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REVIEW OF OVERSEAS TRADE IN 1987 PUBLISHED

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THE HONG KONG REVIEW OF OVERSEAS TRADE IN 1987 WILL BE ON SALE FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

IT CONTAINS A BRIEF TEXT ON HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE PERFORMANCE IN 1987, 13 GRAPHS AND 39 STATISTICAL TABLES WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1987 AND EARLIER YEARS.

THE REVIEW PRESENTS A SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE DIRECTION AND COMPOSITION OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN 1987.

A CONCISE AND COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF TRADE BY MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS AND BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY CATEGORIES, AND STATISTICS ON HONG KONG'S EXPORTS PERFORMANCE IN WORLD TRADE AND IN PRINCIPAL OVERSEAS MARKETS COMPARED WITH OUR MAJOR COMPETITORS, ARE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLICATION.

STATISTICS ON EXCHANGE RATES OF PRINCIPAL FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND THE EFECTIVE (TRADE-WEIGHTED) EXCHANGE RATE INDEX FOR THE HONG KONG DOLLAR ARE ALSO PROVIDED.

ACCORDING TO THE REVIEW, IMPORTS ROSE BY 37 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS IN 1987 OVER 1986, WHICH WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN THE 19 PER CENT INCREASE RECORDED IN 1986 OVER 1985.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED DURING 1987 IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA (BY $35,724 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (BY $15,507 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT), WHILE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (BY $179 MILLION OR 7 PER CENT) AND BURMA (BY $94 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY 27 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS IN 1987, AS COMPARED WITH THE 19 PER CENT INCREASE IN 1986.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORT TO CHINA INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY $9,849 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT WHILE THAT TO THE UNITED STATES GREW BY $8,598 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO IRAQ DECREASED BY $176 MILLION OR 91 PER CENT.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN VALUE TERMS WAS REGISTERED FOR IMPORTS OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $14,731 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT) AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $11,404 MILLION OR 48 PER CENT).

/HOWEVER, DECREASES .....

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF (BY $48 MILLION OR 4 PER CENT) AS WELL AS PROCESSED ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS, AND WAXES OF ANIMAL OR VEGETABLE ORIGIN (BY $33 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT).

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY $13,159 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT) AS WELL AS IN TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $5,050 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY $83 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY $17 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS GREW SIGNIFICANTLY BY 49 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS IN 1987 AS COMPARED WITH THE 16 PER CENT IN INCREASE 1986. RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA AND TO THE UNITED STATES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY $19,277 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT, AND BY $10,092 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO AFGHANISTAN (BY $44 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT) AND TO IRAN (BY $32 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT).

THE COMMODITIES WITH SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN VALUE TERMS INCLUDED TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY $8,238 MILLION OR 41 PER CENT) AS WELL AS MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY $7,541 MILLION OR 73 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERD FOR TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY $318 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT) AS WELL AS COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, SPICES, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF (BY $220 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT).

IN 1987, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY $32,669 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT, WITH THE LARGEST INCREASE RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY $6,680 MILLION OR 87 PER CENT).

THE UNITED STATES REMAINED THE LARGEST MARKET, ABSORBING 33 PER CENT OF ALL RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN THROUGH HONG KONG.

THE MAJOR GROWTH IN THIS MARKET WAS RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY $3,459 MILLION OR 71 PER CENT).

THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE TRADE IN 1987, REPRESENTING 22 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, INCREASED BY $39,722 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH 1986.

/IN TERMS .....

IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, AIRBORNE TRADE CONTINUED TO CONSTITUTE ABOUT 1 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TRADE IN 1987.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN AIRBORNE TRADE WERE REGISTERED FOR IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES (BY $3,827 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT), DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES (BY $3,550 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT) AND RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN (BY $1,955 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT).

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF INCREASED BY $5,944 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT; WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY AIR OF CLOTHING INCREASED BY $4,227 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT.

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF GREW BY $3,243 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT.

AS REGARDS SEABORNE TRADE, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 55 PER CENT IN VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN 1987, AN INCREASE OF $104,299 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT WAS RECORDED.

IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, 89 PER CENT OF TOTAL TRADE WAS CARRIED BY SEA IN 1987 AS COMPARED WITH THE SHARE OF 91 PER CENT IN 1986.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM JAPAN (BY $12,046 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT) AS WELL AS IN SEABORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND SEABORNE RE-EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES (BY $5,021 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT AND BY $8,345 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY CATEGORIES, THE VALUE OF SEABORNE IMPORTS OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY $8,230 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT AND SEABORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING INCREASED BY $8,419 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT.

AN INCREASE IN SEABORNE RE-EXPORTS WAS RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY $6,465 MILLION OR 81 PER CENT).

THE REVIEW ALSO PRESENTS UNIT VALUE INDEXES AND QUANTUM INDEXES WHICH ARE USEFUL IN ASSESSING THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE.

DURING 1987, IN TERMS OF VOLUME, IMPORTS INCREASED BY 32 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 23 PER CENT, WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 46 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH 1986.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUMES OF METAL ORES AND SCRAP (BY 54 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (BY 43 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (BY 28 PER CENT) AS WELL AS METAL MANUFACTURES (BY 27 PER CENT).

/SIGNIFICANT INCREASES .....

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF CONSUMER GOODS (BY 36 PER CENT); CAPITAL GOODS (BY 35 PER CENT) AS WELL AS RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (BY 33 PER CENT).

AS FOR THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR CONSUMER GOODS (BY 53 PER CENT); CAPITAL GOODS (BY 49 PER CENT) AS WELL AS RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (BY 43 PER CENT).

BASED ON UNIT VALUE INDEXES, IMPORT PRICES ROSE BY 4 PER CENT WHILE TOTAL EXPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX, DEFINED AS THE RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX, DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT.

WITHIN TOTAL EXPORTS, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

ACCORDING TO THE COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS PROVIDED UP TO 1986 IN THE REVIEW, HONG KONG WAS THE LARGEST WORLD EXPORTER OF TOYS AND GAMES AS WELL AS IMITATION JEWELLERY IN 1986.

HONG KONG WAS ALSO THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF CLOTHING (FOLLOWING ITALY) AND THE THIRD LARGEST EXPORTER OF COMPLETE WATCHES (FOLLOWING SWITZERLAND AND JAPAN).

HONG KONG RANKED FOURTH REGARDING EXPORTS OF RADIO-BROADCAST RECEIVERS (FOLLOWING JAPAN, TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA), AND FIFTH REGARDING EXPORTS OF TRAVEL GOODS AND HANDBAGS (FOLLOWING TAIWAN, ITALY, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND FRANCE).

THE REVIEW WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT $20 PER COPY. ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8234915.

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SMALL INVESTORS SHOULD MAKE CAREFUL ASSESSMENT

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SMALL INVESTORS NEED TO BE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE RISKS INVOLVED IF THEY DECIDE TO ENGAGE IN SHORT-TERM SPECULATION IN STOCKS AND SHARES, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION ON CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES AT THE TUEN MUN PLAZA, MR NENDICK SAID IT WAS OFTEN A MUCH SAFER AND BETTER STRATEGY TO REGARD THE STOCK MARKET AS A MEANS OF MEDIUM OR LONG-TERM INVESTMENT.

/A DECISION .....

A DECISION TO INVEST IN THE STOCK MARKET SHOULD NOT, THEREFORE, BE A CASUAL DECISION, HE SAID.

"THE POTENTIAL INVESTOR SHOULD ASSESS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, HIS FINANCIAL POSITION, HIS EXISTING AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS, HIS INCOME PATTERN AND CASH FLOW," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK ADDED THAT THE CHOICE OF THE STOCKS OR SHARES IN WHICH TO INVEST REQUIRED CAREFUL THOUGHT AND EVALUATION.

HE SAID THE DECISION SHOULD NOT BE DETERMINED BY MARKET RUMOURS OR BY THE "SHEER EBBS AND FLOWS OF THE MARKET TIDE".

