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FIRST STEEL TRUSS FOR TSING MA BRIDGE ARRIVES HK

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THE FIRST OF VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE WHICH ARE BEING FABRICATED OVERSEAS HAS ARRIVED IN HONG KONG.

IT IS ONE OF THE EIGHT STEEL TRUSSES THAT WILL FORM THE "HORIZONTAL BARS" OF THE TWO TOWERS OF THE BRIDGE. THE TRUSSES, WHICH WEIGH UP TO 185 TONNES EACH, ARE BEING MANUFACTURED IN CHINA AND THE FIRST ONE WAS TRANSPORTED FROM SHEKOU BY BARGE.

THE TWO BRIDGE TOWERS, ONE ON TSING YI AND THE OTHER OFF MA WAN, WILL BE REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURES RISING 200 METRES ABOVE EACH TOWER BASE.

EACH TOWER WILL HAVE A PAIR OF TOWER LEGS WHICH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED BY A CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF CONCRETING CALLED SLIPFORMING AND THE LEGS WILL BE CONNECTED BY FOUR HORIZONTAL PORTAL BRACES.

THE STEEL TRUSSES WILL BE INSTALLED BETWEEN THE TOWER LEGS AS SLIPFORMING TAKES PLACE. AS CONSTRUCTION PROCEEDS, THE TRUSSES WILL BE ENCASED IN REINFORCED CONCRETE AND PRESTRESSED TO THE TOWERS TO FORM THE PORTAL BRACES.

EACH PORTAL BRACE WILL MEASURE 30 METRES LONG, SEVEN TO 12 METRES HIGH AND 4.2 METRES WIDE. THE FIRST PORTAL BRACE WILL BE LOCATED 50 METRES ABOVE THE TOWER BASE, WITH THE OTHER THREE AT 102 METRES, 147 METRES AND 187 METRES ABOVE THE BASE, FORMING A GIANT FOUR-STEP LADDER.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSING YI TOWER WILL START NEXT MONTH AND WILL TAKE ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MA WAN TOWER.

TSING MA BRIDGE, PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, IS AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF THE TRANSPORT NETWORK IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME LINKING THE NEW TOWN ON NORTH LANTAU AND THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK WITH THE URBAN AREAS IN KOWLOON AND HONG KONG.

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APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH PROJECT GRANTS INVITED

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LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR GRANTS UNDER THE "OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME" (OYS) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT COMMUNITY PROJECTS PLANNED ON THEIR OWN.

THE PROJECTS SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TO THE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL GROWTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THEY MAY BE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS, REHABILITATION AND ELDERLY SERVICES, COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, OR RURAL AREAS AND DEPRIVED AREA SERVICES.

/"THE PROJECTS .....

"THE PROJECTS, IF APPROVED, WILL EACH BE GRANTED A SUBSIDY OF UP TO $7,000. WITH THIS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, THE GROUP WILL THEN BE ABLE TO MATERIALISE PROJECTS DESIGNED ON THEIR OWN," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

INTRODUCED IN 1974, THE SCHEME AIMS TO PROMOTE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTHS AS WELL AS TO CULTIVATE A SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL HELP.

THROUGH THE PROCESS OF WORKING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON GOAL, THE SCHEME OFFERS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZON.

"THIS YEAR'S THEMES ARE TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHOW CONCERN FOR THEIR FAMILIES; TO CARE FOR THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY; AND TO PAY ATTENTION TO HOME SAFETY," HE SAID.

INTERESTED YOUTH GROUPS MAY SEND IN THEIR PROJECT PROPOSALS THROUGH THE SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (YOUTH) OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

EACH GROUP SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN MEMBERS AGED BETWEEN 13 AND 25, AND SHOULD BE SPONSORED BY A SCHOOL, YOUTH AGENCY OR AN INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION.

GROUPS WITHOUT SPONSORS MAY ALSO APPLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (YOUTH) OF THEIR DISTRICT.

"UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS, EACH DISTRICT WILL SELECT ITS MOST OUTSTANDING PROJECT, WHICH WILL RECEIVE A DISTRICT BEST OYS AWARD. THE DISTRICT WINNERS WILL THEN COMPETE FOR THE HONG KONG BEST OYS AWARDS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEY WILL BE ASSESSED ON THE EXTENT OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS, YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, OPTIMUM USE OF RESOURCES AND INNOVATION, HE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM VARIOUS YOUTH OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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FACTORY GIVEN MAXIMUM FINE FOR BREAKING REST DAY RULE

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WOMEN WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS MUST BE GIVEN A DAY OFF ON THEIR SCHEDULED REST DAY AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

THE SUNCITI MANUFACTURERS LIMITED IN HUNG TO ROAD WAS RECENTLY GIVEN THE MAXIMUM FINE OF $10,000 BY A KWUN TONG MAGISTRACY FOR EMPLOYING WOMEN TO WORK ON THEIR REST DAY.

LABOUR INSPECTORS DETECTED THE OFFENCE DURING A VISIT TO THE COMPANY WHICH EMPLOYED 60 WOMEN WORKERS ON THE REST DAY SPECIFIED IN A PRESCRIBED NOTICE.

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"UNDER THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS, AN EMPLOYER MUST NOT ENGAGE ANY WOMEN TO WORK IN AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING ON THEIR REST DAYS, OR CHANGE THEIR REST DAYS WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CHANGE TAKES EFFECT," LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS) MISS KATHERINE TSANG SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"THE LAW ALSO REQUIRES AN EMPLOYER TO DISPLAY IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE IN THE FACTORY A PRESCRIBED NOTICE SETTING OUT THE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT, INTERVALS FOR MEAL OR REST, AND REST DAYS FOR WOMEN WORKERS," MISS TSANG ADDED.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO BREACHES THE PROVISION IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $10,000.

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SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON
SPECIFICATION PRICE SURVEY FOR RE-EXPORTS
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A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON SPECIFICATION PRICE SURVEY IS CONTAINED IN THE MARCH 1993 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE ARTICLE OUTLINES THE OBJECTIVE, METHODOLOGY AND MAJOR RESULTS OF THE SPECIFICATION PRICE SURVEY FOR RE-EXPORTS CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE ARTICLE PRESENTS RE-EXPORT SPECIFICATION PRICE INDICES FOR 22 COMMODITY ITEMS SELECTED FROM SIX COMMODITY GROUPS, INCLUDING CAPITAL GOODS AND CONSUMER GOODS.

A SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEX FOR A COMMODITY ITEM IS COMPILED USING A METHODOLOGY THAT IS BASED ON CONSISTENT COMMODITY SPECIFICATION.

HENCE, THE INDEX WILL REFLECT THE PURE PRICE MOVEMENTS OF THE ITEM AND NOT BE AFFECTED BY OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS CHANGE IN FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

SPECIFICATION PRICE INDICES ARE COMPILED FOR SELECTED COMMODITY ITEMS TO REPLACE THEIR UNIT VALUE INDICES AS MORE PRECISE AND RELIABLE MEASURES OF PRICE MOVEMENTS IN EXTERNAL TRADE.

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS AVAILABLE AT $48 A COPY.

PURCHASE CAN BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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QUEST FOR ANTI-DRUG BADGE

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO JOIN A BADGE DESIGN COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS.

THE THEME OF THE BADGE MAY EITHER ADVISE YOUNGSTERS NOT TO ABUSE DRUGS OR REMIND THEM OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT IN BY JUNE 5.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE BADGE WILL REMIND THE YOUNGSTERS OF THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE, AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE UP HEALTHY PURSUITS AND SAY 'NO' TO DRUGS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"THE WINNING DESIGN, IF ADOPTED, WILL BE USED TO PRODUCE A CIRCULAR BADGE FOR WIDE DISTRIBUTION TO YOUNG PEOPLE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE THE PARTICIPANT'S OWN DESIGN AND SHOULD NOT BE AN IMITATION OF ANY REGISTERED DESIGN. THE STANDARD OF ADJUDICATION DEPENDS ON THE MEANING, CREATIVITY AND VISUAL AESTHETICS OF THE ENTRY.

SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ADMIRALTY, THE COMPETITION IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, REGARDLESS OF AGE, SEX AND OCCUPATION.

IN ADDITION TO A TROPHY, THE WINNER, FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP WILL EACH BE AWARDED CASH PRIZE OF $10,000, $5,000 AND $3,000 RESPECTIVELY. THERE ARE ALSO 10 OUTSTANDING AWARDS OF BOOK COUPONS WORTH $300 EACH.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE DELIVERED BY HAND OR BY MAIL TO THE NARCOTICS DIVISION ON THE 23RD FLOOR, HIGH BLOCK, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HONG KONG.

TO OBTAIN ENTRY FORMS, PLEASE CALL THE NARCOTICS DIVISION ON 867 2761.

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TEENAGERS JOIN IN GREEN PROJECT

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SCORES OF STUDENTS AND TEENAGERS FROM COMMUNITY CENTRES JOINED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING IN TURNING THREE PIECES OF OTHERWISE WASTELANDS INTO LUSH GREEN BELTS IN EASTERN DISTRICT.

THE COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROJECT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, AND SUPPORTED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WAS HELD IN THE VICINITY OF THE QUARRY BAY COUNTRY PARK AND THE BUDDHIST CHUNG WAH KORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, SAID HE HOPED THE EXERCISE WOULD ENABLE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO BENEFIT FROM GREATER ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS.

/ALSO SPEAKING .....

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MR FU YUEN-CHEUNG, SAID THE BOARD HAD PLANTED MORE THAN 160 TREES IN THE STREETS LAST YEAR AND A SIMILAR NUMBER, OR EVEN MORE, WOULD BE PLANTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

MORE THAN 400 TREES AND SAPLINGS WERE PLANTED BY THE 80-PLUS PARTICIPANTS. OF THEM, 20 MILDLY HANDICAPPED YOUNGSTERS WERE INVITED AS A MEANS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

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CYC'S COUNTRY PARK WORK COMMENDED

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MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) WERE THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING COMMENDED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN HELPING THE CONSERVATION OF THE TERRITORY'S COUNTRY PARKS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR LAU SIN-PANG, SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THEIR HIGH DEGREE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

DURING THE PAST SEVEN MONTHS, CYC MEMBERS FROM 70 SCHOOLS WHO JOINED THE SCHEME CARRIED OUT A VARIETY OF COUNTRYSIDE AND MANAGEMENT JOBS IN 10 COUNTRY PARKS.

ADDRESSING THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 1992/93 CYC COUNTRY PARKS ADOPTION SCHEME, MR LAU SAID: "THEY HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THIS MEANINGFUL SCHEME SINCE 1989. THEY hAVE SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS BY CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE CARE FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE."

HE ALSO THANKED THE LIONS CLUBS FOR SPONSORING THIS YEAR'S SCHEME AND PAID TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS FOR THEIR FULL SUPPORT IN MOBILISING STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN THE SCHEME.

THE SCHEME, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AIMS AT PROMOTING THE SENSE OF COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION AMONG STUDENTS THROUGH VOLUNTARY WORK IN COUNTRY PARKS.

THE VARIOUS COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT WORK DONE BY THE PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED TREE PLANTING AND TENDING, APPLICATION OF FERTILISER, WEEDING, PATH MAINTENANCE AND LITTER COLLECTION.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CLOSING CEREMONY WERE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR HO CHE-LEUNG AND THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR, LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, MR STEPHEN CHOW.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,100
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,100
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-740
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,360

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.3*+0.1* 22.5.93

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