

# **1997 proves top draw for tourists**

THE 1997 issue has helped boost Hongkong's tourist industry.

Hongkong Tourist Association Executive Director John Pain yesterday said this was because worldwide publicity on the political problem had made Hongkong known to more people in other countries.

Curiosity has enticed visitors to visit the territory, Mr Pain said.

He said tourists have brought \$11.3 billion to the territory last year.

He said about 2.8 million visitors came to Hongkong in 1983 and each of them spent an average of \$3,900.

Mr Pain said shopping remained the biggest source of tourism revenue.

The Tourist Association, therefore, is planning to hold courses for people in the shopping trade to improve the standard of their service, he said.

The future prospect is good, Mr Pain said. Hongkong has already registered a 9 per cent growth in the number of tourist so far this year.

Mr Pain said the HKTA was also working closely with China to help boost the tourist industry for both sides.