



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, December 28, 1972

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
A new system of pre-vocational education is recommended by a working party appointed by the Industrial Training Advisory Committee .....	1
Child adoption in accordance with Chinese customs will come to an end on January 1 .....	2
The Immigration Department is to set up a branch in Yuen Long .....	4
Quarry Bay is to have a rest garden .....	5
A new pier will be built at Pak Sha Wan to cope with the holiday crowd .....	6
A labour dispute at a knitting factory has been settled with the help of the Labour Department .....	7
Over 70,000 seamen were registered with the Seamen's Recruiting Office last month .....	8
Four buildings in Central have been declared dangerous .....	9

Thursday, December 28, 1972

- 1 -

NEW SYSTEM OF PRE-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDED

Government Urged To Take Lead In This Field

\*\*\*\*\*

A system of three-year pre-vocational education comprising about 50 per cent general subjects and 50 per cent practical-technical subjects should constitute a major stream of secondary education.

This system should cater ultimately for about a third of the primary school leavers.

This is one of the recommendations contained in a report on a study of the current and future role of pre-vocational education and training in Hong Kong.

The report, prepared by the Working Party on Pre-vocational Education appointed by the Industrial Training Advisory Committee, also recommends that the Government should take a lead in developing this stream of education.

It clearly defines the purpose of this form of education and give reasons for its particular relevance to Hong Kong.

It also contains recommendations on the staffing of and the curricula for pre-vocational schools.

The English version of the report is now available for sale to the public at the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse.

The Chinese version of the report is being printed and will soon be put on sale.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2 .....

Thursday, December 28, 1972

- 2 -

ENDING OF CHINESE CUSTOMARY ADOPTION

Legal Adoption Alone Permitted From January 1, 1973

\*\*\*\*\*

The adoption of children in accordance with local Chinese customs and traditions will end on January 1, 1973, as a result of the implementation of a bill to this effect passed earlier in the year by the Legislative Council.

From that date, persons intending to adopt children can only do so on the basis of the provisions of the Adoption Ordinance, under which the Director of Social Welfare is required to advise the Supreme Court on the suitability of the adoptive parents.

Mrs. Chen Liu Mu-lan, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer and head of the Family Services Division, explains that, to avoid misunderstanding, Chinese customary adoptions registered with the Social Welfare Department on, or before, December 31, 1972, will remain valid.

Adoption of children in accordance with local Chinese customs and traditions meant that this could be done without recourse to a court order. To avoid abuse, female children so adopted were placed automatically under the guardianship of the Director of Social Welfare, and each adoption was registered.

The number of these adoptions decreased from 11 in 1970-71 to one during 1971-72. The registration of male children adopted in accordance with local Chinese customs was not required, and one such adoption was registered voluntarily during the last financial year.

/There were .....

Thursday, December 28, 1972

- 3 -

There were 329 legal adoptions in 1971-72.

Legal adoption normally takes six months to complete, but in exceptional circumstances, a shortening of the period may be requested.

In most cases, the Director of Social Welfare becomes the temporary guardian of the child to safeguard its interests, and a fee of \$100 is charged for each application.

The child to be adopted must be in the continuous care and custody of the applicants for six months before an adoption order can be made. After that, the child enjoys the same legal status as the natural children in the applicant's family.

#### Applicants

Intending applicants must be legally married, aged 25 and over. Relatives of the child intending to adopt it must be over 21.

But Mrs. Chen explains that there is no age limit in respect of applicants intending to adopt their own child not born of the present marriage.

Applicants should be in good health, and single males are not normally allowed to adopt a female child.

Adoption workers assist applicants to understand the law and the procedures to be followed. Applicants are visited and interviewed, and their circumstances are studied to make sure that the execution of an adoption order is in the best interest of the child. Only when this is beyond doubt is a recommendation made to the court.

Applicants can either find a child for adoption privately, or with the help of the Social Welfare Department -- but, at present, there are more applicants known to the Department than children available.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

Thursday, December 28, 1972

- 4 -

## IMMIGRATION OFFICE TO OPEN IN YUEN LONG

More Branches Planned For Urban Areas

\*\*\*\*\*

The Immigration Department has decided to set up a branch office in Yuen Long for the convenience of residents of the New Territories.

Suitable premises have been found and it is expected that the new branch office will be opened sometime in 1973.

Demand for travel documents by residents of the New Territories has been increasing steadily over the past few years, and has now reached a level that would justify the establishment of a permanent branch office in Yuen Long, in addition to the two existing ones in Tsuen Wan and Sheung Shui.

Like all other Immigration Department branch offices, the Yuen Long office will be responsible for processing and issuing travel documents such as re-entry permits and certificates of identity.

It will also receive applications for certain types of travel documents (e.g. passports) and send them to Headquarters to be processed.

In addition, there will be an enquiries section to deal with all kinds of queries, to explain the various procedures of applying for different types of documents, and if necessary, to complete application forms for members of the public.

