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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, September 20, 1972

HONG KONG'S FIRST TREATMENT CENTRE FOR WOMEN PROVES SUCCESSFUL

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A four-year pilot scheme begun in 1968 to help women drug addicts has proved to be a viable project and plans for its expansion are now being considered.

This was disclosed by a spokesman for the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts, SARDA, which set up Hong Kong's first treatment centre for women in Wan Chai.

"The pilot project, small though it is," the spokesman said, "suggests that the social factors which lead to addiction and therefore the style of effective treatment, differ from men to women, even though there is no difference in the nature of the addiction and its overall effects on social functioning."

The guiding principle in the planning and operation of the women's treatment centre has been the "totality" of the institution, with care and after-care for the drug addict.

"Staff of the centre have adopted the unified approach to rehabilitate the addicts and have avoided separate emphasis on the medical and social realms. However serious new approaches have been adopted in medical and social treatment and co-operation has been the keynote," he said.

/The spokesman.....

The spokesman stressed that there was still a lot to learn and there was a need to develop programmes which "encourage independence and creativity rather than conformity."

The project was operated on a grant of over one million dollars. This sum consisted of a capital grant to cover the cost of purchasing and equipping five flats at Tak Wah Building in Hennessy Road and to meet four years' recurrent expenses for the pilot project.

During the four years, there were 228 admissions, including 37 re-admissions. Most of the patients admitted were heroin addicts, and were between 45 and 49 years of age.

The average length of their stay in the centre was a little over five months.

The spokesman said the scheme was essential for the strengthening of personal relationships as part of the treatment.

According to the report on the scheme, there are between 80,000 and 100,000 narcotic dependents in Hong Kong and three to five per cent of them are women.

Commenting on the pilot scheme, the Chairman of the Government Lotteries Management Committee, Mr. Alex S.C. Wu, said the result of the experiment has been very encouraging.

He said this is only one of the many social welfare projects financed by the Lotteries Fund.

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BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD FOR PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG

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The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Jack Cater, believes the plastics industry in Hong Kong has a very bright future.

Unlike the textile industry, it is relatively "untrammelled" by import restrictions in its major markets.

Mr. Cater was speaking this evening at a dinner marking the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Hong Kong Plastics Manufacturers Association Limited.

He pointed out that not only is world demand for plastic products increasing but also there is a gradual movement of demand towards better quality and design.

Mr. Cater said that Hong Kong's industry is already well aware of this trend but competition for markets, both external and internal, is also increasing.

He warned that production and export growth in future is not going to be as easily achieved as in the past.

Manufacturers would do well if they improved their design, utility, engineering, safety, packaging and, perhaps most important of all, productivity.

Mr. Cater said good design is essential to saleability, but the question of health and safety standards is a very vital one for the plastics industry, particularly in the toys sector.

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"The Hong Kong toy industry is, I believe, now the largest exporter of toys in the world, in terms of value. This is an astonishing record, but one which brings with it the obligation to protect the young from dangerous and unhygienic products."

To this end, he said, the Commerce and Industry Department has done a great deal to reduce such complaints, but much of the responsibility lies with manufacturers.

Mr. Cater said that Hong Kong cannot afford justified complaints against its products on the basis that they are unhygienic or dangerous.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of the speech are available separately in the G.I.S. press boxes.

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TALKS ON PROPOSED MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY

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A team of consulting engineers from the United Kingdom responsible for the design of the electrical and mechanical works for the proposed Mass Transit System has arrived in Hong Kong.

The engineers from the firm of Kennedy and Donkin are Mr. Geoffrey Kennedy, senior partner; Mr. J.A. Broughall, Mr. G.G. Kibblewhite and Mr. A.R. Cotton.

In association with Mr. C.R. Coulson of Freeman Fox and Partners (Far East), who are the consultants engaged by the Hong Kong Government for the project, the visiting engineers are having discussions with the Director of Mass Transit Studies, Mr. A.H. Wilkins.

Members of the team have brought with them a seven-foot model of the proposed rolling stock which they have designed for the mass transit railway.

The rolling stock has been designed specially to deal with the high density of traffic and difficult climatic conditions which exist in Hong Kong.

The model will be on display at the British Industrial Exhibition from October 23 to 31.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover a press conference to be given by the team of engineers from Kennedy and Donkin in the East Room, 23rd floor of the Mandarin Hotel, at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, September 21.

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TRADE DECLARATION COURSES FOR IMPORTERS-EXPORTERS

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The Census and Statistics Department is organising training courses for importers and exporters to help them in the preparation of trade declarations and in solving any problems associated with these procedures.

The first class will be held in the lecture hall of the department in International Building on Friday (September 22) at 3 p.m.

Importers and exporters in Hong Kong are required by law to submit declarations covering all their transactions. This information is essential to the compilation of accurate statistics on overseas trade.

A spokesman for the Census and Statistics Department said: "It helps the Government, the community and the businessmen concerned by providing a clearer picture of economic progress upon which to base vital economic planning for the future."

