



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FINANCE COMMITTEE FUNCTION EXPLAINED

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IN EXAMINING THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF THE EXPENDITURE, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MUST SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT THE VOTE PROVISION SOUGHT UNDER EACH HEAD AND SUBHEAD CAN BE PROPERLY JUSTIFIED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AT THE FIRST PUBLIC MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, SIR PHILIP SAID:

+THIS EXAMINATION DOES NOT, OF COURSE, PRECLUDE FURTHER QUESTIONS BEING ASKED OR POINTS MADE DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL.+

THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXAMINATION TO BE HELD IN PUBLIC, BUT THE RULES GOVERNING THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF PREVIOUS YEARS, HE SAID.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS PRESENT, SIR PHILIP OUTLINED THE RULES AS FOLLOWS:

- \* ALL UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE MEMBERS OF FINANCE COMMITTEE AND RECEIVE COPIES OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES TWO WEEKS BEFORE BUDGET DAY, WITH THE EXAMINATION STARTING A WEEK AFTER THAT DAY.
- \* DURING THE THREE INTERVENING WEEKS, MEMBERS FORM THEMSELVES INTO WORKING GROUPS TO STUDY THE EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS FOR THE FORTHCOMING FINANCIAL YEAR AS SET OUT IN THE DRAFT ESTIMATES.
- \* EACH OF THESE WORKING GROUPS DEVELOPS TWO SETS OF QUESTIONS: FIRST, THOSE FOR WHICH THEY REQUIRE WRITTEN REPLIES FROM THE CONTROLLING OFFICERS OF THE HEADS OR SUBHEADS OF EXPENDITURE TO WHICH THEY RELATE, AND SECOND, THOSE FOR WHICH THEY REQUIRE THE CONTROLLING OFFICERS TO APPEAR BEFORE THEM IN FINANCE COMMITTEE TO GIVE ORAL REPLIES.

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EDUCATION COMMISSION BEING SET UP

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FOLLOWING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE LLEWELLYN REPORT, AN EDUCATION COMMISSION IS BEING SET UP TO CO-ORDINATE, CONSOLIDATE AND GIVE ADVICE ON EDUCATION POLICY IN HONG KONG.

THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN THE IMMEDIATE TASK OF CONSIDERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTHER MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PANEL OF VISITORS, ON WHICH SOME PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE, AND TO GIVE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ITS VIEWS WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

THEREAFTER, IT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS REPORTS TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ON DETAILS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME, PRIORITIES, PHASING AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MR Q.W. LEE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION. MR LEE, FOR MANY YEARS AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND LATER, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS HAD VAST EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN EDUCATION THROUGH INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ITS DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.

HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM 1976 TO 1983, MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POST-SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, CHAIRMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC COMPUTER CENTRE, AND ARE OF THE TWO ADVISERS TO THE PANEL OF VISITORS. CURRENTLY, HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, MEMBER OF THE COURT OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC, AND VICE-CHAIRMAN AND SUPERVISOR OF THE HANG SENG SCHOOL OF COMMERCE.

IN ADDITION TO THE CHAIRMAN, TEN UNOFFICIALS ARE ON THE COMMISSION. THEY ARE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (MR JUSTICE YANG), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (DR FRANCIS TIEN), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (AT PRESENT THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WHO WILL BE REPLACED BY AN UNOFFICIAL WHEN HIS TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES ON JUNE 30. INITIALLY THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, DR DANIEL LAM, WILL BE INVITED), THREE PERSONS OF HIGH STANDING IN THE COMMUNITY, AND FOUR EDUCATORS.

THESE OTHER APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON, AFTER CONSULTATION AND THE COMPLETION OF FORMALITIES.

THREE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ALSO SIT ON THE COMMISSION. THEY ARE THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, WHO ALSO SERVES AS VICE-CHAIRMAN, THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

THE COMMISSION WILL BE SERVICED BY THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, WHICH WILL BE STRENGTHENED TO IMPROVE ITS CAPABILITIES IN PROVIDING RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND STATISTICAL SUPPORT.