"THE INVESTOR SHOULD AIM TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON THE COMPANIES IN WHICH HE PLANS TO INVEST; TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE RELIABLE AND WELL-ESTABLISHED, THEIR PERFORMANCE RECORD, PROJECTIONS, NET ASSET VALUE AND HENCE THE EXISTING AND EXPECTED WORTH OF THEIR SHARES," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT BECAUSE OVERALL RISK COULD BE REDUCED BY SPREADING THE RISK OVER A NUMBER OF UNCONNECTED INVESTMENTS, THERE WERE OFTEN ADVANTAGES IN MAKING A NUMBER OF MODEST PURCHASES OF DIFFERENT STOCKS AND SHARES RATHER THAN PUTTING ALL THE MONEY IN THE SHARES OF A SINGLE COMPANY.

TURNING TO THE WORK OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS SET UP FOLLOWING EVENTS IN THE MARKETS LAST OCTOBER, MR NENDICK SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS HARD AT WORK AND AIMED TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

"I BELIEVE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL PROVIDE USEFUL GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE ACTION TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE MARKETS AND TO PROTECT INVESTORS SO THAT HONG KONG CAN MAINTAIN ITS REPUTATION AND STANDING AS ONE OF THE MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRES OF THE WORLD," HE SAID.

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FEBRUARY ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL FIGURES RELEASED

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IN FEBRUARY 1988, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER JANUARY 1988 BUT SHOWED A DECREASE COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND, MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS, REFERS TO THE POSITION AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

/COMPARED WITH .....

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988, THE VOLUME OF ORDERS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, A DECREASE IN ORDERS WAS RECORDED IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1988 WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1987, THE ORDERS POSITION DROPPED IN MOST INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY IN THE TEXTILES AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES.

THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, HOWEVER, REPORTED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN ORDERS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECREASED IN FEBRUARY 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH BOTH JANUARY 1988 AND FEBRUARY 1987.

PARTLY AFFECTED BY THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD, EMPLOYMENT IN ALL INDUSTRIES SURVEYED RECORDED DECREASES IN FEBRUARY 1988 OVER JANUARY 1988.

WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987, EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY 1988 DROPPED IN MOST INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, EXCEPT THE FOOD AND DRINKS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES IN WHICH SLIGHT INCREASES IN EMPLOYMENT WERE RECORDED.

IN FEBRUARY 1988, BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR SHOWED SOME DECREASES WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988 BUT INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER FEBRUARY 1987.

CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE FIGURES ON PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

THESE FIGURES WERE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, WHICH OCCURRED IN LATE JANUARY LAST YEAR BUT IN MID FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

THUS, THE TIMING FOR THE ISSUE OF DOUBLE PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES BY EMPLOYERS TO THEIR WORKERS DIFFERED.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1988 WITH JANUARY 1988, SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE RECORDED IN SOME OF THE INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, MAINLY DUE TO THE AWARD OF DOUBLE PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES IN JANUARY 1988.

ON THE OTHER HAND, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE TEXTILES AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, AS SOME OF THE FIRMS ISSUED DOUBLE PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES IN FEBRUARY 1988.

/COMPARED WITH .....

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987, BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN ALL INDUSTRIES SURVEYED IN FEBRUARY 1988, WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES RECORDED IN THE TEXTILES AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY 1988 DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH BOTH JANUARY 1988 AND FEBRUARY 1987. PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988 BUT INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY OVER FEBRUARY 1987.

IN THE SERVICES SECTORS SURVEYED, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY 1988 REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME AS IN JANUARY 1988 BUT INCREASED SLIGHTLY COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987.

SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE RECORDED IN FEBRUARY 1988 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988, FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF DOUBLE PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES IN SOME FIRMS IN JANUARY 1988.

HOWEVER, BOTH PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS SHOWED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES OVER FEBRUARY 1987, WITH PARTICULARLY LARGE INCREASE RECORDED IN HOTELS.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN TABLES 1 AND 2 BELOW.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE INDICATED BY THE SURVEY MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

NEVERTHELESS, THESE RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1988 IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALE COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WAN CHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT $1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234820.

