



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1988

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR JUNE RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JUNE 1988, AT \$83,671 MILLION, GREW BY 33 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987, ACCORDING TO THE DETAILED FIGURES ON VALUE OF TRADE FOR THE MONTH RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT TO \$18,126 MILLION IN JUNE 1988, WHILE RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 52 PER CENT TO \$22,359 MILLION, THUS BRINGING TOTAL EXPORTS IN JUNE 1988 TO \$40,485 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 31 PER CENT OVER JUNE 1987.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS INCREASED BY 34 PER CENT TO \$43,186 MILLION IN JUNE 1988.

COMPARING JUNE 1988 WITH JUNE 1987, SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE (+39 PER CENT), CHINA (+39 PER CENT), THE NETHERLANDS (+34 PER CENT) AND FRANCE (+34 PER CENT).

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY GREW LESS RAPIDLY BY 25 PER CENT, 16 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. FURTHER, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A., THE LARGEST MARKET, DECREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 4 PER CENT.

IMPORTS FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS IN JUNE 1988 OVER JUNE 1987, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+64 PER CENT), THE U.S.A. (+42 PER CENT), ITALY (+40 PER CENT), SWITZERLAND (+39 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+38 PER CENT), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+35 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (+32 PER CENT). THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA, THE LARGEST SUPPLIER, INCREASED BY 28 PER CENT.

RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CHINA, THE U.S.A. AND AUSTRALIA, INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, BY 91 PER CENT, 65 PER CENT, 60 PER CENT, 56 PER CENT AND 54 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA GREW LESS RAPIDLY BY 47 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988, AT \$434,631 MILLION, INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT TO \$95,618 MILLION, WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 46 PER CENT TO \$117,321 MILLION. THUS, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 28 PER CENT TO \$212,940 MILLION. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT TO \$221,691 MILLION.

/COMPARING THE .....

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS.

THE MARKETS WITH MORE SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED SINGAPORE (+39 PER CENT), CHINA (+29 PER CENT), FRANCE (+23 PER CENT), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+20 PER CENT), THE NETHERLANDS (+17 PER CENT), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+14 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (+14 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET, THE U.S.A., DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS.

IMPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+47 PER CENT), SWITZERLAND (+36 PER CENT), THE U.S.A. (+32 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+31 PER CENT), CHINA (+28 PER CENT) AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+28 PER CENT). THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM JAPAN GREW LESS RAPIDLY BY 23 PER CENT.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CHINA, TAIWAN, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS BY 87 PER CENT, 66 PER CENT, 50 PER CENT, 48 PER CENT, 48 PER CENT AND 47 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF KOREA INCREASED LESS RAPIDLY BY 36 PER CENT AND 33 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

ALL TRADE STATISTICS PRESENTED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON. A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE 1988 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE RECORDED IN MOST MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE MORE NOTABLE ONES WERE OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,989 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1,855 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,505 MILLION OR 23 PER CENT); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$820 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT).

/DOMESTIC EXPORTS .....

DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING INCREASED BY \$129 MILLION IN VALUE TERMS OR LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT .

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRIC CURRENT (BY \$84 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$67 MILLION OR 1 PER CENT).

TABLE 2 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, MORE NOTABLE INCREASES IN IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$7,263 MILLION OF 46 PER CENT); AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$5,333 MILLION OR 113 PER CENT).

THERE WERE ALSO NOTABLE INCREASES IN PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$3,290 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$3,203 MILLION OR 33 PER CENT).

IMPORTS OF TEXTILES INCREASED BY \$1,939 MILLION OR 7 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN RAW HIDES, SKINS AND FURSKINS (BY \$230 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT); AND PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (BY \$105 MILLION OR 3 PER CENT).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, MORE NOTABLE INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$5,315 MILLION OR 78 PER CENT); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$4,005 MILLION OR 58 PER CENT).

THERE WERE ALSO NOTABLE INCREASES IN ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$3,215 MILLION OR 243 PER CENT); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$2,599 MILLION OR 54 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS OF TEXTILES INCREASED BY \$2,386 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS.

/HOWEVER, DECREASES .....

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUIT (BY \$91 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT); AND PROCESSED ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS, AND WAXES OF ANIMAL OR VEGETABLE ORIGIN (BY \$2 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT).

TABLE 6 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE AVAILABLE IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE JUNE 1988 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS SUMMARY" WILL BE ON SALE AROUND AUGUST 15 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$9.50 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN JUNE 1988 WILL BE AVAILABLE AT END-AUGUST AT \$17.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 5-8234915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JUN 88 OVER JUN 87 (%)	JAN-JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 88 OVER JAN-JUN 87 (%)
U.S.A.	6,121	- 4	31,698	- 1
CHINA	3,179	+ 39	15,999	+ 29
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,336	+ 13	7,436	+ 14
U.K.	1,307	+ 25	6,509	+ 20
JAPAN	865	+ 16	4,639	+ 14
CANADA	516	+ 1	2,635	+ 7
SINGAPORE	419	+ 39	2,303	+ 39
NETHERLANDS	408	+ 34	2,113	+ 17
FRANCE	382	+ 34	2,013	+ 23
AUSTRALIA	303	+ 17	1,791	+ 13

/TABLE 2: .....

