DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK'S SUCCESS STORY TOLD

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HONG KONG, AT THE HEART OF ASIA AND THE HUB OF THE ASIAN ECONOMY, IS HELPING TO DRIVE THE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE REGION AND TO SPREAD PROSPERITY EVER MORE WIDELY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF THE BUSINESS WEEK ASIA SYMPOSIUM OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES, MR PATTEN SAID HONG KONG TODAY WAS PLACED MUCH AS NEW YORK MUST HAVE BEEN AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

"THE SAME DRIVE, THE SAME CONFIDENCE, THE SAME ENERGY AND THE SAME GUT-FELT DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED."

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON FOR ASIA.

THE MOST DANGEROUS THREATS TO ASIA'S CONTINUED PROSPERITY WERE GLOBAL THREATS TO FREE TRADE, WHICH BOILED DOWN TO SEVEN LETTERS - "MFN" (MOST FAVOURED NATION) AND "GATT", HE SAID.

MR PATTEN WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY APPEARED TO HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE MAJOR ELEMENTS BLOCKING THE URUGUAY ROUND.

"I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA CAN BE CONCLUDED AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE, AND I HOPE AS WELL THAT THOSE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY WHO MAY BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, WILL THINK OF THEIR OWN FUTURE AND ALL OUR LONG-TERM FUTURES."

NOTING THAT CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES WERE HONG KONG'S LARGEST PARTNERS IN COMMERCE, MR PATTEN POINTED OUT ALSO THAT IF CHINA LOST ITS MFN STATUS HONG KONG WOULD SUFFER.

"OUR GROWTH COULD BE CUT BY TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT, 60,000 JOBS COULD, ACCORDING TO THE ECONOMISTS, BE LOST," HE ADDED.

MR PATTEN SAID HONG KONG WAS THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY, IN WHICH EVERYONE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT REALLY MADE THE ECONOMY TICK.

"WE'RE A VIBRANT, SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE MARKET ECONOMY WHICH EMBRACES CHANGE IN EVERY SECTOR RATHER THAN REJECTS IT.

"I'M DETERMINED THAT WE SHOULD STAY THAT WAY," HE ADDED.

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HK'S ECONOMIC BASE IS VERY STRONG: GOVERNOR

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THE ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS IN HONG KONG ARE PROBABLY SOUNDER THAN IN ANY OTHER COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE PRESIDING AT THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE GRADUATION CEREMONY, MR PATTEN SAID HONG KONG HAD A STRONG ECONOMY AND A STRONG COMMUNITY.

COMMENTING ON THE STOCK MARKET SLIP, MR PATTEN SAID: "I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO AFFECT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MARKET THIS WEEK. I HAVE SAID NOTHING WHICH HAS HAD ANY EFFECTS ON THE MARKET."

HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS SENSIBLE TO COMMENT ON DAY-TO-DAY MOVEMENTS IN THE STOCK MARKET.

"WHAT I DO THINK IT'S SENSIBLE FOR ME TO SAY IS THAT THE UNDERLYING STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY AND THE UNDERLYING STRENGTH OF FIRMS IN HONG KONG ARE THERE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE."

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES ON RETAIL SALES FOR SEPTEMBER

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN SEPTEMBER, ESTIMATED AT $13.9 BILLION, INCREASED BY 18% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE INCREASE IN RETAIL SALES REFLECTED A CONTINUED GROWTH IN SPENDING BY BOTH LOCAL CONSUMERS AND TOURISTS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 11% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE GROWTH IN SPENDING ON MOTOR VEHICLES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR.

SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN SEPTEMBER CONTINUED TO REGISTER A LARGE YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE, BY 50% IN VALUE AND 42% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ALSO ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 33% IN VALUE AND 20% IN VOLUME.

RELATIVELY MORE MODERATE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SALES OF FUELS (BY 19% IN VALUE AND 11% IN VOLUME); SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES (14% AND 4%); SUPERMARKETS (11% AND 3%); JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS AND VALUABLE GIFTS (8% AND 10%); AND CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR CARS (8% AND 7%).

/THE LARGER .....

THE LARGER INCREASE IN VOLUME TERMS FOR JEWELLERY ITEMS WAS DUE TO A FALL IN PRICES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS RECORDED A 4% INCREASE IN VALUE BUT A 3% DECREASE IN VOLUME, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRICE CHANGES.

