



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK: A STRATEGIC BASE FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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THE RECENTLY SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT FOR HONG KONG HAS SPURRED RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID YESTERDAY (FRIDAY, U.S. TIME).

IN A SPEECH IN CHICAGO ENTITLED "HONG KONG - A STRATEGIC BASE FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE" TO THE HONG KONG BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF THE MID-WEST, MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG WOULD SOON EMBARK ON THE LARGEST INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE TERRITORY'S HISTORY.

"BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT WILL INVITE TENDERS FOR DESIGN CONSULTANCIES, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND HIGHWAYS PROJECTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE AIRPORT SITE; ROADS AND BRIDGES TO LINK THE NEW FACILITY WITH THE METROPOLITAN AREA; AND PORT WORKS.

"THERE HAS BEEN GREAT OVERSEAS INTEREST IN THIS VAST PROGRAMME, AND WE EXPECT THE PROJECT TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT," HE SAID.

ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG, MR BARMA SAID WITH ITS STRATEGIC REGIONAL LOCATION, FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL, LOW AND STABLE TAX REGIME, EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE FINANCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, HONG KONG HAD FOR MANY YEARS ATTRACTED THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTOR.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PLAYED ITS PART: A POLICY OF MINIMUM RED TAPE, NO DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN OVERSEAS AND LOCAL INVESTORS, AND A CONSISTENT PRO-BUSINESS APPROACH," HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT NEW PROJECTS IN HONG KONG, AND A NUMBER OF EXISTING FACILITIES HAD BEEN EXPANDED.

QUOTING SOME EXAMPLES, MR BARMA SAID: "MOTOROLA, WHICH OF COURSE IS A MAJOR MID-WEST CORPORATION, HAS SET UP A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FACILITY IN HONG KONG TO SERVE AS ITS ASIA-PACIFIC HEADQUARTERS, AND ALSO TO ACCOMMODATE ITS DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING CENTRE FOR SEMI-CONDUCTORS AND APPLICATION-SPECIFIC INTEGRATED CIRCUITS.

"DOW CHEMICAL OF MICHIGAN RECENTLY INCREASED THE CAPACITY OF ITS POLYSTYRENE POLYMERISATION PLANT WHICH IS NOW THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN ASIA.

"THE PENNSYLVANIA COMPANY, ARCO, WHICH PRODUCES ENERGY, OIL AND PETROCHEMICAL INTERMEDIARIES, RECENTLY SET UP ITS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG.

"CABOT PLASTICS OF MASSACHUSETTS HAS ALSO RECENTLY SET UP A RESIN COMPOUNDING FACILITY IN HONG KONG AND IS NOW EMBARKED ON AN EXPANSION PROGRAMME.

"PAN-PACIFIC TRADING OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE ESTABLISHED A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY, FUTURE'S SAFE, WHICH IS OPERATING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND PAPER PRODUCING PLANT IN HONG KONG. THE PLANT IS CAPABLE OF DAILY PRODUCTION OF 200 TONS, USING RECYCLED PAPER."

MR BARMA SAID THESE COMPANIES WERE ALL PART OF THE ESTABLISHED U.S. PRESENCE IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING SOME WELL-KNOWN NAMES SUCH AS 3M, DATACARD, EMERSON, AND HIMONT.

"IN FACT, AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE A MAJOR PART OF OUR CORPORATE SCENE. FORTY PER CENT OF THE 600 FOREIGN FIRMS WHICH HAVE SET UP THEIR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG HAVE COME FROM THE U.S.," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG BEYOND 1997, MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG WAS TO BECOME A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY OVER ITS AFFAIRS.

"HONG KONG WILL MAINTAIN ITS OWN SEPARATE POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMMUNITY, AND CONTINUE TO BE A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT; IT WILL BE A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY FROM CHINA AND WILL CONTINUE ITS MEMBERSHIP OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL; AND THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WILL REMAIN A FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY.

"WE ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE ACTION TO CONCLUDE INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENTS WITH OUR MAJOR PARTNERS TO PROTECT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

"I CANNOT SEE THE POST-1997 GOVERNMENT CHANGING OUR CURRENT PRO-BUSINESS STANCE.

"WHY SHOULD IT? CHINA UNDERSTANDS THE VALUE OF HONG KONG AND THE CONTRIBUTION IT MAKES TO THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA," HE SAID.

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TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS INCREASED BY 45 PER CENT

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DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 2,316 COMPLAINTS, A RISE OF 45 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TCU TODAY (SATURDAY) SAID THE COMPLAINTS WERE MAINLY RELATED TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, ROAD MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC REGULATION ENFORCEMENT.

