



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ORDERS, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES FOR JUNE RELEASED
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THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS INCREASED BY 1% IN JUNE THIS YEAR OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A MONTHLY SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

ORDERS POSITION IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES IMPROVED MODERATELY OVER A YEAR AGO.

A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN ORDERS POSITION WAS ALSO RECORDED IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, SLIGHT DECREASES IN ORDERS WERE REPORTED BY THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, ORDERS FOR THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED DECREASED BY 1% IN JUNE 1992.

DECREASES IN ORDERS WERE RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS, TEXTILES AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES WHILE INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS DECREASED BY 10% IN JUNE 1992 WHEN COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE CONTINUING TREND OF RELOCATING PRODUCTION PROCESSES TO SOUTH CHINA.

HOWEVER, COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED INCREASED BY 1% IN JUNE 1992.

IN JUNE 1992, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 15% IN MONEY TERMS OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR. COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, THERE WAS LITTLE CHANGE.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED DECREASED IN JUNE 1992 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, BUT REMAINED STABLE WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN JUNE 1992 OVER A YEAR AGO, BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN LARGE COMPANIES IN THE SERVICE SECTOR INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN JUNE 1992 OVER BOTH A MONTH AND A YEAR AGO.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE SERVICE COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, AND INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN TABLES 1 TO 3.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SURVEY SAMPLE COVERS ONLY THE LARGE COMPANIES, THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF THE MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND THE SERVICE SECTORS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF SHORT-TERM DEVELOPMENTS IN THOSE SECTORS.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JUNE 1992 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$4.5 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 805 6441.

TABLE 1 : ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND		
	AS AT THE END OF JUNE 1992 (MONTHS)	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 92 JUNE 91 (%) (%)	
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	4.48	-1	+1
WEARING APPAREL	4.81	-1	+2
TEXTILES	2.25	-6	-1
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3.57	-10	-1
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.55	+3	+9
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.61	+1	+4
OTHERS	3.99	+1	-3

/TABLE 2 :

TABLE 2 : EMPLOYMENT

PERSONS ENGAGED
AS AT THE END OF JUNE 1992

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	MAY 92	JUNE 91
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	+1	-10
FOOD AND DRINKS	+3	*
WEARING APPAREL	*	-11
TEXTILES	-2	-9
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	+11	-9
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	*	-17
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	+2	-18
OTHERS	+1	-1
CONSTRUCTION #	*	-5
SERVICES	+1	+1
BANKS	+1	-1
HOTELS	*	*
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	+1
OTHERS	+1	+1

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

/TABLE 3 :

TABLE 3 : PER CAPITA EARNINGS

NOTE: OWING TO THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS (E.G. BACKPAY OR SPECIAL BONUS), "PER CAPITA EARNINGS" FOR A GIVEN MONTH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RATHER VOLATILE FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY ADVISABLE, IN STUDYING PER CAPITA EARNINGS STATISTICS, NOT TO TAKE A GIVEN MONTH'S DATA IN ISOLATION, BUT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DATA OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PER CAPITA EARNINGS		
	AVERAGE AS IN JUNE 1992	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	(HK\$)	MAY 92 (%)	JUNE 91 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	7,793	*	+15
FOOD AND DRINKS	8,214	+3	+8
WEARING APPAREL	5,910	+3	+12
TEXTILES	6,704	-7	+8
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	7,487	-4	+21
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	7,644	*	+21
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	8,284	+3	+18
OTHERS	9,852	-1	+15
CONSTRUCTION #	10,753	-1	+12
SERVICES	12,481	+1	+12
BANKS	12,297	+5	+12
HOTELS	8,365	+6	+6
PUBLIC UTILITIES	11,831	-1	+14
OTHERS	14,271	+1	+12

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

NOTE TO TABLES 1 - 3 :
UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONG THE COMPANIES SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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MOTHER-TONGUE TEACHING MORE EFFECTIVE

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO INTRODUCE IN 1994 "LANGUAGE GROUPING" IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT WHILE PROPER ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WHO ARE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM IT, OTHER STUDENTS SHOULD BE PLACED IN CHINESE MEDIUM SCHOOLS WHERE, HOWEVER, ENGLISH WOULD CONTINUE TO BE TAUGHT AS A CORE SUBJECT.

