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PROPERTY TRANSACTION FIGURES FOR MAY

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS, MAINLY FLATS, RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION IN THE LAND REGISTRY LAST MONTH INCREASED BY 17.5 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, BUT DECREASED BY 26.6 PER CENT COMPARED WITH MAY LAST YEAR.

IN ALL, 13,678 AGREEMENTS WERE RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION DURING THE MONTH. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WAS ABOUT $33.9 BILLION.

THESE FIGURES ARE INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY STATISTICS ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION IN THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE LAND REGISTRAR.

A TABLE SHOWING THE RELEVANT STATISTICS FOR APRIL 1993 AND FOR MAY LAST YEAR IS ALSO RELEASED.

THERE WERE 11 BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 14, 309 OTHER MORTGAGES RECEIVED FOR REGISTRATION IN THE MONTH, COMPARED TO NINE AND 14,970 RESPECTIVELY IN MAY LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW BUILDING MORTGAGES IN MAY WAS $3.3 BILLION COMPARED WITH $0.55 BILLION IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES DROPPED BY 19.9 PER CENT FROM ABOUT $8.72 BILLION IN MAY 1992 TO $6.98 BILLION IN MAY 1993.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, INCREASED BY 94.6 PER CENT FROM ABOUT $4.22 BILLION IN MAY 1992 TO ABOUT $8.21 BILLION IN MAY 1993.

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/THE LAND .....

THE LAND REGISTRY

Consolidated Monthly Statistics in respect of deeds received for registration in the Urban and New Territories District Land Registries

Month : May 1993

Item	Nature of Deeds	Number of Deeds received for registration			Consideration ($)		
		Urban	New Territories	Total	Urban	New Territories	Total
1.	Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Building Units	7,713 (7,966)	5,965 (6,076)	13,678 (14,042)	24,809,529,790.91	9,060,153,722.92	33,869,683,513.83
2.	Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Land	31	331	362	4,159,080,000.00	1,254,729,574.16	5,413,809,574.16
	Sub-total (1) + (2)	7,744	6,296	14,040	28,968,609,790.91	10,314,883,297.08	39,283,493,087.99
3.	Assignments of Building Units	9,605 (9,724)	4,466 (4,615)	14,071 (14,339)	18,649,584,017.30	6,207,570,460.81	24,857,154,478.11
4.	Assignments of Land	29	585	614	4,183,563,668.00	3,721,983,127.16	7,905,546,795.16
	Sub-total (3) + (4)	9,634	5,051	14,685	22,833,147,685.30	9,929,553,587.97	32,762,701,273.27
5.	Building Mortgages/Building Legal Charges	8	3	11	3,211,700,000.00	53,500,000.00	3,265,200,000.00
6.	Other Mortgages/Legal Charges	9,643	4,666	14,309	5,464,106,482.81	1,520,587,829.30	6,984,694,312.11
	Sub-total (5) + (6)	9,651	4,669	14,320	8,675,806,482.81	1,574,087,829.30	10,249,894,312.11
7.	Receipts/Discharges/Releases	5,265	3,115	8,380	7,659,477,405.82	547,377,520.66	8,206,854,926.48
8.	Leases/Tenancy Agreements	399	152	551			
9.	Exclusion Orders	1	0	1			
10.	Others	3,513	2,945	6,458			
	Total	36,207	22,228	58,435	68,137,041,364.84	22,365,902,235.01	90,502,943,599.85

Note : Figures in brackets denote number of units involved

/THE LAND .....