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JUN 88 OVER JUN 87 (%)	JAN-JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 88 OVER JAN-JUN 87 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,680	- 1	28,086	+ *
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	2,525	+ 2	13,225	- 1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,584	+ 32	8,517	+28
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,466	+ 23	8,127	+ 23
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,440	+ 11	7,597	+ 12
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,207	- 6	7,362	- 1

\* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JUN 88 OVER JUN 87 (%)	JAN-JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 88 OVER JAN-JUN 87 (%)
CHINA	13,028	+ 28	66,694	+ 28
JAPAN	8,476	+ 32	41,441	+ 23
TAIWAN	3,851	+ 38	19,997	+ 31

/U.S.A. ....

U.S.A.	3,508	+ 42	18,768	+ 32
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2,280	+ 64	11,655	+ 47
SINGAPORE	1,554	+ 28	8,096	+ 23
U.K.	1,192	+ 20	6,232	+ 14
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,139	+ 35	6,000	+ 28
SWITZERLAND	830	+ 39	4,464	+ 36
ITALY	624	+ 40	3,518	+ 26

TABLE 4: IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JUN 88 OVER JUN 87 (%)	JAN-JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 88 OVER JAN-JUN 87 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5,641	+ 7	29,325	+ 7
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,603	+ 57	22,951	+ 46
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	2,405	+ 16	13,305	+ 11
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,814	+ 47	12,842	+ 33
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,592	+ 57	12,612	+ 35
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	2,418	+ 38	12,014	+ 32

/TABLE 5: .....

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JUN 88 OVER JUN 87 (%)	JAN-JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 88 OVER JAN-JUN 87 (%)
CHINA	7,739	+ 60	39,044	+ 50
U.S.A.	4,080	+ 56	20,492	+ 36
JAPAN	1,438	+ 91	7,294	+ 87
TAIWAN	1,154	+ 47	6,516	+ 48
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,000	+ 30	5,686	+ 33
SINGAPORE	656	+ 29	3,930	+ 34
F.R. OF GERMANY	680	+ 65	3,509	+ 66
U.K.	558	+ 50	2,586	+ 47
MACAU	344	+ 22	1,913	+ 20
AUSTRALIA	332	+ 54	1,712	+ 48

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JUN 88 OVER JUN 87 (%)	JAN-JUN 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 88 OVER JAN-JUN 87 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,825	+ 16	15,476	+ 18
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,337	+ 84	12,135	+ 78
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	2,401	+ 65	10,967	+ 58

/ARTICLES OF .....

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ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	1,768	+ 26	10,455	+ 16
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,462	+ 61	7,417	+ 54
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	939	+ 33	4,621	+ 21

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PROVISIONAL SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION LTD FORMED  
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A NEW COMPANY, CALLED THE PROVISIONAL SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION LTD, HAS BEEN FORMED TO FACILITATE THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE (SRC) RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATUTORY BODY OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE TO REPLACE THE EXISTING SECURITIES COMMISSION, COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION AND THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES AND COMMODITIES TRADING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

ON JULY 12, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVED THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THIS NEW BODY, TO BE CALLED THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC).

SINCE THEN, WORK HAS BEEN PROCEEDING ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE SFC BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SECURITIES CONSULTANT, MR ROBERT OWEN, WAS APPOINTED ON JULY 13 TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SRC RECOMMENDATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SFC.

HE HAS BEEN MEETING MARKET REGULATORS AND USERS, TALKING TO OFFICIALS OF THE TWO EXCHANGES AND FORMULATING PLANS TO STAFF THE NEW COMMISSION.

"THE NEW COMPANY, INCORPORATED ON AUGUST 8, WILL ACT AS THE LEGAL ENTITY NECESSARY TO DEVELOP THE ORGANISATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE SFC; TO RECRUIT STAFF, ESPECIALLY TO CERTAIN KEY POSITIONS WHICH SHOULD BE FILLED PRIOR TO THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW REGULATORY BODY; AND TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES RELATING TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE SFC," THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ACTING GOVERNOR VISITS FACTORIES

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, VISITED SMART SHIRTS LTD AND NANYANG COTTON MILL LTD IN KWUN TONG THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR ANDREW LEUNG.

SIR DAVID WAS FIRST BRIEFED ON SMART SHIRTS LTD BY THE FACTORY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR YING TO-FOO.

HE THEN TOURED THE PLANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HIGH QUALITY AND PRICE CATEGORY SHIRTS PRODUCED BY THE FACTORY, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1957.

SIR DAVID LATER VISITED NANYANG COTTON MILL LTD AND WAS RECEIVED BY THE FACTORY'S DIRECTOR AND MANAGER, MR LINCOLN YUNG.

HE WAS SHOWN THE YARNS AND DENIM PRODUCED BY THE FACTORY WHICH ARE FOR BOTH LOCAL CONSUMPTION AND MARKETS IN THE USA, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND SOUTH AMERICA.

