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Governor ends action-packed visit in the Philippines

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The closure of Manila Airport has delayed the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's return to Hong Kong after his first official visit to the Philippines.

The Governor ended what he described as his "action-packed" two-day programme today (Tuesday) with a press conference following visiting to Subic Bay, the former US naval base which is now being developed into a free port and enterprise zone.

In the morning he met President of the Senate, Neptali A Gonzales, and the Chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Ernesto Maceda for an one hour discussion on issues of mutual concern to the Hong Kong and Philippines' governments, including the future of the domestic helpers after 1997, and the prospect for continuing economic and trade relations.

In Subic Bay, the Governor, accompanied by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chairman, Mr Richard Gordon, and other senior officials, toured new industrial and commercial developments, several of which are being run by the Hong Kong investors.

He was also taken to see the site of the facilities which are being developed for next year's APEC Economic Leader's Meeting.

During his two-day visit, Mr Patten had told the Philippines' leaders, including President Ramos, that Hong Kong would prepare to offer any assistance that might be required.

At the press conference today, Mr Patten pointed out that Subic Bay had already attracted the interest of a number of Hong Kong investors as well as investors from the rest of the world.

"Hong Kong, last year, invested overall US\$290 million in the Philippines and at least some of that was in Subic Bay.

"Subic Bay is impressive, but I don't think any of us in Hong Kong have ever been worried about competition.

"I think we have always believed that other cities and communities developing and honing their competitive edge was something we could welcome and live with rather than resent and try to elbow out of the game," he said.

Mr Patten also took the opportunity to discuss with Philippines officials the position of the Filipino community in Hong Kong.

Yesterday (Monday), he was able to discuss with President Ramos the position of Mr Paul Au and Mr Wong Chuen-ming, and one of the the Governor's staff, Mr Kim Salkeld, had visited them today.

End

Public consultation on comprehensive language strategy

The Education Commission today (Tuesday) released for public consultation its sixth report setting out 38 recommendations which will form the basis of a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to enhancing language proficiency in Chinese (including Putonghua) and English in education.

In the report, the Commission recommends that, as a priority, the Government should put in place an institutional framework to be known as the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) to serve to develop, monitor, and evaluate language goals and policy in a coherent and co-ordinated manner.

It was recommended that SCOLAR should be formally linked to the Language Fund Advisory Committee established in 1994 to advise the Administration on the disbursement of funds for language projects.

The Commission also considers that as a long term solution, Hong Kong should aim for a fully-trained language teaching profession and to develop benchmark qualifications for language teachers as soon as possible.

In view that institutional changes and long term measures take time for their effects to be felt, the Commission has proposed short to medium term measures to address language proficiency problems of students. These measures include:

- * Extending intensive English courses for English-medium students in Secondary 6 and Secondary 7 to help them improve their English skills to the level required for entry to tertiary institutions.
- * Encouraging schools to employ more qualified native English-speaking teachers on local terms of service.
- * Creating more senior teacher posts in primary schools as Panel Chairs in Chinese and English language subjects.
- * Extending extensive reading and writing schemes to all levels in primary and secondary schooling, and to both Chinese and English languages.
- * Providing intensive vocational language courses in English and Putonghua for school leavers joining the workforce.
- * Promoting Putonghua by making it part of the core curriculum for all primary and secondary students in line with the Governor's initiatives in the 1995 Policy Address
- * UGC-funded institutions to consider enforcing strictly minimum language entrance requirements.
- * Providing support services to assist untrained new language teachers to teach the relevant language.

Releasing the Report "Enhancing Language Proficiency: A Comprehensive Strategy", the Chairman of the Commission, Professor Rosie Young, said the Commission had found that the major weakness regarding language in education stemmed from the lack of a coherent framework for the formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of language policy and the fact that a large number of language teachers were not fully trained.

"We must take steps now to improve language education and the language proficiency of the young people of Hong Kong because language proficiency is essential to maintaining Hong Kong's role as an international centre of finance and commerce and the hub of trade and development for China and the Pacific rim.

"The Commission takes note that the demand for people proficient in both Chinese (including Putonghua) and English at all levels will become more urgent as Hong Kong develops and as our ties with China strengthen," she said.

Professor Young appealed to all sectors of the community to give their views on the report before the consultation ended on January 31, 1996.

She said if the comprehensive strategy recommended in the report was implemented fully, the language proficiency of Hong Kong's young people would be greatly enhanced.

"They will be better equipped with the relevant language skills to lead a fuller life as individuals and play a positive role in the life of the community.

"Also, Hong Kong's position as a leading service, financial, and economic centre for China and the Pacific rim will be maintained," she added.

The Commission formulated its proposals after taking into account recommendations of the Working Group on Language Proficiency released last year for public consultation, the public response, the result of a language proficiency perception survey commissioned by the Working Group and other developments on language improvement programmes.

