



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, January 10, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food
commodities

Release time: 7.00 p.m.

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GREAT STRIDES IN LOCAL PRODUCT DESIGN

Hong Kong industrialists are moving rapidly into a stage of developing and working to their own designs, much to the benefit of local industry, the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, said today.

Speaking at the presentation of the Governor's Award for Hong Kong Design at Government House, Sir Murray said he was certain that our growing design capability would steadily increase in importance.

"We have all the necessary ingredients for success in the development of good product design," he said pointing to Hong Kong's technical and business skills, the increasing knowledge of overseas markets and consumers, and the growing readiness to allocate resources to product development.

Certainly, he added, Hong Kong lacked nothing in imagination and the institutional framework for the promotion of good design was also improving.

The Governor's Award went to Ampex Ferrotec Limited for the second year running. Their winning product is a portable memory exerciser -- a new product which, the Governor said, "displays in its design and construction a high degree of original innovation."

The following is the full text of the Governor's speech:

"The external judges were pleasantly surprised by the quality of design in many of the products submitted for judging, and some were up to international standards. This was no surprise to me.

"The fact is that our industrialists are moving rapidly into a stage of developing and working to their own designs, and Hong Kong industry is the stronger for it.

/In spite of

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"In spite of unusual difficulties in 1973, Hong Kong's exports continued to increase at a satisfactory rate. I believe that this has been due to superior capacity to adjust quickly to new conditions. In this I believe our growing design capability, with the ability it provides to innovate and create, has played a part. And I am sure its importance will steadily increase. We have all the necessary ingredients for success in the development of good product design. We have the technical and business skills; we have an increasing knowledge of overseas markets and consumer preferences; there is a growing readiness to allocate resources to product development; and we certainly lack nothing in imagination.

"We have also an improving institutional framework for the promotion of good design. The Education Department is paying increasing attention to the early development of creative talent. The Hong Kong Polytechnic provides specialist courses in industrial design, and I am very pleased to note that virtually the entire class who qualified in 1973 have secured jobs in industry. The Hong Kong Training Council, under the guidance of Mr. Ann, should also be able to exert a beneficial influence on the training of potential designers. The recent establishment of the Designers' Association should encourage the interchange of ideas between qualified designers. And, of course, the work of the Industrial Design Council itself, and its coordinating influence, is important to the development of design consciousness and skills in Hong Kong.

"But real progress, of course, lies in the hands of our industrialists themselves. You have, Mr. Ann, already announced the winners of all but one of the awards to be presented this evening.

/"I congratulate

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"I congratulate all of them on their achievements, and on the contribution they have made to the development of industrial design in Hong Kong. I am sure they can count on ample material reward, because good designs mean good products, and good products mean more orders and profits.

"Turning to the Governor's Award for Hong Kong Design 1974: the winner, for the second year in succession, is Ampex Ferrotec Limited, and the winning product is a portable memory exerciser - a new product which displays in its design and construction a high degree of original technical innovation. I am particularly pleased that, once again, Ampex Ferrotec have come up with a product which has been developed to meet the specific needs of local industry.

"Ampex Ferrotec's designers have also won for their company the Federation of Hong Kong Industries' Award for Components for a digital cassette tape drive. It is an outstanding example of the type of sophisticated component for which Hong Kong has excellent design capability. I congratulate Ampex Ferrotec and their designers on their consistently high standards of performance in this annual competition. I am sure that their efforts, and those of the other award-winning companies, will help to impress on their fellow industrialists the benefits that accrue from high standard of design.

"And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in calling on the representative of Ampex Ferrotec to come forward to receive the trophy."

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NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS APPOINTED

Mr. D.W. McDonald, Director of Building Development, has been appointed the new Director of Public Works with effect from January 26, 1974.

His promotion was approved by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs following Mr. A.S. Robertson's decision last October to take up a new job as Chief Executive of the Northumbrian Water Authority in England.

Mr. McDonald, 46, obtained the Diploma in Architecture with distinction in June 1953 and was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Associate of the Royal Incorporation of Architects of Scotland in 1954.

He was employed with a firm of Chartered Architects in Dundee until he joined the Hong Kong government as an Architect in August 1955. He was promoted to Senior Architect in April 1964, Chief Architect in February 1967, Government Architect in April 1970, Principal Government Architect in February 1972 and Director of Building Development in May, 1973. He has since then acted as Director of Public Works and Deputy Director of Public Works.

Mr. McDonald is married with two children. He will be going to the forthcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from January 12 to February 4, as Coach and Manager of the Hong Kong Swimming Team.

He will assume duty as Director of Public Works on his return.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. McDonald's photograph are boxed for collection.

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NEW SALE OF LAND TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

An additional five-acre site on Tsing Yi Island is to be sold by the government to the Outboard Marine Corporation for the construction of an expanded outboard engine manufacturing plant.

The new piece of land adjoins the five-acre site which the company bought by restricted tender last April.

A Commerce and Industry Department spokesman said today that the O.M.C. project will introduce new technology to Hong Kong and a wide range of training in technical skills for workers.

"A high proportion of the O.M.C. workforce will be male workers," he said.

The company's project on the 10-acre site involves an estimated total investment of \$100 million. This is nearly double the original investment envisaged.

It is anticipated that the expanded production plant will employ 1,000 workers, twice the number which development on a five-acre site would have permitted.

The value of Hong Kong content in the engines manufactured will rise from an originally estimated \$17 million annually to a new figure of \$50 million.

This results from a greater production of high technology components and parts.

