



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME ATTRACTS KEEN INTEREST	1
TREASURY SECRETARY TO ATTEND APEC MEETING	2
RISE IN YOUTH DRUG ABUSE CONTINUES	2
DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES WILL MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES	4
GARMENT INDUSTRY BENEFITS FROM URUGUAY AGREEMENT	4
EMPLOYEES MUST BE INSURED	5
POLLUTION CASES RELEASED	6
SENIOR CITIZEN CARD APPLICATION EASY AND FREE	6
SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE EXPANDS FOR NT RESIDENTS	7
80 CAR MARKS UP FOR AUCTION	8
KOWLOON BIRTHS REGISTRY ON MOVE	9
IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ON UK TRAINING	9
WEATHER OF FEBRUARY	10
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND TENDER RESULTS	13
WATER CUTS IN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN	13
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	14

AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME ATTRACTS KEEN INTEREST

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THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SECTORS HAVE RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO THE CONTRACTS AWARDED UNDER THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP).

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO), MR BILLY LAM, TODAY (TUESDAY) AT A MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WHERE MEMBERS WERE CONSULTED ON ACP COSTS.

MR LAM SAID THE KEEN BIDDING BY COMPANIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD HAD RESULTED IN MORE FAVOURABLE TENDER PRICES AND HELPED TO KEEP THE PROGRAMME WITHIN BUDGET.

SO FAR 43 MAJOR CONTRACTS VALUED AT ABOUT \$48 BILLION HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED.

TAKING THE LEAD IN MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED SO FAR WERE COMPANIES FROM JAPAN (27 PER CENT BY VALUE), FOLLOWED BY HONG KONG (18.9 PER CENT), THE UNITED KINGDOM (13.8 PER CENT), THE NETHERLANDS (11 PER CENT), CHINA (7.6 PER CENT) AND FRANCE (6.8 PER CENT).

MR LAM SAID THE ACP HAD ALREADY DRAWN PARTICIPATION FROM COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND THE SYSTEM OF TIGHT COST CONTROL THAT IS MAINTAINED OVER THE ACP BY THE DEPUTY CONSULTANT PROJECT MANAGER OF NAPCO, MR NORMAN SHOTWELL.

ON COST CONTROL, MR SHOTWELL SAID THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTROL OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ACP PROJECTS AND THEIR COSTS WITH A VIEW TO COMPLETING THE PROJECTS ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET.

HE SAID ALL WORKS DEPARTMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE ACP WERE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROJECT REPORTING SYSTEM IN WHICH PROGRESS OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS AND DETAILS OF THE CONTRACT ACTIVITIES WERE REPORTED REGULARLY TO NAPCO.

APART FROM PROJECT REPORTING, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEvised A "CASH LIMITING COST CONTROL" SYSTEM WHICH IS AIMED AT KEEPING THE OVERALL COST OF ITS ACP PROJECTS UNDER STRICT CONTROL.

UNDER THE SYSTEM, CHANGES IN THE SCOPE AND ESTIMATES OF A PROJECT HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

MR SHOTWELL SAID INCREASES IN COST ESTIMATES WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE APPROVED UNLESS THEY WERE OFFSET BY SAVINGS IDENTIFIED IN OTHER AREAS WITHIN THE ACP.

MEMBERS ALSO RECEIVED A BRIEFING ON THE LATEST ESTIMATES OF THE ACP FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR STEPHEN SELBY.

THE OVERALL ESTIMATES FOR THE ACP HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM \$163.7 BILLION TO \$158.2 BILLION AT MONEY OF THE DAY PRICES, MR SELBY SAID.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO MONITOR AND COMMENT ON FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATED TO THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, INCLUDING ITS COSTS, COST-EFFECTIVENESS, COST CONTROL, REVENUE, RELATED FRANCHISES AND THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUNDING THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK; AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAIN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION.

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TREASURY SECRETARY TO ATTEND APEC MEETING

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SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, WILL LEAD A HONG KONG DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) IN HONOLULU FROM MARCH 18 TO 19.

MR TSANG SAID THE MEETING WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN TAKING FORWARD THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT THE APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS MEETING IN SEATTLE LAST NOVEMBER.