COMPARING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 19% IN VALUE AND 13% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH AUGUST 1992, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN SEPTEMBER DECREASED BY 4% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES ARE DERIVED FROM FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER HAVING ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES.

THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT $1.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR AUGUST AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR SEPTEMBER.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF SEPTEMBER 1992 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR AUGUST 1992 AND WITH THOSE FOR SEPTEMBER 1991, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for September 1992 (Provisional Figure) = HK$13,941.4 million

for August 1992 (Revised Figure) = HK$14,483.2 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR AUGUST 1992 AND SEPTEMBER 1992

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	August 1992	September 1992	September 1992 compared with August 1992		September 1992 compared with September 1991		Jan-Sep 1992 compared with Jan-Sep 1991	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
	Value	154.2	148.5	-5.8	-3.7	+22.3	+17.7	+22.0	+18.9
	Volume	136.0	129.6	-6.4	-4.7	+13.1	+11.3	+13.9	+12.8
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	120.8	123.3	+2.5	+2.1	+5.2	+4.4	+5.4	+4.8
	Volume	102.7	99.5	-3.2	-3.2	-2.7	-2.7	-2.6	-2.6
Supermarkets	Value	133.0	136.8	+3.9	+2.9	+13.0	+10.5	+12.2	+10.5
	Volume	107.8	110.5	+2.8	+2.6	+2.7	+2.5	+2.1	+2.0
Fuels	Value	146.2	151.0	+4.8	+3.3	+23.7	+18.6	+11.7	+9.6
	Volume	111.8	115.6	+3.8	+3.4	+11.3	+10.8	+2.4	+2.4
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	173.6	149.7	-23.9	-13.8	+37.2	+33.1	+29.4	+24.7
	Volume	145.8	123.9	-21.9	-15.0	+20.3	+19.6	+14.9	+13.4
Consumer durable goods *	Value	183.5	182.8	-0.7	-0.4	+38.7	+26.9	+40.3	+33.0
	Volume	165.8	162.8	-3.0	-1.8	+29.3	+22.0	+31.7	+27.6
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	204.4	234.2	+29.8	+14.6	+77.8	+49.7	+73.8	+62.3
	Volume	172.4	196.1	+23.8	+13.8	+57.8	+41.8	+56.5	+52.8
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	168.4	145.7	-22.8	-13.5	+10.4	+7.7	+16.0	+12.8
	Volume	161.0	138.7	-22.3	-13.8	+8.7	+6.7	+13.7	+11.4
Department stores	Value	149.4	125.0	-24.4	-16.3	+15.0	+13.6	+17.8	+16.2
	Volume	128.3	105.0	-23.3	-18.2	+3.6	+3.6	+6.8	+6.6
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	146.0	146.6	+0.6	+0.4	+10.8	+8.0	+21.4	+18.7
	Volume	150.4	153.9	+3.5	+2.3	+13.7	+9.8	+26.7	+23.6
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	162.9	159.4	-3.5	-2.1	+30.9	+24.0	+22.6	+18.8
	Volume	141.0	136.4	-4.7	-3.3	+18.4	+15.6	+10.8	+9.5

NOTE : * This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

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AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS NEXT MONDAY

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THE SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM NEXT MONDAY (DECEMBER 7).

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING (NEW ANNEXE).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS ARE REQUESTED TO RESERVE A SEAT BY TELEPHONING MS LEUNG WING-CHONG ON 829 6745 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

AS SEATING IS LIMITED, BOOKINGS WILL BE FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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NEED FOR SCIENCE PARK EXPLORED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON CONSIDER THE FINDINGS OF A CONSULTANCY STUDY ON THE NEED FOR A SCIENCE PARK IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE PARK CONFERENCE, HE SAID HONG KONG HAD TO CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY THE NEED TO MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE IN THE FACE OF RAPID GROWTH OF THE NEIGHBOURING ECONOMIES IN ASIA.

HE SAID MANY COUNTRIES HAD EXPLORED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENCE PARKS TO SECURE THE TECHNOLOGICAL HIGH GROUND IN THE SEARCH FOR A NEW COMPETITIVE EDGE.