NANYANG COTTON MILL LTD WAS INCORPORATED IN 1947.

THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, PROVIDING THE TERRITORY WITH BOTH EXPORT EARNING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

AS IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE TWO INDUSTRIES EMPLOYED 359,870 PERSONS IN 13,595 ESTABLISHMENTS, ACCOUNTING FOR 42 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

IN 1987 THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING WAS \$81,326 MILLION OR 42 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR THE SAME YEAR.

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HK AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT MARKET FOR AUSTRALIA: FS

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HONG KONG WELCOMES IMPORTS FROM ALL SOURCES AND HOPES THAT AUSTRALIA WILL EQUALLY OPEN ITS DOORS TO OUR MARKETS IN RETURN, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR JACOBS EMPHASISED THAT HONG KONG PRACTISED FREE TRADE AND HAD NO TARIFFS OR OTHER TRADE BARRIERS.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAD BECOME AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT MARKET FOR AUSTRALIA AND WAS AUSTRALIA'S SEVENTH LARGEST EXPORT MARKET.

IN 1987, HE SAID, HONG KONG IMPORTED ABOUT \$4.8 BILLION WORTH OF GOODS, EXCLUDING GOLD, FROM AUSTRALIA.

"THE GOLD WE IMPORTED REPRESENTED ABOUT 18 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL IMPORTS OF THIS COMMODITY, AND SHOWED A STAGGERING INCREASE OF ABOUT 660 PER CENT OVER THE 1986 LEVEL," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, TOTAL IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA INCREASED BY 84 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

"THESE ARE HIGH FIGURES BY ANY STANDARDS," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID HONG KONG WAS BECOMING AN IMPORTANT MARKET FOR AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND LIVESTOCK, WHICH WERE AUSTRALIA'S FIFTH LARGEST COMMODITY FOR EXPORT.

"AS A MATTER OF FACT," HE SAID, "AUSTRALIA IS OUR LARGEST OVERALL SUPPLIER OF BEEF."

ON RE-EXPORTS, MR JACOBS SAID THAT LAST YEAR, RE-EXPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS THROUGH HONG KONG, MAINLY TO CHINA, GREW SIGNIFICANTLY, AND AUSTRALIA ALSO SUPPLIED MUCH OF THE COAL WHICH HONG KONG USED FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION.

HOWEVER, MR JACOBS SAID IT WAS A PITY THAT HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA HAD NOT DONE SO WELL IN COMPARISON.

"LAST YEAR, AUSTRALIA SLIPPED DOWN TO BEING OUR 10TH LARGEST MARKET FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AFTER BEING IN SEVENTH PLACE IN 1986. AT PRESENT, EXPORTS TO THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET REPRESENT ONLY 1.5 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL TRADE," HE SAID.

HE SAID ONE POSSIBLE REASON WAS THAT OUR TRADITIONAL EXPORT LEADERS, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, HAD NOT BEEN TOO SUCCESSFUL IN THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

/ "INDEED, LAST .....

"INDEED, LAST YEAR OUR CLOTHING EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA DECLINED IN VALUE TERMS FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING - QUITE CONTRARY, I ASSURE YOU, TO TRENDS IN OUR OTHER MARKETS," HE SAID.

LOOKING AT THE OVERALL BILATERAL BALANCE OF TRADE, WHICH IS NOW HEAVILY IN AUSTRALIA'S FAVOUR, MR JACOBS SAID HE DID WONDER WHETHER THE AUSTRALIAN IMPORT REGIME ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING MIGHT NOT BE RELAXED RATHER MORE QUICKLY THAN WAS CURRENTLY BEING PROPOSED BY THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES.

"WE UNDERSTAND THAT TARIFF QUOTAS WILL NOT BE PHASED OUT UNTIL 1995, BUT EVEN THEN, COMPARATIVELY HIGH GENERAL TARIFFS RANGING FROM 40 PER CENT TO 55 PER CENT WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY.

"BUT IN THIS CONNECTION, I NOTE WITH APPRECIATION THAT IN MAY THIS YEAR, YOUR GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A TARIFF REDUCTION PROGRAMME IN WHICH TARIFF RATES FOR A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS WILL BE REDUCED TO 15 PER CENT OR 10 PER CENT OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

"WE IN HONG KONG WELCOME THIS INITIATIVE, AND HOPE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER EXTENDING THIS PROGRAMME ACROSS THE BOARD TO ALL PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID THE ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND HONG KONG WERE INCREASING EACH YEAR.

"WE WELCOME AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS AND WE ALSO WELCOME INVESTMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA. AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AUSTRALIA TAKE MORE OF OUR EXPORTS," HE SAID.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE IS SCOPE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THESE TIES; FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE AREA OF EXPANDING HONG KONG'S INTERMEDIARY ROLE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD," HE SAID.

