



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR REAFFIRMED OF GERMAN'S INTEREST IN THE PACIFIC RIM

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GERMAN BANKERS HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR INTEREST IN THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN THE PACIFIC RIM, INCLUDING HONG KONG.

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AT A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH SENIOR GERMAN BANKERS IN FRANKFURT TODAY (MONDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD COME TO GERMANY WITH A BACKGROUND FEELING THAT BECAUSE OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE, INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID TO THE TERRIFIC ECONOMIC GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITIES TAKING PLACE IN THE PACIFIC RIM.

"WHAT I WAS TOLD BY THE BANKERS TODAY WAS THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS INTEREST IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER EAST GERMANY AS A MEDIUM TERM PROSPECT, THE BANKERS WERE WELL AWARE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PACIFIC RIM AND WERE NOT NEGLECTING THE AREA.

"NOW THAT IS EXACTLY THE MESSAGE I HAD HOPED TO HEAR," SIR DAVID SAID.

EARLIER TODAY THE GOVERNOR HAD A 45-MINUTE MEETING WITH DR HELMUT SCHLESINGER, PRESIDENT OF THE BUNDESBANK (GERMANY'S CENTRAL BANK).

DURING THE MEETING WITH DR HELMUT SCHLESINGER, SIR DAVID HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT GERMANY WAS ALREADY HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. HE ALSO SPOKE ABOUT HONG KONG'S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

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GOVERNOR OPENS TDC NEW OFFICE IN FRANKFURT

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HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO FREE MARKETS - BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD - IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING THE TERRITORY HAS ACHIEVED IN THE PAST, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN FRANKFURT TODAY (MONDAY).

"THIS WILL BE AS TRUE IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST," THE GOVERNOR SAID WHEN SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HKTDC) IN FRANKFURT.

SIR DAVID SAID THE HKTDC HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

"IT HAS THE TASK OF DEVELOPING TWO-WAY TRADE, NOT SIMPLY HELPING TO PUSH HONG KONG'S EXPORTS. THE CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION IN TRADE BETWEEN GERMANY AND HONG KONG SHOWS THE SUCCESS OF THIS PHILOSOPHY," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT SINCE 1970, THE VALUE OF HONG KONG/GERMANY BILATERAL TRADE HAD INCREASED BY 600 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

"MORE RECENTLY, THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY HAS HAD A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE WORK OF THE HKTDC OFFICE. IN 1988 THE OFFICE DEALT WITH 14,500 TRADE ENQUIRIES. IN 1991 THE FIGURE WAS 18,500.

"GERMANY IS NOW HONG KONG'S FIFTH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, AND THERE ARE WELL OVER 400 GERMAN BUSINESSES OPERATING IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THERE WERE CLOUDS ON THE WORLD TRADE HORIZON, SIR DAVID SAID BILATERAL TRADE FRICTIONS AROUND THE WORLD AND THE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE GATT URUGUAY ROUND WERE CAUSES FOR REAL CONCERN.

"GERMAN AND HONG KONG NEGOTIATORS ARE WORKING TO AVOID STRIFE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. WE BOTH SEE THE TREMENDOUS ADVANTAGES OF A COMMONLY AGREED MULTILATERAL TRADE FRAMEWORK," HE SAID.

CLOSER TO THE MARKET PLACE, THE GOVERNOR SAID, THE HKTDC WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A VITAL PART IN HONG KONG/GERMANY BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

THE OFFICE IN FRANKFURT HAD RESPONSIBILITIES BEYOND GERMANY, THE GOVERNOR SAID, ADDING THAT IT WAS THE CENTRE OF THE HKTDC'S OPERATIONS SERVICING THE EMERGING MARKETS OF EASTERN EUROPE.

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THE GOVERNMENT IS IN CHARGE: SIR DAVID

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THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL CLEARLY IN CHARGE AND HAS NO INTENTION OF BEING KNOCKED OFF COURSE BY CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL INAUGURAL LUNCHEON FOR THE "AMBASSADORS" PROGRAMME, SIR DAVID DESCRIBED AS NONSENSE, THE PERCEPTION THAT THE SO-CALLED RADICAL ELEMENTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE OUT TO SPOIL EVERYTHING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS.