"NOW THAT THE URUGUAY ROUND HAS COME TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION, APEC MEMBERS ARE IN A GOOD POSITION TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH AND CO-OPERATION UNDER GATT RULES," HE SAID.

MEMBERS OF APEC ARE AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CANADA, CHINA, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, JAPAN, KOREA, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, CHINESE TAIPEI, THAILAND AND THE USA.

BEFORE ATTENDING THE TWO-DAY MEETING, MR TSANG WILL SPEAK ON "MANAGING PROSPERITY: HONG KONG STYLE" AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC AND ASIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL ON THURSDAY (MARCH 17).

AFTER THE APEC MEETING, MR TSANG WILL FLY TO TOKYO WHERE HE WILL SPEAK ON "CURRENT STATUS OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME AND OTHER MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS OF HONG KONG" TO THE JAPAN FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANISATION (KEIDANREN) ON MARCH 22.

HE WILL ALSO MEET LEADING JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS BEFORE RETURNING TO HONG KONG ON MARCH 22.

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RISE IN YOUTH DRUG ABUSE CONTINUES

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THE INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUNGSTERS IS CONTINUING TO GROW, ACCORDING TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE'S STATISTICS FOR LAST YEAR.

MEMBERS OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) WERE TOLD TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS OF ALL AGES REPORTED TO THE REGISTRY LAST YEAR WAS 17, 491 COMPARED WITH 15,212 IN 1992, A RISE OF 15 PER CENT.

THE NUMBER OF NEWLY REPORTED PERSONS OF ALL AGES ROSE FROM 2,973 IN 1992 TO 4,158 IN 1993, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 39.9 PER CENT.

FOR PERSONS AGED UNDER 21 NEWLY REPORTED TO THE REGISTRY, THERE WAS AN INCREASE FROM 1,437 IN 1992 TO 2,170 IN 1993, A RISE OF 51 PER CENT. THE INCREASE WAS SLOWER IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR, AT 32.9 PER CENT, COMPARED TO 77.4 PER CENT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS.

THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PERSONS AMONG THE NEWLY REPORTED CASES INCREASED FROM 38.3 PER CENT IN 1991 TO 48.3 PER CENT IN 1992 AND 52.2 PER CENT IN 1993.

THE AVERAGE AGE OF NEWLY REPORTED PERSONS DECREASED FROM 24.3 IN 1992 TO 23.7 IN 1993. ON AVERAGE THEY HAD ABUSED DRUGS FOR 2.7 YEARS BEFORE BEING REPORTED.

REGARDING THE TYPES OF DRUGS ABUSED, THE REGISTRY STATISTICS REVEAL THAT AMONG THE YOUNGSTERS NEWLY REPORTED IN 1993, 74.6 PER CENT HAD ABUSED HEROIN, 19.5 PER CENT CANNABIS AND 11.9 PER CENT COUGH MEDICINE.

ON TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, THE THREE MAJOR PROGRAMMES, RUN BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ADMITTED LARGER NUMBERS OF DRUG ABUSERS.

OF THE 14,126 PERSONS ADMITTED TO THE THREE PROGRAMMES IN 1993, 3,140 (OR 22.2 PER CENT) WERE FIRST-TIME ADMISSIONS. THE INCREASES IN TOTAL ADMISSIONS AND IN NEW ADMISSIONS WERE 15.3 PER CENT AND 31.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE INCREASE IN NEW ADMISSIONS WAS HIGHEST IN THE UNDER-21 GROUP, BY 134.1 PER CENT IN THE DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES AND BY 107.1 PER CENT IN THE SARDA PROGRAMME. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASE FOR THE METHADONE TREATMENT PROGRAMME WAS 34 PER CENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE CONTROL ON THE SALE OF COUGH MEDICINE CONTAINING MORE THAN 0.1 PER CENT OF CODEINE OR DEXTROMETHORPHAN UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS ON JANUARY 1 LAST YEAR, THE PERCENTAGE OF NEWLY REPORTED PERSONS UNDER 21 KNOWN TO HAVE ABUSED COUGH MEDICINE HAD FALLEN MARKEDLY FROM 26.4 PER CENT (270 PERSONS) IN 1992 TO 11.9 PER CENT (193 PERSONS) IN 1993.