COMMENTING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT IT WOULD FIT INTO THE NORMAL CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK AND IT WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY DEROGATE FROM THE STANDING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE UPGC AND VTC, OR THE AUTONOMY OF THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

ITS MEMBERSHIP IS IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION BY THE PANEL OF VISITORS, WITH THE REINFORCEMENT OF EDUCATORS, WHICH WAS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ENDORSED BY PUBLIC COMMENTS.

IT IS TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNOR WITH CONSOLIDATED ADVICE ON THE NEEDS OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AS A WHOLE, THEIR PRIORITIES, AND THE MOST EQUITABLE AND PRACTICABLE RESPONSES TO THEM.

/THE COMMISSION .....

THE COMMISSION WILL CO-ORDINATE BUT NOT DIRECT THE WORK OF THE THREE MAJOR ADVISORY BODIES ON EDUCATION, HE SAID.

THE FULL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION ARE:

+THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IS ESTABLISHED TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR CONSOLIDATED ADVICE ON THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AS A WHOLE IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEED OF THE COMMUNITY. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE -

- (A) TO DEFINE OVERALL EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES, FORMULATE EDUCATION POLICY, AND RECOMMEND PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION HAVING REGARD TO THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE;
- (B) TO CO-ORDINATE AND MONITOR THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS; AND
- (C) TO INITIATE EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH.

IN CARRYING OUT THESE TASKS, THE COMMISSION SHOULD CO-ORDINATE BUT NOT SEEK TO DIRECT THE WORK OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

+THE COMMISSION WILL BE SERVICED BY THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.+

MAJOR ISSUES ARISING FROM RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PANEL OF VISITORS WILL RECEIVE THE FIRST ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION: FUTURE OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT; POLICY ON THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION; IMPROVEMENTS TO TEACHER TRAINING; DISTANCE LEARNING; AND FINANCING OF EDUCATION.

MEANWHILE, GOVERNMENT ACTION HAS ALREADY BEEN, OR IS BEING, TAKEN ON SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS. SUCH ACTION INCLUDES THE STEPPING-UP OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION AND THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBJECT RESOURCE CENTRES.

A WORKING PARTY IS CONSIDERING THE DETAILED ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCES REQUIREMENTS OF AN INSTITUTE FOR THE TRAINING OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AND CHILD CARE CENTRE WORKERS, AND APPROVAL HAS RECENTLY BEEN GIVEN FOR A SCHEME OF INTENSIVE REMEDIAL TEACHING SERVICES FOR SPECIAL GROUPS.

IN THE FIELD OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION TO ASSIST THEM IN OPERATING ADULT EDUCATION COURSES HAS INCREASED FROM 28 IN 1982 TO 35 IN 1983 WITH A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS FROM 47 IN 1982 TO 73 IN 1983. THE UPGC IS EXAMINING THE CASE FOR ESTABLISHING AN OPEN UNIVERSITY TYPE OF INSTITUTION IN HONG KONG. ITS REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

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INDUSTRIALISTS URGED TO INVEST IN NEW TECHNOLOGY  
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CALLED ON INDUSTRIALISTS TO INVEST IN NEW TECHNOLOGY TO RESPOND TO CHANGING MARKETS.

ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, MR HO RECALLED THAT THOSE WHO HAD PROSPERED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DECADES WITH HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIALISATION WERE THOSE WITH VISION WHO HAD PLANNED AND INVESTED FOR THE FUTURE.

+THE SAME PHILOSOPHY STILL HOLDS GOOD TODAY. THOSE WHO WISH TO SHARE IN OUR FUTURE GROWTH MUST BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO CHANGING MARKETS AND, IN PARTICULAR, BY INVESTING IN NEW TECHNOLOGY,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT, SAID MR HO, WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY THROUGH DIRECT SERVICES AS WELL AS INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT'S STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY WOULD OPEN FOR BUSINESS SHORTLY AND WORK ON LABORATORY ACCREDITATION WAS PROGRESSING STEADILY.

