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CHIEF SECRETARY WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL HK PROMOTION IN U.S.

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (SATURDAY) COMPLETED HER WEEK-LONG VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AS LEADER OF THE DELEGATION TAKING PART IN THE BIGGEST EVER PROMOTION STAGED BY HONG KONG IN AMERICA.

ON HER SECOND AND FINAL DAY IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, MRS CHAN DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS VERY WORTHWHILE AND REWARDING.

"NOT ONLY HAS IT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR US TO CEMENT TIES WITH CITIES WHERE WE ALREADY HAVE ESTABLISHED A PRESENCE, SUCH AS NEW YORK, BUT ALSO ENABLE US TO STRENGTHEN AND FORGE NEW TIES WITH CITIES LIKE CHICAGO AND ATLANTA."

SHE SAID SHE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND IN THE TERRITORY'S ROLE, NOT ONLY AS AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK, BUT AS A PRE-EMINENT GATEWAY TO DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA, AND IN THE ENTIRE EAST ASIAN REGION.

DURING A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION AT THE END OF HER KEYNOTE SPEECH TO 300 MEMBERS OF ATLANTA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY, MRS CHAN WAS ASKED WHAT SHE CONSIDERED THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR TO ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSITION IN 1997.

IN RESPONSE, SHE SAID IF SHE HAD TO PICK A SINGLE FACTOR IT WOULD BE THE MAINTENANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW WHICH WOULD BE OF FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN TO HONG KONG.

"IF WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT OUR ECONOMY CAN GROW AT A PACE AT WHICH IT HAS GROWN AND TO ENSURE BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG, IT IS CRUCIAL THAT WE MAINTAIN THE RULE OF LAW.

"AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGED IN DOING, WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF CHINA WE VERY MUCH HOPE," MRS CHAN SAID.

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SECOND DAY WAS THE HONG KONG SHOWCASE EXHIBITION OPENING. HONG KONG ARTISANS PERFORMED TRADITIONAL ARTS AND CRAFTS, AND DISPLAYS CAME TO LIFE AT THE ATLANTA UNDERGROUND, AN HISTORIC AREA OF THE SOUTHERN U.S. CITY.

ALSO FEATURED IN THE EXHIBITION, WHICH CONTINUES THROUGH SUNDAY NIGHT, IS A SAMPLE OF THE MORE TRADITIONAL STYLE OF CHINESE LIFE, INCLUDING WEDDING GOWNS, MING DYNASTY ROYAL COSTUMES AND CHINESE DINNER SETS.

THE UNDERGROUND IS ONE OF THE CITY'S MOST POPULAR TOURIST SPOTS, ATTRACTING MILLIONS OF VISITORS EACH YEAR.

CHILDREN FROM THE LOCAL SCHOOLS WERE ENTRANCED BY A LION DANCE WHICH PRECEDED THE OPENING CEREMONY. IN HER SPEECH, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE SHOWCASE EXHIBITION BROUGHT TO ATLANTA A SMALL SAMPLE OF WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

SHE SAID WHILE THE U.S.A. HAD THE WORLD'S LARGEST ECONOMY, HONG KONG WITH ITS TINY SIZE AND POPULATION OF JUST SIX MILLION, HAD NOW BECOME THE WORLD'S EIGHTH LARGEST TRADING ENTITY.

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"THAT'S THE LEGENDARY DYNAMISM WHICH HAS PERSUADED AMERICAN BUSINESS TO ESTABLISH SUCH A POWERFUL PRESENCE IN HONG KONG," MRS CHAN ADDED.

DURING THE DAY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY ALSO PAID CALLS ON THE MAYOR OF ATLANTA, MR BILL CAMPBELL, AND AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG, THE FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

MRS CHAN RETURNS TO HONG KONG TOMORROW (SUNDAY) NIGHT.

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STI MEETS JAPAN MINISTER

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, HAD AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH JAPAN'S MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HONOURABLE RYUTARO HASHIMOTO, TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR CHAU IS IN OSAKA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME), WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

THIS IS THE FIRST MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING ON SME IN APEC. THE MEETING, TO BE CHAIRED BY MR HASHIMOTO, WILL BE ATTENDED BY ALL APEC MEMBERS NAMELY THE SIX ASEAN COUNTRIES, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, CHINA, HONG KONG, JAPAN, KOREA, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, CHINESE TAIPEI AND THE USA, WITH CHILE AS AN OBSERVER.

