



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FS WELCOMES BANKS' MOVE ON MORTGAGE LENDING

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TONIGHT (MONDAY) DESCRIBED THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND HANG SENG BANK ON MORTGAGE LENDING AS "ENCOURAGING".

MR MACLEOD SAID THAT THE MOVE WAS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH THE THINKING IN THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING'S EARLIER CIRCULAR LETTER TO BANKS ASKING THEM TO EXERCISE PRUDENCE IN MORTGAGE LENDING.

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GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATIONS FOR MARINE DEPT OFFICERS

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THREE OFFICERS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATION FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION FOLLOWING THE SINKING OF OIL BARGE "DB.29", THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

IN A BRIEF CEREMONY HELD TODAY IN THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, MR MILLER PRESENTED LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO MARINE OFFICERS (SEARCH AND RESCUE), MR TREVOR BERRY AND MR NG KWOK-CHU, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER, MISS BRENDA LEE.

"THIS IS HONG KONG AT ITS BEST," MR MILLER SAID. "THE SUCCESSFUL SEARCH FOR THE SINKING OIL BARGE 'DB 29' AND THE RESCUE OF 173 PEOPLE FROM THE SEA IN APPALLING CONDITIONS IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF WHAT A PROPERLY CO-ORDINATED JOINT EFFORT CAN ACHIEVE."

MR MILLER RECALLED THAT THE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED IN THE TEETH OF AN APPROACHING TYPHOON ABOUT 60 NAUTICAL MILES EAST OF HONG KONG ON AUGUST 15 THIS YEAR.

IN THE CITATIONS, MR BERRY, THEN ACTING SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (SEARCH AND RESCUE) AND SEARCH AND RESCUE CO-ORDINATOR, AND MR NG ARE COMMENDED FOR "OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM DISPLAYED IN THE CO-ORDINATION OF A SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION FOLLOWING THE SINKING OF AN OIL BARGE ON AUGUST 15, 1991, RESULTING IN THE SAVING OF 173 LIVES".

MISS LEE, THEN ACTING PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER, IS COMMENDED FOR "INITIATIVE, PROFESSIONAL ABILITY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY DISPLAYED IN THE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION".

COMMENDING THE THREE ON THE PART THEY PLAYED, MR MILLER QUOTED MR BERRY'S TRIBUTE, IN HIS REPORT OF THE INCIDENT, TO THE MANY OTHERS INVOLVED - "IT IS NOT THE SUCCESS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT; NOR EVEN INDEED THAT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

/"IT IS

"IT IS THE SUCCESS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF HONG KONG. THE AIRMEN; THE SEAMEN; THE NURSES; THE AMBULANCE DRIVERS; THE POLICEMEN ON CROWD CONTROL DUTIES; THE FOKIS AT THE MARINERS' CLUB AND THE MANY OTHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN SOME WAY LARGE OR SMALL - IT IS TO THEM THAT BELONGS THE TRUE GLORY OF ACHIEVEMENT".

THE THREE OFFICERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATIONS AT THE CEREMONY OF PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 13).

MR MILLER ELABORATED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE: "MARINE DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATING ALL MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS WITHIN 400,000 SQUARE MILES OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WHICH WE HAVE ACCEPTED WILLINGLY.

"STAFF OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRE MAN THE CENTRE 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND ARE FULLY TRAINED, AS THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE VARIOUS OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT WHICH ALSO TAKE PART IN SUCH RESCUES.

"WE WORK CONSISTENTLY TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITIES BY LIAISON WITH OTHER SEARCH AND RESCUE AGENCIES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD AND BY KEEPING ABREAST OF THE LATEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY."

MR MILLER NOTED THAT, IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEW GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS) WHICH WILL COME INTO FORCE IN FEBRUARY NEXT (1992) YEAR, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A NAVIGATION BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE CALLED "NAVTEX" AND THE FIRST LOCAL USER TERMINAL OF A SATELLITE RECEIVING SYSTEM FOR LOCATING EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACONS CARRIED BY SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT.

"THE FINAL STAGE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SPECIALISED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WAS THE PLACING OF A \$20 MILLION ORDER FOR THE NECESSARY RADIO EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED IN THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WITH A TARGET DATE OF OPERATION EARLY NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

MR MILLER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE CAPTAIN AND SIX OFFICERS OF A PANAMANIAN-REGISTERED BULK CARRIER -- ALL HONG KONG RESIDENTS -- WOULD BE THE FIRST SUCH SEAFARERS TO BE AWARDED THE EXTENDED DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S AWARDS FOR ACTS OF BRAVERY OUTSIDE HONG KONG WATERS LATER THIS (1991) YEAR.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE APPALLING WEATHER CONDITIONS PREVALENT AT THE TIME, THE CAPTAIN AND CREW OF THE SHIP "GREAT NANCY" PARTICIPATED IN THE RESCUE OPERATION OF THE GREEK LINER "OCEANOS" OFF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAST ON AUGUST 3 AND 4 THIS YEAR AND SUCCESSFULLY SAVED 188 PASSENGERS AND CREW FROM "OCEANOS".