Table 1 : Orders-on-hand in manufacturing industries

Industry	Orders-on-hand for February 1988 (months)	Change when compared Jan. 88 (%)	Change when compared Feb. 87 (%)
All Industries	4.36	+1	-2
Wearing apparel	4.64	-2	-2
Textiles	2.84	*	-7
Plastic products	3.53	+12	-12
Fabricated metal products	4.28	+1	-3
Electrical and electronic products	5.01	+1	+1
Others	4.20	*	-4

Table 2 : Employment and earnings

Industry/Services	Persons engaged at the end of February 1988		Per capita earnings		
	Change when compared with Jan. 88 (%)	Feb. 87 (%)	in February 88 (HK$)	Change when compared Jan. 88 (%)	Feb. 87 (%)
Manufacturing	-2	-4	4,375	-2	+43
Food and drinks	-2	+1	4,436	-23	+14
Wearing apparel	-3	-9	3,898	-4	+30
Textiles	-1	-2	6,023	+33	+79
Plastic products	-2	-3	3,354	-35	+75
Fabricated metal products	-3	+2	4,372	-2	+38
Electrical and electronic products	-2	-2	4,240	-14	+33
Others	-1	-3	6,368	-6	+44
Construction#	-2	-1	6,043	-3	+34
Services	*	+2	7,715	-15	+29
Banks	-1	+3	6,338	-23	+12
Hotels	-3	*	8,919	-4	+137
Public utilities	*	-1	7,177	-21	+21
Others	*	+9	9,885	-1	+39

* Changes within ±0.5%

\# Persons engaged cover company employees only; site workers employed by labour-only sub-contractors are not included.

Note : Unlike "orders-on-hand" and "per capita earnings" which are average figures amongst the firms surveyed, the total number of persons engaged by the firms surveyed is not meaningful information on its own (because this is a panel survey) and is therefore not shown.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY AIDS CENSUS ANALYSTS

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DATA FROM THE 1981 POPULATION CENSUS AND 1986 POPULATION BY-CENSUS CAN NOW BE RETRIEVED AND ANALYSED TO PRODUCE TAILOR-MADE TABULATIONS AND MAPS AT THE WISH OF MICROCOMPUTER USERS.

A NEW TECHNOLOGY ON THE USE OF DATA STORED ON A CD ROM (COMPACT DISK READ ONLY MEMORY) FOR MICROCOMPUTER USERS WILL BE DEMONSTRATED AT A SOFTWARE/HIGH TECHNOLOGY DISPLAY TO BEGIN ON TUESDAY (APRIL 19).

THE CD ROM, WHICH IS ABOUT 12 CM IN DIAMETER, HAS A LARGE STORAGE CAPACITY OF 540 MEGABYTES AND STORES THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THE HONG KONG 1981 POPULATION CENSUS AND 1986 POPULATION BY-CENSUS AGGREGATED TO TERTIARY PLANNING UNIT LEVEL.

IT ALSO CONTAINS DIGITAL BASE MAPS OF HONG KONG AND A SOFTWARE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING TABULATION AND MAPPING FACILITIES.

WITH THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY, DATA FROM POPULATION CENSUSES ON DEMOGRAPHIC, HOUSEHOLD, HOUSING, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION CAN BE MANIPULATED AT THE HANDS OF END USERS TO FACILITATE PLANNING, DECISION MAKING, FORMULATION OF MARKETING STRATEGY, AND SO ON.

THE PRODUCT IS PRODUCED JOINTLY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND SPACE-TIME RESEARCH PTY LTD, AN AUSTRALIAN HIGH-TECH COMPANY, AND WILL BE SHORTLY MARKETED IN HONG KONG TO PROVIDE USE OF POPULATION CENSUS DATA.

THOSE PERSONS INTERESTED CAN ATTEND A DEMONSTRATION OF THE PRODUCT IN THE AUSTRALIAN SOFTWARE/HIGH TECHNOLOGY DISPLAY.

THIS WILL BE HELD ON THE 21ST FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 23 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI FROM 11 AM TO 5 PM DAILY ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY.

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HEIGHT RESTRICTION FOR VILLAGE HOUSES RELAXED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS RELAXED THE HEIGHT RESTRICTION OF VILLAGE HOUSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A PAMPHLET EXPLAINING THE NEW CRITERIA UNDER WHICH THE HEIGHT OF SMALL HOUSES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES CAN BE EXTENDED FROM THE EXISTING 7.62 METRES (25 FEET) TO 8.23 METRES (27 FEET) HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED.

THE PAMPHLET HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH VARIOUS OFFICIAL AND COMMUNITY OUTLETS.

