSITS OF LESS THAN \$100,000 QUOTED BY 10 MAJOR BANKS IN HONG KONG.

THE BULLETIN, WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN THE SECOND WEEK OF EACH MONTH, WAS LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER AS A VEHICLE TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE DATA ON HONG KONG'S MONETARY AND BANKING ACTIVITIES.

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TRANSCRIPT OF MEDIA SESSION BY CHIEF SECRETARY

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, AFTER VISITING THE FIELD PATROL DETACHMENT OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE TODAY (THURSDAY):

CS: I THINK, ON A WHOLE, I AM VERY IMPRESSED FOR WHAT I'VE SEEN PARTICULARLY IN THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT. I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE BEFORE. I THINK IT IS VERY REASSURING TO KNOW THAT OUR LIVES AND OUR PROPERTY ARE IN SUCH EXCELLENT AND SAFE HANDS. SO, PEOPLE ACTUALLY DEMONSTRATING HOW THEY MIGHT DEFUSE TERRORIST SITUATIONS, SCALING WARS, DOING SOME VERY DIFFICULT FEATS, AND AS I SAID, I THINK IT IS EXTREMELY REASSURING TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE THIS GROUP OF VERY, VERY SKILLED POLICEMEN WHO WILL, AT GREATER RISK OF THEIR OWN LIVES, PROTECT THE LIFE AND PROPERTY HERE IN HONG KONG. I WAS ALSO TOLD BY THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE THAT IN TERMS OF THEIR ABILITIES AND THEIR SKILLS, THEY COMPARE WITH THE BEST ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. SO, THAT IS EXTREMELY REASSURING. AND, OF COURSE, HERE THE WORK OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IS A VERY ESSENTIAL AND A VERY NECESSARY PART OF POLICE WORK. IT'S NOT VERY GLAMOROUS WORK. IT'S VERY HARD WORK BUT NEVERTHELESS, THE POLICE DO AN EXCELLENT JOB AND BY PREVENTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, THEY DO, OF COURSE, HELP TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN CONTINUE TO ENJOY A GOOD STANDARD OF SERVICE WITHOUT THE THREAT OF ALWAYS KNOWING THAT THERE ARE LARGE NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS COMING ACROSS.

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EMSD IMPROVES AIR QUALITY IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

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THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVES TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, THE DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTOR, MR HUGH PHILLIPSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ADDRESSING THE "SYMPOSIUM ON HEALTHY BUILDINGS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT" AT A KOWLOON HOTEL THIS MORNING, MR PHILLIPSON NOTED THAT BACK IN 1985, EMSD TOOK THE LEAD IN DEALING WITH LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE BY SETTING UP THE LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE COMMITTEE.

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL BODY, INITIALLY FOCUSED ON THE PREVENTION OF LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE IN HOSPITALS AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

"AFTER THIS IT BROADENED ITS SCOPE, AND ITS LATEST WORK IS ON THE PRODUCTION OF A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE," HE ADDED.

THE CODE OF PRACTICE, WHICH WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, EXPLAINS THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM AND THE MEDICAL ASPECTS, AND PROVIDES DETAILED GUIDELINES ON HOW TO PREVENT THE DISEASE IN COOLING TOWERS, CONDENSATE PANS, CENTRALISED FRESH WATER SYSTEMS AND OTHER WATER SYSTEMS.

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ON THE BROADER ISSUE OF INDOOR AIR QUALITY (IAQ), MR PHILLIPSON SAID EMSD WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOOKING AFTER AIR-CONDITIONING AND VENTILATION FOR MORE THAN 2,000 BUILDINGS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT EMSD ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL IAQ TEAM IN 1993 TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS ON IAQ FROM BUILDING OCCUPANTS.

"THE TEAM HAS ADVANCED EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS CHEMICAL GAS ANALYSERS, RADON GAS DETECTORS, CARBON DIOXIDE DETECTORS, DUST COUNTERS, AND A BACTERIA INCUBATION SYSTEM AND COUNTER," MR PHILLIPSON EXPLAINED.

