



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THE HK/US DOLLAR LINK: FACT SHEET

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT LINKED THE HONG KONG DOLLAR TO THE U.S. DOLLAR AT THE RATE OF 7.80:1 IN OCTOBER 1983 AND IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO MAINTAIN THE LINK AT THIS RATE.

THE HK\$/US\$ LINK:

- HAS BEEN A VITAL FACTOR IN MAINTAINING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG
- HAS NOT RESULTED IN HONG KONG BUILDING UP A GLOBAL SURPLUS ON VISIBLE TRADE
- HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE DETERIORATION OF THE U.S. TRADE BALANCE.

WHY THE LINK IS NEEDED

THE LINK WAS ESTABLISHED AT A TIME WHEN HONG KONG WAS SUFFERING FROM ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES ARISING FROM THE SINO-BRITISH NEGOTIATIONS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE, IN ORDER TO :

- SUPPORT THE HK\$ WHICH WAS DECLINING FAST, INCLUDING A 15 PER CENT FALL AGAINST THE US\$ IN TWO DAYS
- CONTROL INFLATION, WHICH WAS RUNNING AT 10 PER CENT IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE LINK WAS ESTABLISHED AND THREATENING TO ACCELERATE
- PROMOTE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AND FUTURE.

THE LINK HAS WORKED WELL. IT HAS PROVIDED EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY, A MECHANISM FOR MONETARY CONTROL AND A STABLE AND PREDICTABLE FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT. IT HAS KEPT INFLATION IN CHECK. CONFIDENCE IN THE HK\$ AND IN HK\$ ASSETS HAS BEEN RESTORED.

IN THE RUN-UP TO THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO CHINA IN 1997, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE PERIODS OF POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY BRINGING THE EXCHANGE RATE UNDER SERIOUS PRESSURE.

BREAKING OR ALTERING THE LINK EVEN ONCE WOULD ENCOURAGE SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY WHICH COULD BE GRAVELY DAMAGING TO HONG KONG AND TO ITS LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS.

TOTAL U.S. INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG IS WORTH SOME US\$6 BILLION; AND THE UNITED STATES IS ALSO THE LARGEST OVERSEAS INVESTOR IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

/IMPACT ON

IMPACT ON HONG KONG'S GLOBAL TRADING INTERESTS

HONG KONG DOES NOT MAINTAIN THE LINK TO GAIN A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE OR TO BUILD UP TRADE SURPLUSES.

WHEN THE US\$ WAS STRONG IN 1984 AND 1985, HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS SUFFERED, ITS DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL AND THERE WAS NO GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. BUT THE LINK WAS NOT CHANGED.

HONG KONG HAS THUS TAKEN THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH. OVERALL, THE HK\$ HAS ACTUALLY APPRECIATED SLIGHTLY SINCE OCTOBER 1983.

EVEN OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, WHEN THE VALUE OF THE HK\$ HAS BEEN DECLINING WITH THE US\$, HONG KONG HAS NOT HAD A SURPLUS ON ITS GLOBAL VISIBLE TRADE.

ITS GLOBAL VISIBLE TRADE WAS IN ROUGH BALANCE IN 1986 AND THE SAME IS EXPECTED IN 1987.

HONG KONG/U.S. TRADE RELATIONSHIP

HONG KONG RUNS A BILATERAL TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE UNITED STATES. BUT THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE. IT IS NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE HK\$/US\$ LINK AND CERTAINLY NOT TO ANY RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. EXPORTS TO HONG KONG.

UNLIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, HONG KONG'S MARKETS ARE COMPLETELY OPEN. IT HAS NO TARIFF BARRIERS.

IN ADDITION:

- HONG KONG'S PER CAPITA IMPORTS OF U.S. GOODS ARE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH: WORTH US\$520 A YEAR COMPARED WITH US\$258 FOR TAIWAN, US\$138 FOR KOREA, US\$189 FOR JAPAN AND US\$157 FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

- IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1987, U.S. EXPORTS TO HONG KONG ROSE 29 PER CENT, FASTER THAN ITS EXPORTS TO ITS OTHER MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS IN THE REGION, WHILE HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES ROSE BY ONLY 14 PER CENT

- THE U.S. TRADE DEFICIT WITH HONG KONG HAS SO FAR GROWN BY LESS THAN 10 PER CENT IN 1987 COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF UP TO 63 PER CENT IN ITS DEFICITS WITH OTHER MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS

- HONG KONG CONTRIBUTED US\$25.6 MILLION OR LESS THAN 1 PER CENT TO THE INCREASE IN THE U.S. TRADE DEFICIT IN 1986. IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, HONG KONG'S SHARE OF THE U.S. DEFICIT HAS REMAINED FLAT AFTER HAVING FALLEN STEADILY SINCE 1982.

/CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

 THE HK\$/US\$ LINK:

- HAS CONTRIBUTED ENORMOUSLY TO THE BUILDING OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG
- IS A VITAL FACTOR IN THE LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE OF THE VALUE OF THE HK\$ AND OF HK\$ ASSETS -- AN ISSUE IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS A MAJOR ECONOMIC STAKE
- IS THEREFORE NOT ONLY IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG BUT TO ALL OF THOSE, INCLUDING THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY, WITH AN INTEREST IN ITS CONTINUING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

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IMPROVEMENTS TO PA SCHEME EFFECTIVE IN NEW YEAR

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A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN THE NEW YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

STARTING FROM JANUARY 1, 1988, A NEW SLIDING SCALE OF BASIC RATES WILL BE INTRODUCED WHICH WOULD BETTER REFLECT THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF HOUSEHOLDS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND PROVIDE MORE HELP TO LARGE FAMILIES.

THE REVISED SCALE AS COMPARED WITH THE CURRENT ONE IS AS FOLLOWS:

FAMILY SIZE -----	CURRENT SCALE (\$) -----	NEW SCALE (\$) -----
SINGLE PERSON	510	510
FAMILY:		
1ST MEMBER	370	380 (+10)
2ND MEMBER	370	380 (+10)
3RD MEMBER	370	370
4TH MEMBER	315	370 (+55)
5TH MEMBER	315	360 (+45)
6TH MEMBER	315	360 (+45)
7TH AND EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER	245	360 (+115)

/SIMULTANEOUSLY, A

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SIMULTANEOUSLY, A THIRD RATE OF LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT OF \$1,935 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FAMILIES COMPRISING FIVE OR MORE MEMBERS.

A LONG TERM SUPPLEMENT IS PAYABLE TO A FAMILY OR A SINGLE PERSON WHO HAS BEEN RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR MORE THAN 12 MONTHS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF DURABLE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND SIMILAR EXPENDITURE.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE TWO RATES, ONE OF \$1,290 FOR A FAMILY REGARDLESS OF SIZE AND ANOTHER OF \$645 FOR A SINGLE PERSON.

"THE NEW THIRD RATE HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN RECOGNITION THAT THE LARGER FAMILIES NEED TO ACQUIRE AND REPLACE MORE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THAN THE AVERAGE SIZED FAMILY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT INVOLVES THE DISREGARDED INCOME PROVISION.

TO ENCOURAGE SELF-HELP, CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WHO ARE EARNING BUT CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO SEEK FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DISABLED, ELDERLY, SINGLE PARENTS, CAN HAVE A PORTION OF THEIR INCOME DISREGARDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

STARTING FROM JANUARY 1, THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF DISREGARDED INCOME WILL BE INCREASED FROM THE CURRENT LEVEL OF \$255 TO \$385 PER MONTH.

FOR THE SAME REASON, THE DISREGARDED INCOME PROVISION WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED TO ABLE-BODIED PERSONS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND IN REGULAR EMPLOYMENT AND THE MAXIMUM LEVEL WILL ALSO BE \$385.

"THIS WILL ENABLE A MEMBER OF A FAMILY ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO BE NO WORSE-OFF EMPLOYED THAN WHEN UNEMPLOYED, BY MAKING ALLOWANCES FOR THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH GOING TO WORK, SUCH AS THE PURCHASE OF SUITABLE CLOTHING AND MEALS TAKEN AWAY FROM HOME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON THE SAME BASIS, CHILDREN OF FAMILIES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ATTENDING FULL-DAY SCHOOL AND TAKING MEALS AWAY FROM HOME WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MEAL ALLOWANCE OF \$80 PER MONTH.

AT PRESENT, A PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT IS ALLOWED A CERTAIN LEVEL OF ASSETS CLASSIFIED INTO THREE CATEGORIES, NAMELY CASH AND READILY REALISABLE ASSETS; REAL PROPERTY NOT OCCUPIED BY THE RECIPIENT; AND VALUABLE POSSESSIONS.