HE ADDED THAT YOUNGSTERS WERE A HIGH RISK GROUP AND THE MAIN TARGET OF PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES. SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS WERE DEVOTED TO ALERTING THEM TO THE DANGERS OF ABUSING DRUGS AND OTHER ADDICTIVE AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCES.

LAST YEAR, 242 DRUG EDUCATION TALKS WERE GIVEN TO 82,600 SECONDARY LEVEL AND PRIMARY 6 STUDENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE RESPONSE FROM PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WAS GOOD AND ENCOURAGING.

HE SAID AS A RESULT OF THE AUTOMATION OF THE DRUG ABUSE TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE HOTLINE (366 8822) IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR, 364,438 CALLS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR, AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY 1,000 A DAY. THIS COMPARED TO 2,731 CALLS RECEIVED IN 1992 BEFORE THE AUTOMATION.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1994

- 4 -

DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES WILL MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT REGRETS THAT SOME 220 MEMBERS OF THE LAND EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION, REPRESENTING 65 PER CENT OF THE LAND EXECUTIVE GRADE'S ESTABLISHMENT, HAVE APPLIED FOR LEAVE TO STAGE A SIT-IN AS A PROTEST AGAINST INADEQUATE STAFF RESOURCES WITHIN THE GRADE.

IT WILL ENSURE THAT DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES ARE ADEQUATELY STAFFED TO MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE CURRENT PRESSURE OF WORK AND INADEQUATE STAFF RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE THE LAND EXECUTIVES ARE MOST AFFECTED.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LAND EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION WITH A VIEW TO REDRESSING THE STAFF SHORTFALL.

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GARMENT INDUSTRY BENEFITS FROM URUGUAY AGREEMENT

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HONG KONG'S GARMENT MANUFACTURERS ARE WELL-PLACED TO BE AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE REMOVAL OF QUOTA CONTROLS AS A RESULT OF THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT, ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MRS REGINA IP, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR DINNER OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG GARMENT MANUFACTURERS, MRS IP SAID THIS WAS DUE TO THE FLEXIBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS OF LOCAL GARMENT MANUFACTURERS.

SHE ANTICIPATED THAT WITH THE LIFTING OF QUOTA, A GROWTH IN EXPORTS FROM THE REGION WILL BE FUELLED BY LOCAL CAPITAL AND EXPERTISE.

"THE INDUSTRY IS FACING CHALLENGES AS GREAT AS IT HAS EVER FACED, BUT THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE GREATER THAN EVER," SHE SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT THERE WERE ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN SOME OF HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADITIONAL MARKETS.

"AND MARKETS WITH ENORMOUS POTENTIAL ARE BEGINNING TO OPEN UP CLOSER TO HOME," SHE ADDED.

MRS IP SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY GARMENT MANUFACTURERS, AND HAD DEVISED WAYS TO HELP.

THEY INCLUDE THE INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, THE DEMONSTRATION OF NEW PROCESSES BY THE CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE, AND THE PROVISION OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE NEW TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SCHEME.

"HONG KONG'S FREE TRADE, NON-INTERVENTIONIST POLICY DOES NOT SEEK TO DISGUISE THE HARSH ECONOMIC REALITIES, BUT THE POLICY IS FAIR AND HAS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL," MRS IP SAID.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1994

- 5 -

EMPLOYEES MUST BE INSURED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED ALL EMPLOYERS OF THE REQUIREMENT TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE OR THEY WILL FACE HEAVY PENALTIES.

THE ADVICE FOLLOWED RECENT CASES AT THE SHA TIN MAGISTRACY IN WHICH THREE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE EACH FINED \$10,000 FOR FAILING TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES.

DURING ROUTINE INSPECTIONS, LABOUR INSPECTORS FOUND THAT THE DOMINA HAIR DESIGN AT CITY ONE, SHA TIN, AND THE SHUN LUEN ENGINEERING COMPANY AT FO TAN HAD NOT TAKEN OUT INSURANCE FOR THREE EMPLOYEES AND ONE EMPLOYEE RESPECTIVELY.

THE OTHER OFFENCE WAS DETECTED AFTER AN EMPLOYEE OF A CANTEEN AT FO TAN WAS INJURED DURING A FIRE.

