



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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RESHUFFLE TO MAKE SECRETARIAT MORE EFFICIENT, COST-EFFECTIVE

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THE RESHUFFLE OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY WAS TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT MORE EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE AS WELL AS TO RATIONALISE THE WORK OF THE BRANCHES CONCERNED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE ROLE OF BOTH GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH WOULD CHANGE OVER THE PERIOD OF NEXT YEAR WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE BASIC LAW AND THE POSTING HERE OF THE JLG REPRESENTATIVE, SIR DAVID TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE PAK KONG WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

IN RATIONALISING THE ROLE OF THE TWO BRANCHES, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THERE WAS NOW ENOUGH POLICY CONTENT FOR ONE POLICY SECRETARY RATHER THAN TWO.

"THAT COINCIDED WITH THE DEPARTURE OF MR GREWAL AND ALSO THE NEED TO FIND A DIRECTOR OF MARINE BECAUSE MR HALL IS GOING OFF TO LONDON. IT WAS FOR THAT REASON THAT THE POSTINGS WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY WERE ALL PUT IN PLACE," HE SAID.

THERE WAS NOTHING SINISTER ABOUT ANY OF THOSE POSTINGS, SIR DAVID STRESSED.

"NO ONE HAS BEEN DEMOTED. THOSE WHO SUGGESTED THAT ANYBODY HAS ARE REALLY QUITE WRONG. EVERYBODY HAS BEEN POSTED IN THEIR SUBSTANTIVE RANK AND THEREFORE THERE IS NO QUESTION OF DEMOTION.

"IT IS QUITE USUAL INDEED IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE FOR SECRETARIES TO ACT FOR A WHILE AND THEN GO OFF AND HEAD A DEPARTMENT," HE POINTED OUT.

SIR DAVID ALSO NOTED THAT MR BARRIE WIGGHAM WAS AN IDEAL CHOICE IN THE GOVERNMENT TO BE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE OF HIS WORK EXPERIENCE ON A LARGE NUMBER OF SUBJECTS.

"OBVIOUSLY THE GOVERNOR WOULD HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT HIS WIDE EXPERIENCE IN APPOINTING HIM TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL," HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON FEARS BY MAINLAND DRAFTERS THAT THERE MIGHT NOT BE CONVERGENCE IN 1997 IF DEMOCRACY PROCEEDED TOO FAST IN HONG KONG AND THE POTENTIAL CONTRADICTION IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD ADMITTED THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WANTED A FASTER PACE, SIR DAVID SAID: "I DON'T THINK THERE IS A CONTRADICTION IN THAT WE ALWAYS TRY, IN ADJUSTING THE PACE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT HERE, TO REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE.

"THE BASIC LAW DRAFTERS FOR THEIR PART ARE ALSO ANXIOUS TO REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WHEN THEY ARE ESTABLISHING WHAT SHOULD GO INTO THE BASIC LAW. SO I SEE NO PROBLEM ON THE BASIS OF CONVERGENCE FOR THE FUTURE."

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ANOTHER MILESTONE IN HK'S WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME

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THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN PROVIDING A TREATED WATER SUPPLY TO EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE TERRITORY HAS TAKEN A NOTABLE STEP FORWARD WITH THE COMPLETION OF STAGE I OF THE PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS AND WATER TRANSFER FACILITIES PROJECT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT AT THE PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS IN SAI KUNG TODAY (THURSDAY).

SIR DAVID SAID THE PROJECT, WHICH COSTS OVER \$1,000 MILLION, WAS YET ANOTHER MILESTONE IN HONG KONG'S WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME AS ONE OF THE MANY FAR-SIGHTED AND INNOVATIVE WATER WORKS PROJECTS OF WORLD CLASS STANDARD UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, LIKE THE PLOVER COVE AND HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIRS.

THE PAK KONG PROJECT, WHICH IS IMPLEMENTED IN TWO STAGES, IS TO PROVIDE A TREATED WATER SUPPLY TO THE SAI KUNG HINTERLAND AND THE TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN AS WELL AS TO SUPPLEMENT THE SUPPLIES TO EAST KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

STAGE I OF THE PROJECT, WHICH IS NOW COMPLETED, COMPRISES THE TREATMENT WORKS, THE AQUEDUCT TO TSEUNG KWAN O, THE PRIMARY SERVICE RESERVOIR AND THE TRUNK MAIN TO EAST KOWLOON.

THE SYSTEM INCLUDES A SEVEN-KILOMETRE AQUEDUCT WHICH TAKES THE TREATED WATER TO THE PRIMARY SERVICE RESERVOIR IN TSEUNG KWAN O.

FROM THERE, THE MAIN AQUEDUCT FROM THE PRIMARY RESERVOIR EXTENDS FOR FIVE KILOMETRES TO EAST KOWLOON AND FURTHER LINKS UP WITH THE NORTHEAST OF HONG KONG ISLAND BY THE EASTERN CROSS HARBOUR SUBMARINE PIPELINE WHICH WILL SOON BE COMMISSIONED.

STAGE II OF THE PROJECT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1991, WILL EXTEND THE CAPACITY OF THE PAK KONG WATER TREATMENT WORKS BY ABOUT THREE TIMES TO 800,000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY TO MEET ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN DEMAND.

THE CAPACITY OF TSEUNG KWAN O PRIMARY SERVICE RESERVOIR WILL ALSO BE INCREASED FROM 90,000 TO 150,000 CUBIC METRES.

SIR DAVID ALSO NOTED THAT THE WHOLE PROJECT, WHEN COMPLETED, WOULD SERVE AS A VITAL LINK AND ADD GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO THE WHOLE HONG KONG WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

"RAW WATER FROM CHINA DISCHARGING INTO PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR CAN NOW BE CARRIED THROUGH A NEW SUBMARINE AQUEDUCT ACROSS THE TOLO CHANNEL AND A TUNNEL FROM SAI O TO PAK KONG.

"AFTER THE WATER IS TREATED, IT CAN BE CONVEYED TO THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING AREAS OF EAST KOWLOON AND NORTHEAST HONG KONG ISLAND," HE SAID.

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HK ECONOMY WELL POISED FOR EXPLOITING OPPORTUNITIES: FS

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HONG KONG HAS DEVELOPED A MUCH GREATER DEPTH AND STRENGTH OVER THE YEARS AND IT IS NOW MORE FIRMLY WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND WORLD TRADE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER MEETING OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS ON THE STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT IN THE HONG KONG ECONOMY, SIR PIERS SAID THAT HONG KONG'S INFLUENCE HAD SPREAD OUT IN WAYS THAT WE PERHAPS COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED A COUPLE OF DECADES AGO.

"THE WAY AHEAD IS NOT WITHOUT ITS DIFFICULTIES. THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE WORK IS NOT ALWAYS SMOOTH. CHALLENGES SUCH AS PROTECTIONIST THREATS, COMPETITION FROM OTHER EXPORTING ECONOMIES, AND UNCERTAINTIES IN THE WORLD COMMODITY AND CURRENCY MARKETS CONTINUE TO EXIST.

"NEVERTHELESS, WITH THE FAMILIAR INGREDIENTS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS UP TO NOW WE ARE WELL-POISED TO EXPLOIT OPPORTUNITIES AS THEY ARISE.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE TRANSFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE ECONOMY REINFORCES OUR CAPABILITY IN THIS REGARD," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SPOKE OF THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES THAT LAY AHEAD FOR THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

HE TOUCHED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE ECONOMY. PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRAINTS ON CAPACITY AND A SLACKENING OF DEMAND IN BOTH THE EXTERNAL AND DOMESTIC SECTORS, THE RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS SLOWED DOWN MARKEDLY.

