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MARCH RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS OUT

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN MARCH 1986, ESTIMATED AT $5 716 MILLION, WAS 3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN MARCH 1985, WHILE THEIR VOLUME REMAINED UNCHANGED, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1985, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 3 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME.

+OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ AND CONSUMER DURABLES RECORDED INCREASES OF 3 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASES OF 1 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SALES VOLUME. FUELS WENT DOWN BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT REMAINED UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES BY SUPERMARKETS INCREASED MODERATELY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. BOTH MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES SHOWED SLIGHT INCREASES IN SALES VALUE BUT SLIGHT DECREASES IN SALES VOLUME. DEPARTMENT STORES RECORDED NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE BUT A SLIGHT DECREASE IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986 WITH THAT OF 1985, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT FELL BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 6 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME. THOSE OF CONSUMER DURABLES WENT UP BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO RECORDED INCREASES OF 1 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME. FUELS SHOWED NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE BUT INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. ON THE OTHER HAND, +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES BY SUPERMARKETS SHOWED MODERATE INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. MOTOR VEHICLES ROSE MODERATELY IN SALES VALUE BUT LESS SO IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES SHOWED SLIGHT DECREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR MARCH 1986 ROSE BY 3 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FUELS ROSE BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 13 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

/BOTH CONSUMER .....

BOTH CONSUMER DURABLES AND +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ WENT UP BY 6 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE. THEIR RESPECTIVE INCREASES IN SALES VOLUME WERE 6 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO RECORDED NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE BUT SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT DOWN BY 9 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 11 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES ROSE MODERATELY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, WHILE THOSE OF SUPERMARKETS SHOWED MODERTATE DECREASES.

RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL SALES FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY 1986 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR MARCH 1986.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF MARCH 1986 RESULTS WITH THOSE OF FEBRUARY 1986 AND MARCH 1985 AND COMPARISONS OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD JANUARY 1986-MARCH 1986 WITH THOSE IN THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO ARE ALSO GIVEN.

GRAPHS 1 AND 2 DEPICT THE MOVEMENTS OF THE INDEXES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, INCLUDING THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEXES AND TRENDS, FROM JANUARY 1983 TO FEBRUARY 1986.

AS SHOWN IN GRAPH 1, OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE VALUE INDEX OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY BUT DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. THESE MOVEMENTS WERE LARGELY DUE TO THE FESTIVE SPENDING AT CHRISTMAS AND LUNAR NEW YEAR. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SALES VALUE INDEX AND TREND HAVE GENERALLY FOLLOWED A SMOOTHER UPWARD COURSE OVER THE YEARS.

THE VOLUME INDEX OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, AS DEPICTED IN GRAPH 2, SHOWS A PATTERN OF MOVEMENTS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE VALUE INDEX. HOWEVER, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SALES VOLUME INDEX AND TREND RISE MUCH MORE SLOWLY THAN THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED INDEX AND TREND FOR SALES VALUE.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE MARCH 1986 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT $1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 3-7216024).

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for March 1986 (Provisional Figure) = HK$5 716 million
for February 1986 (Revised Figure) = HK$5 539 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1986

(Monthly average of 1980 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	February 1986 (Revised figures)	March 1986 (Provisional figures)	March 1986 compared with February 1986 Points	%	March 1986 compared with March 1985 Points	%	Jan. - Mar. 86 compared with Jan. - Mar. 85 Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	163	168	+ 5	+ 3	+ 5	+ 3	+ 1	+ 1
	Volume	110	113	+ 4	+ 3	*	*	- 3	- 2
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	184	184	*	*	+ 5	+ 3	+ 2	+ 1
	Volume	118	119	+ 2	+ 1	+ 4	+ 3	+ 1	+ 1
Fuels	Value	170	188	+ 17	+ 10	- 7	- 3	*	*
	Volume	110	124	+ 14	+ 13	*	*	+ 1	+ 1
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	234	214	- 21	- 9	+ 23	+ 12	+ 14	+ 6
	Volume	144	129	- 15	- 11	+ 7	+ 6	+ 1	+ 1
Consumer durables	Value	140	149	+ 9	+ 6	+ 2	+ 1	+ 3	+ 2
	Volume	99	105	+ 6	+ 6	- 3	- 3	- 2	- 2
Other consumer goods	Value	149	159	+ 10	+ 6	+ 5	+ 3	- 2	- 1
	Volume	104	110	+ 6	+ 5	- 1	- 1	- 5	- 5
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
Supermarkets	Value	375	334	- 41	- 11	+ 41	+ 14	+ 44	+ 14
	Volume	225	200	- 25	- 11	+ 23	+ 13	+ 22	+ 12
Motor vehicles	Value	91	86	- 5	- 5	+ 4	+ 5	+ 9	+ 11
	Volume	50	46	- 4	- 7	- 3	- 6	+ 1	+ 2
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles	Value	174	192	+ 18	+ 10	+ 1	+ 1	- 2	- 1
	Volume	134	146	+ 12	+ 9	- 4	- 3	- 5	- 3
Department stores	Value	158	155	- 4	- 2	*	*	- 7	- 4
	Volume	111	107	- 4	- 3	- 4	- 4	- 9	- 7