IN SPECIAL CASES, HE SAID, INDEPENDENT IAQ CONSULTANTS WERE ALSO EMPLOYED TO SURVEY BUILDINGS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

"FOLLOWING BOTH TYPES OF INVESTIGATION, IMPROVEMENT WORKS ARE CARRIED OUT TO RECTIFY ANY SITUATION WHERE IAQ IS BELOW INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS.

"SOON WE WILL HAVE TWO TEAMS SO THAT ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS WITH VENTILATION SYSTEMS AND AIR-CONDITIONING PLANT MAINTAINED BY US WILL HAVE THEIR IAQ CONSTANTLY MONITORED AND STANDARDS EFFECTIVELY MAINTAINED," HE ADDED.

EARLIER, MR PHILLIPSON POINTED OUT THAT DEFICIENCIES IN DESIGN, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF VENTILATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS WERE MAJOR IAQ PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG.

"INCREASED INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC, DEVELOPERS, AND BUILDING MANAGERS, SHOULD HELP TO ENSURE PROPER ATTENTION AND FUNDING ARE GIVEN BY CLIENTS AND USERS TO IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN STANDARDS.

"A GREATER DEGREE OF SELF-REGULATION BY THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION AND THE INDUSTRY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HELP," HE SAID.

MR PHILLIPSON FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT TO DESIGN FOR AND MAINTAIN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT WAS AN ESSENTIAL AND INCREASINGLY DEMANDING TASK TO ENSURE THAT CITIZENS ENJOY GOOD HEALTH NOW AND INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

"TO ACHIEVE THIS IN A CONTINUINGLY CHANGING SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CLIMATE, DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS HAVE A KEY ROLE IN DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING VENTILATION AND AIR-CONDITIONING PLANT TO MEET THE DEMANDS AND STANDARDS EXPECTED OF THEM," HE SAID.

ACCREDITED FARM SCHEME LAUNCHED

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AN "ACCREDITED FARM SCHEME", WHICH ENABLES CONSUMERS TO IDENTIFY PREMIUM, SAFE VEGETABLES WILL BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ANNOUNCING THE SCHEME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, SAID: "THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCREDITED FARM SCHEME MARKS A NEW ERA IN THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF PREMIUM SAFE VEGETABLES."

IT IS JOINTLY IMPLEMENTED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) AND THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION (VMO).

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME IS TO HELP CONSUMERS IDENTIFY AND PURCHASE SAFE VEGETABLES PRODUCED BY ACCREDITED FARMS, MONITORED AT THE PRODUCTION STAGE BY THE AFD AND SAMPLE CHECKED ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES BY VMO," DR LEE SAID.

THROUGH MONITORING AND SUPERVISION ON THE SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES AT THE PRODUCTION END, DR LEE HOPED THAT THE SCHEME COULD HELP TACKLE THE CONTAMINATED VEGETABLE ISSUE.

BEFORE BEING MARKETED, THE PRODUCE HAS TO UNDERGO SEVERAL STEPS OF CONTROL TO ENSURE THAT THEY REACH THE REQUIRED SAFETY STANDARD.

FIRST, THE FARMS HAVE TO BE ACCREDITED BY THE AFD BASED ON THE USE OF GOOD HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES. THESE FARMS WILL BE SUPERVISED AND MONITORED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES DURING THE PRODUCTION PERIOD. SAMPLE CHECKS ON THE PRODUCE WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT AT THE FIELD.

AT THE WHOLESALE LEVEL IN THE VMO MARKET, THE ACCREDITED PRODUCE WILL BE DISTINGUISHED BY SPECIALLY-LABELLED PLASTIC BASKETS. FURTHER PESTICIDE SCREENING TESTS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY VMO TO ENSURE THAT THE PRODUCE CONTAIN NO EXCESSIVE PESTICIDE RESIDUES.

THESE VEGETABLES WILL THEN BE PUT ON SALE AT ACCREDITED RETAIL OUTLETS, INCLUDING SUPERMARKETS, RETAIL STALLS AT WET MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS. THEY CAN BE EASILY IDENTIFIED THROUGH LABELS OF ACCREDITED RETAILERS ISSUED BY THE VMO.