AS THE LINE BETWEEN "CASH AND READILY REALISABLE ASSETS" AND "VALUABLE POSSESSIONS" IS RATHER BLURRED, THEY WILL BE CONSOLIDATED INTO A SINGLE CATEGORY.

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UNDER THE CATEGORY OF "CASH, SAVINGS, INVESTMENTS, READILY REALISABLE ASSETS AND VALUABLE POSSESSIONS", THE RATE FOR A SINGLE PERSON LIVING ON HIS OWN WILL BE \$12,900 AND \$8,600 FOR A PERSON IN THE FAMILY.

FOR REAL PROPERTY, IT WILL BE \$6,450 FOR A SINGLE PERSON LIVING ON HIS OWN AND \$4,300 FOR A PERSON IN THE FAMILY.

IN CONNECTION WITH UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY, AT PRESENT A PERSON IS DISQUALIFIED FROM PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IF HE OWNS BUT FAILS TO OCCUPY PROPERTY WITH A CAPITAL VALUE OF \$6,450.

IN FUTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WILL HAVE THE DISCRETION TO DISREGARD THE VALUE OF ANY PROPERTY TEMPORARILY NOT OCCUPIED BY THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS IN SPECIAL CASES, FOR EXAMPLE, IN A DIVORCE OR BATTERED WIFE CASE WHERE ONE SPOUSE HAS MOVED OUT OF THE FAMILY'S HOUSE.

IT WILL ALSO BE WITHIN THE DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION TO GRANT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO A YOUNG PERSON AGED 15 TO 17 IN HIS OWN RIGHT IF HE HAS STRONG JUSTIFICATION FOR LIVING AWAY FROM HOME, SUCH AS THE CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIRING HIM TO LIVE AT HIS PLACE OF WORK.

THE LEVEL OF MONTHLY INCOME FOR DETERMINING GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT WILL ALSO BE REVISED FROM \$315 TO \$370.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE RECENTLY APPROVED THE ALLOCATION OF \$25.7 MILLION FOR IMPLEMENTING THESE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, 1987, THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 63,079 CASES INVOLVING ABOUT 96,600 PERSONS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

"PAYMENTS TO AFFECTED CASES WILL BE ADJUSTED AUTOMATICALLY SO THAT THEY CAN RECEIVE THEIR FIRST ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS ON THEIR ORIGINAL PAY RATES SPREADING BETWEEN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1988," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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HYF FARE RISES TO TAKE EFFECT ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT FARES FOR FERRY SERVICES OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY WILL BE INCREASED FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

FOR CROSS-HARBOUR PASSENGER SERVICES, ADULT FARES WILL BE REVISED FROM \$1.70 TO \$1.80, AND MONTHLY TICKETS WILL COST \$75 INSTEAD OF \$70.

/FARES FOR

FARES FOR CHILDREN AND THE TEMPORARY CENTRAL TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST HOVERFERRY SERVICE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. THERE WILL BE NO FARE INCREASE FOR NEW TOWN PASSENGER SERVICES.

ON HYF'S OUTLYING ISLANDS AND TOLO HARBOUR SERVICES, THE DELUXE CLASS FARES DURING SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$11 TO \$12 FOR ADULTS, AND FROM \$7 TO \$7.50 FOR CHILDREN. MONTHLY TICKETS WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$165 TO \$185.

THERE WILL BE NO FARE INCREASE FOR ALL WEEKDAY AND ORDINARY CLASS SERVICES DURING SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

AS FOR VEHICULAR FERRY FARES, THERE WILL BE INCREASES FROM \$6 TO \$6.50 FOR PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS, \$3 TO \$3.50 FOR MOTORCYCLES, AND \$10 TO \$11 FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND BUSES. THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE FOR GOODS VEHICLES FOR THE TIME BEING.

CHARGES FOR FREIGHT CARRIED ON CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES WILL INCREASE FROM \$6 TO \$6.50 FOR EVERY 60 KILOGRAMS OR 0.12 CUBIC METRE. FREIGHT CHARGES ON OTHER SERVICES WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

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DECEMBER SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES, PAYROLL STARTED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED TO CONDUCT THE DECEMBER 1987 ROUND OF THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN RESPECT OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987.

THIS SURVEY IS CONDUCTED QUARTERLY AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN HONG KONG.

THIS ROUND OF THE SURVEY COVERS SOME 36,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS) AND SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES) AND THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING, ELECTRICITY AND GAS).

INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON DECEMBER 30 WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH ESTABLISHMENT.

/SOME 10,000

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SOME 10,000 ESTABLISHMENTS ARE SELECTED FROM THE SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1987.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 (LEGAL NOTICE NO. 69 OF 1982, GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 1982), ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

SHOULD RESPONENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE ON 5-8235076.

AS FOR THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS KNOWN TO THIS DEPARTMENT DURING OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1987, THEY WILL ALSO BE ENUMERATED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE SURVEY RESULTS COMPLETE.

FIELD OFFICERS OF THIS DEPARTMENT, EACH BEARING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD WILL CALL ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO SOLICIT INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, EXISTING VACANCIES, TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, NATURE OF BUSINESS AND DATE ON WHICH BUSINESS COMMENCED.

IN CASE OF ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE FIELD VISITS, PLEASE CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE ON 5-8234770.

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STATUTORY HOLIDAY REMINDER

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EMPLOYERS ARE REMINDED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT NEW YEAR'S DAY (JANUARY 1) IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$11,500 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY.

THEY MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE SAID.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL 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 EARNINGS

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WHERE 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 TO 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 LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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CONTRACTS FOR THREE RECREATION PROJECTS AWARDED

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED THREE CONTRACTS, WORTH MORE THAN \$9.5 MILLION, FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO AN INDOOR GAMES HALL AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO LOCAL OPEN SPACES.

ONE OF THE CONTRACTS, WORTH \$1.8 MILLION, HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE SQUASH COURTS AT KAI TAK EAST INDOOR GAMES HALL IN LUK HOP STREET, SAN PO KONG.

CONSTRUCTION STARTS THIS MONTH AND WILL BE COMPLETED NEXT AUGUST.

THE WORK INVOLVES BUILDING A SINGLE-STOREY EXTENSION OF ABOUT 280 SQUARE METRES TO THE EXISTING GAMES HALL.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED, BESIDES THE THREE SQUASH COURTS, WILL INCLUDE A STORE ROOM, MANAGEMENT OFFICE, METER ROOM AND LOCKER SPACE.

THE EXISTING GAMES HALL, MANAGED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, HAS A MULTI-PURPOSE ARENA WHICH CAN BE USED FOR PLAYING BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, BADMINTON AND TABLE-TENNIS.

THE TWO LOCAL OPEN SPACES ARE TO BE BUILT IN YUEN LONG AND PENG CHAU FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

WORK WILL COMMENCE SHORTLY AND BE COMPLETED NEXT SEPTEMBER FOR BOTH PROJECTS.

THE ONE IN YUEN LONG, MEASURING ABOUT 5,900 SQUARE METERS, WILL BE LOCATED AT ON HING ROAD.

COSTING \$3.65 MILLION, THE ON HING ROAD OPEN SPACE WILL COMPRISE A SEVEN-A-SIDE SOCCER PITCH, SITTING-OUT AREA AND STORE/METER ROOM. LANDSCAPING WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT.

/THE OTHER

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THE OTHER OPEN SPACE WILL BE BUILT ON A 5,000 SQUARE METER SITE IN PENG CHAU TOWN CENTRE AT A COST OF \$4.12 MILLION.

IT WILL PROVIDE BOTH ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL COURTS, A CHINESE PAVILION, A ROLLER SKATING RINK AND A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA.

HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING WORKS WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT.

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LEARNING PACKAGE ON LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CIVIC EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE HAS RECENTLY PRODUCED A LEARNING PACKAGE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR LOAN TO SCHOOLS.

THE MATERIALS, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AIM TO INTRODUCE THE HISTORY AND THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

THEY ARE NOW ON DISPLAY FOR PREVIEW AT THE CIVIC EDUCATION CENTRE, 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

THE PACKAGE CONSISTS OF A SET OF 74 COLOUR SLIDES, A COMMENTARY ON AN AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE, A SCRIPT, A BOOKLET ENTITLED "THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL : BEHIND THE SCENES" AND AN INFORMATION SHEET ON "HONG KONG : THE FACTS OMELCO".

A VIDEO TAPE OF IDENTICAL CONTENTS HAS ALSO BEEN PRODUCED.