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#### CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO BE FORMED

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THE EXISTING CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC) WILL BE RESTRUCTURED IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AS ENDORSED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND APPROVED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

A CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITH SIX CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS RE-STRUCTURING IS TO MAKE THE CDC MORE RESPONSIVE TO PRESENT AND FUTURE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS. THE NEW COUNCIL WILL ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ON CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL SYSTEM FROM KINDERGARTEN TO SIXTH FORM.

/UNLIKE THE .....

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UNLIKE THE EXISTING CDC WHICH HAS A TWO-TIER STRUCTURE, THE NEW CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WILL HAVE A THREE-TIER ORGANISATION.

THE SIX CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES WILL COMPRISE ONE FOR EACH LEVEL OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, THAT IS, KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND SIXTH FORM, ONE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ONE TO DEAL WITH TEXTBOOK MATTERS.

THE FIRST FOUR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE CURRICULUM FOR THEIR PARTICULAR SCHOOL LEVELS WHILE THE TEXTBOOKS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ON THE ADEQUACY AND GENERAL STANDARD OF TEXTBOOKS AT ALL LEVELS IN SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL ADVISE ON MATTERS RELATING TO CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL WILL INCLUDE AN INCREASED "NON-OFFICIAL" PRESENCE AND WILL COMPRISE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL LEVELS AND SECTORS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AS WELL AS FROM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS AND THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY.

THE 38-MEMBER COUNCIL WILL BE HEADED BY AN UNOFFICIAL CHAIRMAN.

A FORMER LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR AND A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING, HAS ACCEPTED APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EARLY OCTOBER AS SOON AS ALL NOMINATIONS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND MEMBERS APPOINTED.

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#### HOUSING DEPARTMENT TAKES LEAD IN DEALING WITH ASBESTOS CEMENT

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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS TAKING THE LEAD IN DEALING WITH BUILDING MATERIAL CONTAINING ASBESTOS DESPITE THE CURRENT LACK OF LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (CONSTRUCTION), MR DEREK MESSLING, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAS IDENTIFIED 325 BLOCKS WITH BUILDING MATERIAL CONTAINING LOW RISK WHITE ASBESTOS.

OF THE 325, 161 BLOCKS HAVE WHITE ASBESTOS CEMENT IN BALCONY GRILLES AND 164 HAVE ROOFING TILES WITH ASBESTOS.

/THE CONFERENCE, .....

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THE CONFERENCE, ATTENDED ALSO BY THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (AIR AND NOISE), MR FRED TROMP, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (MAINTENANCE), MR RAYMOND BATES, WAS ALSO TOLD THAT ASBESTOS CEMENT AS A BUILDING PRODUCT IS PERFECTLY SAFE AND STILL NOT BANNED IN USE WORLD-WIDE.

BUT DESPITE THIS, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TOGETHER WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE SAFE TREATMENT WHEN NECESSARY EITHER BY REMOVING IT UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS OR BY SEALING WITH SPECIAL PLASTER.

"EVEN THOUGH CURRENT LEGISLATION ON ASBESTOS REFER TO PROTECTION OF WORKERS THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAS IN RECENT YEARS BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE TWO OTHER DEPARTMENTS STUDYING VARIOUS METHODS WITH THE INTEREST AND WELL-BEING OF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS BEING THE MAIN OBJECTIVE," MR MESSLING SAID.

MR BATES, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF MAINTENANCE, SAID HIS STAFF AND THE REGIONAL CONSULTANTS ARE INSPECTING THE HOMES OF 143 000 FAMILIES IN THE 161 BLOCKS WITH ASBESTOS CEMENT IN THE BALCONY GRILLES TO CHECK THEIR CONDITION.

"IN MOST CASES WE FIND THE CONDITION VERY GOOD THOUGH OCCASIONALLY WE FOUND THAT THEY HAVE STARTED TO DETERIORATE," HE SAID.

MR BATES POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IN MOST OF THE BLOCKS THE BALCONY GRILLES HAVE BEEN COVERED WITH MANY COATS OF PAINT DURING THE PASSAGE OF TIME. SOME EVEN WERE COVERED WITH TILES.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MR FRED TROMP, SAID HIS PRIMARY CONCERN WAS THE HEALTH OF RESIDENTS AROUND THE ESTATE AND, TO THAT EXTENT, "WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE METHODS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED ENSURE THE HEALTH OF RESIDENTS WILL IN NO WAY BE COMPROMISED."

BUT HE SAID HE WAS CERTAINLY SATISFIED THAT THE PROCEDURES DEVELOPED WILL ENABLE THE WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT AT A REASONABLE PACE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTECT THE HEALTH OF RESIDENTS.

ON THE VOLUME OF ASBESTOS FIBRES IN THE BALCONY GRILLES, MR BATES SAID NORMALLY IT SHOULD BE BETWEEN EIGHT TO 15 PER CENT.

WHEN SAMPLES WERE SENT FOR ANALYSIS, TESTS SHOWED THAT IN FACT IN MANY OF THE HOUSING BLOCKS THE VOLUME AVERAGED BETWEEN THREE TO FIVE PER CENT WITH EITHER 97 OR 98 PER CENT BEING CEMENT. IN SOME THERE WERE NO FIBRES PRESENT AT ALL.

