



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR ARRIVES IN USA AT START OF OFFICIAL VISIT

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, ARRIVED IN LOS ANGELES ON NOVEMBER 12 (LOS ANGELES TIME) WITH A POSITIVE MESSAGE FOR THE US BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE INVESTING IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA ON ARRIVAL AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT THE START OF A WEEK-LONG OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES, MR PATTEN SAID THAT HE WOULD BE TELLING BUSINESS LEADERS IN CALIFORNIA ABOUT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND ITS INVESTMENT IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE.

"I'M GOING TO BE ENCOURAGING THEM TO COME TO HONG KONG, IF THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY, TO INVEST IN HONG KONG AND TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR FUTURE," SAID MR PATTEN.

MR PATTEN SAID HE WOULD BE GETTING ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT HONG KONG IS DOING SPLENDIDLY AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO WELL INTO THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IF IT HAS THE UNDERSTANDING OF ITS FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD.

MR PATTEN POINTED OUT THAT ALL THE ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE MADE HONG KONG SUCH AN IMPORTANT BASE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FOR THEIR OPERATIONS IN THE REGION WOULD CONTINUE AFTER 1997 DUE TO THE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA.

"THE JOINT DECLARATION GUARANTEES THAT HONG KONG WILL GO ON BEING ADMINISTERED AFTER 1997 FOR 50 YEARS AS IT IS TODAY. WHAT THAT MEANS IS THE RULE OF LAW CONTINUING, WITH BUSINESS CONTINUING TO HAVE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD. WHAT IT MEANS IS CLEAN GOVERNMENT, THE CLEAN AWARD OF CONTRACTS AND GRANTS AND FRANCHISES," SAID MR PATTEN.

NOTING THAT THERE ARE ALREADY ABOUT 100 FACTORIES IN HONG KONG WHICH ARE OWNED BY US INTERESTS, EMPLOYING ABOUT 20,000 PEOPLE, MR PATTEN SAID THAT MANY AMERICAN FIRMS ARE COMING TO LOOK AT HONG KONG TO SEE HOW THEY COULD EXTEND AND DEVELOP THAT INVESTMENT.

MR PATTEN POINTED OUT THAT TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES RUNS AT ABOUT US \$41 BILLION A YEAR, AND ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF IT IS TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CALIFORNIA.

FOLLOWING THE FIRST LEG OF THE VISIT IN LOS ANGELES, THE GOVERNOR WILL TRAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO, AND COMPLETE THE WEEK IN SEATTLE. HE WILL MEET SENIOR STATE AND CITY OFFICIALS, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND GIVE KEYNOTE SPEECHES IN EACH CITY.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY ATTENDS APEC MEETING

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FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SIR HAMISH MACLEOD'S MEDIA SESSION AT THE AIRPORT TODAY (NOVEMBER 13):

FS: SO, I THINK SO FAR ON APEC, THE MINISTERIAL HAS GONE PRETTY WELL BUT CLEARLY, THE MAIN ISSUE, THE KEY ISSUE, HAS BEEN LEFT FOR THE LEADERS AND THAT'S TO SAY HOW FAR WE CAN GO ON THE DECLARATION ON ACHIEVING FREE TRADE AND IN PARTICULAR BY WHAT DATE. CLEARLY, THAT HAS BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION SO I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.

I WILL BE BEING BRIEFED, OBVIOUSLY, BY OUR TEAM WHEN I GET TO JAKARTA, ON THE LATEST ISSUES, BUT I THINK THE MAIN FOCUS WILL BE ON THE DECLARATION, I THINK THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

WE, OF COURSE, WILL DO OUR BEST TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO BE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE ON THE FREE TRADE DECLARATION AND I KNOW THAT PROBABLY MOST MEMBERS ARE PRETTY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THAT. I THINK IF WE CAN GET THE TARGET SET, THE LONG TERM TARGET, THEN THE DETAILS CAN COME LATER; THEY WILL NOT BE EASY BUT WE HAVE TIME OVER THE NEXT MONTHS TO SORT THAT OUT BUT WE MUST GET THE DECLARATION IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. ANY QUESTIONS?