Since the report differs in some ways from the Working Group's report and that its contents are of great importance, the Commission has decided to issue the report for public consultation before finalising its recommendations.

During the consultation period, the Commission will hold a series of briefings for the teaching profession, parents, business communities and district boards to solicit their views.

A user-friendly leaflet highlighting the background and the major recommendations of ECR6 is being produced. The leaflet and the report will be available for public collection on December 16.

Comments and views on the report should be sent to:

The Secretary, Education Commission
c/o Education and Manpower Branch,
Room 922, West Wing
Central Government Offices,
11 Ice house Street,
Central
Fax No 2537 4591

End

Government welcomes language proficiency draft report

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The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong today (Tuesday) welcomed the publication of the Education Commission No 6 Report "Enhancing Language Proficiency: A Comprehensive Strategy" for public consultation.

"The Administration supports the general thrust of the report and sees the vital need for improving language proficiency of our students. Language proficiency in English and Chinese, including Putonghua is important to Hong Kong's continued development as an international business and financial centre and for Hong Kong's expanding political and economic links with China," Mr Wong said.

Expressing the Government's gratitude toward the commission for drawing up wide-ranging recommendations after a thorough study of the issue in the past two years, Mr Wong said the Government would take a view after the Commission had finalised the recommendations.

He appealed to all sectors of the community to give their views and comments on this important issue during the six-week public consultation period which would end on January 31, 1996.

Mr Wong noted that among its 38 recommendations, the commission had proposed some major long-term measures including the setting up of a Standing Committee on Language Education and Research and requesting the Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Qualifications to develop benchmark qualifications for language teachers.

Mr Wong said the Administration was looking forward to receiving the final recommendations from the commission early next year and would take a view on the way forward.

End

ExCo approves new franchise for Citybus

* * * * *

The Governor-in-Council today (Tuesday) approved the terms of a new franchise for Citybus Limited which will confer upon the company the right to operate a public bus service for 10 years from September 1, 1996.

A government spokesman said the recommendation of granting a longer franchise to Citybus would allow the company to plan ahead and to have more time to recover its investment and to secure financing in an easier manner.

"Of course, the company's performance is also an important consideration," he added.

The spokesman pointed out that a number of changes and several new provisions were incorporated into the new franchise. These include a new requirement for a mid-term review.

"The mid-term review is to be conducted after the fourth year of the new franchise. Based on the results of such a review, the Governor-in-Council may, if the need arises, and with the consent of Citybus, amend the terms of the franchise," he said.

The spokesman emphasised that the new provisions would strengthen the Administration's role in monitoring Citybus' services.

"Under the new franchise, Citybus's network would be similar to the one it currently operates," he noted.

The spokesman added that since this was a major franchise straddling 1997, the Chinese side would be consulted.

End

LegCo members' views sought on housing strategy review

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The Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, has held a series of meetings with Legislative Council members to listen to their views on areas for attention in the comprehensive review of the long term housing strategy.

During these meetings, Mr Wong gave a short factual presentation to illustrate the background to the review.

It was observed that the private housing stock had increased by some 300,000 units in the past decade ending December 1994.

Members also noted that 511,000 new housing units will come on stream in the next six years up to 2001. These will comprise 141,000 public rental flats, 175,000 subsidised units for sale and 195,000 private units.

The additional public rental flats will reduce the average waiting time for applicants from seven years now to less than five years.

Mr Wong said meeting housing demand is a dynamic process.

"As incomes continue to grow in real terms, both the ability and desire to have better housing increase.

"The comprehensive review will enable us to reassess demand carefully and to adjust production targets accordingly so as to find out the best and most cost-effective way to meet this changing demand for decent and affordable housing," he said.

He thanked LegCo members who attended these meetings for giving useful and constructive views to help set the scene for the comprehensive review.

"We will also be take account of views expressed through the media.

"It is our intention to issue a public consultation document early next summer, setting out the main conclusions and recommendations," Mr Wong said.

End

APEC Action Agenda good for business in Hong Kong

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The Action Agenda agreed at the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) meeting in Osaka last month is good for business in Hong Kong, the Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, said today (Tuesday).

"It means breaking down barriers and cutting through red-tape. It means getting rid of bureaucratic hassle. It means bringing the Asia Pacific region 'on line' and making making-money easier.

"It will also mean business getting more involved in telling APEC what it has to do," he said.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Lions Club of South Kowloon on the Osaka meeting of APEC, which is the regional vehicle for promoting open trade and practical economic co-operation among Asia Pacific economies, Mr Miller said breaking down barriers would involve progressively eliminating all tariffs.

"The goal is completely free trade in all goods and services. So tariffs will be either eliminated immediately if they are already low, or brought down in stages.

