



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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More Govt departments join scheme to promote use of Chinese

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Seven more government departments, which have extensive contacts with the public, have joined a pilot scheme to promote the wider use of Chinese in their daily work.

They are the Urban Services Department, Regional Services Department, Education Department, Social Welfare Department, Labour Department, Immigration Department and Fire Services Department. The Commissioner for Official Languages, Miss Yvonne Choi, said today (Saturday) that this would bring to nine the total number of departments joining the pilot scheme.

The scheme is currently being implemented in the Home Affairs Department and Housing Department.

"The implementation of the pilot scheme is one of the measures recommended last September by the Working Group on the Use of Chinese in the Civil Service," Miss Choi said.

"The participating departments are keenly supportive of Government's policy drive to promote the wider use of Chinese and have already in place a Working Group or a formal mechanism to proactively identify areas for using more Chinese. "Their participation in the scheme will offer a most valuable field from which the rest of the civil service can obtain practical experience in the use of Chinese."

Miss Choi added that in order to assist civil servants in preparing documents in Chinese, the Official Languages Agency has produced the first batch of reference materials and guidelines.

"This first batch focuses on general principles on official Chinese writing, official correspondence and recommended dictionaries and reference materials.

"Work has also begun on other categories of official documents and specific topics of relevance to official Chinese writing.

"These guidelines and reference materials will be issued initially as a 'trial edition'. Views and suggestions are welcome, so that the revised editions will satisfy even better the needs of the civil service," she said.

End

Assessment in education

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The Director of Education, Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu, today (Saturday) said the department is in the course of developing new curriculum, fresh teaching approaches and different assessment mechanism to cater for students with wide-ranging abilities. Officiating at the International Conference on Advances in Assessment of Student Learning, Mrs Yu said assessment must ultimately aim to promote student learning.

"Its prime concern is to give a fair, accurate and complete picture of students' knowledge, their abilities and their potential progress in learning."

"Rather than just paper-and-pencil tests, we need a variety of assessment tools based on targets and on performance," Mrs Yu said.

Assessment is no longer predominantly summative and thus terrifying, but more formative and diagnostic; it is no longer a norm-referenced yardstick, but an authentic, task-based and learner-oriented measure, she noted.

For the past few years, the department has been pursuing this line of development and promulgated a new approach: the Target-Oriented Curriculum (TOC) and its integral part, TOC assessment mechanism.

The department has been developing guidelines and support materials for schools, providing professional advice to teachers and organising training courses for them.

It aims to implement the curriculum and assessment mechanism progressively in the hope that successive and successful changes will take place gradually in the schools.

Mrs Yu said she believed that through such changes, the learning environment can become more stimulating and exciting, more enjoyable and effective.

"The potential of our young can thus develop more fully. Young Hong Kong will be better able to take up the challenges ahead."

The department is confident that difficulties and uncertainties can be overcome through experimentation and in collaboration with schools and teachers.

Also speaking at the conference, the Assistant Director of Education (Curriculum Development Institute), Dr Julian Leung, invited school heads, teachers, students, parents and the public at large to embark on a journey to the new era of assessment culture in TOC assessment.

Dr Leung said one major problem that TOC attempts to address is to devise forms of assessment to measure students' learning against criteria. The assessment measures what students are able to do and how well they can do it, and highlights their strengths and weaknesses in order to inform future teaching and learning.

He noticed that some schools have already developed their assessment practices in TOC.

The Education Department has started gathering teachers together in the form of Teachers' Reference Groups and School-Based Programmes, to develop the process and standards of TOC assessment as well as to solve the technical problems in a collaborative way.

The department is also planning to set up Parents' Reference Groups similar to Teachers' Reference Groups for parents to be involved in the developmental process.

More than 500 primary schools will be implementing TOC in September 1996.

End

Green funds support 111 projects

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The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and the Woo Wheelock Green Fund, set up by the Government and the Wheelock respectively, are well on course to enhance the environmental and conservation awareness of the public through a funding programme.

A total of \$21.5 million has been approved in support of 111 environmental education and research projects by environmental groups, community bodies and other non-profit making organisations since the two green funds were established in August 1994.

Grants have been made in support of research by tertiary institutions to enhance the protection and conservation of biodiversity and sustainability of Hong Kong.

