



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY A PRIDE OF HK: GOVERNOR	1
COMMUNITY'S HELP IN JOB PLACEMENTS URGED	2
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR VENTURE CAPITAL SECTOR	3
ASIAN CONFERENCE FOR RADIOGRAPHERS AND RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS OPENS	4
REVISED LAND SALES PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED	5
HK'S POPULATION STANDS AT 5.75M	5
CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL IS STATUTORY HOLIDAY	6
FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN STARTS	7
ANTI-BURGLARY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION IN SHAM SHUI PO	7
GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY	8
MORE EFFORTS TO CONSERVE HERITAGE	11
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	12

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1991

- 1 -

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY A PRIDE OF HK: GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID HONG KONG CAN TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PRIDE IN THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE ACHIEVEMENT THAT IT REPRESENTS.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE CAMPUS WHICH WAS DEVELOPED WITH SKILL AND IMAGINATION ON A GOOD SITE AND A DRAMATIC SETTING, MUST SURELY RANK AS ONE OF THE REGION'S FINEST.

HE SAID THE HUGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OF THE CAMPUS HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN AT IMPRESSIVE SPEED TO MEET HONG KONG'S URGENT NEED FOR MORE UNIVERSITY PLACES.

SIR DAVID ALSO NOTED THAT A MAJOR RECRUITMENT EXERCISE, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS, HAD SUCCEEDED IN ATTRACTING AN OUTSTANDING TEAM OF ACADEMICS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

HE OUTLINED THE SPLENDID FACILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY WHICH INCLUDED A LARGE, WELL-STOCKED LIBRARY, A FIBRE OPTIC BASED COMPUTER SYSTEM, AND EXTENSIVE, WELL-EQUIPPED TEACHING AND RESEARCH LABORATORIES.

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE BUILDING HOUSING THESE RESEARCH FACILITIES RAN ALONG THE CENTRAL SPINE OF THE CAMPUS.

"THEY WILL BE A FOCUS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ACTIVITIES. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, MUCH OF THE RESEARCH CARRIED OUT HERE WILL HAVE PRACTICAL BENEFITS."

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT PARTNERSHIPS WERE BEING SET UP WITH COMMERCIAL INTERESTS WHICH HAD ALREADY COMMITTED SUBSTANTIAL RESEARCH FUNDS.

"HONG KONG NOW HAS THE EXCITING PROSPECTS OF SHOWING HOW ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE CAN WORK TOGETHER.

"THAT WILL BENEFIT BOTH. IT WILL BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY TOO," HE SAID.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAD INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT, SIR DAVID SAID WHILE HE WAS USUALLY RELUCTANT TO SINGLE OUT NAMES FOR PARTICULAR MENTION ON SUCH OCCASIONS, NEVERTHELESS HE BELIEVED THAT ON THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION, HE SHOULD MAKE AN EXCEPTION AND MENTION FOUR WHO HAD MADE A VERY SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION.

THE GOVERNOR REFERRED TO SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THE FORMER LATE GOVERNOR; THE STEWARDS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB; THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR WOO CHIA-WEI, AND SIR S.Y. CHUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

THE GOVERNOR SAID SIR EDWARD YOUDE HAD FORESEEN ALMOST A DECADE AGO THE NEED FOR AN INSTITUTION OF THIS KIND IN HONG KONG AND IT WAS HIS FORESIGHT AND INSPIRATION THAT GAVE THE EARLY PLANNING ITS IMPETUS.

/THE STEWARDS

- 2 -

THE STEWARDS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, SIR DAVID SAID, HAD PROVIDED VERY SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE WHICH HAD MADE POSSIBLE THE AMBITIOUS SCOPE OF THE UNIVERSITY, THE MOST OUTSTANDING FACILITY THAT THE CLUB HAD YET BROUGHT TO FRUITION.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO THANKED PROFESSOR WOO CHIA-WEI FOR HIS TREMENDOUS ENTHUSIASM, DRIVE AND VISION OF A NEW UNIVERSITY WITH A MISSION TO BECOME THE BEST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHICH HAD HELPED ATTRACT MANY DISTINGUISHED ACADEMICS TO THE NEW VENTURE.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO PRAISED SIR S.Y. CHUNG FOR HIS DETERMINATION AND EXPERIENCE WHICH HAD HELPED OVERCOME THE VERY MANY PRACTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS INEVITABLE IN UNDERTAKING A PROJECT OF THIS MAGNITUDE.

