



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1980

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SLIGHT INCREASE IN TRADE EMPLOYMENT  
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THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS, AS REVEALED BY AN EMPLOYMENT SURVEY FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

IN DECEMBER 1979, A TOTAL OF 289 207 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, AN INCREASE OF 957 OR 0.3 PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1979. WHEN COMPARED WITH 287 037 PERSONS ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1978, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 2 170 PERSONS OR 0.8 PER CENT.

EMPLOYMENT IN RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS REACHED 110 536 PERSONS, BEING 0.3 PER CENT ABOVE THE SEPTEMBER 1979 FIGURE AND 4.8 PER CENT ABOVE DECEMBER 1978.

AT THE SAME TIME, 18 906 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES. THIS REPRESENTS A DECREASE OF 0.5 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1979 AND AN INCREASE OF 0.1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1978.

DETAILS OF EMPLOYMENT IN WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS IN DECEMBER 1979, SEPTEMBER 1979 AND DECEMBER 1978 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CHANGE OF DECEMBER  
1979 OVER SEPTEMBER  
1979

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NATURE OF BUSINESS	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEPTEMBER 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WHOLESALE TRADE	42 831	44 862	44 401	- 461	-1.0
RETAIL TRADE	145 511	139 617	140 215	+ 598	+0.4
IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESS	98 695	103 771	104 591	+ 820	+0.8
RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS	105 470	110 169	110 536	+ 367	+0.3
HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES	18 878	19 006	18 906	- 100	-0.5
TOTAL	411 385	417 425	418 649	+1 224	+0.3

DETAILED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR VARIOUS TRADES AND ACTIVITIES ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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### MORE FISH YIELDED BY LOCAL PONDS

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HONG KONG'S POND FISH FARMERS ARE BEING HELPED TO REAR MORE FISH AT LESS COST TO SUPPLY OUR TABLE.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING LOW-INTEREST LOANS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES, ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP THEM DEVELOP THE INLAND FISH CULTURE INDUSTRY WHICH LAST YEAR YIELDED 6 540 TONNES OF FRESH WATER FISH WORTH MORE THAN \$82 MILLION.

THE LOANS ARE MADE FROM THE KADOORIE AGRICULTURAL AID LOAN FUND AND THE J E JOSEPH TRUST FUND ADMINISTERED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT. THE MONEY CAN BE USED TO BUILD OR IMPROVE EXISTING FISH PONDS OR USED TO STOCK FISH FRY AND BUY FEED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT THE AMOUNT OF LOANS DISTRIBUTED DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS AMOUNTED TO \$1.4 MILLION.

+IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR ALONE, THE LOANS TOTALLED \$262 500,+ HE SAID, +AND IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED COST OF PRODUCTION, THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF A SINGLE LOAN HAS BEEN RAISED FROM \$5 000 TO \$10 000.+

INTEREST IS CHARGED AT ONLY 4.2 TO 4.8 PER CENT PER ANNUM AND THE REPAYMENT PERIOD CAN BE AS LONG AS THREE YEARS.

APPLICATION CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE EIGHT AGRICULTURAL LIAISON OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE AU TAU FISHERY CULTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN YUEN LONG.

+TO ENSURE THAT LOANS GIVEN OUT ARE PRODUCTIVELY SPENT, THE DEPARTMENT COMPLEMENTS THE CASH PAYMENT WITH ADVICE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE FARMERS.

+IN ADDITION, OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT FREQUENTLY VISIT THEM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, TO GIVE ON-THE-SPOT ADVICE ON HOW TO INCREASE YIELD AND CONTROL DISEASES,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO PLANNING MORE TRAINING COURSES FOR THE FARMERS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNIQUES IN FISH FARMING. SOME OF THESE TECHNIQUES ARE INTRODUCED BY ITS FISH CULTURE SECTION.

+THE GREATEST PROBLEM WITH POND FISH CULTURE IS LACK OF OXYGEN IN THE WATER. TO OVERCOME THIS, A SPECIALLY DESIGNED WATER MILL HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE FARMERS WHICH CONSTANTLY DRAWS AIR FROM THE ATMOSPHERE INTO THE PONDS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+FARMERS ARE ALSO TAUGHT HOW TO TEST AND CONTROL THE ACIDITY OF THEIR POND WATER SO THAT THE FISH CAN GROW IN THE BEST ENVIRONMENT.+

+IF THEY FIND THE WATER TOO ACIDIC, IT CAN BE NEUTRALISED WITH THE ADDITION OF CALCIUM CARBONATE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/ALSO NEWLY .....