THE FORECAST OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWTH FOR 1989 IS BEING REVISED DOWNWARDS TO THREE PER CENT. SIR PIERS SAID THAT FURTHER DETAILS WOULD BE RELEASED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), BUT COMMENTED THAT THE THIRD QUARTER HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING AND THAT THIS HAD AFFECTED THE FORECAST FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE.

ELABORATING ON THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY, SIR PIERS SAID IN RECENT YEARS, HONG KONG HAD SEEN THE RAPID TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS TRADING AND SERVICES, ALTHOUGH THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY HAD REMAINED A SECTOR OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE.

"THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA OVER JUST A FEW YEARS HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE GROWTH AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

"THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IS, HOWEVER, SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLIMATE IN CHINA," HE SAID.

/HOWEVER, SIR .....

HOWEVER, SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT GIVEN TIME, HE REMAINED CONFIDENT THAT THE ESSENTIAL MERITS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE MAINLAND, AND THE GOOD SENSE OF SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD ULTIMATELY PREVAIL.

"OVER THE LONGER TERM WE WILL SEE THE ENORMOUS TRADE AND INVESTMENT POTENTIAL IN CHINA DEVELOPING YET AGAIN.

"THIS CANNOT FAIL TO BENEFIT NOT ONLY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BUT ALSO CHINA ITSELF," HE SAID.

APART FROM THE REMARKABLE GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE RELATING TO CHINA AND OTHER ECONOMIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION WHICH HAD A HIGHLY BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON ITS VISIBLE TRADE, SIR PIERS SAID HONG KONG ALSO WITNESSED RAPID GROWTH IN ITS INVISIBLE TRADE.

"PART OF THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT MANY OF OUR SERVICES ARE RELATED TO MERCHANDISE TRADE," HE SAID, CITING AS EXAMPLES OUR CONTAINER PORT WHICH IS NOW THE BUSIEST IN THE WORLD AND THE RAPID GROWTH IN CIVIL AVIATION IN TERMS OF PASSENGERS AND AIR CARGO.

TURNING TO THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR, THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY AND VARIOUS TYPES OF PROFESSIONAL AND SUPPORTING BUSINESS SERVICES, HE SAID THERE HAD ALSO BEEN A VAST AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY.

"A POINT I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS IS THAT IN THE SERVICES SECTOR IN PARTICULAR THERE IS A STRONG INTERNATIONAL ELEMENT.

"ONE OF THE BEAUTIES OF HONG KONG IS THAT PEOPLE FROM MANY PLACES IN THE WORLD CAN COME HERE AND FEEL IMMEDIATELY AT HOME, HAVING REGARD TO THE WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE, OFTEN PROVIDED BY FIRMS WHICH EMPLOY THEIR OWN COUNTRYMEN.

"HONG KONG IS PART OF THE WORLD, AND WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT FACT," HE ADDED.

SIR PIERS ALSO DWELT ON THE CHANGES WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WHICH AT PRESENT EMPLOYED OVER 800,000 PEOPLE.

HE SAID LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY HAD BEEN RISING RAPIDLY AND IT HAD BEEN BOOSTED BY THE HIGH RATE OF INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

"WE HAVE ALSO SEEN AN UPGRADING OF TECHNOLOGY, AND THUS THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN A STABLE SHARE OF ITS VALUE ADDED IN THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, NOTWITHSTANDING A DECLINE IN ITS WORKFORCE," HE SAID.

WHILE EXPECTING THE TRANSFORMATION FROM MANUFACTURING TO SERVICES TO CONTINUE, HE SAID PAST PRESSURES ON HONG KONG HAD DONE MUCH TO INDUCE MANUFACTURERS TO LOOK TO CHINA AND, INDEED, TO OTHER PLACES, IN ORDER TO DIVERSIFY THEIR OPERATIONS.

"WE NOW SEE INVESTMENT TAKING PLACE IN MALAYSIA AND THAILAND AND OTHER PLACES IN THE REGION, AND AS A RESULT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, HONG KONG WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY GEARED TOWARDS THE SERVICE COMPONENTS OF THE MANUFACTURING OPERATION," HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG IN SOME INDUSTRIES HAD BECOME THE CENTRE OF A WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, TAKING ORDERS, PLACING THEM WITH MANUFACTURERS, SOURCING FROM MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY AND GUARANTEEING QUALITY AND DELIVERY ON TIME AT AN AGREED PRICE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE.

"PUT SIMPLY, HONG KONG IS THE BASE OF AN EXTENDED PRODUCTION NETWORK. IN TRADING AND SERVICES, THE CONTINUOUS UPGRADING OF OPERATIONS THROUGH MORE WIDESPREAD OFFICE AUTOMATION AND USE OF COMPUTERS AND BETTER MANAGEMENT METHODS HAS ENABLED THE COMPANIES CONCERNED TO KEEP ABREAST OF COMPETITION.

"AND OUR MARKETS AND RANGE OF AVAILABLE SERVICES ARE BEING DIVERSIFIED SO AS TO WIDEN THE SCOPE FOR GROWTH.

"THESE EFFORTS WILL BE IN KEEPING WITH HONG KONG'S POSITION AS THE HUB OF BUSINESS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE INDUSTRIALISED AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND AROUND THIS PART OF THE PACIFIC RIM SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

"WE HAVE SEEN OUR EXPORTS TO JAPAN GROWING OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS OR SO. CLEARLY THERE REMAINS GREAT POTENTIAL IN THAT MARKET IF WE CAN LEARN TO EXPLOIT IT," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG'S TRADITIONAL MARKETS, THE UNITED STATES, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE MAINSTAY OF OUR EXPORT TRADE.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE, SIR PIERS SAID HONG KONG HAD TRADITIONALLY PURSUED A POLICY OF MINIMUM INTERVENTION IN THE ECONOMY.

"THERE IS, HOWEVER, A VERY REAL ROLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PLAY IN TERMS OF SUPPORT AND FACILITATION," HE SAID.

"AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INVESTING HEAVILY IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT, IN EDUCATION, AND IN VARIOUS OTHER PROGRAMMES, ALL WITH A VIEW TO ENHANCING THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY AND THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE ECONOMY," HE ADDED.

"IT IS CLEAR TO ALL THAT WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS A PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO CARRY HONG KONG FORWARD WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IN THE GLOBAL MARKET PLACE, COMMUNICATIONS WERE ALL IMPORTANT AND HONG KONG HAD NO INTENTION OF LAGGING BEHIND IN PROVIDING THEM.

IN CONCLUSION, SIR PIERS SUGGESTED TAKING A LONGER TERM VIEW OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ITS HUMAN DIMENSION.

"I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU DO SO, YOU WILL SHARE WITH ME MY OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

STUDY TO BE CONDUCTED ON COMPUTERISING VOTING AND VOTE COUNTS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO MAKE AN IN-DEPTH FEASIBILITY STUDY ON COMPUTERISING VOTING AND VOTE COUNTS IN FUTURE ELECTIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE PO LEUNG KUK BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR SUEN SAID THE DECISION FOLLOWED A PRELIMINARY STUDY BY AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP.

HE SAID FINDINGS BY THE WORKING GROUP HAD SHOWN THAT THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN ELECTIONS WAS FEASIBLE BUT IT WAS NECESSARY TO LOOK DEEPER INTO THE FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS.

"AT PRESENT, OUR ELECTORAL ROLL CARRIES A TOTAL OF ABOUT 1.6 MILLION NAMES, REPRESENTING 45 PER CENT OF AN ESTIMATED POTENTIAL ELECTORATE OF 3.6 MILLION," HE SAID.