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE HAS PRESENTED AWARDS FOR BRAVERY AT SEA FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME AND THIS ANNUAL AWARD SCHEME HAS BEEN LIMITED TO INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN HONG KONG WATERS.

/HOWEVER THE

HOWEVER THE NEW SCHEME RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE PLACED BY THE DIRECTOR ON THE CONDUCT OF OFFICERS AND CREWS OF THE NEW HONG KONG REGISTER OF SHIPS AND OF HONG KONG SEAFARERS IN GENERAL.

MR MILLER SAID: "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER HAS LED TO A DECISION TO EXTEND THE EXISTING SCHEME OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S AWARDS TO COVER ACTS OF BRAVERY OUTSIDE HONG KONG WATERS BY HONG KONG SEAMEN SERVING IN ANY VESSEL AND CREW MEMBERS OF HONG KONG-REGISTERED SHIPS."

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ILL-TREATMENT CLAIMS REFUTED
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, TODAY (MONDAY) REFUTED CLAIMS OF ILL-TREATMENT MADE BY SOME OF THE 59 VIETNAMESE DEPORTED FROM HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 9.

HE SAID THAT VALIUM WAS ADMINISTERED TO TWO DISTRESSED WOMEN AT HEI LING CHAU ON NOVEMBER 8 (FRIDAY) BUT NONE OF THE RETURNEES RECEIVED INJECTIONS AT THE AIRPORT THAT NIGHT OR ON NOVEMBER 9 (SATURDAY) BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR HANOI.

"MEDICAL STAFF WERE IN ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION. THE WOMEN WERE VERY DISTRESSED WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT HEI LING CHAU DETENTION CENTRE, AND WERE SEEN BY A DOCTOR THERE. HE ADMINISTERED THE INJECTIONS FOR MEDICAL AND NOT SECURITY REASONS," HE STRESSED.

MR LEEKS ALSO REFUTED ALLEGATIONS THAT EXCESSIVE FORCE WAS USED.

"THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO THESE CLAIMS," HE SAID. "SOME PEOPLE DID RESIST AND THEY HAD TO BE LED OR CARRIED ONTO THE AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, THE POLICE ACTED WITH GREAT RESTRAINT IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES."

MR LEEKS SAID THE UNHCR IN HANOI HAD CHECKED THE DETAILS OF THE CASE INVOLVING A MAN WHO WAS DETAINED AFTER RETURNING TO HANOI. THEY HAVE NOW REPORTED THAT HE WAS ARRESTED ON A CHARGE OF THEFT WHICH HAD ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED BEFORE HE LEFT VIETNAM FOR HONG KONG ON THE FIRST OCCASION.

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OMELCO BRIEFED ON SCA RE-NEGOTIATIONS

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AT A MEETING WITH THE OMELCO ECONOMIC SERVICES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES PANEL THIS (MONDAY) MORNING, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, AND HER STAFF BRIEFED MEMBERS ON THE OBJECTIVES AND OPERATION OF THE EXISTING SCHEME OF CONTROL AGREEMENT (SCA) AND ON THE OUTCOME OF RECENT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF THE SCA WITH CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. LTD AND EXXON ENERGY LTD (THE COMPANIES).

THE SCA, WHICH EXPIRES ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1993, HAS WORKED WELL IN ENSURING THAT CONSUMERS RECEIVE A RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT POWER SUPPLY AT REASONABLE COST. FOR THIS REASON, THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED AND THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE AN EXTENSION OF THE SCA FOR THE COMPANIES FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF 15 YEARS.

DURING THE BRIEFING, MRS CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE COMPANIES HAVE INVESTED OVER \$38 BILLION IN ASSETS DURING THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT AND PREVIOUS SCA'S AND THAT THEY WILL SPEND A FURTHER \$17 BILLION IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

TARIFF LEVELS, WHICH COMPARE FAVOURABLY WITH THOSE CHARGED IN BOTH EUROPE AND THE REGION, HAVE ONLY INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT ON AVERAGE OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS COMPARED TO A 91 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

IN REAL TERMS, THE COST OF ELECTRICITY HAS FALLEN OVER 40 PER CENT IN 10 YEARS, MEMBERS WERE TOLD.

ON THE ISSUE OF PERMITTED RETURN (THE MAXIMUM PROFIT ALLOWED TO SHAREHOLDERS), MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT AFTER TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANIES HAD AGREED THAT THE LEVELS OF PERMITTED RETURN UNDER THE NEW SCA SHOULD BE THE SAME AS THE EXISTING ONES, THAT IS BETWEEN 13.5 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT ON AVERAGE NET FIXED ASSETS.

IN AGREEING TO THIS, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING CONTINUING INVESTMENT TO MEET GROWING DEMAND.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE COMPANIES WOULD NEED TO INVEST OVER \$50 BILLION IN THE NEXT DECADE, MUCH OF IT ON THE PROPOSED NEW STATION AT BLACK POINT.