+THESE DEVELOPMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE CONSULTANCY AND RESEARCH PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD ARE ALL INTENDED TO ASSIST IN THE PROCESS OF UPGRADING TECHNOLOGY AND QUALITY CONTROL IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES, SO THAT OUR PRODUCTS CAN MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR SHARE OF INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE WORLD MARKETS,+ MR HO SAID.

COMMENTING ON A PROPOSAL BY MR H.C. TANG, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THAT THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S FOUR OVERSEAS OFFICES SHOULD GATHER INFORMATION ON THE MARKETS OF THE REGIONS IN WHICH THEY OPERATE AND DRAW UP TREND REPORTS FOR USE IN HONG KONG, MR HO SAID THAT THE SUGGESTION DESERVED EXAMINATION IN DEPTH.

HOWEVER, EACH OF THESE OFFICES HAD A SMALL STAFF, HE SAID, EMPHASISING THAT THE MAIN THRUST OF THEIR WORK MUST CONTINUE TO BE AIMED AT ATTRACTING OVERSEAS INVESTORS TO HONG KONG.

BUT THE INFORMATION THEY GLEANED COULD WELL SUPPLEMENT THE MARKET RESEARCH DONE BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, HE ADDED.

+I WELCOME THIS AND ANY OTHER SUGGESTION FOR MAKING THESE OFFICES EVER MORE EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN MAKING HONG KONG'S SMALL NUMBER OF OVERSEAS POSTS INTO A CO-ORDINATED AND COST EFFECTIVE NETWORK.

+I ENTIRELY AGREE WITH YOUR AIM THAT WE SHOULD ALL PULL TOGETHER IN A MORE ORDERLY AND STRUCTURED FASHION,+ HE SAID.

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HONG KONG ON SHOW IN BRITAIN

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE WILL LAUNCH ITS LATEST PROMOTION IN BRITAIN NEXT WEEK WHEN THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF FOUR +GALA+ EVENTS IN LONDON AND THREE OTHER CITIES WILL BE HELD.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S +PROJECT 84+ WILL COINCIDE WITH A STORE-WIDE PROMOTION OF HONG KONG GOODS BY HARRODS AND A FESTIVAL OF HONG KONG FILMS BY THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE.

THE EVENTS WILL SHOW THE MANY FACETS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG, ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH, ITS PRODUCTS AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ARTS AND CINEMA.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE WILL BE A GALA EVENING AT THE GUILDHALL, IN THE CITY OF LONDON, ON MARCH 13.

THE INVITED AUDIENCE OF OVER 800 WILL BE TREATED TO A MULTI-SCREEN AUDIO-VISUAL SPECTACULAR SHOWING HOW HONG KONG HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES.

WHILE THE AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION WILL EMPHASISE HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESSES, IT WILL ALSO ILLUSTRATE THE OTHER ASPECTS OF PRESENT DAY HONG KONG.

THE GUESTS INVITED TO THE GALA EVENING INCLUDE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, LEADERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, CIVIC DIGNITARIES, SENIOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS.

THEY WILL ALSO BE ENTERTAINED TO A PROGRAMME OF DANCE AND MUSIC BY ARTISTES OF THE HONG KONG DANCE COMPANY AND HONG KONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA, VISITING BRITAIN SPECIALLY FOR THESE +GALA+ EVENTS, BY COURTESH OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION IN LONDON, SIMILAR GALA EVENINGS WILL BE HELD FOR INVITED AUDIENCES IN CARDIFF, NEW CASTLE AND GLASGOW BETWEEN MARCH 15 AND 22. THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR VISITS TO THESE CITIES TO DISCUSS WITH BUSINESSMEN THE OPPORTUNITIES AWAITING THEM IN HONG KONG. THEY WILL ALSO BE MEETING CIVIC LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITY AND THE MEDIA.