ALSO NEWLY RECOMMENDED TO THE FARMERS IS AN IMPROVED MIXED FEED IN GRANULAR FORM.

THIS FEED CONTAINS BALANCED NUTRITION AND CAN STAY INTACT IN WATER FOR A LONGER TIME, SO THAT THE FISH CAN BE FED IN MUCH LESS TIME AND MUCH MORE ECONOMICALLY.

THE LOCAL YIELD OF FRESH WATER FISH LAST YEAR REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 13 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE PONDS HAVE A COMBINED AREA OF ABOUT 1 800 HECTARES, THE MAJORITY OF THEM LOCATED IN YUEN LONG. THE MOST IMPORTANT FISH SPECIES PRODUCED ARE GREY MULLET, BIG HEAD, SILVER CARP, GRASS CARP AND COMMON CARP.

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#### REMINDER ON STATUTORY HOLIDAY

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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT CHING MING FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4, THIS YEAR, IS ONE OF THE TEN STATUTORY HOLIDAYS APPOINTED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH MONDAY, MARCH 31 HAD BEEN SET ASIDE AS A GENERAL HOLIDAY IN LIEU OF CHING MING BECAUSE APRIL 4 COINCIDES WITH GOOD FRIDAY, CHING MING REMAINS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES WITHOUT DISTINCTION, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$3 500 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY. THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THEIR EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON THE HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE OFFICES ARE: KOWLOON EAST 3-205638- KOWLOON WEST 3-201652- KWUN TONG 3-898520- TSUEN WAN 12-422096- TUEN MUN 12-818443 EXT. 82 AND HONG KONG ISLAND 5-282523 EXT. 60.

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### CLEAN-UP FOR YUEN LONG RIVER

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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) ARE TO IMPLEMENT A \$900 000 PROJECT TO CLEAN UP THE HUNG SHUI KIU RIVER AND CATCHMENT AREAS IN YUEN LONG DISTRICT.

AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF YUEN LONG DAB AND THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER (YUEN LONG), MR MOK LEUNG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THE DAB AND LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE HAD AWARDED A NUMBER OF CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO START IN A FEW WEEKS.

THE FIRST PHASE INCLUDES THE DAILY CLEAN-UP OF A 4.7 KILOMETRE STRETCH OF THE RIVER AND ADJACENT AREAS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF 16 BIN SITES AND FOUR REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS TO SERVICE ABOUT 200 FARMS LOCATED IN VILLAGES IN THE VICINITY.

+CLEANING STAFF WILL COLLECT ON A DAILY BASIS REFUSE AND FARM WASTE LEFT AT THE BIN SITES AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS BY THE VILLAGERS.

+VEHICLES WILL THEN COLLECT THE REFUSE AND WASTE FOR DISPOSAL. PATHS WILL BE WIDENED TO GIVE THE COLLECTION VEHICLES EASY ACCESS,+ HE SAID.

MR MOK SAID AN ESTIMATED 18 TONS OF REFUSE AND FARM WASTE, WHICH HAD HITHERTO FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE RIVER AND ON TO THE TWO BANKS, WAS EXPECTED TO BE COLLECTED EACH DAY.

HE SAID THE LARGE AMOUNT OF REFUSE AND FARM WASTE PREVIOUSLY BEING DEPOSITED INTO THE RIVER HAD GREATLY HAMPERED EXISTING CLEANING OF THE RIVER ON A REGULAR BASIS.

THE YUEN LONG DAB HOPED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT WOULD TACKLE THE PROBLEM AT SOURCE, HE SAID.

THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE ARE INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE SECOND PHASE WILL EVENTUALLY COVER THE ENTIRE CATCHMENT AREAS OF THE RIVER,+ MR MOK SAID.