"NEXT SUMMER, BEFORE THE VARIOUS ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN 1991, WE HOPE TO MOUNT A MAJOR PROMOTION CAMPAIGN AND OUR TARGET IS 2.2 MILLION REGISTERED ELECTORS.

"TO COPE WITH THE FUTURE CHALLENGES ARISING FROM AN EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ELECTORS, LATEST TECHNOLOGY SHOULD COME IN."

IN VOTING, MR SUEN SAID THE EXISTING PRACTICE WAS A MANUAL POLL CARD SYSTEM WHICH DESIGNATED ELECTORS TO SPECIFIED POLLING STATIONS ACCORDING TO THEIR REGISTERED ADDRESSES.

"THIS SYSTEM LACKS FLEXIBILITY AS SOME ELECTORS MIGHT FOR SOME REASONS BE UNABLE TO VOTE AT THEIR DESIGNATED POLLING STATIONS ALTHOUGH THEY MIGHT HAVE PASSED BY SOME OTHER POLLING STATIONS DURING THE DAY," HE SAID.

"COMPUTERISATION OF OUR RECORDS WILL THEREFORE NOT ONLY PROVIDE CONVENIENCE TO ELECTORS BUT ALSO BRING ABOUT A HIGHER POLLING RATE."

MR SUEN SAID WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED WAS A CENTRAL COMPUTER STORED WITH DATA ABOUT ALL REGISTERED ELECTORS AND CONNECTED TO SOME 1,750 TERMINALS IN POLLING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"THE TOTAL COST IS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE REGION OF \$200 MILLION," HE SAID.

"WHETHER THIS IS COST EFFECTIVE IN THE ALLOCATION OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES WILL NEED TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED."

MR SUEN SAID THAT AS POLLING RATE WAS EXPECTED TO GO UP, THERE WAS ALSO THE NEED TO LOOK INTO THE COMPUTERISATION OF VOTE COUNTS.

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"SUPPOSE A MILLION PEOPLE CAST THEIR VOTES, THE TIME REQUIRED FOR MANUAL COUNTING WOULD BE MORE THAN 12 HOURS," HE SAID.

"OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION WITHIN A FEW HOURS AFTER IT HAS FINISHED.

"WE ARE THINKING OF MAKING USE OF COMPUTER-OPERATED OPTICAL MARK READERS TO DO THE WORK, AND THE ESTIMATED COST IS ABOUT \$18 MILLION.

"OUR ESTIMATED BASIC REQUIREMENT IS A SYSTEM CAPABLE OF PROCESSING 1.5 MILLION BALLOT PAPERS WITHIN THREE HOURS, AND ALSO CAPABLE OF EXPANSION TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS."

THE IN-DEPTH FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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ACTION PLAN IN HAND ON FLOATING REFUSE

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NEW MEASURES ARE IN HAND TO TACKLE THE LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF FLOATING REFUSE IN HONG KONG'S HARBOUR.

A SPECIAL TASKFORCE, THE STEERING GROUP ON FLOATING REFUSE, SET UP UNDER THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH (PELB) HAS DEVISED A 30-POINT ACTION PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

THE ACTION PLAN HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 20).

THE STEERING GROUP'S CHAIRMAN, MR ANTHONY COOPER, WHO IS ALSO PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ENVIRONMENT) OF THE PELB, SAID: "THE PROBLEM OF FLOATING REFUSE IS NOT ONLY UNSIGHTLY - A BLOT ON ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HARBOURS - BUT A HAZARD TO SHIPPING AND AN UNNECESSARY CHARGE TO GOVERNMENT."

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES THE LEVEL OF FLOATING REFUSE AT ABOUT 16 TONNES A DAY.

THIS IS THE RESULT OF WIDESPREAD INDISCRIMINATE LITTERING. THE PROBLEM IS EXACERBATED BY THE DIFFICULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ALONG WATERFRONT AREAS AND THE PROBLEM OF SCAVENGING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF FLOATING REFUSE IN A LARGE AND BUSY HARBOUR.

MR COOPER SAID A PRINCIPAL FEATURE OF THE PLAN IS A BOLD ENGINEERING ATTEMPT TO TRAP REFUSE BEFORE IT GETS INTO THE HARBOUR. OTHER FEATURES INCLUDE PROPOSALS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE COLLECTION OF FLOATING REFUSE AND INCREASED ENFORCEMENT AGAINST MARINE LITTERING.

/ON THE .....

ON THE PREVENTION FRONT, IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR:

- (A) REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES ON LAND IN AREAS WHERE LITTER CAN BE WASHED DIRECTLY INTO THE HARBOUR;
- (B) CLEANSING OF CARGO HANDLING AREAS;
- (C) CLEANSING AND COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPYARDS;
- (D) BOOMING OF RECLAMATION SITES;
- (E) COLLECTION OF REFUSE FROM SHIPS IN PORT AND DWELLING VESSELS IN TYPHOON SHELTERS;
- (F) CLEANLINESS OF FISH CULTURE ZONES; AND
- (G) INTERCEPTION OF REFUSE AT STORMWATER OUTFALLS AND NULLAHS BEFORE IT ENTERS THE HARBOUR.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 STORMWATER OUTFALLS AROUND THE HARBOUR EDGE. MR COOPER SAID THEY WILL IDENTIFY THOSE THAT CONTRIBUTE MOST FLOATING REFUSE TO THE HARBOUR AND TRIALS ARE UNDERWAY TO EXAMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR TRAPPING AND CLEARING REFUSE FROM THESE OUTFALLS.

MEANWHILE, ACTIONS TO IMPROVE COLLECTION OF FLOATING REFUSE WILL BE MADE IN:

- (A) TYPHOON SHELTERS: WHERE DEDICATED TEAMS OPERATE;
- (B) HARBOUR WATERS: WHERE SPECIALISED COLLECTION VESSELS OPERATE;
- (C) OUTSIDE HARBOUR WATERS: WHERE A NEW CATAMARAN TYPE OF COLLECTION VESSEL WILL OPERATE ON A TRIAL BASIS FOR SIX MONTHS; AND
- (D) REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS: WHERE THERE IS AN EXISTING SHORTAGE OF HARBOUR SIDE LOCATIONS AND CAPACITY FOR THE TRANSFER OF REFUSE FROM VESSELS TO SHORE FOR EVENTUAL DISPOSAL.

FURTHER, THE STEERING GROUP WILL CARRY OUT A DETAILED EXAMINATION INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF PRIVATISING ALL ASPECTS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COLLECTION OF FLOATING REFUSE.

ON THE ENFORCEMENT FRONT, MR COOPER SAID INCREASED ENFORCEMENT ACTION HAS NOW BEGUN FOLLOWING THE RECENT STRENGTHENING OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR HIGHER LEVELS OF FINES AND TO ENABLE MORE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST MARINE LITTERING.

/THE MARINE .....

THE MARINE LITTERING PROBLEM WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED VIA:

- (A) REGULAR LIAISON WITH FERRY OPERATORS;
- (B) REGULAR INSPECTION OF CLEANSING AND COLLECTION SERVICES AND CHECKS OF KNOWN BLACK SPOTS;
- (C) HELICOPTER SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE HARBOUR AND COASTAL WATERS; AND
- (D) A HOTLINE FOR PUBLIC COMPLAINTS.

"THE STEERING GROUP WILL CONSTANTLY REVIEW AND UPDATE THE ACTION PLAN AS APPROPRIATE," MR COOPER SAID.