Green groups are also funded to undertake projects to encourage public participation in activities which will sustain the local environment.

In addition, ECF is funding the core programmes of the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) including environmental protection festivals, World Environmental Day activities, publication of the ECC monthly bulletin, the Schools Environmental Awards scheme, the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme and the Environmental Resource Centre.

In order to enable applicants of funds to have a better understanding of the criteria for considering proposed projects, the ECF Committee has revised the Guide to Application and the application forms for financial support. Furthermore, the ECF Committee has also drawn up specific budgeting guidelines to facilitate applicants in preparing budget proposals.

The revised Guide, applications forms and guideline are available from the following venues:

- * ECF Secretariat
Planning, Environment and Lands Branch
20th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central
Tel 2848 2980
Fax 2530 5264

- * ECC Secretariat
Environmental Protection Department
45th floor, Revenue Tower, Gloucester Road, Wan Chai
Tel 2594 6506
Fax 2827 8138

- * all district offices

- * Wheelock and Company
23rd floor, Wheelock House, 20 Pedder Street, Central
Tel 2118 2118
Fax 2118 2018

End

Firing practice in June

Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on six days next month. The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
June 4 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
June 5 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
June 6 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
June 13 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
June 19 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
June 24 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time</u> <u>(Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>Change</u> <u>(\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	2,909	09:30	-806
Closing Balance in the account	2,050	10:00	-806
Change Attributable to:		11:00	-806
Money Market Activity	-806	11:30	-806
Laf Today	-53		

Laf Rate 4% Bid/6% Offer TWI 124.2 *+0.1* 25.5.96

End

Food hygiene campaign to be launched

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The Health Education Unit of the Department of Health will launch a territory-wide campaign on food hygiene from June 24 to the end of August, targeting at people in the food business.

The campaign, organised under the sponsorship of the Urban and Regional councils, will include activities designed for primary and secondary school teachers and the general public.

Under the campaign, all supervisory and production line personnel of licensed food premises, cooked food stalls, canteens and other food catering establishments will be invited to attend food hygiene seminars to be held at various districts. Calling for participation, a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday) that the aim of the campaign was to promote good food hygiene practices among food traders so as to prevent food-borne diseases.

He said: "Each seminar will consist of a talk by Chief Health Inspectors followed by a film show and a discussion session.

"A total of 24 seminars will be organised throughout the territory and participation is free."

Among the seminars, 20 are targeted at food traders.

Two separate seminars will be organised in collaboration with the Education Department for primary and secondary school teachers to enable them to relay health messages to their students.

The remaining two will be arranged for members of the public. They can obtain enrolment forms from the district offices of the Home Affairs Department, the libraries and district environmental health offices of the two municipal departments. Certificates of attendance will be awarded to participants after the conclusion of the campaign.

A 24-hour hotline 2723 0013 will provide taped messages on the adoption of hygienic practices during the campaign period.

Callers can also leave their questions and telephone numbers with the hotline and staff from the Health Education Unit will call back.

Furthermore, mobile broadcasting teams of the unit will be deployed to disseminate food hygiene messages in the territory.

Printed education materials such as leaflets and posters can be obtained free from the department's Health Education Unit, eighth floor, Fa Yuen Street Complex, 123A Fa Yuen Street, or the environmental hygiene offices of the Urban Services and Regional Services departments.

End

Fund-raising schedule for June

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Fourteen organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next month, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said today (Sunday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from SWD. The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds in June:

Flag Day

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
June 1	The Society of Homes for the Handicapped
June 8	The Methodist Church, Hong Kong (Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre)
June 15	The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council
June 22	Maryknoll Medical and Welfare Association (Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital)
June 29	The Hong Kong Cheshire Home Foundation

Subscription

<u>Event Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
June 1 & 2	Raleigh International Hong Kong
June 1, 22 & 29	Shepherd Community Church
June 7	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong
June 8	Land of Virtue Centre Ltd
June 16	Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd
June 22	Sowers Action
June 23	Kowloon Tong Church of Chinese Christian and Missionary Alliance Sheung Shui Church
June 29	Gospel Communication Centre Ltd
June 30	The Hong Kong Liver Foundation Ltd

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