"DUAL-MEDIUM SCHOOLS OFFERING SOME ENGLISH MEDIUM AND SOME CHINESE MEDIUM CLASSES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE SYSTEM TO SMOOTH THE TRANSITION," HE SAID.

"BUT MIXED-CODE TEACHING WILL BE REDUCED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. RESEARCH INDICATES THAT THE SPLIT BETWEEN ENGLISH MEDIUM AND CHINESE MEDIUM CLASSES IS LIKELY TO BE IN THE RATIO OF 3 TO 7."

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION SEVENTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TODAY (MONDAY), MR CHAN NOTED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD FOR OVER 130 YEARS REPEATEDLY ADVOCATED MOTHER-TONGUE TEACHING FOR LOCAL CHILDREN.

BUT PARENTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY RESISTED IT, BELIEVING THAT THEIR CHILDREN WILL HAVE BETTER JOB PROSPECTS IF TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

HOWEVER, MR CHAN SAID, THE MAJORITY OF LOCAL CHILDREN TODAY COULD NOT MANAGE TO LEARN PROPERLY THROUGH ENGLISH, ESPECIALLY WHEN SOME OF THEIR TEACHERS' ENGLISH MIGHT ALSO BE NOT VERY GOOD.

THIS HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A PHENOMENON CALLED "MIXED-CODE" TEACHING, WHEREBY MANY SCHOOLS CALL THEMSELVES ENGLISH MEDIUM AND USE TEXTBOOKS WRITTEN IN ENGLISH, BUT THE TEACHERS TEACH LARGELY IN CANTONESE.

"THIS PRODUCES STUDENTS WHOSE LANGUAGE STANDARDS ARE HIGH NEITHER IN ENGLISH NOR IN CHINESE," MR CHAN SAID, ADDING THAT THIS IS A SITUATION TO WHICH HONG KONG HAS TO FACE UP SQUARELY.

"WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE LANGUAGE GROUPING MEASURE WILL NOT ONLY IMPROVE LANGUAGE STANDARDS BUT WILL ALSO IMPROVE LEARNING GENERALLY IN OUR SCHOOLS.

"ALL THE EVIDENCE IS THAT TEACHING AND LEARNING ARE MORE EFFECTIVE IF THE MOTHER TONGUE IS USED," MR CHAN STATED.

MR CHAN TOLD THE GATHERING THAT MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IS ONLY ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS PLANNED OR INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE 1990S TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF SCHOOLS AND THE EDUCATION PROVIDED IN THEM.

/ANOTHER MAJOR

ANOTHER MAJOR REFORM TO BE INTRODUCED INTO PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOLS IS TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENTS (TTRA) SCHEME.

IT SEEKS TO MAKE SCHOOL EDUCATION LESS TEACHER-CENTRED AND MORE STUDENT-CENTRED - IN OTHER WORDS, TO MAKE EDUCATION MORE USER-FRIENDLY TO STUDENTS AS WELL AS TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE TRADITIONAL "CHALK AND TALK" TO A MORE ENJOYABLE AND MORE RELEVANT TASK-BASED APPROACH.

MR CHAN SAID: "THE SCHEME WILL START AT PRIMARY 4 LEVEL IN MAY NEXT YEAR IN THE THREE CORE SUBJECTS - ENGLISH, CHINESE AND MATHEMATICS.

"WE SHALL EXTEND THE FRAMEWORK TO COVER ALL PRIMARY AND JUNIOR CLASSES BY 1997.

"EVENTUALLY TTRA WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL SUBJECTS, AND POSSIBLY TO THE UPPER SECONDARY LEVEL, IF AND WHEN OUR 'O' AND 'A' LEVELS CAN BE MADE CRITERION-REFERENCED."

A THIRD MAJOR REFORM WHICH MR CHAN DESCRIBED AS "BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT REFORM OF ALL" IS TO UPGRADE THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS TAKEN A LONG, HARD LOOK AT THIS ISSUE AND PUBLISHED TWO MONTHS AGO A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT CONTAINING A SERIES OF FAR-REACHING RECOMMENDATIONS.