IN LONDON, THE BEST OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS ARE NOW ON DISPLAY AND ON SALE IN VIRTUALLY EVERY DEPARTMENT OF HARRODS, ONE OF THE LARGEST AND BEST KNOWN STORES IN THE WORLD. +WINDOW ON HONG KONG+, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND AMBITIOUS PROMOTION EVER TO BE STAGED BY HARRODS, WAS ORGANISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. THIS IS ONLY THE FOURTH TIME IN 20 YEARS THAT HARRODS HAS MOUNTED A PROMOTION OF SUCH MAGNITUDE AND THE FIRST FEATURING MERCHANDISE FROM A FAR EAST ECONOMY.

NINETEEN HONG KONG FILMS WILL BE SHOWN AT THE NATIONAL FILM THEATRE IN THE FESTIVAL ORGANISED BY THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE. THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE, WILL HOST A GALA PREMIERE TOMORROW (MARCH 8) WHEN AN AWARD-WINNING RADIO TELEVISION PRODUCTION, +THE YOUNG CONCUBINE+, WILL BE GIVEN ITS FIRST SCREENING IN BRITAIN.

IN ADDITION TO THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS, SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS ON HONG KONG WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITIES TO BE VISITED AS PART OF +PROJECT 84+.

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+SMALL INDUSTRIES VITAL TO ECONOMY+  
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THE VITAL ROLE OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES IN THE ECONOMY OF HONG KONG WAS STRESSED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES.

+THEY SUPPORT OTHER INDUSTRIES, THEY SUPPLY GOODS DIRECT TO OUR EXPORT MARKETS AND THEY PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO MANY HUNDRED THOUSAND WORKERS,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE END OF A SEMINAR ON +INCREASING PROFITS THROUGH BETTER MANAGEMENT, PRODUCTION AND MARKETING+ HELD IN TSUEN WAN.

THE SEMINAR WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID IT WAS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE THAT THE SEMINAR WAS HELD IN TSUEN WAN BECAUSE IT IS THE OLDEST INDUSTRIAL NEW TOWN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL CENTRES IN HONG KONG.

+I AM ENCOURAGED THAT TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA WHICH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AFFECT THE WELL-BEING OF ALL RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

+THE THREE SPEAKERS AT THIS SEMINAR HAVE EXAMINED WAYS TO HELP SMALL INDUSTRIES IMPROVE THEIR PROFITABILITY THROUGH BETTER FACTORY MANAGEMENT, PRODUCTION METHODS AND MARKETING TECHNIQUE.

+THE METHODS THEY SUGGESTED MAY NOT BE THE ANSWER TO ALL THE PROBLEMS FACED BY SUCH FACTORIES IN HONG KONG, BUT THEY PROVIDE A POINTER FOR ALL WHO ARE HERE TODAY, AND PROMPT YOU TO TAKE ANOTHER CRITICAL LOOK AT YOUR OWN FACTORY ESTABLISHMENT TO SEE WHAT IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE,+ HE TOLD PARTICIPANTS AT THE SEMINAR.

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO URGED FACTORY OWNERS TO USE THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WHICH +ARE MOST WILLING TO HELP IN WHATEVER WAY THEY CAN.+

THE DISTRICT OFFICER FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, MR TAM WING-PONG, ONE OF THE THREE SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR, SAID THAT FACTORY OWNERS AND MANAGERS SHOULD LOOK INTO SUCH PROBLEMS AS SAFETY, POLLUTION, FACILITIES FOR EMPLOYEES, AND GET BETTER FACTORY MANAGEMENT.

HE FELT THAT THE PROPER HANDLING OF THESE PROBLEMS WOULD RESULT IN HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY, BETTER MORALE AMONG WORKERS, AND BETTER PROFITS.