SECTION 40(1) OF THE ORDINANCE STIPULATES THAT NO EMPLOYER SHALL EMPLOY ANY EMPLOYEE IN ANY EMPLOYMENT UNLESS THERE IS IN FORCE IN RELATION TO SUCH EMPLOYEE A POLICY OF INSURANCE ISSUED BY AN INSURER FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE LIABILITY OF THE EMPLOYER UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND INDEPENDENTLY OF THE ORDINANCE FOR ANY INJURY TO SUCH EMPLOYEE BY ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF HIS EMPLOYMENT.

"IN OTHER WORDS, ALL EMPLOYERS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES TO COVER THEIR FULL LIABILITIES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND COMMON LAW," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR INSPECTION), MR CHAN KWOK-KUEN, SAID.

MR CHAN SAID AN INSURED EMPLOYER IS REQUIRED TO DISPLAY, IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE OF THE WORKPLACE, A NOTICE SHOWING THE NAME OF THE EMPLOYER AND THE NAME OF THE INSURER.

"OTHER DETAILS SHOULD INCLUDE THE POLICY NUMBER, THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THE POLICY, THE COMMENCEMENT AND EXPIRY DATES OF THE INSURANCE PERIOD, AS WELL AS THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES INSURED," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN STRESSED THAT LABOUR INSPECTORS WERE DETERMINED TO PROTECT WORKERS' RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.

"THEY WILL NOT HESITATE TO TAKE OUT PROSECUTION AGAINST BLATANT OFFENDERS," HE SAID.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 331 CONVICTIONS WERE RECORDED FOR OFFENCES OF FAILURE TO TAKE OUT POLICY OF INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY, ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, IS A FINE OF \$20,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR.

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POLLUTION CASES RELEASED

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A TOTAL OF 39 CONVICTIONS WERE MADE IN THE COURTS LAST MONTH FOR BREACHING ANTI-POLLUTION LEGISLATION ENFORCED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

AMONG THEM, 15 WERE CONVICTIONS MADE UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE (WPCO), 13 UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE (APCO) AND 11 UNDER THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE (NCO), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE FINES IMPOSED RANGED FROM \$2,000 TO \$50,000. HOP HING BEANCURD FACTORY WAS FINED \$50,000 UNDER THE WPCO FOR DISCHARGING POLLUTING MATTER IN THE DEEP BAY WATER CONTROL ZONE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE LIST OF CONVICTED CASES AND THE ASSOCIATED FINES IMPOSED BY THE COURTS IN FEBRUARY WILL BE FAXED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT SPECIFIC CASES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICERS:

- APCO: MR FRANKLIN CHUNG TEL: 594 6200
- NCO: MR STEVEN HO TEL: 594 6500
- WPCO:
- CASES 4,6,14,15,18,19 AND 22: MR MURRAY LUO TEL: 415 9211
- CASES 2,3,5,16,26,29,30 AND 32: MR PATRICK LEI TEL: 685 1133

HOWEVER, ENQUIRIES ON GENERAL ISSUES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDIA RELATIONS UNIT.

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SENIOR CITIZEN CARD APPLICATION EASY AND FREE

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HONG KONG RESIDENTS AGED 65 OR OVER ARE INVITED TO MAKE USE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S NEXT SENIOR CITIZEN CARD PROMOTION DAY ON SATURDAY (MARCH 19) TO APPLY FOR THE CARDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE WAS EASY AND FREE OF CHARGE.

"APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO FILL IN A SIMPLE APPLICATION FORM, GIVING THEIR NAME, SEX, DATE OF BIRTH, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER," HE SAID.

THE COMPLETED FORM, TOGETHER WITH A PHOTOCOPY OF THE APPLICANT'S HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD AND A PHOTOGRAPH IN A PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE, SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE SENIOR CITIZEN CARD OFFICE.

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ON THE PROMOTION DAY, VOLUNTEERS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS WILL HELP ELDERLY PEOPLE COMPLETE THE FORMS AT 173 DESIGNATED CENTRES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES, SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS, GROUP WORK UNITS AND ELDERLY CENTRES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM ALL THE CENTRES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS ALL THE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, ESTATE OFFICES OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC ENQUIRY OFFICES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ELDERLY PERSONS MAY ALSO APPROACH ANY NEARBY ELDERLY CENTRES FOR HELP IN FILLING THE FORMS.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN CARD OFFICE ON TEL 961 7581-5.