SUMMARISING THE NEW REGULATION UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE (APPLICATION TO THE NEW TERRITORIES) ORDINANCE 1987, GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR ROGER NISSIM, SAID THE RELAXED HEIGHT RESTRICTION IS BASED UPON CERTAIN CRITERIA.

"OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IS THE INCREASE IN THICKNESS OF THE LOAD-BEARING WALLS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN 175 MILLIMETRES (6.89 INCHES) IN CASE OF REINFORCED CONCRETE WALL AND NOT LESS THAN 340 MILLIMETRES (13.39 INCHES) FOR GROUND FLOOR; OR 225 MILLIMETRES (8.86 INCHES) FOR UPPER FLOORS IN CASE OF BRICK WALLS," HE SAID.

"NO DOORWAY, ARCHWAY, WINDOW OR OTHER OPENING, SHALL BE ALLOWED IN THE LOAD-BEARING PARTY WALLS SEPARATING ONE UNIT FROM ANOTHER.

"CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FOR BUILDING WORK, SITE FORMATION AND DRAINAGE WORK MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY BUILDING WORKS."

MR NISSIM EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WISHED TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL ENVIRONMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THAT THIS WAS A PIECE OF A WIDER RANGE OF PROPOSALS THAT IT WISHED TO IMPLEMENT.

THE EMPHASIS IS TO ENSURE THAT NEW HOUSES ARE BUILT WITH ADEQUATE SAFETY STANDARDS AND WITH ADEQUATE SANITATION.

MR NISSIM WARNED THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS NEW ORDINANCE WILL RESULT IN STRICT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, INCLUDING LEASE ENFORCEMENT AND RE-ENTRY ACTIONS BEING TAKEN AGAINST OFFENDERS.

COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET OUTLINING THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE NEW ORDINANCE HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE HEUNG YEE KUK, VARIOUS RURAL COMMITTEES AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON REQUEST FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE ORDINANCE AND REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET MAY BE DIRECTED TO 5-296125 OF THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SECTION, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

NEW CUSTOMS LOGO FOR A NEW ROLE

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THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE HAS JUST ENTERED A NEW ERA WITH THE ADOPTION OF A NEW DEPARTMENTAL LOGO AS FROM APRIL THIS YEAR.

THE PRESENT CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE ESTABLISHED IN 1909 UNDER THE THEN IMPORT AND EXPORT DEPARTMENT.

SINCE THEN IT HAS UNDERGONE MANY SIGNIFICANT STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT, EACH CHARACTERISED BY MAJOR RE-CONSTRUCTIONS AND REFORMS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE SERVICE STILL RETAINED THE STYLE OF RANK INSIGNIA AND LOGO USED BY THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE FORMER WATERGUARDS IN THE UK.

THE CHANGE IS TO GIVE THE DEPARTMENT AN IDENTITY BEFITTING THE ROLE IT PLAYS AS THE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF HONG KONG.

THE DIRECTORATE AND JUNIOR OFFICERS OF THE SERVICE HAVE LONG BEEN USING MILITARY RANK INSIGNIA AND THIS HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO THE INSPECTORATE AND SUPERINTENDENT RANKS.

THE CHANGES ALSO BRING THE SERVICE IN LINE WITH ALL OTHER DISCIPLINED FORCES IN THE TERRITORY, ALL OF WHICH USE MILITARY RANK INSIGNIA.

HOWEVER, THE MOST INNOVATIVE OF THE CHANGES IS THE NEW DEPARTMENTAL LOGO WHICH IS ALSO USED FOR THE CAP BADGE.

ACCORDING TO ITS DESIGNER, CUSTOMS OFFICER LIU SAI-WAH, THE NEW LOGO IS UNIQUE AND SHOULD CLEARLY BRING OUT THE DEPARTMENT'S STATUS AS AN INDEPENDENT CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION, MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG HAS BECOME A FULL MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL SINCE LAST YEAR.

HENCE, THE WORDS "HONG KONG" ARE INCLUDED IN ADDITION TO "CUSTOMS".

THE CENTRE OF THE LOGO IS A DIAMOND-SHAPED SILVER PIECE BEARING THE CHINESE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT, SURROUNDED BY A GOLDEN RING INCORPORATING THE DEPARTMENT'S ENGLISH NAME, MAKING THE DESIGN THREE-DIMENSIONAL.