THE SCHEME WILL INITIALLY COVER SOME 50 VEGETABLE FARMS IN TA KWU LING AND SHEK KONG. AT THE RETAIL END, IT WILL INVOLVE OVER 35 VEGETABLE SALES STALLS, 10 RESTAURANTS AND A MAJOR SUPERMARKET CHAIN.

THE FIRST LOT OF VEGETABLES TO BE MARKETED THROUGH THIS SCHEME WILL INCLUDE SPINACH, LETTUCE, WHITE CABBAGE, GARLAND'S CHRYSANTHEMUM AND SUPERSWEET CORN.

DR LEE STRESSED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHEME WOULD DEPEND VERY MUCH ON EFFORTS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES AS WELL AS THE RESPONSE AND SUPPORT OF CONSUMERS.

HE HOPED THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WOULD RENDER SUPPORT TO THE SCHEME AND GAVE THEIR VIEWS TO THE AFD SO THAT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, MR YUNG TIN-TAK, SAID LAW-ABIDING FARMERS WERE USUALLY HARD HIT BY THE OCCURRENCE OF CONTAMINATED VEGETABLE CASES WHEN THE PUBLIC, UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH THE SAFE PRODUCE, WOULD REFRAIN FROM BUYING CERTAIN TYPES OF VEGETABLES.

"AS A RESULT, A LARGE QUANTITY OF VEGETABLES WERE DUMPED AND WASTED," HE SAID.

MR YUNG WAS PLEASED THAT THE ACCREDITED FARM SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED TO HELP CONSUMERS IDENTIFY PREMIUM SAFE VEGETABLES, THUS MINIMISING THE LOSS TO THE LAW-ABIDING FARMERS.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S CONFERENCE WERE THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MISS VERA SO AND VMO'S GENERAL MANAGER MR EDWARD LAI.

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MANAGEMENT OF URBAN WASTE

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HONG KONG'S WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN, WHICH INCLUDES THREE VERY LARGE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS AND A SERIES OF REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS, SECURES A ROUTE FOR THE TERRITORY'S WASTE DISPOSAL WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

THE TASK NOW IS TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THESE DISPOSAL FACILITIES BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF WASTE GENERATED AND REQUIRING DISPOSAL.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, WHEN PRESENTING A PAPER ON "THE ROLE OF LANDFILL AND INCINERATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF URBAN WASTE" AT THE WORLD CONGRESS ON URBAN GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE DISPOSAL PLAN IS BASED ON MANY YEARS OF CAREFUL MONITORING OF THE QUANTITIES AND TYPES OF WASTE GENERATED IN HONG KONG, A TERRITORY-WIDE SEARCH FOR SUITABLE LOCATIONS FOR BOTH LANDFILL SITES AND INCINERATOR SITES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WASTE MANAGEMENT MODEL, DR REED SAID.

"THE CONCLUSION ARRIVED AT, ON THE BASIS OF THESE DETAILED STUDIES, WAS THAT AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE STRATEGY WITH THE LEAST COST WOULD COMPRISE THREE VERY LARGE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS SUPPLIED WITH WASTE FROM A SERIES OF REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS LOCATED IN THE MAJOR AREAS OF WASTE ARISING IN THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH HEATED DEBATE ON THE ROLE OF LANDFILL AND INCINERATION, DR REED SAID IT WAS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED WITHIN THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION THAT LANDFILL WAS, IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THE ONLY MEANS AVAILABLE FOR FINAL DISPOSAL OF THE IRREDUCIBLE RESIDUES OF URBAN COMMUNITIES WHILE INCINERATION WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF TREATMENT PROCESSES FOR WASTE PRIOR TO FINAL DISPOSAL.

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AND IT WAS LOCAL FACTORS THAT OFTEN DETERMINED THE EMPHASIS THAT SHOULD BE PLACED ON PRETREATMENT OF WASTE, HE SAID.