Notes : 1. "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" includes "supermarkets".
2. "Consumer durables" includes "motor vehicles".
3. "Other consumer goods" includes "department stores".
4. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.
5. * denotes no change.

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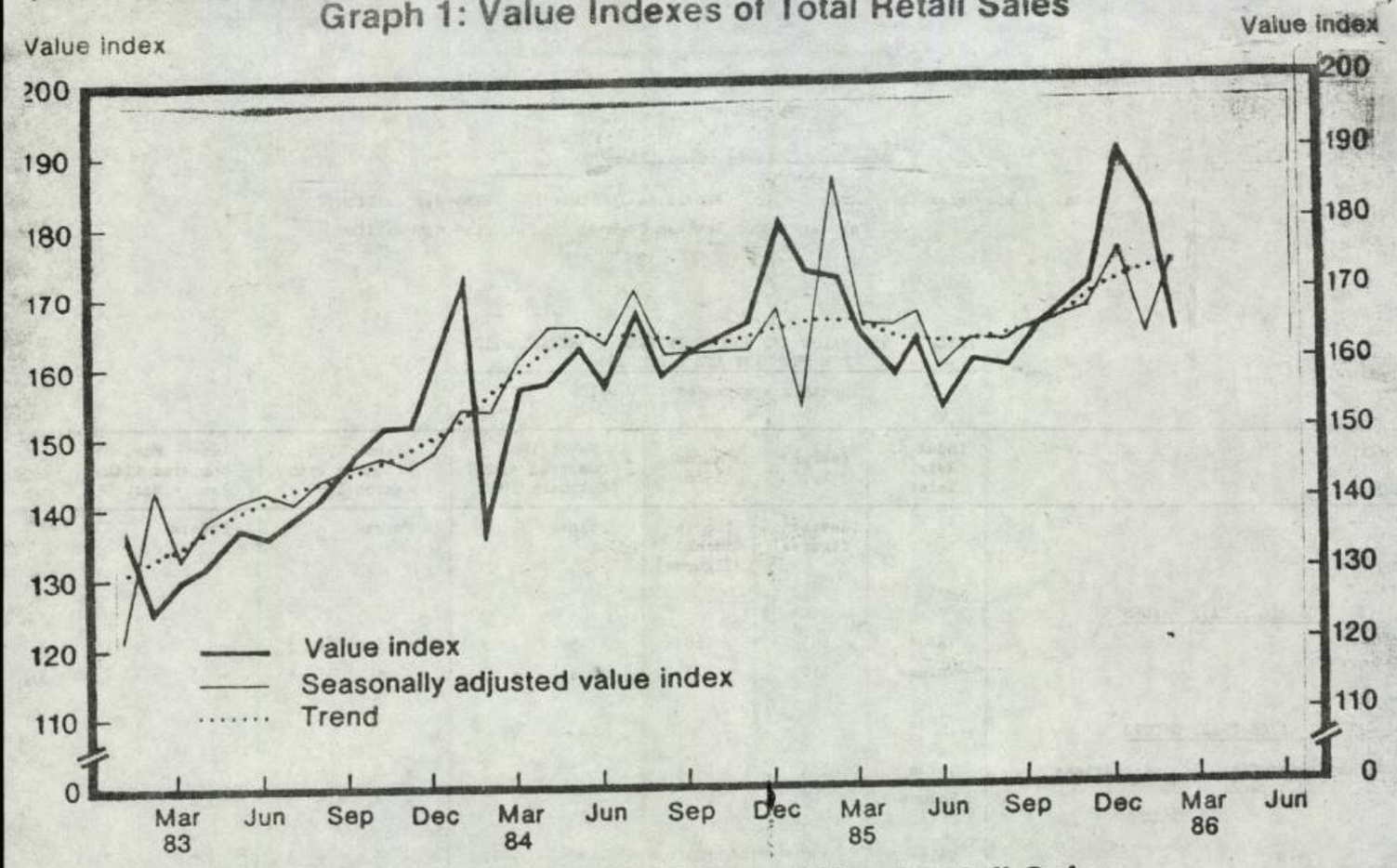
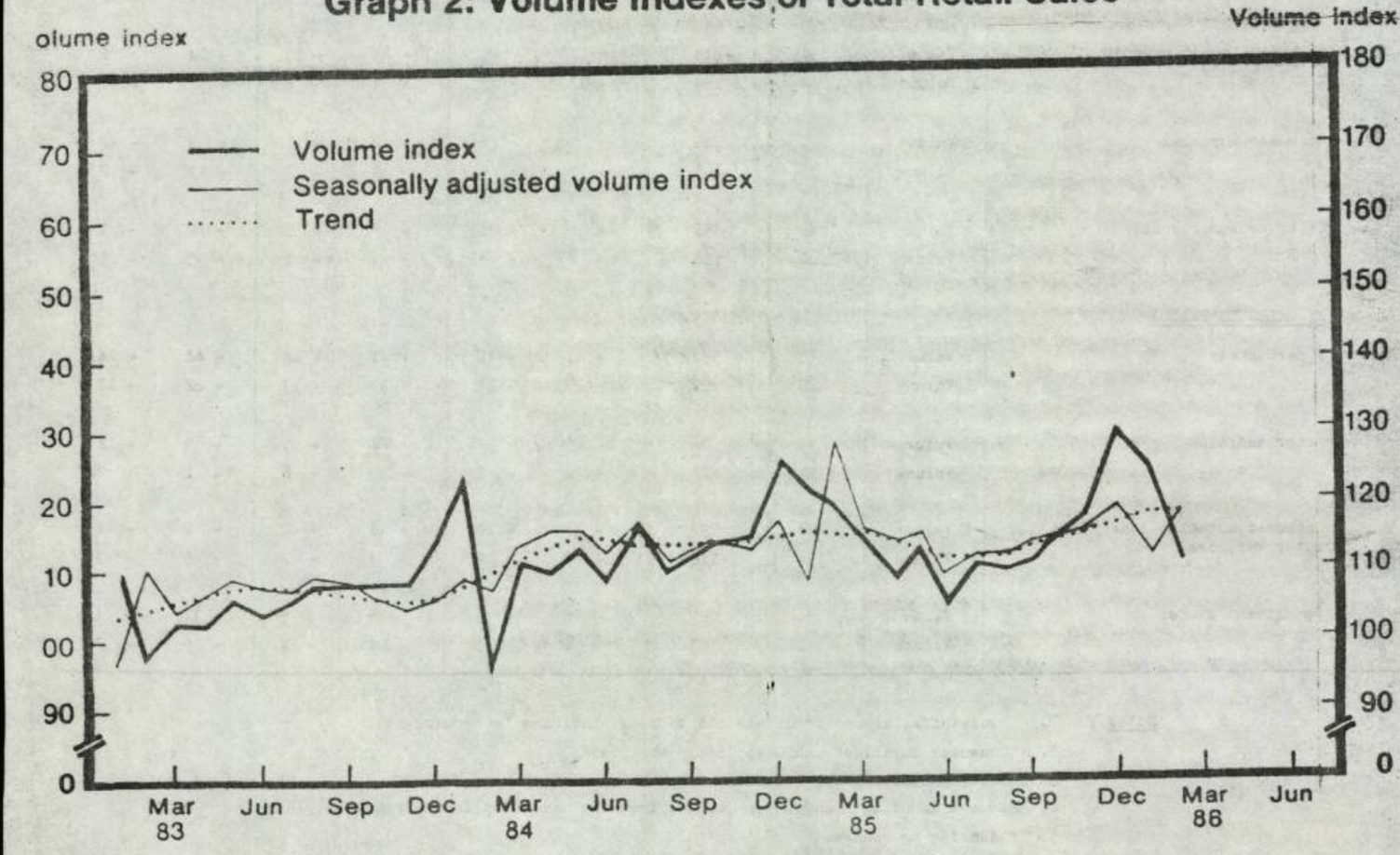
Graph 1: Value Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Graph 2: Volume Indexes of Total Retail Sales



Notes. (1) Monthy average of 1980 = 100.
(2) The seasonally adjusted value and volume indexes and Henderson trends are compiled using theX-11 variant seasonal adjustment program of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

52 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN APRIL

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A JUNIOR SCHOOL FOR THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION WAS AMONG 52 PLANS APPROVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (B.O.O.) IN APRIL.

