



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1994

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AIR-CONDITIONED COACH SERVES HOLIDAY-MAKERS

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THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL INTRODUCE A SPECIAL AIR-CONDITIONED COACH ROUTE A8 ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 13) TO CATER FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE COACH WOULD PLY BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND PRINCE EDWARD MTR STATION.

IT WILL RUN FROM 11 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY AT 10-MINUTE INTERVALS UNTIL FEBRUARY 20.

THE FARE IS \$5 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1994

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STATEMENT ON NEW AIRPORT

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON THE NEW AIRPORT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"WE AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR GUO'S STATEMENT THAT A MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE SHOULD TAKE PLACE, AND WE HOPE THAT THIS CAN BE ARRANGED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY FINANCING. IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE OF COURSE WILLING TO HOLD EXPERT TALKS TO HELP PAVE THE WAY FOR WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE AN EARLY AGREEMENT."

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GOVERNOR BEGINS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, BEGAN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA TODAY (SUNDAY) AT THE INVITATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE VISIT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FEBRUARY 19 TAKING IN SYDNEY, CANBERRA AND MELBOURNE. HE WILL MEET BUSINESS LEADERS, POLITICIANS INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER MR KEATING AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, SENATOR EVANS, TOUR HIGH-TECH ENTERPRISES AND DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESSES TO THE AUSTRALIA-ASIA INSTITUTE AND THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA (CEDA).

HE WILL ALSO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN CANBERRA AND BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AT A MAJOR LUNCHEON IN SYDNEY JOINTLY ORGANISED BY AUSTRADE, THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG/AUSTRALIA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

SPEAKING AT A BRIEFING FOR HONG KONG JOURNALISTS IN SYDNEY THIS AFTERNOON, MR PATTEN SAID THERE WERE TWO PARTICULAR REASONS FOR HIS VISIT - THE PART AUSTRALIA HAS PLAYED IN THE ECONOMIC AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, AND THE GROWING AND VERY SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND TRADING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND HONG KONG.

"THE MAIN THRUST OF MY MEETINGS AND PROGRAMME THIS WEEK WILL BE TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP AND THE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN FURTHER STRENGTHEN IT," HE SAID.

BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA WAS NOW WORTH OVER A\$4 BILLION (WELL OVER HK\$20 BILLION) A YEAR AND THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG (AUSTCHAM) WAS AT PRESENT NOW THE SECOND LARGEST INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE TERRITORY WITH OVER 1,000 MEMBERS.

ASKED IF HE WAS SEEKING SUPPORT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER FOR HONG KONG'S DEMOCRATIC PROPOSALS, MR PATTEN SAID: "THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT AS IN OTHER VISITS IS NOT TO TRY TO WIN SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION IN HONG KONG. OUR FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD KNOW WE ARE TRYING TO DO THAT, THE PURPOSE IS TO STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP OUR BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TRADING RELATIONSHIPS."

HE ADDED: "IT IS TRUE THAT AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS, PARTICULARLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE APPROACH THAT WE HAVE TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION, BUT I THINK THAT ALL AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS AND THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNISE THAT THE DEBATE ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IS PRIMARILY ONE FOR THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN POWER AND THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER, AND I THINK THEIR INTEREST IN IT HAS NEVER GONE BEYOND THE PROPER DIPLOMATIC BOUNDARIES," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE LATEST AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE COMMENTS BY MR GUO FENGMIN, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE SOONER THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED THE BETTER IT WOULD BE FOR HONG KONG.

"IF CHINESE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BEGIN BY A MEETING OF THE EXPERTS GROUP, THEN SO BE IT, I THINK WHAT EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS AN EARLY RESOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS.

"THAT'S WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT FORWARD NEW PROPOSALS WHICH IN OUR VIEW MEET ALL THE CONCERNS THE CHINESE SIDE PUT FORWARD A FEW MONTHS AGO," MR PATTEN SAID.

TOMORROW'S (MONDAY) PROGRAMME INCLUDES MEETINGS WITH THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNOR, HIS EXCELLENCY REAR ADMIRAL PETER SINCLAIR, THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES, THE HONOURABLE JOHN FAHEY, LEADING SYDNEY BUSINESSMEN, AND DELIVERING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE AUSTRALIA-ASIA INSTITUTE.

