

INAUGURATION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES TO TAP MUN
on October 14, 1978

Speech by Sir Lawrence Kadoorie

Your Excellency, Mr. Wong, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

a. Today is a great day for the residents of Tap Mun. By the simple turning of a switch electricity will bring you a good and willing servant and will provide that transition from an era of darkness to an era of light - a leap forward from past centuries into the modern age.

b. This ceremony marks another milestone in China Light's rural electrification scheme, which has as its objective the provision of electricity to isolated communities in the New Territories. Since the inception of the scheme in 1961 some 650 villages, representing 47,000 families, have received supply.

c. The electrification of north Sai Kung has progressively provided electricity to the villages of Chek Keng, Tai Long, Sai Wan, Kau Lau Wan, and, now, Tap Mun. A few smaller communities have also been given supplies, and the total number of consumers connected under this scheme to date is 366, 182 of whom are here on Tap Mun itself.

d. Few people realise the planning, effort and hard work put in by so many which precedes the supply of electricity.

On this occasion in particular, I would like to gratefully acknowledge the assistance so readily provided by:-

The Sai Kung and Tai Po District Offices

The Joint Air Task Cell, HQBF

The Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force

28 Squadron, Royal Air Force

28 Squadron, Gurkha Transport Regiment.

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- e. I must also commend the China Light engineers. They have built 17 kilometers of overhead lines on this project through some of the loveliest countryside in the New Territories, and the fact that I had to look hard and long to locate any of these lines this morning says a lot for the low environmental impact of properly sited lines built on wood poles.
- f. In conclusion, I would stress that our new consumers in the Sai Kung Peninsula may depend at all times on China Light for prompt assistance and technical advice in all matters regarding their electricity supplies.
- g. It now gives me great pleasure to call upon His Excellency, the Governor of Hong Kong, to officially inaugurate this, the Tap Mun and North Sai Kung Electrification scheme.