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DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN  
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) PRESENTED THE ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT FOR THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT AT THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE.

BRIEFING MEMBERS ON THE UPDATE OF THE STATEMENT, EPD'S SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MRS SHIRLEY LI, SAID THE REPORT, ISSUED IN JUNE 1988, PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT AND MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS.

TODAY'S BRIEFING WAS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME IN THE PAST YEAR.

MRS LI SAID IN 1988, THE EPD HOTLINE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 212 POLLUTION COMPLAINTS FROM THE DISTRICT. OVER 70 PER CENT CONCERNED AIR POLLUTION, 20 PER CENT CONCERNED NOISE, AND THE REST CONCERNED WATER POLLUTION OR SOLID AND LIQUID WASTES DISPOSAL.

AIR POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT WERE ATTRIBUTED MAINLY TO SOME PERMANENT INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR, THE KENNEDY TOWN ABATTOIR AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACILITIES - THE ANIMAL CREMATOR AND THE BY-PRODUCTS PLANT.

OTHER LOCAL SOURCES INCLUDED CHIMNEY EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PREMISES AND SMOKE EMISSIONS FROM PILING WORK ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

ON SHORT TERM IMPROVEMENT MEASURES, MRS LI SAID THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS TO REDUCE DUST EMISSIONS FROM THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

THE LONG TERM SOLUTION WOULD BE TO CLOSE THE FACILITY IN 1992 WHEN THE ISLAND EAST TRANSFER STATION COMMENCED OPERATION.

EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE KENNEDY TOWN ABATTOIR IN THE COMING YEAR. THESE INCLUDED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS, INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL GREASE TRAPS AND ODOUR CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE BY-PRODUCTS PLANT. ACTIONS WERE IN HAND TO RELOCATE THE ANIMAL CREMATOR, SHE SAID.

ON NOISE PROBLEMS IN SCHOOLS, MRS LI SAID UNDER STAGE II OF THE SCHOOL NOISE ABATEMENT PROGRAMME, EPD HAD COMPLETED ON-SITE NOISE MEASUREMENT FOR 20 SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

A LIST OF THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR INSULATION TREATMENT BY 1990 WOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING APPROVAL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

ON THE DISTRICT'S WATER POLLUTION PROBLEM, MRS LI SAID EPD HAD COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY STUDY IN AUGUST THIS YEAR TO DRAW UP THE CENTRAL, WESTERN AND WAN CHAI WEST SEWERAGE MASTERPLAN STUDY.

PACKAGES OF SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION PROJECTS WOULD BE DEVELOPED TO CURB FURTHER DETERIORATION IN WATER QUALITY IN THE DISTRICT, SHE ADDED.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER PUBLISHED

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THE CPI(A) FOR OCTOBER 1989, AT 132.6, WAS 10.4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR OCTOBER 1988, ACCORDING TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE BASE OF COMPARISON IN OCTOBER 1988 WAS RELATIVELY LOW.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THE CPI(A) WAS HIGHER BY 10.3 PER CENT IN JULY, 9.9 PER CENT IN AUGUST AND 10.1 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1989.

WHILE THESE RATES OF INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES FLUCTUATED WITHIN A NARROW MARGIN OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, THEY WERE BELOW THE CORRESPONDING RATE OF INCREASE OF 11.0 PER CENT RECORDED IN JUNE.

THE CPI(B) SHOWED LARGELY SIMILAR MOVEMENTS. IN OCTOBER 1989, IT WAS 132.1, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 10.1 PER CENT OVER OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

THIS COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 10.0 PER CENT IN JULY, 9.7 PER CENT IN AUGUST, AND 9.9 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1989.

/COMPARING OCTOBER .....

COMPARING OCTOBER WITH SEPTEMBER 1989, THE CPI(A) SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE AND THE CPI(B) INCREASED BY 0.1 PER CENT. CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES INCREASED. ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND FRESH FRUIT DECREASED.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 1989, AT 127.4 AND 127.1 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 9.8 PER CENT AND 9.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 1988.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED OCTOBER 1989, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 0.7 PER CENT PER MONTH.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER 1989 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1989 AND OCTOBER 1988, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

SECTION	(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)					
	CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR OCT. 89	% CHANGE OVER SEP. 89	% CHANGE OVER OCT. 88	INDEX FOR OCT. 89	% CHANGE OVER SEP. 89	% CHANGE OVER OCT. 88
FOODSTUFFS	134.2	-0.6	+11.9	135.5	-0.4	+12.3
HOUSING	124.4	+0.5	+7.7	119.0	+0.4	+6.2
FUEL AND LIGHT	95.8	+0.0*	+3.8	96.2	+0.0*	+3.6
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	133.8	+0.1	+7.4	135.0	+0.2	+7.6
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	135.7	+0.5	+9.8	138.7	+0.5	+10.1
DURABLE GOODS	122.4	+0.2	+2.4	121.6	+0.2	+2.4
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	133.8	+1.0	+8.6	133.8	+1.0	+8.3

/TRANSPORT AND .....

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TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	139.1	+0.9	+14.4	138.2	+1.1	+14.3
SERVICES	149.6	+0.3	+13.5	149.0	+0.3	+13.2
ALL ITEMS	132.6	-0.0*	+10.4	132.1	+0.1	+10.1

\* LESS THAN 0.05 PER CENT

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.4 PER CENT IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND FRESH FRUIT, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER PRICES OF OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY 1.0 PER CENT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF STATIONERY, JEWELLERY, TOILET REQUISITES AND COSMETICS.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.1 PER CENT IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER SCHOOL BUS FARES AND PARKING FEES.

FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR OCTOBER 1989, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3.50 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES CAN BE MADE TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8235089.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 139.7 IN OCTOBER 1989, UP BY 0.6 PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1989 AND UP BY 11.3 PER CENT OVER OCTOBER 1988.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1989

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COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1989 TO BE GAZETTED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED TWO AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) RULES OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

"THE COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1989, WHICH WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY), INTRODUCE TWO AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING PROVISIONS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"RULE 28(1) IS AMENDED TO ENABLE A PETITIONER TO APPLY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR AFTER PRESENTATION OF THE WINDING-UP PETITION TO THE COURT," HE SAID.

THE PRESENT RULE PROVIDES FOR AN APPLICATION BY A CREDITOR, CONTRIBUTORY, OR BY THE COMPANY ITSELF.

"THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT IS TO GIVE THE RELEVANT REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AN EXPRESS RIGHT TO PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR IN APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

AT PRESENT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ALL HAVE POWERS TO PRESENT WINDING-UP PETITIONS UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE ORDINANCES.

"ANY SUCH PETITIONS ARE FREQUENTLY FOLLOWED BY APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE ASSETS OF THE COMPANY AND TO PRESERVE THE BOOKS AND FINANCIAL RECORDS, AND IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY IN HIS CAPACITY AS PETITIONER SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE APPLICATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"RULES 93(1) IS AMENDED TO MAKE IT CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 217 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, WHICH PROVIDES THAT CREDITORS WHO DO NOT PROVE THEIR DEBT OR CLAIM ON OR BEFORE THE DATE FIXED BY RULE (93)(1) ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE BENEFIT OF THE DISTRIBUTION MADE NEXT AFTER THE DATE AND FROM THE BENEFIT OF ANY PREVIOUS DISTRIBUTION," HE SAID.

UNDER THE EXISTING RULE, CREDITORS WHO FAIL TO PROVE WITHIN THE TIME-LIMIT ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEXT DISTRIBUTION, BUT NOT FROM PREVIOUS DISTRIBUTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE RULES WOULD BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND WOULD COME INTO EFFECT ON THE SAME DAY.