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LEIGHTON STRIKES GOLD ON AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME SITES

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LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (ASIA) LTD STRUCK GOLD RECENTLY ON HONG KONG'S AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) SITES WHEN IT WON TWO GOLD AWARDS FOR ITS SAFETY RECORD AND PERFORMANCE.

THE CONTRACTOR THAT BEAT CONTRACTORS OF THE 17 OTHER SITES IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AWARDS FOR 1993 TO CLAIM THE TWO TOP PRIZES AND TWO OTHER BRONZE PRIZES SAID IT OWED ITS SUCCESS TO A COMPANY POLICY THAT PLACED TOP PRIORITY ON SAFETY.

THE AWARD SCHEME WAS ORGANISED BY THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO) TO PROMOTE SAFETY AMONG ACP CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS BY RECOGNISING GOOD SITE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR NAPCO POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH MORE WORK HAD TO BE DONE TO MEET THE ACP SAFETY TARGETS, IT WAS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE ACP CONTRACTS HAD IN FACT ACHIEVED THE ACP SAFETY TARGETS OF ZERO FATALITIES AND LESS THAN 60 REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS PER THOUSAND WORKERS A YEAR.

"THESE CONTRACTORS PROVE TO ALL OF US THAT THE ACP SAFETY TARGETS, ALTHOUGH MUCH MORE STRINGENT THAN THE NORM IN HONG KONG, CAN BE ACHIEVED GIVEN ADEQUATE PRIORITY AND THE EFFORTS OF ALL CONCERNED," HE ADDED.

A SAFE WORKS SITE IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS, ACCORDING TO LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (ASIA) LTD. THE ARITHMETIC IS SIMPLE ACCORDING TO MR WILLIAM WILD, DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER OF LEIGHTON'S.

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WITH ITS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING SAFETY ON THEIR WORK SITES, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE AVERAGE ACCIDENT RATE OF ALL THEIR SITES DOWN TO ABOUT ONE-THIRD THAT OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY'S RATE OF 302 ACCIDENTS PER THOUSAND WORKERS IN 1992.

"A GOOD SAFETY RECORD TRANSLATES INTO FEWER CLAIMS FOR EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND THIS IN TURN MEANS THAT OUR COMPANY PAYS A LOWER PREMIUM FOR EMPLOYEE INSURANCE. IN ADDITION, LESS TIME IS LOST FROM JOBS THAT ARE HELD UP BECAUSE OF ACCIDENTS. SO ON THE COST SIDE WE ARE MORE COMPETITIVE.

"FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF BEING AWARDED TENDERS FOR JOBS BECAUSE SOME CLIENTS NOWADAYS INSIST ON HAVING GOOD CONTRACTORS WITH GOOD SAFETY TRACK RECORDS," MR WILD SAID.

ACHIEVING A GOOD SAFETY RECORD CALLS FOR SERIOUS COMMITMENT FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND A CONTINUAL EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT WORKERS ARE PROPERLY TRAINED AND MOTIVATED.

APART FROM GIVING WORKERS ONGOING AND INTENSIVE INDUCTION AND ON-SITE TRAINING COURSES, THE COMPANY ALSO SETS SAFETY TARGETS FOR THEIR SITES AND EVERY WORKER EMPLOYED BY THE COMPANY RECEIVES A MONTHLY CASH BONUS IF THE SITE ACHIEVES THESE NOMINATED SAFETY TARGETS DURING THE MONTH.

ACHIEVEMENT OF LONGER-TERM TARGETS BRING GREATER REWARDS SUCH AS BANQUETS FOR THE WHOLE WORKFORCE AND OTHER PRIZES. EACH YEAR THE COMPANY ORGANISES A "BEST SITE" COMPETITION AND WHEN A SIGNIFICANT SAFETY MILESTONE IS ACHIEVED, WORKERS ON THE SITE ARE PRESENTED WITH A TROPHY AT A SPECIAL CEREMONY THAT IS FOLLOWED BY A BARBECUE.