THE FIVE-STOREY BUILDING WILL BE AT SANDY BAY.

THE B.O.O. ALSO APPROVED THE FIRST PHASE OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR THE BAPTIST CONVENTION OF HONG KONG AT ABERDEEN RESERVOIR ROAD; A CONVENT IN SHA TIN PASS ROAD FOR THE MOTHER PROVINCIAL OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS INCORPORATED; AND A SCHOOL OF SIX STOREYS IN HIP WO STREET-HONG NING ROAD FOR KOCHOW AND LUICHOW RESIDENTS (HK) ASSOCIATION LIMITED.

MOST OF THE 52 PLAN APPROVALS RELATED TO ACCOMMODATION BLOCKS. A TOTAL OF 19 APARTMENT-COMMERCIAL PROJECTS WERE GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT, INCLUDING 12 IN TEXACO ROAD, TSUEN WAN, RANGING FROM 33 TO 43 STOREYS, AND ONE IN TUEN MUN WHICH WILL CONSIST OF FIVE 33-STOREY BLOCKS.

EIGHT APARTMENT DEVELOPMENTS WERE APPROVED, INCLUDING A 28-STOREY BLOCK AT 12-14 MACDONNELL ROAD, AND A 27-STOREY BLOCK AT 27 BABINGTON PATH, BOTH ON HONG KONG ISLAND. APPROVAL WAS ALSO GIVEN TO BUILD 14 20-STOREY BLOCKS ON SITE C OF THE HENG FA CHUEN DEVELOPMENT.

OTHER APPROVALS WERE FOR A PROJECT BY HEEYUN COMPANY LIMITED AT SHA TIN COMPRISING 19 TWO-STOREY RESIDENCES AND 13 APARTMENT BLOCKS, AS WELL AS A CLUBHOUSE AND TWO CARPORTS.

FIVE FACTORY DEVELOPMENTS RECEIVED THE GO-AHEAD, INCLUDING A FOUR-STOREY BLOCK FOR COATES BROTHERS (HK) LIMITED AT TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

FOUR COMMERCIAL PROJECTS WERE APPROVED, INCLUDING TWO OF 23 AND 24 STOREYS IN HENNESSY ROAD, AND A BRIDGE WITH SHOPS IN PHASE 2 OF THE KORNHILL DEVELOPMENT.

THE HONG KONG PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO BUILD RESPECTIVELY A DORMITORY FOR A RECREATION CAMP AT TUNG CHUNG ON LANTAU ISLAND AND A SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE AT TAI LAM CHUNG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

OF THE 52 PLANS APPROVED, 18 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SIX WERE IN KOWLOON AND 28 WERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DURING THE MONTH, PERMISSION WAS GIVEN FOR WORK TO START ON 42 PROJECTS.

/OCCUPATION PERMITS .....

OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED FOR A TOTAL OF 21 BUILDINGS, OF WHICH 11 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, FOUR IN KOWLOON AND SIX IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED 22 RESIDENCES IN PLANTATION, SEVERN AND MOUNT AUSTIN ROADS ON HONG KONG ISLAND; A SEVEN-STOREY EXTENSION TO ST PAUL'S CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE IN MACDONNELL ROAD; AND A COMMERCIAL AND 867-ROOM HOTEL DEVELOPMENT, EACH OF 40 STOREYS, IN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

THERE WERE ALSO SIX 31- AND 32-STOREY APARTMENT BLOCKS IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE KORNHILL DEVELOPMENT; A DEPOT FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AT LEI YUE MUN; THREE WORKSHOPS IN KOWLOON BAY AND A FURTHER WORKSHOP IN FO TAN; AND A 753-ROOM HOTEL IN SHA TIN.

IN APRIL, THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF BUILDINGS COMPLETED WAS 279 487.3 SQUARE METRES VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY $1 849 MILLION.