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\$14 MILLION FOR IMPROVING REHABILITATION SERVICES

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THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RDCC) HAS ENDORSED A PROPOSAL ON THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR MAJOR AND MINOR IMPROVEMENTS TO REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR 1990-91.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALAN WONG, SAID AT A RDCC MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A TOTAL OF \$14 MILLION HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS.

HE SAID TWO MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR. OVER \$4.8 MILLION WOULD BE USED FOR THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL TEACHERS FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS, AND A SIMILAR AMOUNT WOULD GO TOWARDS EXTENDING THE STANDARD COSTS APPLICABLE TO SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES AND RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES.

"IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ALLOCATED \$1.7 MILLION AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF \$1.6 MILLION FROM THEIR SAVINGS, TOWARDS MINOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 1990-91," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID ONE MINOR IMPROVEMENT WAS TO IMPLEMENT A NEW RATE OF INCENTIVE PAYMENT TO SHELTERED WORKSHOP WORKERS. FUNDS HAD BEEN BUDGETTED FOR THE PAY ADJUSTMENT TO TAKE EFFECT FROM LAST MONTH.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDED ESTABLISHING A SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT UNIT AND EXPANDING THE REHABUS NETWORK.

MR WONG SAID A SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT MODEL WAS INTRODUCED LAST YEAR TO COMPLEMENT THE EXISTING OPEN AND SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT FOR THE DISABLED.

IT WAS AIMED PARTICULARLY AT HELPING THOSE DISABLED PERSONS WHO WERE MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN SHELTERED WORKERS BUT WHO OTHERWISE COULD NOT COMPETE FOR OPEN EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT ON-GOING SUPPORT.

"A TWO-YEAR PILOT SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH A MOBILE CREW COMPRISING 12 MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED MEMBERS TO TAKE UP CONTRACTED CLEANSING TASKS AFTER UNDERGOING A ONE-YEAR TRAINING COURSE.

"IT IS CONSIDERED THE SCHEME WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN BROADENING THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS OF THE DISABLED AND IN REDUCING THE RELIANCE OF THE MORE PRODUCTIVE DISABLED PERSONS ON SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT," HE SAID.

MR WONG TOLD THE RDCC MEMBERS THAT IF THE SCHEME WAS FOUND TO BE SUCCESSFUL, CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO EXTENDING IT TO OTHER TYPES OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT MODELS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF VARIOUS DISABILITY GROUPS.

ON THE REHABUS NETWORK, MR WONG SAID THAT AS TRANSPORT WAS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE IN FACILITATING THE INTEGRATION OF THE DISABLED IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR OTHER MATTERS, IT WAS NECESSARY TO FINANCE FOUR NEW ROUTES TO BE OPENED IN 1990-91, TO SERVE SHA TIN-TSUEN WAN; SHEUNG SHUI/FANLING-TAI PO; KWUN TONG-SHAM SHUI PO; AND WONG TAI SIN-TSIM SHA TSUI.

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REHABILITATION CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED EARLY NEXT MONTH

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A TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG WILL BE LAUNCHED EARLY NEXT MONTH.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (RDCC) TODAY (THURSDAY), THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR KWOK KA-CHI, SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE "IN TOUCH WITH REHABILITATION" CAMPAIGN IS FOUR-FOLD.

IT AIMS TO:

- \* ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF DISABLED PEOPLE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMMUNITY;
- \* AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE POTENTIAL ABILITIES OF DISABLED PEOPLE;
- \* HELP DISABLED PEOPLE REALISE THEIR OWN DISABILITIES AND POTENTIAL; AND
- \* PUBLICISE REHABILITATION SERVICES AND THE AGENCIES PROVIDING THE SERVICES.

MR KWOK NOTED THAT THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH WILL OFFICIALLY BEGIN ON DECEMBER 2, OFFERS A WIDE RANGING PROGRAMME.

"THERE WILL BE A PROJECT CONTEST FOR YOUTH TEAMS, A DESIGN AWARD SCHEME FOR THE MOST ACCESSIBLE BUILDING FOR THE DISABLED IN HONG KONG AND A SERIES OF DISTRICT-WIDE ACTIVITIES FOR THE DISABLED," HE SAID.

"THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CAMPAIGN IS A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION ON REHABILITATION SERVICES TO BE HELD AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI, STARTING DECEMBER 2.

"IT WILL INTRODUCE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF REHABILITATION SERVICES WITH THE AID OF OVER 130 DISPLAY BOARDS.

"THERE WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYS OF APPLIANCES, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED BY DISABLED PERSONS," MR KWOK SAID.

THE CAMPAIGN IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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### EXPANSION IN CHILD CARE SERVICES

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CHILD CARE SERVICES HAVE EXPANDED GREATLY IN THE LAST DECADE TO COPE WITH THE NEEDS OF CORE FAMILIES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A NURSERY OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, MRS WONG SAID ONLY 10,000 CHILD CARE CENTRE PLACES WERE AVAILABLE 10 YEARS AGO.

"TODAY, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 30,000 PLACES IN VARIOUS CHILD CARE CENTRES, OF WHICH 18,000 ARE GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED DAY CARE PLACES," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID IN ADDITION TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS IN 1975 THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ALSO SET UP A CHILD CARE CENTRE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TO ENSURE THAT OPERATIONAL STANDARDS IN CHILD CARE CENTRES WERE MET.

"TO IMPROVE CHILD CARE SERVICES, AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE JOINTLY PUBLISHED A CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR DAY CARE CENTRES LAST YEAR," SHE SAID.

"THIS GUIDE PROVIDES A REFERENCE FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS ON THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND TRAINING METHODS OF CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG ALSO COMMENDED THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR ITS DEVOTION IN CHILD CARE SERVICES. THE ASSOCIATION IS NOW PLANNING ITS FOURTH NURSERY IN EASTERN DISTRICT OF HONG KONG.

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### HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME FOR KWUN TONG ELDERLY

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A HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE HELD IN KWUN TONG ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25) TO AROUSE ELDERLY PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF HEALTH CARE AND THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN FOR THE ELDERLY.

IT WILL BE HELD AT THE OPEN SQUARE AND THE COMMUNITY HALL OF TELFORD GARDENS IN KOWLOON BAY BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 4 PM.

THE REGIONAL OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR LOK MAN-PAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PROGRAMME'S OPENING.

THERE WILL BE TALKS ON HEALTH AND NUTRITION, FILM SHOWS, AND PERFORMANCES BY ELDERLY PEOPLE INCLUDING A DRAMA, FASHION SHOW, SINGING AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON RELAXATION EXERCISES.

/THERE WILL .....

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THERE WILL ALSO BE FREE MEDICAL CHECKS ON EYES, TEETH, BLOOD PRESSURE AND BLOOD SUGAR FOR ELDERLY RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

THE FUNCTION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT ELDERLY SERVICE JOINT FUNCTION COMMITTEE AND KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EVENT TO BE HELD AT NOON ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25) AT THE OPEN SQUARE AND THE COMMUNITY HALL OF TELFORD GARDENS IN KOWLOON BAY.

SHA SEES DEVELOPMENTS ON LANTAU

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DONALD LIAO, VISITED TAI O AND NGONG PING ON LANTAU ISLAND TODAY (THURSDAY) TO SEE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS THERE AND TO BID FAREWELL TO LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE HIS RETIREMENT.

MR LIAO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MRS LIAO; THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU; PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MRS AGNES ALLCOCK; ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM WAI-KEUNG; AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KIM SALKELD.