HE SAID A TOTAL OF 241 COMPLAINTS WERE ABOUT THE INADEQUACY OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES, COVERING HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, THERE WAS A RISE OF 114 CASES OR 90 PER CENT.

ON THE STANDARD OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICE, THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 414 COMPLAINTS, AN INCREASE OF 74 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 238 IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

THESE COMPLAINTS WERE INDIVIDUALLY TAKEN UP WITH THE BUS COMPANIES CONCERNED.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST TAXI SERVICE ROSE BY 15 PER CENT FROM 316 CASES TO 364 CASES.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RELATED TO RAIL TRANSPORT SERVICES ROSE FROM 28 CASES IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER TO 29 CASES THIS QUARTER, WHILE THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE FERRY SERVICES INCREASED FROM 11 TO 27.

THE MAIN AREAS OF COMPLAINT INCLUDED REGULARITY OF SERVICE, CONDITIONS OF VEHICLES/VESSELS, AND PASSENGER SERVICES AND FACILITIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID COMPLAINTS ABOUT ROAD CONGESTION INCREASED FROM 171 CASES TO 208 CASES, 63 ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 93 IN KOWLOON AND 52 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO ROAD CONGESTION INCLUDED TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MATTERS, VEHICLE OBSTRUCTION AND ROAD WORKS.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES ROSE FROM 141 CASES TO 194 OR BY 38 PER CENT.

THE MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN INCLUDED PHASING OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND TRAFFIC LANE ARRANGEMENT, AND ADDITION OF TRAFFIC SIGNS AND AIDS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING ROAD MAINTENANCE INCREASED BY 74 PER CENT FROM 78 CASES TO 136 CASES.

THE MAJOR AREAS OF COMPLAINT WERE DEFECTIVE ROAD SURFACES, FAULTY TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND DAMAGED TRAFFIC SIGNS OR AIDS.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CASES STOOD AT 443, A RISE OF 177 CASES OR 67 PER CENT COMPARED WITH FIGURES FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

THESE WERE RELATED MAINLY TO ILLEGAL PARKING AND MOTORISTS FAILING TO COMPLY WITH TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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ATTITUDES AND EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH EXAMINED

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH HAD A LIVELY DISCUSSION WITH ABOUT 100 YOUTH WORKERS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM YOUTH AND YOUTH RELATED ORGANISATIONS ON THE ATTITUDES AND EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH TOWARDS THEIR FUTURE AT A SEMINAR TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH COMMISSION, EXAMINED THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED EARLIER THIS YEAR ON THE ATTITUDES AND EXPECTATIONS OF YOUTH TOWARDS THEIR FUTURE.

"THE SURVEY ENCOMPASSES A WIDE AREA OF INTERESTS ON THE OUTLOOK OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR HOPES, ASPIRATIONS, AND FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THEIR THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR," THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH, MR ERIC LI, SAID.

"THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH ALL RELEVANT PARTIES AND IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS BY THE COMMISSION, THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO FORMULATE EFFECTIVE ADVICE TO THE GOVERNOR ON HOW OUR YOUTH COULD BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO FACE THE CHALLENGES AHEAD," HE SAID.

ON THE COMMISSION'S OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS, MR LI NOTED THAT IT WAS PLACING GREAT EFFORTS ON DEVELOPING WHAT WOULD AMOUNT TO A "CHARTER FOR YOUTH".

"THE CHARTER AIMS TO AFFIRM THE COMMITMENTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, PROMOTE PHYSICAL AS WELL AS MENTAL FITNESS, IMPROVE THEIR CIVIC AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

"DURING THE PAST 18 MONTHS, THE COMMISSION HAS ALSO MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BODIES AND YOUTH RELATED ORGANISATIONS WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT THE INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICIES AFFECTING YOUTH," HE SAID.

ANOTHER MAJOR SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION WAS ON THE INFLUENCE OF THE MASS MEDIA ON YOUNG PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS, PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SEMINAR EXAMINED AND ANALYSED THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY AFTER BEING BRIEFED BY COMMISSION MEMBERS MR HOWARD YOUNG, DR LO CHI-KIN, MR MAK HOI-WAH AND MISS JUNIA HO.

THE FOUR TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WERE: EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PLANS, LIFESTYLE AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHINESE CULTURE, ATTITUDES TOWARDS HONG KONG'S FUTURE, AND PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS. MR YOUNG, DR LO, DR NELSON CHOW AND MR CHEUNG YIN-TUNG LED THE DISCUSSIONS.

ALSO ATTENDING THE SEMINAR WERE COMMISSION MEMBERS MRS MIRIAM LAU AND MRS TERESA LAM, WHO WAS CONVENOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE STUDY; AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MISS JACQUELINE WILLIS.