"WE ARE INDEED FORTUNATE IN HONG KONG IN HAVING PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND ABOVE ALL THAT WHAT HAS MADE HONG KONG SUCCESSFUL IS THE FACT THAT WE'VE HAD A CONSENSUS ABOUT WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THAT SUCCESS.

"LOW TAXATION, FOCUS ON INCENTIVE, THE IMPORTANCE OF BUSINESS AND GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY AND NOTHING I HAVE EVER HEARD THEM SAY SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE GOING TO TRY TO OVERTHROW THAT.

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"WE DO NOT HAVE - AND WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR IT - WE DO NOT HAVE RADICAL POLITICAL VIEWS IN HONG KONG. WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO PLACE MORE STRESS UPON HUMAN RIGHTS, UPON TRANSPARENCY, UPON ACCOUNTABILITY, BUT THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS WHICH MAKE HONG KONG TICK, WE STILL HAVE A LARGE CONSENSUS ABOUT IT AND I THINK THAT IS SOMETHING WHICH WE CAN TAKE COMFORT FROM AND NOT WORRY ABOUT," THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO REGARDED AS NONSENSE SUGGESTIONS THAT THE "GOVERNMENT WAS IN A STATE OF PARALYSIS; NOT ABLE TO GET ANYTHING DONE, AND WAS ABSOLUTELY SUBMERGED BY THE WORK IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL."

"WHERE REALLY IS THE EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT WE HAVE GIVEN UP ON ANYTHING," SIR DAVID QUESTIONED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT KNEW THE CHANGE WAS COMING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND HAD WORKED TOWARDS IT.

"WE ARE WORKING WITH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BUT WE'RE NOT BEING THROWN OFF COURSE," HE SAID.

"THINGS ARE TAKING LONGER, BUT ARE WE REALLY TO BE JUDGED AS A GOVERNMENT BY HOW MUCH LEGISLATION WE GET THROUGH IN ONE SESSION? ARE YOU THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY REALLY WORRIED IF WE DON'T PASS FOUR OR FIVE MORE LAWS?" HE ASKED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE BUREAUCRACY WAS NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD HAVE ITS PROGRESS JUDGED BY HOW MANY LAWS PASSED.

"AND IN TERMS OF FINANCE COMMITTEE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE GET THINGS THROUGH WHEN WE HAVE MONEY BUT WE WILL. NOTHING HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN, WE HAVE PROVIDED MORE INFORMATION ON A FEW OCCASIONS AND WE ARE SAILING THROUGH THAT WITH A GREAT DEAL OF UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE REGARD IT VERY IMPORTANT INDEED THAT WE STILL PUT THE EMPHASIS ON GROWTH, ON THE ECONOMY, THE CREATION OF JOBS AND HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO WEATHER ALL THE STORMS THAT ARE GOING TO BE THROWN AT IT AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF ALLOWING THE POLITICAL SYSTEM TO BOG US DOWN OR TO AFFECT WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN FAVOUR OF THE WHOLE IDEA OF HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AND WELCOMED THE EXTENSION OF THE "AMBASSADORS" SCHEME.

"WHAT WE ARE PLANNING TO DO IS TO HAVE AMBASSADORS WHO TELL IT HOW IT IS AND ARE PREPARED TO OPERATE ON A BUSINESS TO BUSINESS BASIS," SIR DAVID SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO BE ALWAYS CONVINCING WHEN THEY WERE TALKING TO BUSINESS PEOPLE OVERSEAS.

"WHAT THEY WANT TO KNOW AND WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR ARE FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE AND WHO KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO DO BUSINESS HERE. AND THE "AMBASSADORS" SCHEME PROVIDES JUST THAT AND WE THINK IT IS A GREAT IDEA," SIR DAVID SAID.