THESE INCLUDED:

- * SEPARATE THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE AND UPGRADE THEM INTO AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY OFFER DEGREE AS WELL AS CERTIFICATE COURSES;
- * SETTING AN ALL GRADUATE TEACHING PROFESSION AS A LONG-TERM GOAL; AS A FIRST STEP, 35 PER CENT OF PRIMARY TEACHERS SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO GRADUATE STATUS OVER 15 YEARS; AND
- * IMPROVE THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOLS, ALLEVIATE TEACHERS' WORKLOADS AND ENHANCE HOME-SCHOOL CO-OPERATION.

MR CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE AIMED AT UPGRADING THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS AND AT ENABLING THE TEACHING PROFESSION TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN HIGH QUALITY PEOPLE.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD LAUNCHED THE "SCHOOL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE" LAST YEAR WHICH SOUGHT TO DEVOLVE MORE DECISION-MAKING POWER TO SCHOOLS.

THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF CHANGE INVOLVED IN THE INITIATIVE ARE:

- * ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLEAR DEFINITION OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL SPONSORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS AND PRINCIPALS TO ENSURE GREATER EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY;

/* GREATER PARTICIPATION

- * GREATER PARTICIPATION OF TEACHERS, PARENTS AND ALUMNI IN MAKING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS IN AND FOR THEIR SCHOOLS;
- * SYSTEMATIC PLANNING AND EVALUATION OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES; AND
- * MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOLS TO USE THE RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM, IN WAYS THAT WOULD BEST MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT'S EDUCATION OBJECTIVES.

TWENTY-ONE SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE JOINED THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SCHEME AND IT IS HOPED THAT ALL PUBLIC SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE PERSUADED TO JOIN BY THE MID-1990S, TO BE FOLLOWED SOON AFTER THAT BY PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

"THE ROLE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL THEN HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM ONE OF CONTROL TO ONE OF SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

"THIS WILL GIVE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS MORE ROOM TO SHOW THEIR METTLE, TO INNOVATE AND TO DERIVE MORE SATISFACTION FROM THEIR WORK," MR CHAN ADDED.

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FUNDS FOR TERTIARY STUDIES IN UK

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NEW STUDENTS WHO INTEND TO PURSUE TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM STARTING FROM THE 1992-93 ACADEMIC YEAR ARE REMINDED TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE UNITED KINGDOM/HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS JOINT FUNDING SCHEME BY OCTOBER 1.

THE SCHEME IS JOINTLY FINANCED BY THE HONG KONG AND UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENTS TO HELP NEEDY HONG KONG STUDENTS MEET THE HIGHER TUITION FEES CHARGED ON OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY SAID THE SCHEME WAS OPEN TO HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING FULL-TIME FIRST DEGREE OR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSES AT UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNICS AND COLLEGES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, SUBJECT TO THEIR HAVING RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY OR BEEN DOMICILED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS.

THE SCHEME IS MEANS-TESTED AND THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TUITION FEES PAYABLE BY AN OVERSEAS STUDENT AND A NOTIONAL BRITISH HOME STUDENT FEE ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING STUDENTS' FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1992-93, THE NOTIONAL "HOME" FEE WILL BE 702 POUNDS STERLING.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF GRANTS, BUT IF THE TOTAL REQUIREMENT EXCEEDS THE JOINT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THEN EACH SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT'S SHARE OF GRANT WILL BE PROPORTIONATELY REDUCED, WITH THE BALANCE MADE UP BY A LOAN SOLELY FINANCED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

AN INTEREST ON THE LOAN BORROWED BY APPLICANTS IS CHARGEABLE AT THE RATE OF 2.5 PER CENT A YEAR CALCULATED FROM THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE LOAN REPAYMENT PERIOD.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY AT QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOW BLOCK, GROUND FLOOR, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING WITH THEM DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THEIR HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED BY AN INSTITUTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR ONE OF THE COURSES COVERED BY THE SCHEME (PROOF OF CONDITIONAL OFFER WILL BE ACCEPTABLE).

