



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1975.

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SOCIAL WELFARE CONVENTION BEGINS

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THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WELFARE (ICSW) WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED THIS (MONDAY) MORNING AT THE CITY HALL BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE.

IN WELCOMING THE 400-ODD DELEGATES FROM 20 COUNTRIES, SIR MURRAY SAID HONG KONG OFFERED AN APPROPRIATE BACKDROP FOR THE CONFERENCE WHOSE THEME IS 'SOCIAL PLANNING FOR GROWING CITIES.'

WHILE THE PROBLEMS OF HONG KONG'S GROWTH WERE NOT UNIQUE, HE NOTED THAT THE RATE OF URBANIZATION HERE HAD BEEN GREATER, DESPITE LIMITED SPACE, AND ADDED TO THIS HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY AT THE MERCY OF EXTERNAL FACTORS.

LIKE OTHER GOVERNMENTS, HONG KONG HAD CONFRONTED THE MANY DEFICIENCIES THAT RESULTED, SUCH AS HOUSING, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, AND LAW AND ORDER, AND DESPITE THE IMMENSITY OF THE TASKS THAT REMAINED, THE ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANT.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WOULD TAKE TIME AND GREAT EXPENSE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS IN OLD URBAN AREAS, BUT HE NOTED THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO APPLY FROM THE OUTSET AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SOCIAL PLANNING IN THE NEW TOWNS PLANNED.

THE FIVE-DAY CONVENTION, KNOWN AS THE 1975 REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND WESTERN PACIFIC OF THE ICSW, IS HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:-

+ON BEHALF OF HONG KONG I WELCOME THE COUNCIL'S OFFICIALS AND OVERSEAS VISITORS, AND WISH YOU ALL AN ENJOYABLE AND SUCCESSFUL STAY IN OUR CITY. I THINK YOU WILL FIND IT AN AGREEABLE AND STIMULATING PLACE IN WHICH TO HOLD YOUR CONFERENCE.

+THERE CAN CERTAINLY BE NO CITY IN THE WORLD WHICH CAN OFFER A MORE APPROPRIATE BACKDROP FOR A CONFERENCE WHOSE THEME IS +SOCIAL PLANNING FOR GROWING CITIES+.

+THE PROBLEMS OF HONG KONG'S GROWTH ARE NOT UNIQUE, AND INDEED ARE SHARED BY MANY CITIES IN THE PACIFIC REGION, AND STEM FROM AN INFLUX OF RURAL POPULATION ON A SCALE TOO GREAT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY TO SUPPORT ADEQUATELY.

+BUT IN HONG KONG THE INFLUX HAS BEEN GREATER, THE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR IT HAS BEEN SMALLER AND THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE ON WHICH SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT ALIKE HAVE TO DEPEND HAS BEEN COMPLETELY AT THE MERCY OF EXTERNAL FACTORS - PRINCIPALLY THE STATE OF EXPORT MARKETS IN AMERICA, EUROPE AND JAPAN.

/LIKE OTHER

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+LIKE OTHER GOVERNMENTS THAT OF HONG KONG HAS CONFRONTED THE MANY DEFICIENCIES THAT HAVE RESULTED, SUCH AS HOUSING, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, AND OF COURSE THE MOST PRESSING AND INTRACTIBLE OF ALL SOCIAL URBAN PROBLEMS OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THAT OF LAW AND ORDER. IN SPITE OF THE IMMENSITY OF THE TASKS THAT REMAIN I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND THAT WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND WHAT IS BEING PLANNED HERE OF INTEREST AND SIGNIFICANCE.

+TRADITIONAL CHINESE ORGANISATIONS AND MODERN VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE ALIKE MADE A NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THESE ENDEAVOURS. WHILE THE EVER-INCREASING SCALE OF OPERATION HAS NATURALLY RESULTED IN THE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT BEING PREDOMINANT, THE INFLUENCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR REMAINS STRONG. I MEAN NOT ONLY FINANCIALLY, BUT AS A STIMULANT AND A SOURCE OF NEW IDEAS, AND ABOVE ALL AS A CHANNEL FOR PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC IN THE PROBLEMS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

+AS IN OTHER CITIES, IN HONG KONG THE PEOPLE AND THE PROBLEMS CAME FIRST, AND THE INDUSTRY THE REVENUE AND SO THE MEANS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS CAME LATER. BUT BY THEN MANY OF THE PROBLEMS HAD LITERALLY BUILT THEMSELVES INTO OUR CITY. THOUGH THEY CAN AND WILL BE SOLVED, IN THE OLD URBAN AREAS IT CAN ONLY NOW BE COMPARATIVELY SLOWLY, AND AT GREAT EXPENSE.

