



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TERTIARY EDUCATION SUPPORT
NEEDED FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT:FS

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HONG KONG'S CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS A MEANS OF INCREASING ITS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS WILL NEED TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF SHUE YAN COLLEGE THIS AFTERNOON, SIR PIERS SAID THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS WERE A MAJOR SOURCE OF HIGHLY SKILLED PEOPLE AND THEY PROVIDED ALSO A SOURCE OF RESEARCH EXPERTISE.

HE SAID THAT AS THE ECONOMY BECAME MORE SOPHISTICATED, THE DEMAND FOR SUCH PEOPLE WOULD GROW.

"TERTIARY LEVEL GRADUATES IN HONG KONG IN 1990 ARE ENTERING THE JOB MARKET IN AN ECONOMY WHICH IS FAR MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY SOPHISTICATED THAN IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO," SIR PIERS SAID.

"THAT IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON A MASSIVE EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE INTENTION IS THAT BY 1994/1995, THERE WILL BE FIRST PLACES FOR SOME 18 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP COMPARED WITH SEVEN PER CENT TODAY," HE ADDED.

"THIS EXPANSION WILL BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT ANY LOSS QUALITY. MUCH OF IT WILL BE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS-RELATED SUBJECTS. THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH ADMITS ITS FIRST BATCH OF STUDENTS IN 1991, WILL BE AN IMPORTANT NEW SOURCE OF PLACES IN THESE FIELDS," HE ADDED.

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RESEARCH CAPABILITY IN THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS WILL PROVIDE THE BUSINESS SECTOR WITH A POOL OF TALENT FOR UNDERTAKING APPLIED RESEARCH. THAT RESEARCH CAPABILITY IS NOW BEING BUILT," SIR PIERS SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO THE GROWTH IN PUBLIC FUNDING FOR RESEARCH, THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS FUNDING A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES IN COMMERCIALY RELATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNIVERSITIES.

"FOR EXAMPLE, TWO BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WITH A DONATION OF \$300 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

"ALSO, HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED HAS MADE A GRANT OF US\$13 MILLION TO THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO ESTABLISH THE HONG KONG TELECOM INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

"THE INSTITUTE WILL CONDUCT RESEARCH INTO TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SATELLITE AND SPACE COMMUNICATIONS," HE SAID.

/SIR PIERS

SIR PIERS NOTED THAT THE INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AND THE HONG KONG DESIGN AND INNOVATION CENTRE ALL DID THEIR BEST TO FOSTER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA.

"THE NEW HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE. SITUATED CLOSE TO THE CITY POLYTECHNIC AND THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, IT WILL ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF NEW TECHNOLOGY-BASED FIRMS AND FACILITATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN HONG KONG, SIR PIERS SAID THE PAST 10 YEARS HAD SEEN CONSIDERABLE ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG.

"THE SERVICES SECTOR HAS LED THE WAY, WITH FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS CAPITALISING ON THE VERY LATEST TECHNOLOGY.

"INDEED, A RECENT STUDY ON THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG SHOWED A HIGH PENETRATION OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS RELATIVE TO NEIGHBOURING ECONOMIES. THE SAME STUDY ALSO FOUND HONG KONG'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE PARTICULARLY ADVANCED," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE SERVICES SECTOR OVER THE PAST DECADE COULD BE LINKED IN PART TO THE SPECTACULAR RE-EMERGENCE OF HONG KONG'S ROLE AS AN ENTREPOT FOR CHINA.

"THIS HAS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSIFICATION INTO A WHOLE RANGE OF TRADE-RELATED SERVICES, SUCH AS FINANCE, INSURANCE, PACKAGING, DESIGN, MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND MANY OTHERS.

"THE GROWTH OF THESE VALUE-ADDED SERVICES HAS BEEN UNDERPINNED BY THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH THE SERVICES SECTOR HAS BEEN QUICKER IN ADOPTING NEW TECHNOLOGIES, INCREASINGLY, WE ARE NOW SEEING HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS FOLLOWING THE SAME PATH.

"COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN, COMPUTER AIDED MANUFACTURING AND AUTOMATED PRODUCTION METHODS ARE BECOMING MORE COMMON. ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES SUCH AS SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG," HE NOTED.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT THIS UPGRADING IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR COULD ALSO BE LINKED TO HONG KONG'S STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC LINKS WITH SOUTH CHINA.

"WITH CHINA'S OPEN DOOR POLICY, MANUFACTURERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHIFT THEIR LABOUR-INTENSIVE OPERATIONS OVER THE BORDER TO GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

"THOSE OPERATIONS WHICH REMAIN IN HONG KONG HAVE FOUND THE NEED TO COMPETE INCREASINGLY IN WORLD MARKETS ON THE BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY. HENCE THE GREATER USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN MANUFACTURING," HE SAID.

PUBLIC SUPPORT NEEDED FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

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THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR SHARE OF SHAPING THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE ONLY IF THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS WITH ENTHUSIASM AND A GOOD SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR SUEN WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ON ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL POLITICS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG FOUNDATION.

HE SAID DURING THE RUN-UP TO 1997, THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM WOULD CONTINUE TO PROGRESS STEADILY.

"HOWEVER, THE MOMENTUM OF DEVELOPMENT WILL DEPEND ON THE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM," HE SAID.

ON THE SUGGESTION THAT AN INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED TO HANDLE MATTERS CONCERNING THE DEMARCATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES AND TO MONITOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS, MR SUEN SAID WHILE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT RESIST THE IDEA AS A PRINCIPLE, IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THOROUGHLY THE FORMATION AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION AS WELL AS THE LEGISLATIVE WORK INVOLVED.

"THE ELECTIONS AND ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1991 REPRESENT AN EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE IS TO CONDUCT THE ELECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM WHICH IS TIME-TESTED, WIDELY KNOWN AND EXTENSIVELY ACCEPTED, INSTEAD OF EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW IDEAS AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT."

REGARDING THE DEMARCATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES, MR SUEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDED THE PRESENT AND FUTURE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AND THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE DISTRICTS AS WELL AS THE PRESENT DEMARCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS.

"THE BALANCE OF POLITICAL FORCES WITHIN EACH AREA IS NOT SOMETHING WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT," HE SAID.

ALL SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE DEMARCATION OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES WERE THEN SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL FOR DELIBERATION AND APPROVAL. IT WAS THEREFORE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED AND UNNECESSARY TO SUSPECT THAT THERE WAS ANY UNFAIR POLITICAL CONSIDERATION IN DECIDING ON ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES, HE SAID.

GATT TRADE TALKS ADJOURNED

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THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING ON THE URUGUAY ROUND, WHICH STARTED IN BRUSSELS ON DECEMBER 3, HAS CONCLUDED WITH A DECISION TO EXTEND THE ROUND FOR A BRIEF PERIOD.

IN CLOSING THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN, MR GROS-ESPIELL OF URUGUAY, SAID THAT THE MEETING HAD "MADE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ADVANCING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS", BUT THAT "PARTICIPANTS NEED MORE TIME TO RECONSIDER AND RECONCILE THEIR POSITIONS IN SOME KEY AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS".

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GATT, MR ARTHUR DUNKEL, HAS BEEN TASKED "TO PURSUE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS IN THE PERIOD FROM NOW UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR WITH THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING AGREEMENTS IN ALL THE AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATING PROGRAMME IN WHICH DIFFERENCES REMAIN OUTSTANDING".

COMMENTING ON THIS OUTCOME, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, WHO LED THE HONG KONG DELEGATION, SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE BRUSSELS MEETING HAD NOT RESULTED IN A FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE ROUND.

"THESE WERE VERY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING A WIDE RANGE OF COMPLEX ISSUES. THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK WAS AGRICULTURE WHERE VIEWS WERE SHARPLY DIVIDED," MR CHAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT, WHILE HONG KONG WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE, THE HONG KONG DELEGATION PLAYED A FULL AND CONSTRUCTIVE PART IN ALL THE OTHER AREAS INCLUDING TEXTILES, ANTI-DUMPING AND SERVICES, AND USEFUL WORK WAS DONE.