HONG KONG WAS AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE ROLE A SCIENCE PARK COULD PLAY IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL GROWTH OF AN ECONOMY, MR CHAU SAID.

IN MANY COUNTRIES A SCIENCE PARK HAD BEEN SHOWN TO SERVE AS A FOCUS, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND GLOBALLY, AROUND WHICH FIRMS SEEKING TO BENEFIT MORE FROM TECHNOLOGY COULD ESTABLISH THEMSELVES, HE POINTED OUT.

"THEY CAN MAKE USE OF SHARED FACILITIES AND HAVE ACCESS TO THE SKILLED AND TRAINED LABOUR FORCE ATTRACTED TO THE GOOD WORKING ENVIRONMENT OF A SCIENCE PARK.

/"CUSTOMERS AND .....

"CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS, TOO, ARE ATTRACTED TO SCIENCE PARKS FOR THEIR OWN SPECIALISED NEEDS," HE SAID.

"ONE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE FEATURES OF ANY SCIENCE PARK IS THE LINKS IT CAN PROVIDE TO THE WELL EDUCATED AND TRAINED STAFF AND STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS.

"THIS IS A UNIVERSAL FEATURE OF SCIENCE PARKS AND IN ITSELF PROVIDES A NEW CHALLENGE TO HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES AND INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THIS BRINGS," HE ADDED.

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GOVT ACTIVELY UPGRADES TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T H BARMA, TODAY (THURSDAY) OUTLINED THE RANGE OF INITIATIVES BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN UPGRADING THE TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING ON "GOVERNMENT AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT" AT A LUNCH TALK OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC SCIENCE PARK CONFERENCE, MR BARMA SAID THE LATEST INITIATIVE CONCERNED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCIENCE PARK IN HONG KONG.

"WE IN HONG KONG ARE VERY MUCH AWARE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ONE AND THIS IS WHY WE HAVE COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO EXAMINE THE NEED FOR A SCIENCE PARK IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"THE SIX-MONTH STUDY HAS ONLY THIS WEEK BEEN COMPLETED AND WE ARE NOW EXAMINING ITS CONCLUSIONS," HE ADDED.

MR BARMA SAID THE STUDY RECOMMENDED THAT HONG KONG NEEDED A SCIENCE PARK AND SHOWED THAT THERE WAS A DEMAND FOR ONE IN HONG KONG.

"HOWEVER, WE ARE VERY CLEARLY OF THE VIEW THAT A SCIENCE PARK IN HONG KONG IS SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE CREATED BY GOVERNMENT ALONE."

IT CAN ONLY BE SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP AND WITH THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF MANY OTHER INTERESTED BODIES: THE TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTES IN HONG KONG, COMPANIES INVOLVED IN TECHNOLOGY, BOTH BIG AND SMALL AND, NOT LEAST, THE BANKS WHOSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY NEWLY EMERGING COMPANY TRYING TO DEVELOP AND COMMERCIALISE A NEW IDEA IS LIKELY TO BE CRUCIAL, MR BARMA SAID.

"THIS IS WHY, FIRST OF ALL, WE WILL BE ACTIVELY SEEKING THE VIEWS AND COMMENTS OF THOSE WHO WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND OPERATION OF A SCIENCE PARK.

"WE WOULD ALSO BE SEEKING THE VIEWS OF OUR MAIN ADVISORY BODY, THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

/"WE WILL .....

"WE WILL THEN BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND CARRY OUT FURTHER DETAILED STUDIES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCIENCE PARK IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED, AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE SUPPORT HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES NEEDED IN RESPONSE TO TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AROUND THE WORLD.

THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAS UNDER IT, FIVE SPECIALIST COMMITTEES: THE ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE, THE PLASTICS COMMITTEE, THE METALS COMMITTEE, THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING COMMITTEE AND THE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE.

THE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE IS IN TURN UNDERPINNED BY THE BIOTECHNOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGY SECTORS.