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#### AIRPORT ADOPTS NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM

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THE NEW COMPUTERISED AUTOMATIC MESSAGE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (AMDS) AT THE AEROFIXED CENTRE AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS INAUGURATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY MR TREVOR THORPE, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION.

IN A BRIEF CEREMONY, MR THORPE PRESSED A BUTTON, AUTOMATICALLY SENDING OUT A PREPARED MESSAGE ON THE SYSTEM'S AEROFIXED TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO AVIATION CHIEFS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES TO SIGNIFY THE INAUGURATION.

THE AEROFIXED CENTRE HANDLES TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES PRIMARILY CONCERNING FLIGHT SAFETY, METEOROLOGY AND OTHER ASPECTS ESSENTIAL FOR AIR OPERATION.

THE COMPUTERISED AMDS WITH ITS \$10-MILLION HARDWARE HANDLES THESE MESSAGES EFFICIENTLY, REPLACING A 20-YEAR-OLD SYSTEM WHICH EMPLOYED MAINLY ELECTROMECHANICAL SWITCHING DEVICES AND STORAGE ELEMENTS IN THE FORM OF FERRITE CORES.

THE NEW EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN PUT ON TESTING SINCE LAST NOVEMBER.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR THORPE SAID THE FUNCTION OF THE AEROFIXED CENTRE WAS TO SUPPORT AIR OPERATIONS TO ENSURE SAFE AND FAST AIR TRAVEL.

+TO MEET THIS PURPOSE, THE COMPUTERISED AMDS INCORPORATES A NUMBER OF SPECIAL FEATURES WHICH REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE OLD SYSTEM WHICH IS BECOMING OBSOLETE WITH TIME,+ HE SAID.

/+THEY INCLUDE .....

+THEY INCLUDE A NUMBER OF AUTOMATIC FUNCTIONS WHICH DETECT MESSAGE ERRORS AND GENERATE SERVICES MESSAGES; RETRIEVE MESSAGES FOR REPETITION; TRANSFER MESSAGES TO TAPES IN THE EVENT OF TRAFFIC OVERFLOW ON A HEAVILY LOADED ROUTE; AND AT A LATER STAGE COMPILE AND DISTRIBUTE OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL (OPMET) BULLETINS AS WELL AS FLIGHT PLANS AND DEPARTURE MESSAGES,+ MR THORPE SAID.

WITH A THROUGHPUT CAPACITY OF 3 600 MESSAGES PER HOUR OR ABOUT 54 000 MESSAGES PER DAY, THE NEW AMDS SHOULD HAVE A PLANNED OPERATIONAL LIFE OF 15 YEARS.

THE AEROFIXED CENTRE IS CURRENTLY HANDLING ABOUT 15 000 MESSAGES A DAY.

PHASE II OF THE INSTALLATION PROGRAMME WHICH ENABLES THE DISPATCHING OF OPMET BULLETINS ON AN AUTOMATIC BASIS WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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DELEGATES DISCUSS URBAN GROWTH AND NATURE  
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THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE RECONCILED, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHAN WAS MAKING THE OPENING ADDRESS AT THE THIRD EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, ENTITLED +URBAN EXPLOSION IN ASIA,+ AT THE SHERATON HOTEL.

HE SAID HIS STAFF AND HE SHARED THE FEDERATION'S BELIEF THAT RAPID EXPANSION OF POPULATION AND OF BUILT-UP AREAS COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT DEBASING THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THAT EXPANSION COULD OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY TO BLEND TOGETHER THE WORKS OF NATURE AND MAN TO ENRICH OUR SURROUNDINGS.

+IT IS OFTEN THE CASE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE THEIR PEOPLE WITH ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS ARE FRUSTRATED BY THE WELL-INTENTIONED ENVIRONMENTALIST, WHO BELIEVES THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT MUST BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT DISTURBING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT,+ MR CHAN SAID.

