

Hong Kong losing status as China's 'great mall'

By Ben Bland in Hong Kong

Kingdom Jewellery is trying to stand out among the eerily quiet luxury stores in Hong Kong's Causeway Bay, once the world's most expensive shopping district in terms of rents.

But while it has hung signs promoting a "crazy sale" and payment by installments in the window, buyers are still scarce.

"Our customer flow has dropped 60-70 percent" since the peak of Chinese luxury spending in 2013, says manager Jacky Sze. "I don't have much hope for the rest of this year, or next."

Before demand was hit by President Xi Jinping's corruption crackdown and the economic slowdown, Chinese tourists were happy to spend up to HKD100,000 (USD12,890) on a single purchase at Kingdom. Now many customers are reluctant to spend more than HKD1,000 at a time, according to Mr Sze.

The jewellery shop next door has closed down after decades of thriving business, as have many other luxury goods stores across Hong Kong, which is losing its status as the great mall of China.

Retail sales in Hong Kong fell by 10 percent in the first seven months of the year, compared with the same period in 2015, with purchases of jewellery and watches declining by 22 percent.

Ahead of Hong Kong's annual watch fair last week, the Chinese territory was overtaken by the US as the world's biggest market for Swiss watches after eight years in



In this photo people are seen moving through a shopping mall in Hong Kong

the top spot.

Part of the problem for Hong Kong, which relies on the retail sector as an economic driver, is its increasingly testy relationship with mainland China. That has deterred many Chinese visitors, with numbers falling by 9 percent year on year to 24 million in the year to July.

But there is a bigger structural problem for the global luxury goods industry, which has grown to rely on demand from China's growing ranks of nouveaux riches.

Analysts at UBS estimate that Swatch, the Swiss watch group, made 47 percent of its sales to

Chinese customers last year, while for Richemont, the Swiss luxury goods company that owns Cartier, Jaeger-LeCoultre and Montblanc, it was 38 percent.

Edward Olver, the chief executive of Britannia Elevation, which promotes British luxury brands abroad, says too many companies took a "combine harvester" approach to selling in China and are now paying the price for over expansion.

"There was a tremendous period of people making money very quickly in China and a lot of Italian and French brands thought there's a lot of corn to be harvested," he said.

Sarah Quinlan, the head of market insights for the analytics division of MasterCard, the credit card company, says consumer spending patterns are changing in China, with a greater focus on experiences rather than expensive products.

"There's a real debate as to whether what we call traditional luxury - handbags or watches - will come back to the same extent that we saw before because there's been a huge behavioural shift," she says. "We still see the Chinese travelling extensively, but spending on goods has moderated and spending on hotels, restaurants and entertainment has gone up."

Hong Kong needs a "permanent restructuring" because it cannot wait for demand from high-spending Chinese tourists to come back, according to Ramesh Tainwala, the chief executive of Samsonite, the luggage maker.

His own company has been changing tack, promoting less expensive products in the Chinese market as it tries to emphasise the practical advantages of its suitcases rather than their luxury appeal.

Other companies are also being forced to trade down, selling simpler, cheaper products to customers who are growing more interested in specifications and value rather than mere status symbols.

Timothy Kao, vice-president of the Hong Kong Watch Manufacturers Association, explains that previously Chinese buyers were simply attracted by the most expensive products.

"But now practical watches with a realistic price sell better," he says.

Liz Lee, assistant marketing manager at Doxa, a Swiss maker of diving watches, says that another response to the decline is to seek out new markets.

"The greater China market is saturated right now," she says. "We are looking to diversify our market to the Middle East; places like Iran have great potential too."

Additional reporting by Gloria Cheung and Christian Shepherd

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Asian Politics: The pivot to Phnom Penh

By James Kynge, Leila Haddou and Michael Peel

In Cambodia's Chinese business community, "Big Brother Fu" is a name to be reckoned with. A former officer in China's People's Liberation Army, his thick-set build and parade-ground voice reinforce the authority suggested by his nickname. But his physical bearing pales next to the heft of his political connections. Few, if any, foreign investors in this small but strategically

important Southeast Asian nation enjoy access as favoured as that of Fu Xianting.