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SWAC RECOMMENDS NO LEGISLATION FOR UNATTENDED CHILDREN

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) HAS RECOMMENDED, AFTER STUDYING A REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ON FINDINGS OF A PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON MEASURES TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM BEING LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME, THAT SEPARATE LEGISLATION SHOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED AT THIS JUNCTURE.

HOWEVER, SWAC MEMBERS URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF TIGHTENING UP THE EXISTING RELATED REGULATION. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT THE ISSUE WOULD BE REVIEWED IF SITUATION DID NOT IMPROVE IN THE NEXT ONE OR TWO YEARS.

SWAC MEMBERS AGREED THAT INCREASE OF CHILD-CARE FACILITIES AND SUPPORTING SERVICES; PROMOTION OF MUTUAL-HELP GROUPS; AND ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN COMBINATION PROVIDE BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY IN HELPING THE LOWER INCOME FAMILIES WHICH ARE MORE PRONE TO LEAVING THEIR CHILDREN UNATTENDED AT HOME.

EXPLAINING THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNED STRATEGIES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM AT THE SWAC MEETING THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON, AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ANTHONY CHAN, POINTED OUT THAT AS AT THE END OF LAST MONTH (DECEMBER) THERE WERE 31,942 DAY NURSERY PLACES AND 1,124 DAY CRECHE PLACES.

"THERE IS A PLAN TO PROVIDE 1,400 MORE NURSERY PLACES ANNUALLY. THE DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO BE MET BY 1999/2000. THE NUMBER OF DAY CRECHES WILL ALSO BE INCREASED BY PHASES, PARTICULARLY IN NEW TOWNS, TO CATER FOR FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OLD," MR CHAN SAID.

ON WORKBASED CHILD-CARE CENTRE, MR CHAN NOTED THAT A SECOND EMPLOYER-SPONSORED CHILD-CARE CENTRE WOULD BE SET UP SHORTLY BY A HOSPITAL. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THIS CONCEPT TO OTHER EMPLOYERS.

ON OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE SERVICE, MR CHAN SAID SUBJECT TO FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATIVE STUDIES AND THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, THESE SERVICES WOULD BE EXPANDED.

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MR CHAN SAID THROUGH HOME HELP SERVICES SUCH AS CHILDMINDING, CHILDREN ESCORT SERVICE AND DELIVERY OF DAILY NECESSITIES, THE CHANCE OF HAVING CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED WOULD BE REDUCED. THERE ARE 64 HOME HELP TEAMS IN OPERATION AND THERE IS A PLAN TO PROVIDE 70 MORE TEAMS BY 1999/2000.

"FAMILY AIDES, ANOTHER FORM OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE INTRODUCED IN NOVEMBER 1990, IS DUE TO BE EVALUATED. THERE ARE CURRENTLY FOUR UNITS PROVIDING SUCH A SERVICE. SUBJECT TO FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION, THERE IS A PLAN TO PROVIDE 45 ADDITIONAL FAMILY AIDE UNITS BY 1999/2000," HE SAID.

MR CHAN ADDED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WAS EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF EXEMPTING MUTUAL HELP GROUPS FROM REGISTRATION UNDER THE EXISTING CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE SO AS TO FACILITATE INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS TO SET UP SUCH GROUPS IN SUITABLE PREMISES.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO FORM SUCH GROUPS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN TOLD THE MEETING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ADOPTED A SERIES OF MEASURES TO PUBLICISE THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT LEAVING CHILDREN UNATTENDED AT HOME.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO STEP UP ITS EFFORT TO PUBLICISE THIS MESSAGE THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS. ALSO, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE USE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE SERVICE ON TEL. 343 2255 FOR ENQUIRIES IN THIS CONNECTION.

SO FAR, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED 190 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ON THE SUBJECT.

MAJORITY OF THE SUBMISSIONS FELT THAT MORE CHILD-CARE FACILITIES AND SUPPORTING SERVICES WILL PROVIDE THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. MUTUAL-HELP GROUPS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION ARE ALSO REGARDED AS EFFECTIVE MEASURES.