MR BARMA SAID THERE WAS ALSO A COMMITTEE ON THE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME WHICH PROVIDED ADVICE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

UNDER THE SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES $200 MILLION TO COMPANIES IN THE FORM OF MATCHING INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME IS TO ENCOURAGE A HIGHER LEVEL OF PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN APPLIED INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

"THIS SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE THE INCREASE OF HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS' TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY AND THEREBY HELP THEM BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE IN A RANGE OF MORE HIGHER VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD BENEFITED FROM THE IMPORT OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE PAST, AND WAS BOUND TO CONTINUE TO NEED EXTERNAL NOURISHMENT FOR ITS FUTURE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

"THROUGH THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S INWARD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT STRIVES TO ATTRACT OVERSEAS INVESTORS WHO CAN BRING IN NEW AND IMPROVED PROCESSES AND TECHNOLOGIES TO HONG KONG."

THE PROGRAMME, WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY A NETWORK OF INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION UNITS OVERSEAS, TAKES A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO COMPANIES IN A RANGE OF TARGETED INDUSTRIES.

THE TARGETS ARE IDENTIFIED AND REVIEWED REGULARLY HAVING REGARD TO THE FINDINGS OF HONG KONG'S TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, FEEDBACK FROM INDUSTRY, RECOMMENDATIONS OF INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S OWN TECHNO-ECONOMIC STUDIES AND THE ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT OFFICERS ON THE GROUND.

"THE CONTINUED FLOW OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS INTO HONG KONG SUGGESTS BOTH THAT THE PROGRAMME IS SUCCESSFUL AND THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO HAVE MUCH TO OFFER TO NEW AND DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS FROM OVERSEAS," HE SAID.

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19 RETRAINING COURSES OPEN FOR APPLICATION

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NINETEEN RETRAINING COURSES IN VARIOUS SECTORS WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF VACANCIES AND A HIGH DEMAND FOR IMPORTED LABOUR ARE NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE COURSES ARE:

* SERVICE SECTOR
  WAITER/WAITRESS IN CHINESE RESTAURANTS, JUNIOR COOK (ROASTED FOOD), HOTEL HOUSEKEEPING, BASIC RETAIL SALES TECHNIQUES, BASIC STOCKKEEPING;

* COMPUTER AND OFFICE WORK
  COMPUTERISED CHINESE TYPESETTING, OFFICE ASSISTANT TRAINING;

* CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
  DECORATIVE JOINERY, DECORATIVE PAINTING, DECORATIVE MARBLE WORK, CONSTRUCTION PURCHASER AND STOREKEEPER, CONSTRUCTION SITE CLERK; AND

* CLOTHING INDUSTRY
  SHIPPING AND DOCUMENTATION, SAMPLE MAKING, GARMENT FITTING ALTERATION, OFFSHORE QUALITY CONTROL, SAMPLING FOR KNITWEAR AND CLOTHING MATERIALS PLANNING AND PURCHASING, COMPUTER AIDED SKETCHING, GRADING AND MARKER LAYING.

THE COURSES ARE ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF RESTAURANT MANAGERS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, HONG KONG CHRISTIAN AID, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY AND THE CARITAS ADULT AND HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICE.

"DURATION OF THE COURSES RANGE FROM TWO TO 20 WEEKS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. "TWO OF THEM WILL START ON DECEMBER 8 AND THE REST EARLY NEXT YEAR."

PERMANENT HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN WITH THE SAME EMPLOYER OR IN THE SAME INDUSTRY FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS MAY APPLY FOR THE COURSES.

"PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO WORKERS WHO ARE AGED 30 OR ABOVE AND WHO ARE OUT OF WORK OR DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH WORK TO DO," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT BRANCH OFFICES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

AN ALLOWANCE OF $2,800 A MONTH WILL BE GIVEN TO WORKERS UNDERGOING RETRAINING TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COURSES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM OFFICES OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ON TEL 606 2145.

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ELECTION OF LAB EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES
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EIGHT CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS WILL BE COMPETING FOR FIVE EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVE SEATS ON THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 5).

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS STARTING FROM JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT 260 EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS HAD REGISTERED AS ELECTORS IN THE LAB ELECTION TO BE HELD AT WAH YAN COLLEGE, KOWLOON AT WATERLOO ROAD, YAU MA TEI.

"AUTHORISED UNION REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE AT THE SCHOOL BEFORE 2.30 PM ON THE ELECTION DAY," HE SAID.