"I HOPE THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE URUGUAY ROUND WOULD REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE ROUND. WE WILL PLAY OUR PART IN THIS PROCESS," MR CHAN SAID.

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TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS INCREASE BY FOUR PER CENT

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DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990, THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 2,147 COMPLAINTS, A RISE OF FOUR PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

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

AS REGARDS THE ADEQUACY OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICE, HE SAID THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 195 COMPLAINTS COVERING HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, THERE WAS A RISE OF 25 CASES OR 15 PER CENT.

ON THE STANDARD OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICE, THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 329 COMPLAINTS, A DECREASE OF 11 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 370 IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

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

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST TAXI SERVICE ROSE BY 29 PER CENT FROM 338 CASES TO 435 CASES.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RELATED TO RAIL TRANSPORT SERVICES DROPPED FROM THE PREVIOUS QUARTER'S 49 CASES TO 46 CASES, WHILE THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE FERRY SERVICES ROSE FROM 20 TO 22.

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 DECREASED BY 31 PER CENT TO 164 CASES, 37 ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 70 IN KOWLOON, 56 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ONE IN TUNNELS OR OTHER AREAS.

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

COMPLAINTS ABOUT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES ROSE FROM 173 CASES TO 195 OR BY 13 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 THE MAINTENANCE OF ROADS INCREASED BY 28 PER CENT FROM 117 CASES TO 150 CASES.

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

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CASES STOOD AT 345, ONE CASE MORE THAN THE NUMBER RECORDED IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

THESE WERE RELATED MAINLY TO REQUESTS FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL PARKING AND MOTORISTS FAILING TO COMPLY WITH TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

EPCOM CHIEF CALLS FOR REDUCING NATURAL RESOURCES WASTAGE

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, DR WANG GUNG-WU, TODAY (SATURDAY) APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO MINIMIZE DOMESTIC WASTAGE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE "ENVIRONMENTAL DAY CAMP" AT TAI TONG COUNTRY PARK IN YUEN LONG, DR WANG CALLED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

SHARING THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL ORGANISED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (ECC), DR WANG POINTED OUT THAT THE THEME OF "3R" -- REDUCE, RE-USE AND RECYCLE -- COULD WELL BE APPLIED TO ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG.

HE WARNED THAT EXCESSIVE USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES COULD SPOIL THE EQUILIBRIUM OF THE ECOLOGY AND RUIN THE NATURE THAT IS BEYOND REMEDY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COULD MINIMIZE THEIR CONSUMPTION IN DAILY DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION ON DISPOSABLE ITEMS INCLUDING BOXES, CUPS AND PAPER.

"IT IS HOPED THAT OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONTRIBUTES TO BUILDING UP A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR US AND FOR OUR YOUNGER GENERATION IN THE YEARS TO COME," DR WANG SAID.

ABOUT 600 CAMPERS TOOK PART IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES AND ATTENDED THE SWORN-IN CEREMONY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR DETERMINATION AS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PIONEERS AND TAKE THEIR INITIATIVE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND REDUCE THE CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

THE CITATION OF "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STARTS WITH ME" AND "REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BUILD UP HONG KONG" WAS LED BY DR WANG.

THE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING FAMILIES, CHILDREN, YOUTHS, AND THE ELDERLY FROM EIGHT SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN HONG KONG, ALSO TOOK PART IN GAMES AND COMPETITION WITH FOCUS ON THE THEME OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

ALSO ATTENDING THE HALF-DAY CAMP WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECC, MRS PEGGY LAM; ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED, MR S.Y. HO; PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN HONG KONG, REV LI PING-KWONG; AND DEPUTY CONVENOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL, MR HUNG WING-TAT. PRESENTERS OF TVB'S "GOOD MORNING HONG KONG" PROGRAMME, MS WENDY YU AND MR BENJAMIN LEE WERE ALSO PRESENT.