TESTIMONY TO THIS WAS THE FACT THAT SOME COUNTRIES, SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, TAIWAN, KOREA, USA AND UK, RELIED ON LANDFILL FOR THE DIRECT DISPOSAL OF 85 TO 98 PER CENT OF THEIR WASTE, WITH LITTLE PRETREATMENT BY INCINERATION OR ANY OTHER MEANS, WHEREAS OTHERS SUCH AS JAPAN, LUXEMBURG, SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN USED PRETREATMENT BY INCINERATION OR OTHER MEANS FOR 60 TO 77 PER CENT OF THEIR WASTE.

"IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE PROCESS HEAT GENERATION FOR DISTRICT HEATING AND OTHER PURPOSES, OR ELECTRICITY GENERATION, DOES NOT PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO OFFSET THE FUNDAMENTALLY HIGH COST OF INCINERATION, AND WHERE SUITABLE SITES CANNOT BE FOUND FOR INCINERATORS CLOSE TO THE CENTRE OF WASTE ARISING, BUT REMOTE SITES CAN STILL BE FOUND FOR LARGE LANDFILLS, THEN HIGH STANDARD LANDFILLING OF UNTREATED WASTE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE BEST OPTION UNTIL LOCAL CONDITIONS CHANGE," DR REED SAID.

WHILE INCINERATION HAD NOT YET FOUND A ROLE IN HONG KONG'S STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL WASTE, IT DID HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH SPECIAL WASTE, SUCH AS CERTAIN CHEMICALS FROM INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, CLINICAL WASTE, ANIMAL CARCASSES AND THE CREMATION OF HUMAN REMAINS, HE SAID.

"CURRENT PLANNING CALLS FOR A 33 TONNES A DAY INCINERATOR FOR THE TREATMENT OF CLINICAL WASTE TO BE LOCATED ON A SITE IN THE WEST OF THE TERRITORY AND, OF COURSE, WE ALREADY HAVE A SPECIALIST INCINERATOR AS PART OF THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE ON TSING YI ISLAND," DR REED SAID.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, DR REED SAID HIS DEPARTMENT HAD COMMISSIONED A MAJOR STUDY WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WOULD ESTABLISH THE POTENTIAL FOR AVOIDANCE OF WASTE AND ASSESS THE POTENTIAL FOR RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING, AS WELL AS VARIOUS BULK REDUCTION PROCESSES, INCLUDING INCINERATION.

"RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THIS STUDY, WHICH ARE DUE IN APRIL 1995, WILL BE USED AS A BASIS FOR UPDATING THE TERRITORY'S STATUTORY WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN," HE SAID.

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GUIDELINES ON OPEN STORAGE AND PORT BACK-UP USES ENDORSED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD HAS ENDORSED A SET OF GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION FOR PORT BACK-UP AND OPEN STORAGE USES.

THE GUIDELINES WERE DRAWN UP FOLLOWING A STUDY ON PORT BACK-UP LAND AND OPEN STORAGE REQUIREMENTS COMMISSIONED BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE STUDY WAS TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF PORT BACK-UP AND OPEN STORAGE USES IN HONG KONG AND TO PREPARE A STRATEGY FOR ACCOMMODATING THE FUTURE LAND REQUIREMENT.

THE STUDY CONCLUDED THAT THE FUTURE LAND REQUIREMENT FOR PORT BACK-UP AND OPEN STORAGE SITES WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW SUBSTANTIALLY.

"TO MEET THE FORECAST LAND REQUIREMENT AND TO MITIGATE THE ADVERSE IMPACTS BROUGHT BY SUCH ACTIVITIES ON THE SURROUNDING AREA, THE STUDY HAS RECOMMENDED A STRATEGY WHICH IS TO BE PRINCIPALLY IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE DESIGNATION OF SITES FOR THESE USES ON STATUTORY PLANS AND THE PROCESSING OF RELEVANT PLANNING APPLICATIONS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID.

"THE GUIDELINES ARE PREPARED TO FACILITATE THE ASSESSMENT OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR OPEN STORAGE AND PORT BACK-UP USES.