THE LAND REGISTRY

Comparison of Monthly Statistics

Month : May 1993

Item	1993 May	1993 April	1992 May	May 1993 Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with April 1993		May 1993 Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with May 1992	
				No. or Consideration	Percentage	No. or Consideration	Percentage
1. Agreements for Sales and Purchase of Building Units							
(a) No.	13,678	11,639	18,637	+ 2,039	+ 17.5	- 4,959	- 26.6
(b) Consideration	$33,869,683,513.83	$27,397,357,130.28	$39,633,375,541.72	+ $6,472,326,383.55	+ 23.6	- $5,763,692,027.89	- 14.5
2. Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Land							
(a) No.	362	260	529	+ 102	+ 39.2	- 167	- 31.6
(b) Consideration	$5,413,809,574.16	$3,336,705,411.53	$9,708,472,944.49	+ $2,077,104,162.63	+ 62.3	- $4,294,663,370.33	- 44.2
Sub-total of (1) + (2)							
(a) No.	14,040	11,899	19,166	+ 2,141	+ 18.0	- 5,126	- 26.7
(b) Consideration	$39,283,493,087.99	$30,734,062,541.81	$49,341,848,486.21	+ $8,549,430,546.18	+ 27.8	- $10,058,355,398.22	- 20.4
3. Assignments of Building Units							
(a) No.	14,071	9,596	14,885	+ 4,475	+ 46.6	- 814	- 5.5
(b) Consideration	$24,857,154,478.11	$18,475,965,521.57	$28,894,700,447.97	+ $6,381,188,956.54	+ 34.5	- $4,037,545,969.86	- 14.0
4. Assignments of Land							
(a) No.	614	512	813	+ 102	+ 19.9	- 199	- 24.5
(b) Consideration	$7,905,546,795.16	$1,697,895,962.37	$7,016,713,332.50	+ $6,207,650,832.79	+ 365.6	+ $888,833,462.66	+ 12.7
Sub-total of (3) + (4)							
(a) No.	14,685	10,108	15,698	+ 4,577	+ 45.3	- 1,013	- 6.5
(b) Consideration	$32,762,701,273.27	$20,173,861,483.94	$35,911,413,780.47	+ $12,588,839,789.33	+ 62.4	- $3,148,712,507.20	- 8.8
5. Building Mortgages/Building Legal Charges							
(a) No.	11	6	9	+ 5	+ 83.3	+ 2	+ 22.2
(b) Consideration	$3,265,200,000.00	$529,720,000.00	$548,100,500.00	+ $2,735,480,000.00	+ 516.4	+ $2,717,099,500.00	+ 495.7
6. Other Mortgages/Legal Charges							
(a) No.	14,309	10,502	14,970	+ 3,807	+ 36.3	- 661	- 4.4
(b) Consideration	$6,984,694,312.11	$13,668,553,383.67	$8,724,252,894.39	- $6,683,859,071.56	- 48.9	- $1,739,558,582.28	- 19.9
Sub-total of (5) + (6)							
(a) No.	14,320	10,508	14,979	+ 3,812	+ 36.3	- 659	- 4.4
(b) Consideration	$10,249,894,312.11	$14,198,273,383.67	$9,272,353,394.39	- $3,948,379,071.56	- 27.8	+ $977,540,917.72	+ 10.5
7. Receipts/Discharges/Releases							
(a) No.	8,380	6,302	12,441	+ 2,078	+ 33.0	- 4,061	- 32.6
(b) Consideration	$8,206,854,926.48	$2,751,305,398.34	$4,217,806,293.27	+ $5,455,549,528.14	+ 198.3	+ $3,989,048,633.21	+ 94.6

WEATHER OF MAY

* * * * *

THE WEATHER IN MAY WAS VERY TYPICAL OF THE SEASON IN TERMS OF BOTH TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL WAS 338.4 MILLIMETRES, JUST SEVEN PER CENT ABOVE THE MAY NORMAL OF 316.7 MILLIMETRES.

MOST OF THE RAIN WAS ASSOCIATED WITH MONSOON TROUGHS WHICH AFFECTED THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE PASSAGE OF A TROUGH ON THREE OCCASIONS IN THE FIRST HALF OF MAY WAS EACH FOLLOWED BY A WEAK SURGE OF LATE-SEASON NORTHEAST MONSOON DOWN THE TAIWAN STRAIT, WHILE A SLOW-MOVING TROUGH BROUGHT A PERIOD OF PROLONGED RAINY WEATHER TO HONG KONG IN THE SECOND HALF OF MAY.

AS A RESULT OF THE SHORTFALL IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1993, THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF 558.2 MILLIMETRES SINCE JANUARY 1 REMAINED BELOW AVERAGE BY ABOUT NINE PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE NORMAL OF 616.5 MILLIMETRES FOR THE PERIOD.

WITH A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE FORMING OVER GUANGDONG AND MOVING SOUTH TOWARDS THE COAST, MAY STARTED WITH A DELUGE WHICH LED TO 51 CASES OF FLOODING AND NINE REPORTS OF LANDSLIPS OVER THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH.

THE HEAVIEST DOWNPOUR OCCURRED IN THE TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN AREAS WHERE OVER 200 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN WAS RECORDED DURING THE PERIOD. THERE WERE INTENSE THUNDERSTORMS ON THE EARLY MORNING ON MAY 1 AND AGAIN ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 2.

FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE AND WEAKENING OF THE TROUGH, RAIN EASED OFF EARLY ON MAY 3. TOWARDS THE EVENING, EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED AND BROUGHT SOME LIGHT RAIN.

CLOUDY AND HUMID CONDITIONS CONTINUED INTO THE NEXT DAY WITH RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE MORNING, MIST PATCHES IN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING, AND THICK DRIZZLE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.

MAY'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF 20.6 DEGREES OCCURRED EARLY THAT DAY IN RAIN.

WITH WINDS TURNING SOUTHEASTERLY, RAIN BECAME LESS FREQUENT ON MAY 5 AND THE SUN SHONE BRIEFLY. MOIST MARITIME AIR BEGAN TO MOVE IN OVER THE COASTAL WATERS THAT EVENING AND FOG FORMED.

FOR THE NEXT TWO MORNINGS, SEA FOG AFFECTED VICTORIA HARBOUR. THE WEATHER WAS OTHERWISE FINE AND SUNNY FROM MAY 6 TILL THE EARLY PART OF MAY 9.

HOWEVER, IT TURNED FOR THE WORSE LATER ON MAY 9 AS ANOTHER TROUGH PASSED THROUGH THE TERRITORY. ONCE AGAIN, TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN BORE THE BRUNT OF THE TORRENTIAL RAIN AND SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS WHICH PERSISTED TILL MIDNIGHT.

/A HIKER .....

A HIKER WAS BEING WASHED AWAY BY A RAGING TORRENT DOWN THE HILLSIDE IN CASTLE PEAK AREA. AN ELDERLY WOMAN WAS INJURED AFTER HER HOUSE WAS DAMAGED BY A FALLEN TREE.

ABOUT 40 CASES OF FLOODING WERE REPORTED, MOSTLY IN YUEN LONG AND TSUEN WAN.

SUNNY PERIODS DURING THE DAY ON MAY 10 WERE FOLLOWED BY FREQUENT LIGHT RAIN THAT NIGHT AS EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED. THE SEQUENCE OF WEATHER EVENTS THEN REPEATED ITSELF OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

VISIBILITY WAS POOREST ON THE MORNING OF MAY 13 AS FOG SPREAD INTO VICTORIA HARBOUR. THE WEATHER WAS MAINLY FINE AND HOT BEFORE BECOMING CLOUDY EARLY ON MAY 15 AS ANOTHER TROUGH PASSED THROUGH AND EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED.

BUT THE TROUGH ON THIS OCCASION WAS NOT AS ACTIVE, BRINGING ONLY ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHT RAIN TO THE TERRITORY.

A SPELL OF FINE AND HOT WEATHER PREVAILED ON MAY 16-21. DURING THE PERIOD, WINDS GRADUALLY MODERATED AND VEERED TO A MORE SOUTHERLY DIRECTION.

BY MAY 22, WINDS HAD TURNED SOUTHWESTERLY AND SOME THUNDERY SHOWERS OCCURRED IN THE LATE MORNING.

THE WEATHER BECAME EVEN MORE UNSETTLED THE NEXT DAY AS ANOTHER TROUGH CROSSED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST.

THIS TROUGH LINGERED OVER THE COASTAL WATERS FOR DAYS, GIVING RISE TO ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RAIN CLOUDS IN THE VICINITY OF HONG KONG.

SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS AFFECTED THE TERRITORY ON THE MORNINGS OF MAY 23 AND 24 WHILE THE RAINY WEATHER PERSISTED TILL MAY 26.

BY THEN, OVER 200 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN HAD FALLEN OVER THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A WOODEN HUT WAS DAMAGED BY A FALLEN BOULDER ON A HILLSIDE IN SHA TIN. SOME AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE FLOODED AND TRAFFIC IN KWAI CHUNG WAS SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED.

AS A FRONTAL DEPRESSION DEVELOPED TO THE EAST OF TAIWAN, A NORTHWESTERLY AIRSTREAM BLEW ACROSS THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS AND BROUGHT DRIER AIR FROM THE INLAND REGION. THE WEATHER IMPROVED MARKEDLY ON MAY 27.

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS, CONDITIONS WERE UNSEASONABLY DRY AS DAYTIME RELATIVE HUMIDITY DROPPED BELOW 50 PER CENT.

UNDER A BRILLIANTLY FINE SKY, TEMPERATURES CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 31.7 DEGREES ON MAY 28.

/MARITIME AIR .....