+IT IS THEREFORE EXCITING THAT COMPLETELY NEW TOWNS ARE PLANNED AND ARE BEING BUILT OUTSIDE THE OLD URBAN AREA OF HONG KONG IN WHICH IT IS OUR AIM THAT FROM THE OUTSET AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SOCIAL PLANNING WILL BE APPLIED.

+IN THE LESSONS DRAWN FROM THE HONG KONG IN THE PAST AND IN OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE HONG KONG OF THE FUTURE WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN FROM THE DISCIPLINES OF SOCIAL WELFARE PLANNING. I AM SURE THEREFORE THAT YOUR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN OUR OWN SOCIAL WORKERS AND OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM OVERSEAS WILL BE OF GREAT VALUE.

+I WISH YOU ALL FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS AND A HAPPY AND INTERESTING STAY IN HONG KONG.+

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KMB AND CMB GET NEW FRANCHISES

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FRANCHISES SETTING OUT THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HONG KONG'S TWO MAJOR BUS COMPANIES, THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB) AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY (CMB), CAN OPERATE HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND WILL COME INTO FORCE FROM TODAY (MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1).

ONE OF THE MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE FRANCHISES WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES ORDINANCE 1975, IS THE FIXING, FOR THE FIRST TIME, OF A PERMITTED RATE OF RETURN FOR THE TWO COMPANIES. IN THE CASE OF KMB, THE RATE OF RETURN IS 16 PER CENT, BASED ON THE VALUATION OF ITS FIXED ASSETS IN JULY 1959 - THE LAST TIME THE COMPANY'S ASSETS WERE VALUED.

FOR CMB THE RATE OF RETURN IS 15 PER CENT, BUT THIS WILL BE ON A VALUATION CARRIED OUT IN 1962 AT THE TIME THE COMPANY FIRST ISSUED ITS SHARES TO THE PUBLIC.

ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE FRANCHISES, WHICH IS ALSO LAID DOWN IN THE NEW ORDINANCE, IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME. UNDER THE SCHEME, EACH COMPANY IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A RESERVE (CALLED THE DEVELOPMENT FUND) AND ANY PROFITS EARNED IN EXCESS OF THE PERMITTED RATE OF RETURN IS CREDITED TO THIS FUND.

IN A YEAR WHEN A COMPANY EARNS LESS THAN THE PERMITTED RATE OF RETURN IT WILL BE ALLOWED TO DRAW FROM THE FUND THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO BRING IT UP TO THE PERMITTED RETURN.

THE COMPANIES WILL ALSO HAVE TO PAY EIGHT PER CENT INTEREST ON THE BALANCE IN THE FUND EACH YEAR AND THIS WILL BE ADDED TO THE FUND.

THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE FUND ARE TO ASSIST WITH CAPITAL EXPANSION FOR BUS OPERATIONS, BY ENSURING RETENTION OF PROFITS FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE COMPANY, AND ALSO AS A PROFIT EQUALISATION FUND.

THE NEW FRANCHISES GIVE THE COMPANIES EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO OPERATE BUS SERVICES ON SPECIFIED ROUTES AS OPPOSED TO THE PREVIOUS FRANCHISES WHICH WERE GRANTED ON A GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS.

THE FRANCHISES WILL LAST FOR 10 YEARS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THAT IS FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 1975 UNTIL AUGUST 31, 1985. BUT THE CONCEPT OF A ROLLING FRANCHISE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSIONS EVERY TWO YEARS FOLLOWING COMPREHENSIVE REVIEWS OF THE COMPANIES' OPERATIONS AND THEIR PERFORMANCE UNDER THE FRANCHISES.

AFTER THE REVIEWS, AND SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXTENSION OF EACH FRANCHISE FOR FURTHER PERIODS OF TWO YEARS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR DECISION. PROVIDED, THEREFORE, THE COMPANIES OPERATE SATISFACTORILY THEY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A PERIOD OF CONTINUITY.

/THE ROUTES

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THE ROUTES TO BE OPERATED BY THE COMPANIES ARE LAID DOWN IN THE SCHEDULE OF ROUTES ORDERS AND THESE INCLUDE DETAILS OF BUS TERMINI AND INTERMEDIATE STOPS FOR EACH ROUTE.