"THERE IS NO NEED FOR THEM TO PAY ANYBODY FOR FILLING IN THE FORMS AND APPLYING FOR THE CARDS," HE SAID.

THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE THEIR CARDS BY POST STARTING FROM APRIL.

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SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE EXPANDS FOR NT RESIDENTS

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THE BRADBURY WING OF THE SKH LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE OPENED TODAY (TUESDAY) PROVIDES MORE SPACE FOR OFFERING NEW SOCIAL SERVICES AND EXPANDING EXISTING SERVICES FOR TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG RESIDENTS.

OFFICIATING AT ITS OPENING CEREMONY, MRS PATTEN SAID A NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE WOULD BE SET UP TO PROVIDE CONVENIENT CLINIC AND DENTAL SERVICES TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

A NEW FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR FAMILIES SEEKING GUIDANCE IN A MORE FRIENDLY AND RELAXED ENVIRONMENT.

THE EXISTING SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE EXPANDED TO PROVIDE A MORE SPACIOUS ENVIRONMENT FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE, SHE SAID.

MRS PATTEN SAID WITH THE EXPANSION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES TO MEET THE TARGETS LAID DOWN IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESSES, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS WOULD PLAY A FAR MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROVIDING SERVICES THAN EVER BEFORE.

AT PRESENT, ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF WELFARE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY SUCH ORGANISATIONS.

THE SKH LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE, STARTING AS A YOUTH CENTRE 20 YEARS AGO, HAS NOW DEVELOPED INTO A MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE OFFERING A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR THE TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG DISTRICTS WHICH ARE HOME TO MORE THAN 300,000 RESIDENTS.

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80 CAR MARKS UP FOR AUCTION
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EIGHTY LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION ON SATURDAY (MARCH 19) IN THEATRE I, HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, WAN CHAI.

FIFTY OF THEM WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING AT 9.30 AM. THEY ARE:

FT228	FT1997	FU668	HK883
*FY13	*AL3	*BC28	*386
FT163	FT266	FS6333	FV288
*785	*FX3333	*FW999	*FW800
FT8838	AW380	AA193	FV911
BD180	FT883	FT328	AG1118
*FC7	*711	*DL26	*8141
FU698	AR298	FU899	FU8988
*CC29	*ER15	*AS6	*CK11
FU1328	FS8788	FT813	FF8883
FT1628	*AL92	*FX2	*DK21
*FX600	ES1668	FT633	FT3288
CD908	FS130		

* SPECIAL VEHICAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM, THE OTHER 30 REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE OFFERED FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

992	XX888	1389
AA90	HK30	HK98
228	231	9
1991	AA39	3999
HK82	383	161
209	HK2222	266
XX5	3223	1122
2328	AV2	220
AR8	2800	142
3366	306	922

THESE 30 REGISTRATION MARKS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF BODY CORPORATE.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1994

- 9 -

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES, WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTIONS WILL BE THE 218TH AND 219TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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KOWLOON BIRTHS REGISTRY ON MOVE

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT ITS KOWLOON BIRTHS REGISTRY WOULD MOVE TO YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, M/F, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON, ON SATURDAY (MARCH 19).

THE NEW REGISTRY WILL COME INTO SERVICE ON MONDAY (MARCH 21).

THE OFFICE HOURS ARE:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY	8.45 AM TO 12.45 PM 2 PM TO 4.45 PM
SATURDAY	9 AM TO 11.30 AM
SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	CLOSED

FOR ENQUIRIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY TELEPHONE 824 6111.

THE REGISTRY IS OPERATING FROM ITS PRESENT PREMISES ON SECOND FLOOR, NEW MANDARIN PLAZA, TOWER A, 14 SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, UNTIL SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

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IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ON UK TRAINING

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FOUR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM LATER THIS MONTH FOR A SIX-WEEK ATTACHMENT WITH ITS IMMIGRATION SERVICE.

ANOTHER OFFICER WILL ATTEND A THREE-WEEK "ALL ARMS DRILL INSTRUCTORS" COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN EARLY MAY.

