

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Tuesday, July 18, 1972

NEED FOR MORE SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

The Education Department is seeking further support and help from voluntary and religious bodies to implement its target of providing secondary technical education for four per cent of those in the 12 - 16 age group by 1976.

Disclosing this today, a spokesman for the department said: "We are trying to encourage these organisations to establish as many schools as possible, to be aided by the Government."

He pointed out that government and aided projects approved so far could provide such schooling for only 2.7 per cent of the estimated 541,200 children in the age group by the target date.

Many sponsoring bodies hesitated to take on the operation of these schools because of financial implications and lack of expertise in this field.

There are now 13 secondary technical schools in Hong Kong -- eight run by the Government and the others subsidised or assisted by the Government, with a total enrolment of about 9,000.

A new school, the North Kwai Chung Government Secondary Technical School, will be opened in September for another 920 students.

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The spokesman disclosed that there were four other government schools now included in the current public works building programme, while five subsidised schools were in the planning stage or under consideration.

In addition, the Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary Technical School will soon be expanded to provide additional facilities. This will bring the school up to the standards normally applied to secondary technical schools in the public sector, and it will also be able to provide courses at Form 6 level.

While appealing to voluntary and religious organisations to build more schools, the spokesman stressed the importance of secondary technical education, and the role that this type of school plays in the preparation of students for life in modern Hong Kong.

One advantage is that they combine a sound general education with the opportunity to engage in work and activities of a more practical nature.

The students are selected through the Secondary School Entrance Examination and the schools offer a five-year secondary education up to Certificate of Education level.

In addition to most of the general subjects found in grammar schools, they provide technical subjects like metal work, wood work, practical electricity, technical drawing for boys, and domestic and commercial subjects for girls.

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The spokesman said: "The teaching of technical subjects in these schools is not vocationally biased but, nevertheless, results in the acquisition of quite acceptable basic skills which can be utilised by means of further training, such as technician apprenticeship, to produce very useful technicians or technologists".

He emphasised that such schools were never intended to prepare their students for direct employment in a productive capacity in industry.

However, he pointed out that of 138 secondary school leavers recruited into the first properly organised technician apprenticeships in various industries, 110 were from secondary technical schools.

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INCREASED WATER CHARGES FOR TRADE USE NOW IN FORCE

The Water Authority today reminded the public that as from April 1 this year, the rate for fresh water used for trade purposes has been increased from \$3 to \$4 per 1,000 gallons.

The new rate of charge, announced by the Financial Secretary in March last year, will be included in all bills issued in respect of meter readings taken after July 1 this year.

This is to ensure that no water consumed by the trade users before April 1 will be charged under the new rate.

A spokesman for the Authority pointed out that there are about 34,000 communal meters in service, the majority of which serve buildings covering both domestic and trade users.

Water supplied through these meters will continue to be charged at the domestic rate of \$3 per unit of 1,000 gallons for the time being and, in addition, the standard free allowance will be given in respect of each wholly domestic premises served by the meter concerned.

"However", the spokesman added, "it may be necessary to review the method of charging for trade supply meters, and consumers in these premises are strongly advised to make arrangements for the installation of separate meters for their own use without delay."

He said the Water Authority had prepared a leaflet in English and Chinese explaining the procedure on how to apply for separate water meters. Copies of this publication, as well as application forms for the installation of separate water meters are obtainable at all Cisty District Offices.

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Applicants are required to appoint licenced plumbers to install the meters. A list of all licenced plumbers and their addresses is also available at all City District Offices.

Enquiries can be made at the Waterworks Office in Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, and the Waterworks Depot in Argyle Street, Kowloon.

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HONG KONG CHILDREN AWARDED PRIZES IN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION

Four Hong Kong children have won first class prizes in an international painting contest held in the city of Hyvinkaa in Finland.

Nine other awards were presented to outstanding paintings from out of the 50 entries submitted by Hong Kong.

The contest was open to children under 14 and the theme was 'My Home Area': people at work, at home, in the fields, in factories, fishing etc.

Prize-winning paintings were displayed in an exhibition which was opened by the Vice Secretary General of the United Nations, Mrs. Helvi Sipila.

The exhibition was given wide publicity by Finnish television and radio and will be taken round the country in the near future.

The four first prize winners are:

Wong Kam-shan (girl, aged 14) Jockey Club Government Secondary Technical School.