MARITIME AIR RETURNED TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH, MOISTENING UP THE ATMOSPHERE. CLOUDINESS INCREASED ON MAY 30. THE NEXT DAY, AN ACTIVE SOUTHWEST MONSOON BLEW OVER THE TERRITORY WITH FRESH AND GUSTY WINDS.

AN OUTBREAK OF SEVERE SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS IN THE EARLY HOURS AFFECTED MOSTLY THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE NORTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

THERE WERE REPORTS OF COLLAPSED SCAFFOLDINGS AND TREES IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT AS A RESULT OF THE STORMY CONDITIONS THAT MORNING.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE TROPICAL CYCLONE OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN MAY. SEVEN AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED AS A RESULT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

DETAILS ON THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN MAY 1993

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME
FLOOD WARNING	MAY 1 0350 - MAY 1 1130
	MAY 2 1215 - MAY 2 1705
	MAY 9 1540 - MAY 9 2000
	MAY 23 0505 - MAY 23 0900
	MAY 24 0245 - MAY 24 1400
THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS	MAY 1 0230 - MAY 1 1900
	MAY 1 2150 - MAY 2 0750
	MAY 2 1100 - MAY 2 2000
	MAY 4 0825 - MAY 4 1200
	MAY 9 1245 - MAY 10 0700
	MAY 15 0855 - MAY 15 1055
	MAY 22 0840 - MAY 22 1240
	MAY 23 0410 - MAY 23 0930
	MAY 23 1300 - MAY 23 1700
	MAY 23 1825 - MAY 23 2025
	MAY 23 2245 - MAY 24 1700
	MAY 24 2300 - MAY 25 1600
	MAY 25 2300 - MAY 26 0900
	MAY 31 0340 - MAY 31 0740

/TABLE 1.2 .....

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - MAY 1993

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	162.8 HOURS	; 9.0 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	14.56 MJ/SQM	; 1.56 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	338.4 MM	; 21.7 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	73 %	; 1 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	84 %	; 1 % ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	28.6 DEGREES CELSIUS	; 0.1 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	26.0 DEGREES CELSIUS	; 0.1 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	24.1 DEGREES CELSIUS	; 0.2 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	23.0 DEGREES CELSIUS	; 0.4 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	110.7 MM	; 27.0 MM BELOW NORMAL

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PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL HOLDS RECEPTION

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THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) HELD A RECEPTION TODAY (SATURDAY) TO INTRODUCE THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE PAST YEAR.

THE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE PUBLICATION OF THE COUNCIL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT; PRESENTATION OF COMMEMORATIVE CERTIFICATES TO SPONSORS OF THE MATCHING GRANT SCHEME; PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO WINNERS OF THE CFPA AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL SCRIPTS 1992; AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE "SURVEY ON POPULATION'S ATTITUDE TO THE PERFORMING ARTS".

THE CFPA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1982 AS THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPAL ADVISER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS.

SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID: "THE CFPA IS A FORMIDABLE ADVOCATE OF THE CASE FOR THE ARTS IN HONG KONG, AND HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS OVER THE PAST DECADE."

"I HAVE FOUND THE CFPA 10TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT A MOST VALUABLE PUBLICATION.

"IT NOT ONLY SUMMARISES THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, BUT ALSO INCLUDES ARTICLES FROM VARIOUS PROMINENT ARTISTS AND ORGANISATIONS IN THE ARTS FIELD, EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

/CHAIRMAN OF .....

CHAIRMAN OF CFPA, PROFESSOR WANG GUNGWU, ALSO DISCLOSED THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE "ARTS POLICY REVIEW REPORT".

THIS INCLUDES THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS IN HONG KONG; THE SETTING UP OF A BODY WITH EXECUTIVE POWER TO FORMULATE SUCH A POLICY AND TO CO-ORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY; SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE PURSUIT OF ARTS EDUCATION; AND AN APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE MORE FUNDS FOR THE FUTURE ARTS DEVELOPMENT AND TO EXPLORE FURTHER MEANS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANISATIONS AND TO ATTRACT MORE PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP.

ONE OF THE IMPORTANT INITIATIVES OF THE CFPA IS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MATCHING GRANT SCHEME IN 1990 TO PROMOTE BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP FOR THE ARTS.

UNDER THE SCHEME, PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS WHICH HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY SUBSIDY FROM GOVERNMENT CAN APPLY FOR A MATCHING GRANT, ON A DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR BASIS UP TO A MAXIMUM OF $100,000.