OFFICIALS ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT IN PRACTICE, BECAUSE OF THE COMPULSORY DEDUCTION OF INTEREST REQUIRED UNDER THE SCA, SHAREHOLDERS HAVE ACTUALLY RECEIVED AN AVERAGED RETURN OF LESS THAN 11 PER CENT ON AVERAGE NET FIXED ASSETS.

WHILE THE BASIC TERMS WILL REMAIN THE SAME UNDER THE NEW SCA, MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE CHANGES THAT WOULD BE MADE UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO MONITOR THE COMPANIES' OPERATION.

THESE INCLUDE REQUIREMENTS TO DEVELOP PROGRAMMES AIMED AT ENERGY CONSERVATION AND MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL MONITORING.

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LAUNCHING OF GOVT BOND PROGRAMME

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THE GOVERNMENT BOND PROGRAMME WILL BE LAUNCHED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1991.

THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE FIRST TENDER OF GOVERNMENT BONDS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1991 FOR SETTLEMENT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1991.

A TOTAL OF \$500 MILLION TWO-YEAR BONDS WILL BE ON OFFER. IN ADDITION TO THIS AMOUNT, ANOTHER \$100 MILLION WILL BE HELD AS RESERVE BY THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND FOR THE PURPOSES OF LAST RESORT SUPPLY TO MARKET MAKERS OF GOVERNMENT BONDS..

THE BONDS WILL MATURE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1993 AND WILL CARRY INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 6.25 PER CENT PER ANNUM PAYABLE SEMI-ANNUALLY IN ARREARS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO TENDER FOR THE BONDS MAY DO SO THROUGH ANY OF THE MARKET MAKERS OR RECOGNISED DEALERS ON THE PUBLISHED LIST.

EACH TENDER MUST BE FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$50,000 OR INTEGRAL MULTIPLES THEREOF.

A LIST OF MARKET MAKERS AND RECOGNISED DEALERS OF GOVERNMENT BONDS IS ALSO PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE TODAY.

A TOTAL OF 21 INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS MARKET MAKERS OF GOVERNMENT BONDS, OF WHICH 17 ARE EXISTING MARKET MAKERS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS AND FOUR ARE NEWLY APPOINTED.

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APPOINTMENT OF CROWN SOLICITOR

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT MR IAN GEORGE MCCURDY WINGFIELD WILL SUCCEED MR PETER JAMES ALLAN AS CROWN SOLICITOR.

MR ALLAN WILL TAKE UP THE APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONER, INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, ON DECEMBER 1.

MR WINGFIELD, AGED 43, WORKED WITH THE OFFICIAL SOLICITOR TO THE SUPREME COURT IN LONDON FOR SIX YEARS AND REPRESENTED THE OFFICIAL SOLICITOR ON BEHALF OF PERSONS UNDER LEGAL DISABILITY IN ALL FORMS OF PROCEEDINGS.

/HE JOINED

HE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN JANUARY 1982 AS A CROWN COUNSEL AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL IN OCTOBER THE SAME YEAR.

HE WAS MADE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN MARCH 1985 AND PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN MARCH 1988.

MR WINGFIELD HAS ACTED AS CROWN SOLICITOR ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

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HONG KONG TO ATTEND APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING

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A HONG KONG DELEGATION LED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, WILL ATTEND THE THIRD ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SEOUL.

IT IS THE FIRST TIME FOR HONG KONG TO PARTICIPATE IN AN APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING.

"THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION IS THE FASTEST GROWING AND THE MOST DYNAMIC AREA IN THE WORLD TODAY. WITH ITS STRONG AND INCREASING ECONOMIC AND TRADE TIES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, HONG KONG IS WELL PLACED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DELIBERATIONS OF APEC," MR CHAU SAID, BEFORE LEAVING FOR SEOUL THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

OTHER MEMBERS IN THE DELEGATION ARE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW; THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG; THE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST, MR K.Y. TANG; PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR P.T. CHEUNG; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR JOHN TSANG; AND PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, MR ARTHUR HO.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 12 AND CONCLUDE ON NOVEMBER 14.

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MEASURES TO TACKLE SHORTAGE OF LANDFILL CAPACITY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DEVELOPING A SERIES OF MEASURES TO OVERCOME AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF LANDFILL CAPACITY BEFORE THE FULL COMMISSIONING OF THE THREE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BY 1994/95.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT IF NO ACTION WAS TAKEN, THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING LANDFILLS IN SHUEN WAN, TSEUNG KWAN O AND PILLAR POINT VALLEY WOULD BE USED UP IN 1993.

/THE SHORTAGE

THE SHORTAGE OF LANDFILL CAPACITY IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 13 TO 14 MILLION TONNES BY 1994/95.

AT PRESENT, AN AVERAGE OF 23,500 TONNES OF DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND CONSTRUCTION WASTE ARE DISPOSED OF AT THE THREE LANDFILLS EACH DAY.