"HE HAS THE UNIQUE DISTINCTION OF BEING CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH SETTING UP THREE MAJOR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG OVER AS MANY DECADES. I DOUBT IF ANYONE, ANYWHERE, CAN MATCH THIS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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COMMUNITY'S HELP IN JOB PLACEMENTS URGED

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES NEED THE SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES, TRADE UNIONS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE TO HELP PEOPLE FROM SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN THE OPEN MARKET.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW OFFICE OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN WONG TAI SIN, HE SAID THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE HAD BEEN PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUPPLEMENTING THE EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THIS AREA FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS.

IT HAD ALSO MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS RE-INTEGRATING THE LESS PRIVILEGED MEMBERS INTO THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

IN EACH OF THE LAST TWO YEARS, ABOUT 400 JOB SEEKERS WERE PLACED, REPRESENTING A SUCCESS RATE OF WELL OVER 60 PER CENT.

HE NOTED THAT THE SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENTS COVERED A WIDE VARIETY OF OCCUPATIONS, WITH THE SERVICE INDUSTRY BEING THE BIGGEST EMPLOYER OF THE CLIENTS.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION OF THE PLACEMENT OFFICERS, AND TO THE SUPPORT OF MANY LOCAL EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE GIVEN THE LESS PRIVILEGED PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR WORK ABILITIES AND DETERMINATION TO LEAD A GAINFUL LIFE.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1991

- 3 -

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR VENTURE CAPITAL SECTOR

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED THE VENTURE CAPITAL SECTOR TO WATCH FOR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MANUFACTURING AS THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PROCEEDS.

SPEAKING AT THE ASIAN VENTURE FORUM '91, MR CHAU SAID THE REDEVELOPMENT OF KOWLOON WOULD HELP TO SPEED UP TRANSFORMATION OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR WHICH WAS ALREADY IN PROGRESS.

MR CHAU SAID THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT ALSO INVOLVED A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF HONG KONG'S PORT, AND WOULD PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETELY REDEVELOP MUCH OF THE KOWLOON PENINSULA.

"AT PRESENT, KOWLOON IS DOMINATED BY OLD INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WHICH CANNOT BE THINNED OUT BECAUSE OF AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS AND SCARCE LAND RESOURCES.

"THE REMOVAL OF KAI TAK AIRPORT AND THE CREATION OF LARGE NEW LAND AREAS ON THE OLD KAI TAK SITE AND AROUND THE NEW CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT WILL GIVE US ELBOW-ROOM TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES.

"THE AIRPORT PROJECT WILL GIVE US A NEVER-TO-BE-REPEATED OPPORTUNITY TO SWEEP AWAY CROWDED FLATS AND POLLUTING FACTORIES IN KOWLOON, AND REPLACE THEM WITH A LIVING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT WHICH TOWN PLANNERS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS WILL BE PROUD OF," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID MANY MANUFACTURERS WOULD LEAVE THEIR CRAMPED EXISTING PREMISES IN KOWLOON FOR MORE SPACIOUS SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, PROVIDED WITH SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE OF A VERY HIGH STANDARD.

"THEY WILL MAKE THIS MOVE AT A TIME WHEN EXTERNAL DEMAND IN OUR MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS IS IN ANY CASE FORCING MANUFACTURERS TO ACHIEVE HIGHER LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCT QUALITY, AND TO PIONEER ORIGINAL PRODUCT DESIGNS.

"SO, AS WE MOVE INTO THE NEXT CENTURY, THE INTERACTION OF THESE TWIN PRESSURES WILL, I BELIEVE, RESULT IN A DECISIVE MOVE AWAY FROM LABOUR-INTENSIVE INTO CAPITAL-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING.

"THE LONG-TERM FUTURE WILL LIE WITH COMPANIES CAPABLE OF MANUFACTURING HIGH-VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS, IN CLEAN FACTORIES, WITH SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANTICIPATED THIS TRANSFORMATION BY PLANNING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE.

"THIS DOES NOT ONLY MEAN LAND, A GOOD TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, AND TRAINED MANPOWER, THOUGH ALL THREE ARE OF COURSE VITAL; IT ALSO MEANS PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE IDEAS AND FINANCING CAN MEET.

/"WE ARE

"WE ARE THEREFORE BUILDING AN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, AND ARE ALSO PLANNING TO ENCOURAGE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR WORTHWHILE PROJECTS," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID HONG KONG COMPLIED WITH THE EXPORT RESTRICTIONS APPLIED BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROLS (COCOM) - AND THEREFORE ENJOYED ACCESS TO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS WHICH OUR NEW-STYLE INDUSTRIES NEEDED.

"AS SOME OF YOU MAY BE AWARE, THE U.S. ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT IT INTENDS TO EXTEND INTRA-COCOM TRADE LICENSING BENEFITS TO HONG KONG.