"In either case, the result is the same. The volume of trade increases automatically, production processes speed up and the opportunities for businessmen expand," he said.

Citing China's reduction by 30 per cent of tariffs on two-thirds of all trades goods and similarly impressive offers from Indonesia, Chile and New Zealand among others, he said these reforms would have far-reaching consequences.

Mr Miller said breaking down the barriers was not simply going to be confined to trade in goods. Trade in services must also be tackled.

"Again, in some cases, the 'Initial Actions' remove some barriers to services. The Action Agenda highlights work already in hand in APEC in four service areas: telecommunications, transportation, tourism and energy. The need for urgent action to unblock bottlenecks in these areas has been recognised, as has the need to give the market freer rein," he said.

"Hong Kong is already well ahead of the game in most areas. Even so, we were able to include the deregulation of local telephone services among our Initial Actions."

The Director-General of Trade said tariffs and non-tariff barriers are not the only things which get in the way of business. Red tape and bureaucracy are often just as bad, or even worse.

"This is an area where APEC is determined to make progress. It is also an area where we want to harness the speed and efficiency of advances in information technology," Mr Miller said.

"Already, all APEC members have got complete tariff data onto common format CD-ROMs. The next step will be to incorporate information on all non-tariff measures pending their final removal. This will be followed in 1998 by making available to the public information on all administrative guidelines, procedures and rulings, in addition to customs laws and regulations."

Mr Miller said common standards for products region wide was one of APEC's targets.

"Work is already well advanced on four priority case studies covering electrical and electronic appliances, food labelling, plastic products and rubber products," he said, adding that it was also a target set by APEC to introduce a system which guaranteed region-wide acceptance of products tested in any recognised testing centre in any member economy.

Noting APEC's determination to make full use of information technology in an effort to increase efficiencies, Mr Miller said one of the targets was full conformity by all economies by 1998 with the Guidelines on Trade in International Value-Added Network Services (IVANS) as well as the Guidelines on the Regional Harmonisation of Telecommunications Equipment Certification Procedures.

"Taken together these two measures will radically simplify things for those who produce or trade in telecommunications systems and equipment," he said.

In addition to putting tariff and non-tariff data on CD-ROMs, the next step would be to computerise customs procedures all around the APEC region by 1999.

Information on Hong Kong's Government Procurement can be found under Government Supplies Department on the Hong Kong Government Home Page on the Internet at: <http://www.info.gov.hk>.

Mr Miller also talked about the advice and pressure from the private sector in APEC affairs and cited as an example the Pacific Business Forum (PBF) which has played an important role in pushing APEC governments into looking beyond traditional trade barriers.

"The PBF has more than fulfilled its mandate, next year, its place is to be taken by the permanent Asia-Pacific Business Advisory Council (ABAC) through which your needs can be channelled to APEC governments collectively. We look forward to working with the Council," he added.

In conclusion, Mr Miller urged Hong Kong's businessmen to tell his department the problems they encountered around the region and how his department could make their lives easier both at home and abroad.

He said that next year, each member economy would produce its own action plan as to how it intended to achieve the ultimate goal of free flows of goods, services and investment.

"No doubt, each of us will have slightly different priority and slight different time-tables. Nevertheless, we will do our best to concert these in order to achieve the greatest possible impact," Mr Miller said.

"It is relatively easy for governments to identify restraints in its own economy. It is rather less easy to pin down priorities for what needs doing elsewhere.

"We cannot do this without your help. So tell us what your priorities are so that we can make them our own."

End

Diesel vehicle emissions deteriorate air quality

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Air quality in Hong Kong will continue to deteriorate unless effective measures are taken quickly to reduce excessive emissions of respiratory suspended particulates (RSP) from diesel vehicles which cause respiratory illnesses and increased mortality.

The Deputy Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands (Environment) Mr Tony Cooper said: "Pollution from RSP emissions is far more serious than other pollutants emitted by vehicles.

"At present, RSP emissions in the urban areas remain consistently at a high level that almost doubles the acceptable limit set in our Air Quality Objective.

"None of the proposals other than the scheme proposed by the Government will be able to bring RSP levels down to an acceptable level.

"Neither the suggestions of stringent emission control nor cleaner diesel will achieve our objective.

"Moreover, stringent control will be very disruptive as operators will be required to pull their diesel vehicles off the road almost once every month for maintenance and inspection.

"The use of cleaner diesel fuel as an alternative is also not practical because diesel free from these pollutants is very expensive.

Mr Cooper noted that other pollutants emitted by vehicles on the road, namely benzene, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, were emitted at significantly lower than the acceptable levels.

"The roadside benzene level in Hong Kong is only 45 per cent of the UK standard. The level is expected to drop to 20 per cent when older vehicles without catalytic converters are phased out.