MUCH OF THE PROBLEM ARISES FROM THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION WASTE THAT HAS OCCURRED RECENTLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY.

IN 1990, AN AVERAGE OF 8,450 TONNES OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE WERE DISPOSED OF AT THE LANDFILLS PER DAY. IN 1991 SO FAR, THE FIGURE HAS RISEN TO AN AVERAGE OF 16,000 TONNES PER DAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SERIES OF MEASURES PROPOSED INCLUDED THE OPENING OF NEW PUBLIC DUMPS, THE EXTENSION OF OPERATING LANDFILLS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF RECYCLING TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE THAT HAD TO BE DISPOSED OF AT LANDFILLS.

THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF WASTE DISPOSAL CAPACITY ON A REGIONAL BASIS AT ALL TIMES BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE THREE NEW STRATEGIC LANDFILLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. PRIORITY WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO DISPOSAL CAPACITY FOR DOMESTIC REFUSE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SUITABLE CONSTRUCTION WASTE WOULD BE USED FOR RECLAMATION PURPOSES. A PUBLIC DUMP THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE THIS TYPE OF WASTE WILL SHORTLY BE OPENED AT HUNG HOM BAY IN KOWLOON. A SIMILAR FACILITY WILL BE DEVELOPED AT ALDRICH BAY AT A LATER STAGE.

THE THREE EXISTING LANDFILLS IN SHUEN WAN, TSEUNG KWAN O AND PILLAR POINT VALLEY WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCREASE THEIR CAPACITY WITH A VIEW TO MAINTAINING THEIR SERVICE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO TIE IN WITH THE OPENING OF NEW STRATEGIC LANDFILLS SERVING THE SAME REGIONS.

A PILOT SCHEME FOR RECYCLING OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE WILL BE UNDERTAKEN NEAR THE TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILL. THE PILOT SCHEME WILL INVOLVE SEPARATING TIMBER FROM THE IN-COMING CONSTRUCTION WASTE AND BREAKING UP OF LARGE PIECES OF CONCRETE TO GENERATE ONE STREAM OF MATERIALS THAT IS SUITABLE FOR RECLAMATION AND ANOTHER THAT IS MORE APPROPRIATELY DISPOSED OF AT A LANDFILL SITE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE PROPOSALS WERE STILL AT THE PLANNING STAGE AND IMPLEMENTATION WOULD DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND NECESSARY CONSULTATION OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE DISPOSAL CAPACITY FOR DOMESTIC REFUSE IN THE NORTH-EAST NEW TERRITORIES REGION, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO DIVERT MOST CONSTRUCTION WASTE CURRENTLY BEING DISPOSED OF AT SHUEN WAN LANDFILL, NEAR TAI PO, TO OTHER LANDFILLS AND TO PUBLIC DUMPS.

THE EPD HAS HELD DISCUSSION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO ADVISE IT OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONSTRUCTION WASTE WOULD BE DIVERTED AWAY FROM SHUEN WAN LANDFILL.

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ARE PLANNED WITH A VIEW TO ENCOURAGING THE INDUSTRY TO MAXIMISE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE THAT CAN BE USED AS PUBLIC DUMPING MATERIAL IN RECLAMATIONS BY SORTING THE WASTE BEFORE DISPOSAL.

VOLUNTEERISM IN HONG KONG TO BE STRENGTHENED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING WAYS TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEER WELFARE WORKERS AND HOPES TO COME UP WITH SOME NEW MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE ENHANCED VOLUNTEERISM IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WHEN ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ADVICE BUREAU.

MRS WONG SAID THE MAIN FEATURE OF VOLUNTEERISM TODAY IS THE PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

BUT SHE BELIEVED THAT VOLUNTEERISM IN HONG KONG COULD BE STRENGTHENED BY GIVING MORE PROMINENCE TO ANOTHER TYPE OF PLAYERS, NAMELY, THE PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS WHO PROVIDE SERVICE TO THOSE WHO NEED HELP.

"THE UTILISATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES IS NOW RELATIVELY LOW," SHE SAID.

"THIS SHOULD BE CHANGED. VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP IN APPROPRIATE AREAS OF SERVICE DELIVERY, SUCH AS INFORMAL CARING SYSTEMS IN THE COMMUNITY AND SELF-HELP GROUPS."

OUTLINING THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTEERISM IN HONG KONG, MRS WONG NOTED THAT THE PERIOD FROM THE 19TH CENTURY TO THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR COULD BE DESCRIBED AS THE CHARITABLE PERIOD.

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES THEN WAS RATHER MARGINAL.

THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING TUNG WAH, PO LEUNG KUK, AND MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES, WERE LARGELY INDEPENDENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENT.

VOLUNTEERISM WAS SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD DURING THIS PERIOD, WHEN PUBLIC-SPIRITED PERSONS ORGANISED THEMSELVES TO HELP LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY.