At state events, Mr Fu wears an official red sash studded with gold insignia, attire that hints at his ties to Hun Sen, Cambodia's authoritarian ruler. So close is Mr Fu to the prime minister that the leader of his personal bodyguard unit, some of whose members have been convicted of savage assaults on opposition lawmakers, calls him "a brother" and

has pledged to "create a safe passage for all of Mr Fu's endeavours".

These connections have helped Mr Fu and his company, Unite International, win a rare concession to develop one of the most beautiful stretches of Cambodia's coastline into a USD5.7bn tourist destination. More broadly, they signal how big money, secret dealings and high-level backing from China's Communist party have helped pull Phnom Penh firmly into Beijing's

sphere of influence.

As China has sought to assert its authority in the South China Sea, some Southeast Asian nations have bolstered their ties with the US, including Vietnam and the Philippines. Cambodia is China's staunchest counterweight, giving the country of 15 million people an outsized role in one of the world's most fraught geopolitical tussles. With an effective veto in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the region's top diplomatic

grouping, Cambodia has a weapon to wield on China's behalf.

Mr Fu's story shows how private Chinese companies, backed by Beijing's diplomatic resources and the unrivalled muscle of its state-run banks, are spearheading a commercial engagement that helps form the foundation for China's political and strategic ambitions.

"In terms of money, China is the number one," says Phay Siphon, Cambodia's minister of state within the

council of ministers. "The power of China is getting much bigger [...] we choose China because [its investment] does not come with conditions.

"A number of western investments come with attachments," he adds. "[They say] we have to be good in democracy. We have to be good in human rights. But in Cambodia we went through a civil war and we understand that if you have no food in your stomach, you cannot have human rights."

Asian Politics: The pivot to Phnom Penh (continued)

An investigation by the Financial Times reveals the favoured treatment that Chinese companies have won from Cambodia's leadership, resulting in the award of land that far exceeded legal size limits, the apparent overriding of a state decree for the benefit of a Chinese investor and official support against the protests of dispossessed farmers.

An analysis of state documents shows that in several cases, Chinese investments were facilitated personally by Mr Hun Sen, a ruler of 31 years who insists on being referred to as "Lord Prime Minister and Supreme Military Commander". Global Witness, the UK campaign group, claimed in a report this year that the Cambodian leader presides over a "huge network of secret dealmaking and nepotism" that has allowed his family to amass stakes in leading industries and help "secure the prime minister's political fortress".

Cambodia's government has accused Global Witness of having an agenda and refused to comment on its allegations. Mr Phay Siphon did not reply to repeated phone calls and emails about the Global Witness report.

Mr Hun Sen's personal assistance was crucial in providing Mr Fu, 67, with his early break. A letter written in October 2009 by the prime minister wishes Mr Fu "complete success" in developing a 33 square-kilometer area of coastal land on a 99-year lease - even though some of the land fell within a protected national park. The prime minister also set up a special committee with representatives from seven ministries to assist with the project's execution.

"I express my personal thanks and support for your company to carry out this tourism project," Mr Hun Sen wrote in the letter, seen by the FT. It is dated nine months after Mr Fu's company donated 220 motorbikes to Mr Hun Sen's bodyguard unit, a 3,000-strong private army equipped with armoured personnel carriers, missile launchers and Chinese-made machine guns. The gift was the latest in a series of donations to the unit, which is



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen pockets his receipt after paying a traffic fine for driving a village motorbike without a helmet, at a local police station in Phnom Penh, on June 24

charged with guarding the prime minister and his wife, Bun Rany, officially known as the "Most Glorious and Upright Person of Genius".

In an account of the ceremony at which the motorbikes were presented - published on the Chinese company's website - Sok An, a deputy prime minister, was quoted as "thanking the Unite Group for this gift of 220 motorbikes and several previous donations of material assistance to Hun Sen's bodyguard [...] which have fulfilled the duty of donation to the royal government".

Unite formed a "military-commercial alliance" with the bodyguard unit in April 2010, a highly unusual arrangement for a foreign company in Cambodia. At a ceremony

to celebrate the alliance, Lieutenant General Hing Bunheang, commander of the bodyguards and one of Hun Sen's closest associates, showered praise on Mr Fu.

"Mr Fu is our brother of many years who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of Cambodia," Lt Gen Hing Bunheang is heard saying on a video, according to a Chinese voiceover. "Mr Fu's business is our business. We will create a safe passage for all of Mr Fu's endeavours."