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PLASTICS INDUSTRY SHOULD TRAIN MORE WORKERS  
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THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY SHOULD MAKE GREATER EFFORTS IN TRAINING THE SKILLED MANPOWER IT NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE.

THIS RECOMMENDATION IS MADE BY THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL IN ITS REPORT ON THE FIFTH MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WILL BE ON SALE FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY) AT \$8 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY WHICH WAS CONDUCTED IN JULY 1979, THE INDUSTRY'S TOTAL MANPOWER HAD GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY TO 92 794, AN INCREASE OF SOME 26 000 WORKERS OVER THE PREVIOUS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 1977.

THE TRAINING BOARD ANTICIPATES THAT THE INDUSTRY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW DESPITE MANY UNFAVOURABLE FACTORS, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL. THESE FACTORS INCLUDE UNSTABLE SUPPLY AND COST OF PLASTICS RAW MATERIALS, HIGH BANK INTEREST RATES, DIMINISHING VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, SPIRALLING WAGES AND LAND COSTS, SLOWING DOWN OF MAJOR WESTERN ECONOMIES AND EMERGENCE OF CHINA AS A MANUFACTURING CENTRE.

THE BOARD STRONGLY URGES EMPLOYERS NOT ONLY TO IMPROVE THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT IN THEIR FACTORIES SO AS TO ATTRACT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOIN THE INDUSTRY, BUT ALSO TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE TRAINING FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS BY SPONSORING THEIR EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND PART-TIME DAY RELEASE COURSES.

THE REPORT SETS OUT, BESIDES STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRY, PROJECTED MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS AT THE TECHNOLOGIST, TECHNICIAN AND CRAFTSMAN LEVELS FOR THE PERIOD 1982 TO 1987.

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SENIOR TRANSPORT INSPECTOR RETIRES  
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A SENIOR TRANSPORT INSPECTOR WHO SERVED UNDER FOUR COMMISSIONERS FOR TRANSPORT IS RETIRING AFTER WORKING MORE THAN 11 YEARS WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

THE OFFICER, MR ANDREW LEUNG HING-HUNG, WAS A FIGHTER PILOT DURING THE WAR, AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER, AND A RESERVE COMMODITIES INSPECTOR BEFORE HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT AS A TRANSPORT INSPECTOR. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR TRANSPORT INSPECTOR IN MARCH 1979.

MR LEUNG RECALLED THAT WHEN HE FIRST JOINED, THE DEPARTMENT WAS LOCATED IN RUMSEY STREET WITH A TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT OF LESS THAN 300.

+MY OWN SECTION HAD ONLY FIVE OR SIX TRANSPORT INSPECTORS. WE DID NOT HAVE MUCH TO DO THEN, BUT THAT WAS MORE THAN 10 YEARS AGO. THERE WERE NOT AS MANY PEOPLE AND CARS THEN AS NOW,+ HE SAID.

HE SAW THE DEPARTMENT GROW TO A STRENGTH OF NEARLY 1 000. +MY OWN SECTION NOW HAS 13 TRANSPORT INSPECTORS AND TWO SENIOR TRANSPORT INSPECTORS,+ HE SAID.

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ANOTHER LIBRARY FOR SHA TIN  
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SHA TIN'S NEWEST LIBRARY WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED TOMORROW (MONDAY) ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SAU CHUEN HOUSE IN LEK YUEN ESTATE.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 5.30 PM.

THE LIBRARY, THE SIXTH IN THE NEW TOWN, IS FINANCED BY THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND STAFF TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY. GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT VAN NO. AM 3214 WILL TAKE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO SHA TIN, LEAVING KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 4.45 PM.

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NEW WATER PIPELINE  
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A NEW FRESH WATER MAIN WILL BE LAID ON HONG KONG ISLAND TO MEET THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR WATER BY DEVELOPMENTS IN POKFULAM, ABERDEEN, AP LEI CHAU, WONG CHUK HANG AND SHOUSON HILL.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT ARE BEING INVITED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PWD'S WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID 700 METRES OF A 900 MM MAIN WOULD BE LAID IN VICTORIA ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SASSOON ROAD TO CONSORT RISE.

ON COMPLETION, IT WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING 675 MM MAIN.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY AND WILL TAKE ABOUT TEN MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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