"THEY MUST PRODUCE THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS FOR INSPECTION BEFORE BEING ADMITTED TO THE ELECTION HALL," HE ADDED.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER AND REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS WILL BE PRESENT TO SUPERVISE THE COUNTING OF VOTES. AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR MAK SAI-YIU, WILL ACT AS THE RETURNING OFFICER.

THE LAB IS A TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE BODY WHICH ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON LABOUR MATTERS INCLUDING LEGISLATION AND THE APPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

IT WAS SET UP IN 1927 WITHOUT WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BOARD BECAME TRIPARTITE IN 1946 WITH THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING WORKERS OF MAJOR COMPANIES.

IN 1950, THE BOARD WAS RE-CONSTITUTED AND ELECTED ELEMENTS WERE INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE LAB AT THAT TIME CONSISTED OF EIGHT MEMBERS, INCLUDING TWO ELECTED AND TWO APPOINTED EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES.

IN 1977, THE BOARD'S MEMBERSHIP WAS INCREASED TO 12 WITH THREE ELECTED AND THREE APPOINTED MEMBERS REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES.

THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE LAB WAS EXTENDED FROM ONE YEAR TO TWO YEARS IN 1985 AND THE NUMBER OF ELECTED EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES WAS INCREASED FROM THREE TO FOUR.

/THE STRUCTURE .....

THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXISTING LAB, WHICH TOOK EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1989, COMPRISES 12 MEMBERS, FIVE ELECTED BY REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS, FIVE NOMINATED BY MAJOR EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND TWO APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO REPRESENT EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS RESPECTIVELY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LAB ELECTION ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 5).

THEY SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF WAH YAN COLLEGE, KOWLOON AT 2.30 PM SHARP.

REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO COVER THE OPENING SESSION OF THE ELECTION AND THE INITIAL CHECKING OF BALLOT PAPERS AT THE END OF VOTING IN THE ELECTION HALL.

ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR THEM TO COVER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION RESULTS AND TO INTERVIEW SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE ELECTION HALL WHILE VOTING AND COUNTING OF VOTES ARE IN PROGRESS.

PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE ADVISED TO USE TELE-LENSES WHILE FILMING CREWS SHOULD BRING THEIR OWN POWER SUPPLY.

INFORMATION OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.

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VEHICLE MARKS UP FOR AUCTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL PUT UP 40 LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS FOR AUCTION AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 5) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

THE MARKS ARE:

FA897	FA3338	FA112	FA120
BB8183	*EB888	*EA2	AC2389
FA1200	FA532	FA832	FA6618
*FB363	FA6638	EX117	*FF4000
FA988	*EE1000	*FD8833	FA997
CH7603	FA887	FA396	AT713
FA2280	FA1168	FA8818	FA912
*2727	*9109	*DN7557	*FF1991
FA718	AA2111	FA1368	FA350
FA1328	FA1018	FA704	FA2803

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

/SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS .....

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE 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.

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

THE AUCTION WILL HAVE BEEN THE 184TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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CIVIC EDUCATION DAY ACTIVITIES

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A HOST OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE STAGED IN NINE DISTRICTS OVER THE WEEKEND (DECEMBER 5 AND 6) TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW.

ACTIVITIES, ORGANISED BY DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION GROUPS, WILL INCLUDE DEBATES, PUBLIC FORUMS, EXHIBITIONS, VARIETY SHOWS AND STALL GAMES.

DISTRICT OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION (CPCE) AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL OFFICIATE AT THESE ACTIVITIES.

A CIVIC EDUCATION QUIZ CONTEST AMONG LOCAL SCHOOL STUDENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 4 PM AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL.

ADMISSION TO ALL THESE ACTIVITIES IS FREE. THOSE INTERESTED CAN CONTACT THE VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR CALL THE CENTRAL TELEPHONE HOTLINE 835 2500.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VARIOUS DISTRICT "CIVIC EDUCATION DAY" ACTIVITIES.

DETAILS OF THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE FAXED.

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CROWN RENT PAYMENT
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DEMAND NOTES HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR CROWN RENTS EXCEEDING $100 A YEAR FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 25.