THE USE OF BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE CLASSICAL LETTER TYPES INDICATES THE IMPORTANCE OF CUSTOMS WORK IN HISTORY AND THE HISTORICAL MISSION THE DEPARTMENT HAS TO FULFIL, AS DISTINCT FROM OTHER "MODERN" DEPARTMENTS.

THE OUTERMOST SILVER RAYS AROUND THE GOLDEN RING STAND FOR CONTINUOUS PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND A BRIGHT FUTURE, A GOAL THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR.

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS, PURCHASES

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987, ESTIMATED AT $6,533 MILLION, WAS 17 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS 10 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986.

THIS IS SHOWN BY THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 WAS $2,769 MILLION, WHICH WAS 14 PER CENT HIGHER IN VALUE TERMS THAN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986.

ANALYSED BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT, "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES", COMPRISING HERB TEA SHOPS, CREAMERIES AND OTHER OUTLETS SELLING BEAN CURD JELLY AND SO ON RECORDED THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE (20 PER CENT) IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986.

THESE WERE FOLLOWED BY NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS (17 PER CENT), CHINESE RESTAURANTS (17 PER CENT), FAST FOOD SHOPS (16 PER CENT) AND BARS (5 PER CENT).

IN VOLUME TERMS, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES", NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS, CHINESE RESTAURANTS, FAST FOOD SHOPS AND BARS WENT UP BY 11 PER CENT, 10 PER CENT, 9 PER CENT, 12 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE YEAR OF 1987 WITH THE YEAR OF 1986, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS ROSE BY 18 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME; AND THE TOTAL VALUE OF PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS INCREASED BY 20 PER CENT.

IN VALUE TERMS, CHINESE RESTAURANTS RECORDED THE LARGEST GROWTH IN TOTAL RECEIPTS (19 PER CENT), FOLLOWED BY FAST FOOD SHOPS (15 PER CENT), NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS (14 PER CENT), "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" (14 PER CENT) AND BARS (10 PER CENT).

IN VOLUME TERMS, THE GROWTH IN THE TOTAL RECEIPTS RECORDED BY CHINESE RESTAURANTS, FAST FOOD SHOPS, NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS, "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" AND BARS WERE 13 PER CENT, 11 PER CENT, 8 PER CENT, 7 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

/COMPARING THE .....

COMPARING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER - AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS - TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS WENT UP BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME; AND THE VALUE OF PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT.

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME; AND THOSE OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

HOWEVER, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME; THOSE OF FAST FOOD SHOPS BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME; AND THOSE OF NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS BY 5 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TOTAL PURCHASES OF THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RECEIPTS BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100. ALSO TABULATED ARE COMPARISONS OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987 AND FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986. COMPARISONS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR OF 1987 WITH THE YEAR OF 1986 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT $1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 5-8234941).

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/TABLE 1 : .....

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		3rd qtr. 1987 (Revised figures)	4th qtr. 1987 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(in HK$ million)	6 079	6 533
Total purchases by restaurants	(in HK$ million)	2 651	2 769

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 3RD QUARTER 1987 AND 4TH QUARTER 1987

(Quarterly average of October 84 - September 85 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Index of total restaurant receipts	3rd quarter 1987	4th quarter 1987	4th qtr. 1987 compared with 3rd qtr. 1987		4th qtr. 1987 compared with 4th qtr. 1986		1st-4th qtr. 1987 compared with 1st-4th qtr. 1986	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
Chinese restaurants	Value	130	145	15	12	21	17	21	19
	Volume	119	130	12	10	11	9	14	13
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	131	124	-6	-5	18	17	15	14
	Volume	116	110	-7	-6	10	10	8	8
Fast food shops	Value	147	144	-3	-2	20	16	18	15
	Volume	138	134	-4	-3	15	12	13	11
Bars	Value	120	135	15	13	7	5	11	10
	Volume	106	119	13	12	2	2	6	5
Other eating and drinking places	Value	138	136	-1	-1	22	20	16	14
	Volume	123	121	-2	-1	12	11	7	7
Entire restaurant sector	Value	131	141	10	7	20	17	19	18
	Volume	119	126	7	6	11	10	13	12

Note: Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.