"THIS IS A VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT: THE U.S. IS THE LARGEST SUPPLIER OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY GOODS TO HONG KONG AND THIS LIBERALISATION SHOULD ALLOW A FASTER AND EASIER FLOW OF THESE GOODS TO COMPANIES HERE," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THE DEMAND FROM MANUFACTURERS FOR VENTURE CAPITAL FOR RESTRUCTURING AND FOR EXPANSION WOULD CERTAINLY GROW SIGNIFICANTLY.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE BOTH EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES AND EXCITING PROFITS FOR THE ASIAN VENTURE CAPITAL INDUSTRY IN SUPPORTING THE NEXT STAGE OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

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ASIAN CONFERENCE FOR RADIOGRAPHERS AND
RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS OPENS

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THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT RADIOGRAPHERS AND RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EIGHTH ASIAN CONFERENCE FOR RADIOGRAPHERS AND RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS, DR LEE SAID THIS IS THE MOST OPPORTUNE TIME TO HOST THE MEETING IN HONG KONG AS THE TERRITORY IS ABOUT TO ENTER A NEW ERA OF HEALTH CARE REFORM.

DR LEE ALSO BRIEFED THE PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXISTING HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM IN HONG KONG AND THE REFORMS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

"FOR HOSPITAL CARE, THE PRIVATE HOSPITALS PROVIDE 11.5 PER CENT OF A TOTAL OF 24,200 BEDS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"FOR GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CARE, THE DOCTORS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE PROVIDE SOME 70 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OUT-PATIENT CONSULTATIONS, WHILE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES 15 PER CENT AND THE REMAINING BEING PROVIDED BY PRACTITIONERS OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND CHARITY CLINICS."

/THE DIRECTOR

THE DIRECTOR ADDED THAT THE PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$3,070 IN 1989 WHILE THE PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT SPENT ON HEALTH WAS ABOUT 3.6 PER CENT.

OVER THE YEARS, DR LEE SAID THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL LEVEL OF HEALTH IN HONG KONG.

"THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE HIGHLY SATISFACTORY HEALTH INDICES WITH THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE AT 6.9 PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS AND THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF 80 FOR FEMALES AND 74 FOR MALES," HE SAID.

DR LEE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM HAS BEEN VERY MUCH HOSPITAL-ORIENTED, ADDING THAT THE CONCEPT OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AS THE BASE OF A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND THE GATE-KEEPER OF THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM HAS NOT BEEN FULLY APPRECIATED.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES.

DR LEE HAS HIGH HOPE THAT THE DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM, A MAJOR RECOMMENDATION IN THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE REPORT, TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON A PILOT BASIS IN KWUN TONG LATER THIS YEAR, COULD PROVIDE A SOLUTION TO THIS.

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REVISED LAND SALES PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

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FURTHER TO WEDNESDAY'S LAND COMMISSION MEETING APPROVING THE RELEASE OF AN ADDITIONAL 5.9 HECTARES OF RESIDENTIAL LAND, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR ROBERT POPE, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THE REVISED LAND SALES PROGRAMME.

MR POPE POINTED OUT THAT THE FIRST SITE, LOCATED IN TAT CHEE AVENUE, WILL BE AUCTIONED IN DECEMBER.

THE REMAINING SITES, SITUATED IN TAI PO AND SHA TIN, WOULD BE SOLD TOWARDS THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

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HK'S POPULATION STANDS AT 5.75M

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THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF HONG KONG AT THE END OF JUNE 1991 WAS 5,754,800, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 50,300 PERSONS OR 0.9 PER CENT OVER MID-1990. IN MID-1990, THE ESTIMATED POPULATION WAS 5,704,500.

THERE WERE 69,600 BIRTHS AND 28,000 DEATHS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MID-1990 TO MID-1991. NATURAL INCREASE, THAT IS THE SURPLUS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS IN THIS PERIOD, AMOUNTED TO 41,600, ACCOUNTING FOR 83 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION GROWTH.

THE BALANCE OF TOTAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SHOWED A NET INFLOW OF 8,700 PERSONS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE ABOVE ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION ARE BASED ON THE FINAL COUNT FROM THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS CONDUCTED IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO REVISED THE POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR THE PERIOD MID-1986 TO END-1990 IN THE LIGHT OF A NEW BASE POPULATION OBTAINED FROM THE 1991 CENSUS.

THE REVISION HAS INCORPORATED MORE ACCURATE FIGURES FOR THE COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE THAT WERE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME WHEN THE PREVIOUS ESTIMATES WERE PREPARED.

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CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL IS STATUTORY HOLIDAY
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON OCTOBER 16 (WEDNESDAY), IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

ALL EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR WAGE LEVELS ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE SAME EMPLOYERS FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A FULL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1991

- 7 -

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN STARTS
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SEPARATE CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON THE TWO SIDES OF THE HARBOUR ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 13) TO MARK THE COMMENCEMENT OF THIS YEAR'S FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

THE TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN IS ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WHICH COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE (HKCSS) AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS.