MR TROMP ADDED: "THE WHOLE ISSUE OF ASBESTOS IS RELATED TO THE FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE EXPOSED TO FIBRES WHICH HAVE BEEN RELEASED. WITH SOME PRODUCTS THE POTENTIAL FIBRE RELEASE IS QUITE HIGH, SUCH AS ACOUSTIC PLASTERS.

/"WITH ASBESTOS .....

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"WITH ASBESTOS CEMENT THE POTENTIAL IS QUITE LOW.

"THERE IS SOME RELEASE OBVIOUSLY WHEN THE MATERIAL IS BROKEN UP - WHICH HAPPENS WHEN IT IS REMOVED FROM BALCONY GRILLES AND THEREFORE SOME MEASURE NEEDS TO BE TAKEN TO PREVENT THOSE FIBRES FROM SPREADING INTO THE ENVIRONMENT.

"IN MOST DEMOLITIONS, THAT MINIMAL FIBRE RELEASE IS NOT REALLY A PROBLEM AT ALL. AND YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT ASBESTOS FIBRES ARE BEING RELEASED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT CONSTANTLY IN HONG KONG AND AROUND THE WORLD.

"WE ARE ALWAYS EXPOSED TO SOME ASBESTOS FIBRES AND IT ISN'T SO THAT THERE ISN'T ANY PRESENT AT ANY TIME."

QUESTIONED ON THE DEMOLITION OF BLOCK 17 IN LAM TIN ESTATE, MR MESSLING SAID THE CONTRACT STARTED AT THE END OF MAY.

"OBVIOUSLY THE CONTRACTOR HAS TO DO PREPARATORY WORK AND, BECAUSE OF ITS JUXTAPOSITION WITH ANOTHER BLOCK, HE HAD TO DO IT IN A CERTAIN ORDER," HE SAID.

MR MESSLING SAID THE CONTRACTOR STARTED WITH ONE STAIRCASE AS HE WAS REQUIRED TO MAKE A BREAK BETWEEN BLOCK 17 AND THE BLOCK WHICH WAS ATTACHED BY WAY OF A STAIRCASE LINK.

"OUR ENGINEER, FROM THE STRUCTURAL POINT OF VIEW, REQUIRED HIM TO CUT THAT LINK BEFORE HE DID ANY GENERAL DEMOLITION WORK. THAT OCCUPIED HIM FOR A MONTH OR SO BUT A WEEK AGO IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE BUILDING INCLUDED SOME ASBESTOS CEMENT BALCONY PANELS, OR WE THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD BE ASBESTOS CEMENT.

"SAMPLES WERE SENT FOR ANALYSIS. THE ANALYSIS CONFIRMS THAT THERE IS ASBESTOS CEMENT VERY COMPARABLE TO THE OTHER TYPES OF ASBESTOS AS MR BATES HAS EARLIER REFERRED TO IN TERMS OF CONTENTS - WHITE ASBESTOS - AND OF AN EIGHT TO 10 PER CENT CONTENT.

"AS SOON AS WE KNEW THIS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK WE INSTRUCTED THE CONTRACTOR NOT TO REMOVE ANY OF THESE PANELS BUT TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON AGREED PROCEDURES AND MEANWHILE NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE DEMOLITION."

QUESTIONED ON RESPONSIBILITY AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION, MR MESSLING SAID THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY INVOLVES THE TENANTS AND EVERYONE CONCERNED BUT, BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF BLOCKS THE DEPARTMENT IS DEALING WITH, AND THE NUMBER OF FLATS, IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO INSPECT EVERY BLOCK AND EVERY FLAT.

"AS THE REPAIR PROGRAMME PROGRESSES, WE WILL GATHER MORE INFORMATION, WE WILL HAVE MORE COMPLETE RECORDS AND SO ON. BUT THAT WON'T STOP US GIVING THE CONTRACTOR ALL THE INFORMATION WE HAVE IN A TIME AND MORE IMPORTANT, AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANY DOUBTS OR CONCERN IN REGARD TO THE ACCURACY OF OUR RECORDS. THERE IS NO WISH ON OUR PART TO KEEP INFORMATION AWAY FROM THE CONTRACTOR," MR MESSLING SAID.

/ASKED HOW .....

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ASKED HOW THE SITUATION WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE U.S. OR THE U.K., MR TROMP SAID THAT IN GENERAL TERMS, ANY WORK INVOLVING A HIGH RISK MATERIAL, INVOLVING ASBESTOS, WOULD REQUIRE THE USE OF LICENSED CONTRACTORS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

BUT IN HONG KONG, HE SAID, THE SITUATION DID NOT EXIST.

"WE DON'T HAVE ANY REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH CONTRACTORS ARE LICENSED ALTHOUGH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS TAKING ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS FOR THEIR OWN PARTICULAR BUILDINGS.

"WHEN THEY KNOW THEY ARE DEALING WITH THE MATERIAL (ASBESTOS CEMENT) THEY USE SPECIALIST CONTRACTORS WHO ARE ON THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S LIST.