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SCHOOLS INTERPORT A WORTHY VENTURE

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THE HONG KONG AND MACAU SCHOOLS INTERPORT BADMINTON AND HOCKEY COMPETITION AND DANCE EXCHANGE PROVIDED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES AND TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR LI WAS SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, HELD AT THE HONG KONG HOTEL, TO MARK THE END OF THE EVENTS.

HE SAID HE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT THESE EVENTS WERE MOST CONDUCIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BETTER REGIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND BETTER RELATIONSHIPS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

"SCHOOLS INTERPORT SPORT COMPETITIONS BEGAN IN 1974 AND THERE WAS ONLY A HOCKEY COMPETITION AT FIRST BUT BY NOW EIGHT OTHER SPORTS HAVE BEEN ADDED," MR LI SAID.

THE SPORT COMPETITIONS INCLUDED ATHLETICS, BADMINTON, BASKETBALL, CROSS-COUNTRY, FOOTBALL, SWIMMING, TABLE-TENNIS AND VOLLEYBALL.

DANCE HAD BEEN FEATURED AS A CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME SINCE 1981.

THESE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE EXTENDED TO GUANGDONG IN 1985.

THE SPORT COMPETITIONS AND DANCE EXCHANGE WERE CONCLUDED YESTERDAY.

"BY PARTICIPATING IN THE SPORTS AND DANCE EXCHANGE, OUR ATHLETES AND DANCERS HAVE A MEANINGFUL GOAL TO WORK TOWARDS AND IN THE PROCESS THEIR STANDARDS ARE CONSTANTLY RAISED," MR LI SAID.

HE CONGRATULATED PARTICIPATING STUDENTS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES AND ALSO THANKED THE OFFICIALS FOR THEIR EFFICIENT ORGANISATION.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE AND PROSPER," HE ADDED.

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PAMPHLET ON YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES PUBLISHED

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THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROMOTION COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH HAS PUBLISHED A PAMPHLET TO INFORM YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG.

THE COLOUR PAMPHLET, ENTITLED "TO SEE THE WORLD", IS PRESENTED IN FOUR CHAPTERS-STUDENT EXCHANGES, INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS, STUDY TOURS, AND SPORTS.

EACH CHAPTER PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE NAMES OF PROGRAMMES, THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ORGANISING BODIES, THE AIMS, APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DURATIONS OF THE PROGRAMMES, AS WELL AS THE FEES FOR PARTICIPANTS.

COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET, WHICH IS IN CHINESE, CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE 19 DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED.

IN A FOREWORD, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, MRS ROSANNA TAM, POINTS OUT THAT PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES PROVIDES YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH DIFFERENT CULTURES.

THIS WILL WIDEN THEIR HORIZON, AND SHE SAYS THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN SUCH ACTIVITIES.

"THEREFORE THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROMOTION COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH HOPES THAT, BY MEANS OF THE PAMPHLET, YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A SYSTEMATIC INTRODUCTION TO THE VARIOUS YOUTH ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, AND THAT THE CONCERNED BODIES WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO ORGANISE OR SPONSOR MORE YOUTH ACTIVITIES," SHE SAYS.

"THE COMMITTEE HOPES TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED SO THAT MORE SIMILAR PUBLICATIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED, AND REFLECT SOCIETY'S CONCERN AND LOVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE."

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MUSIC OFFICE RECRUITS NEW CHOIR MEMBERS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE IS NOW INVITING TALENTED SINGERS AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 23 TO JOIN ITS YOUTH CHOIR.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1980, THE MUSIC OFFICE YOUTH CHOIR HAS PERFORMED WITH RENOWNED MUSICIANS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.

/IT REHEARSES .....

IT REHEARSES EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT THE MONG KOK MUSIC CENTRE FROM 4.30 PM TO 7 PM.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE. COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD REACH THE YAU MA TEI MUSIC CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, GOLDEN GATE COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 138 AUSTIN ROAD, BEFORE MAY 14.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AN AUDITION. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-7226240.

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EXTENSIONS TO 12 SCHOOLS

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR BUILDING CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS TO 12 SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TOWNS.