Such accolades represented a high point in Mr Fu's business career, which has seen him move from at least a decade in the PLA to manager and chairman of Chinese state-owned enterprises, company documents say. His dealings in Cambodia began in the

early 1990s when he organised an exhibition of Chinese agricultural machinery. He holds a position in Beijing on a committee of the China Association of International Friendly Contact, which reports to the foreign ministry. But his business profile inside China appears almost non-existent, with corporate databases showing only a role as "legal representative" of Beijing Tian Yi Hua Sheng Technology, a company with just RMB2 million (\$300,000) in registered capital.

In Phnom Penh, though, Mr Fu is probably China's most influential businessperson, an official adviser to Hun Sen and the recipient of state and military honours. But notwithstanding these gold-plated connections, Mr Fu's investment in Cambodia has proven controversial.

Environmental groups protested that the Chinese company had been able to secure land inside the Ream National Park, which was protected from development under a royal decree. Licadho, a Cambodian human rights group, complained that hundreds of farming families were evicted from their homes. Villagers staged protests to hamper the Chinese company's work.

In May 2010, a decree from the Council of Ministers revoked licences held by Mr Fu's company for the development of the Golden Silver Gulf, the name of his proposed resort, according to a copy of the decree obtained by the FT. The document passed responsibility for the area over to the environment ministry, but it remains unclear whether development work was ever actually halted.

Contacted by phone and email, Mr Fu declined to comment on the

decree revoking his licences but said the approvals he won from Mr Hun Sen's government had been secured because of his reputation as a trusted businessman in Cambodia and had nothing to do with his "military-commercial alliance" with the bodyguard unit.

This year, a subsidiary of Unite International, Yeejia Tourism, announced several deals relating to the project, signalling a resumption of activity.

Mr Hun Sen has not always been pro-China. He once labelled it the "root of everything that is evil" because of Beijing's support for the genocidal Khmer Rouge, which killed an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians in the 1970s.

But over the past 15 years, the Cambodian leader has become China's most reliable supporter in Southeast Asia, presiding over the sale of his country's choicest assets to Chinese companies, forging military links and praising Beijing as a "most trustworthy friend".

This elevation of China has at times translated into a cold shoulder to the US, as President Barack Obama found during an East Asian summit in Phnom Penh in 2012. As the first sitting US president to visit Cambodia approached the government building, he saw two large banners proclaiming: "Long Live the People's Republic of China".

In the 20 years from 1992, when the west started to engage in building democracy in Cambodia, donor nations delivered some \$12 billion in loans and grants - a large portion of which was never spent on development but went instead to pay the salaries of expensive consultants, according to Sebastian Strangio, author of *Hun Sen's Cambodia*.

By contrast, China invested \$9.6 billion in the decade to 2013; and about a further \$13 billion is yet to come, according to the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, a think-tank.

But China's magnetism is not confined to its investment firepower. Chinese companies, backed by the China Development Bank and other powerful institutions, have a reputation for delivering crucial infrastructure projects quickly and without delays caused by human rights and environmental objections.

An example is the \$800 million Lower Sesan 2 dam being built by HydroLancang, a state-owned Chinese company. The 400MW dam has been hit by protests from thousands of villagers who are set to be displaced or lose their livelihoods, but it remains on schedule for completion in 2019.

Of some 8 million hectares (80,000 sq km) granted to companies between 1994 and 2012, nearly 60 percent or 4.6 million ha - an area larger than the Netherlands - went to Chinese interests, according to estimates by the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights, a group funded mostly by western donors.

Additional reporting by Tat Oudom

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A good friend to have

Big investment deals have cemented Beijing's relations with Phnom Penh, but they have also helped yield political dividends for China as it imposes claims to disputed areas in the South China Sea. With US destroyers sailing close to Chinese-built islands equipped with anti-ship missiles, the South China Sea has become one of the world's most highly charged flashpoints.

As regional tensions have grown, so has Cambodia's value to Beijing. Of particular use is Phnom Penh's membership in ASEAN. Because ASEAN works by consensus, the objections of one member can thwart any group initiative.