THE PARTY FIRST FLEW TO TAI O AND WAS GREETED BY THE RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR YU YUEN-HEI.

MR LIAO TOURED THE PROPOSED SHELTERED ANCHORAGE SITE FOR FISHING VESSELS WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE MID-1990'S.

THEN HE WENT TO THE ROOFTOP OF A BUILDING FOR A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE AREA.

MR LIAO WAS TOLD ABOUT THE PACKAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF LUNG TIN HOUSING ESTATE PHASE II, DREDGING OF THE TAI O CREEK, BUILDING OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE ROADS, DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES, AND A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS THE CREEK. THE COST WILL AMOUNT TO A TOTAL OF ABOUT \$160 MILLION.

MR LIAO AND HIS PARTY VISITED THE TAI O LUNG TIN HOME WHICH WAS OPENED IN MARCH THIS YEAR TO ACCOMMODATE 40 PEOPLE WHO ARE AGED 60 OR OVER. THE HOME IS MANAGED BY CARITAS AND FINANCED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

/THE SECRETARY .....

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THE SECRETARY ALSO VISITED THE LUNG TIN HOUSING ESTATE PHASE I, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1980 AND ACCOMMODATES ABOUT 1,320 PEOPLE.

AT NGONG PING, MR LIAO VISITED THE PO LIN MONASTERY AND THE BIG BUDDHA STATUE, AND WAS BRIEFED ON RELATED DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE BRONZE STATUE, 33.95 METRES HIGH AND WEIGHING 250 TONS, HAD COST ABOUT \$68 MILLION TO BUILD.

AN ACTIVITY CENTRE, WITH A CONVENTION HALL, GUEST ROOMS AND QUARTERS FOR BUDDHIST SCHOLARS, WOULD ALSO BE BUILT.

MR LIAO ALSO LEARNT THAT, IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE STATUE, THE THREE-KILOMETRE NGONG PING ACCESS ROAD WOULD BE IMPROVED TO PROVIDE FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC. FACILITIES SUCH AS A PUBLIC CARPARK AND A LARGER BUS TERMINAL WOULD ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT AFFAIRS SYMPOSIUM ON SATURDAY

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR OWN COMMUNITY AT A "DISTRICT AFFAIRS SYMPOSIUM" TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25) EVENING.

THE SYMPOSIUM, WHICH FORMS THE FINAL PART OF THE "SOUTHERN DISTRICT IN PERSPECTIVE" CASE STUDY CONTEST, WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM AT THE LEI TUNG COMMUNITY HALL IN LEI TUNG ESTATE. ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

IN THE FIRST PART OF THE CONTEST, WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETED, CONTESTANTS CARRIED OUT IN-DEPTH RESEARCH OF A LOCAL ISSUE. IN THE SECOND PART, THEY WILL MAKE A SLIDE PRESENTATION ON THEIR FINDINGS AT SATURDAY'S SYMPOSIUM.

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF SIX SLIDE PRESENTATIONS, EACH LASTING ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

THE TOPICS ARE: ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT; TIN WAN REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME; A DISAPPEARING TRADE: PIG-REARING; A BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME IN TAI WAN NEW VILLAGE; LOCAL YOUTHS' VIEWS ON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRES; AND DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

THREE WINNERS WILL BE CHOSEN, AND EACH WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY.

ADJUDICATORS FOR THE FINAL PART ARE A HOST OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG'S TELEVISION PROGRAMME "TODAY IN LEGCO", MR Y.C. CHAN; SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG; AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DAVID LEUNG.

/THE CONTEST .....

THE CONTEST HAS BEEN ORGANISED IN SUPPORT OF THE CURRENT SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION WITH ASSISTANCE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SYMPOSIUM WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25) AT THE LEI TUNG COMMUNITY HALL, LEI TUNG ESTATE, BEGINNING AT 7.30 PM.

GYMNASTIC SHOW TO END DISTRICT FESTIVAL  
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THE 1989 WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL WILL CLOSE ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 26) WITH A RHYTHMIC GYMNASTIC SHOW.

TWO TEAMS FROM GUANGDONG WILL PERFORM IN THE SHOW, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM, AT THE CHOI HUNG ROAD INDOOR GAMES HALL.

THE GUANGDONG TEAMS WILL COMPRISE MORE THAN 16 MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM RANK HIGH IN RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS ON THE MAINLAND.

A FESTIVAL CLOSING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO THE SHOW.

OFFICIATING AT THIS WILL BE THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, DR MICHAEL LEE; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN LAU; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR FUNG KWONG-CHUNG; CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL, MR YEUNG CHIU-MING; VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS COUNCIL, MR CHAN CHUN-FAT; AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF SIK SIK YUEN, MR LI YUEN-BING.

EARLIER, ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, THE TWO GUANGDONG TEAMS WILL ALSO PERFORM AT ANOTHER RYHTHMIC GYMNASTIC SHOW, AT THE SAME VENUE. THIS SHOW WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS FOR BOTH SHOWS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND SUB-OFFICE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TWO RYHTHMIC GYMNASTIC SHOWS OF THE 1989 WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL, BEGINNING AT 2 PM AND 8 PM RESPECTIVELY ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 26) AT THE CHOI HUNG ROAD INDOOR GAMES HALL.

YAU TSIM CARNIVAL TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

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A CARNIVAL DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WILL BE HELD IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 26).

ORGANISED BY THE YAU MA TEI EAST AREA COMMITTEE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE PLAYGROUND OF THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET.

SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL OPERATE 10 GAMES STALLS AND PRESENT A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING CHINESE MUSIC, CANTONESE OPERATIC SONGS, POPULAR SONGS AND DANCES.

THE THEME OF THE CARNIVAL WILL BE EXPOUNDED IN THE GAMES AND IN SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE VENUE.

APART FROM INTRODUCING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, THE SUPPLEMENT WILL CONTAIN A PAPER ON WHICH RESIDENTS CAN EXPRESS IDEAS ABOUT THE FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THEIR DISTRICT.

THE VARIETY SHOW AND GAMES WILL START AT 2.30 PM, FOLLOWING AN OPENING CEREMONY AND PERFORMANCES BY A MARCHING BAND.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 1.45 PM WILL BE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WONG HON-HO; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER FOR YAU MA TEI, MR LAU YUK-KUEN; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, MR NG KIN-SUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU MA TEI EAST AREA CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 26), BEGINNING AT 1.45 PM.

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MORE DISTRICT FESTIVAL EVENTS FOR KWUN TONG RESIDENTS

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A NUMBER OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS WILL BE HELD IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF KWUN TONG IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AS PART OF THE CURRENT KWUN TONG FESTIVAL '89.

THERE WILL BE A DINNER FOR ABOUT 500 ELDERLY PEOPLE AT A RESTAURANT IN LAM TIN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) DURING WHICH THEY WILL BE TREATED TO A CANTONESE OPERA.

/ON SUNDAY .....

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ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 26) MORNING, A NUMBER OF WELL-KNOWN MOVIES WILL BE SHOWN AT THREE LOCAL CINEMAS AT DISCOUNTED PRICES.

A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AND A CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE TELFORD GARDEN PLAZA, BEGINNING AT 10 AM THE SAME MORNING. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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DB COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

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MEMBERS OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF SEVERAL MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THESE INCLUDE PROJECTS AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI HO ROAD AND SHA TSUI ROAD, TEXACO ROAD AND KWAN MUN HAU STREET.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT A REPORT ON THE ANALYSIS OF ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY DISTRICT BOARD AREAS LAST YEAR.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS BY WORKING GROUPS, AND APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR ORGANISING THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN, THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN AND KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE CAMPAIGNS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SECOND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, TSUEN WAN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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/22 .....