HOWEVER, DIVERSED VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED ON WHETHER OR NOT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED. OUT OF THE 190 SUBMISSIONS, 95 ARE AGAINST THE IDEA; 30 ARE IN FAVOUR; AND THE REST WITH MIXED VIEWS.

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AIRPORT EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP OPENS

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THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION FIFTH AIRPORT EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION OPENS IN HONG KONG TODAY (MONDAY).

PARTICIPATING IN THE WORKSHOP, NOW BEING HELD AT THE J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL, ARE MORE THAN 50 REPRESENTATIVES FROM HONG KONG AND 25 OTHER COUNTRIES FROM THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.

/THE WORKSHOP

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THE WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE AN AIRCRAFT CRASH AND RESCUE EXERCISE TO BE HELD IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THURSDAY (JANUARY 23).

WELCOMING THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE OPENING SESSION, THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR PETER LOK, SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP WAS TO ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON AIRPORT EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

"I HOPE THE EXERCISE WILL ENABLE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS DISCUSSED IN THIS WORKSHOP TO BE TESTED AND DEMONSTRATED IN CONDITIONS AS CLOSE TO REAL LIFE AS WE CAN REASONABLY GET," HE SAID.

"WE LIKE TO THINK THAT FOR OUR VERY COMPACT AIRPORT, WHICH NOW RANKS FIFTH IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER THROUGHOUT, WE HAVE OUR PLANS WELL IN PLACE AND REHEARSED," MR LOK ADDED.

THE WORKSHOP IS INTENDED TO ASSIST REGIONAL AIRPORT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION PERSONNEL TO COPE WITH EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AT THEIR AIRPORTS MORE EFFECTIVELY.

PARTICIPANTS FROM HONG KONG INCLUDE THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CIVIL AID SERVICES, THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE WORKSHOP WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY.

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ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA
EARNINGS FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER RELEASED

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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

BUT THE VOLUME INCREASED BY 4% WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN NOVEMBER 1991 INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE TEXTILES, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, ORDERS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

/COMPARED WITH

COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990, THE ORDERS POSITION IN NOVEMBER 1991 IMPROVED IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES RECORDED IN THE TEXTILES AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, FOLLOWED BY INCREASES IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, WEARING APPAREL AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

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

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THEIR TOTAL WORKFORCE IN NOVEMBER 1991 DECREASED BY 1% WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991, AND BY 10% WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991, EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER 1991 SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY. FOR ALL OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, SLIGHT DECREASES WERE RECORDED.

COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER 1991 DECREASED IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, WITH MORE SIGNIFICANT DECREASES RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

IN NOVEMBER 1991, PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED DECREASED BY 2% IN MONEY TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE WEARING APPAREL AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES INCREASED SLIGHTLY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED MODERATELY FOR THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT FOR THE FOOD AND DRINKS, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

THESE DECREASES WERE DUE PARTLY TO LESS OVERTIME PAYMENT BY SOME MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990, PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 13% IN MONEY TERMS IN NOVEMBER 1991.

INCREASES IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, WITH SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE INCREASES RECORDED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER 1991 SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991, BUT DECREASED MODERATELY WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN NOVEMBER 1991 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR DECREASED MODERATELY WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991.

THE DECREASE WAS DUE TO THE ISSUE OF SPECIAL BONUSES BY SOME COMPANIES SURVEYED IN OCTOBER 1991.

COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990, PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THIS SECTOR IN NOVEMBER 1991 INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER 1991 AS REPORTED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991, BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN NOVEMBER 1991 FOR THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS TAKEN TOGETHER SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991, BUT INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER NOVEMBER 1990.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN THE ATTACHED TABLES 1 TO 3.

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

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SURVEY SAMPLE COVERS ONLY THE LARGE COMPANIES, THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF THE MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE SECTORS IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1991 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$4.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 805 6441.