"IN RELATION TO DEMOLITION BUILDINGS, THE SITUATION IS QUITE FRAGMENTED, AND PARTICULARLY IF YOU WERE IN THE UNITED STATES, YOU WILL FIND DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS APPLIED FROM STATE TO STATE.

"IN SOME STATES, THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT AND IN OTHER STATES THERE ARE QUITE STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO REMOVING ASBESTOS MATERIAL PRIOR TO DEMOLITION.

"IN A VERY GENERAL SENSE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DOES CONTROL VERY BROADLY RELEASES OF ASBESTOS PRIOR TO DEMOLITION PROJECTS, SAYING THAT IT SHOULD NOT UNDULY CONTAMINATE THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT TO THAT EXTENT AND VARIOUS STATES INVOLVE LEGISLATIONS TO CONFINE THAT, AND I THINK, THE SITUATION HERE IS NOT REALLY ALL THAT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE U.K. OR THE STATES," MR TROMP SAID.

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MAB, IRD CONDUCTING SURVEY ON RETIREMENT SCHEMES  
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THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH AND THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT ARE JOINTLY CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON RETIREMENT SCHEMES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY WAS TO COLLECT GENERAL DATA ON RETIREMENT SCHEMES AND THE DATA COLLECTED WOULD ONLY BE USED FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES.

HE SAID THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH ISSUED A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE PRUDENTIAL REGULATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES IN JUNE, AND THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WOULD EXPIRE NEXT MONTH.

/"IT IS .....

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"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WILL PROVIDE A BETTER PICTURE ON HOW RETIREMENT SCHEMES OPERATE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY POST.

EMPLOYERS WHO ARE OPERATING RETIREMENT SCHEMES APPROVED BY THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT WILL RECEIVE A QUESTIONNAIRE AND THEY ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND RETURN IT TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 7.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES TAKING PART IN THE RETIREMENT SCHEME, THE TYPE OF SCHEME AND THE METHOD OF MANAGING THE SCHEME'S ASSETS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT SOME EMPLOYERS OPERATED A NUMBER OF SCHEMES, INCLUDING NON-APPROVED ONES, AND THE QUESTIONNAIRE ALSO CONTAINED A SECTION ON NON-APPROVED RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

"WE HOPE THAT WE CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THESE NON-APPROVED SCHEMES," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT A GOOD RESPONSE RATE WOULD BE CRUCIAL TO DRAWING UP CONCLUSIVE RESULTS AND HE HOPED THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD LEND THEIR CO-OPERATION IN THIS EXERCISE.

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TSUEN WAN: DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

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DO NOT THROW AWAY ANY WRITTEN DOCUMENTS, HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS OR INTERESTING OBJECTS RELATING TO TSUEN WAN'S PAST AS THEY ARE OF GREAT VALUE.

THIS IS THE APPEAL MADE BY THE NEWLY FORMED WORKING GROUP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORY AND CULTURE IN TSUEN WAN.

"THE WORKING GROUP, SET UP UNDER THE CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, IS TASKED WITH THE JOB OF COLLECTING AND COLLATING INFORMATION MATERIAL ON THE DISTRICT'S PAST," MR CHEUNG CHUNG-YAN, CONVENER OF THE WORKING GROUP, SAID.

"RESEARCH WORK AND INTERVIEWS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND VILLAGE ELDERS WILL BE CARRIED OUT SOON AND THE EFFORTS OF THE WORKING GROUP WILL CULMINATE IN THE PRODUCTION OF AN INFORMATION BOOKLET ON THE DISTRICT," HE ADDED.

/THE BOOKLET .....

THE BOOKLET WILL INCLUDE HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF TSUEN WAN BEFORE THE YEAR 1898, TSUEN WAN FROM 1898 TO 1950, AND TSUEN WAN FROM 1950 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

A SPECIAL SECTION WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE DIFFERENT FACETS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, REVEALING THE CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF TSUEN WAN, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT.

"WE INTEND TO INCLUDE TOPICS LIKE THE HISTORY OF THE RURAL COMMITTEE, THE FIRST 'PRIVATE SCHOOL' AND THE FIRST 'XIUCAI' (SCHOLAR) OF THE DISTRICT IN THE BOOKLET," MR CHEUNG SAID.

"HISTORIC AND RELIGIOUS SITES SUCH AS 'SAM TUNG UK', 'TUNG PO TOR' AND 'TIN HAU KUNG' OF COURSE CANNOT BE SKIPPED," HE SAID.

"IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS, IT IS HOPED THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ASSIST BY LENDING THEIR HISTORICAL 'TREASURES' TO THE WORKING GROUP.

"IF YOU HAVE IN YOUR POSSESSION OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, OBJECTS OR DOCUMENTS ABOUT TSUEN WAN THAT MAY SUIT OUR PURPOSE, PLEASE CALL THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON 0-4149662," MR CHEUNG URGED.

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#### CAREER SEMINAR FOR POST-SECONDARY JOB SEEKERS

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ABOUT 100 JOB SEEKERS REGISTERED WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WILL ATTEND A SEMINAR ON JOB HUNTING SKILLS THIS SATURDAY (AUGUST 13) AFTERNOON.