"THEY ARE APPLICABLE TO AREAS WHERE OPEN STORAGE AND PORT BACK-UP USES REQUIRE PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD. EXAMPLES OF SUCH AREAS INCLUDE LAND ZONED 'OPEN STORAGE', 'INDUSTRIAL (GROUP D)' AND 'UNSPECIFIED USE'," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

OPEN STORAGE USES ARE THOSE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT ON A SITE MOSTLY UNCOVERED AND USED FOR STORAGE, WHILE PORT BACK-UP USES ARE THOSE PORT-RELATED ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE SITUATED OFF-PORT.

"ACCORDING TO THE GUIDELINES, THE PLANNING INTENTION OF THE GENERAL AREA IN WHICH OPEN STORAGE AND PORT BACK-UP USES ARE PROPOSED IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSESSING THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

"IN GENERAL, PLANNING PERMISSION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED IN AREAS WHERE THE INTENTION IS TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF THESE FACILITIES, AND/OR TO ENCOURAGE THEIR RELOCATION TO OTHER MORE APPROPRIATE AREAS.

"THESE FACILITIES WILL ALSO NOT NORMALLY BE PERMITTED ON SITES CLOSE TO SENSITIVE RECEIVERS OR SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS. OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS SITE PLANNING, TRANSPORT PROVISION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSESSING PLANNING APPLICATIONS."

COPIES OF THE GUIDELINES ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE PLANNING INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATION UNIT, PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1994

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TRADERS FINED \$851,000 FOR FALSE CLAIM TO GARMENT ORIGIN

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THREE TRADERS TODAY (THURSDAY) WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$851,000 BY A SAN PO KONG MAGISTRATE FOR APPLYING A FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTION AND FALSELY DECLARING THE ORIGIN OF SOME LADIES' GARMENTS.

THE THREE DEFENDANTS PLEADED GUILTY TO APPLYING A FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTION "MADE IN THE BRITISH CROWN COLONY OF HONG KONG" TO 808 DOZENS OF LADIES' GARMENTS AND FALSELY DECLARING THE ORIGIN OF 4,228 DOZENS OF LADIES' GARMENTS IN 10 APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT LICENCES AND SIX APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN.

THE GOODS INVOLVED WORTH \$2.85 MILLION AND WERE FOR EXPORT TO THE USA.

THE THREE TRADERS WERE FUNG SIU-YING, SHIPPING MANAGER OF UNIVERSAL GARMENT COMPANY; CHAN CHIK-TUNG, PROPRIETOR OF TAI TUNG (YUK KEE) GARMENT FACTORY AND YAU CHOI-KING, DIRECTOR OF THREE GOOD GARMENT.

THE COURT HEARD THAT AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT REVEALED THAT THESE GARMENTS WERE MANUFACTURED BY A FACTORY IN CHINA.

ANOTHER GARMENT MANUFACTURER AND ITS DIRECTOR WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$320,000 FOR GIVING FALSE INFORMATION IN TWO APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN AND MAKING FALSE STATEMENT IN TWO APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT LICENCE.

THE DEFENDANTS WERE TESTONI KNITTING FACTORY LIMITED AND ITS DIRECTOR CHENG PING WING, ANTONIO.

THE GOODS VALUED AT \$1.5 MILLION FOR EXPORT TO THE USA, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA WERE MADE IN CHINA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE OFFENCES WERE SERIOUS.

OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD STEP UP THEIR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO TRACK DOWN SUCH MALPRACTICES TO PROTECT THE COMMERCIAL REPUTATION OF HONG KONG AND TO ENSURE THAT THE CONFIDENCE OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS IN HONG KONG'S TEXTILES CONTROL SYSTEM WOULD NOT BE UNDERMINED BY SOME DISHONEST BUSINESSMEN.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR GIVING FALSE INFORMATION IN A CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN APPLICATION OR AN IMPORT NOTIFICATION IS \$500,000 FINE PLUS TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON EACH COUNT OF OFFENCE. THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN AN EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATION IS THE SAME.