/TABLE 1

TABLE 1: ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND	
	AS AT THE END OF NOVEMBER 1991	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH
	(MONTHS)	OCT. 91 NOV. 90
		(%) (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4.37	* +4
WEARING APPAREL	4.75	-2 +3
TEXTILES	2.42	+3 +18
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	2.58	* +12
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.24	+1 +4
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.40	+1 +2
OTHERS	3.99	* -2

* CHANGES WITHIN +/-0.5%

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT

PERSONS ENGAGED AS AT THE END OF NOVEMBER 1991

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	OCT. 91	NOV. 90
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	-1	-10
FOOD AND DRINKS	-2	-5
WEARING APPAREL	*	-4
TEXTILES	-1	-12
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-3	-19
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-2	-10
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-2	-18
OTHERS	*	-1
CONSTRUCTION #	*	-6
SERVICES	-	--
BANKS	*	+1
HOTELS	+1	-5
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	-3
OTHERS	+1	-2

* CHANGES WITHIN +/-0.5%

PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3: PER CAPITA EARNINGS

NOTE: DUE TO THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS (E.G. BACKPAY OR SPECIAL BONUS), "PER CAPITA EARNINGS" FOR A GIVEN MONTH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RATHER VOLATILE FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY ADVISABLE, IN STUDYING PER CAPITA EARNINGS STATISTICS, NOT TO TAKE A GIVEN MONTH'S DATA IN ISOLATION, BUT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DATA OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	AVERAGE AS IN NOVEMBER 1991	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
		OCT. 91	NOV. 90
-----	-----	-----	-----
	(HK\$)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	6,855	-2	+13
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FOOD AND DRINKS	7,303	-4	+6
WEARING APPAREL	5,465	+1	+11
TEXTILES	6,066	-8	+8
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	7,073	-1	+17
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	7,007	+1	+18
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	6,970	-3	+18
OTHERS	8,600	-2	+9
CONSTRUCTION#	9,628	-8	+13
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SERVICES	11,351	*	+10
-----	-----	-	---
BANKS	10,443	+1	+8
HOTELS	7,160	-1	+11
PUBLIC UTILITIES	11,820	-1	+10
OTHERS	12,488	-1	+12

* CHANGES WITHIN +/-0.5%

PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

NOTE TO TABLES 1-3: UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE COMPANIES SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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LEARNING FROM SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES IN SAFETY MANAGEMENT

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HONG KONG HAS TO LEARN FROM THE SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES OF ADVANCED COUNTRIES IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH SIMILAR CULTURE AND CUSTOMS.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, MADE THE REMARKS WHEN ADDRESSING SOME 300 SUPERVISORS AND MANAGERS OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT (JAPANESE EXPERIENCE) TODAY (MONDAY).

THE SYMPOSIUM IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE JAPAN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

"HONG KONG IS STILL STRIVING VERY HARD TO REDUCE WORK ACCIDENTS," MR CHEN SAID.

"WHILE WE ARE ENJOYING THE PROSPERITY BROUGHT ABOUT BY OUR BOYANT ECONOMY, WE HAVE TO FACE AT THE SAME TIME THE SAD CONSEQUENCES OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

"TRIAL AND ERROR IS OBVIOUSLY TOO COSTLY A METHOD FOR SOLVING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PROBLEMS BECAUSE THE PRICES IN TERMS OF HUMAN SUFFERINGS AND FINANCIAL LOSSES ARE UNBEARABLY HIGH," HE NOTED.

MR CHEN SAID JAPAN IS NOT ONLY MORE ADVANCED IN TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO AHEAD OF US IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT.

HE HOPED THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO PUT INTO PRACTICE WHAT WERE LEARNT FROM THE EXPERTS FROM JAPAN.

"THIS LEARNING WILL, I AM SURE, HELP US REACH OUR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE WHICH, IN TERMS OF MEASURABLE PERFORMANCE, IS HOW FAR WE WILL BE ABLE TO BRING THE ACCIDENT FIGURES DOWN," MR CHEN ADDED.