SCHOOLS WISHING TO BORROW THE LEARNING PACKAGE ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE AUDIO VISUAL RESOURCES LIBRARY, VISUAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ROOM 228, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

DUPLICATION OF THE MATERIALS CAN BE MADE AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES UNIT, 181 CANTON ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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APPLICATION FOR DB FUNDS INVITED

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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO ORGANISE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE 1988-1989 FINANCIAL YEAR.

"TO INVITE APPLICATION WELL IN ADVANCE, WILL ENABLE THESE ORGANISATIONS TO PLAN THEIR PROJECTS MORE EFFECTIVELY AND CAN ENSURE THAT A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE FUNDED," A DISTRICT BOARD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THESE PROJECTS SHOULD BE HELD BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR AND SHOULD BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT AND ENHANCE THEIR COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO PROJECTS SHOWING INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY OR PROVIDING NEEDY SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE VETTED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCE COMMITTEE.

INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT AT 11TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, BEFORE FEBRUARY 25, 1988.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MISS MARIA LAU AT 5-8523478.

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COMPETITIONS TO SPREAD KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE

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A BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION AND A SLOGAN WRITING COMPETITION HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED AS PART OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

STUDENTS OF THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS.

THE TWO COMPETITIONS, WITH THE THEME OF "A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE ISLANDS", ARE CO-ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND THE ISLANDS DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE TO DRIVE HOME THE KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE AMONG THE STUDENTS.

THE WINNING ENTRY OF THE BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION WILL BE PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE ISLANDERS, WHILE THOSE OF THE SLOGAN WRITING COMPETITION WILL BE PRINTED ON PLAGUES WHICH WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE SCENIC SPOTS AND COUNTRY PARKS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE COMPETITIONS ARE DIVIDED INTO THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS SECTIONS.

/THE DEADLINE

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THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS JANUARY 11, 1988.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE TODAY (SUNDAY) SAID: "APART FROM THE TWO COMPETITIONS, OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CURRENT ISLANDS DISTRICT KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN ARE IN THE PIPELINE.

"THOSE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE A CLEANING FOR CHARITY DAY, A DWELLING BOAT CLEANING COMPETITION AND A BANNER PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN."

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LION ROCK TUNNEL TRAFFIC STUDY ON DB AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 29) TO DISCUSS FINDINGS OF A STUDY OF THE MAJOR SCHEMES TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

BRIEFING MEMBERS ON THE STUDY WILL BE THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT (NT), MR RICHARD MEAKIN; CHIEF ENGINEER (NT) OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR TSOH MING; CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER (NT EAST), MR SAM CHAN; AND SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR K.S. HUNJAN.

AT THE MEETING MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE "TAI PO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 1987" AND THE LAND USE, POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROVISIONS OF SERVICES AND AMENITIES IN AREA 6 WHICH IS NEAR TO THE TAI PO MARKET RAILWAY STATION.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN TAI PO, REGIONAL COUNCIL'S DISTRICT FESTIVALS SUBSIDY SCHEME, INCREASE IN HIRING CHARGES OF REGIONAL COUNCIL'S CIVIC CENTRES AND A JOINT PROJECT OF THE PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE AND THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON THE "STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO IN 1990'S".

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 29) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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YOUNG MUSICIANS' DEBUT

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A CONCERT BY SOME 200 YOUNG MUSICIANS, ALL UNDER 14 YEARS OLD, WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE TOMORROW (MONDAY) NIGHT TO CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OFFICE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

THE "YOUNG MUSICIANS' DEBUT" WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM. IT WILL FEATURE WIND, STRING AND CHINESE MUSIC, WITH SOLO, ENSEMBLE AS WELL AS ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES.

POPULAR PIECES SUCH AS "SEND ME A ROSE", "THE TIGER GNASHES HIS TEETH" AND THE THEME SONG FROM "CARMEN" WILL BE PLAYED.

WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, LADY WILSON, WILL ATTEND THE CONCERT WHICH WILL START OFF WITH A LION DANCE.

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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS IN TAI PO, YAU MA TEI

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TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN TAI PO AND YAU MA TEI WILL BE MADE URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 30).

IN TAI PO, THE SECTION OF ON PO ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 250 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH NAM WAN ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 350 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME AN URBAN CLEARWAY OPERATING AROUND THE CLOCK.

IN YAU MA TEI, THE EXISTING 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON JORDAN ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN SHANGHAI STREET AND PARKES STREET WILL BE CUT SHORT TO OPERATE DURING PEAK HOURS (THAT IS 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM) ONLY.

WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAYS, NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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