IN THE SAME MONTH, THE B.O.O. GAVE CONSENT FOR 38 BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED.

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ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY ONE PLACES OUT ON SATURDAY

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RESULTS OF THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY ONE PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, UNDER THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION SYSTEM, WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON SATURDAY (JUNE 7).

OF 34 653 CHILDREN TAKING PART IN THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION, 22 330, REPRESENTING 64.5 PER CENT, HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO SCHOOLS OF THEIR PARENTS' FIRST THREE CHOICES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

PARENTS ARE REQUESTED TO GO BACK TO THE DISTRIBUTION-COLLECTION CENTRE IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT ON SATURDAY (JUNE 7) OR SUNDAY (JUNE 8) BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM TO COLLECT AN ALLOCATION SLIP.

THE SLIP CONTAINS THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SCHOOL TO WHICH THEIR CHILD HAS BEEN ALLOCATED, TOGETHER WITH THE DATES AND DETAILS FOR REGISTRATION.

PARENTS ARE REQUESTED TO BRING THEIR CHILD TO THE SCHOOL TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORMALITIES ON JUNE 12 OR 13.

THE REGISTRATION HOURS FOR AM SCHOOLS WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO NOON AND FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM FOR PM SCHOOLS.

/FOR WHOLE-DAY .....

FOR WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLS, THE REGISTRATION HOURS WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO NOON AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM.

PARENTS WHO FOR PERSONAL REASONS CANNOT REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN WITH THE SCHOOLS TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOLS DIRECT OR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT BEFOREHAND FOR ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PARENTS WHO FAILED TO DO SO WOULD BE DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN UP THE PLACES ALLOCATED.

THE ALLOCATION SLIP SHOULD BE SURRENDERED TO THE SCHOOL DURING REGISTRATION AND PARENTS MUST NOTE THAT ALL PLACES ALLOCATED ARE FINAL.

HOWEVER, IF PARENTS HAVE DIFFICULTIES SUCH AS HAVING MOVED TO ANOTHER DISTRICT AND THE ALLOCATED SCHOOL IS TOO FAR AWAY FROM THEIR NEW HOME, THEY CAN APPROACH THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT AT 269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, SECOND FLOOR, WAN CHAI, TO SEEK ASSISTANCE.

+THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG SUPPORTING DOCUMENTARY PROOF SUCH AS RENTAL RECEIPTS, RATES DEMAND NOTES, WATER OR ELECTRICITY BILLS BEARING THE NAME OF THE CHILD'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IF THEIR REQUESTS ARE JUSTIFIED, THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT WILL TRY TO FIND PLACES FOR THEIR CHILDREN AT A SCHOOL NEARER TO THEIR NEW HOME,+ HE SAID.

PARENTS WHO FIND IT NECESSARY TO CHANGE SCHOOL AFTER REGISTRATION ARE ADVISED TO GET AN ASSURANCE OF ACCEPTANCE FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL BEFORE THEY TAKE BACK THE ALLOCATION SLIP FROM THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL AS RETRIEVAL OF THE SLIP WOULD MEAN THE CANCELLATION OF THE PLACE.

PARENTS WHO HAD SECURED A DISCRETIONARY PLACE AND HAD ALREADY REGISTERED WITH A SCHOOL LATE LAST YEAR NEED NOT REPEAT REGISTRATION FORMALITIES.

ANY PARENT WISHING TO MAKE FURTHER ENQUIRIES MAY CONTACT THE UNIT AT 5-724383 DURING OFFICE HOURS ON OR AFTER SATURDAY (JUNE 7).

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MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES FOR MONG KOK RESIDENTS

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RESIDENTS IN MONG KOK DISTRICT CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A SERIES OF EXCITING AND MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES ORGANISED AND SPONSORED BY THEIR DISTRICT BOARD.

THE BOARD HAS SET ASIDE $500 000 TO ENABLE ITS COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TO HELP ORGANISE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

SPORTS AND GAMES WILL BE PROMINENT IN THE PROGRAMME. A 'SPORTS FORTNIGHT' WILL BE HELD TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR FOR ENTHUSIASTS AND ENERGETIC RESIDENTS. THERE WILL BE TABLE TENNIS AND MINI-SOCCER MATCHES, A DISTRICT-WIDE ATHLETIC MEETING, DEMONSTRATIONS OF SPORTS AND SKILLS, AND ALSO PERFORMANCES BY WELL-KNOWN TEAMS IN PARTICULAR SPORTS.