PUBLICATIONS AND FREE SEMINARS FOR THE HKHS 1992 EDITION

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IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS WILL HAVE TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS WHEN THEY COMPLETE IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS NEXT YEAR, AS HONG KONG WILL SWITCH TO A NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM -- THE 1992 EDITION OF THE HONG KONG HARMONISED SYSTEM (HKHS).

THE NEW EDITION OF HK HS, THAT IS THE 1992 EDITION, WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT EDITION OF HK HS AS FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR. THE LATTER HAS BEEN IN USE FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATION SINCE JANUARY 1, 1988.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THE NEW COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM WILL BE A FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HARMONISED COMMODITY DESCRIPTION AND CODING SYSTEM, OR THE HARMONISED SYSTEM (HS) FOR SHORT, DESIGNED BY THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL (CCC).

"THIS MEANS THAT THE NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM WILL FULLY FOLLOW THE CCC HS INSTEAD OF PARTIALLY AS IN THE EXISTING EDITION OF THE HK HS.

"BY IMPLEMENTING THE NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, HONG KONG'S COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION AND CODES FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATION WILL BE TOTALLY COMPATIBLE WITH THOSE USED BY MOST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT WHILE THE ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS CONCERNING IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATION RESTS WITH THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVISING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS RELATING TO IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATION AND FOR COMPILING EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS BASED ON DECLARATIONS.

"TO LET TRADERS PREPARE FOR THE CHANGEOVER TO THE NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL RELEASE FIVE PUBLICATIONS AROUND NEXT MONTH AND WILL ALSO CONDUCT A SERIES OF FREE SEMINARS FOR TRADERS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER."

HE SAID ONE OF THE PUBLICATIONS, "HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST (HARMONISED SYSTEM), 1992 EDITION: MODIFIED FROM THE PREVIOUS EDITION (1988) UPON FULL ADOPTION OF THE HARMONISED SYSTEM", CONTAINS THE FULL COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION LIST TO BE USED FOR IMPORT/EXPORT DECLARATION FROM 1992 ONWARDS.

"IT IS THE ESSENTIAL PUBLICATION FOR LOOKING UP THE NEW HKHS CODE FOR EACH TYPE OF GOODS.

"APART FROM THE FULL CLASSIFICATION LIST, THE PUBLICATION INCLUDES AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ARTICLES TO HELP TRADERS SEARCH FOR THE CORRECT HK HS CODES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, A CHINESE REFERENCE GUIDE WILL BE PUBLISHED, CONTAINING THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE NEW CLASSIFICATION LIST.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THIS PUBLICATION WILL ALSO INCLUDE EXPLANATIONS ON THE LEGAL REQUIREMENT AND PROCEDURES FOR LODGING IMPORT/EXPORT DECLARATIONS, CHARGING SCHEME FOR AD VALOREM LEVY, AND IMPORTANT POINTS THAT SHOULD BE NOTED IN COMPLETING IMPORT/EXPORT DECLARATIONS.

"ALSO, AN HS HANDBOOK AND ITS CHINESE VERSION WILL BE RELEASED TO HELP IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS IN USING THE NEW CLASSIFICATION LIST," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THEY DESCRIBE IN DETAIL VARIOUS METHODS OF FINDING THE CORRECT HK HS CODE FOR A COMMODITY AND ALSO CONTAIN A LOT OF PRACTICAL EXAMPLES AND EXERCISE."

FOR TRADERS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE EXISTING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, THE BILINGUAL PUBLICATION, "SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN THE HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST (HARMONISED SYSTEM) -- FROM THE 1988 EDITION TO THE 1992 EDITION", WILL ALSO BE A USEFUL REFERENCE, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED.

"THIS PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS THE MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE 1988 AND 1992 EDITIONS OF HK HS.

"THE CORRELATION TABLE BETWEEN COMMODITY CODES IN THE 1988 AND 1992 EDITIONS OF THE HK HS IN THIS PUBLICATION WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR LOCATING THE CORRECT COMMODITY CODES IN THE 1992 EDITION BASED ON THEIR CODES IN THE 1988 EDITION," HE ADDED.

APART FROM RELEASING THE ABOVE PUBLICATIONS, A SERIES OF FREE SEMINARS ON HOW TO USE THE NEW CLASSIFICATION LIST WILL BE ORGANISED FOR IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

PAMPHLETS GIVING FULL DETAILS OF THE SEMINARS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESPATCHED TO ABOUT 90,000 IMPORTERS/EXPORTERS.

