



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, October 12, 1973.

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HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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Mr. T.K. Ann, Legislative Councillor, was today appointed by the Governor to head Hong Kong's newly-created Training Council.

The Council is a permanent body to advise the government on measures necessary to ensure a comprehensive system of training geared to meet the developing needs of the industrial sector and, at a later stage, of the commercial and service sectors.

It was created as a result of the report of the Industrial Training Advisory Committee whose appointment came to an end on December 31, 1972.

Unofficial members of the Council, all of whom are prominent figures in their respective professions, include Mr. James M.H. Wu, Mr. J.L. Boyer, Mr. S.L. Chen, Dr. Y.K. Ching, Dr. C.W. Chuang, Mr. Ho Sai-chu, Mr. Henry Keswick, Professor S.Y. King, Mr. Lee Shing-chu, Mr. Pang Chun-hoi, The Reverend K.L. Stumpf, Mr. Francis Y.H. Tien, and Mr. Geoffrey M.T. Yeh.

Official members include representatives from government departments which are specially concerned with training matters.

The new Chairman, Mr. T.K. Ann, said the Council's first task was to appoint from its members an executive committee and to recommend to the government the appointment of a number of industrial training boards and functional committees.

/Each of .....

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Each of the boards, he said, would cover a major industry in Hong Kong and would be responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies.

"The executive committee, on the other hand, is to advise the Council on all proposals presented by the training boards and functional committees," Mr. Ann said.

The Council would also look into the question of the required statutory power to enable it to function effectively.

"The overall aim, of course, is to ensure that there will be sufficient qualified manpower to cope with the development of every sector of Hong Kong's economy not only in size but in sophistication. This is vital to our economic and social well-being," he said.

Mr. Ann stressed that the ready availability of trained ~~manpower~~ was the most important consideration to be taken into account when a foreign concern decided whether to invest in Hong Kong.

"We have reached a stage of industrial development when we should do our very best to attract foreign investment in the way of high technology industries," he said.

The Council is expected to hold its first meeting next month. It will be serviced by the yet-to-be expanded Industrial Training Division of the Labour Department.

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ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO TRANSPORT SURVEY

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Public response to household interviews being conducted by the government to get detailed information about transport patterns indicates that Hong Kong citizens are displaying a higher degree of social consciousness and a greater sense of civic responsibility than communities in other parts of the world covered by similar surveys in the past.

"The response so far has been very encouraging, and the information which the interviews have yielded will be of great value," a spokesman for Public Works Department's Highways Office said today.

The series of household interviews, conducted by interviewers who call at residents' homes, started on September 17 and is now about 20 per cent complete, with about two more months of the programme to run.

About 5,000 households have been visited to date.

A spokesman for Wilbur Smith and Associates, the consulting firm which has been carrying out the interviews on the government's behalf as part of the Comprehensive Transport Study, commented: "The rate of refusals-to-answer up to now stands at only 3.2 per cent. This is significantly better than the rates which we encountered at comparable stages of similar surveys in other areas - for example, in the United States, Britain and Australia."

He added that the consultants had high hopes that public participation would continue at this level during the remainder of the surveys.

"In particular, we hope for a similar co-operative response in our roadside interviews, which will start next week. Information from these interviews can play a vital part in rounding out our picture of transport patterns."

/Motorists .....

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Motorists using the harbour tunnel and vehicular ferries will be asked to give facts about their journeys and their travel habits.

"If the drivers we shall be questioning are as helpful as the householders have shown themselves to be, we shall be very pleased indeed," said the spokesman.

"Surveys like these are far more worthwhile and more interesting to conduct when the people get involved in them as a team effort along with us. That is why we have been very gratified by Hong Kong's impressively adult and intelligent response."

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RENT CONTROL EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PRE-WAR PREMISES

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Certain pre-war premises can be excluded from existing tenancy and rent controls provided the landlord and tenant enter into specific agreements to do so and these are endorsed by the Secretary for Home Affairs or approved by the Tenancy Tribunal.

The premises will remain exempt from control on expiry of the agreement.

An amending bill to achieve this effect is published in the Gazette today.