Cambodia used this effective veto to protect China in July. ASEAN was poised to issue an official statement mentioning an international tribunal's ruling that there was no basis under UN law for China's territorial claims in the South China Sea. But after Cambodia objected, a watered-down final communique was issued with no mention of the ruling.

China, which had pledged USD600 million in aid for Phnom Penh just days before the ASEAN meeting, reacted with gratitude and public delight. Wang Yi, the foreign minister, said Beijing "highly appreciates" Cambodia's stand in the meeting, which history would show was "correct". A few days after the meeting, Beijing said it would build a \$16 million National Assembly hall in Phnom Penh.

"Since the ruling against China of the [international] tribunal in July, China has offered Cambodia \$600 million in aid and in return Cambodia has at least twice blocked Asean statements criticising China," said Murray Hiebert, Southeast Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think-tank.

"Cambodia gets a lot in return. It gets foreign aid, it gets debt forgiveness and for a government that is very dependent on foreign aid, it gets critical Chinese aid. And the Chinese don't ask questions on human rights."

By Gerry Shih, Beijing

THEY have been praised by the leader of al-Qaida and wooed by the head of the Islamic State group. They have distinguished themselves on battlefields in Syria and are accused of carrying out a devastating bombing in Thailand.

In the past two years, militants belonging to the Uighur ethnic group native to the vast Xinjiang region in western China have shown signs of becoming a force in Islamic extremism globally, a development that is reshaping both the ground war in Syria and Chinese foreign policy.

The predominantly Muslim, Turkic-speaking people — ethnically distinct from China's Han majority — have chafed for decades under Beijing's heavy-handed rule. Uighur separatists belonging to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), a militant group based in the rugged tribal areas of nearby Afghanistan and Pakistan and allied with al-Qaeda, have been blamed for attacks in Chinese cities, often using crude but effective weapons such as knives, Molotov cocktails and speeding vehicles.

Their activities have taken on a transnational dimension in recent years as hundreds of Uighur fighters have flowed into Syria to participate in jihad. And instead of targeting China's cities, militants have struck less guarded overseas targets.

The reach of ETIM, which seeks to establish an independent Islamic state called East Turkestan, was highlighted most recently when a man crashed a van packed with 100 kilograms of TNT into the Chinese diplomatic compound in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, killing himself and wounding five people. Kyrgyz officials on Tuesday identified the bomber as Zoir Khalimov, an ethnic Uighur member of ETIM who carried out the attack with support from the Nusra Front, the al-Qaida affiliate in Syria.

In Thailand, a trial began last month for two Uighur men charged with an August 2015 bombing that killed 20 people at a busy Bangkok shrine. The attack came weeks after Thailand forcibly repatriated scores of Uighurs to China, where they faced persecution. Chinese officials said the Uighurs were on their way to fight in Syria when they were arrested.

Analysts see the broad outlines of metastasizing Uighur militancy that has prompted a response from China, which has traditionally abided by a foreign policy of non-interference.

"China's calculus is shifting because the threat picture is shifting from one in which only the Americans and Europeans were targets," said Raffaello Pantucci, director of international security studies at the Royal United Services Institute, a British think tank. "That's why you're seeing Beijing



Uighur men chat in Urumqi in China's western province of Xinjiang



Police officers look at the Chinese Embassy after a suicide bombing in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Rising Uighur militancy changes security landscape for China

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RAFFAELLO PANTUCCI
ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

push out. It's a combination of the new Chinese foreign policy assertiveness but also a real concern about what's happening on the ground."

In mid-August, China dispatched a senior People's Liberation Army admiral, Guan Youfei, to meet with Syrian Defense Minister Fahad Jassim al-Frej and a senior Russian military official in Damascus to discuss expanding Chinese support for their war effort.

China has made similar moves closer to home. This year, it pledged equipment and counterterrorism training for Afghan police with the aim of containing ETIM. It has also expanded its role as a mediator, welcoming both President Ashraf Ghani and Taliban representatives to China on visits and brokering low-level talks between the sides.

In 2015, Uighur fighters from ETIM, also referred to as the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), began flowing from Central Asia into Syria, according to propaganda videos from the group's Islam Awazi media arm. They have won battles against loyalist forces in Idlib and Aleppo provinces, at times deploying suicide attackers to decisive effect. Although exact numbers are impossible to confirm, analysts believe there are hundreds, possibly more than a thousand, Uighurs fighting alongside the Nusra Front, said Beirut-based analyst Haytham Mouzahem.