THE "ENVIRONMENTAL DAY CAMP" IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY ECC, TVB, AND THE SOCIAL SERVICE DIVISION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN HONG KONG IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMITTEE'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FESTIVAL.

CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME '90 LAUNCHED

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MORE THAN 56,000 COUNTRYSIDE LOVERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

AFD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR FRANK LAU, SAID THIS TODAY (SATURDAY) WHILE OFFICIATING AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME 1990 AT ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARK.

MR LAU SAID THE SCHEME OFFERED THE PARTICIPANTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY AND UNDERSTAND OUR COUNTRYSIDE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN KEEPING THE COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS YEAR'S CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME WAS BOTH EDUCATIONAL AND FUN. IT COMPRISED TWO SEPARATE PARTS -- THE CLEAN AND GREEN PHOTO COMPETITION AND CLEAN AND GREEN ACTIVITIES AND WOULD RUN FROM TODAY UNTIL THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR.

THE PHOTO COMPETITION IS OPEN TO ALL COUNTRYSIDE LOVERS AND PHOTOGRAPHY ENTHUSIASTS.

MR LAU HOPED THAT PARTICIPANTS WOULD CONVEY THE CONSERVATION MESSAGE AND THE VALUE OF A CLEAN AND GREEN COUNTRY PARK THROUGH THE USE OF IMAGINATION AND AESTHETIC EFFECTS IN THEIR MASTER PIECES.

"PARTICIPANTS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR ENTRIES TOGETHER WITH THE NEGATIVES TO THE AFD OR ANY COUNTRY PARK VISITORS CENTRE NOT LATER THAN THE END OF FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR. ENTRIES SHOULD BE COLOUR PRINTS IN 5R OR 8R SIZES.

"ENTRY FORMS WITH RULES FOR THE COMPETITION ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE AFD, KODAK SERVICES CENTRES AND TIMBERLAND SHOPS AS FROM TOMORROW (SUNDAY)," HE SAID.

ADJUDICATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY A PANEL OF JUDGES COMPRISING RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ORGANISERS.

PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS ARE SPONSORED BY THE TIMBERLAND, KODAK (FAR EAST) LTD. AND THE CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS. THERE ARE ALTOGETHER 10 PRIZES AND THE FIRST PRIZE WILL BE TWO HONG KONG/BANGKOK ROUND-TRIP TICKETS.

THE CLEAN AND GREEN ACTIVITIES COMPRISES TWO STAGES. THE FIRST STAGE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNTRY PARK LOVERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE PHYSICALLY INVOLVED IN KEEPING COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN.

FROM TOMORROW UP TO THE END OF JANUARY, SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS CAN TAKE PART IN LITTER COLLECTION AND TREE TENDING WORK IN COUNTRY PARKS ON WEEKDAYS OR SATURDAYS WITH PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS WITH AFD.

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MOREOVER, ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, COUNTRY PARK VISITORS CAN LEND THEIR SUPPORT BY COLLECTING A BAG OF LITTER AT 10 DESIGNATED SITES IN COUNTRY PARKS.

THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST STAGE MAY PROCEED TO THE SECOND STAGE WHICH IS A PAINTING POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION. THE THEME OF THE COMPETITION IS "KEEP OUR COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN".

ALL WINNERS IN THE ABOVE COMPETITIONS AND 250 PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECOND STAGE ACTIVITIES WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN THE "CLEAN AND GREEN" FUN DAY TO BE HELD IN LATE MARCH NEXT YEAR.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S LAUNCHING CEREMONY WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD'S PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE, MR DANIEL TO.

MR TO NOTED THAT IN PAST YEARS, THE SCHEME HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND MEMBERS OF ORGANISED GROUPS. LAST YEAR, THERE WERE ALTOGETHER 11,100 PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEME.

HE ALSO THANKED SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP WHICH ENABLED THE SCHEME TO RUN SMOOTHLY AND MADE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE AND INTERESTING.