MR CHAU ALSO HAD INFORMAL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND, DR SUPACHAI PANITCHPAKDI, AND CHINA'S MINISTER OF THE STATE ECONOMIC AND TRADE COMMISSION, MR WANG ZHONGYU.

THE ISSUES COVERED IN THESE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED THE WORK OF APEC; THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP REPORT WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS AT A MEETING TO BE CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO OF INDONESIA IN BOGOR, INDONESIA, ON NOVEMBER 15, 1994; THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION AND THE SELECTION OF THE FIRST DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION.

DURING MR CHAU'S INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MR WANG ZHONGYU, HE REITERATED HONG KONG'S STRONG AND FULL SUPPORT FOR CHINA'S RESUMPTION OF HER GATT MEMBERSHIP AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CHINA WILL BE ABLE TO BECOME A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION.

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EMPLOYER FINED FOR SACKING PREGNANT EMPLOYEE
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IT IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE (EO) TO TERMINATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF A FEMALE WORKER AFTER SHE HAS GIVEN HER EMPLOYER A NOTICE OF HER INTENTION TO TAKE MATERNITY LEAVE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

WAI KIT COSMETICS COMPANY LIMITED IN KWUN TONG WAS RECENTLY FINED $3,000 BY A KWUN TONG MAGISTRATE FOR SACKING A PREGNANT EMPLOYEE.

THE CASE CAME TO LIGHT WHEN THE PREGNANT EMPLOYEE APPROACHED THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE (LRS) AFTER BEING DISMISSED BY HER EMPLOYER IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

"UNDER THE EO, A FEMALE WORKER IS PROTECTED FROM TERMINATION OF HER EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD FROM THE DATE ON WHICH SHE GIVES NOTICE OF HER INTENTION TO TAKE MATERNITY LEAVE UNTIL THE DATE ON WHICH SHE IS DUE TO RETURN TO WORK, IF SHE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED FOR NOT LESS THAN 12 WEEKS," LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS) MRS GRACE SHEK SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"IT ALSO PROVIDES THAT A FEMALE EMPLOYEE WHO HAS WORKED FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER UNDER A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 26 WEEKS IS ENTITLED TO MATERNITY LEAVE.

"IF A FEMALE WORKER HAS WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE EMPLOYER FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 40 WEEKS BEFORE THE EXPECTED DATE OF HER COMMENCEMENT OF MATERNITY LEAVE AND SHE HAS NO MORE THAN TWO CHILDREN, SHE IS ALSO ENTITLED TO MATERNITY LEAVE PAY," SHE ADDED.

SHE NOTED THAT THE MATERNITY LEAVE PAY WAS CALCULATED AT THE RATE OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE EMPLOYEE'S MONTHLY SALARY.

IF A FEMALE WORKER IS EMPLOYED ON PIECE RATE OR WHERE HER DAILY WAGES VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, THE RATE IS TWO-THIRDS OF HER DAILY AVERAGE WAGE DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, COMPRISING NOT LESS THAN 28 DAYS AND NOT MORE THAN 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE LEAVE.

SHE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT EMPLOYERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO PAY WAGES IN LIEU OF MATERNITY LEAVE.

"EMPLOYERS BREACHING THE PROVISIONS WOULD BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $10,000," MRS SHEK SAID.

"THE EMPLOYER WILL ALSO HAVE TO PAY THE SUM WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PAYABLE IF THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN TERMINATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, THE MATERNITY LEAVE PAY FOR 10 WEEKS AND A FURTHER SUM EQUIVALENT TO SEVEN DAYS' WAGES," SHE ADDED.

TO FACILITATE WORKERS TO UNDERSTAND IN SIMPLE TERMS THE MATERNITY PROTECTION PROVISIONS OF THE EO, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED A LEAFLET FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION AT THE LRS OFFICES, ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE HEALTH CENTRES.