The Immigration Department also has a mobile office operating in the New Territories. After the Yuen Long branch office is opened, the mobile office will continue to visit such far away areas as Sai Kung and the southern part of Tai Po.

/A spokesman .....

Thursday, December 28, 1972

- 5 -

A spokesman for the Immigration Department said today that plans to set up more branch offices in urban areas are also proceeding smoothly.

The branch office in Kwun Tong is now being fitted out and it should be ready in early 1973.

Suitable premises for another branch office in Kennedy Town on Hong Kong Island have also been found, and tenders for its fitting out will soon be invited.

Other branch offices in Sham Shui Po and Shau Kei Wan will also be set up when suitable premises can be found.

The Immigration Department now has six branch offices in the urban areas - three on Hong Kong Island and three in Kowloon.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### REST GARDEN IN QUARRY BAY

\*\*\*\*\*

A rest garden will be built next month on a 17,000-square-foot open space in Quarry Bay.

The garden, situated at the junction of Mount Parker Road and Occupational Road, will be provided with park benches and paved footpaths.

Trees within the area will be retained to preserve the natural surrounding of the site. Turfing and planting will also be carried out.

Construction work is expected to begin in the middle of next month, and will be completed in March next year.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

NEW PIER TO BE BUILT AT PAK SHA WAN  
To Cope With Large Number Of Picnickers

\*\*\*\*\*

A pier with proper landing facilities is to be built at Pak Sha Wan, Hebe Haven, to cope with the increasing number of holiday-makers and larger Government vessels on duty in the Sai Kung waters.

Construction work is expected to start in March and will take about a year to complete.

Pak Sha Wan is one of the chief centres for the large number of yachts and pleasure craft in the New Territories.

Village ferry services transport thousands of picknickers and visitors from the existing small jetties at Pak Sha Wan to the beaches, picnic spots and other recreational amenities in the Port Shelter area.

In recent years, the small jetties have become inadequate to meet the heavy demands, especially in the summer.

To enable people using public light buses and other means of land transport to reach the new pier direct, a concourse with a few parking spaces will also be built.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

Thursday, December 28, 1972

- 7 -

SEVERANCE PAY DISPUTE IN KNITTING FACTORY

Settled With Help Of Labour Department

\*\*\*\*\*

With the help of the Labour Department, an amicable settlement has been reached in the dispute between the knitters and the management of Regina Knitting and Dyeing Mills Limited over severance pay.

Officers of the Labour Relations Service intervened soon after the dispute broke out on December 18, 1972.

A visit to the factory on that evening drew both parties to the conference table.

Three lengthy conciliation meetings lasting a total of 16 hours were subsequently held.

As a result of an agreement signed on December 21, about 50 workers received severance pay of \$400 each. The total amount involved is about \$20,000.

Payment was made at the San Po Kong Branch Office of the Labour Department at noon on Saturday, December 23.

The hand knitting section of the factory has been declared redundant with the introduction of semi-automated work processes.

The other sections of the factory with some 150 workers are carrying on with their normal production.

..... 0 .....

/8 .....

Thursday, December 28, 1972

- 8 -

SEAMEN REGISTERED WITH S.R.O.

\*\*\*\*\*

A total of 73,748 seamen were registered with the Seamen's Recruiting Office at the end of last month, according to statistics released by the Marine Department.

Of these, 28,649 were included in Part I of the register. These seamen had either been to sea during the past two years, or had had pre-sea training or acceptable shore experience.

There were 16,750 new entrants to the shipping industry who did not have pre-sea training or acceptable shore experience.

Another 28,349 seamen were included in Part IV of the register, which comprises those who had been transferred from Part I in order to have their names listed with one of a number of licensed crew departments in shipping companies.

During the month, 239 seamen were engaged in foreign-going ships.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

Thursday, December 28, 1972

- 9 -

BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL DECLARED DANGEROUS

\*\*\*\*\*

The Building Authority today declared Nos. 283 and 285 Des Voeux Road Central to be in a dangerous condition and Nos. 142 and 143 Connaught Road Central liable to become dangerous.

In a statement issued this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these four storey pre-war buildings have been under observation for three years.

Recent inspection revealed evidence of considerable movement of the front verandahs of Nos. 283 and 285 Des Voeux Road Central.

In addition, the party walls and front main walls are damaged and there is a danger of failure leading to collapse.

The kitchen blocks of Nos. 142 and 143 Connaught Road Central share common party walls with Nos. 283 and 285 Des Voeux Road Central.

The party walls concerned are in such a poor condition that their stability will be endangered when Nos. 283 and 285 Des Voeux Road Central are demolished.

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in the Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on January 12, 1973 in respect of Nos. 283 and 285 Des Voeux Road Central and Nos. 142 and 143 Connaught Road Central respectively were posted today.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release Time : 6.30 p.m.