THE HALF-DAY SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY IBM WORLD TRADE CORPORATION AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO ACQUAINT THE PARTICIPANTS, ALL OF WHOM ARE IN POSSESSION OF POST-SECONDARY, UNIVERSITY OR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, WITH UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREER PROPECTS IN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE JOB MARKET.

IT WILL ALSO HELP TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON JOB APPLICATION AND INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES.

SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR WILL INCLUDE THE APPOINTMENTS AND CAREERS COUNSELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, MR JOSEPH CHAN; PERSONNEL OPERATIONS MANAGER OF IBM WORLD TRADE CORPORATION, MR JAMES LEUNG; AND THE COMPANY'S PERSONNEL SPECIALIST, MR ROCK TAM.

THEY WILL SPEAK ON HOW TO BUILD A CAREER, WRITING OF APPLICATION LETTER AND SUCCESSFUL JOB INTERVIEWS.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2 PM AT THE IBM EDUCATION CENTRE ON THE 46TH FLOOR OF EXCHANGE SQUARE II, CENTRAL.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE PERSONNEL MANAGER OF IBM WORLD TRADE CORPORATION, MR FRANCIS PANG; AND SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR JAMES YEUNG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR ON JOB HUNTING SKILLS TO BE HELD AT 2 PM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 13) AT THE IBM EDUCATION CENTRE, 46TH FLOOR, EXCHANGE SQUARE II, CENTRAL.

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PRISONERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES FOR PASSING EXAMINATIONS

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SEVENTY PRISONERS WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) PRESENTED CERTIFICATES FOR SUCCESSFULLY PASSING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

OFFICIATING AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD AT PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER, DR DANIEL TSE, SAID CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES IN HONG KONG AIMED AT HELPING OFFENDERS TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE AND LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.

"THESE INCLUDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR INMATES WHO ARE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION THROUGH PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

"INMATES WHO STUDY HARD AND OBTAIN GOOD RESULTS WOULD GET A BETTER CHANCE OF LEADING A FULLER LIFE UPON THEIR RETURN TO SOCIETY," DR TSE SAID.

AT TODAY'S CEREMONY, 70 INMATES AND RELEASED PRISONERS WERE AWARDED A TOTAL OF 94 CERTIFICATES BY VARIOUS EXAMINATION BODIES.

THESE INCLUDE THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE, THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE PITMAN EXAMINATION INSTITUTE, THE HONG KONG EXAMINATION AUTHORITY, THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ASIA, MACAU.

THEY SAT FOR 127 PAPERS AND OBTAINED A TOTAL OF 38 DISTINCTIONS, 20 CREDITS AND 61 PASSES, REPRESENTING AN AVERAGE PASS RATE OF 93.7 PER CENT.

THE PAPERS PASSED RANGE FROM THE VOCATIONAL DISCIPLINES OF TELECOMMUNICATION, ACCOUNTANCY, BOOK-KEEPING, MARKETING MANAGEMENT AND SALES MANAGEMENT TO GENERAL ACADEMIC SUBJECTS OF ENGLISH AND CHINESE LANGUAGES, ARITHMETIC, ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CLEAN HK ACTIVITIES

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP FOR THIS YEAR'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING, CO-ORDINATING AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITIES FOR THE CAMPAIGN SUCH AS A CLEAN HONG KONG PARADE TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT THE JUNCTION OF THE OLD AND THE NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROADS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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THAI CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS VISIT CSD

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A DELEGATION OF EIGHT SENIOR OFFICERS OF THAILAND'S DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, LED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SECRETARY-GENERAL, MR SNIT RUJINARONG, VISITED THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

THEY FIRST MET THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, THIS MORNING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH HIM ON PRISON INDUSTRY WORK AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR INMATES.

THE PARTY THEN VISITED TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AND STANLEY PRISON.

THEY WILL ALSO VISIT PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, PIK UK PRISON AND TAI LAM CENTRE FOR WOMEN TOMORROW.

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WAYS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW ON CHATHAM ROAD NORTH

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NEW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW ON CHATHAM ROAD NORTH TOWARDS THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM MONDAY (AUGUST 15), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE MEASURES ARE PART OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE REPORT ON CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL STUDY, JOINTLY COMPILED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND A CONSULTANCY FIRM.

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, THE EXISTING BUS STOPS AT CHATHAM ROAD NORTH SOUTHBOUND NEAR BAKER STREET WILL NOT BE OBSERVED BY CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTES NO. 101, 108, 109, 116 AND 121 AND AIRBUS ROUTES NO. A2 AND A3.

HOWEVER, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED BY KMB ROUTES NO. 13X, 14X, 15X AND 24X FOR THE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF PASSENGERS.

NEW BUS STOPS FOR THESE CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTES WILL BE PROVIDED AT A BUS BAY NEAR THE FAT KWONG STREET FLYOVER. THE TWO AIRBUS ROUTES WILL ALSO STOP FOR PASSENGERS AT THE SAME LOCATION DURING MORNING RUSH HOURS.