+IN MY OPINION, SUCH A VIEWPOINT IS UNREALISTIC AND THE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE RECONCILED IF THE PROVERTY AND SQUALOR OF URBAN SLUMS, SHANTY TOWNS AND SQUATTER AREAS SO PREVALENT IN THE CITIES OF MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE TO BE ERADICATED WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME-SCALE.

/+I FIRMLY .....

+I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT SOME CHANGE TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IS BOTH UNAVOIDABLE AND JUSTIFIABLE WHEN CONSIDERED AGAINST THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM.+

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS ACHIEVING A HIGH STANDARD OF REGARD FOR THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS. DUE CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THIS IN PLANNING, AND THERE HAD BEEN AN OVERALL BETTERMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

MR CHAN SAID, GOVERNMENT EMPLOYED EXTENSIVE IN-HOUSE TEAMS OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, TOWN PLANNERS, SURVEYORS AND, MORE RECENTLY, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

ADDITIONALLY, GOVERNMENT MADE CONSIDERABLE USE OF HONG KONG-BASED CONSULTANT FIRMS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE PLANNERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNERS WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OR SPECIALIST EXPERTISE FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS.

THE CHALLENGE IMPOSED BY URBAN EXPLOSION IN ASIA WAS GREAT AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSION IN THIS CONTEXT WAS CONSIDERABLE.

MR CHAN SAID THE THEME CHOSEN FOR THE CONFERENCE RAISED FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT.

IT WAS ALSO HIGHLY TOPICAL, COMING AT A TIME WHEN THE REGION HAD BECOME A WORLD FOCUS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+THE PRESSURE FOR CHANGE IS INDEED INTENSE AND ACCOMMODATING THIS PRESENTS FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS - AND OPPORTUNITIES - FOR THE POLITICIANS, ADMINISTRATORS AND PROFESSIONS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISION MAKING, ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT IN ALL ITS FORMS,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID REPRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE INCORPORATED A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS BROUGHT TOGETHER BY A DEEPLY-FELT CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

THIS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO CROSS-FERTILISE EXPERIENCE AND IDEAS.

IT ALSO PROVIDED A MEANS OF IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHALLENGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT IMPLIED BY URBAN EXPLOSION IN ASIA.

MR CHAN SAID THE HONG KONG EXPERIENCE WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF PARTICULAR ATTENTION.

+WE ARE, I HOPE, JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF OUR SUCCESSES.

+BUT HONG KONG WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE NEED TO FIND EVEN BETTER WAYS OF SATISFYING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE WHICH WOULD AT THE SAME TIME RESULT IN THE BEST OVERALL ENHANCEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

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+I HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT THOSE PRACTISING HERE IN HONG KONG VALUE AND WILL WELCOME CRITICAL COMMENT AND NEW IDEAS EMANATING FROM EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE.

+AT THE SAME TIME I AM SURE THAT WE HAVE VERY MUCH TO OFFER FROM OUR PARTICULAR PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE HERE WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS.+

MR CHAN SAID HE SPOKE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST OF ONE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN BOTH THE MAJOR ISSUES AND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH, WHICH WAS CENTRALLY CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE OF THE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

HE SAID URBAN EXPLOSION IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN BASED PARTICULARLY UPON:

- MASSIVE POPULATION GROWTH IN THE PAST TWO DECADES, LARGELY THE RESULT OF IMMIGRATION; AND
- TRADE AND RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FOUNDED UPON THOSE WHO LIVED AND WORKED HERE, OUR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, OUR HISTORY AND OUR POLITICAL/ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY.

THE INITIALLY - AND IMMENSE - PROBLEM WAS TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT HOUSING FOR THOSE WANTING TO LIVE HERE, TOGETHER WITH THE SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE: ROADS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SCHOOLS, BASIC RECREATION AND OTHER FACILITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT BEING CREATED THROUGH THIS PROCESS WAS EXPRESSED AT A RELATIVELY EARLY STAGE AND, IN THE NEW TOWNS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS WERE SOON TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PLANNING PROCESS INVOLVED, HE SAID.

