

Mr. J. Chan

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# \$100m China ship plant for Tsing Yi

**CHINA is building a \$100 million shipyard on the western coast of Tsing Yi Island.**

The first stage of the project, including the construction of repair berths, workshops and office buildings, is well advanced and is expected to be completed within 12 months.

A floating dock already has been installed.

Lease for 11.6 hectares of land at Nimwan was today signed by Secretary for N.T. Akers-Jones and the Yiu Lian Machinery Repairing Works Ltd managing director Chan Chung.

The company is a Hong-kong-registered one closely associated with China Merchants Steam Navigation Co Ltd and the project is financed by the Bank of China.

Mr Akers-Jones said today the Island already contributed a large part of Hongkong's commitment to the shipping industry and the new project would provide a further boost.

The land would be used

extensively for shipbuilding, repair and ancillary services and would involve the installation of a floating dock, construction of a slipway, alongside repair berths and other buildings, including quarters for workers.

When fully operational, the project would provide jobs for 2,500 people.

Mr Akers-Jones said permission was first given to the company to start site formation work in April 1977, pending the formalisation of details.

Facilities at the yard were expected to cater for more than 200 ships a year at the alongside berths and slipway and about 50 ships a year at the floating dock, together with shipbuilding work as orders were received.

The Government welcomed this "significant addition" to Hongkong's shipping industry and the investment involved.

Mr Akers-Jones said Tsing Yi was a much better location for shipbuilding and repairing than the central harbour area because it was situated on the western approach of the harbour.

At present the island had three dockyards under construction, a power station and other industries included those of Dow Chemical, Outboard Marine, Chemsyn and the Feoso Oil Storage Depot.

These projects represented investments of millions of dollars in Hongkong and should be of great long-term benefit.

Mr Akers-Jones said the industrial development on the Island was being accompanied by housing and other community facilities as part of the overall development of Tsunwan as a new town.

The projected population of Tsing Yi was about 190,000 by the mid-1980s.

The industrial plants on the island would provide many employment facilities for those who lived there.