THE FIRST GROUP COMPRISES ACTING SENIOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS MRS TO LOK MIU-FUN, MR LEUNG KAM-KWONG AND MR TAM YUN-KEUNG, AND ACTING IMMIGRATION OFFICER MR KWOK JOON-FUNG.

THEY WILL VISIT BRANCHES OF THE HOME OFFICE HANDLING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY MATTERS AS WELL AS IMMIGRATION OFFICES AND PORTS.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER MR HEUNG HON-TAK WILL RECEIVE TRAINING FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM ARMY IN DRILLING.

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AT A BRIEFING BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR LAURENCE LEUNG, SAID THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON GIVING ITS STAFF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

IN THE FACE OF COMPLEXITY OF IMMIGRATION WORK, STAFF MEMBERS WERE REQUIRED TO BE VIGILANT AND ALERT TOWARDS CHANGES THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE, HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID HE HOPED THAT THE ATTACHMENT WOULD PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE OFFICERS TO WIDEN THEIR HORIZON AND TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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WEATHER OF FEBRUARY

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THE WEATHER IN FEBRUARY WAS ON THE WHOLE UNUSUALLY MILD AND CLOUDY WITH HIGH HUMIDITY, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

THERE WERE PROLONGED SPELLS OF CLOUDS AND MIST, PARTICULARLY IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL DURATION OF SUNSHINE WAS LESS THAN HALF OF NORMAL.

IN THE ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT SURGES OF COLD AIR FROM THE NORTH, THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS WERE DOMINATED BY A RELATIVELY WARM AND MOIST MARITIME AIRSTREAM FOR MOST OF THE TIME.

THE MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 15.7 DEGREES AND MONTHLY MEAN DEW-POINT TEMPERATURE OF 14.4 DEGREES WERE RESPECTIVELY THE SEVENTH AND SIXTH HIGHEST FOR FEBRUARY.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 50.5 MILLIMETRES WAS NEAR THE FEBRUARY NORMAL OF 48.0 MILLIMETRES.

BUT WITH NO MEASURABLE RAIN IN JANUARY, THE RAINFALL TOTAL FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS THIS YEAR STAYED AT 50.5 MILLIMETRES, 29 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 71.4 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE MONTH'S HIGHEST TEMPERATURE OF 25.1 DEGREES WAS REACHED ON A WARM AND SUNNY DAY ON FEBRUARY 1.

THE WEATHER BECAME COOLER IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF A WEAK NORTHEAST MONSOON ON THE EARLY MORNING OF FEBRUARY 2.

THE MONSOON WINDS GRADUALLY SUBSIDED AND WERE REPLACED BY A MOIST MARITIME AIRFLOW ON FEBRUARY 5. WITH INCREASING HUMIDITY, MIST FORMED EARLY THAT MORNING.

A SPELL OF HUMID WEATHER WITH OCCASIONAL MIST AND FOG PERSISTED IN THE NEXT THREE DAYS. VISIBILITY WAS NO MORE THAN 1,000 METRES INSIDE THE HARBOUR ON THE EARLY MORNING OF FEBRUARY 7.

AFTER A RELATIVELY FINE DAY ON FEBRUARY 9, THE EASTERLIES STRENGTHENED IN THE EVENING AND BROUGHT COOLER WEATHER WITH LIGHT RAIN AND MIST ON FEBRUARY 10.

RAIN BECAME MORE FREQUENT ON FEBRUARY 11 WITH MORE THAN 10 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL RECORDED OVER MOST PARTS OF THE TERRITORY. THE FIRST THUNDERSTORM OF THE YEAR WAS REPORTED THAT EVENING.

THE PASSAGE OF A WEAK COLD FRONT ON FEBRUARY 12 WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MIST AND RAIN PATCHES.

THE NORTHEAST MONSOON STRENGTHENED AND THE WEATHER THE NEXT DAY WAS WINDY AND COOLER.

CLOUDY CONDITIONS WITH RAIN PATCHES PERSISTED ON FEBRUARY 14.

MIST THICKENED INTO FOG IN THE EARLY MORNING ON FEBRUARY 15 AS WINDS SUBSIDED. VISIBILITY STARTED TO IMPROVE AS A WEAK REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST THAT NIGHT.

WITH FURTHER REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON, CONDITIONS REMAINED COOL WITH LIGHT RAIN FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 18. RAIN TURNED HEAVY ON FEBRUARY 19 AND MORE THAN 30 MILLIMETRES FELL IN TSUEN WAN.

