



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1994

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CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO FOSTER A CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH BUSINESS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY IN ITS EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE CONDITIONS THAT MAKE HONG KONG THE IDEAL PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE, WORK AND INVEST.

THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, MADE THE REMARK IN HER SPEECH TO THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TODAY (MONDAY).

SHE SAID IT WAS VITAL FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY THAT BUSINESS REMAINED FREE TO DEFEND ITS OWN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AND THAT THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED TO FEEL CONFIDENT THAT ITS WIDER CONCERNS WERE RESPECTED.

"FOR THIS REASON, WE MUST PUT IN PLACE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994 AND 1995 ELECTIONS WHICH WILL BE FAIR AND OPEN AND, AT THE SAME TIME, ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"IF WE WERE TO ABANDON OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, WE WOULD BE RETREATING FROM HONEST ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT, AND THE COSTS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE."

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY COULD NO LONGER BE CERTAIN OF A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD IN WHICH POLITICAL PATRONAGE PLAYED NO PART, SHE EXPLAINED.

THE COMMUNITY WOULD NO LONGER BE SURE THAT ITS BEST INTERESTS WERE PARAMOUNT AND THE LEGISLATURE WOULD NO LONGER COMMAND THE PUBLIC SUPPORT NEEDED TO CHALLENGE THE MISTAKES AND MISDEEDS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, SHE ADDED.

NOTING THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW REQUIRED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BE MADE, SHE SAID THE FRAMERS OF THE DOCUMENTS SAW THAT POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS MUST DEVELOP TO MATCH THE ASPIRATIONS OF A MORE SOPHISTICATED, AFFLUENT AND EDUCATED COMMUNITY.

"THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY REGARDS LEGISLATION, REGULATION AND TAXATION AS PART OF THE TOTAL COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT.

"GOVERNMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE DECISIONS IN THESE AREAS THROUGH PROCESSES WHICH COMMAND RESPECT FOR THEIR INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

"THE POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PAST WOULD HAVE LOOKED INCREASINGLY UNSATISFACTORY BY THESE CRITERIA," SHE SAID.

ON THE COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MRS CHAN BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT HAD A DUTY TO ENCOURAGE SUCH PARTNERSHIP AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

"THIS PRINCIPLE IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO CREATING THE INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH HONG KONG WILL NEED IN THE NEXT CENTURY."

GIVEN HONG KONG'S UNBROKEN RECORD OF ANNUAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGULAR BUDGET SURPLUSES, IT WOULD BE VERY EASY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO THROW MONEY AT ITS INFRASTRUCTURAL PROBLEMS.

"BUT WE MUST RESIST ANY TEMPTATION TO FOLLOW THIS ROUTE, EVEN WHEN POLITICALLY IT SEEMS THE ATTRACTIVE THING TO DO," SHE SAID.

FOR THOSE PROJECTS WHICH GENERATE THEIR OWN REVENUES, MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO MAKE A VIGOROUS EFFORT TO FIND PARTNERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO LIGHTEN THE DEMANDS ON THE TAXPAYER.

"THE MASSIVE SCALE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS WHICH WE WILL UNDERTAKE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS MAKES IT EVEN MORE IMPERATIVE TO SEE THAT THEY OFFER THE COMMUNITY THE BEST VALUE FOR MONEY," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO ANOTHER AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO HELP TO PROMOTE HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS, MRS CHAN SAID IT WOULD HELP THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY THROUGH ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION.

ANOTHER MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY IS CONCERNED WITH THE RESUMPTION OF CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997.

MRS CHAN REPEATED HER CONVICTION THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION'S PLEDGE OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" WOULD CREATE ENORMOUS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

"BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THIS CONCEPT CAN AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER 1997.

"I AM DETERMINED DURING MY TERM AS CHIEF SECRETARY TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION."

MRS CHAN SAID THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT ENTERPRISE AND ONE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THERE WERE SOME DISAGREEMENTS ALONG THE WAY.

THE RECORD OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS SHOWS BOTH SIDES CAN AGREE ON VARIOUS ISSUES DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES. SUCH MUTUAL CO-OPERATION COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

"AS CHIEF SECRETARY, I WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPAND THE AREAS OF OUR CO-OPERATION, TO INCREASE CONTACTS AND TO ENHANCE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING."