Katty Tung (girl, aged 14) St. Paul's School (Lam Tin)

Cheung Chi-sung (boy, aged 9) Kei Chun School

Yip Mui-sing (boy, aged 7) Building Contractors' Association School.

Announcing the results of the contest today, a spokesman for the Art and Craft Section of the Education Department said it was not the first time local children had won international renown through their extremely high standard of art work.

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Note to Editors: A list of all the Hong Kong prize winners is distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes tonight.

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"POOR HOUSEKEEPING" RESPONSIBLE FOR FACTORY FIRES

The majority of factory fires in Hong Kong are said to be caused through "poor housekeeping".

The Chief Fire Officer, Kowloon Command, Mr. R.H. Holmes, speaking at the first of a series of one-day courses on Fire Prevention, described 15 forms of poor housekeeping. These included the lack of a floor sweeper or cleaner, unsafe stacking of raw materials and finished goods, allowing employees to smoke in prohibited areas, the removal of self-closing doors, locked exit doors and the obstruction of installed fire fighting equipment.

Mr. Holmes said that in many instances when a fire broke out everyone would be leaving it to the others to call for assistance from the Fire Services.

He urged managements to encourage their employees to know the various routes of escape from the factory buildings, and advised people never to use a lift in a building which is affected by fire.

The special one-day fire prevention courses are being organised by the Labour Department in conjunction with the Fire Services Department and are being held at the Industrial Safety Training Centre, Labour Department Kowloon Regional Office, 393 Canton Road.

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BIG LAND RESUMPTION FOR ROAD PROJECT

Nearly a quarter of a million square feet of land will be resumed in Yuen Long for widening Tai Tong Road leading to the developing township.

One-hundred-and-two people affected by the resumption will be paid a cash allowance and offered domestic resettlement in Yuen Long or, if possible, in an estate of their own choice elsewhere.

Those engaged in farming will be compensated for their crops and allowed to re-establish themselves on alternative farm land in nearby areas.

"The houses and sheds affected are all temporary domestic and shop structures and no permanent structures are involved," a New Territories Administration spokesman said today.

He added that negotiation for the land resumption is going ahead smoothly and the land will revert to the Crown in three months' time.

The 1½ mile feeder road, which connects Yuen Long and Tai Tong, has become inadequate because of the increasing volume of traffic between the two places.

The carriageway will be widened from 10 to 20 feet at the end of this year and a number of passing bays will also be provided.

The wider road is expected to ease the present congestion and facilitate future development in the area.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN POKFULAM

Water supplies to a part of Pokfulam will be interrupted for eight hours beginning from 10 p.m. on Thursday, July 20.

This temporary stoppage of water will enable the Waterworks Office to connect a fresh water main near the junction of Pokfulam and Sassoon Roads.

The area affected includes all aquatters in Telegraph Bay Villages, all premises in Sassoon Road, including Northcote Close and those in Pokfulam Road between Sassoon Road and Pokfulam Reservoir Road, including the Nurses' and Doctors' Quarters in Queen Mary Hospital.

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TWO MORE N.T. DISTRICTS JOIN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

Two free open-air variety shows will mark the official inauguration of the summer youth programme in Tai Po and Sheung Shui.

They are jointly organised by the Urban Services Department, the Social Welfare Department, the local Rural Committees and the District Youth and Recreation Co-ordinating Committee.

The shows will be held at the Tai Po Sports Ground on July 20 and at Shek Wu Hui Playground in Sheung Shui on July 24.

Beginning at 7.30 p.m. and lasting for three hours, the shows will include a lion dance, folk dances, acrobatic display, mimicry and a lucky draw.

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MEDICAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

Statistics released today by the Medical and Health Department for the week ending on July 1, 1972 are as follows:-

* Notifications of infectious cases (previous week's figures in brackets) -- total 157 (117); amoebiasis -- 2 (2); bacillary dysentery -- 9 (12); chickenpox -- 3 (1); diphtheria -- nil (1); enteric fever (typhoid) -- 14 (12); enteric fever (paratyphoid) -- 1 (4); leprosy -- 6 (2); measles -- 6 (4); scarlet fever -- nil (1); tuberculosis -- 116 (78).

* Births -- total registered 1239; 333 on Hongkong Island, 745 in Kowloon and 161 in the New Territories.

* Deaths -- 365 from all causes; 118 on the Island, 227 in Kowloon and 20 in the New Territories.

* Four dumped bodies were found -- two from each side of the harbour.

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Release Time: 6.30 p.m.

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