QUESTION: MR MACLEOD, DO YOU MIND IF I SIDE TRACK A BIT TO ASK ABOUT THE AIRPORT?

FS: YOU CAN TRY BUT I MAY NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.

QUESTION: SO, ANY PROGRESS ON THE TALKS?

FS: I DON'T THINK I'VE GOT ANYTHING NEW ON THE AIRPORT.

QUESTION: WELL, IN ORDER TO MAKE A VERY CLEAR DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MTRC, DO YOU AGREE THAT IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR IN THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENT THAT THE SHARE INTEREST OF MTRC SHOULD BE INCLUDED INTO THE TEXT?

FS: WELL, I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS BECAUSE OF COURSE THEY ARE JUST BEING DISCUSSED, SO I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THAT DETAIL. THOSE DISCUSSIONS, I THINK BOTH SIDES CERTAINLY INTEND TO GET THROUGH THEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND SO I HOPE THAT WILL BE THE CASE.

QUESTION: ISN'T IT LIKELY FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS YOU HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE WILL BE REACHED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR?

FS: I CERTAINLY HOPE SO. I WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF WE DIDN'T.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE -- SHOULD THE MTRC -- IT SHOULD --

FS: I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO THAT BECAUSE AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAS BEEN A BRIEFING FOR LEGCO MEMBERS AND THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, AND OF COURSE THERE IS A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING COMING UP, SO I THINK I'LL LEAVE THAT TO MY COLLEAGUES AND DONALD TSANG TO GET ON WITH IT.

QUESTION: AT THE LATEST EXPERTS' MEETING BOTH SIDES HAVE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS ON WHAT THE REMAINING DIFFICULTIES ARE.

FS: OKAY. WELL I'M SURE THEY'LL SORT IT OUT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. SEE YOU WHEN I GET BACK. THANK YOU.

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CUSTOMS ACHIEVE PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 1993-94

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE PERFORMANCE TARGETS SET UNDER ITS "SERVING THE COMMUNITY" SCHEME FOR 1993-94 WERE GENERALLY ACHIEVED.

"THE DEPARTMENT ATTAINED AN ACHIEVEMENT RATE OF OVER 99 PER CENT IN MOST OF THE PERFORMANCE TARGETS," HE SAID.

"THE SLIGHTLY LOWER ACHIEVEMENT RATE OF 87 PER CENT RELATED TO THE ISSUING OF DUTIABLE COMMODITIES IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCOMPLETE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY APPLICANTS, CAUSING DELAY TO PROCESSING."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AN ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE PLEDGE, RELATED TO THE CLEARANCE OF AIR PASSENGERS, HAS BEEN ADDED FOR THE YEAR 1994-95.

"UPON QUEUING UP FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, THE TARGET IS TO CLEAR PASSENGERS WITHIN 15 MINUTES, EXCEPT FOR THOSE BEING SELECTED FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CLEARANCE OF DETAINED SEA CARGO HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM SEVEN DAYS TO FIVE. THE TARGET TIME TO CLEAR DETAINED AIR CARGO IS NOW 90 MINUTES.

THE TIME TO MAKE IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS AND THE PAYMENT OF AD VALOREM CHARGES AT COLLECTION OFFICES HAS BEEN MODIFIED.

FOR LODGMENT OF MORE THAN 50 PAPER DECLARATIONS, THE TARGET, INCLUDING QUEUING TIME, RANGES FROM HALF AN HOUR TO TWO HOURS.

FOR LODGMENT OF LESS THAN 50 PAPER DECLARATIONS, THE TARGET TIME IS HALF AN HOUR TO ONE AND ONE-QUARTER HOURS.

DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO SET UP CUSTOMERS LIAISON GROUPS FOR AIR AND SEA CARGO.

/"THE DEPARTMENT

"THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN EFFICIENT, COURTEOUS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC IN A GOOD ENVIRONMENT. WE WELCOME ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

COPIES OF THE SECOND EDITION OF THE "PERFORMANCE PLEDGES" LISTING THE STANDARDS OF THE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL CUSTOMS OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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CHALLENGES TO IMMIGRATION CONTROLLERS

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NO ONE KNOWS WHO WILL BE THE NEXT CLIENT - HE MAY BE A WANTED SUSPECT, AN EXCILED KING, OR AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT HOLDING A FORGED PASSPORT.

BUT THEY HAVE TO DECIDE IN A MINUTE OR TWO WHETHER HE IS ALLOWED TO ENTER OR LEAVE THE DOORS OF HONG KONG .

"THIS REQUIRES A QUICK MIND, DELICATE OBSERVATION AND A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF IMMIGRATION LAWS," CONFIDED MR DOMINIC C Y CHUI, PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER WHO OVERSEES RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING MATTERS.

THOSE WHO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE AN IMPRESSION THAT IMMIGRATION WORK IS SIMPLY STAMPING PASSPORTS.

"BUT THIS REMARK IS SUPERFICIAL. IT REFLECTS ONLY A VERY MINOR SEGMENT OF THE PICTURE," MR CHUI SAID.

"WE ARE A DISCIPLINARY TEAM WHO HAS MANY CHANCES OF MEETING PEOPLE FROM AN EXTENSIVE VARIETY - THEY MAY SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND COME FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD."

THE JOB IS TO PREVENT THE ENTRY OF UNDESIRABLE PERSONS AND THE RUNAWAY OF SUSPECTS WANTED FOR CRIMINAL OFFENCES, WHILE FACILITATING GENUINE TRAVEL.

"THAT IS THE MISSION OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT - 'MEET THE PEOPLE, MEET THE CHALLENGE'," MR CHUI SAID.

TO MEET AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR FRONTLINE MANPOWER, THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW RECRUITING IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS ALL THE YEAR ROUND. MORE THAN 200 IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS HAVE BEEN RECRUITED SINCE LAST YEAR.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS HAVE TO TAKE UP A 12-WEEK TRAINING COURSE BEFORE THEY ARE POSTED TO DIFFERENT DIVISIONS.

TRAINEES ARE GIVEN LECTURES ON LEGISLATION RELATED TO IMMIGRATION CONTROL, REGISTRATION OF PERSONS, THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND THE TECHNIQUES OF SEARCH, ARREST, ESCORT AND CROWD CONTROL.

/PHYSICAL TRAINING

PHYSICAL TRAINING SUCH AS MARCHING DRILLS AND FITNESS EXERCISES IS ALSO AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TRAINING COURSE.

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD MR LAM WAI-KEE, WHO WAS AMONG THE LATEST BATCH OF NEWLY RECRUITED IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS, DESCRIBED THE TRAINING COURSE AS VERY USEFUL AND IMPRESSIVE, THOUGH THE MARCHING DRILLS HAD GIVEN HIM A FEELING OF EXHILARATION.

WAI-KEE WILL BE POSTED TO THE INVESTIGATION DIVISION, ITS JOB NATURE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (CID) OF THE POLICE FORCE.

HIS BEAT COVERS TRACING THE ROUTES OF INTERNATIONAL FORGED PASSPORTS TRADE, CHECKING THE IDENTITY OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND ARRESTING THOSE WHO OVERSTAY IN HONG KONG AFTER THEIR VISAS EXPIRE.

"I AM LONGING TO TAKE UP THE JOB AND HOPE THAT IT WILL BE A GOOD START FOR MY CAREER," HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH JOINING THE DEPARTMENT DECADES AGO, VETERAN MR CHUI SHARED WAI-KEE'S REASON OF CHOOSING THE IMMIGRATION CAREER.