MRS CHAN SAID THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN VERY OPEN ABOUT ITS OWN DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE HONG KONG AS A THRIVING CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS.

"WITH THESE FACTORS IN OUR FAVOUR, SURELY, WE CAN TOGETHER FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE," SHE SAID.

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RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING RISES IN DECEMBER

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THE AMOUNT OF RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING ROSE BY 0.5% IN DECEMBER 1993 (0.8% IN NOVEMBER) FROM \$201.7 BILLION TO \$202.7 BILLION, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST MONTHLY SURVEY OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA).

THIS IS BELOW THE AVERAGE MONTHLY GROWTH OF 1.2% OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

THE THREE-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE OF OUTSTANDING LENDING HAS FALLEN TO 5.3% (ANNUALISED), COMPARED WITH 6.8% IN THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD TO NOVEMBER 1993.

THE CURRENT GROWTH RATE IS THUS WELL BELOW THE LONG-TERM TREND AS MEASURED BY THE 12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE (14.7% AS AT DECEMBER 1993).

"THE SURVEY RESULTS SOMEWHAT UNDERSTATE THE CURRENT RATE OF GROWTH. THIS IS BECAUSE MORTGAGE LENDING BY CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE SURVEY GROUP OF 28 INSTITUTIONS HAS BEEN GROWING QUITE RAPIDLY.

"EVEN SO, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE OVERALL GROWTH IN MORTGAGE LENDING REMAINED QUITE MODEST IN DECEMBER, PROBABLY REFLECTING SEASONAL FACTORS AS WELL AS THE BANKS' GENERALLY TIGHT LENDING POLICIES," THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BANKING) OF THE HKMA, MR DAVID CARSE, SAID.

"THE LATEST FIGURES FOR NEW LOANS APPROVED BUT NOT YET DRAWN SUGGEST THAT THE INCREASE IN JANUARY WILL BE IN LINE WITH THE SLOWER GROWTH RATES OF RECENT MONTHS."

"THE ABOVE RESULTS WOULD SUGGEST THAT AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD TIGHTENING OF BANKS' MORTGAGE LENDING POLICIES IS NOT CALLED FOR AT THIS STAGE.

"NONETHELESS, SOME BANKS' LENDING IS GROWING AT A FASTER THAN AVERAGE PACE AND THERE CONTINUE TO BE SIGNS OF OVERHEATING IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE MARKET, IN PARTICULAR THE MORE EXPENSIVE PROPERTIES WHERE DEMAND IS LESS AFFECTED BY THE BANKS' CURRENT LENDING CRITERIA," MR CARSE CAUTIONED.

"INDIVIDUAL BANKS SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE TO KEEP THEIR LENDING STANCE UNDER CLOSE REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR OWN PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING THEIR TOTAL EXPOSURE TO ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY LENDING."

AS REGARDS LENDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN CHINA, THE LATEST FIGURES SHOW THAT SUCH LENDING ROSE BY 6.8% IN DECEMBER 1993 TO \$3.6 BILLION. ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF THE INCREASE WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES.

GROSS LOANS MADE IN DECEMBER CONTINUED TO INCREASE BOTH IN NUMBERS (TO 591 FROM 425) AND IN AMOUNT (TO \$277 MILLION FROM \$204 MILLION); BUT NEW LOANS APPROVED (DRAWN AND UNDRAWN) FELL BOTH IN NUMBERS (TO 348 FROM 408) AND IN VALUE (TO \$167 MILLION FROM \$184 MILLION).

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WAGE INDICES FOR SEPTEMBER 1993

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THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR WAS 10.4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1992, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING FOR INFLATION, THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1993 SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 2.4 PER CENT OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1993 WITH MARCH 1993 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE OVERALL WAGE INDEX SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 4.6 PER CENT IN NOMINAL TERMS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING FOR INFLATION, HOWEVER, THERE WAS A MARGINAL DROP OF 0.3 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

ANALYSED BY INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC SECTORS, THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR BUSINESS SERVICES SHOWED THE FASTEST YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE (12.2%), FOLLOWED BY TRANSPORT SERVICES (10.8%), PERSONAL SERVICES (10.4%), WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS (10.3%) AND MANUFACTURING (10.0%):

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1993, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON COULD BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE LARGEST HALF-YEARLY INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN TRANSPORT SERVICES (7.0%), FOLLOWED BY PERSONAL SERVICES (5.5%), WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS (4.9%), MANUFACTURING (4.6%) AND BUSINESS SERVICES (1.8%).