"The proposed diesel-to-petrol scheme will not cause any economic hardship because the Government will include in the scheme financial incentives to help keep the cost increase, attributable to the switch, to one to two per cent.

"Moreover, the Government is prepared to consider extending the conversion period and to monitor the operating cost estimates closely with a view to adjusting them if necessary upon the implementation of the scheme," Mr Cooper said.

End

External trade statistics by country and commodity

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The Census and Statistics Department today (Tuesday) released detailed statistics on external trade with breakdown by country/territory and commodity for October 1995.

The value of re-exports continued to show a notable increase, by 12% over a year earlier to \$102.1 billion in October 1995.

Comparing October 1995 with October 1994, the value of re-exports to all of the main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+39%), United Kingdom (+25%), Taiwan (+25%), Japan (+17%), China (+16%), Germany (+13%), South Korea (+12%), Singapore (+10%), Canada (+0.7%) and the United States (+0.3%).

Changes in the value of Hong Kong's re-exports to 10 main destinations are shown in Table 1.

The value of re-exports in the first ten months of 1995 was \$923.5 billion, 19% higher than that in the same period in 1994.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of re-exports to all main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes : Singapore (+31%), France (+29%), Japan (+28%), Taiwan (+27%), China (+19%), the United Kingdom (+18%), South Korea (+17%), Canada (+16%), the United States (+12%) and Germany (+9.9%).

Table 2 shows changes in the value of re-exports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$27.6 billion or 41%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$19.1 billion or 24%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$17.2 billion or 17%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$17.1 billion or 59%); textiles (by \$10.8 billion or 16%); and plastics in primary forms (by \$8.3 billion or 49%).

Over the same period, re-exports of clothing fell by \$1.5 billion, representing a decrease of 1.9% over a year earlier.

The value of domestic exports in October 1995, at \$20.8 billion, decreased slightly, by 2.6% over a year earlier. This was partly due to a high base of comparison in October last year, when domestic exports showed a notable increase of 8.5%.

Comparing October 1995 with October 1994, increases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to Taiwan (+16%), the United Kingdom (+11%), Canada (+6.2%), the Netherlands (+3.6%), France (+1.6%) and Japan (+1.5%).

However, the value of domestic exports to the United States, Germany, China and Singapore decreased by 7.9%, 7.1%, 3.7% and 3.6% respectively.

Changes in the value of domestic exports to ten main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of domestic exports to most main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Taiwan (+33%), France (+20%), Japan (+18%), the Netherlands (+12%), the United Kingdom (+8.5%), Canada (+7%), China (+5.1%), Singapore (+1.8%) and the United States (+1.5%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany decreased by 3.9%.

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in the first 10 months of 1995, at \$192.7 billion, increased by 6.1% over the same period in 1994.

Table 4 shows changes in the value of domestic exports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases in the value of domestic exports were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$5.7 billion or 28%); clothing (by \$1.8 billion or 3%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$1.3 billion or 10%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$1 billion or 7.4%); and miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares (by \$594 million or 3.7%).

Over the same period, decreases in the value of domestic exports were recorded for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$678 million or 7%); and textiles (by \$671 million or 5.4%).

The value of imports continued to increase, by 13% over a year earlier to \$131.3 billion in October 1995.

Changes in the value of imports from ten main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing October 1995 with October 1994, the value of imports from most main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes : France (+87%), Malaysia (+36%), South Korea (+25%), Taiwan (+24%), the United States (+21%), the United Kingdom (+21%), Singapore (+14%), China (+7.9%) and Japan (+6.1%).

However, the value of imports from Germany decreased by 10%.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+85%), Malaysia (+45%), South Korea (+31%), the United States (+30%), Singapore (+28%), the United Kingdom (+25%), Taiwan (+23%), China (+16%), Japan (+16%) and Germany (+15%).

The value of imports in the first 10 months of 1995, at \$1,238.5 billion, increased by 21% over the same period in 1994.

Table 6 shows changes in the value of imports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first 10 months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases were recorded in the value of imports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$43.3 billion or 39%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$22.9 billion or 23%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$17.4 billion or 45%); textiles (by \$12.3 billion or 13%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$12.1 billion or 16%); and photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$8.9 billion or 20%).

Over the same period, a decrease in the value of imports was recorded for road vehicles (by \$4.2 billion or 9.8%).

All the trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison.

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for October 1995 will be released in early January 1996.

Detailed trade statistics analysed by commodity and by country/ territory are published in trade statistics reports.

The October 1995 issue of the Hong Kong External Trade with detailed analyses on the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in October 1995 will be available for sale at \$122 per copy around December 21.

The report can be purchased at either the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong or the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office, 28th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, Tel 2598 8194, and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 4915.