INCLUDED IN THE LEAFLET IS A STANDARD FORM OF NOTICE, SPECIFYING THE EXPECTED DATE OF CONFINEMENT AND THE DATE ON WHICH THE MATERNITY LEAVE IS TO COMMENCE, TO FACILITATE EMPLOYEES TO COMPLY WITH THEIR OBLIGATION UNDER THE EO.

/THERE IS .....

THERE IS ALSO A DECLARATION FORM TO FACILITATE FEMALE WORKERS TO MAKE STATUTORY DECLARATION TO VERIFY THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN SHE HAS IN ORDER TO CLAIM MATERNITY LEAVE PAY.

EMPLOYEES INTENDING TO TAKE MATERNITY LEAVE SHOULD CONSIDER USING THE STANDARD FORM OF NOTICE AND THE DECLARATION FORM AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE ($ MILLION)
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,569	0930	+975
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,194	1000	+975
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+975
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+975	1130	+975
LAF TODAY	-1,350	1500	

LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER TWI 120.7 *+0.1* 22.10.94

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S MEDIA SESSION
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, LATE LAST (SUNDAY) NIGHT AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON RETURN FROM HER OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES:

CS: GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. IT IS GREAT TO BE BACK IN HONG KONG AFTER TWO WEEKS. AS YOU KNOW, I VISITED CANADA AND THREE CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND ATLANTA. WE'VE BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE RESPONSE THAT WE RECEIVED BOTH IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. IN CANADA, I MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, WITH THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO, BOB RAE, WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR RAYMOND CHAN, OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LEADING MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

IN THE UNITED STATES, AS YOU KNOW, WE MOUNTED THE BIGGEST EVER PROMOTIONAL TOUR. AND NOT ONLY HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO, AS IT WERE, RE-ESTABLISH AND EMPHASISE OUR CONTACTS WITH NEW YORK WHERE TRADITIONALLY, WE HAD A PRESENCE, WE'D ALSO BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE IN CITIES LIKE CHICAGO AND ATLANTA. IT IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN STATES, AND ATLANTA BEING THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION HUB OF THE UNITED STATES, IT IS AN IDEAL PLACE TO START WITH. WE MADE VERY, VERY GOOD CONTACTS WITH PEOPLE IN ATLANTA AND WE'LL OBVIOUSLY BUILD ON THESE CONTACTS IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

I HAVE BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE RESPONSE THAT WE RECEIVED, AS I SAID, BOTH FROM THE CANADIANS AND FROM THE AMERICANS. IN BOTH THESE COUNTRIES, THEY REMAIN VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECT. BUT CONCERNS WERE PUT TO ME ABOUT WHETHER HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AFTER 1997. IN PARTICULAR, THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW, MAINTENANCE OF THE LEVEL PLAYING FIELD AND ALSO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE CAN CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A CLEAN, OPEN AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT. MY VISIT PROVIDED ME WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS, TO PUT THESE CONCERNS IN PROSPECTIVE AND TO ASSURE THE CANADIANS AND THE AMERICANS THAT WE DO INDEED AND ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE POSSIBLY CAN TO ENSURE THAT THE RULE OF LAW WILL BE MAINTAINED AFTER 1997, THAT WE FULLY INTEND TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD AND ALSO THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN AS EFFICIENT AND AS CLEAN AS IT IS NOW.

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APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

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THE FIRST ASIA-PACIFIC ECOMONIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME) MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD IN OSAKA, JAPAN, WAS CONCLUDED TODAY (SUNDAY). THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, REPRESENTED HONG KONG AT THE MEETING.

MR CHAU EXPLAINED TO MINISTERS FROM THE OTHER 16 APEC ECONOMIES THAT HONG KONG OWED MUCH OF ITS ECONOMIC SUCCESS TO THE DYNAMISM AND AGILITY OF SMES WHICH CONSTITUTED THE VAST MAJORITY OF COMPANIES IN HONG KONG.

MR CHAU STRESSED THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG WAS BEST SERVED BY ALLOWING THE MARKET TO DETERMINE WHERE RESOURCES SHOULD FLOW. HONG KONG THEREFORE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE EITHER FOR OR AGAINST SMES.

MR CHAU MADE IT CLEAR TO ALL THE DELEGATES OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS "TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS CONDUCIVE TO THE GROWTH OF ALL TYPES OF ENTERPRISE, WHETHER SMALL, MEDIUM OR LARGE.