THE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDICES FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1992 TO SEPTEMBER 1993 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1 AND TABLE 2 RESPECTIVELY BELOW.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

THE WAGE INDICES ARE DERIVED FROM THE RESULTS OF THE HALF-YEARLY SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY COVERS BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING EMPLOYEES AT ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN FIVE MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDICES AND THE INDICES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO WAGES WHICH INCLUDE ALL THE REGULAR PAYMENTS, PAYROLL ALSO INCLUDES OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

/HENCE, STATISTICS

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE "REPORT ON HALF-YEARLY SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS VOLUME I, SEPTEMBER 1993", WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT \$16 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

VOLUME II OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN MID-FEBRUARY.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDICES, PLEASE CONTACT THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4744 OR 582 5595.

TABLE 1: NOMINAL WAGE INDICES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDICES (SEPTEMBER 1992 = 100)				
	SEPT 1992	MAR 1993	SEPT 1993	% CHANGE SEPT 1993/ MAR 1993	% CHANGE SEPT 1993/ SEPT 1992
MANUFACTURING	100.0	105.1	110.0	+4.6	+10.0
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	100.0	105.1	110.3	+4.9	+10.3
TRANSPORT SERVICES	100.0	103.6	110.8	+7.0	+10.8
BUSINESS SERVICES	100.0	110.2	112.2	+1.8	+12.2
PERSONAL SERVICES	100.0	104.7	110.4	+5.5	+10.4
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	100.0	105.6	110.4	+4.6	+10.4

TABLE 2: REAL WAGE INDICES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDICES (SEPTEMBER 1992 = 100)				
	SEPT 1992	MAR 1993	SEPT 1993	% CHANGE SEPT 1993/ MAR 1993	% CHANGE SEPT 1993/ SEPT 1992
MANUFACTURING	100.0	102.1	101.9	-0.2	+1.9
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	100.0	102.2	102.2	0.0	+2.2
TRANSPORT SERVICES	100.0	100.6	102.7	+2.0	+2.7
BUSINESS SERVICES	100.0	107.1	104.0	-2.9	+4.0
PERSONAL SERVICES	100.0	101.7	102.3	+0.6	+2.3
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	100.0	102.6	102.4	-0.3	+2.4

/TABLE 3

TABLE 3: NOMINAL WAGE INDICES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN MANUFACTURING SECTOR

MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN MANUFACTURING SECTOR	INDICES (SEPTEMBER 1992 = 100)				
	SEPT 1992	MAR 1993	SEPT 1993	% CHANGE SEPT 1993/ MAR 1993	% CHANGE SEPT 1993/ SEPT 1992
GARMENTS	100.0	102.2	107.1	+4.8	+7.1
COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING	100.0	106.3	110.0	+3.5	+10.0
COTTON KNITTING AND KNIT OUTERWEAR	100.0	102.7	107.5	+4.8	+7.5
BLEACHING AND DYEING	100.0	102.8	103.8	+1.0	+3.8
PAPER BOXES	100.0	101.1	105.9	+4.7	+5.9
PRINTING	100.0	106.4	110.9	+4.2	+10.9
PLASTIC PRODUCTS (EXCLUDING PLASTIC TOYS)	100.0	104.0	113.7	+9.4	+13.7
PLASTIC TOYS	100.0	104.0	108.1	+4.0	+8.1
METAL PRODUCTS	100.0	106.7	106.6	-0.1	+6.6
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	100.0	106.8	113.3	+6.0	+13.3
ELECTRONICS	100.0	113.5	121.9	+7.4	+21.9
PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS	100.0	107.9	108.6	+0.6	+8.6
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	100.0	107.3	112.4	+4.8	+12.4
JEWELLERY	100.0	107.3	106.7	-0.5	+6.7
MANUFACTURING SECTOR	100.0	105.1	110.0	+4.6	+10.0

NEW REGIME TO SUPERVISE BANKING LIQUIDITY

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THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA) HAS FINALISED A NEW REGIME FOR THE SUPERVISION OF LIQUIDITY.