THEN CAME THE EMERGENCY PERIOD WHICH STRADDLED FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR TO THE END OF THE 1960'S DURING WHICH MANY INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS RESPONDED TO MEET THE FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS OF A POPULATION SUDDENLY SWOLLEN BY MASS INFLEXES FROM CHINA.

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1947 TO CO-ORDINATE AND REPRESENT THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WHILE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WAS SET UP IN 1958 TO PROVIDE NOT ONLY DIRECT SERVICES, BUT ALSO TO SUBSIDISE THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE YEARS FROM AROUND 1970 TO THE PRESENT HAVE BEEN CALLED THE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PERIOD.

/IT IS

IT IS CHARACTERISED BY STEADY DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS AN INCREASINGLY COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND A LARGE AND SOPHISTICATED SUBVENTED SECTOR.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN A PERIOD WHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CLOSE AND COMPLEX.

"IF SOCIAL SECURITY IS DISCOUNTED, SUBVENTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS CURRENTLY RECEIVE BY WAY OF GRANTS SOME TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES," MRS WONG SAID.

"THEY EMPLOY SOME 80 PER CENT OF ALL SOCIAL WELFARE PERSONNEL, INCLUDING TRAINED PROFESSIONALS, WELFARE WORKERS AND CHILD CARE WORKERS.

"THE SUBVENTED SECTOR IS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

"THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SUBVENTED SECTOR IS NOW INSEPARABLE," SHE ADDED.

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REPORT ON ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY PUBLISHED

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THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) PUBLISHED A REPORT WHICH IDENTIFIES THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND OBSTACLES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

THE TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDY OF HONG KONG'S ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND UNDERTAKEN BY THE DATAQUEST INCORPORATED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL.

AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR MAXIMUS LI, SAID THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WAS THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORT EARNER IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AMOUNTING TO \$58.6 BILLION LAST YEAR, IT HAS ACHIEVED A COMPOUND ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 17 PER CENT FROM 1985 TO 1990.

MR LI SAID TO FACILITATE THE FUTURE GROWTH OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY AND IMPROVE ITS VALUE-ADDED CONTENT, THE CONSULTANTS HAD RECOMMENDED A VARIETY OF MEASURES IN A NUMBER OF AREAS.

THESE ARE: THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT; THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARKETING ORGANISATION; THE ENHANCEMENT OF VALUE-ADDED CONTENT; THE IMPORTANCE OF A DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT; THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMPONENT MANUFACTURING; THE EXPLOITATION OF THE CHINA CONNECTION; A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME; AND MANPOWER TRAINING IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

/MR LI

MR LI ADDED THAT THE ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD HAD EXAMINED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IN DETAIL AND SUBMITTED ITS ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE'S ADVICE," HE SAID.

COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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OPTICAL INDUSTRY PRAISED FOR EFFORTS IN MEETING CHALLENGES

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, TODAY (MONDAY) PRAISED THE OPTICAL INDUSTRY FOR ITS EFFORTS IN MEETING CHALLENGES IN THE OVERSEAS MARKETS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF HONG KONG OPTICAL '91 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MR BARMA SAID THE TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES WERE INCREASING COMPETITION FROM OTHER ASIAN ECONOMIES AND THE DEMAND FROM ITS CUSTOMERS FOR EVER-HIGHER STANDARDS OF QUALITY.

HE SAID THE INDUSTRY WAS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON THE WAY IT HAD RESPONDED INTELLIGENTLY TO THESE CHALLENGES.

"MANUFACTURERS HAVE INVESTED IN SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY AND HAVE PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO PRODUCT DESIGN IN WHAT IS A HIGHLY FASHION-DRIVEN INDUSTRY.

"IN SHORT, THEY HAVE TAKEN THE STRATEGIC DECISION TO MAKE THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS THEIR MAIN SELLING POINT. THIS HAS BEEN A WISE MOVE.

"IT IS ALSO THE ROAD WHICH I SEE OUR OTHER INDUSTRIES TAKING IN THE COMING YEARS; AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PUT IN PLACE AN INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH PROVIDES THEM WITH THE INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT THEY NEED TO MEET THE HIGHEST QUALITY STANDARDS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE LOCAL OPTICAL INDUSTRY HAD SHOWN CONSISTENT GROWTH IN RECENT YEARS AND WAS TODAY AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING AND EXPORT PERFORMANCE.

"WITH OVER 120 ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING ABOUT 2,000 WORKERS, IT HAS SUCCESSFULLY UPGRADED PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, IMPROVED DESIGN STANDARDS AND EXPANDED ITS PRODUCT RANGE IN ORDER TO WIN MORE OVERSEAS ORDERS.

"DESPITE A SHORTAGE OF LABOUR, THE INDUSTRY HAS MAINTAINED ITS PRICES AT COMPETITIVE LEVELS, THROUGH PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY AND OUTWARD PROCESSING IN SOUTHERN CHINA," HE SAID.