FREE COPIES ARE ALSO OBTAINABLE AT THE COLLECTION OFFICES OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS TO OBTAIN TICKETS FOR ATTENDING THE FREE SEMINARS BY COMPLETING THE SIMPLE ORDER FORMS INCLUDED IN THE PAMPHLETS.

THESE SEMINARS WILL BE USEFUL TO TRADERS FOR MAKING ANY NECESSARY PREPARATION FOR THE CHANGEOVER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

DETAILS OF THE SEMINARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 17TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI (OR BY PHONING 823 4919 BEFORE OCTOBER 20 AND 582 4919 FROM OCTOBER 20 ONWARDS).

IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ARE ALSO ADVISED TO NOTE THAT TOGETHER WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 1992 EDITION OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT CLASSIFICATION LIST (HARMONISED SYSTEM), REVISED IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATION FORMS WILL COME INTO USE AS FROM JANUARY 1 AND THE EXISTING DECLARATION FORMS WILL BECOME INVALID.

THE REVISED FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND DECEMBER. IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS SHOULD TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN THEY PURCHASE THE EXISTING DECLARATION FORMS SO AS TO AVOID HAVING EXCESSIVE STOCK OF SUCH FORMS.

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WHSDC DISQUALIFIED FOR TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT TENDERING
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON THE DISQUALIFICATION OF WESTERN HARBOUR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD (WHSDC) FROM TENDERING FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SATURDAY) CONFIRMED THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD.

WHSDC WAS ONE OF THE FIVE PREQUALIFIED TENDERERS FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT, WHICH WILL FORM PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

AT THE TIME WHEN WHSDC SUBMITTED ITS ORIGINAL APPLICATION TO PREQUALIFY AS A TENDERER, IT MET GOVERNMENT'S PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SUBSEQUENTLY, THE CONSORTIUM INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THAT A LEADING MEMBER HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE GROUP.

AN OPPORTUNITY WAS THEN GIVEN FOR THE CONSORTIUM TO RECONSTITUTE ITSELF, BUT IT FAILED TO SATISFY THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT STILL MEETS THE PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

IF WHSDC AS NOW RESTRUCTURED WERE TO BE ALLOWED TO TENDER FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT, IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO OTHER COMPANIES WHOSE APPLICATIONS WERE REJECTED AT THE PREQUALIFICATION STAGE, HE ADDED.

"AS A RESULT OF THIS DECISION, THE NUMBER OF PREQUALIFIED TENDERERS WILL BE REDUCED FROM FIVE TO FOUR FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT.

"THIS IS WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDERS AND COMPETITIVE BIDS ARE EXPECTED NOTWITHSTANDING THE EXCLUSION OF WHSDC," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

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CHINESE LABOUR OFFICERS IN TOWN ON WEEK-LONG VISIT
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A DELEGATION OF OFFICERS FROM CHINA'S MINISTRY OF LABOUR WILL LEAVE HONG KONG TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AFTER A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO THE TERRITORY AT THE INVITATION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN.

DURING THEIR STAY IN HONG KONG, THE VISITORS MET SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND WERE BRIEFED ON ITS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, THE LOCAL LABOUR RELATIONS SCENE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF LABOUR LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG, AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SITUATION.

/THE DELEGATION

THE DELEGATION ALSO CALLED ON THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

THEY ALSO VISITED THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CORPORATION AND THE MOTOROLA SEMICONDUCTORS HK LIMITED.

THE DELEGATION IS LED BY MR ZHANG WEI, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE MR KONG LINGYUEN, DIRECTOR, LABOUR BUREAU, GUANGDONG PROVINCE; MS ZHU QINGLAN, DIRECTOR, QINGDAO LABOUR BUREAU; MS LIU GUIFANG, DEPUTY HEAD, GENERAL OFFICE, BUREAU OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH INSPECTION; MS LIAN LI OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION OF LABOUR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT; AND MR YIN HUI OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

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TRANSLATION CONTEST ENTRIES TO CLOSE NEXT FRIDAY

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STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WISHING TO ENTER INTO THE DISTRICT'S TRANSLATION COMPETITION ARE REMINDED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS BEFORE OCTOBER 4.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE CONTEST, NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR, IS DIVIDED INTO STUDENTS AND OPEN SECTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE STUDENTS SECTION IS OPEN TO FORM THREE TO FORM SEVEN STUDENTS WHILE THE OPEN SECTION IS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS, WORKERS AND TERTIARY STUDENTS.

CONTESTANTS IN BOTH SECTIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIT FOR A TRANSLATION TEST AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY'S LOK YEW HALL ON OCTOBER 19.