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO 867 3547.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY HAND TO THE AGENCY ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1.

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YAXLEY SPELLS OUT HK OPPORTUNITIES TO FINNAS
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THE DRAMATIC EXPANSION IN THE ECONOMIES OF SOUTH CHINA, INCLUDING HONG KONG AND THE EAST ASIAN REGION, PRESENTED EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OVERSEAS INVESTORS AND TRADERS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, MR JOHN YAXLEY, IN HIS ADDRESS ON "HONG KONG UP TO THE YEAR 2000" TO BUSINESSMEN AT A SEMINAR IN HELSINKI TODAY (MONDAY).

HE SAID IN THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMY, WHICH IN A DECADE OR SO WOULD BE LARGER THAN EUROPE OR NORTH AMERICA, THERE WOULD BE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINNISH BUSINESSMEN, AND HONG KONG WAS THE BEST BASE FROM WHICH TO GRASP THEM.

THE SEMINAR WAS ORGANISED BY THE FINNISH/HONG KONG TRADE ASSOCIATION AT THE FINNISH CENTRAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MR YAXLEY URGED FINNISH BUSINESSMEN TO FURTHER DEVELOP THEIR TRADING RELATIONS WITH THE TERRITORY, POINTING OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY NOT ONLY IN THE OPENING UP OF CHINA, BUT ALSO AS A FOCUS OF ACTIVITY WITHIN THE EAST ASIA AREA.

BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND FINLAND HAS BEEN GROWING IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

HONG KONG'S MAJOR EXPORTS TO FINLAND GREW AT AN ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF 11.6 PER CENT BETWEEN 1981 AND 1991, WHILE MAJOR RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS GREW AT AN ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF 54.1 PER CENT AND 32.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

MR YAXLEY SAID TRADE WITH THE MAINLAND HAD QUADRUPLED SINCE 1985, AND LAST YEAR ALONE TRADE WITH CHINA INCREASED 27 PER CENT.

IN 1991, HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH THE REGION INCREASED 23 PER CENT - EXCEEDING THE TERRITORY'S TRADE WITH EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA COMBINED.

"DESPITE PROSPECTS IN EUROPE, BOTH EAST AND WEST, I BELIEVE THAT FOR THE NEXT DECADE AND PROBABLY WELL BEYOND, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE ECONOMIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION WILL OFFER THE MOST EXCITING BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN THE WORLD.

"HONG KONG IS WELL PLACED TO BENEFIT FROM WHAT 'THE ECONOMIST' RECENTLY CALLED THE MOST RAPID INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN," HE SAID.

THE ECONOMIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION WERE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE GROWTH RATES DOUBLE THOSE OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA OR EVEN JAPAN OVER THE NEXT DECADE, AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS BELIEF THAT HONG KONG HAD LAUNCHED A MASSIVE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME IN THE TERRITORY'S INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING THE NEW AIRPORT.

"HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS RAPID EXPANSION AND, INDEED, THAT OF CHINA'S WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IF WE HAD NOT DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH 10 BILLION POUNDS WORTH OF NEW INVESTMENT IN OUR NEW AIRPORT," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE, MR YAXLEY REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT "WHICH EFFECTIVELY GUARANTEES HONG KONG'S CURRENT WAY OF LIFE FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997".

"CHINA NEEDS HONG KONG AND HONG KONG NEEDS CHINA ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT," SAID MR YAXLEY, NOTING THAT IN RECENT YEARS CHINA HAD INVESTED HEAVILY IN HONG KONG, IN THE SAME WAY AS HONG KONG HAD INVESTED IN CHINA.

TOMORROW (TUESDAY), MR YAXLEY WILL CALL ON FINLAND'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, MR PEKKA LINTU, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR JAAKKO LAAFOVA.

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NEW AIRPORT PLATFORM CHANGES WELCOMED

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COMMENTING ON THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY'S (PAA) ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES TO THE DESIGN OF THE AIRPORT PLATFORM AT CHEK LAP KOK, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMES MOVES BY THE PAA TO REDUCE COSTS AND TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

"THE PAA IS CONDUCTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON THE LAYOUT MODIFICATIONS TO THE AIRPORT PLATFORM IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE."