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 95 OVER OCT 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 95 OVER JAN-OCT 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	33,267	+ 15.7	316,088	+ 19.4
UNITED STATES	22,393	+ 0.3	197,020	+ 11.9
JAPAN	6,997	+ 17.0	56,951	+ 28.1
GERMANY	4,169	+ 13.0	37,301	+ 9.9
UNITED KINGDOM	3,311	+ 24.7	26,430	+ 17.6
TAIWAN	2,489	+ 24.7	22,953	+ 26.5
SINGAPORE	2,305	+ 10.1	21,432	+ 31.1
SOUTH KOREA	1,625	+ 11.5	15,950	+ 16.6
FRANCE	1,665	+ 38.6	14,396	+ 28.8
CANADA	1,457	+ 0.7	13,758	+ 16.5

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 95 OVER OCT 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 95 OVER JAN-OCT 94 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	15,043	+ 11.4	120,101	+ 16.7
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	11,724	+ 5.2	99,473	+ 23.8
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	10,797	+ 20.0	94,652	+ 41.1
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,079	+ 8.5	78,026	+ 16.0
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,295	- 3.6	76,149	- 1.9
FOOTWEAR	4,992	+ 13.9	50,326	+ 12.9
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	5,317	+ 42.7	46,197	+ 59.0
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,632	+ 11.7	41,125	+ 23.4
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	3,002	+ 9.8	29,613	+ 15.3
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	2,895	+ 43.6	25,178	+ 49.1

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 95 OVER OCT 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 95 OVER JAN-OCT 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,509	- 3.7	53,139	+ 5.1
UNITED STATES	6,277	- 7.9	51,098	+ 1.5
SINGAPORE	1,062	- 3.6	10,248	+ 1.8
JAPAN	1,008	+ 1.5	9,885	+ 17.6
GERMANY	891	- 7.1	9,828	- 3.9
UNITED KINGDOM	940	+ 11.2	8,930	+ 8.5
TAIWAN	789	+ 16.3	6,627	+ 32.6
NETHERLANDS	327	+ 3.6	4,209	+ 11.8
CANADA	383	+ 6.2	3,635	+ 7.0
FRANCE	255	+ 1.6	2,607	+ 19.5

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 95 OVER OCT 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 95 OVER JAN-OCT 94 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,880	- 7.0	61,003	+ 3.0
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,924	+ 29.9	26,041	+ 27.7
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,865	- 1.6	16,650	+ 3.7
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,385	- 16.5	15,155	+ 7.4
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,576	- 5.6	14,039	+ 10.0
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,268	- 6.9	11,783	- 5.4
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,001	- 12.8	9,052	- 7.0
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	387	- 10.2	3,861	- 0.3
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	442	+ 21.8	3,794	+ 16.8
PAPER, PAPERBOARD, AND ARTICLES OF PAPER PULP, OF PAPER OR OF PAPERBOARD	237	- 13.5	2,488	+ 2.7

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 95 OVER OCT 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 95 OVER JAN-OCT 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	48,779	+ 7.9	449,020	+ 16.3
JAPAN	18,965	+ 6.1	185,548	+ 15.7
TAIWAN	12,278	+ 24.3	107,328	+ 23.4
UNITED STATES	10,159	+ 20.9	95,017	+ 29.6
SINGAPORE	6,592	+ 14.0	64,541	+ 28.2
SOUTH KOREA	6,363	+ 24.6	61,446	+ 30.6
GERMANY	2,423	- 10.3	26,806	+ 15.5
UNITED KINGDOM	2,542	+ 20.8	25,146	+ 25.0
MALAYSIA	2,480	+ 35.9	23,574	+ 44.5
FRANCE	2,115	+ 87.4	23,103	+ 84.8

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	OCT 95 OVER OCT 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-OCT 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-OCT 95 OVER JAN-OCT 94 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	17,137	+ 24.0	154,618	+ 38.9
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	14,291	+ 5.7	121,610	+ 23.2
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	11,146	+ 12.2	109,529	+ 12.7
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	9,735	+ 5.3	87,385	+ 16.1
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	9,147	+ 0.4	81,419	+ 1.8
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	5,895	+ 20.8	55,889	+ 45.3
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	5,364	+ 16.4	52,153	+ 20.5
FOOTWEAR	4,329	+ 10.4	43,866	+ 12.2
ROAD VEHICLES	3,850	- 18.6	38,710	- 9.8
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	3,530	- 8.3	36,865	+ 12.2

End

Tsuen Wan Arts Festival kicked off

* * * * *

A rich programme of cultural and recreational activities to celebrate the 16th Tsuen Wan Arts Festival from today (Tuesday) to January 13 next year is expected to attract a record turn-out of spectators and participants.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the festival this evening, the Chairlady of the Tsuen Wan Arts Festival Co-ordinating Committee, Ms Maureen Chu, said: "The Arts Festival aims to promote a better appreciation of cultural and recreational activities in a festive atmosphere among residents in the district.