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MEASURES TO STAMP OUT MALPRACTICES AT TAI PO FISH MARKET

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THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION (FMO)'S STRINGENT MEASURES TO STAMP OUT MALPRACTICES IN FISH MARKETING ACTIVITIES WILL SOON BE EXTENDED TO THE TAI PO WHOLESALE FISH MARKET.

WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1, THE TAI PO FISH MARKET AUTHORITIES, BACKED UP BY THE POLICE, WILL STRICTLY FORBID THE LABELLING OF FISH BEFORE TRANSACTION.

"THE MOVE AIMS TO IMPROVE MARKET ORDER, PREVENT MANIPULATION OF THE FISH PRICES AND TO ENSURE THAT FISH BUYERS COULD TAKE PART IN A FAIR TRANSACTION OF THE FISH CATCH," THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FISHERIES) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, DR CHRISTOPHER LEE, EXPLAINED TODAY (THURSDAY).

ACCESS TO THE SORTING FLOOR OF THE TAI PO FISH MARKET HAD BEEN STRICTLY RESTRICTED TO FISHERMEN, THEIR AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES WHO WERE ISSUED WITH PERMITS. FISH BUYERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO GO IN, HE SAID.

THE MEASURE WAS DESIGNED TO STAMP OUT THE INFILTRATION OF TRIAD ELEMENTS ON THE SORTING FLOOR, RESULTING IN GOOD-QUALITY FISH BEING PRE-SELECTED, MARKED AND MANIPULATED THROUGH THE SALE PROCESS, HE ADDED.

DR LEE NOTED THAT SIMILAR STRINGENT MARKETING CONTROLS WERE ALREADY IN FORCE IN THE FMO'S CHEUNG SHA WAN, ABERDEEN AND SHAU KEI WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS AND THE RESULTS HAD BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING.

"IN THE SHAU KEI WAN FISH MARKET, THE AVERAGE PRICE OF FISH FETCHED AT AUCTIONS HAS GONE UP BY 50 PER CENT AND THE VOLUME OF FISH TRADED HAS ALSO INCREASED SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CONTROL MEASURES.

"THIS SHOWS THAT THE MEASURES ARE EFFECTIVE IN ENSURING A FAIR PRICE FOR THE FISH." HE CONTINUED.

SIMILAR CONTROLS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR INTRODUCTION AT THE CASTLE PEAK WHOLESALE FISH MARKET EARLY NEXT YEAR. HE ADDED.

THE TAI PO FISH MARKET, WHICH HOLDS TWO TRADING SESSIONS EVERY MORNING, USUALLY ATTRACTS SOME 70 BUYERS AND ABOUT 12 TONNES OF FISH ARE TRADED DAILY.

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/23 .....

PRECAUTIONS IN ASBESTOS WORK URGED

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BUILDING CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS ARE REMINDED TO TAKE ADEQUATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN HANDLING OR WORKING WITH MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS.

"IT IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS TO COMPLY STRICTLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (ASBESTOS) SPECIAL REGULATIONS TO AVOID HEALTH RISKS ARISING FROM ASBESTOS DUST AND WASTE," THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR YIP YUK-LUN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE CONTRACTORS MUST NOTIFY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN WRITING NOT LESS THAN 28 DAYS BEFORE ENGAGING IN A WORK PROCESS INVOLVING ANY MATERIAL COMPOSED WHOLLY OR PARTLY OF ASBESTOS," MR YIP SAID.

"DURING THE WORK PROCESS, THE CONTRACTOR SHOULD USE APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT TO MINIMISE THE RELEASE OF ASBESTOS DUST INTO THE WORK ATMOSPHERE, OR PROVIDE EVERY WORKER ENGAGED IN THE WORK WITH PROPER RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

"IT IS THE DUTY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO ENSURE THAT THE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING ARE USED BY THOSE WHO MAY BE AFFECTED BY ASBESTOS DUST ON SITE.

"HE MUST ALSO ENSURE THAT ALL WORKERS EMPLOYED IN ASBESTOS PROCESS HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED TO BE FIT TO DO SUCH WORK BY A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER. YOUNG PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE SHOULD IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES BE EMPLOYED."

CONTRACTORS WHO BREACH THESE PROVISIONS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$30,000.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED TWO PUBLICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT: "GUIDE TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (ASBESTOS) SPECIAL REGULATIONS" AND "CONTROL OF ASBESTOS AT WORK - CODE OF PRACTICE."

THEY MAY BE OBTAINED FREE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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EXHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR PROFESSIONALS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD AN EXHIBITION ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25) TO FAMILIARISE POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES WITH THE WIDE-RANGING SERVICES PROVIDED BY ITS HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (HEES).

THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION WILL ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO EMPLOYERS LOOKING FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF.

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IT WILL BE HELD AT THE LEVEL ONE EXHIBITION AREA OF THE NEW WORLD CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI. OPENING HOURS ARE FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE AND ATTRACTIVE GRAPHICS, THE EXHIBITION WILL TELL VISITORS THAT APART FROM JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES, THE HEES ALSO PROVIDES COUNSELLING FOR POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES ON THE CURRENT MARKET SITUATION AND JOB-HUNTING SKILLS.

IN ADDITION, CAREERS SEMINARS ARE ORGANISED EVERY YEAR ON THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

THE SERVICE HAS BEEN FOUND MOST USEFUL BY HONG KONG STUDENTS STUDYING OVERSEAS WHO WISH TO RETURN AND WORK IN THE TERRITORY.

TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING OF JOB APPLICATIONS, THE HEES NOW USES A COMPUTER TO REGISTER THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF JOB-SEEKERS AND TO MATCH THEM WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VACANCIES ON HAND.

THE COMPUTER IS ALSO USED TO PUBLISH A "CANDIDATE PROFILE" WHICH CONTAINS ESSENTIAL PARTICULARS OF SELECTED REGISTRANTS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SOME 1,000 EMPLOYERS EVERY MONTH.

ANOTHER MONTHLY PUBLICATION CALLED THE "PRIME JOBS IN HONG KONG" IS SENT TO ABOUT 630 UNIVERSITIES, TERTIARY INSTITUTES AND STUDENT BODIES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, EMPLOYERS AND GRADUATES MAY CALL THE HEES ON TEL. 5-8523232 OR 5-8523233.

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TSZ WAN SHAN EMPLOYMENT OFFICE CLOSES  
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS CLOSED DOWN ITS LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE IN TSZ WAN SHAN FROM TODAY (THURSDAY) IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE COST-EFFECTIVENESS.

THE OFFICE HAD PROVIDED FREE ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYERS IN RECRUITING STAFF AND TO JOB-SEEKERS FINDING EMPLOYMENT IN TSZ WAN SHAN, DIAMOND HILL, CHUK YUEN AND UPPER WONG TAI SIN AREAS.

THESE SERVICES WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE AT THE NEARBY SAN PO KONG EMPLOYMENT OFFICE AT PARIS THEATRE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 7 KING FUK STREET. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-265121-4.

THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WILL NOW BE OPERATING 15 BRANCH OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY. THEY ARE ALL LINKED BY A FACSIMILE NETWORK.

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SUPERMARKET FINED FOR IMPROPER LABELLING

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THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED FOOD MANUFACTURERS, WHOLESALERS AND RETAILERS NOT TO SELL PREPACKAGED FOOD WHICH BEARS NO PROPER LABELLING, OR ELSE THEY WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

PROPER LABELLING OF PREPACKAGED FOOD IS REQUIRED UNDER THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS (CHAPTER 132).