"WE ARE INSPIRED BY THE DISCIPLINARY SPIRIT AND THE SENSE OF MISSION THAT IS SO UNIQUE IN THE DEPARTMENT," THEY SAID.

REFERRING TO CAREER PROSPECTS, MR CHUI SAID: "THE PROMOTION PROSPECTS ARE DEFINITELY GOOD." AN IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT MAY BE PROMOTED TO SENIOR IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT AND THEN TO CHIEF IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT AFTER EXTENSIVE TRAINING AND EXAMINATIONS.

THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW LOOKING FOR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 30 AND IN GOOD PHYSIQUE.

FOR MEN, THEY MUST HAVE A MINIMUM HEIGHT OF 1.62 METRES AND A MINIMUM WEIGHT OF 50 KILOGRAMS, AND FOR WOMEN, 1.52 METRES AND 42 KILOGRAMS.

THEY MUST AT LEAST HAVE COMPLETED SECONDARY THREE EDUCATION AND BE ABLE TO READ AND WRITE CHINESE AND SPEAK FLUENT CHINESE.

INTERESTED YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ADVISED TO LOOK OUT FOR GOVERNMENT VACANCIES ADVERTISEMENT IN SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, SING TAO DAILY AND SING TAO EVENING POST EVERY SATURDAY.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM DISTRICT OFFICES, THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT, OR ANY OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

NEW REGIONAL SECRETARY TAKES UP POST

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MR JOSEPH WONG WING-PING WILL ASSUME OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON/NEW TERRITORIES TOMORROW (MONDAY).

MR WONG, AGED 46, JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1973 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN 1994.

HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES INCLUDING FINANCE BRANCH, THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE FORMER OFFICE OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (UMELCO) AND THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM 1988 TO 1989 AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY FROM 1989 TO 1991.

MR WONG WAS THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HONG KONG TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE IN GENEVA FROM 1991 TO 1994 BEFORE HE TAKES UP THE NEW POST.

HE WILL TAKE OVER FROM MISS CHRISTINE CHOW KWAN-TAI, WHO IS RETIRING.

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REGIONAL HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES STRENGTHENED

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S TSUEN WAN HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE WILL PROVIDE FULL-TIME SERVICES TO RESIDENTS OF THE WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE CENTRE WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROMOTING HEALTH EDUCATION IN THE REGION AND PROVIDE TAILORED ACTIVITIES BASED ON LOCAL SITUATIONS AND NEEDS.

HE SAID MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD MAKE FULL USE OF ITS AUDIO-VISUAL COLLECTION ON VARIOUS HEALTH TOPICS.

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE COULD VIEW THE MATERIALS IN THE AUDIO-VISUAL ROOMS, AND SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES COULD BORROW THEM FREE OF CHARGE TO ORGANISE THEIR OWN HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, HE ADDED.

THE CENTRE HAS ALSO PREPARED NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND REFERENCE FILES ON MANY HEALTH TOPICS.

IT WILL ALSO STAGE EXHIBITIONS ON A SERIES OF HEALTH ISSUES AND DISTRIBUTE PRINTED MATERIALS SUCH AS POSTERS AND LEAFLETS.

THE TSUEN WAN CENTRE IS ONE OF THE THREE REGIONAL HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRES SET UP BY THE DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT (CHEU).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CENTRES WERE WELL-RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC AS THE NUMBER OF VISITORS HAD JUMPED FROM 15,500 IN 1992 TO 18,000 IN 1993, WITH AN INCREASE OF 16 PER CENT.