"We also hoped that this will engender a stronger sense of community belonging and promote harmony in the district."

She said a total of 26 entertainment cultural and recreational activities and four exhibitions would be staged at various housing estates, community halls and centres, and shopping arcades to cater for different tastes of local residents, especially children and the elderly.

Highlights of the festival include a popular drama, "Death of a Salesman", performed by artistes of the Hong Kong Federation of Drama Societies; piano recitals by two young pianists from Sichuan - Cheng Sa and Wu Chi; Chinese operas by Ming Chee Sing; and various singing, dancing and orchestral performances.

Some of the shows will be staged by kindergarten students.

Organised by the 16th Tsuen Wan Arts Festival Co-ordinating Committee and Tsuen Wan Culture and Recreation Co-ordinating Association, the festival is co-organised by the Tsuen Wan District Office.

The festival, expected to cost about \$2 million, is jointly sponsored by the Tsuen Wan District Board, the Regional Council and local organisations.

End

Air Quality Report for November

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The Environmental Protection Department today (Tuesday) released air quality information for November.

The purpose of the announcement is to keep the public informed of the air quality levels in the territory and to explain the measurements.

The announcement contains monitoring results from Mong Kok, Central/Western and Kwai Chung, which represent three important land use types in the territory:

- * locations close to road traffic in built-up urban areas,
- * combined commercial and residential districts, and
- * districts close to industrial areas.

The reported air pollutants include sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), total suspended particulates (TSP) which comprise all sizes of dust particles, and the respirable fraction of the dust (RSP). All these pollutants can affect respiratory health in sufficient concentration.

In November, there were no exceedances of the 24-hour Air Quality Objective (AQO) values at any of the three sites. Mong Kok station recorded the highest concentration of air pollutants, with the 24-hour average NO₂ slightly more than 90 per cent of the corresponding AQO on November 22.

Throughout the month, Hong Kong was mainly affected by the dry continental air stream from the northeast, resulting in higher dust levels. But the dust levels were still within the 24-hour AQO.

The gases and particles described originated from various sources. SO₂ is mostly produced when fuels that contain sulphur are burned. NO₂ is formed during combustion by the combination of nitrogen and oxygen, and by the atmospheric oxidation of nitric oxide (NO), also a product of combustion.

Vehicle exhaust is an important source of NO and NO₂ in terms of impact on local air quality. It is also a major source of airborne particulate matter, especially the smaller respirable particles.

Diesel-engined vehicles such as taxis, public light buses, passenger coaches, franchised buses and light and heavy goods vehicles are the greatest contributor of particulate matter. Other sources include industry, furnaces and boilers, construction activities, the sea and the soil.

It is worth noting that while the weather and climate always affect the concentrations of pollutants in the air, the only sure way of reducing the levels is to reduce emissions from the man-made sources.

一九九五年十一月份空氣質素報告

HONG KONG AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR NOV.1995



Daily Concentrations ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) 每日濃度 (微克/立方米)

Monthly Averages 每月平均

NOV.1995	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	26	27	28	29	30
CW SO ₂	18	22	23	27	19	18	15	25	25	39	25	21	31	22	19	18	19	15	17	29	25	38	19	18	23	19	18	21	18	18	
NO ₂	46	72	82	89	65	63	55	81	83	109	78	82	92	73	63	77	80	69	63	82	84	103	60	64	94	94	90	76	80	79	
TSP	216							206							159							170									
RSP	137							123							93							115									

NOV.1995	NOV.1994	MAX	MIN
22	14	39	15
77	64	109	48
173	114	216	116
108	63	137	73

KC SO ₂	10	14	16	16	11	15	9	16	21	25	15	8	36	14		11	14	11	12	18	16	32	15	11	15	21	15	13	19	15
NO ₂	33	51	60	50	32	44	37	44	72	71	44	38	81		35	53	63	42	37	46	47	94	37	42	70	92	63	51	59	61
TSP	168							150							116							139								
RSP	117							109							74							102								

16	17	38	8
53	52	94	32
140	98	168	116
98	59	117	74

MK SO ₂	22	28		33	21	23	22	34	26	43	30	20	24	24	24	23	24	20	22	31	30	43	27	30	29	17	23	28	22	19
NO ₂	96	112		118	81	86	83	101	107	130	122	110	110	84	83	98		103	95	110	102	137	90	101	122	109	130	116	104	104
TSP	219							207							166							190								
RSP	138							87							87							119								