THE ARRIVAL OF A DRY CONTINENTAL AIR MASS BROUGHT TWO SUNNY AND CLEAR DAYS ON FEBRUARY 20 AND 21. CLOUDS AND MIST SOON RETURNED ON FEBRUARY 22 AND LASTED TILL FEBRUARY 24.

AS A COLD FRONT CROSSED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST IN THE EVENING ON FEBRUARY 24, THE MISTS WERE DISPERSED BY THE STRENGTHENING NORTHEAST MONSOON.

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF COLD CONTINENTAL AIR, TEMPERATURES DROPPED GRADUALLY TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH.

THE MONTH'S LOWEST DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 11.7 DEGREES OCCURRED EARLY ON FEBRUARY 28. THIS CONTINENTAL AIR, IN CONTRAST TO THAT OF FEBRUARY 20 AND 21, WAS TOO SHALLOW TO CLEAR AWAY THE MOISTURE IN THE MID-LEVELS OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

AS A RESULT, CLOUDS PERSISTED. NO SUNSHINE WAS RECORDED FOR SEVEN CONSECUTIVE DAYS AND THE MONTH ENDED COLD AND OVERCAST.

NO TROPICAL CYCLONE ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN FEBRUARY.

DURING THE MONTH, NINE AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

DETAILS OF THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1. MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR FEBRUARY ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN FEBRUARY 1994

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME
STRONG MONSOON SIGNALS	FEB 10 0030 - FEB 10 2100 FEB 12 2130 - FEB 14 0615
FIRE DANGER WARNINGS YELLOW	FEB 9 0630 - FEB 10 0600
GAS HEATER ALERTS	FEB 25 1630 - FEB 26 1630 FEB 27 1630 - MAR 2 1630

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - FEBRUARY 1994

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	47.2 HOURS; 50.5 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	6.72 MJ/SQM; 3.97 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	50.5 MM; 2.5 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	84 %; 11 % ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	84 %; 6 % ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	19.2 DEGREES CELSIUS; 0.6 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	17.3 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.4 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	15.7 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.8 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	14.4 DEGREES CELSIUS; 2.6 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	37.7 MM ; 41.3 MM BELOW NORMAL

REMARKS: ALL MEASUREMENTS WERE MADE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY EXCEPT SUNSHINE, SOLAR RADIATION AND EVAPORATION WHICH WERE RECORDED AT KING'S PARK.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1994

- 13 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	15 MAR 94	15 MAR 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q411	H460
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$2,640 MN	HK\$1,280 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$500 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.77 PCT	4.00 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.78 PCT	4.02 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 87 PCT	ABOUT 10 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.79 PCT	4.03 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 21 MARCH 1994 -

TENDER DATE	22 MAR 94	22 MAR 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q412	Y487
ISSUE DATE	23 MAR 94	23 MAR 94
MATURITY DATE	22 JUNE 94	22 MAR 95
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,500 + 300 MN	HK\$400 + 120 MN

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WATER CUTS IN SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SHA TIN AND SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 17) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS LEAKAGE DETECTION.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT TIN SUM STREET, HUNG MUI KUK ROAD, FU TIN LANE, CHE KUNG MUI ROAD AND TIN SUM VILLAGE IN SHA TIN.

THE AFFECTED AREAS IN TSUEN WAN INCLUDE ALLWAY GARDENS, TSUEN WAN ADVENTIST HOSPITAL AS WELL AS ALL THE PREMISES AT TSUEN KING CIRCUIT AND ON YAT STREET.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1994

- 14 -

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,200	0930	-2,157
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,950	1000	-405
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-200
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-200	1200	-200
LAF TODAY	-50	1500	-200
		1600	-200
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER		TWI 125.7 *+0.2*	15.3.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.60	18 MONTHS	2508	4.625	99.81	4.82
1 MONTH	3.57	21 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.68	5.03
3 MONTHS	3.76	24 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.63	5.22
6 MONTHS	3.97	32 MONTHS	3610	4.20	96.83	5.59
12 MONTHS	4.40	35 MONTHS	3701	4.60	97.25	5.73

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 19,874 MN

CLOSED 15 MARCH 1994

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