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SELF CARE EXHIBITION AT SHA TIN

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A FIVE-DAY HEALTH EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF SELF CARE BEGINS TODAY (MONDAY) AT PHASE 1, NEW TOWN PLAZA, SHA TIN.

ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT, THE EXHIBITION AIMS TO DISSEMINATE MEDICAL AND HEALTH MESSAGES AMONG RESIDENTS; FOSTER THEIR CONFIDENCE IN TACKLING HEALTH PROBLEMS AND ENCOURAGE MORE EFFICIENT UTILISATION OF HEALTH RESOURCES.

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APART FROM STATIC DISPLAYS, THERE ARE AUDIO-VISUAL SHOW AND VIVID ANATOMICAL MODELS.

WINNING ENTRIES OF A RECENTLY-HELD DESIGN CONTEST BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE ALSO ON DISPLAY.

THE EXHIBITION PROVIDES VISITORS WITH PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ON MEASURES, PRINCIPLES AND SKILLS OF PATIENT CARE AT HOME.

THE "SELF CARE" EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM UNTIL THURSDAY; AND FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM ON FRIDAY.

STAFF FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ARE PRESENT AT THE EXHIBITION TO GIVE ADVICE TO AND ANSWER ENQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC.

FREE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS ARE ALSO DISTRIBUTED AT THE EXHIBITION.

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NEW SCHEME TO REDUCE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL CONGESTION

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THE FAR-SIDE TRAFFIC LANE OF GLOUCESTER ROAD EASTBOUND NEAR THE MARSH ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CONVERTED TO AN OPTIONAL LANE FOR USE BY MOTORISTS HEADING EITHER FOR HONG KONG EAST OR EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WITH EFFECT FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

THIS IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE WIDENING OF THE EASTBOUND SLIP ROAD THUS INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC LANES HEADING FOR HONG KONG EAST AND THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING TO TWO.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE FAR-SIDE TRAFFIC LANE WOULD THEN BE PUT TO FULL USE WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR TRAFFIC HEADING FOR HAPPY VALLEY AND ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED MOTORISTS USING THE TWO TRAFFIC LANES THAT TRAFFIC TOWARDS THE CAUSEWAY BAY FLYOVER SHOULD KEEP TO THE TRAFFIC LANE ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE.

HE ALSO EXPECTED THAT THE SCHEME WOULD EASE OFF THE CONGESTION AT THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF THE GLOUCESTER ROAD WEST OF THE APPROACH OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

ADEQUATE TRAFFIC SIGNS TO INDICATE THE NEW ROUTEING ARRANGEMENT WILL BE PUT UP.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1992

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LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP FOR SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS

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SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS AGED BETWEEN 13 AND 30 ARE INVITED TO JOIN A LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP ON FEBRUARY 1 AT THE LEI YUE MUN PARK.

THE TWO-DAY CAMP IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION TO PROMOTE RESIDENTS' INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

THE CAMP IS ALSO PART OF A YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHEME WHICH COMPRISES EVENING WORKSHOPS AND AN EXHIBITION.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGH GROUP DISCUSSIONS, GAMES, AUDIO VISUAL AIDS AND LECTURES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 37 TONKIN STREET. COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE BEFORE JANUARY 28.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 720 4251.

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LEGCO TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 15 QUESTIONS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 22).

DEBATE ON TWO BILLS, THE PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (HOSPITAL AUTHORITY) BILL AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, WILL BE RESUMED AND THEY ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THE HON HOWARD YOUNG WILL MOVE A MOTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION, THE HON LEE WING-TAT WILL MOVE A MOTION ON FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 869 9492.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1992

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 30.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 176.983 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 172.686 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 29.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	18.1.92	650 MN
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	20.1.92	-214 MN*
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+ 64 MN
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

* O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED -150 MN
OTHER FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED - 64 MN

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.1 *-0.2* 20.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.15 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.65	5.36
1 MONTH	3.96 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.92 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.99 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.43 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,188 MN

CLOSED 20 JANUARY 1992

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