THE WORK WILL INVOLVE CONSTRUCTING ONE ADDITIONAL SINGLE STOREY TWO-CLASSROOM EXTENSION TO EACH OF FOUR HALF INTERLOCKING SCHOOLS AND EIGHT FULL INTERLOCKING SCHOOLS.

DETAILS OF THE WORK REQUIRED ARE GIVEN IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BETWEEN JULY AND NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON APRIL 29.

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ENROLMENT FOR CHILDREN'S CHOIR BEGINS

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CHILDREN WHO ARE LIVING OR STUDYING IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT AND ARE INTERESTED IN SINGING CAN NOW APPLY TO JOIN THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1982, THE CHOIR HAS MADE NUMEROUS SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC PERFORMANCES AT DISTRICT FUNCTIONS AND AS PART OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMES. IT ALSO PERFORMED BEFORE THE QUEEN DURING THE ROYAL VISIT IN 1986.

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN TO THOSE AGED TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS AND ABOVE, AND AN AUDITION WILL BE ARRANGED LATER.

/TRAINING SESSIONS .....

TRAINING SESSIONS FOR CHOIR MEMBERS WILL BE HELD EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE. THE TRAINING FEE IS $50 PER MONTH.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE AT 490 NATHAN ROAD, AND THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 30. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-323791.

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BIRD STAMPS ISSUED ON WEDNESDAY

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A SPECIAL SET OF FOUR STAMPS FEATURING FOUR SPECIES OF BIRDS FOUND IN HONG KONG WILL BE ISSUED BY THE POST OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 20).

THE STAMPS ARE IN DENOMINATIONS OF 50 CENTS, $1.30, $1.70 AND $5.

"POSTCARDS SHOWING AN ENLARGEMENT OF THE BIRD DESIGN AND OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS ARE ALREADY ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES," A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ALL POST OFFICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE CROWDED WITH CUSTOMERS ON WEDNESDAY.

IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC TO TRANSACT NORMAL POSTAL BUSINESS, ADDITIONAL SPECIAL COUNTERS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE MAIN POST OFFICES.

EXTRA STAFF WILL BE ON DUTY AT MOST POST OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY.

BUT QUEUES ARE NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED TO FORM AND THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO SHOW TOLERANCE AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO TRANSACT THEIR NORMAL POSTAL BUSINESS ON THE PRECEDING DAY OR THE DAY FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE.

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LEISURE SPOT FOR SQUATTER VILLAGE IN SOUTHERN

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A SQUATTER VILLAGE IN POK FU LAM NOW HAS A PLEASANT SITTING OUT AREA, THANKS TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD.

LOCATED IN THE CENTRE OF TAI WAN NEW VILLAGE, THE 270-SQUARE-METRE OPEN SPACE PROVIDES THE 1,000 RESIDENTS IN THE AREA WITH ARBOURS, BENCHES, CHESS TABLES AND FACILITIES FOR TABLE TENNIS.

THE SPACIOUS SETTING ALSO MAKES IT AN IDEAL PLACE FOR MORNING EXERCISES AND FOR HOLDING VARIOUS VILLAGE FUNCTIONS.

THE PROJECT WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AS PART OF ITS MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME, AT A COST OF OVER $100,000.

THE COMMITTEE COMPLETED A SIMILAR PROJECT FOR RESIDENTS IN POK FU LAM VILLAGE LAST MONTH.

A TOTAL OF 27 PROJECTS, COSTING $590,000, WERE COMMISSIONED BY THE COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE THE AMENITIES, ACCESSES, AND SQUATTER AREA ENVIRONMENT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE DISTRICT.

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TWO WATER CUTS, LOWER PRESSURE

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 20) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY HIP WO STREET, SHUI NING STREET AND WAN HON STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL ALSO BE TURNED OFF FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY KING'S ROAD, HING FAT STREET, WHITFIELD ROAD, ELECTRIC ROAD AND MERLIN STREET, INCLUDING WATSON ROAD, KING MING ROAD, GLASS STREET AND USD DEPOT.

IN ADDITION, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE REDUCED IN PRESSURE FROM 10 AM TO MIDNIGHT ON WEDNESDAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY GLOUCESTER ROAD, LEIGHTON ROAD, MORRISON HILL ROAD, HENNESSY ROAD, FLEMING ROAD AND THE SEAFRONT.

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