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY POST ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, P O BOX 800, GPO, HONG KONG, OR, IN PERSON, AT:

* THE TREASURY HEADQUARTERS COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE, WANCHAI TOWER II, FIRST FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG;

* THE CENTRAL SUB-TREASURY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG;

* THE SAI WAN HO SUB-TREASURY, EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 29 TAI ON STREET, SAI WAN HO, HONG KONG;

* THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASRUY, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON;

* THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASRUY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD), KOWLOON;

* THE DISTRICT OFFICES AT SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN OR KWAI TSING.

CROWN RENT PAYERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR DEMAND NOTES SHOULD BRING ALONG COPIES OF DEMAND NOTES FOR ANY PREVIOUS PREIOD TO ANY OF THE ABOVE OFFICES. DUPLICATE COPIES WILL BE ISSUED TO THEM.

PAYMENT CAN THEN BE MADE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES.

IF THE PAYERS CANNOT PRODUCE CROWN RENT DEMAND NOTES FOR ANY PREVIOUS PERIOD, THEY SHOULD INQUIRE AT THE CROWN RENT UNIT OF THE TREASURY AT WANCHAI TOWER 2, 30TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE CROWN RENTS MUST BE PAID BY DECEMBER 25.

CROWN RENT PAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT IF THE WORDING "PAYMENT TO BE MADE BY AUTOPAY" IS SHOWN ON THE DEMAND NOTES, PAYMENT OF CROWN RENT WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON DECEMBER 25.

THEY SHOULD THEN ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

/IF THE .....

IF THE ABOVE WORDING IS NOT SHOWN ON THE DEMAND NOTES, CROWN RENT PAYERS SHOULD MAKE PAYMENTS ACCORDING TO THE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTES.

TO AVOID QUEUEING, CROWN RENT PAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

CROWN RENT PAYERS SHOULD NOTE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

* TO AVOID LEGAL ACTION FOR RE-ENTRY OF A PROPERTY THE OWNER FOR THE TIME BEING OF THAT PROPERTY IS OBLIGED TO PAY CROWN RENT INCLUDING ANY ARREARS AS DEMANDED.

* THE CROWN RENT PAYABLE UNDER A LEASE OF A PROPERTY WHICH HAS BEEN RENEWED UNDER THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE AND RE-DEVELOPED, WILL BE 3 PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THAT PROPERTY AS ASSESSED FOLLOWING THE REDEVELOPMENT. PENDING COMPLETION OF THE ASSESSMENT AND OTHER RELATED PROCEDURES, CROWN RENT DEMANDS WILL BE BASED UPON THE PRE-REDEVELOPMENT RATEABLE VALUE. IN DUE COURSE, CROWN RENT FOR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RENT BASED UPON PRE AND POST-REDEVELOPMENT RATEABLE VALUES WILL BE DEMANDED AND THE OWNER FOR THE TIME BEING IS OBLIGED TO PAY THE RENT AS DEMANDED. IF HE DOES NOT, LEGAL ACTION FOR RE-ENTRY OF THE PROPERTY MAY BE INSTITUTED.

PROPERTY BUYERS ARE ADVISED TO INSTRUCT THEIR SOLICITORS TO ENSURE THAT AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE THE CROWN RENT IS PAID UP-TO-DATE.

IF A PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE CROWN LEASES ORDINANCE AND HAS BEEN RE-DEVELOPED BUT THE RENTAL PAID UP TO THE DATE OF THE PURCHASE IS NOT BASED UPON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY SINCE ITS REDEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATE STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE BUYER OR HIS SOLICITORS TO PROTECT THE BUYER.

ENQUIRIES ON OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS IN RESPECT OF CROWN RENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES: THE FEE IS $45 FOR EACH ENQUIRY PER PROPERTY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	$ MILLION
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,730
REVERSAL OF LAF	-230
BALANCE AFTER REVERSL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+260
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,760

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.60 *+0.1* 3.12.1992

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.88 PCT	15 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.02	5.55
1 MONTH	4.32 PCT	18 MONTHS	2405	5.50	99.93	5.63
3 MONTHS	4.55 PCT	21 MONTHS	2408	4.375	97.97	5.71
6 MONTHS	4.73 PCT	24 MONTHS	2411	4.625	97.98	5.81
12 MONTHS	5.41 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,913 MN

CLOSED 3 DECEMBER 1992

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