DURING THE PERIOD 1990/91 TO 1992/93, A TOTAL OF 32 MATCHING GRANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED ATTRACTING A SPONSORSHIP OF OVER $4 MILLION.

AT THE RECEPTION, COMMEMORATIVE CERTIFICATES WERE PRESENTED BY MR SO AND PROF WANG TO 14 BUSINESS SPONSORS WHO HAD GENEROUSLY GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT TO PERFORMING ARTS IN 1992/93.

THE CFPA ORGANISED FOR THE THIRD YEAR THE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL SCRIPTS.

SEVEN WINNING SCRIPTS WERE SELECTED.

THE CFPA LAUNCHED A "SURVEY ON POPULATION'S ATTITUDE TO THE PERFORMING ARTS IN HONG KONG" IN 1991, THE FINDINGS OF WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED DURING THE RECEPTION.

THE FINDINGS SHOW THAT ARTS ATTENDEES AMOUNT TO 16 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION. DRAMA AND CANTONESE OPERA ARE COMPARATIVELY THE MORE POPULAR ART FORMS.

THE FINDINGS ALSO SHOW THAT OF THE ARTS ATTENDEES, 47 PER CENT WERE EXPOSED DURING SCHOOL AGE TO THE FORM OF ART IN WHICH THEY ARE INTERESTED.

"THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE USEFUL AND PROVIDE AN EMPIRICAL BASIS FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS IN HONG KONG," PROF WANG SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE ARTS COMMUNITY INTERESTED IN THE SURVEY FINDINGS CAN CONTACT THE HONG KONG ARTS RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE ON 824 2289 FOR MORE DETAILS.

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CAFETERIA FOR NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE
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THE POPULAR LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE IN SAI KUNG WILL SOON HAVE A NEW FACILITY - A CAFETERIA FOR VISITORS.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE CAFETERIA'S FOUNDATION STONE-LAYING CEREMONY TODAY (SATURDAY).

TO BE CONVERTED FROM THE FORMER BARRACKS AND STORES IN THE CENTRE, IT WILL BE BUILT AT A COST OF $2 MILLION DONATED BY THE LOCAL LIONS CLUBS.

"THE NEW CAFETERIA WILL BE LET AT A NOMINAL FEE TO THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF," DR LEE SAID.

"ANY PROFITS GENERATED WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HEARING-IMPAIRED PEOPLE," HE SAID.

THE PROJECT IS MEANINGFUL AS IT WILL HELP THE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY, DR LEE ADDED.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THE NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR, WITH OVER 624,000 VISITORS SINCE ITS OPENING TWO YEARS AGO.

TOGETHER WITH OTHER GUESTS, DR LEE UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE DONORS WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXHIBITION HALLS IN THE CENTRE.

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LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS SALE BY AUCTION
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FIFTY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF $2,448,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION MARK FH8 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF $600,000.

ANOTHER REGISTRATION MARK AL5 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF $285,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS $1,000 EACH FOR FF1299, FF7693 AND FF5658.

/FOLLOWING ARE .....

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

	$		$		$		$
FF9288	8,000	BB3103	6,000	FF290	14,000	AA355	54,000
FF229	44,000	FF162	28,000	FF928	20,000	FF1299	1,000
*FM808	126,000	*FK21	40,000	*AL5	285,000	*FH8	600,000
AP673	14,000	FF118	67,000	FF998	45,000	AL917	26,000
FF1800	92,000	HK865	47,000	AY9998	30,000	FF435	6,000
CY1693	5,000	FF8993	4,000	FF668	100,000	DC266	22,000
FF669	20,000	FF226	16,000	FF8303	7,000	FF327	8,000
*AY400	35,000	*FK4	60,000	*FM9	270,000	*1946	88,000
FF499	8,000	FF3118	10,000	FF7774	8,000	HK667	80,000
FF205	6,000	FF230	18,000	FF1117	15,000	FF7693	1,000
FF944	14,000	FF9979	14,000	*FJ6666	40,000	FF176	12,000
AZ9422	5,000	FF1950	4,000	FF5658	1,000	*FL1122	21,000
FF7170	2,000	DL6104	WITHDRAWN				

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 196TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO $201,767,905.

THERE WAS NO BIDDER FOR DL6104. THIS VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANT.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,660
REVERSAL OF LAF	+100
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,760
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-965
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,795

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.7 *+0.4* 19.6.93

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