ALL THIS EFFORT PAID OFF FOR LEIGHTON WHEN THEY WON TWO GOLD AWARDS AT THE RECENT (FEBRUARY 1) ACP CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AWARDS CEREMONY FOR BEST SAFETY PERFORMANCE AND BEST SAFETY RECORD IN THE ADVANCE EARTHWORKS CONTRACT IN NORTH WEST TSING YI.

THERE WAS NO FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE TSING YI SITE. IT HAD THE LOWEST ACCIDENT RATE AMONG THE ACP CONTRACTS, AND IT HAD A GOOD QUALITY OF SAFETY MANAGEMENT.

IN ADDITION, LEIGHTON AND ITS JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS, CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION, VAN OORD ACZ AND LAU CHEONG KEE, ALSO PICKED UP THE BRONZE AWARDS IN THE SAFETY PERFORMANCE AND SAFETY RECORD CATEGORIES FOR THEIR WORK ON THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION NORTHERN AREA PHASE II SITE.

THE SAFETY AWARDS SCHEME IS ONLY PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SAFETY ON ACP WORKS.

THE NAPCO SPOKESMAN SAID BESIDES THE VARIOUS MEASURES THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE ACP SAFETY PROGRAMME, OTHER EFFORTS WERE BEING PLANNED OR BEING IMPLEMENTED.

"THEY INCLUDE THE PRODUCTION OF POCKET-SIZED SAFETY HINT CARDS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO WORKERS AND SUPERVISORY STAFF TO REMIND THEM OF THE HAZARDS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES AND THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN, AND THE LAUNCHING OF SAFETY BRIEFINGS BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TO EDUCATE WORKERS ON SAFETY ON BOARD MARINE VESSELS.

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"FURTHERMORE, SAFETY TRAINING CONSULTANTS ARE BEING APPOINTED TO PROVIDE SAFETY TRAINING TO GOVERNMENT'S MANAGEMENT AND SITE SUPERVISORY STAFF TO UPGRADE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON CONSTRUCTION SAFETY, WHILE SAFETY UNITS ARE BEING SET UP IN WORKS DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE SAFETY ADVICE AND CARRY OUT SAFETY AUDIT OF WORKS IN PROGRESS.

"MORE STRINGENT REGULATORY ACTION WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE WORKS BRANCH FAIRLY SOON AGAINST THOSE CONTRACTORS WHO VIOLATE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS; THEY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM TENDERING, DOWNGRADED OR EVEN REMOVED FROM THE LISTS OF APPROVED CONTRACTORS AS APPROPRIATE," HE SAID.

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NEW YORKERS FALL IN LOVE WITH HK CHILDREN'S ART

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THE BIG APPLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN WELL-KNOWN TO ACCEPT AND APPRECIATE ART - BUT IN THE CASE OF CHILDREN'S ART, ESPECIALLY FROM HONG KONG, IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ART AND CRAFT SECTION - AT THE INVITATION OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS - CHOSE 34 DRAWINGS PAINTED BY HONG KONG STUDENTS FOR DISPLAY AT THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK.

THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK FELL "IN LOVE WITH HONG KONG'S COLOURFUL CULTURE AND FESTIVALS, AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE TERRITORY'S YOUNG ARTISTS.

THE VENUE WAS THE WINTER GARDEN IN THE WORLD FINANCIAL CENTRE WHERE, FROM AUGUST 12 TO 15, MORE THAN 100,000 NEW YORKERS AND TOURISTS ADMIRERD THE 34 DRAWINGS OF THE DRAGON BOAT AND MID-AUTUMN FESTIVALS, TEMPLES AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

THE OCCASION - NEW YORK CITY'S HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AND "HONG KONG NOW" EXHIBITION.

AND THE 34 DRAWINGS WERE PAINTED NOT BY 34 YOUNG ARTISTS BUT BY ABOUT 100.

SOME OF THE DRAWINGS WERE THE COLLECTIVE WORK OF GROUPS OF KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, SUCH AS THE PAINTING OF DRAGON BOATS WHICH WERE INDIVIDUALLY DRAWN BY STUDENTS OF TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS KO HO NING MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL.