THIS YEAR IT AIMS TO BRING HOME THE MESSAGE OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND HAPPY MARRIAGE.

THE FIRST CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 10 AM AT EDINBURGH PLACE, CENTRAL. OFFICIATING WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALEXANDER FUNG; DIRECTOR OF HKCSS, MR HUI YIN-FAT; AND THE PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER OF CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY, MR KWAN CHUK-FAI.

ANOTHER EVENT AND SLOGAN COMPETITION PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 11.45 AM AT NEW WORLD PLAZA, NEW WORLD CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

OFFICIATING WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND; MANAGER OF THE ORIENTAL PRESS GROUP, MR MA CHING-FAT; AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HKCSS, MISS VIRGINIA CHAN.

AFTER THE CEREMONIES, DECORATED BUSES WILL TOUR THE TERRITORY TO PUBLICISE THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION MESSAGE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TWO CEREMONIES.

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ANTI-BURGLARY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION IN SHAM SHUI PO
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AN "ANTI-BURGLARY" POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION IS NOW OPEN TO STUDENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO.

THE DISTRICT BOARD-SPONSORED CONTEST IS PART OF THE FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE TO ENHANCE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS TO BURGLARY ACTIVITIES.

/THE COMPETITION

THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SECTIONS.

THE ENTRIES SHOULD REACH THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE ON GROUND FLOOR, 37-39 TONKIN STREET BY NOVEMBER 25.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 720 4251.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED BIWEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON, TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME. AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID: "BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE."

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.

GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "4" GRADE OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

SIMILARLY, THE REOPENING OF A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "3" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, NAMELY CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THE WATER AT THESE TWO BEACHES.

IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THESE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

/BEACH

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 26.9.91)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 10.10.91)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	1	1
HAIRPIN	1	1
MIDDLE BAY	2	2
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST STEPHEN'S	1	1
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	1	1
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	2
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	2	1
BUTTERFLY	3	2
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	2	2
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	3	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	2	2
ISLANDS DISTRICT -----		
CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	1	1
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	1	1
SILVERMINE BAY	2	1
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	1
TUNG O*	1	1

/TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

TSUBN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	4	3
APPROACH	2	2
CASAM	3	2
GEMINI	2	2
HOI MEI WAN	2	2
LIDO	3	2
TING KAU	3	3
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	1

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES.
 * NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

SILVERMINE BAY, KADOORIE AND TUNG WAN ON MA WAN, FROM "2" TO "1"; SILVERSTRAND, CASAM, LIDO, NEW CAFETERIA AND BUTTERFLY, FROM "3" TO "2"; ANGLERS' FROM "4" TO "3".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, MR P.R. HOLMES, ON TEL. 835 1234.

MORE EFFORTS TO CONSERVE HERITAGE
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MORE EFFORTS MUST BE PUT INTO THE CONSERVATION OF WHAT REMAINED OF HONG KONG'S HERITAGE, IN VIEW OF ITS RAPID DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ENTITLED "THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG'S PAST", MR SO SAID ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS MUST DEAL WITH THE INHERENT CONTRADICTIONS OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

"THE KEY CONSIDERATION IS HOW TO MAINTAIN A SENSIBLE BALANCE," HE SAID.

MR SO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD FOR THEIR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT AND TO THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE EXTENSIVE RESTORATION PROGRAMME CARRIED OUT BY THEIR STAFF.

/ALSO SPEAKING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1991

- 12 -

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD, MR EDWARD HO, SAID THERE WAS ROOM FOR A MORE SYMPATHETIC APPROACH TO PRESERVING HONG KONG'S HERITAGE.

MR HO BELIEVED THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR A DIFFERENT BALANCE TO BE STRUCK BETWEEN THE COMPETING DEMANDS OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

NOTING THAT MUCH OF HONG KONG'S HERITAGE HAD ALREADY BEEN SWAMPED BY DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF "SPECIAL DESIGN AREAS" AROUND HISTORIC BUILDINGS TO PROTECT THEIR ENVIRONS.

FEATURING TALKS BY SOME 13 OVERSEAS AND LOCAL SPEAKERS, THE CONFERENCE WAS FULLY SUBSCRIBED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	9.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	10.10.91	-139
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+139
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.8 *-0.3* 10.10.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	10.10.91	9.10.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	4.64 PCT	4.53 PCT
1 MONTH	4.27 PCT	4.26 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.29 PCT	4.29 PCT
6 MONTHS	4.55 PCT	4.52 PCT
12 MONTHS	5.22 PCT	5.25 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	6,340 MN	8,784 MN

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