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YOUTH CONCERT TO SPREAD "PREVENT AIDS" MESSAGE
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THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED AN OPEN-AIR CONCERT AT THE VICTORIA PARK THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PREVENTION OF AIDS.

THE CONCERT WAS ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS UNDER THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AIDS.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AND DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, WARNED THE PUBLIC THAT IF NO EARLY PREVENTIVE MEASURES WERE TAKEN, THE DISEASE WOULD CONTINUE TO SPREAD IN THE TERRITORY.

UP TO NOW, HONG KONG HAS REPORTED A TOTAL OF 42 AIDS CASES AND 151 HIV CARRIERS.

"THE COUNCIL PAYS SPECIAL ATTENTION TO OUR YOUTHS WHO ARE THE FUTURE LEADER OF OUR SOCIETY. THIS EXPLAINS WHY WE HAVE PLANNED MANY AND VARIED HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES TO HELP THEM DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS," DR LEE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS, MRS PEGGY LAM, SAID YOUNG PEOPLE MIGHT, OUT OF CURIOSITY, RESORT TO IMPULSIVE ACTS THAT WERE HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH AND VERY OFTEN WOULD LEAD TO SERIOUS RESULTS SUCH AS CONTRACTING AIDS VIRUS.

"THE PURPOSE OF ORGANISING THIS CONCERT IS TO DISSEMINATE TO OUR YOUNGER GENERATION MESSAGES ON THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF AIDS THROUGH A LIGHT-HEARTED AND RELAXING APPROACH AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE FROM A GROUP OF YOUTH IDOLS," SHE SAID.

"WE HOPE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN FACE TEMPTATIONS WITH A SENSIBLE AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE. THEY SHOULD USE THEIR SPARE TIME IN THE PURSUIT OF HEALTHY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SO AS TO BETTER THEMSELVES," SHE ADDED.

AFTER PRESENTING SOUVENIRS TO SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP ON AIDS, MR HO SAI-CHU, THE TWO-HOUR CONCERT STARTED WITH PERFORMANCES BY RENOWNED POPULAR SINGERS INCLUDING SALLY YEH, DANNY CHAN, SANDY LAM, ALEX TO, SAM TSANG, LUI FONG, DOMINIC CHOW, THOMAS CHAN, SANDY LAMB, CHERRY CHOI, LEUNG KAU AND TAICHI BAND.

PRODUCED BY COMMERCIAL RADIO ONE, THE CONCERT WOULD BE BROADCAST ON DECEMBER 10 (MONDAY) FROM 3 TO 5 PM.

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OWNERS URGED TO LOOK AFTER BUILDINGS

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EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED FLAT OWNERS TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEIR BUILDINGS TO PREVENT THEM FROM DETERIORATING INTO URBAN SLUMS.

ADDRESSING A BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR, HE SAID A WELL-MAINTAINED BUILDING WOULD PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH A PLEASANT AND SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS ENHANCE ITS VALUE.

"PROBLEMS LIKE LACK OF MAINTENANCE AND ILLEGAL STRUCTURAL EXTENSIONS MAY BRING GRAVE CONSEQUENCES TO BOTH THE TENANTS AND THE PUBLIC AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE RECENT COLLAPSES OF CANOPIES," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO HELP RESIDENTS MANAGE THEIR PROPERTIES MORE EFFECTIVELY BY PROVIDING A BETTER LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATING TEAM WOULD ALSO GIVE EXPERT ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO FLAT-OWNERS.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR, A SENIOR BUILDING SURVEYOR OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR YIP SO, SAID A SERIES OF OPERATIONS WERE UNDERWAY ALL OVER THE TERRITORY TO REMOVE ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS.

OWNERS WISHING TO MAKE STRUCTURAL ALTERATION TO A BUILDING SHOULD FIRST SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE AND EMPLOY AUTHORISED PERSONS SUCH AS ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS TO OVERSEE THE WORKS, HE SAID.

THE SEMINAR WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT FEDERATION OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING ORGANISATIONS TO GIVE RESIDENTS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EFFECTIVE WAYS TO MANAGE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.