A TOTAL OF $30 000 WILL GO TOWARDS THIS EVENT WHICH WILL BE ORGANISED JOINTLY WITH THE MONG KOK DISTRICT CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION, WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD HAVE GENERALLY AGREED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL AND THAT A PRAGMATIC APPROACH SHOULD BE ADOPTED.

THEY HAVE ALLOCATED $48 000 FOR ORGANISING ACTIVITIES TO WIDEN RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF CIVIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES AND ALSO TO HEIGHTEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

TO MARK INTERNATIONAL PEACE YEAR, THE BOARD HAS APPROVED $10 000 FOR SPONSORING A CONCERT TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF PEACE THROUGH POPULAR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AND ALSO TO ENTERTAIN HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

BESIDES THESE ACTIVITIES, THE BOARD HAS SET ASIDE FUNDS TO SUPPORT REGULAR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AND THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE A CONTINUITY OF EFFORTS IN PROMOTING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

APART FROM THE MAJOR CAMPAIGNS, THE BOARD HAS ALSO APPROVED SPONSORSHIP FOR EVENTS ORGANISED BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO PROMOTE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AND OWNERS INCORPORATIONS.

IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS, THE BOARD WILL BE SPONSORING 42 ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING FAMILY OUTINGS AND CAMPING, SEMINARS, TRAINING COURSES, VARIETY SHOWS AND VARIOUS SKILLS COMPETITIONS.

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BOARD MEMBERS TO VISIT URBAN COUNCIL SITES

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MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS PLANS AND WORKS COMMITTEE WILL VISIT A NUMBER OF WORK SITES ON THE URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 1986-87 TO 1990-91 TOMORROW (TUESDAY) MORNING.

THE PLACES SELECTED FOR VISIT INCLUDE SITES FOR A PARK AND AN INDOOR GAMES HALL IN THE WESTERN RECLAMATION, THE CHUN SING STREET UC COMPLEX, THE SMITHFIELD UC COMPLEX, THE PROPOSED REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT CAINE ROAD AND THE PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AT CAINE LANE.

THE VISIT WILL HELP MEMBERS GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKS PROGRAMME BEFORE A DISCUSSION AT THE BOARD'S PLANS AND WORKS COMMITTEE ON THE SUBJECT TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM NEXT FRIDAY (JUNE 13).

THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL ACCOMPANY MEMBERS ON THE VISIT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO JOIN THE SITE VISIT SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT 9.15 AM TOMORROW AT THE FOUNTAIN AREA ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED.

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DELEGATES LEAVE FOR ILO CONFERENCE

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A TRIPARTITE HONG KONG DELEGATION HAS LEFT FOR GENEVA TO ATTEND THE 72ND SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A TRIPARTITE DELEGATION INCLUDING EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES HAS SENT TO THE CONFERENCE. THE MOVE WILL ENABLE THE REPRESENTATIVES TO GAIN MORE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND CONTACTS.

PREVIOUSLY HONG KONG HAD BEEN REPRESENTED BY AN OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHO ACTED AS ADVISER TO THE BRITISH DELEGATION.

/MEMBERS OF .....

MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION INCLUDE THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, MR LEE SHING-CHU OF THE TRADE UNIONS COUNCIL, AND DR LUI MING-WAH OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION. MR LEE AND DR LUI ARE REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS RESPECTIVELY.

THE CONFERENCE, WHICH STARTS ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 4), IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL JUNE 25. THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE FOR THE FIRST TEN DAYS AND THEN RETURN BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY DUTY COMMITMENTS OF THE MEMBERS.

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EYE CARE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY

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THE KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND THE KWAI CHUNG ROTARY CLUB, IS ORGANISING AN +EYE CARING CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY+ IN KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT.

THE MONTH-LONG CAMPAIGN, TO BEGIN SOON, WILL AIM AT ADVISING ELDERLY PEOPLE ABOUT OPHTHALMIC SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE AND ALSO AT MAKING THEM MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EYE CARE.

A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 4) IN THE CORAL ROOM OF FURAMA HOTEL, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, AT 3 PM.

KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO TUNG-CHING, CHAIRMAN OF TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR ROBERT CHAN CHIN-YUAN, AND PRESIDENT OF KWAI CHUNG ROTARY CLUB, MR LAURENT LAM KWING-CHEE, WILL SPEAK AT THE CONFERENCE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE +EYE CARING CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY+ PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 3 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 4) IN THE CORAL ROOM OF THE FURAMA HOTEL IN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

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INDUSTRY OFFICIAL ON PROMOTIONAL VISIT
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR TONY EASON, LEFT HONG KONG OVER THE WEEKEND ON A PROMOTIONAL VISIT TO EUROPE.

IN PARIS, MR EASON WILL BRIEF JOURNALISTS INFORMALLY ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG AND ON INVESTMENT AND TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA. IN ADDITION, HE WILL VISIT SOME FACTORIES AND HOLD TALKS WITH THE FRENCH EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION TO PROMOTE HONG KONG AS A LOCATION FOR FRENCH MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT.

MR EASON WILL GO ON TO LYON ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 4) WHERE HE WILL SPEAK AT A SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS (BNP) AND THE LYON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PRESENTING HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND THE OPPORTUNITY THEY PRESENT TO FRENCH MANUFACTURERS.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A PROMOTIONAL VISIT TO LYON.

DURING THE TRIP, MR EASON WILL ALSO VISIT HIS DEPARTMENT'S INVESTMENT PROMOTION OFFICES IN STUTTGART AND LONDON, AND WILL HOLD TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OF BRITAIN'S DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

HE IS DUE TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON JUNE 11.

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GOOD PROSPECTS FOR AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT
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THERE IS CONSIDERABLE AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG, THE PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, MR C.L. CHU, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

MR CHU HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A THREE-WEEK INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTIONAL MISSION TO AUSTRALIA.

MR CHU SPENT 10 DAYS IN SYNDEY, FOUR DAYS IN NEWCASTLE AND A WEEK IN BRISBANE, HAVING MEETINGS INVOLVING OVER 50 COMPANIES AND ALSO BANKS, TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

/+COMPANIES IN .....

+COMPANIES IN FIELDS OF METALS, ENGINEERING, MACHINERY, CHEMICAL AND PLASTIC INDUSTRIES HAVE SHOWN KEEN INTEREST IN MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG. TWELVE HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD FOLLOW UP THEIR INTEREST BY VISITING HONG KONG IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS,+ MR CHU SAID.

+TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM, A SIMILAR MISSION HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR LATER THIS YEAR TO OTHER AUSTRALIAN CITIES,+

AT PRESENT, AUSTRALIA RANKS EIGHT IN THE LEAGUE OF OVERSEAS COUNTRIES INVESTING IN HONG KONG WITH A TOTAL OF 28 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS AND TOTAL INVESTMENT ESTIMATED AT ABOUT $191 MILLION.

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SHA TIN READY FOR DRAGON BOAT RACES

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THERE WILL BE A FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE AT THE SHING MUN RIVER ON JUNE 11 (WEDNESDAY) WHEN DRAGON BOATS OF ALL SIZES COMPETE FOR TOP HONOURS IN THE SHA TIN DRAGON BOAT RACES.

THE ANNUAL DRAGON BOAT COMPETITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WILL GIVE RESIDENTS EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL, A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IN RESPONSE TO THE RACE INVITATION, 90 TEAMS HAVE ENTERED THE COMPETITION, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, PRIVATE COMPANIES, AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS,+ HE SAID.

THE RACES, WHICH WILL INCLUDE A WOMEN'S SECTION, WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE DIVISIONS, FEATURING MEDIUM BOATS, SMALL BOATS AND PHOENIX DRAGON BOATS. ALTOGETHER, THERE ARE 36 TEAMS ENTERED FOR THE MEDIUM, 36 FOR SMALL AND 18 FOR THE PHOENIX RACES.

THE COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE SHING MUN RIVER BETWEEN THE SAN MARTIN BRIDGE AND THE BANYON BRIDGE, COVERING A DISTANCE OF 650 METRES.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR.

MORE THAN 50 000 SPECTATORS ARE EXPECTED TO WATCH FROM VANTAGE POINTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER BANK AND ON THE SAN MARTIN BRIDGE.

THE SECTION OF THE CYCLE TRACK OF THE PROMENADE BETWEEN SAN MARTIN BRIDGE AND THE BANYON BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED TO CYCLISTS FROM 7.30 AM TO 2 PM.