A POLICY PAPER SETTING OUT DETAILS OF THE NEW REGIME HAS BEEN ISSUED TO ALL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

"THE NEW REGIME HAS BEEN REACHED AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE BANKING INDUSTRY," DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BANKING), MR DAVID CARSE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"IN DEVISING THE NEW SYSTEM, WE HAVE GIVEN DUE REGARD TO THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD BETWEEN LOCAL AND FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS."

UNDER THE NEW REGIME, THE HKMA WILL USE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF LIQUIDITY.

IT WILL HAVE REGARD TO A VARIETY OF FACTORS, INCLUDING LIQUIDITY RATIO, MATURITY MISMATCH PROFILE, ABILITY TO BORROW IN THE INTERBANK MARKET, DIVERSITY AND STABILITY OF DEPOSIT BASE, LOAN TO DEPOSIT RATIO, AND INTRA-GROUP CLAIMS.

MR CARSE SAID THE NEW REGIME AIMED TO ACHIEVE TWO OBJECTIVES.

"FIRST, IT WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT INSTITUTIONS CAN MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS WHEN THEY FALL DUE. SECONDLY, IT WILL PROVIDE GREATER ASSURANCE THAT GENUINE LIQUIDITY WILL BE GENERATED TO PROVIDE A BREATHING SPACE IN CASE OF FUNDING DIFFICULTIES," HE SAID.

THE NEW REGIME WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR. INSTITUTIONS ARE REQUIRED TO FORMULATE THEIR OWN LIQUIDITY MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND SUBMIT DRAFT POLICIES TO THE HKMA FOR ITS COMMENT BY THE END OF MARCH 1994.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW REGIME WILL NOT INVOLVE ANY CHANGE IN PRIMARY LEGISLATION, BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO REVISE THE FOURTH SCHEDULE TO THE BANKING ORDINANCE. THE REVISION WILL BE MADE BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE.

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LAB DISCUSSES RECOMMENDATIONS ON LABOUR RELATIONS SYSTEM

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MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) TODAY (MONDAY) DISCUSSED RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REVIEW OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

DURING THE MEETING, DIVERSE VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AIM TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE AND EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS.

LAB CHAIRMAN AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, TOLD MEMBERS THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD STUDY THE VIEWS THOROUGHLY BEFORE DECIDING ON THE WAY FORWARD.

/MEMBERS ALSO

MEMBERS ALSO NOTED TWO PROGRESS REPORTS, ONE ON THE PROPOSED COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR WORKERS SUFFERING FROM OCCUPATIONAL NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS AND THE OTHER ON LABOUR LEGISLATION COVERING THE PERIOD BETWEEN JANUARY 1992 AND DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

A PAPER ON THE 81ST SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO OPEN ON JUNE 7 THIS YEAR IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, WAS CONSIDERED BY THE MEMBERS.

THEY AGREED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

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SWAC ENDORSES FEE REVISION

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) SUPPORTED A FEE REVISION PROPOSAL FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED SERVICES AT A SPECIAL MEETING TODAY (MONDAY).

THE REVISION WAS BASED ON THE INFLATION RATE ADOPTED IN THE ANNUAL REVISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA).

SWAC CHAIRMAN, MR ERIC LI, SAID THIS APPROACH OF REVISION WAS SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND. THE CURRENT FEE LEVELS FOR THE VARIOUS SERVICES WERE CONSIDERED REASONABLE.

MR LI SAID CSSA RECIPIENTS WOULD OBTAIN EXACTLY THE SAME PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE IN THEIR DISPOSABLE INCOME TO MEET THE FEE REVISION.

"SHOULD THERE BE ANY REAL INCREASE IN THE CSSA STANDARD RATES THE CSSA RECIPIENTS WOULD RECEIVE THE FULL BENEFIT OF THE 'BONUS INCREASE'," HE SAID.

SWAC MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE SAME REVISION METHOD SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER DAY CARE SERVICE AND HOME HELP SERVICE.