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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL ON TUESDAY

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THE \$1.8 MILLION 1990-91 SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT FESTIVAL WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, WILL BEGIN ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 11).

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE FESTIVAL AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON, CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR CHAU MUN, SAID THE AIM OF THE FIVE-WEEK FESTIVAL WAS TO FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS AND, AT THE SAME TIME, PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THEM.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL, RESIDENTS WILL ALSO GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THEIR DISTRICT AND DEVELOP A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

MORE THAN 60 EVENTS SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO SUIT THE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE HAVE BEEN ORGANISED.

THESE HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO PROMOTE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE 1991 THREE-TIER ELECTIONS.

A TERRITORY-WIDE SOCIAL DANCE COMPETITION AND A PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST ON FESTIVAL EVENTS WILL ALSO BE HELD IN ADDITION TO VARIETY SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS, CANTONESE OPERA, CARNIVALS, A CROSS-COUNTRY RUN, PICNICS AND A CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS WILL BE A SPORTS CARNIVAL FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY A SHENZHEN RHYTHMIC GYMNASTIC TEAM.

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG COLISEUM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 11) WITH THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, OFFICIATING.

ADMISSION TO MOST OF THE EVENTS ARE FREE. FREE ADMISSION TICKETS AND PROGRAMME LEAFLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT TODAY'S NEWS CONFERENCE WERE THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI TUNG-NGOK, AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALAN FUNG.

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PRIZE PRESENTATION OF HEALTH EDUCATION SPEECH AND SONG CONTESTS

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THE SUCCESS OF A CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT DEPENDS ON A CONCERTED EFFORT OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE AND CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY THE GOVERNMENT ALONE.

THIS WAS STATED BY A REGIONAL COUNCILLOR, DR PANG HOK-TUEN, AT A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE 1990 INTER-SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION SPEECH AND SONG CONTESTS HELD AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL TODAY (SATURDAY).

DR PANG POINTED OUT THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT COULD ONLY ATTAIN A TEMPORARY DETERRENT EFFECT AND THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WAS TO AROUSE CIVIC AWARENESS AMONG THE PUBLIC THROUGH HEALTH EDUCATION.

ALSO SPEAKING WAS URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR ARTHUR CHAM. HE CALLED UPON PARENTS AND TEACHERS TO EDUCATE THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS ON CIVIC AND HEALTH MATTERS, MAKING THEM REALISE THE NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR A GOOD AND HEALTHY LIFE.

THE SPEECH AND SONG CONTESTS, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WERE ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ENHANCE HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG STUDENTS.

THE THEME FOR BOTH CONTESTS WAS "TO BE HAPPY, TO BE CLEAN".

THE CONTESTS RECEIVED AN OVERWHELMING RESPONSE WITH SOME 1,900 STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 110 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING.

THE WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP OF BOTH CONTESTS WERE PRESENTED WITH TROPHIES AND BOOK COUPONS WORTH BETWEEN \$400 AND \$1,600.

TROPHIES WERE ALSO AWARDED TO THE BEST LYRICISTS IN THE SONG CONTEST.

FOLLOWING THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY, GUESTS WERE TREATED TO PERFORMANCES BY THE WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP OF BOTH CONTESTS.

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ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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A ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT THE SOCCER PITCHES NEAR THE ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUND.

THE CARNIVAL WILL FEATURE A ROAD SAFETY QUIZ, STALL GAMES, KARAOKE, AN EXHIBITION AND A CHILDREN FASHION SHOW.

THE ROAD SAFETY BUS WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED THERE TO OFFER GAMES ON ROAD SAFETY.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR DISC JOCKEYS AND LOCAL TALENT GROUPS.

RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE CARNIVAL, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM AT THE WONG CHUK HANG HARD-SURFACE SOCCER PITCHES, NEAR THE ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUND.

THE CARNIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER.

THOSE WHO WANT TO MAKE USE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTHERN CENTRE CARPARK, JOHNSTON ROAD, WAN CHAI BY 1.15 PM.

INFORMATION OFFICER, MR ALEX LI, WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.

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