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THE SAN MARTIN BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC GOING TO THE DRAGON BOAT RACES ARE ADVISED TO TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THE COST OF ORGANISING THE COMPETITION WAS MORE THAN $300 000, OF WHICH $36 000 WAS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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DRAGON BOAT HIGHLIGHT OF EXHIBITION

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A DRAGON BOAT WILL BE ON DISPLAY WHEN AN EXHIBITION ON THE ORIGINS OF DRAGON BOAT RACES IN HONG KONG BEGINS AT CITIPLAZA IN TAIKOO SHING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE EXHIBITION, ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, CITIPLAZA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, EASTERN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION. THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD CONTRIBUTED $9 600 TOWARDS THE EVENT.

THE MAIN ATTRACTION OF THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WILL RUN FOR 17 DAYS, IS THE 11.6-METRE-LONG DRAGON BOAT, EQUIPPED WITH BANNERS, PARASOL, DRUM, GONG AND PADDLES.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 6 PM TOMORROW. THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BOWEN LEUNG, AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER ORGANISERS WILL OFFICIATE.

BESIDES THIS, A JOINT EXHIBITION ON THE WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF CITIPLAZA FROM JUNE 10 TO 16.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOMED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT DRAGON BOAT DISPLAY AND EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT 6 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF CITIPLAZA, TAIKOO SHING.

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MANAGEMENT STAFF NEEDS BEING SURVEYED

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THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY TRAINING WILL BEGIN A SURVEY TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO ASCERTAIN THE MANPOWER AND TRAINING NEEDS OF MANAGEMENT STAFF IN HONG KONG.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY NOTES WERE SENT TWO WEEKS AGO TO ABOUT 2 000 COMPANIES, WHICH WERE SELECTED AT RANDOM. INTERVIEWERS FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ARE NOW VISITING THESE COMPANIES TO COLLECT THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES AND, IF NECESSARY, TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THEM.

EMPLOYERS OF THESE COMPANIES ARE URGED TO CO-OPERATE BY PROVIDING INFORMATION, WHICH WILL BE USED TO FORMULATE MANPOWER TRAINING PLANS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MANAGEMENT STAFF.

THE INFORMATION COLLECTED IN THE SURVEY WILL BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES, THE COUNCIL HAS STRESSED.

THE SURVEY WILL BE COMPLETED ON JUNE 30.

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ORAL ENGLISH COURSE FOR JOURNALISTS

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JOURNALISTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN ENGLISH ORAL SKILLS COURSE ORGANISED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

THE COURSE IN EARLY JULY IS ONE OF A SERIES PLANNED BY THE COUNCIL'S JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF JOURNALISTS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND 12 THREE-HOUR SESSIONS IN THE MORNING OF MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, STARTING FROM JULY 7.

COURSE FEE IS $950, BUT EACH PARTICIPANT PAYS $150 ONLY AND THE BALANCE WILL BE BORNE BY THE COUNCIL PROVIDED HE OR SHE COMPLETES THE COURSE WITH AN ATTENDANCE RATE OF NOT LESS THAN 70 PER CENT. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS JUNE 23.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COURSE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD, ON TEL. 5-8932341 EXT. 284 DURING OFFICE HOUR.

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NEW PUMPING STATION AT MA CHAI HANG

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FRESH WATER PUMPING STATION TO BE SITUATED NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO LION ROCK PARK, MA CHAI HANG.

THE NEW PUMPING STATION WILL BE A SINGLE STOREY STRUCTURE WITH A FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 130 SQUARE METRES.

IT FORMS PART OF THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM THAT WILL MEET ADDITIONAL DEMAND ARISING FROM NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE MA CHAI HANG AND CHUK YUEN AREA.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JUNE AND TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 46.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 269.940 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 322.254 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 55.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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YUEN LONG WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN YUEN LONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 5) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG), KUK TING STREET, SAI TAI STREET, YUEN LONG ON NING ROAD, TAI KIU ROAD AND YUEN FAT PATH. THE AFFECTED AREA ALSO INCLUDES TUNG LOK STREET, FUK HONG STREET, PAU CHUNG STREET, KIU LOK SQUARE, SAU FU STREET, FOOK TAK STREET, FOOK TAK AND FOOK YAT PATH.

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