IN THE URBAN AREAS, CONCERN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT BEING EVOLVED AROSE AT A LATER STAGE - MUCH REMAINED TO BE IMPROVED AND MUCH WOULD NEED ATTENTION.

HE SAID THAT CERTAIN LONGER TERM EFFECTS OF THE SPEED AND SCALE OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT UPON THE ENVIRONMENT WERE ONLY NOW BEING FULLY RECOGNISED, AND HE MENTIONED AS EXAMPLES THE RAPID DECLINE OF DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE, THE INTENSIVE USE OF THE MORE ACCESSIBLE COUNTRY PARKS AND THE LACK OF VARIETY AND STIMULUS IN MUCH OF THE 'STREETScape'.

THESE WERE ALL MATTERS TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS GIVING CAREFUL ATTENTION, HE SAID.

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS WAS ESTABLISHED AT CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND IN 1948 AND ITS MEMBERSHIP NOW INCLUDES OVER 35 NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

DELEGATES FROM EIGHT COUNTRIES ARE ATTENDING THE MEETING, WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL SATURDAY.

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NEW INDUSTRIAL GROUP FORMED  
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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT INDUSTRIALISTS ASSOCIATION, FORMED TODAY, WOULD REFLECT THE VIEWS AND NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO THE DISTRICT BOARD AND GOVERNMENT, ITS ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR DENNIS TING SAID.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR TING SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION, APART FROM PROMOTING INDUSTRY, WAS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF FACTORY OPERATORS AND THEIR WORKERS.

+THE ASSOCIATION WILL ALSO CONDUCT RESEARCH, TOGETHER WITH FACTORY OPERATORS, INTO PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIES AND THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES,+ HE SAID.

SERVICES BEING PLANNED BY THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH WAS FORMED WITH THE HELP OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, WOULD INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A CENTRALISED FACILITY TO ENABLE MEMBER FACTORIES TO DISPOSE OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE MORE EFFICIENTLY, MR TING SAID.

MR TING SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT DRIVE, AND THAT HE EXPECTED THE ASSOCIATION WOULD SOON HAVE 100 MEMBERS.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, DISTRICT OFFICER, MR K.C. KWONG, SAID THAT THE ASSOCIATION WOULD PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL EFFECTIVE CHANNEL FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE DISTRICT.

+IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE INDUSTRIALISTS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OR PROBLEMS OF COMMON INTEREST, AND A CHANCE TO POOL TOGETHER THEIR EFFORTS TO SOLVE SUCH PROBLEMS,+ MR KWONG SAID.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE INAUGURATED AT A CEREMONY AT 7.30 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 9) AT THE BLUE OCEAN RESTAURANT ON SHAM WAN ROAD.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, AND THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, DR JAMES HAYES, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY ON FRIDAY (MARCH 9).

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SITE OFFERED FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCY

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A 5 200-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF LOK SIN ROAD AND CARPENTER ROAD, KOWLOON, IS BEING OFFERED ON A SHORT-TERM TENANCY BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

IT IS FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING CAR PARK FOR PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES AND GOODS VEHICLES.

THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, WHICH CAN BE RENEWED FOR THREE-MONTHLY PERIODS AFTERWARDS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE TENDERS IS MARCH 23.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

THE TENDER PLAN MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT BOTH LOCATIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FLOWER SHOW

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MORE THAN 80 SPECIES OF FLOWERS WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL NORTH DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW TO BE HELD IN FANLING PLAYGROUND BETWEEN MARCH 10 AND 13.

LADY YOUDE, WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING AT 11.30 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 10).

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE CEREMONY. A GOVERNMENT VAN WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER FOR FANLING AT 10.15 AM.

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PLB PROHIBITION ZONE

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 9), ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE SECTION OF TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET BETWEEN KWAI MUN HAU STREET AND YAN CHAI STREET.

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