"THE GOVERNMENT DOES THIS THROUGH A SIMPLE, STABLE AND LOW TAX REGIME, AS WELL AS A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WITH MINIMUM RED-TAPE," MR CHAN SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT ALSO WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ENSURE THE PROVISION OF AN EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BUSINESS AND OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

"IN AN ECONOMY AS OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITON AS THAT OF HONG KONG, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE ENTERPRISES WHICH FAIL TO MEET THE CHALLENGE, OR ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CHANGES IN THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT WHETHER IN HONG KONG OR OUTSIDE.

"IN THE WIDER INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT UNSUCCESSFUL FIRMS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO FAIL, SO THAT THEIR RESOURCES CAN BE EMPLOYED MORE PROFITABLY ELSEWHERE.

"THIS POLICY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A ROBUST AS WELL AS RESILIENT CULTURE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN HONG KONG, IN WHICH BOTH THE RISKS AND THE REWARDS OF ENTERPRISE ARE RECOGNISED AS NATURAL FEATURES OF BUSINESS LIFE."

MR CHAU ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE APEC MINISTERIAL JOINT STATEMENT ON SMES WHICH ENDORSES VARIOUS GATT/WTO CONSISTENT INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS THE GREATEST HANDICAPS FACED BY SMES, INCLUDING HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, ACCESS TO INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY SHARING, THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCE AND MARKET ACCESS.

MINISTERS RECOMMENDED THE COMMISSIONING OF IN-DEPTH STUDIES WHICH WILL HELP TO ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SMES IN THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. MINISTERS ALSO ENDORSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC POLICY-LEVEL GROUP ON SMES WITHIN THE APEC FRAMEWORK.

THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE OF HONG KONG IN JAPAN, MR DAVID H T LAN, AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, WERE MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION AT THE APEC SME MINISTERIAL MEETING.

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A PRIVATE SECTOR DISCUSSION ON SMES WAS HELD CONCURRENTLY WITH THE APEC SME MINISTERIAL MEETING. THERE WAS ALSO A JOINT SESSION BETWEEN APEC MINISTERS AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES.

DR SERAH LIAO, WHO IS A HONG KONG MEMBER OF THE PACIFIC BUSINESS FORUM SET UP BY APEC, REPRESENTED HONG KONG AT THE PRIVATE SECTOR DISCUSSION. DR LIAO SPOKE ABOUT THE FINANCING DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY SMES. SHE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE JOINT SESSION.

BESIDES HONG KONG, THE OTHER 16 MEMBERS OF APEC ARE: AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CANADA, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, CHINESE TAIPEI, THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, WILL FLY BACK TO HONG KONG TOMORROW (MONDAY) AFTERNOON AFTER ATTENDING THE ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN OSAKA, JAPAN.

A PRESS POSITION WILL BE ARRANGED OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT CLINIC FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER HIS ARRIVAL.

MR CHAU WILL BE ON FLIGHT NUMBER CX 503 AND THE EXPECTED ARRIVAL TIME IS 1.25 PM.

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SIX PRE-SALE APPLICATIONS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT APPROVED LAST MONTH (SEPTEMBER) SIX APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENTS TO PRE-SALES FOR A TOTAL OF 1,414 RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND 162 NON-RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN UNCOMPLETED DEVELOPMENTS.

THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS ARE LOCATED IN KOWLOON, SHA TIN, NORTH, AND TUEN MUN AND ARE SCHEDULED BY THE DEVELOPERS FOR COMPLETION BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 1995.

IN AUGUST 1994, ONE PRE-SALE CONSENT WAS ISSUED FOR 491 FLATS IN TAI PO AND SINCE APRIL 1994, NINE APPLICATIONS WERE APPROVED, INVOLVING 4,553 RESIDENTIAL UNITS.

AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, 21 APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-SALE CONSENT WERE BEING PROCESSED BY THE DEPARTMENT INVOLVING 11,940 RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND SEVEN APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, INCLUDING TWO PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME (PSPS) DEVELOPMENTS IN CHAI WAN, AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1995.