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS A RECENT CASE IN SOUTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY IN WHICH A SUPERMARKET IN TSIM SHA TSUI WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$15,000 FOR SELLING THREE TYPES OF PREPACKAGED FOOD WHICH HAD NOT BEEN MARKED OR LABELLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS.

THE FOOD ITEMS -- NAMELY CANNED FRANKFURT SAUSAGES, CANNED TUNA FISH PATE AND ASPIC JELLY -- HAD NOT BEEN LABELLED IN EITHER ENGLISH OR CHINESE, OR IN BOTH LANGUAGES, WITH THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD; A LIST OF INGREDIENTS; NAME AND ADDRESS OF MANUFACTURER OR PACKER OF THE FOOD.

IN ADDITION, THE ASPIC JELLY HAD NOT BEEN MARKED OR LABELLED WITH SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR STORAGE OR INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE.

THE FOOD ITEMS, FOUND LABELLED IN FRENCH ONLY, WERE DISPLAYED IN THE SUPERMARKET FOR SALE. THUS THE SUPERMARKET WAS PROSECUTED UNDER REGULATIONS 4A(1) AND 5(1) OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS UNDER SECTION 55 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

THE SUPERMARKET WAS ALSO ORDERED TO PAY THE SAMPLE COST OF \$57.10.

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MORE THAN 3,000 MEMBERS ATTEND CYC ANNUAL PARADE

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MORE THAN 3,000 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ATTENDED THE NINTH ANNUAL PARADE OF THEIR CLUB AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, WAN CHAI, THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE CYC SCHEME DEPENDED ON THE SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOLS, MEMBERS OF THE CYC AND THE PUBLIC.

/HE COMMENDED .....

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HE COMMENDED THE CYC MEMBERS FOR THEIR ALL-OUT EFFORTS IN ORGANISING THE CIVIC EDUCATION FORTNIGHT IN 19 DISTRICTS TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRY PARK ADOPTION SCHEME TO KEEP THE COUNTRYSIDE GREEN LAST YEAR.

MR LI PAID TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE CYC MOVEMENT BEFORE TAKING THE SALUTE AT THE PARADE.

AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION, HE PRESENTED SILVER MEDALS TO MR WALTER SULKE, A VETERAN OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, MRS RUBY LAU, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER), AND MRS LINA LO, HEAD OF THE EDUCATION TELEVISION DIVISION OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG FOR THEIR VALUABLE SERVICES TO THE CYC SCHEME IN THE PAST YEARS.

SIXTEEN SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS WERE ALSO PRESENTED HONORARY BRONZE MEDALS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CYC ACTIVITIES.

IN ADDITION, A GROUP OF ABOUT 310 CYC MEMBERS FROM VARIOUS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE AWARDED CYC PURPLE BADGES UNDER THE MERIT AWARD SCHEME FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICES.

DURING THE EVENT, THERE WERE ALSO A CHINESE DANCE, A PLAY, A BAND MARCH, CHOIR SINGING, AND AN ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE BY ABOUT 300 CYC MEMBERS.

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#### BOE MEMBERS VISIT FIELD STUDIES CENTRE

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THE CHAIRMAN AND FOUR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S FIELD STUDIES CENTRE IN TUI MIN HO, SAI KUNG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE TEACHING AND RESOURCE CENTRE FOR ECOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL FIELD STUDIES.

THEY WERE BOE CHAIRMAN, MRS RITA FAN, AND MEMBERS MR CHAN YING-LUN, MS SANSAN CHING, MRS MINNIE LAI AND MRS NANCY YUNG.

ACCOMPANYING THEM ON THE VISIT WERE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR WONG SIK-WAH; THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (GEOGRAPHY, SOCIAL STUDIES AND HEALTH EDUCATION) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MS SANDRA LAU; AND THE BOE SECRETARY, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER MR LAU KWONG-MO.

DURING THEIR TOUR, THE VISITORS NOTED THAT THE CENTRE, WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, WAS INTENDED TO PROMOTE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE.

/IT IS .....

IT IS DESIGNED AND EQUIPPED FOR FIELD WORK IN ECOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY BY SECONDARY 6 AND 7 STUDENTS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A MORE THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE THEORIES LEARNT.

THE PARTY ALSO VISITED THE EXHIBITION HALL WHERE BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS, ROCKS AND MINERALS ARE DISPLAYED, AND THE REFERENCE LIBRARY WHICH PROVIDES ABOUT 2,000 REFERENCE BOOKS, JOURNALS, PERIODICALS AND MAGAZINES ON FIELD STUDIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY.

THE CENTRE RUNS ABOUT 16 COURSES EACH ON ECOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY FOR SECONDARY 6 AND 7 STUDENTS EACH ACADEMIC YEAR.

IT ALSO RUNS SPECIAL COURSES AND ARRANGES VISITS FOR VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS SCHEME AND THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

THE BOE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT MORE THAN 14,000 STUDENTS AND 3,400 TEACHERS FROM ABOUT 400 SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE VARIOUS COURSES ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CHAI WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25), THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN CHAI WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS DURING THE PERIODS SPECIFIED BELOW:

FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY  
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- \* CHAI WAN ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KUT SHING STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES TO THE EAST.
- \* CHEUNG LEE STREET BETWEEN ITS SOUTHERN JUNCTION WITH KUT SHING STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 45 METRES TO THE NORTH.
- \* THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KUT SHING STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 60 METRES WEST OF ITS SOUTHERN JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG LEE STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES TO THE NORTH.

FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY  
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- \* HONG MAN STREET BETWEEN CHEUNG LEE STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI MAN STREET.
- \* THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KUT SHING STREET FROM ITS NORTHERN JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG LEE STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES WEST OF ITS SOUTHERN JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG LEE STREET.

/NO VEHICLES .....

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NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY, THE ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND EXTENDED SECTION OF KUT SHING STREET WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHA TIN SECTION OF ROUTE 5, FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25) VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI PO ROAD INTO SHING CHUEN ROAD FOR FOUR MONTHS.

DURING THE PERIOD, MOTORISTS ON THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI PO ROAD HEADING FOR SHING CHUEN ROAD MAY USE TAI PO ROAD NORTHBOUND, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD AND TAI PO ROAD SOUTHBOUND BEFORE LEFT TURNING INTO SHING CHUEN ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, KMB ROUTES NOS. 48A, 48B, AND 86B WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA TAI PO ROAD, MEI TIN ROAD, TAI WAI ROAD, CHIK CHUEN STREET, SHING HO ROAD, SHING CHUEN ROAD, SHING WAN ROAD, SHING CHUEN ROAD, AND TSUEN NAM ROAD ON THEIR JOURNEYS TO CHUN SHEK AND HIN KENG.

A TEMPORARY BUS STOP WILL BE PROVIDED ON SHING HO ROAD TO REPLACE THE ONE AT TAI PO ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG LO WAN SHAN ROAD.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN KOWLOON CITY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE LAYING OF ANTI-SKID SURFACE DRESSING, A SHORT SECTION OF THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE ON BOUNDARY STREET WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WATERLOO ROAD IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FROM 1 PM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 25) TO 5 PM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON BOUNDARY STREET EASTBOUND HEADING FOR WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL EITHER VIA LA SALLE ROAD SOUTHBOUND AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, OR VIA EARL STREET, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, LA SALLE ROAD NORTHBOUND AND LANCASHIRE ROAD.

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