The new Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill proposes to amend two sections of Part I of the principal ordinance.

The first amendment is made under the section which provides for those cases where the tenant agrees to surrender or terminate his tenancy in exchange for compensation.

The second amendment provides for the exclusion of premises let for a fixed term not exceeding five years at a rent in excess of that permitted under the existing legislation.

Before the statutory bodies endorse or approve the agreements reached they must be satisfied that the tenant appreciates the implications of his action.

In both cases the provisions of the amending legislation apply only to those agreements made after the proposed ordinance has been enacted.

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PARKING AT KAI TAK TO COST MORE

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Motorists will have to pay more for parking at the Hong Kong International Airport as from November 1.

New regulations concerning the changes in the parking charges at the airport are published in today's gazette.

Under the Hong Kong Airport (Traffic) (Amendment) Regulations 1973, the charges for the general public car parks are raised from \$1 per hour to \$2 for the first two hours and \$2 per hour thereafter.

Charges for special car parks for hotel and travel agencies will be raised from \$120 to \$260 per month for omnibus and from \$90 to \$200 per month for cars.

The new charges are in line with those levied at the multi-storey car parks operated by the Urban Services Department.

Commenting on the increases, a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Department said that parking fees at the airport were first assessed in November 1962.

The rates for special car parks were raised in 1967, but the rate for public car parks has remained unchanged since 1962.

"The present level of parking charges levied at the airport," he said, "is now insufficient to achieve the original purpose of regulating parking."

"With the general increase in parking charges for the multi-storey car parks managed by the U.S.D., the car parks at the airport are often used by motorists who have no business at the airport."

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CRASH HELMET LAW EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY

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New regulations requiring motorcyclists and their pillion passengers to wear approved safety helmets will come into effect on January 1, 1974.

The new rules, laid down in the Road Traffic (Protective Equipment) Regulations 1973, were approved by the Executive Council in June this year.

As from January 1 next year, any motorcyclist or pillion rider who fails to wear an approved safety helmet will be liable to a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine and three months' jail for the first offence. For repeaters, the maximum penalty is a fine of \$1,000 and six months' imprisonment.

The new regulations will not affect passengers sitting in a side car. Certain individuals, such as turbanned Sikhs, may also be exempted on application.

Approved protective helmets will be those bearing a mark applied by the manufacturer indicating compliance with the specifications in British standards 2001, 1869 or 2495; Japanese industrial standard JIS 8133-1970; Australian standard E33-1968; and American National Standard Institute Z90.1-1971.

Under the regulations only approved helmets may be sold, hired out, or displayed for sale or hiring. The Commissioner for Transport has discretion to approve other helmets provided they afford a degree of protection from injury equal to or greater than those which comply with the quoted standards.

Possession for sale or hire of an unapproved type of helmet may lead to a \$1,000 fine and six months' jail.

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JAPANESE YOUTH GROUP ON GOODWILL VISIT

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A party of 460 working youth between the ages of 20 and 28 from Kanagawa Prefecture in Yokohama, Japan, will be arriving next Sunday (October 14) on a friendship visit to young people in Hong Kong.

They will be arriving on board a charter ship, the "Coral Princess" which is expected to berth at the Ocean Terminal at 8 a.m.

This group is one of the largest ever to visit Hong Kong from Japan. Their trip is being sponsored by the Kanagawa Prefectural Government to develop a spirit of international co-operation through exchange of greetings, cultural activities and sports with young people in Hong Kong.

During their stay, the Japanese Consulate and the Japan Travel Agency will play host to the group while the Social Welfare Department is co-ordinating the programme for the Japanese youth to meet their local counterparts.

When the ship arrives, it will be greeted by an 80-member scout band at the quayside as well as representatives from the Group and Community Work Division of the Social Welfare Department.

A varied programme has been arranged for Sunday afternoon when members of the group will meet more than 220 Hong Kong young people who are members of various youth agencies including the YWCA, the YMCA, the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, the Social Welfare Department's youth centres and institutions and students of the Chinese University and the Hong Kong University.

/The programme .....