"Unfortunately," he continued, "many importers and exporters appear to be wasting their time and money on queries that could have been avoided if the forms were properly completed and on penalty fines for not submitting declarations within the time allowed."

The training courses are short and free of charge. They cover subjects such as the Import and Export Regulations, commodity and country classifications and code numbers.

The course will be held on a regular basis in the future and evening classes are also being contemplated.

Application forms for admission may be obtained by writing to the department or by calling H-455411.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

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Nine workers were killed and 375 injured on building construction sites during August, according to reports received by the Labour Department. Four of the workers were believed to have been asphyxiated in a caisson.

Commenting on this case the Industrial Safety Training Officer, Mr. A.H. Carter, said today it was an accident which did not occur frequently, but unfortunately it was one which was very often accompanied by the death of more than one person.

"The accident involving the four deaths followed the classical pattern, that is when one worker was overcome, his fellow workers went to his assistance and they in turn met the same fate," he said.

Mr. Carter pointed out that the presence of unknown gases was always possible in wells or caissons. "They may be asphyxiating, toxic or explosive."

He said safe and reliable methods to test for the presence of these gases were available and he urged managements to make use of the equipment and ensure the safety of their workers before sending them down a caisson or well.

Mr. Carter also emphasised that all workings of this nature should be thoroughly ventilated by mechanical means before work commenced, and this ventilation should be continued during work.

All workers should wear safety harnesses of a type which will enable them to be lifted vertically out in case of emergency. A harness should be attached to a life-line and an attendant on the surface should hold the free end of the line. A visual or sound system of signals should be employed.

Suitable resuscitating equipment for dealing with any person overcome by unknown gases should also be made readily available on sites where work involved caissons or wells.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

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A series of special traffic arrangements will be imposed in the Peak area during the Mid-Autumn Festival in view of the limited parking facilities.

Private car and motor cycle parking spaces at the upper and lower Peak Tran terminus car parks will be suspended with effect from 10 a.m. on Thursday (September 21) until 2 a.m. on Monday (September 25).

During this period, only buses, public light buses and taxis will be allowed to wait in these car parks.

At the same time only residents' vehicles will be allowed to enter Mount Austin Road from Peak Road.

Traffic proceeding to and from the Peak area will be diverted from Peak Road into the upper tram terminus car park as and when required by police officers.

The Transport Department also warned that traffic in Peak Road and Magazeine Gap Road may be diverted at any time during the Mid-Autumn Festival period.

Illegally parked vehicles may be removed by the police without prior notice.

The Department also announced today that the section of Severn Road between the junction with Plantation Road and the access road to House No. 8 will be re-opened to traffic on Friday. The road had been closed as a result of the June rainstorms.

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ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR SERVICE CONFERENCE

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Officers from various divisions of the Social Welfare Department are taking part in the first conference of the Association of Volunteers for Service in the Lady Trench Training Centre on Saturday (September 23).

The Association is a voluntary body composed of members concerned with promoting the idea of volunteer service for the general well-being of the community.

The conference will be opened by Mr. Arthur Hinton, headmaster of the Northcote College of Education. About 80 people are expected to attend.

Participants, in addition to SWD officers, will include Association members such as teenagers, students, young adults, and social workers in the voluntary sector.

The conference, called "Meeting Point," has been designed to provide a venue for the discussion of various topics of direct interest to the Association and its membership.

These are to include consideration of ways in which parents and teachers can help to promote the idea of voluntary service, how to reach young workers besides students, whether the concept of volunteering for service is generally understood, and co-operation between volunteer and professional social workers.

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Note to Editors: The Association of Volunteers for Service invites the Press to cover the opening ceremony at the Lady Trench Training Centre, 44, Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 23. The conference will close at 4 p.m. on the same day.

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ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN

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Figures released today by the Medical and Health Department show that during the sixth week of the current anti-measles campaign, 1,584 doses were administered.

Of the total, 303 doses were administered to children on the Island, 793 in Kowloon, and 488 in the New Territories.

Since the beginning of the campaign on August 8, a total of 9,059 children have been protected against the disease.

The campaign has another three weeks to go. Free vaccinations are available at all government hospitals and clinics, maternal and child health centres, and special vaccination points set up for service during the campaign.

After the nine weeks are up, routine anti-measles vaccine will continue to be available at all maternal and child health centres.

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EXTRA TRAINS FOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

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The Kowloon-Canton Railway will be running special passenger trains between Kowloon and the New Territories for the Mid-Autumn Festival on Friday and Saturday.

There will be six additional up trains in the morning and early afternoon on both days, and five down trains in the afternoon and evening.

The six special up trains will operate between Tsim Sha Tsui and Tai Po Market. Three of the down trains will cover the reverse trip, and there will be one from University and one from Lo Wu.

All trains will pick up passengers en route.

A KCR spokesman said that extra services will be provided in the late evenings if traffic warrants.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.