



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM FACILITATES LABOUR ENQUIRIES

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL INSTALL A NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM AT ITS 11 LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE (LRS) BRANCH OFFICES NEXT WEEK TO QUICKEN ANSWERS TO ENQUIRIES ON LABOUR RELATIONS MATTERS.

THE NEW SYSTEM WILL LINK UP THE ENQUIRY TELEPHONE LINES OF ALL LRS BRANCH OFFICES.

"IF A CALLER CANNOT GET THROUGH THE LINE OF A PARTICULAR OFFICE, HE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER AVAILABLE OFFICE," CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER MR JAMES YEUNG EXPLAINED.

"THIS WILL SAVE AN ENQUIRER THE TROUBLE OF REPEATEDLY CALLING AN ENGAGED NUMBER AND WILL ENABLE HIM TO BE ANSWERED WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME," MR YEUNG ADDED.

A SET OF NEW ENQUIRY NUMBERS FOR THE 11 LRS BRANCH OFFICES, WHICH WILL COME INTO USE NEXT TUESDAY (APRIL 21), IS LISTED BELOW:

OFFICE -----	NEW NUMBER -----
HONG KONG EAST	92 227 003
HONG KONG WEST	92 226 003
KOWLOON EAST	92 276 003
KOWLOON WEST	92 287 003
KOWLOON SOUTH	92 286 003
KWUN TONG	92 277 003
TSUEN WAN	92 203 003
KWAI CHUNG	92 202 003
TUEN MUN	92 206 003
TAI PO	92 293 003
SHA TIN	92 294 003

THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE GIVES ADVICE TO BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ON ALL ASPECTS OF LABOUR RELATIONS, INCLUDING THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THE SERVICE ALSO ASSISTS EMPLOYEES WHO ARE OWED WAGES OR OTHER RELATED BENEFITS IN PURSUING THEIR CLAIMS.

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IN ADDITION, THE SERVICE ASSISTS THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN A LABOUR DISPUTE TO COME TO AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT.

IT ALSO PROMOTES AND MAINTAINS HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS BY GIVING ADVICE ON THE SETTING UP OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE BODIES IN COMPANIES AND ON GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, AS WELL AS ORGANISING VARIOUS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

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SHELTERED WORKER TO ATTEND INT'L MEETING FOR DISABLED

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A 22-YEAR-OLD SHELTERED WORKER OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON LEFT FOR JAPAN TO ATTEND A MEETING FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED YOUTHS IN ASIA.

MR NG SHU-KEUNG, A WORKER OF KWAI HING SHELTERED WORKSHOP OF THE DEPARTMENT, WAS AMONG 16 REPRESENTATIVES FROM EIGHT ASIAN COUNTRIES TO TAKE PART IN THE MEETING, THE FIRST EVER HELD BY THE JAPAN LEAGUE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED.

THE MEETING IS AIMED AT PROVIDING A CHANCE FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS OF DIFFERENT ASIAN COUNTRIES TO GET TOGETHER TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR OUTLOOK ON LIFE IN A BID TO FURTHER PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MENTALLY RETARDATION.

"INVITATIONS WERE EXTENDED TO HONG KONG FOR THE NOMINATION OF TWO DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE MEETING," A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT WAS ENCOURAGING THAT THE NOMINATION BY THE DEPARTMENT WAS ACCEPTED BY A SELECTION BOARD, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE OTHER DELEGATE REPRESENTING HONG KONG IS A MENTALLY RETARDED GIRL WHO IS IN OPEN EMPLOYMENT," HE NOTED.

BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, MR NG SAID HE WAS VERY EXCITED AS HIS DREAM OF BOARDING A PLANE CAN NOW BE REALISED.

"I ALSO HOPE ALL DISABLED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG COULD BE BENEFITED FROM REHABILITATION SERVICES," HE ADDED.

THE MEETING, TO BE HELD AT FIVE CITIES IN JAPAN INCLUDING TOKYO, WILL CLOSE ON APRIL 26 (SUNDAY).