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PARENTS ASSURED OF EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PARENTS WERE ASSURED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CLASS SUSPENSION DUE TO TYPHOONS AND RAINSTORMS WOULD BE ISSUED AT AN APPROPRIATE AND EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID CONFUSION AND ANXIETY.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, MADE THE ASSURANCE WHEN HE VISITED THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TO FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH THE WORK OF THE WEATHER FORECASTERS.

"THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IS ONE OF THE MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION WHICH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DEPENDS UPON IN MAKING DECISIONS ON SCHOOL CLOSURE AS A RESULT OF BAD WEATHER," MR WONG SAID.

HE SAID THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAD FOR YEARS ALERTED THE DEPARTMENT AND HAD GIVEN EXPERT ADVICE ON WEATHER CONDITIONS.

MR WONG PAID TRIBUTE TO ROYAL OBSERVATORY STAFF FOR THEIR LOYAL SERVICE, NOTING THAT THIS WAS NOT ALWAYS APPRECIATED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A HIGH DEGREE OF INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR PATRICK SHAM, MR WONG WAS BRIEFED ON THE GENERAL OPERATION OF THE OBSERVATORY, PARTICULARLY DURING THE PASSAGE OF TROPICAL CYCLONES AND BAD WEATHER.

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THREE GOVERNMENT LOTS UP FOR SALE

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL OFFER THREE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND FOR SALE IN A PUBLIC AUCTION ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 19).

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT BERWICK STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 114 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL, PETROL FILLING STATION AND SERVICES APARTMENT) PURPOSES.

THE SECOND SITE IS IN WANG YIP STREET WEST, TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,778 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADES), WHILE THE FIRST FLOOR IS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS.

THE REMAINING SITE IS IN MUI WO FERRY PIER ROAD, MUI WO, LANTAU.

THE SITE HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 741 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, CINEMA AND HOTEL) PURPOSES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

A PRESS AREA WILL BE DESIGNATED AT THE VENUE. PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE INVITED TO BRING ALONG TELEPHOTO LENSES.

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VIETNAMESE ON MOVE TO PAVE WAY FOR CAMP CLOSURE

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ABOUT 2,000 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS IN THE SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE WILL BE TRANSFERRED SHORTLY TO CHI MA WAN (LOWER) DETENTION CENTRE TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE SHEK KONG CENTRE TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE ACTING REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR EDDY CHAN, SAID A REVIEW OF THE OVERALL VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS' SITUATION HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE SHEK KONG CENTRE SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO CLOSE DOWN BECAUSE THE FACILITIES AND CONDITIONS THERE WERE LESS FAVOURABLE THAN THOSE IN OTHER CENTRES.

"FURTHERMORE, THE CLOSURE OF THE SHEK KONG CENTRE WILL RELEASE MORE THAN 200 POLICEMEN FOR NORMAL LAW AND ORDER ENFORCEMENT DUTIES."

MR CHAN SAID THE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS' POPULATION HAD DROPPED BY ALMOST 10,000 IN THE LAST 10 MONTHS AND WAS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO DECREASE GRADUALLY AS AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 1,000 RETURNED TO VIETNAM EACH MONTH UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

"PROVIDED THAT THE PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUED, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONSIDER GRADUALLY CLOSING DOWN MORE DETENTION CENTRES AND AT THE SAME TIME GRADUALLY THINNING OUT THE POPULATION AT OTHER CENTRES SUCH AS THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE," HE SAID.

THE FUTURE OF THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION CENTRE IN SECTION C OF SHEK KONG WILL BE REVIEWED ONCE THE OTHER SECTIONS ARE CLEARED.

AFTER THE ENTIRE CENTRE HAVE BEEN CLOSED, THE DETENTION CENTRE SITE, WHICH ACTUALLY IS PART OF THE AIR-STRIP OF THE SHEK KONG BARRACKS, WILL BE HANDED BACK TO THE GARRISON.

"THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO DEFINITE PLANS TO CLOSE OTHER CENTRES AFTER SHEK KONG. WE WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION AS THE VIETNAMESE MIGRENTS' POPULATION DROPS FURTHER," MR CHAN SAID.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON ENVIRONMENT GOES ON SALE

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THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS REFLECTED IN THE WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMMES SET OUT IN AN ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE 165-PAGE REPORT "ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1992", CONTAINING 78 DIAGRAMS AND 20 TABLES OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION, AS WELL AS 158 PICTURES, GIVES A COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE WORK DONE TO PREVENT AND CONTROL POLLUTION LAST YEAR.

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"IT IS AN ESSENTIAL REFERENCE FOR ANYONE WHO WISHES TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN HONG KONG," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE REPORT RECORDS THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 10-YEAR PROGRAMME SET OUT IN THE 1989 WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION PUBLISHED IN 1989.

THIS INCLUDES THE AVAILABILITY OF UNLEADED PETROL AT ALL PETROL FILLING STATIONS; THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE STRINGENT VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS; LEGISLATIVE CONTROL ON HAND-HELD PERCUSSIVE BREAKERS AND AIR COMPRESSORS; THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE MARINE DUMPING ACTION PLAN IN ORDER TO DETER ILLEGAL AND SHORT DUMPING; AND THE REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL WASTES UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE.

FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE MEASURES, THE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED TWO LOCAL CONTROL OFFICES TO CARRY OUT ROUTINE INSPECTIONS AND TACKLE LOCAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

LAST YEAR SAW THE START OF CONSTRUCTION AIMED AT UPGRADING THE TERRITORY'S SEWERAGE SYSTEM, AND THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE DESIGNING, BUILDING AND OPERATING OF THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ANOTHER ENCOURAGING FEATURE OF THE PAST YEAR WAS THAT MORE AND MORE INITIATIVES WERE BEING TAKEN BY NON-GOVERNMENT BODIES, AND THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE DRIVE TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT WAS GROWING STRONGER.

A COLOURFUL PICTORIAL SECTION IN THE REPORT FEATURES THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAMMES THAT HAVE BEEN WIDELY SUPPORTED BY VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE REPORT, AT \$22 A COPY, IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

THE CHINESE VERSION WILL BE ON SALE NEXT WEEK.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS:

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

BILL FARRELL
SHIRLEY LEE

TEL 835 1102
TEL 835 1106

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

FRANKLIN CHUNG TEL 810 2907

NOISE

RAYMOND CHAN TEL 835 1122

WATER

DAVID HALL TEL 835 1234
H.Y. YEUNG TEL 835 1238

WASTES

MICHAEL WU TEL 835 1216

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

HEIDI KWAN TEL 835 1043

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 85.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 501.857 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 226.632 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 38.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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FRESH WATER SUSPENSION IN SAI KUNG

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SAI KUNG WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 19) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES AT A SECTION OF SAI SHA ROAD BETWEEN WONG CHUK WAN AND CHEUNG MUK TAU, INCLUDING THOSE IN LONG KENG, O TAU, YUNG SHUE O, KEI LING HA LO WAI, KEI LING HA SAN WAI, SAI KENG, NGA YIU TAU, TAI TUNG, TAI TUNG WO LIU, TSENG TAU, MA KWU LAM, CHE HA, KWUN HANG, NAI CHUNG AND SAI O.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	17 AUG 22
PAPER ON OFFER	GOVT BOND
ISSUE NUMBER	2408
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,789 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN
AV PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	100.77 (4.01)
LOWEST PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	100.75 (4.02)
PRO RATE RATIO	ABOUT 67 PCT
AV TENDER PRICE (YIELD)	100.62 (4.09)

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,770
REVERSAL OF LAF	-270
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+1,000
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,500

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 109.8 **0.1* 17.8.92

/HONG KONG

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.37 PCT	15 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.57	3.35
1 MONTH	2.36 PCT	18 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.78	3.61
3 MONTHS	2.36 PCT	21 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.78	3.88
6 MONTHS	2.53 PCT	24 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.76	4.02
12 MONTHS	3.07 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 6,360 MN

CLOSED 17 AUGUST 1992

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