/LAST YEAR

LAST YEAR THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS OF OPTICAL GOODS ROSE BY SEVEN PER CENT TO \$2.2 BILLION. DOMESTIC EXPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR \$995 MILLION, OR JUST UNDER HALF OF THIS FIGURE.

IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE INDUSTRY'S TOTAL EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$1.6 BILLION. SIXTY-THREE PER CENT OF THIS WAS MADE UP OF RE-EXPORTS, WITH MOST ORIGINATING IN CHINA FROM ENTERPRISES WORKING FOR HONG KONG COMPANIES.

MR BARMA SAID WHILE THE U.S. WAS STILL HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET FOR OPTICAL GOODS, HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE INDUSTRY WAS VIGOROUSLY MOVING INTO NEW MARKETS.

"DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO GERMANY AND IRELAND, FOR EXAMPLE, AND TAIWAN AND MALAYSIA, ARE GROWING FAST," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG OPTICAL MANUFACTURERS WERE ALSO EXPANDING THEIR PRODUCT LINES.

"THE TERRITORY'S MAIN STRENGTH IS STILL IN THE PRODUCTION OF MIDDLE RANGE PLASTIC FRAMES, EITHER HAND-MADE OR INJECTION MOULDED.

"HOWEVER, LENSES, BINOCULARS, OPTICAL APPLIANCES AND INSTRUMENTS, REQUIRING GREATER INPUT OF DESIGN AND PRECISION, ARE NOW BEING MADE IN FAR GREATER QUANTITIES THAN BEFORE," HE SAID.

TRADITIONALLY, MR BARMA ADDED, MOST OF HONG KONG'S OPTICAL EXPORTS WERE SOLD UNDER OVERSEAS BUYERS' LABELS OR LOGOS.

"THIS PRACTICE IS CHANGING, AND MANY HONG KONG PRODUCERS ARE NOW DEVELOPING AND MARKETING THEIR OWN BRAND NAMES, AND THEIR PRODUCTS ARE ALREADY SELLING WELL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

"OTHERS, IN CONTRAST, HAVE TAKEN ON EXCLUSIVE LICENSING CONTRACTS FOR THE WORLD'S LEADING DESIGNER LABELS.

"BOTH STRATEGIES TESTIFY TO THE HIGH STANDARDS OF DESIGN AND WORKMANSHIP OF WHICH OUR COMPANIES ARE CAPABLE," HE SAID.

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ABUNDANT RAIN IN OCTOBER

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LONG HOURS OF SUNSHINE AND BELOW-NORMAL HUMIDITY BELIED THE FACT THAT OCTOBER THIS YEAR WAS ACTUALLY A MONTH OF ABUNDANT RAIN.

THIS IS ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (MONDAY).

IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR THAT THE MONTHLY RAINFALL EXCEEDED THE CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL.

NEARLY ALL OF OCTOBER'S 294.3 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN FELL WITHIN A FOUR-DAY PERIOD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL WAS THE 10TH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR OCTOBER AND WAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF 144.8 MILLIMETRES.

HOWEVER, COMPARED WITH THE NORMAL OF 2,151.9 MILLIMETRES FOR THE JANUARY - OCTOBER PERIOD, THE RAINFALL TOTAL OF 1,624.6 MILLIMETRES SINCE JANUARY 1 STAYED ON THE DEFICIT BY 25 PER CENT.

THE UNUSUALLY WET RAINFALL STATISTICS IN OCTOBER WAS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE EXTREMELY LOW HUMIDITY IN THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH.

THE LOWEST RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 21 PER CENT ON OCTOBER 27 AND 28 EQUALLED THE RECORD PREVIOUSLY SET FOR OCTOBER IN 1968 AND 1973.

A TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMED NAT LANDED EAST OF SHANTOU EARLY IN THE MONTH BUT FAILED TO BRING ANY SIGNIFICANT WEATHER TO HONG KONG.

THE WINDS WERE LIGHT FOR THE FIRST FOUR DAYS IN OCTOBER AND THE SUNNY WEATHER ALLOWED THE TEMPERATURE ON OCTOBER 4 TO CLIMB TO A HOT 30.8 DEGREES, THE HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH.

AFTER A FRESHENING OF THE EASTERLIES DURING THE DAY ON OCTOBER 5, A WEAK NORTHEAST MONSOON BLEW FOR THE NEXT FOUR DAYS AND LED TO A GRADUAL FALL IN NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES.

WINDS TURNED LIGHT ON OCTOBER 10 WITH MOISTURE BUILDING UP OVER THE COASTAL AREAS FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

THE ARRIVAL OF AN EASTERLY AIRSTREAM ON OCTOBER 14 WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THICKENING CLOUDS AND INCREASING RAIN.

RAIN WAS NEARLY CONTINUOUS FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS AND WAS PARTICULARLY HEAVY IN THE NIGHT HOURS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF FRESH EASTERLY WINDS.

ABOUT 290 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED OVER THE THREE-DAY PERIOD OF OCTOBER 14 TO 16.

SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF FLOODING WERE REPORTED OVER THE TERRITORY BUT NO SERIOUS DAMAGE WAS INCURRED.

CLOUDY WEATHER PERSISTED INTO OCTOBER 17 AS A REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON ARRIVED EARLY IN THE DAY.

THE RAIN, HOWEVER, TURNED LIGHT AND INTERMITTENT.

ONLY TRACES OF RAIN REMAINED THE NEXT DAY AS THE CLOUDS THINNED OUT AND SUNNY PERIODS EMERGED.

DESPITE THE RECURRENCE OF LIGHT RAIN ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 19 IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ONSET OF A FRESH TO STRONG EASTERLY AIRSTREAM, THE WEATHER SOON TURNED FINE AS THE DAY BROKE ON OCTOBER 20.

WINDY CONDITIONS PERSISTED AND STRONG WINDS AFFECTED OFFSHORE AREAS ON THE NIGHTS OF OCTOBER 20 AND 22. WINDS MODERATED ON OCTOBER 23 AND A WEAK NORTHEAST MONSOON PREVAILED FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

/MEANWHILE, THE

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MEANWHILE, THE WEATHER REMAINED GENERALLY FINE APART FROM SOME NOCTURNAL DRIZZLE AND LIGHT RAIN.

AFTER A WARM AND CALM DAY ON OCTOBER 26, THE NORTHERLIES FRESHENED DURING THE NIGHT UNDER THE COMBINED INFLUENCE OF TYPHOON RUTH NEAR LUZON AND A SIGNIFICANT SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ACROSS SOUTHERN CHINA.

A DRYING-OUT EFFECT WAS FELT FIRST PRIOR TO A MARKED DROP IN TEMPERATURE ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 27.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY AS LOW AS 21 PER CENT WAS RECORDED ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 27 AND IN THE EARLY HOURS OF OCTOBER 28. THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF THE MONTH, 16.8 DEGREES, OCCURRED IN THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 28.

UNDER THE EXTREMELY DRY CONDITIONS AND AIDED BY THE STRONG WINDS WITH GUSTS REACHING GALE FORCE, HILL FIRES PROLIFERATED AND DESTROYED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES IN THE COUNTRY PARKS.

ALTOGETHER, OVER 60 CASES OF HILL FIRES WERE REPORTED. OVER THE COASTAL WATERS ABOUT 190 KILOMETRES SOUTHWEST OF HONG KONG, 12 FISHERMEN WERE AIRLIFTED TO SAFETY FROM THEIR SINKING VESSEL IN THE MIDST OF MONSOON GALES AND ROUGH SEAS ON OCTOBER 28.

THE WINDY CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG PERSISTED FOR ANOTHER DAY BEFORE THE NORTHERLIES GRADUALLY SUBSIDED ON OCTOBER 30 AND 31.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE PREDOMINANCE OF VERY DRY AIR ENSURED BRILLIANTLY CLEAR SKIES WHICH LASTED TILL THE END OF THE MONTH.

INCLUDING THE MEANDERING NAT WHICH FINALLY MADE LANDFALL EARLY IN THE MONTH, THERE WERE FOUR TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN OCTOBER.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT DIVERSION DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER ON OCTOBER 14.

FLOOD AND LANDSLIP WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON OCTOBER 15 AND 16. THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS ISSUED ON OCTOBER 5, 6, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, AND 27 AND THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON OCTOBER 27 TO 31.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	OCT 20 2.15 AM	OCT 20 7.45 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	OCT 20 11.15 PM	OCT 21 9.45 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	OCT 23 1.45 AM	OCT 23 8.00 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	OCT 26 9.45 PM	OCT 29 8.45 AM

/THE MONTH'S

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	200.3 HOURS ; 5.3 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	14.03 MJ/SQUARE ; 1.43 MJ/SQUARE METRE BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	294.3 MM ; 149.5 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	49 PER CENT ; 7 PER CENT LESS THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	69 PER CENT ; 4 PER CENT LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	27.2 DEGREES C ; 0.7 DEGREES C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	24.8 DEGRESS C ; 0.4 DEGREES C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	22.8 DEGREES C ; 0.3 DEGREES C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	18.3 DEGREES C ; 1.5 DEGREES C BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	124.5 MM ; 27.7 MM BELOW NORMAL

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APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS EARLY TO AVOID HOLIDAY RUSH

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RESIDENTS INTENDING TO TRAVEL ABROAD DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS SHOULD APPLY EARLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING OUTSIDE HONG KONG USUALLY GREATLY INCREASES DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

"IN ORDER TO AVOID LAST MINUTE RUSH, PEOPLE ARE ADVISED TO APPLY FOR PASSPORT AND CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE ON WHICH THEY INTEND TO TRAVEL," HE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT NOW TAKES 20 WORKING DAYS (ABOUT FOUR WEEKS) TO ISSUE A BRITISH HONG KONG PASSPORT AND 15 WORKING DAYS (ABOUT THREE WEEKS) TO ISSUE A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY.