Separately, the Islamic State group, which competes with the Nusra Front for recruits, has at least a hundred Uighur fighters, most of whom came directly from Xinjiang to escape religious persecution in China, according to leaked IS documents analyzed by the New America Foundation think tank.

Uighur groups in exile and international human rights monitors say China plays up the threat of Uighur militancy to justify abusive law-enforcement policies and religious restrictions in Xinjiang, which have fueled resentment among ordinary citizens. ETIM's organization may also be overestimated, experts warn, because it is unclear to what extent they offered training or support to perpetrators of attacks.

"China should evaluate its own policies to find the source of Uighur discontent," overseas Uighur spokesman Dilxat Raxit said in a statement this week following the Kyrgyzstan investigation. "The Kyrgyzstan incident could supply China with more excuses to oppress and expand its influence in Central Asia for its political purposes."

China has been sensitive to international criticism of its policies in Xinjiang while casting itself as a target of terrorism similar to Western countries. It has successfully lobbied the United States, the European Union,

Russia, Britain and other governments to recognize the Turkistan Islamic Party as a terrorist organization.

"I would to stress that East Turkestan terrorist forces headed by the ETIM have plotted and undertaken terrorist attacks many times inside and outside China," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said last week, while vowing to "strike back" at the group.

Chinese anti-terrorism expert Li Wei said the extremist threats that China faces domestically and from abroad are now "inextricably linked, just like with other countries," leading China to expand its dealings in Syria and Afghanistan.

"I think the international community would agree that Syria is a nexus of global jihad that does threaten the entire world," said Li, director of the anti-terrorism research center at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, a think tank under the Ministry of State Security, China's main intelligence agency.

Despite its shifting posture, Chinese observers say the likelihood of the People's Liberation Army fighting directly in Syria and Afghanistan remains extremely low. Over the last decade, China has leaned on Pakistan to carry out drone strikes against TIP commanders in tribal Waziristan, pressured Central Asian allies for intelligence-gathering and sought help from Thailand — but never deployed troops.

"China can participate in Syria in direct or indirect ways," said Yue Gang, a retired PLA colonel and commentator on military affairs in Beijing. "Currently, the indirect path is better. In the future it can provide a variety of equipment or arms support for Russia and Syria but dressed up as something more pleasant-sounding, like humanitarian aid."

China's increasing willingness to confront Uighur militants abroad mirrors global jihadi networks' growing interest in their cause.

In the 1990s, the Taliban — no strangers to fighting communists — sheltered Uighur separatists but forbade them from launching attacks on China from Afghanistan and Pakistan, fearing that would anger Beijing, according to writings by the jihadi Abu Musab al-Suri.

And in the years before the Sept. 11 attacks, published interview transcripts show Osama bin Laden downplaying the Uighurs' plight or claiming ignorance of them altogether. Instead, he argued that Chinese leaders and Muslims should unite against what he considered to be common enemies like the United States and Israel.

His successor, Ayman al-Zawahiri, takes a starkly different approach, decrying China as an enemy. He opened a recorded message to his followers in July by praising Uighurs' dedication to global jihad and lambasting "Chinese invaders" as "atheist occupiers" of Xinjiang.

Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has also prominently decried Chinese oppression of Muslims while laying out a vision of an Islamic caliphate stretching from Morocco to Xinjiang.

Michael Clarke, a researcher at Australian National University, said competition for Uighur recruits between al-Qaida and Islamic State explained the heightened rhetoric, but also underscored the more complicated landscape facing China.

"Since the 1990s the discourse has changed," Clarke said. "The long-established conflict between China and Uighur opposition is getting more and more connected to regional and global currents of radical Islamism." **AP**

Group to vote on urging countries to close ivory markets

By Cathy Bussewitz, Honolulu

MEMBERS of an international environmental group were considering a proposal Friday to urge leaders in every country to close domestic ivory markets that threaten elephants.

Ivory trading is banned internationally, but domestic trade within countries is legal nearly everywhere.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature planned to vote on the proposal at the World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, but some members of the global group of government and nonprofit representatives didn't want a ban, and the vote was delayed Friday when they filed a complaint saying their concerns had not been heard.

