



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1977

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RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS  
13 MORE TO BE BUILT NEXT DECADE

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THE FIRST OF A NEW SERIES OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR THE DISABLED WILL BE SET UP BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THIS AUTUMN.

THE WORKSHOP, LOCATED IN THE LEK YUEN ESTATE, WILL PROVIDE WORKING PLACES FOR 100 DISABLED PERSONS.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, MR. KHOO TAI-PIN, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REHABILITATION DIVISION, SAID AT LEAST 13 SUCH WORKSHOPS WOULD BE PROVIDED ON A DISTRICT BASIS WITHIN THE NEXT TEN YEARS TO CREATE OVER 1,600 WORK PLACES.

+THEY ARE BEING PLANNED IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO SET UP MORE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR THE DISABLED.

+THESE PLANS WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY TO KEEP PACE WITH THE DEMAND AND TO ADAPT TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE DISABLED COMMUNITY.+

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, MR. KHOO EXPLAINED, ARE TO HELP THE DISABLED WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT, TO MAKE FULL USE OF THEIR RESIDUAL CAPACITIES BY OFFERING THEM PRODUCTIVE AND REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT IN A SHELTERED ENVIRONMENT.

AT PRESENT, SEVEN SUCH WORKSHOPS ARE BEING RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT. THEY ABSORB ABOUT 600 DISABLED WORKERS WHO ARE EITHER BLIND, DEAF, EX-MENTAL PATIENTS, MENTALLY RETARDED OR PHYSICALLY DISABLED.

THEY ARE PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN ASSEMBLING WORK WHICH MAY BE PART-FINISHED, OR JUST PACKAGING. ALL MATERIALS ARE SUPPLIED BY THE MANUFACTURER. HARDLY ANY COST IS, THEREFORE, INVOLVED IN ADDITIONAL MATERIALS OR ANCILLARY FACILITIES, AND THUS MINIMISES THE NEED FOR CAPITAL.

+WITH THE ABSENCE OF OVERHEAD TO BE RECOUPED FROM SHELTERED WORKERS, THERE WOULD BE NO DEDUCTION WHATSOEVER FROM THEIR EARNINGS AND THEY CAN TAKE HOME AS MUCH AS THEY ARE ABLE TO EARN ON A PIECE RATE BASIS WHICH IS ENTIRELY AT THE MARKET RATE FOR THE SAME TYPE OF WORK DONE BY ABLE-BODIED WORKERS,+ MR. KHOO SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THAT, EACH SHELTERED WORKER IS ALSO GIVEN INCENTIVE PAYMENT OF \$3.50 PER DAY AND PROVIDED WITH FREE TRANSPORT OR FULL REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

+JOB ORDERS ARE PROCURED BY REHABILITATION OFFICERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAVING REGARD TO THE NUMBER AND ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED IN THEIR CHARGE. THE WORK IS SCHEDULED, TAUGHT AND SUPERVISED BY TRADE INSTRUCTORS OR WORKSHOP SUPERVISORS,+ MR. KHOO SAID.

/HOWEVER, .....

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT SHELTERED WORKERS ARE NOT EMPLOYEES OF THE WORKSHOPS OR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT. RATHER, +THEY MAY LOOK UPON THEMSELVES AS THEIR OWN BOSS WITH FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ENABLE THEM TO DO SO.+

SUB-CONTRACT WORK FOR FIRMS AND NON-COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKINGS, THOUGH SIMPLE, UNREFINED AND WITHOUT FRILL OR FUSS, IS ECONOMICAL AND EFFECTIVE. IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE MOST CONDUCTIVE TO MAXIMISING THE EFFORTS OF THE SHELTERED WORKERS.

IN CONTRAST, WORKSHOPS PRODUCING FOR THE MARKET OR SORTING AND REBUILDING OF DONATED ARTICLES, REQUIRE CAPITAL IN MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTION, AND INCUR GREATER RECURRENT OVERHEAD WITHOUT CORRESPONDING REAL EARNINGS TO THE SHELTERED WORKERS.

APART FROM ITS ECONOMIC VALUE, THE WORKSHOPS ALSO SERVE AS A TRAINING GROUND FOR MARKETABLE SKILLS AND WORK HABITS. IT CAN BE A STEPPING STONE TO VOCATIONAL ADJUSTMENT AND ADVANCEMENT. THOSE WHO ARE CAPABLE OF GRADUATING TO OPEN EMPLOYMENT AFTER A PERIOD IN A SHELTERED WORKSHOP ARE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED TO DO SO.

MR. KHOO RECALLED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD HAD A LONG HISTORY OF PROVIDING WORK PLACES FOR THE DISABLED. SOME SHELTERED WORK, MAINLY KNITTING AND ASSEMBLING, HAD ALREADY BEEN AVAILABLE IN 1949 TO DISABLED PERSONS AS AN ADJUNCT TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CLASSES PROVIDED IN THE NORTH POINT RELIEF CAMP.

ORGANISED SHELTERED WORKSHOPS APPEARED ON THE SCENE IN 1955 WHEN SOME RESIDENTS OF THE WELFARE CENTRE FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AT SHAP LONG ON LANTAU ISLAND TOOK UP BEAD STRINGING, PLASTIC BAG MAKING AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

SIMILAR SERVICES HAD ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY VARIOUS NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE YEARS, THIS SERVICE HAD GROWN CONSIDERABLY AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND IN THE YEARS TO COME, MR. KHOO SAID.