/The spokesman

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The spokesman said that the company's expanded plans gave a major boost to the government's efforts to attract technologically advanced industries to Hong Kong.

"This is a further indication of the new impetus which is being given to industrial development in Hong Kong under the government's modified land policy permitting grants of land on special terms for selected industries unsuitable for high-rise buildings," he added.

Approval in principle has already been given for a 10-acre site on Tsing Yi Island to be made available for the construction of a \$100 million plastics manufacturing plant, which will be the largest of its type in the world.

An application for a site to be granted for the manufacture of polyester - an important raw material for Hong Kong's textile industry - is now under discussion.

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TWO-WAY TRAFFIC RESUMES ALONG ELECTRIC ROAD

The section of Electric Road between Watson Road and North Point Road has been reverted back to two-way traffic following the completion of trench works in the area.

CMB buses No. 23 will resume their journeys on Electric Road.

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ARTS FESTIVAL STAMPS

Three special stamps to commemorate the 1974 Hong Kong Festival of Arts will go on sale at all post offices as from February 1, together with a souvenir sheet which incorporates the stamps and descriptions of their themes in both English and Chinese.

The three stamps, of 10-cent, \$1 and \$2 denominations, depict a selection of Chinese opera masks which symbolise the theme of the Festival.

They are in vertical format, measuring 1.1 in. by 1.75 in., and were printed by Joh. Enschede en Zonen of Holland, using the photogravure process.

The stamps' designer, Mr. Robert Hookham of Hong Kong, has also produced a special first day cover which will be on sale at 20 cents each from next Thursday (January 17).

A spokesman for the Post Office advised members of the public to obtain their requirements early to avoid disappointment.

Advance orders for servicing first day covers will be accepted at the General Post Office in Pedder Street, the Kowloon Central Post Office in Nathan Road, and the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office in Salisbury Road.

The addressed first day covers should be handed in with an order form together with a \$3.20 remittance for each cover. This charge includes the cost of the stamps and a service fee of 10 cents. Not less than 10 covers will be accepted with each order, and the cover must be fully addressed by the applicant.

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Order forms will be available at the three post offices next Thursday. The latest date for accepting the orders will be noon on January 29.

Any person ordering serviced covers addressed to a local destination may collect them on February 2 from the office where the order was placed.

Covers addressed overseas will be sent forward by ordinary post, surface mail, unless there are sufficient stamps to cover airmail or registration charges.

On the day of issue of the new Arts Festival stamps, first day covers will be accepted over the counter at all post offices.

These will be impressed with the normal post office date stamp, and handed back to the person presenting them. However, no time type will appear in the post mark and there will be special conditions for this service that day.

Only articles bearing an indication that they are first day covers will be accepted. They must be addressed to a local address and must not bear any other cancellation. In addition, no registered items will be accepted for this special service.

Special posting boxes will be available at the General Post Office, the Kowloon Central Post Office and the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on February 1 for those who wish to have first day covers carefully hand-postmarked before despatch to the address on the cover.

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Note to Editors: A photograph of the three stamps is boxed for collection.

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MORNING PRIMARY SCHOOLS MAY START CLASSES 15 MINUTES LATER

The headmasters of government primary schools have been advised by the Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning, that, if they wish, they may make adjustments in school hours so that minimum inconvenience to school children is caused following the introduction of summer time since December 30, 1973.

In a circular to the headmasters today, the Director reiterated that he had no objection to them making such adjustments and he suggested that A.M. schools begin classes 15 minutes later, that is from 8.15 a.m. with immediate effect.

Mr. Canning said that this temporary measure should remain in force in government primary A.M. schools until the latter part of February when the situation will be reviewed.

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CORRECTION

Four Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council spoke on the Securities Bill at yesterday's council meeting.

They were: The Hon. P.C. Woo, the Hon. Wilfred S.B. Wong, the Hon. Hilton Cheong-Leen, and the Hon. G.M. Sayer.

The Hon. Wilson Wang did not speak on the bill as reported in yesterday's Daily Information Bulletin. The remarks attributed to Mr. Wang were, in fact, made by Mr. Wilfred Wong.

The error is regretted.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Thursday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew -- old crop	Good	
-- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jien -- old crop	Good	-
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Good	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Normal	5.0	3.3	4.0
Big-Eyes	Good	3.2	0.5	2.4
Squid	Normal	6.5	3.0	5.5
Hair-Tails	Good	2.0	1.1	1.7
Lizard Fishes	Limited	2.7	0.9	1.7
Croakers	Good	2.4	0.75	1.2
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.8	2.1	2.5
Melon Coat	Limited	3.0	2.2	2.5
Breams	Normal	4.5	3.8	4.0
Yellow Belly	Good	2.7	0.7	1.5
Mackerels	Normal	4.5	3.2	4.2
Red Goat Fish	Good	3.0	0.7	2.2
Fork-Tail	Good	1.4	1.0	1.2
Horse-Head	Normal	6.2	4.2	5.8
Melon Seed	Normal	2.5	1.8	2.2
Pomfrets	Scarce	11.5	7.5	9.0
Groupers	Normal	6.8	5.2	5.7
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.0	0.6	1.4
White cabbage	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.8
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	0.8	0.2	0.5
Chinese Kale	Good	0.7	0.2	0.4
Spring onion	Limited	2.2	0.8	1.6
Spinach	Normal	1.5	0.5	1.2
Water cross	Normal	1.4	0.3	0.8
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	1.0	0.2	0.5
Tomato	Normal	1.8	0.8	1.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	. 285