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The programme which will include sports and cultural activities is a joint effort with the Children's Playground Association and will be held at the MacPherson Playground and Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre in Yim Po Fong Street, Kowloon.

To round off the day's activities, a dinner will be held at the Miramar Hotel for all participants. The occasion will include items of entertainment by both groups. Miss Annie Chan, Assistant Director (Social Work), will address the gathering.

On Monday morning (October 15) the leader of the Japanese youth group, Mr. Sakaru Higuchi, who is the Chief Manager of the Children and Youth Development Division of the Kanagawa Prefectural Government; and other staff, will pay a courteous call on the Director of Social Welfare, Mr. K.W.J. Topley, at his office.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the various functions connected with this group's activities in Hong Kong.

The "Coral Princess" arrives at the Ocean Terminal at 8 a.m. on Sunday (October 14).

The group activities at the MacPherson Playground and Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre will begin at 2.15 p.m. with short opening remarks by representatives from both the Social Welfare Department and the Japanese youth group. After that, the various activities will go on until 5 p.m.

/The dinner .....

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The dinner will be held at the Banquet Room on the first floor of the Miramar Hotel and will begin at 6.30 p.m. Press representatives attending this function are also invited for dinner.

On Monday morning, Mr. Higuchi will call on the Director of Social Welfare at 9.30 a.m. at his office in Lee Gardens, 4th floor, Hysan Avenue, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. Press representatives are welcome to take photographs and should meet in the Public Relations Unit, Room 528A(1), 5th floor, Lee Gardens, Hysan Avenue at 9.15 a.m.

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#### MAIL SERVICES TO MIDDLE EAST

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In view of the war situation in the Middle East, the Post Office announces that airlines serving Egypt, Israel and Syria have **changed** their routing and in consequence airmail and air parcels for these countries cannot be accepted until further notice.

Considerable disruption to service mail is also likely and the public are advised not to post surface mail to the countries concerned for the time being.

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MORE SHIPPING GUIDES AT TIDE COVE

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Three beacons are to be built in Tide Cove (Sha Tin Hoi) between Ma Liu Shui and Tai Shui Hang to provide better navigating facilities in the vicinity of a large reef which poses a hazard to ships in the area.

A government spokesman said today that marine traffic in the vicinity of the reef had steadily increased and this was likely to continue with the development of Sha Tin New Town.

The risk of ships hitting the reef had become greater, he added, because Ma Liu Shui had become a centre for beach pleasure craft, many of which ventured into the area of the reef thus making it more difficult for larger vessels to navigate.

He noted that more passenger ferries would also be navigating in the area when the present Ho Tung Lau-Ma On Shan ferry service called at Ma Liu Shui and Wu Kwai Sha later on.

A notice in today's Gazette calls on anyone who has objections to the proposed beacons or any claim of private right in the matter, to submit them in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months from now.

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APPRENTICE LIFT MECHANICS COMPLETE TRAINING

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Four apprentice lift mechanics who have recently completed training at the Ryoden Electric Engineering Co. Ltd. to-day received their completion certificates from Mr. F.K. Hu, Urban Councillor and senior managing director of the company.

They were Mr. Wong Wing-kay, Mr. Wu Kwok-wah, Mr. Yeung Chi-hung and Mr. Yiu Kwok-biu.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony at the office of the Industrial Training Division of the Labour Department, Mr. Hu said the apprentice training scheme proposed by the Labour Department had helped overcome the shortage of craftsmen in Hong Kong.

He told the apprentices that they form, in a real sense, part of a new generation of craftsmen trained in both theory and practice.

Giving the installation of a lift as an example, Mr. Hu said Hong Kong's industrial development had reached a very sophisticated stage.

However, he said safety was also another aspect which had to be given top priority in the design and construction of the lift.

"It is therefore of utmost importance that the lift mechanics should equip themselves with high standard technical and theoretical knowledge," he said.

Mr. Hu pointed out that the apprentices training scheme provided the basis for young people to acquire such knowledge.

Also present at the ceremony were Mr. H.R. Knight, Senior Training Officer (Apprenticeship) of the Labour Department, and about 20 new apprentices and their parents. They were there to sign contracts of apprenticeship.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.