28	39	43	17
105	108	137	81
184	183	219	137
104	75	138	73

Percentage of Air Quality Objective (AQO) 空氣質素指標的百分比

NOV.1995	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
CW SO ₂	5	6	7	8	5	5	4	7	7	11	7	6	9	6	5	5	5	4	5	8	7	11	5	5	7	5	5	6	5	5
NO ₂	31	48	55	59	43	42	37	54	55	73	52	41	61	49	42	51	53	46	42	55	56	69	40	43	63	63	60	51	53	53
TSP	83							79							61							65								
RSP	76							68							52							64								

MAX	MIN
11	4
73	31
83	45
76	41

KC SO ₂	3	4	5	5	3	4	3	5	6	7	4	2	10	4		3	4	3	3	5	5	9	4	3	4	6	4	4	5	4
NO ₂	22	34	40	33	21	29	25	29	48	47	29	24	54		23	35	42	28	25	31	31	63	25	28	47	61	42	34	39	41
TSP	65							58							45							53								
RSP	65							61							41							57								

10	2
63	21
65	45
65	41

MK SO ₂	6	8		9	6	7	6	10	7	12	9	6	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	9	9	12	8	9	8	5	7	7	6	5
NO ₂	64	75		79	54	57	55	67	71	87	81	73	73	56	55	65		69	63	73	68	91	60	67	81	73	87	77	69	69
TSP	84							80							64							73								
RSP	77							77							48							66								

12	5
91	54
84	53
77	41

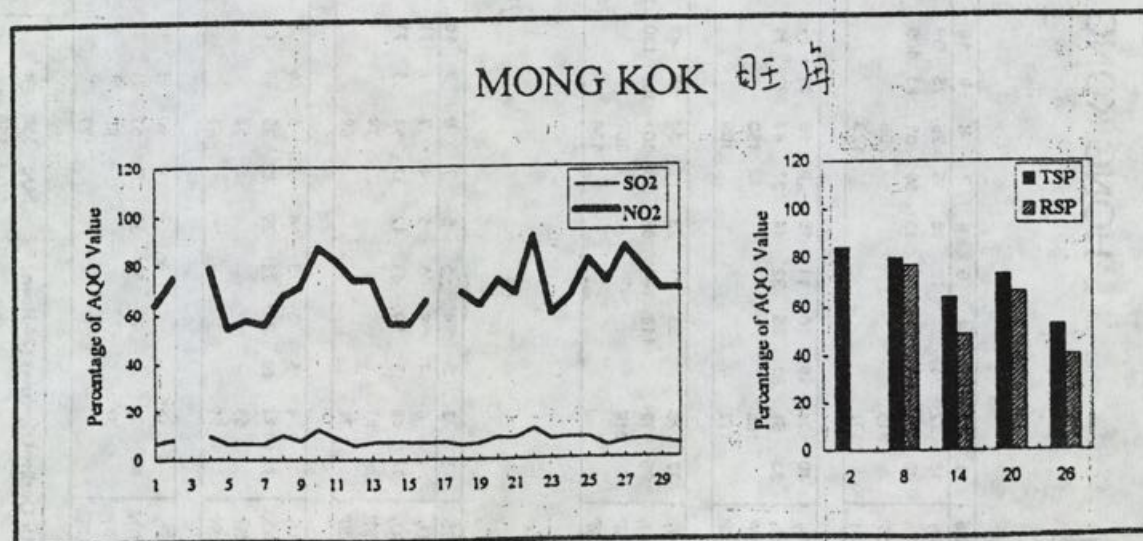
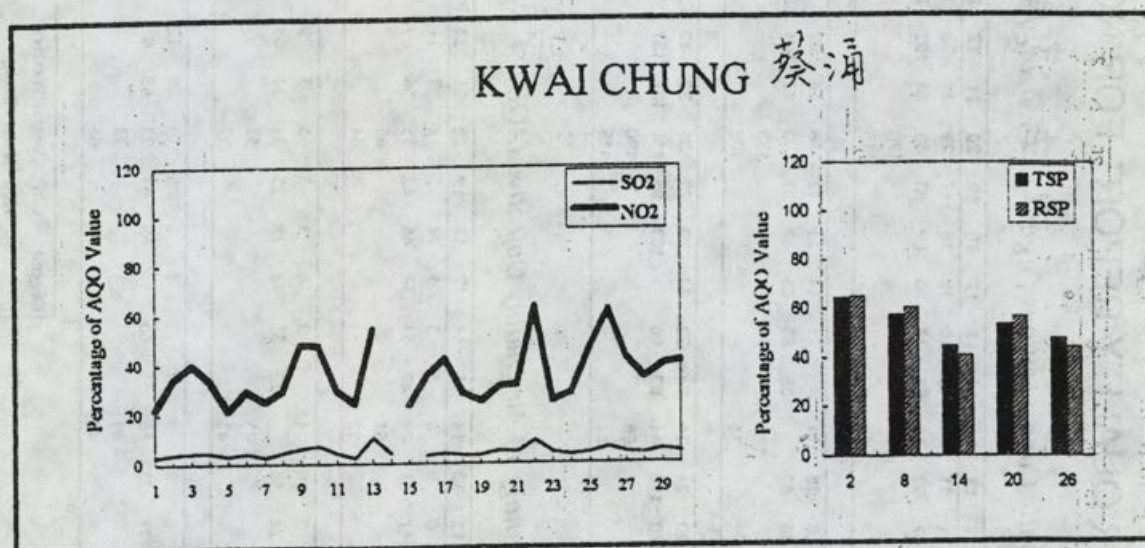
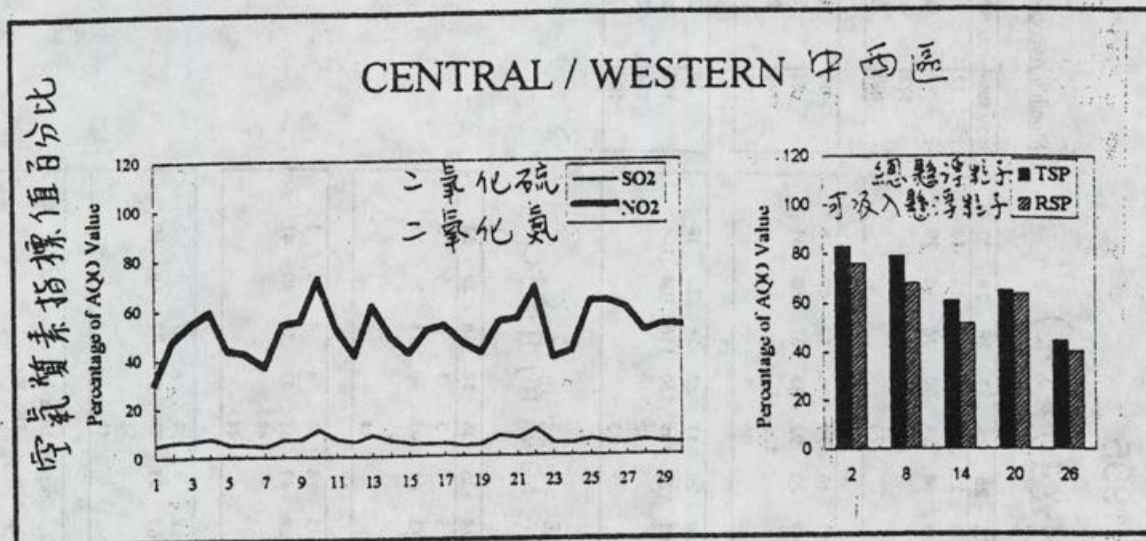
Notes: Air Quality Objectives (24-Hours) for
 SO₂: 350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 NO₂: 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 TSP: 260 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 RSP: 180 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Legend: CW: Central/Western SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide
 KC: Kwai Chung NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide
 MK: Mong Kok TSP: Total Suspended Particulates
 RSP: Respirable Suspended Particulates