THEY ALSO SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO RE-EXAMINE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF SERVICE FEES IN 1996 TO REFLECT THE UPDATED FINDINGS OF THE 1995 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY ON CSSA HOUSEHOLDS.

"IT WOULD THEN BE OPPORTUNE TIME TO REVIEW THE FEE-CHARGING METHOD," HE SAID.

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LEGCO DEBATES ICAC'S POWERS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL DEBATE THE POWERS OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGY AT ITS MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 26).

THE FIRST MOTION WILL BE MOVED BY THE HON CHRISTINE LOH WITH AMENDMENT BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW.

THE SECOND ONE WILL BE MOVED BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM. THE HON FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE WILL MOVE AN AMENDMENT.

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS.

THREE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM ARE DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE: PUBLIC BUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, SECURITIES (INSIDER DEALING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 AND THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION BILL.

DEBATES ON THE OTHER THREE BILLS WILL BE RESUMED. THEY WILL ALSO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THEY ARE: THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS BOARD BILL, COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY WILL PRESENT THE REPORT OF CHANGES TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE APPROVED DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993/94 PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE: SECTION 8.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS WILL PRESENT THE TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM FOR ISSUING AIR POLLUTION ABATEMENT NOTICES TO CONTROL AIR POLLUTION FROM STATIONARY POLLUTING PROCESSES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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COURT REPORTING REPORT READY FOR COLLECTION

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A REPORT ON THE "THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL GUIDELINES ON COURT REPORTING" IS READY FOR COLLECTION AT THE CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION (CPCE) SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE REPORT CONTAINED THE SPEAKING NOTES OF THREE MEMBERS DELIVERED DURING A SEMINAR HELD BY THE COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER 1992.

THEY WERE MR WALTER CHAN, A SOLICITOR; MR JOHANNES CHAN, SENIOR LAW LECTURER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AND A CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION OF THE RULE OF LAW, MR LUDWIG NG, ALSO A SOLICITOR.

THEY ELABORATED ON TOPICS SUCH AS "CONTEMPT OF COURT"; "DEFAMATION" AND THE PRINCIPLES AND RESTRICTIONS ON COURT REPORTING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SEMINAR WAS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING REPORTERS TO GIVE MORE COVERAGE OF COURT CASES SO AS TO GIVE THE PUBLIC MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM, LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND BASIC LEGAL CONCEPTS.

/COPIES OF

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COPIES OF THE REPORT CAN BE COLLECTED FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES CENTRE ON 29TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

SOME 2,800 COPIES WILL ALSO BE SENT TO DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION BODIES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 835 1529.

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STUDENTS SHOW THEIR GREEN THUMBS

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MORE THAN 250 POTS OF VEGETABLES - INCLUDING CHINESE RADISH, TONG HO, CAULIFLOWER, GARDEN PEAS AND TOMATO - NURTURED BY PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE FOR THREE DAYS FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE YOUNG NATURE LOVERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE ANNUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL "VEGETABLE GROWING IN POTS" COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT. THE COMPETITION IS SPONSORED BY THE CHOI HING LEE SEED CO.

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO OBSERVE AND STUDY THE GROWTH OF PLANTS AND AROUSE THEIR CONCERN TOWARDS BEAUTIFYING THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY. THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES), MR C L HO, AND THE AGRICULTURAL OFFICER (HORTICULTURE), MR LAM KWONG-HING, WILL OFFICIATE. THE CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM AT THE TEACHERS' CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 66.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 388.992 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 311.625 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 53.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	24 JAN 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF NOTES
ISSUE NUMBER	3701
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$4,630 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$500 MN
AVERAGE PRICE ACCEPTED	100.07
LOWEST PRICE ACCEPTED	100.06
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 30 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER PRICE	100.01

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,790
REVERSAL OF LAF	+2,210
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-900
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,100
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 127.5 *+0.1* 24.1.94

/HONG KONG

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.41 PCT	13 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.36	3.46
1 MONTH	2.64 PCT	16 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.15	3.66
3 MONTHS	2.91 PCT	19 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.23	3.84
6 MONTHS	3.08 PCT	22 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.25	4.04
12 MONTHS	3.36 PCT	33 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.25	4.54

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,272 MN

CLOSED 24 JANUARY 1994

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