THE SCALE OF FARES FOR BOTH KMB AND CMB ARE ALSO LAID DOWN AND THESE WILL LIST THE FARES CURRENTLY IN FORCE FOR THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS, BAGGAGE AND GOODS WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO A SPECIFIED ROUTE OR GROUP OF ROUTES THAT WILL BE OPERATED BY THE COMPANIES.

FURTHER CONTROLS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE TWO COMPANIES ARE LAID DOWN IN THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES ORDINANCE 1975, WHICH DESIGNATES THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AS THE AUTHORITY FOR ADMINISTERING THESE CONTROLS.

THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT UP TO TWO DIRECTORS TO THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF BOTH KMB AND CMB. THESE DIRECTORS WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC INTEREST RATHER THAN THAT OF THE SHAREHOLDERS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF THESE DIRECTORS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

COMMENTING ON THE FRANCHISES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLEX AND HAVE THUS TAKEN MORE THAN 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, THEY HAVE RESULTED IN THE ENACTMENT OF MORE UP TO DATE LEGISLATION - THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES ORDINANCE 1975 - AS WELL AS THE NEW FRANCHISES, WHICH MORE ADEQUATELY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF BOTH THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AND THE TWO COMPANIES IN PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS.

+IN PARTICULAR THE ORDINANCE AND THE FRANCHISES TOGETHER PROVIDE FOR MORE ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE CURRENT OPERATIONS OF THE COMPANIES, AS WELL AS THEIR FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS, THAN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS PARTICULARLY THE CASE IN RESPECT OF THE FRANCHISES BEING EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF ROUTES, THE APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS TO THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF BOTH KMB AND CMB AND THE MORE EFFECTIVE POWERS PROVIDED TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMPANIES,+ HE ADDED.

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TOUGH NEW PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL DEALERS
IN ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES USED IN HEROIN PRODUCTION

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS SECURED POWERS WHICH WILL ENABLE IT TO EXERCISE STRICTER CONTROL OVER THE IMPORT, EXPORT AND MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG OF ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES -- SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF HEROIN.

STARTING FROM TODAY (MONDAY) PEOPLE WHO IMPORT, EXPORT, PROCURE, SUPPLY, DEAL IN OR WITH, MANUFACTURE OR POSSESS ILLEGALLY THESE CHEMICALS MAY BE FINED UP TO \$1,000,000 AND JAILED FOR 15 YEARS.

PREVIOUSLY ONLY ACETIC ANHYDRIDE WAS CONTROLLED UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (GENERAL) REGULATIONS AND THE PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THIS LEGISLATION WAS \$50,000 AND ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT.

NOW, UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION DRAWN UP SPECIFICALLY FOR ALL ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES, TWO MORE CHEMICALS -- ACETIC CHLORIDE AND ACETIC BROMIDE -- HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST.

THE LEGISLATION IS ANOTHER STEP IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO STAMP OUT THE ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRADE.

THE NEW CONTROL AND MONITORING SYSTEM, BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, INVOLVES EVERY ASPECT OF THE TRADE IN ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES, STARTING FROM THEIR IMPENDING IMPORT TO THE TIME THE CHEMICALS COME ASHORE AND TO HOW THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED AND USED BY COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SYSTEM WILL, HOWEVER, BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW AN UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF THE CHEMICALS TO BONA FIDE USERS LIKE HOSPITALS, CHEMICAL LABORATORIES AND SO ON.

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1975 GOVT LOTTERY TO RUN FULL COURSE

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THE THREE REMAINING GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES WILL BE OPERATED AS SCHEDULED UNTIL THE FINAL DRAW IN MID-OCTOBER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, MR. KAI-YIN CHAU, SAID TODAY.

MR. CHAU SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT LOTTERY SERIES WOULD CONTINUE IN VIEW OF THE NEW MARK VI LOTTERY OF THE HONG KONG LOTTERIES BOARD.