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE UNIT AND THE THREE REGIONAL CENTRES ARE 8.30 AM TO 1 PM FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY, AND 2 PM TO 5 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

THE ADDRESS OF THE CENTRES ARE:

- * CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT
7TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE,
130 HENNESSY ROAD,
WAN CHAI.
TEL 572 1476

- * TSUEN WAN HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE
38 SAI LAU KOK ROAD,
13TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING,
TSUEN WAN.
TEL 417 6505

- * YUNG FUNG SHEE HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE
GROUND FLOOR, YUNG FUNG SHEE MEMORIAL CENTRE,
CHA KWO LING ROAD,
KWUN TONG.
TEL 727 8227

- * SHATIN HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE
2ND FLOOR, LEK YUEN HEALTH CENTRE,
SHA TIN
TEL 692 8753

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OLDER VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME PROPOSED

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THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CARE FOR THE ELDERLY HAS PROPOSED AN OLDER VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME TO ENABLE ELDERLY PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES IN SOCIETY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE WALL-PAINTING DAY OF THE HELPING HAND CHEUNG MUK TAU HOLIDAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, MR STRACHAN SAID SENIOR CITIZENS WERE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF VOLUNTEERS.

AS AN EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME, THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED AN ADDITIONAL WORKER EACH BE PROVIDED IN EIGHT SELECTED MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN ELDERLY PERSONS AS VOLUNTEERS.

"TODAY, I ALSO SEE A LOT OF ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS HELP IN THIS WALL-PAINTING EVENT.

/"IN FACT,

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"IN FACT, THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PERSONS HAS ALSO BEEN RECOGNISED BY THE WORKING GROUP.

"IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A SMALL TEAM OF FULL-TIME STAFF BE PROVIDED AT THE OFFICES OF SELECTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TO RUN A REFERRAL CENTRE AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO VOLUNTEERS," MR STRACHAN SAID.

NOTING THAT HELPING HAND HAD ADOPTED "SUCCESSFUL AGEING" AS A THEME OF SERVICES, MR STRACHAN SAID COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION WOULD BE ONE AREA OF EMPHASIS, UNDER WHICH ELDERLY MEMBERS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS OF HELPING OTHERS.

"TODAY, I WITNESS MANY ENERGETIC ELDERLY PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THIS WALL-PAINTING EVENT. THEY DEMONSTRATE THEY ARE EFFECTIVE, CONTRIBUTORY MEMBERS OF SOCIETY," HE ADDED.

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ENVIRONMENT REPORT ON TO KAU WAN RECLAMATION PUBLISHED

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AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE LANTAU PORT DEVELOPMENT STAGE ONE - RECLAMATION FOR SHIPYARD AT TO KAU WAN, NORTH LANTAU, HAS BEEN COMPLETED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

LIMITED COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE GENERAL REGISTRY, FOURTH FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE REPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION FROM THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * REFERENCE LIBRARIES OF THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS;
- * ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, 27TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, WAN CHAI;
- * PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN; AND
- * LIBRARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT, FOURTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL.

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RESTAURANTS URGED NOT TO SERVE DISHES OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

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LOCAL RESTAURANTS ARE REMINDED NOT TO SERVE DISHES OF PROHIBITED ENDANGERED SPECIES TO THEIR CUSTOMERS.

ISSUING THE REMINDER TODAY (SUNDAY), THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S (AFD) ACTING SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER MR CHAN JEE-KEUNG ALSO URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO REFRAIN FROM ORDERING THESE DISHES.

MR CHAN SAID: "IN PAST YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN REPORTS ALLEGING THAT SOME RESTAURANTS IN HONG KONG OFFERED DISHES OF ENDANGERED SPECIES TO CUSTOMERS, PARTICULARLY WHEN WINTER WAS APPROACHING."

HE REITERATED THAT IT WAS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE TO SELL OR POSSESS ANY ENDANGERED ITEMS ILLEGALLY.

THE CONTROL ALSO APPLIES TO ANY OBJECT THAT IS CLAIMED, OR HELD OUT BY ANY PERSON OR BY ADVERTISEMENT TO BE A CONTROLLED SPECIES.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000, AND ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS A \$50,000 FINE PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

PROPOSALS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE PENALTIES SO AS TO SERVE A MORE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES.