HOWEVER, HE NOTED, CONTINUOUS CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NON-GOVERNMENT SECTOR IS NECESSARY IF SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT IS TO BE PROVIDED FOR ALL WHO NEED IT.

+MORE IMPORTANT, MORE ORDERS FROM BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FIRMS ARE NEEDED TO KEEP THESE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS GOING,+ HE ADDED.

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METRICATION HANDBOOK FOR CRAFTSMEN ON SALE

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THE METRICATION UNIT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS COMPILED A METRICATION HANDBOOK FOR CRAFTSMEN.

ENTITLED '+CRAFTSMEN'S METRICATION HANDBOOK+', THE 76-PAGE BOOKLET ENTIRELY IN CHINESE IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$2.80 EACH.

IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT VARIOUS CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND LEADING BOOKSHOPS.

COMMENTING ON THE BOOKLET, THE P.W.D.'S METRICATION OFFICER, MR. JIM MCGUINNIETY, SAID IT WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS.

THE FIRST SECTION INTRODUCES THE SYSTEM -- ITS BASE UNITS AND COMMON DERIVED UNITS AS WELL AS THE PREFIXES TO DENOTE THE MULTIPLES OF THE UNITS.

IT EXPLAINS THE USE OF SYMBOLS TO DENOTE UNITS AND PREFIXES AND THE USE OF LITRE, TONNE, HECTARE WHICH ARE COMMON EVERY DAY UNITS IN USE WITH THE SYSTEM.

THE SECTION ALSO DEALS WITH CONCEPTS OF LENGTH, AREA, VOLUME, WEIGHT, FORCE, PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE.

IT CONTAINS A FEW SIMPLE QUESTIONS WHICH AIM TO TEST THE READER'S COMPREHENSION OF THE SUBJECT. THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED.

THE SECOND SECTION DEALS WITH THE BASIC METRIC INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL TRADES AND COVERS CONCRETE WORK, REINFORCING STEEL WORK, BRICKLAYING, JOINERY, GLAZING, PAINTING, PLUMBING, DRAINAGE AND ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL TRADES AND GIVES THE METRIC VALUES OF THE UNITS AND MATERIALS IN COMMON USAGE IN EACH TRADE.

THE LAST SECTION OF THE BOOKLET GIVES A LIST OF CONVERSION FACTORS FROM METRIC TO BOTH IMPERIAL AND LOCAL CHINESE UNITS.

MR. MCGUINNIETY SAID THAT THE POCKET SIZE BOOKLET, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND PRINTED IN CHINESE, WAS MADE UP WITH AN ATTRACTIVE COVER AND HEAVY QUALITY PAPER AND HAD A COLOUR CODE FOR EASY REFERENCE TO THE VARIOUS SECTIONS.

+IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN VERY SIMPLE TERMS WELL WITHIN THE SCOPE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE USER FOR WHOM THE BOOKLET IS INTENDED,+ HE SAID.

IT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE STRONG SALES APPEAL TO ALL PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING AND ENGINEERING TRADES. THE REASON IS THAT UNDER RECENT METRICATION ORDERS RELATING TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ALL SUBMISSIONS IN RESPECT OF NEW BUILDINGS MUST BE IN METRIC TERMS AS FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

/+PAINS .....

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+PAINS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF THE BOOKLET WHILST AT THE SAME TIME KEEPING THE COST WITHIN THE REACH OF THE USER,+ MR. MCGUINNIETY SAID.

AT \$2.80 A COPY, HE SAID, EMPLOYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO OBTAIN SUPPLIES FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION TO KEY PERSONNEL IF NOT TO ALL ARTISANS OR THEIR STAFF.

MR. MCGUINNIETY THANKED ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY, CONSISTING OF P.W.D. OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF BUILDING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS (H.K. BRANCH) AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, FOR THEIR GOOD WORK IN TRANSLATING HIS ORIGINAL TEXT.

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#### PLASTICS INDUSTRY SURVEY

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A SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S PLASTICS INDUSTRY WILL BE CONDUCTED NEXT MONTH TO COLLECT UP-TO-DATE MANPOWER INFORMATION OF THE INDUSTRY.

THE SURVEY, THE FOURTH IN THE SERIES, WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM JULY 4 TO JULY 25 BY THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ABOUT 450 ESTABLISHMENTS SELECTED BY RANDOM SAMPLING.

SURVEY INTERVIEWING OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT EACH OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO ASSIST EMPLOYERS IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THE INFORMATION WHICH EMPLOYERS ARE ASKED TO SUPPLY INCLUDES THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT EMPLOYED AND UNDER TRAINING, THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES, AND A FORECAST OF ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF WORKERS IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

REFERRING TO THE SURVEY, MR. DENNIS TING, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, SAID +THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT.

+THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR FORMULATING TRAINING PLANS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, THEREFORE CO-OPERATION OF THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED IS SINCERELY SOLICITED TO MAKE THE SURVEY AGAIN A SUCCESSFUL ONE.+

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