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JOCKEY CLUB DONATION FOR GIFTED EDUCATION RESEARCH

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS DONATED \$1.16 MILLION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT PROJECT IN RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR RESEARCH ON GIFTED EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

UNDER THE PROJECT, IDENTIFICATION TOOLS WOULD BE ADAPTED AND TESTED FOR ACADEMICALLY GIFTED CHILDREN IN LOCAL SCHOOLS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, IN ITS REPORT NO. 4, RECOGNISED THE LACK OF DATA ON THESE CHILDREN AS WELL AS IDENTIFICATION TOOLS AND AVAILABLE PROGRAMMES FOR THEM.

IT WAS HOPED THAT THROUGH THIS PROJECT, OTHER RELATED INFORMATION AND DATA ON ACADEMICALLY GIFTED CHILDREN IN HONG KONG COULD BE GATHERED, HE SAID.

THE RESEARCH WORK WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE TERTIARY INSTITUTES, PROBABLY IN THE 1992-93 SCHOOL YEAR.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL SEND A LETTER TO ALL TERTIARY INSTITUTES AND THE HONG KONG PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY TO INVITE THEM TO APPLY FOR THE RESEARCH FUND.

HE ADDED THAT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE FORMED WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO OVERSEE THE RESEARCH PROJECT, INCLUDING VETTING THE PROPOSALS FROM THE TERTIARY INSTITUTES.

AT PRESENT, THE MAIN IDENTIFICATION TOOL WAS THE HONG KONG WECHSLER INTELLIGENCE SCALE FOR CHILDREN, ADAPTED AND STANDARDISED LOCALLY FROM 1978 TO 1982 BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE HONG KONG PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

"IT GIVES RELIABLE AND OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON INTELLECTUAL ABILITY IN DETERMINING WHETHER A CHILD IS ACADEMICALLY GIFTED, BUT SO FAR THERE ARE NO ESTABLISHED LOCAL TOOLS FOR ASSESSING CREATIVE THINKING SKILL WHICH IS ALSO AN ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF GIFTEDNESS," HE SAID.

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CNTA HANDLES OVER 560,000 DECLARATIONS AND OATHS

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A TOTAL OF 563,898 DECLARATIONS AND OATHS WERE MADE AT THE 20 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) LAST YEAR.

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE MOST IN DEMAND WERE DECLARATIONS FOR TRUE COPIES OF DOCUMENTS, LOSS OF DOCUMENTS, IDENTITY VERIFICATIONS, EMIGRATION, EDUCATION AND EXAMINATIONS.

HE SAID THE SERVICES WERE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR PRIVATE PURPOSES ONLY.

"PEOPLE WHO CANNOT PRODUCE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENT TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS, OR TO SUPPORT THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR ANY TYPE OF DOCUMENTS FROM NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, CAN MAKE USE OF THESE SERVICES.

"IN MAKING THE DECLARATION, THE APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO PRODUCE HIS OR HER HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD OR EQUIVALENT IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, AND COMPLETE THE CONTENTS OF THE STATEMENT IN A PRESCRIBED FORM AVAILABLE AT THE ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES.

"IN THE END, THE DECLARANT MAKES AN OATH, EITHER IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH, IN FRONT OF A COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS DECLARATIONS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HE SAID INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ADMINISTERING THEIR OWN STATUTORY DECLARATIONS SINCE APRIL LAST YEAR.

NOTING THAT NOT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND SUB-OFFICES PROVIDED DECLARATION SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED RESIDENTS TO TELEPHONE A DISTRICT OFFICE TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICES WERE AVAILABLE AT THE PERIOD THAT SUITED THEM.

RESIDENTS WHO WISH TO SEEK ADVICE OR OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICE MAY APPROACH ANY ONE OF THE CENTRES.

THEY MAY ALSO CALL THE CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE HOTLINE, 835 2500, HE ADDED.

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