HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, May 14, 1973

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Macau ferry terminal to be air conditioned and improved as short term measure. Long term development envisages new complex	1
Urban Council health inspectors to pay more attention to perishable foodstuff with the onset of the hot weather	3
Tsuen Wan becomes Hong Kong's fourth smoke control area from tomorrow	4
Figures released today reflect the extremely poor response to the current anti-measles campaign	5
Simple precautionary measures could eliminate many building accidents and reduce the high number of casulties	6
Director of Commerce and Industry to visit two factories in Kwun Tong on Wednesday	7

Issued by Government Information Services, Beaconsfield House, Hong Kong. Tel: 5-233191

Monday, May 14, 1973

IMPROVEMENTS TO MACAU FERRY TERMINAL

****

Short term measures to improve conditions at the Macau Ferry terminal in Central will begin later this year.

The work, costing about $1 million, will involve the provision of more comfortable facilities for passengers and more spacious office accommodation within the existing building.

At the same time, the covered way from the arrival-departure hall to the hydrofoil waiting area will be extended, and various offices on the landward side of the hall will be removed.

Air conditioning and toilet facilities for the passenger processing areas will be installed and a new transformer house will be built to meet the increased demand for electricity.

The reprovisioning of the office accommodation will provide a total covered area of about 16,000 square feet for passengers waiting to enter the terminal.

The work should begin in September and take about 12 months to complete.

However, preliminary proposals are already under consideration to replace the existing terminal with a modern complex to solve accommodation and passenger movement problems on a long term basis.

The proposal envisages a new building on the existing site to cater for all requirements well into the 1980's with the present type of ferry transport.

It takes into consideration the possible annual passenger traffic of 5.5 million by 1977.

/Departments .....

Departments involved are now drawing up their requirements and it is hoped that the proposals can be submitted to the Public Works Sub-Committee in August this year.

However, it is anticipated that a new terminal complex will not be completed until 1976 or 1977 and the improvements, which will start this year, will be necessary to ease the present conditions.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3 .....

STRICTER WATCH ON PERISHABLE FOODSTUFF

****

Health Inspectors of the Urban Council are to make more frequent inspections of foodstuff in licensed food premises with the onset of the hot weather.

A spokesman for the council pointed out today that the inspectors had to work harder to protect public health as food was easily spoilt in the hot and humid weather.

Last year regular visits were made to over 10,000 licensed restaurants, food factories and fresh provision shops in Hong Kong to ensure that the premises were kept to the required health standards.

Proprietors who violated the regulations were first given a warning. If this was ignored they were then prosecuted.

Samples of milk, frozen confection and other foodstuff were also taken away for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis.

"Sub-standard food and drinks are destroyed. About 270 tons of food unfit for human consumption were destroyed last year," the spokesman added.

- --- - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

TSUEN WAN BECOMES SMOKE CONTROL AREA

****

Tsuen Wan tomorrow (May 15) becomes Hong Kong's fourth Smoke Control Area. It was gazetted as such on March 16.

Members of the public were given 21 days to make recommendations or objections to the declaration, but according to Mr. K. Higginson, Smoke Abatement Adviser of the Labour Department, no objections had been received.

He said he had already advised fuel users in Tsuen Wan of the declaration and the necessary precautions to make.

"Beginning tomorrow, Smoke Inspectors will be out patrolling Tsuen Wan to make sure everyone complies with the law," he said.

"Under the law, an occupier of any premises within a smoke control area who operates any furnace, oven or chimney which emits dark smoke for more than six minutes in any period of four hours, or for more than three minutes continuously at any one time, is liable to a $2,000 fine, plus a $50 fine for every 15 minutes during the whole or any part of which the offence continues," he said.

Mr. Higginson pointed out that the emission of smoke darker than the legal level was a result of incomplete combustion.

"Anyone who wants free technical advice on how to avoid the problem can contact officers of my unit by ringing 3-688924 or 3-688954 during office hours," he said.

Three other areas have already been gazetted as smoke control areas - Kwun Tong in 1960, Sha Tin in 1962 and North Point in 1964.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5 .....

POOR RESPONSE TO ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN

****

Only 1,182 doses of vaccine were administered to children during the fifth week of the current anti-measles campaign.

This compares with over 1,600 doses administered during the fifth week of a similar campaign last year and shows poor response from parents who fail to appreciate the danger of the disease.

A spokesman for the Medical and Health Department said many parents still think that an attack of measles is inevitable to every child.

"In fact measles, like smallpox, is infectious and can be prevented by vaccination," the spokesman said.

In the five weeks to May 5 since the current campaign began, a total of only 3,996 doses has been given. At this stage in last year's campaign the total was more than double, at 8,375 and that campaign was not considered successful.

"Parents must recognise that measles is a potentially fatal disease," the spokesman said.

Over 23,000 children between the ages of six months and five years were reported to have suffered from the disease during the past 10 years and just under 2,200 died as a result.

During the current campaign, free measles vaccine is available at all maternal and child health centres as well as at 25 fixed centres set up in housing estates, health offices, government clinics, dispensaries and hospitals.

The vaccine itself is safe and effective. Only one injection is required and it will give protection to the child for at least five years.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

ACCIDENTS ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SITES

****

Two workers were killed and 327 injured last month in accidents on construction sites, according to figures released today by the Labour Department.

Nearly half the victims were injured when tripping over objects, falling from heights or being struck by falling objects.

The Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, Mr. A.H. Carter, said that most of the accidents could have been avoided had managements taken some elementary precautionary measures.

"All worksites must have adequate and safe means of access," he said.

"Waste and rubbish should never be allowed to accumulate. Items left lying loosely on working platforms are posing a constant danger to the workers and must either be removed or safely secured."

Mr. Carter stressed that management should put more emphasis on accident prevention which would not only help to reduce the number of accidents but also help to increase productivity.

As part of its drive to increase awareness of the need for safety precautions on building sites, the Labour Department, in conjunction with Jardine Insurance, will hold a safety conference on Wednesday (May 16) at the Industrial Safety Training Centre in Canton Road Government Offices Building, Kowloon, for 40 management representatives from leading Hong Kong construction firms.

Mr. Carter said that proper safety training was of the utmost importance in helping workers to identify and remove the prevailing hazards in industry, especially on construction sites.

"Managements should encourage their employees to take advantage of the training courses offered free of charge by the Industrial Safety Training Centre," he said.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

Monday, May 14, 1973

FACTORY VISITS BY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

****

Note to Editors: Mr. E.P. Ho, Director of Commerce and Industry, will be visiting two factories in Kwun Tong on Wednesday (May 16).

This is the first in a series of visits by Mr. Ho to observe actual day-to-day work in the factories.

He will arrive at the Chuang's Cutlery (Holdings) Ltd. at 10.15 a.m., where he will be received by Dr. Chuang Chung-wen, the Managing Director, and taken on a tour of the factory.

This will be followed by a visit to the Hollywood Knitwear Factory Ltd.

Your are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the visits. Chuang's Cutlery (Holdings) Ltd. is located at 49-51 Hung To Road, and the Hollywood Knitwear Factory Ltd. at 174 Wai Yip Street, 4th floor, Blocks A and B.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release time: 7.00 p.m.