一九九五年十一月份空氣質素報告圖表



GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF
24-HOURS AIR QUALITY DATA FOR NOV. 1995



Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	12 Dec 95
Paper on offer	EF bills
Issue number	Q550
Issue date	13 Dec 1995
Maturity date	13 Mar 1996
Amount applied	HK\$3,628 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN
Average yield accepted	5.63 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.63 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 85 PCT
Average tender yield	5.64 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 18 Dec 1995 -

Tender date	18 Dec 95	19 Dec 95	19 Dec 95
Paper on offer	EF Notes	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	5012	Q551	H580
Issue date	19 Dec 95	20 Dec 95	20 Dec 95
Maturity date	19 Dec 2000	20 Mar 96	19 Jun 96
Tenor	5 Years	91 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK\$500+100 MN	HK\$1,500+300 MN	HK\$800+160 MN
Coupon	6.38 PCT		

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
	-----	-----	-----
Opening balance in the account	1,843	0930	-411
Closing balance in the account	1,423	1000	-411
Change attributable to :		1100	-411
Money market activity	-420	1200	-420
LAF today	NIL	1500	-420
		1600	-420

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.5 *+0.0* 12.12.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.78	2 years	2711	5.60	100.00	5.68
1 month	5.78	3 years	3810	6.15	100.80	5.93
3 months	5.64	5 years	5009	6.95	102.55	6.42
6 months	5.59	7 years	7211	6.82	100.62	6.82
12 months	5.57	5 years	M502	7.30	102.35	6.84

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,640 million

Closed December 12, 1995

End