"THE CANCELLATION OF THE BAKER STREET STOPS FOR CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTES WILL REDUCE THE REQUIREMENT FOR THESE BUSES TO WEAVE ACROSS TUNNEL TRAFFIC QUEUES ON CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, THUS GIVING THEM A FREER APPROACH TO THE EXISTING BUS GATE SLIP ROAD AT THE LEFT TURN TO HONG CHONG ROAD," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE REDUCTION IN WEAVING ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO HELP IMPROVE THE FLOW OF OTHER TRAFFIC ALONG CHATHAM ROAD NORTH SOUTHBOUND."

MEANWHILE, THE CARRIAGEWAY MARKINGS ON CHATHAM ROAD NORTH SOUTHBOUND WILL BE ADJUSTED TO IMPROVE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC HEADING FOR YAU MA TEI AREA.

AT PRESENT, MANY MOTORISTS HEADING FOR THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL ARE MAKING USE OF THE TRAFFIC LANES HEADING FOR NON-TUNNEL AREA TO JUMP INTO THE TUNNEL QUEUES, AND ARE CAUSING CONSIDERABLE OBSTRUCTION AND DELAYS TO NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC.

WITH THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS IN CARRIAGEWAY MARKINGS, WHICH INCLUDE THE DESIGNATION OF NEW SOLID-CUM-BROKEN WHITE LINES AND THE SHORTENING OF SOME OF THE EXISTING SOLID-CUM-BROKEN WHITE LINES, SUCH OBSTRUCTION WILL BE AVOIDED AND NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A SMOOTHER FLOW.

"MOTORISTS COMING FROM THE EAST KOWLOON WAY WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO SELECT THE APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC LANES EARLIER, DEPENDING ON WHETHER THEY WISH TO CROSS THE HARBOUR OR TO GO TO YAU MA TEI AREA," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THE LATEST GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGULARLY ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME.

THE E. COLI DATA USED FOR GRADING ARE BASED ON THE MEDIAN VALUES OF THE MOST RECENT FIVE RESULTS, OBTAINED OVER A TWO AND A HALF MONTH PERIOD ACCORDING TO THE USUAL SAMPLING FREQUENCY.

THE GRADES FOR SOME BEACHES MAY FLUCTUATE. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF THE BEACHES IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE SWIMMING AREAS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF BEACHES, AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST OF BEACH WATER QUALITY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

"A" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 0-99 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD.

"B" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 100-999 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE.

"C" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS 1,000 OR MORE PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, A RECOMMENDATION ON CLOSURE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "C" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY. SIMILARLY, A RECOMMENDATION TO REOPEN A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "B" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, FIVE BATHING BEACHES HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THESE BEACHES ARE ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, SILVERMINE BAY, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY. THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAILED TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE WHO AND HONG KONG STANDARDS.

/THE PUBLIC .....

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THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THESE FIVE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY AND TWO WEEKS AGO ARE LISTED BELOW :

BEACH -----	LAST GRADING ----- (AS AT 28.7.88)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 11.8.88)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	A	A
CHUNG HOM KOK	A	A
DEEP WATER BAY	B	A
HAIRPIN	A	A
MIDDLE BAY	C	C
REPULSE BAY	B	B
SHEK O	B	B
SOUTH BAY	B	A
ST STEPHEN'S	A	A
TURTLE COVE	A	A
STANLEY MAIN	A	A
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	A	A
ISLAND DISTRICT -----		
CHEUNG SHA UPPER	A	A
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	B	B
DISCOVERY BAY*	A	A
HUNG SHING YEH	A	A
KWUN YAM WAN	A	A

/TONG FUK .....

TONG FUK	A	A
LO SO SHING	A	A
PUI O	B	B
SILVERMINE BAY	X	X
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	A	B
TUNG O*	A	A

## SAI KUNG DISTRICT

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CAMPERS	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	B	B
HAP MUN BAY	A	A
KIU TSUI	A	A
PAK SHA CHAU	A	A
SILVERSTRAND	B	B
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	A	A

## TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

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ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	A	B
CASAM	B	B
GEMINI	B	B
HOI MEI WAN	B	B
LIDO	B	B
TING KAU	B	B
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	A	A

TUEN MUN DISTRICT  
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OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	A	B
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	A	A
BUTTERFLY	A	B

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.  
\* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

DEEP WATER BAY AND SOUTH BAY, FROM "B" TO "A"; AND TUNG WAN ON  
CHEUNG CHAU, APPROACH, NEW CAFETERIA AND BUTTERFLY, FROM "A" TO "B".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE  
BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT DR CATHERINE LAM, ACTING  
PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, ON  
3-7211044.

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SALT WATER CUT IN TAI WO PING

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TAI WO PING WILL BE  
TURNED OFF FROM 8 AM TO 4 PM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 15) FOR WATER WORKS.

PREMISES ALONG THE SECTION OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN NAM  
CHEONG STREET AND LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, INCLUDING THE BEACON HEIGHTS,  
WILL BE AFFECTED.

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