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FULL RANGE OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

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THE GOVERNMENT, IN VIEW OF A STEADY INCREASE IN ELDERLY POPULATION, WILL PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES TO MEET THE VARYING NEEDS OF ELDERLY PERSONS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE YUEN YUEN CARE AND ATTENTION HOME FOR THE AGED IN TSUEN WAN THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

"AT PRESENT, THE ELDERLY POPULATION AGED 60 AND ABOVE IS 810,000 AND BY THE YEAR 2000, THE ELDERLY POPULATION WILL INCREASE TO 927,000, OR 15.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION," MR STRACHAN SAID.

ON THE POLICY OBJECTIVE IN RESPECT OF WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, MR STRACHAN SAID IT WAS TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE ELDERLY PERSONS TO CONTINUE LIVING WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND IN THE COMMUNITY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

"NEVERTHELESS, RESIDENTIAL SERVICES ARE NECESSARY FOR SOME ELDERLY PERSONS WHO, FOR HEALTH AND OTHER REASONS, ARE UNABLE TO LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES AND WHO HAVE NO RELATIVES OR FRIENDS TO ASSIST WHEN REQUIRED.

"IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE MORE THAN 4,000 SUBVENTED RESIDENTIAL PLACES AND PURCHASE 700 PLACES IN PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY UNDER THE BOUGHT-PLACE SCHEME.

"THE YUEN YUEN CARE AND ATTENTION HOME, PROVIDING 150 PLACES, IS ONE OF THE PROJECTS MEETING THE WORKING TARGET PLEDGED BY THE GOVERNOR," HE SAID.

MR STRACHAN SAID THE YUEN YUEN INSTITUTE, SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1950, HAD OVER THE YEARS EXPANDED ITS SCOPE OF SERVICES TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY.

THE INSTITUTE NOW OPERATES ONE HOME FOR THE AGED, ONE CLINIC, ONE PRIMARY SCHOOL, TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FOUR KINDERGARTENS.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE HELPS PEOPLE WITH AIDS
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A CHRISTMAS CARD SALE ATTENDED BY MRS PATTEN TODAY (THURSDAY) HAS RAISED MONEY TO HELP PEOPLE WITH AIDS AND HIV, THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

THE SALE IS ORGANISED BY THE KESWICK FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT AIDS CONCERN'S BUDDY SERVICE.

"MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT HOW HIV IS TRANSMITTED HAVE CAUSED A LOT OF FEAR AND ANXIETY IN OUR SOCIETY," MRS PATTEN SAID.

"UNFORTUNATELY, THIS HAS LED TO THE REJECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS.

"MANY OF THEM DARE NOT REVEAL THEIR STATUS TO THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES. AS A RESULT, THEY MAY FEEL THAT THEY HAVE NO ONE TO TURN TO," SHE SAID.

MRS PATTEN NOTED THAT AIDS CONCERN'S BUDDY SERVICE OFFERED SUCH PEOPLE A COMPANION TO TALK TO, WITHOUT FEAR OF REJECTION OR DISCLOSURE.

SHE HOPED THAT AS A RESULT OF TRAINING OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE COMMUNITY TO WORK IN THE AIDS FIELD, AIDS CONCERN WILL ALSO HELP TO OVERCOME SOCIETY'S FEAR AND PREJUDICE.

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CLOSURE OF HUNG HOM ILLEGAL STRUCTURE SOUGHT
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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN HUNG HOM SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE OCCUPANTS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURE USED FOR DWELLING IS LOCATED ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF A BUILDING AT THE JUNCTION OF 2-20 MING ON STREET, 103-105 BAKER STREET AND 2J-2K BULKELEY STREET.

A NOTICE APPLYING FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON MARCH 8 NEXT YEAR WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,492	0930	+70
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,153	1000	-182
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-147
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-147	1200	-147
LAF TODAY	-192	1500	-147
		1600	-147

LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER TWI 121.0 *+0.3* 10.11.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.96	18 MONTHS	2605	6.35	99.81	6.59
1 MONTH	4.48	23 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.19	6.98
3 MONTHS	5.01	29 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.69	7.32
6 MONTHS	5.42	36 MONTHS	3710	7.25	99.40	7.62
12 MONTHS	6.02	58 MONTHS	5909	7.45	97.27	8.30

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,656 MN

CLOSED 10 NOVEMBER 1994