CONTROLLED SPECIES INCLUDING CROCODILE MEAT, PANGOLIN MEAT, OWLS, BIRDS OF PREY AND GIANT SALAMANDER MIGHT SOMETIMES BE OFFERED ILLEGALLY FOR FOOD PURPOSE.

RESTAURANT OWNERS ARE THEREFORE REMINDED THAT, UNLESS THEY COULD OBTAIN A LICENCE IN ADVANCE FROM AFD, THEY SHOULD NOT SERVE ANY DISH CONTAINING OR CLAIMING TO CONTAIN ANY PART OF A SPECIES CONTROLLED UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

THE AFD HAD ALSO ISSUED CIRCULAR LETTERS TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS REMINDING THEM TO OBSERVE THE REQUIREMENTS, HE ADDED.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO AFD'S FAUNA CONSERVATION SECTION ON TEL 733 2177 OR 733 2144.

PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE IMPROVES SERVICE

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AN ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE LINE HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, TO IMPROVE SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN REGARD TO ENQUIRIES AND SALES OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

THE NEWLY INSTALLED LINE, 523 1473, WILL AUGMENT THE EXISTING LINE (523 5377).

MEANWHILE, CUSTOMER SERVICES AT THE CENTRE HAVE BEEN FURTHER IMPROVED AND MADE MORE CONVENIENT BY THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW FACSIMILE LINE (523 7195).

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COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB ON PARADE

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB ANNUAL PARADE AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT 2.15 PM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 15).

THE CLUB - WITH 120,000 MEMBERS FROM 1,110 SCHOOLS - WAS FORMED 15 YEARS AGO.

MR WONG WILL RECEIVE ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB A CHEQUE FOR \$1.3 MILLION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAW'S FOUNDATION, MR RAYMOND LAW, IN SPONSORING A "CARE FOR THE AGED" ACTIVITY.

STUDENTS WILL GIVE PERFORMANCES INCLUDING CHINESE DANCE, LION DANCE AND MARCHING BAND SHOW.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CLUB'S ANNUAL PARADE TO BE HELD AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT 2.15 PM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 15).

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1994

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MOST IMPROVED STUDENTS AWARD SCHEME INVITES NOMINATIONS

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HARD-WORKING AND BEST PERFORMED SECONDARY 2 AND 3 STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES IN THE MOST IMPROVED STUDENTS AWARD SCHEME.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS APPEALING TO ALL SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO NOMINATE THEIR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS WHO, AS A RESULT OF THEIR HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE, HAVE ATTAINED THE BEST ALL-ROUND IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST SCHOOL YEAR.

THE ANNUAL EVENT, WHICH IS OPEN TO ALL TYPES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT, AIDED, PRIVATE AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS, IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS TO DEVELOP FULLY THEIR POTENTIAL.

AWARDEES WILL EACH BE PRESENTED WITH AN AWARD CERTIFICATE, A MOST IMPROVED STUDENT PIN AND A \$600 CASH PRIZE.

THE WINNER OF AWARDS WILL BE LIMITED TO TWO FOR EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL, ONE FOR A STUDENT WHO HAS COMPLETED SECONDARY 2 AND THE OTHER FOR A STUDENT WHO HAS COMPLETED SECONDARY 3.

COMPLETED NOMINATION FORMS SHOULD REACH THE CAREERS AND GUIDANCE SERVICES SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 9.

ALL NOMINEES ARE JUDGED BY THEIR ACADEMIC AND CONDUCT IMPROVEMENTS AS WELL AS ENTHUSIASM IN PARTICIPATING IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

THE SCHEME -- TO BE HELD FOR THE SIXTH YEAR -- IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE SING TAO FOUNDATION.

A TOTAL OF 721 STUDENTS WERE AWARDED IN THE LAST AWARD SCHEME.

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