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RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN CAREERS QUIZ

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MORE THAN 140,000 STUDENTS FROM 276 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL TAKE PART IN THE 13TH CAREERS QUIZ THIS YEAR, BREAKING ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS.

THE QUIZ, TO BE HELD BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1 TO 8, IS AN ANNUAL ACTIVITY ORGANISED BY THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WITH AN AIM TO AROUSE STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING SUITABLE CAREERS FOR THEIR FUTURE.

SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR SECONDARY 3 TO SECONDARY 5 STUDENTS, THE QUIZ COMPRISES 50 MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION ON CAREERS, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND RELATED LABOUR LEGISLATION.

"WE HOPE THAT THROUGH FINDING ANSWERS FOR THE QUESTIONS, STUDENTS WILL KNOW MORE ABOUT CAREERS AND FURTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SO THAT THEY CAN PLAN THEIR FUTURE ACCORDING TO THEIR TALENT, ABILITY AND INTEREST," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER MRS ADA LEUNG SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

COMMENTING ON THE FAVOURABLE RESPONSE FOR THE QUIZZES IN THE PAST YEARS, MRS LEUNG SAID: "THIS REFLECTED THE IMPORTANCE SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS ATTACHED TO CAREERS EDUCATION."

SHE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE QUIZ WAS AN ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY OF THE FIFTH EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FROM FEBRUARY 23 TO 26 NEXT YEAR.

"THE EXPOSITION WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE AND WILL FEATURE PRESENTATIONS FROM A WIDE RANGE OF TRADES, SERVICES, PROFESSIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES," MRS LEUNG SAID.

WINNERS OF THE QUIZ WILL BE AWARDED ATTRACTIVE PRIZES, INCLUDING CAMERAS, CAMERA BAGS AND UMBRELLAS SPONSORED BY JEBSEN AND COMPANY LIMITED.

MRS LEUNG ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN PROCESSING THE ANSWER SHEETS OF THE QUIZ BY COMPUTERS.

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ADVICE FOR RUNNING ELDERLY HOME AVAILABLE

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ADVICE IS READILY AVAILABLE FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OPERATING A NEW RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT MADE THE STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES (ELDERLY PERSONS) BILL AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLIER THIS (OCTOBER) MONTH.

"WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE SCHEME, RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE LICENSING STANDARDS ON STAFFING, SPACE, LOCATION, DESIGN, SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND QUALITY OF CARE TO THE RESIDENTS BEFORE A LICENCE, OR UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION, WILL BE ISSUED.

"IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE IF ANY PERSON OPERATES, KEEPS, MANAGES OR HAS CONTROL OF A RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE OR CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITH EFFECT FROM A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES (ELDERLY PERSONS) REGULATION AIMS TO REGULATE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE PRIVATE, SELF-FINANCING NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND SUBVENTED SECTORS THROUGH A LICENSING SYSTEM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

"UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION, A UNIFORM REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND A SET OF MINIMUM STANDARDS WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LICENSING SCHEME MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S REGISTRATION OFFICE OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY ON TEL 892 5195 OR 834 7414 DURING OFFICES HOURS.

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WATER CUTS IN SHA TIN AND KOWLOON EAST

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SHA TIN WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 25) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS LEAKAGE DETECTION.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT TIN SUM STREET, FU KIN STREET, HIN TAI STREET, HIN HONG STREET, HIN KENG STREET, HIN WO LANE, HIN TIN STREET AS WELL AS THOSE IN HA KENG HAU, SHEUNG KENG HAU, HIN TIN AND JULIMOUNT GARDEN.

/MEANWHILE, SALT .....

MEANWHILE, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO MOST PREMISES IN KOWLOON EAST WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 26) TO 10 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS MAINTENANCE WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE SAN PO KONG, NGAU CHI WAN, CHOI HUNG ESTATE, CHOI WAN ESTATE, PING SHEK ESTATE, UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, SHUN LEE TSUEN, SHUN TIN ESTATE, SHUN ON ESTATE, SHUN CHI COURT, SHUN LEE TSUEN, TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, NGAU TAU KOK, LOK WAH ESTATE, JORDAN VALLEY, KOWLOON BAY, KWUN TONG, LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING AND CHA KWO LING.

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