THE TOP THREE WINNERS IN BOTH SECTIONS WILL EACH BE AWARDED A TROPHY AND A BOOK COUPON.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE COUNCIL OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SCHOOL HEADS, THE MID-LEVELS WEST AREA COMMITTEE AND THE CHINESE DEPARTMENT OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, PIER'S ROAD.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 3499 OR 852 3486.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1991

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NEW BUS SERVICE TO ALLEVIATE MTR CONGESTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT A NEW AIR-CONDITIONED CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICE FROM MEI LAM ESTATE IN SHA TIN TO CENTRAL WILL BE INTRODUCED ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 30) DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOURS.

ROUTE 305, JOINTLY OPERATED BY KMB AND CMB, WILL DEPART FROM MEI LAM ESTATE AT 7.40 AM AND 7.50 AM, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID. THE FARE IS \$12 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL OTHER AIR-CONDITIONED CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICES AIMED AT ALLEVIATING MTR CONGESTION WILL BE ADJUSTED FROM TUESDAY (OCTOBER 1) TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOURS FROM 7.30 AM TO 9 AM, THE FREQUENCY FOR ROUTE 300 SERVING PRINCE EDWARD ROAD IN MONG KOK AND CENTRAL WILL BE ADJUSTED TO BETWEEN FOUR AND FIVE MINUTES DEPENDING ON PASSENGER LOAD FROM THREE MINUTES.

SERVICES FOR ROUTE 301 LEAVING DIRECT FROM THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA TO CENTRAL WILL BE OPERATED FROM 7.55 AM TO 9.10 AM, INSTEAD OF FROM 7.45 AM TO 9 AM.

THE LAST BUS FOR ROUTE 302 SERVING TSZ WAN SHAN AND CENTRAL WILL DEPART AT 8.20 AM INSTEAD OF 8.25 AM.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE ADJUSTMENTS WERE DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVAILING DEMAND PATTERN.

THE FARES FOR KMB'S ROUTE 104 AND 105 WILL BE RESTORED TO \$4.50, HE ADDED.

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KEEP ESTATE CLEAN ROVING EXHIBITION

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THE KEEP ESTATE CLEAN CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED TODAY (SATURDAY) WITH A VARIETY SHOW AND ROVING EXHIBITION AT THE AMPHITHEATRE OF LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE, PHASE I IN WONG TAI SIN.

THE CAMPAIGN, ORGANISED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, IS AIMED AT ENHANCING RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT CLEAN.

THE EXHIBITION FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 1991/92 KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES, AND THE NEWLY CREATED CAMPAIGN MASCOTS, THE DRAGON OF CLEANLINESS FAMILY.

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IT ALSO INCLUDES INFORMATION ON THE CLEANSING SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE WINNING ENTRIES IN THE LOTUS POND DESIGN COMPETITION HELD AMONG 21 PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES/HOME OWNERSHIP COURTS.

VARIETY SHOWS AND THE ROVING EXHIBITION WILL TAKE PLACE IN FIVE OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES - HENG ON AT MA ON SHAN ON OCTOBER 5, BUTTERFLY IN TUEN MUN ON OCTOBER 12, TSUI LAM IN TSEUNG KWAN O ON OCTOBER 19, SIU SAI WAN IN CHAI WAN ON OCTOBER 26, AND OI MAN IN HO MAN TIN ON NOVEMBER 9.

OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, MR PAO PING-WING; WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN KAM-MAN; AS WELL AS THE CHAIRMAN AND A MEMBER OF THE JOINT UC/RC KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE, MR GILBERT LEUNG AND MS YEUNG KAM-CHUN.

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400 TREES PLANTED TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT
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ABOUT 400 TREES WERE PLANTED THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING TO "GREEN UP" THE FUNG TAK ROAD EXTENSION IN DIAMOND HILL, WONG TAI SIN.

THESE TREES WERE PLANTED BY MORE THAN 80 YOUNGSTERS FROM LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.

THE ACTIVITY IS PART OF A SERIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

THE SAPLINGS WERE PROVIDED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WHILE THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HORTICULTURAL CARE AT THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE PLANTING.

THE TREE PLANTING PROJECT WHICH AIMS AT BEAUTIFYING WONG TAI SIN WILL BE EXTENDED TO OTHER AREAS IN THE DISTRICT.

A SOUVENIR PRESENTATION CEREMONY WAS HELD FOLLOWING THE TREE PLANTING EXERCISE TODAY.

GUESTS ATTENDING THE CEREMONY INCLUDED THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN KAM-MAN; CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MR CHAN CHUN-FAT; AND ASSISTANT WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES CHAN.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	27.9.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	28.9.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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