+FOR THIS YEAR,+ HE SAID, +TEN LOTTERIES IN THE GOVERNMENT SERIES WERE SCHEDULED. SO FAR, SEVEN HAVE BEEN DRAWN AND TICKETS FOR THE EIGHTH ARE NOW ON SALE. THE NINTH AND TENTH WILL PROCEED AS SCHEDULED AFTER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERY WILL END.+

MR. CHAU WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CITY HALL TODAY TO LAUNCH THE EIGHTH GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

THE WINNING NUMBERS FOR THIS LOTTERY WILL BE DRAWN ON SEPTEMBER 13 BY FOUR RTV ARTISTES -- MISS MEG LAM KIN-MING, MISS DEBORAH TANG KIT-LING, MISS CHUM YAN-MI, AND MISS AU YEUNG PUI-SAN. THE DRAW WILL BE TELEVISED LIVE TO ENABLE MORE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE OCCASSION.

THE FOUR ARTISTES WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN A PROMOTION DRIVE NEXT MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 8) WHEN THEY WILL HELP SELL TICKETS NEAR NORTH POINT FERRY PIER.

MR. CHAU URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERY, AS THEY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, NOT ONLY TO BECOME RICH BUT ALSO TO SUPPORT WORTHY CHARITABLE CAUSES.

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RESERVOIRS 99 PER CENT FULL

HONG KONG'S TOTAL WATER STORAGE STOOD AT 66,762 MILLION GALLONS THIS (MONDAY) MORNING, REPRESENTING 99.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY.

AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, THE RESERVOIRS HELD ONLY 38,834 MILLION GALLONS.

PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR, HONG KONG'S BIGGEST RESERVOIR WITH A CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS, WAS FILLED TO THE BRIM. ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR IT HELD ONLY 29,948 MILLION GALLONS.

A TRACE OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED DURING THE PAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS ENDING AT 9 A.M. TODAY. RAINFALL SO FAR THIS YEAR AMOUNTS TO 2400.4 MM (94.50 IN), WHILE THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL STANDS AT 1719.9 MM (67.68 IN).

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE SECTION OF CHI WO STREET BETWEEN NANKING STREET AND JORDAN ROAD IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE CLOSED FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE WAS TO FACILITATE TRENCH WORKS IN THE AREA.

MEANWHILE, A SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MILES PER HOUR WILL BE IMPOSED ON LANTAU ISLAND AS FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 3), WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FIVE SECTIONS OF ROADS WHICH ARE NOW SUBJECT TO A 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT.

THE FIVE SECTIONS ARE: SOUTH LANTAU ROAD FROM SILVER MINE BAY FERRY CONCOURSE TO A POINT ABOUT 180 YARDS SOUTHWEST OF MILESTONE 1/4= SOUTH LANTAU ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 130 YARDS EAST OF MILESTONE 2-1/4 AND A POINT ABOUT 80 YARDS WEST OF MILESTONE 2-3/4= SOUTH LANTAU ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 50 YARDS EAST OF MILESTONE 6-1/4 AND A POINT ABOUT 90 YARDS SOUTHWEST OF MA PO PING ROAD JUNCTION= SOUTH LANTAU ROAD BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 50 YARDS EAST OF MILESTONE 7-3/4 AND A POINT ABOUT 210 YARDS WEST OF MILESTONE 8= AND TAI O ROAD FROM TAI O FERRY CONCOURSE TO A POINT ABOUT 750 YARDS SOUTHEAST OF THE CONCOURSE.

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H.K. DELEGATION TO ATTEND TRANSPORT CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY
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THE ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. PETER MILLER, WILL FLY TO SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, LATER THIS WEEK TO ATTEND A FOUR-DAY INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CONFERENCE WHICH STARTS NEXT MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 8).

THE CONFERENCE, ENTITLED 'TRANSPORT IN THE YEARS AHEAD' AND ORGANISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF THE LONDON-BASED CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT, IS TO LOOK AT ALL MODES OF TRANSPORT - LAND, SEA AND AIR - AS AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM.

PROGRAMMES FOR THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE SPECIALIST TALKS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE TRANSPORT AS WELL AS PRESENTATION OF PAPERS ON NEW TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

THE CONFERENCE WILL CLOSE ON SEPTEMBER 11 WITH AN ADDRESS TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT, MR. W.M. LITTLE.

MR. MILLER WHO WILL BE AMONG FOUR HONG KONG DELEGATES ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, IS ALSO THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG SECTION OF THE INSTITUTE.

THE INSTITUTE WAS FOUNDED IN LONDON IN 1919. IT CONDUCTS AND ADMINISTERS TERTIARY-LEVEL SPECIALIST STUDIES IN TRANSPORT METHODS, MANAGEMENT AND RELATED SUBJECTS.

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