ONE PAINTER WAS MR LEE HONG-CHEONG, A 22-YEAR-OLD YOUTH AT THE CHESHIRE HOME, WHO HAD THREE DRAWINGS DISPLAYED AT THE EXHIBITION.

A PARTY WAS HELD RECENTLY AT THE CHESHIRE HOME TO COMMEMORATE THEIR NEW YORK EXPOSITION, WITH A GROUP OF CHILDREN FROM THE DARLING CHILD KINDERGARTEN WHO HAD 15 DRAWINGS DISPLAYED AT THE FESTIVAL.

THE CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS WERE PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION AND BOOKMARKS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION AT THE FESTIVAL.

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IN A RECENT VISIT TO HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS, MR ALEX FONG, SAID THE FESTIVAL AND EXHIBITION HAD BEEN WIDELY PUBLICISED BY THE MEDIA, INCLUDING A SPECIAL TELEVISION PRESENTATION WHICH WAS SCREENED THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

MR FONG SAID ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HIS VISIT TO HONG KONG THIS TIME WAS TO ORGANISE THE NEW HONG KONG PUBLICITY DRIVE WHICH WILL AGAIN INCLUDE CHILDREN'S ART.

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PGC MEMBERS VISIT UK TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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A DELEGATION OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL (PGC) OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIED) IS TO LEAVE HONG KONG FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING TO VISIT A NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES AND TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS THERE.

THE PARTY COMPRISES PROFESSOR C K LEUNG, DIRECTOR (DESIGNATE) OF THE HKIED; PROFESSOR LEE NGOK, DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG; MR JOHN DOCKERILL, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, CITY POLYTECHNIC; AND MR K M LAU, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL.

PROFESSOR LEE NGOK IS A MEMBER OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL; AND MR DOCKERILL, A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL'S CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP.

DURING THE SIX-DAY VISIT FROM FEBRUARY 14 TO 19, MEMBERS WILL STUDY THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND THE LATEST CAMPUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID.

"IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PGC/HKIED TO BUILD UP INSTITUTIONAL LINKS WITH THE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED," HE ADDED.

THE DELEGATION WILL VISIT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER, THE OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY, THE LONDON INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, AND THE COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION.

THEY WILL ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HONG KONG TEACHERS WHO ARE ON THE FULL-TIME IN-SERVICE B ED COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM.

THE STUDY TOUR IS SPONSORED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1994

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COUNTRY PARK OUTING PROGRAMME DESIGN CONTEST

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FREQUENT COUNTRY PARK VISITORS WHO HAVE INNOVATIVE IDEAS ARE WELCOME TO ENTER A SPECIAL "OUTING PROGRAMME DESIGN COMPETITION" NOW BEING HELD TO MARK THIS YEAR'S CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME.

THE COMPETITION, ONE OF THE FOUR MAJOR ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR, IS AIMED AT ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF KEEPING THE COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN.

APART FROM COUNTRY PARK VISITORS, ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE CAPABLE TO PLAN OUTDOOR PROGRAMMES ARE ALSO WELCOME TO TAKE PART, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"ENTRANTS SHOULD DESIGN A SIX-HOUR OUTING PROGRAMME FOR A GROUP OF 30 TO 40 PARTICIPANTS IN ANY COUNTRY PARK.

"THE PROGRAMME SHOULD HAVE A THEME AND EMBODY ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO KEEPING THE COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN," HE SAID.

EACH PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT BE LONGER THAN 2,000 WORDS, PREFERABLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS SUCH AS DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND CHARTS.

EACH ENTRANT MAY SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE PROPOSAL.

PRIZES WORTH \$5,000, \$2,000 AND \$1,000 RESPECTIVELY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE TOP THREE WINNERS. THERE WILL ALSO BE SEVEN CONSOLATION PRIZES VALUED AT \$300 EACH.

ALL ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT IN PERSON TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSERVATION EDUCATION UNIT, ROOM 321, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, ANY OF THE SIX COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRES, OR THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE IN SAI KUNG, BY MARCH 31.

RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY MAY AND WINNERS WILL BE INFORMED SEPARATELY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE COMPETITION CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE UNIT ON 733 2121.

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