"Some governments just don't see the reality of the crisis that the countries of central and East Africa are facing right now," said Susan Lieberman, vice president for international conservation at the Wildlife Conservation Society. "This is about saying to all governments, 'Make it so people can't buy ivory, because that's the only thing that's going to stop the organized criminals who are causing the poaching of ele-



A Zimbabwe National Parks official inspects the stockpile during a tour of the country's ivory stockpile at the Zimbabwe National Parks Headquarters in Harare

phants."

If the group passes the proposal, it won't have the power to enforce it. Each country would have to enact laws individually, but the

group's policy experts could help countries craft laws.

"While the resolutions are not international law, in many cases, they are the genesis of international

agreements," said Enrique Lahmann, global director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The number of savanna elephants in Africa is rapidly

declining and the animals are in danger of being wiped out because of the ivory trade, according to a recent study, which said the population plummeted by about 30 percent from 2007 to 2014 and is declining at about 8 percent a year.

Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Paul Allen funded the aerial survey that covered 18 countries using dozens of airplanes and involved 90 scientists.

The United States announced a near-total ban on the domestic sale of African elephant ivory in June.

"We're talking about the extinction of elephants," said Joseph Moravec, law student at Pace University and voting member of the conservation congress. "Ivory markets are going to close one way or the other, whether it's us closing them when the elephant is still alive, or they're going to close in a few years when these species are still extinct and there's no more ivory left."

Meetings to work out disagreements about the ivory ban proposal were closed to the press Wednesday and Friday, and conference organizers did not release the names of the representatives or countries who delayed the vote.

The IUCN has 1,300 members from more than 160 countries. For a measure to pass, more than half of the eligible members must be voting, and a majority of the votes must support the measure. **AP**

ASK THE VET

By Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



HOW TO CARE FOR A KITTEN DURING THE FIRST 3 WEEKS

A kitten needs to be with his mother for the first eight weeks of his life, however if this is not possible, you need to be the surrogate mother.

KITTEN CARE ESSENTIALS

You need some kitten care essentials for the first few weeks:

- Sleeping box; newborn kittens spend a lot of time sleeping, so you need to provide a warm, comfortable box. The room where the box is placed should be warm, as kittens don't have the capacity to keep a normal temperature and may suffer from hypothermia, which can be fatal.
- Blankets and towels to keep the kitten warm
- Special formula kitten food
- Soft toys or paper
- Later, your kitten will also need:
- Litterbox
- Cat litter
- Food and water bowls
- Toys

KITTEN HEALTH

The kitten needs to be taken to the vet. The vet will examine your kitten's health and look for parasites or diseases. A newborn kitten does not get vaccines until the age of eight to nine weeks.

FEEDING THE KITTEN

If you have the mother cat nursing your kitten, you don't need to feed the kitten.

However, if the mother is not present you need to feed the kitten. Kittens have their eyes closed for the first 10 days of their lives, so you will need to use a syringe to hand feed your pet.

Get Kitten Formula from Royal Canin and feed your kitten following the guidelines on the box, according to your pet's weight. Kitten food is different from adult cat food; it contains a special formula that is high in protein and fats. The food needs to be highly digestible and nutrient dense. Kittens need wet food, as this is easier to digest. Newborn kittens can't handle dry food, but this may be given after the kitten is eight weeks old. Feed your kitten 10

to 12 times in 24 hours or once every two hours.

Don't feed the kitten cow milk; this may cause diarrhea or indigestion.

The kitten will start growing teeth at about two weeks. After three weeks, you may start giving your kitten a food bowl and train him to use it.

ELIMINATION

Newborn kittens cannot defecate without help. The mother helps kittens to eliminate food by licking their bum. Use a moist cloth and massage your kitten's stomach and bum to stimulate bowel movement. At this age, the kitten will not be able to use a litter box to urinate, so you need to clean after the kitten.

PLAYING AND SOCIALIZING

The first weeks are essential in determining your cat's behavior. If the kitten is with his mother and brothers, he will learn how to play safely and will socialize. However, if your kitten is alone, you will need to cuddle him and play with him to develop a relationship with your pet. The kitten typically starts standing up at about two to three weeks, and will start playing at three to four weeks.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan



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