HOWEVER, THE PROCESSING TIME FOR AN APPLICATION FOR A BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT OR A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY IS ABOUT FIVE WEEKS IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD, AS HE WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN ONE AT THE SAME TIME.

/RE-ENTRY PERMITS

- 15 -

RE-ENTRY PERMITS ARE NORMALLY ISSUED ON THE SAME DAY BUT DELAY IS LIKELY IF THERE ARE MANY APPLICANTS COMING AT THE SAME TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, ON SATURDAY WHEN THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ONLY A LIMITED SERVICE WITH HALF STRENGTH.

AS FOR THE DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY FOR VISA PURPOSES, THE RECENT UPSURGE IN APPLICATIONS HAS RESULTED IN THE PROGRAMMING OF APPLICANTS TO PROCESS THEIR APPLICATIONS ON LATER DAYS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PERIOD BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WAS ONE OF THE BUSIEST TIME OF THE YEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

"BY APPLYING EARLY, IT WILL NOT ONLY HELP SPREAD THE DEPARTMENT'S WORKLOAD BUT WILL ALSO GIVE APPLICANTS EXTRA TIME TO MEET ANY FURTHER VISA PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS WHERE NECESSARY," HE ADDED.

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LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE A POPULAR PLACE FOR YOUTHS

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THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE IN TSIU HANG HAS BECOME A POPULAR PLACE FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE DRAWING MORE THAN 4,000 VISITORS A WEEK, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

DURING A TOUR TO THE CENTRE WITH THE VISITING PRESIDENT OF THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, MR DONALD BANKER, DR LEE SAID THE VISITORS WERE MOSTLY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CAME IN GROUPS WITH THEIR FRIENDS OR THEIR FAMILIES.

THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE, SET UP WITH FUNDS FROM THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND OPENED TO THE PUBLIC THIS JUNE, IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO DISPLAY TO THE PUBLIC THE RICHNESS OF HONG KONG'S RURAL HERITAGE.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE THREE EXHIBITION HALLS ON HONG KONG'S AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND COUNTRYSIDE RESOURCES AS WELL AS AN ARBORETUM, ORCHARDS, FIELD CROPS, A CHINESE HERBAL GARDEN, A ROCK AND MINERAL CORNER, AND A POULTRY CORNER.

DR LEE TOLD MR BANKER THAT PLANS WERE IN HAND TO SET UP A GRASS CORNER AND TO CONSTRUCT AN INSECTARIUM IN THE CENTRE AS ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS.

MR BANKER ALSO LEARNT THAT THE CAFETERIA IN THE CENTRE WILL BE REBUILT TO OFFER A BETTER REST PLACE FOR VISITORS.

TO SHOW HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT, MR BANKER PLANTED A TREE NEAR THE CAFETERIA TO COMMEMORATE HIS VISIT.

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BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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EASTERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY FLAT OWNERS OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS, HAVE ONE MORE WEEK TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR A BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 30.

AN EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) URGED THOSE INTERESTED TO CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM ON TEL. 570 4125 EXT 20 ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 18.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT RESIDENTS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS ARE ALSO WELCOME.

DURING THE SEMINAR, PROFESSIONALS FROM RELATED FIELDS WILL GIVE TALKS ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT TOPICS WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO RESIDENTS AND FLAT OWNERS.

THE SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE THE PROPERTY MANAGER OF KUMAGAI GUMI (HONG KONG) LTD, MR JOHNNIE CHAN; A SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHEUNG PING-KUEN; AND A MANAGER OF FOREX INSURANCE COMPANY, MR DENNIS CHAN.

THEY WILL SPEAK ON WAYS TO SELECT MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF LIFTS, AND BUILDING INSURANCE RESPECTIVELY.

THE TALKS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION SESSION AND A TEA RECEPTION.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT'S FEDERATION OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING ORGANISATIONS WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD FROM 2.30 PM TO 5.30 PM ON NOVEMBER 30 AT THE CAUSEWAY BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7 FOOK YAM ROAD.

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NO NOMINATION RECEIVED TODAY FOR LEGCO BY-ELECTION

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NO NOMINATION IS RECEIVED TODAY (MONDAY) FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST CONSTITUENCY.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD FOR THE BY-ELECTION, TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 8, WILL CLOSE ON NOVEMBER 18.

THREE NOMINATIONS HAVE SO FAR BEEN RECEIVED SINCE THE NOMINATION STARTED ON NOVEMBER 4.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 47.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 279.326 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 303.088 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 51.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	9.11.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	11.11.91	-50
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+50
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.3 *+0.0* 11.11.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	8.11.91	11.11.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	3.22 PCT	3.23 PCT
1 MONTH	3.44 PCT	3.40 PCT
3 MONTHS	3.94 PCT	3.86 PCT
6 MONTHS	4.13 PCT	4.10 PCT
12 MONTHS	5.01 PCT	4.91 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	4,420 MN	3,020 MN

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