



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK SUPPORTS INT'L EFFORTS TO TACKLE ATMOSPHERIC PROBLEMS
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HONG KONG IS IN STRONG SUPPORT OF EFFORTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ACHIEVE A CONSENSUS ON GLOBAL WARMING AND TO AGREE TO A TIMETABLE FOR REMEDIAL ACTION, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 1991, MR BARNES SAID HONG KONG HAD LONG ENJOYED SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION AND HAD ALWAYS ACTED TO MEET ITS COMMITMENTS TO GLOBAL INITIATIVES ON CLIMATIC CHANGE.

ACTIONS WERE IN HAND TO TACKLE THE THREE ATMOSPHERIC PROBLEMS, NAMELY ACID RAIN, DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER AND GLOBAL WARMING, HE SAID.

"WE SHALL, FOR INSTANCE, MEET OUR COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE USE OF CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (CFC'S) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIMETABLE AGREED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL AND ITS RECENT REVISION.

"NEW LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS ON AEROSOLS USING CFC'S AS PROPELLANTS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE EXPECTED TO BE AGREED SHORTLY," HE SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, HONG KONG IS PARTICIPATING VERY FULLY IN THE WORLD-WIDE PROGRAMME OF MONITORING THE CLIMATE AND RESEARCHING INTO POSSIBLE AREAS OF CLIMATIC CHANGE AND THEIR LIKELY RESULTS.

AS REGARDS THE PROBLEM OF ACID RAIN, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED A SERIES OF MEASURES TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF THE AMOUNT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSION.

THIS INCLUDES REQUIRING FUELS TO BE USED WITH EVER-LOWER SULPHUR LEVELS.

"THE EFFECTS OF THIS ON THE AIR WITHIN OUR INDUSTRIAL AREAS, IN TERMS OF VISIBILITY AND BREATHABILITY, ARE IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS, BUT THE LONG-TERM REGIONAL EFFECTS ON ACID RAIN ARE EQUALLY PROFOUND," MR BARNES SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, POWER STATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO BURN ONLY VERY LOW SULPHUR CONTENT COAL AND BY HIGHLY EFFICIENT AND LOW EMISSION PLANT.

FURTHERMORE, ALL ADDITIONAL POWER GENERATION UNITS SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH FLUE GAS DESULPHURISERS FROM 1990 WHICH ARE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN REMOVING MOST OF WHAT SULPHUR EMISSIONS ARE STILL PRODUCED.

"OUR CONTROLS ON SULPHUR AND ITS EMISSION HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SO FAR AS THEY GO.

/"SULPHUR EMITTED

"SULPHUR EMITTED PER UNIT OF POWER PRODUCED HAS ALSO DROPPED STEADILY IN RECENT YEARS," MR BARNES NOTED.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY HAD INCREASED SO HUGELY THAT THE TOTAL EMISSIONS OF SULPHUR HAD CONTINUED TO RISE STEADILY.

"WE HAVE ONLY SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING THE RATE OF INCREASE IN TOTAL EMISSION. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.

"WE MUST, CLEARLY, MOVE TOWARDS USING OUR ENERGY AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE AS WELL AS PRODUCING IT AS CLEANLY AS POSSIBLE," HE STRESSED.

TO THIS END, AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY HAD JUST BEEN SET UP TO LOOK INTO WAYS OF CURBING WASTE OF ENERGY, MR BARNES SAID.

"PROPER USE OF ELECTRICITY AND OTHER FORMS OF ENERGY IS ESSENTIAL TO US ALL: BUT WASTE IS UNPARDONABLE.

"WE ARE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO REDUCE THAT WASTE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID UPON REQUEST FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, A COMMITTEE WAS IN PROGRESS OF BEING SET UP IN HONG KONG TO MONITOR CLIMATIC CHANGE AND TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION ON THE ISSUE.

"OUR AIMS ARE TO FULFIL OUR DUTIES TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY INCLUDING OURSELVES BY ACTING IN STEP WITH OTHER DEVELOPED TERRITORIES TO RESTRICT EMISSION OF SULPHUR AND USE OF CFC'S, TO MONITOR CLIMATIC CHANGE, AND TO TAKE WHATEVER OTHER CONTROL ACTION IS AGREED FOR GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION," HE ADDED.

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ENHANCED SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES MAY BE IMPLEMENTED NEXT SCHOOL YEAR
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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG, EXPECTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL OBTAIN POLICY ENDORSEMENT FOR MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS IN CHAPTER 3 OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 (ECR 4) BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR, AND HOPEFULLY BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE 1991-92 SCHOOL YEAR.

CHAPTER 3 OF ECR 4 DEALS WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING PROVISION OF SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS CAREFULLY STUDYING THE NUMEROUS SUBMISSIONS, NOW TOTALLING OVER 300 ON ALL SUBJECTS IN THE REPORT, AND FORMULATING FINAL PROPOSALS TO PUT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL," HE SAID.

/SPEAKING AT

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS TSUEN KING CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON, MR YEUNG SAID THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WAS VERY ANXIOUS THAT ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VERY SOUND REASON.

"IT CONCLUDED THAT ANY STUDENT, WHATEVER THEIR ACADEMIC ABILITY, MAY ENCOUNTER LEARNING, EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AT SOME STAGE OF THEIR SCHOOLING.

"WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT, STUDENTS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LEARN AS EFFECTIVELY AS THEY SHOULD, AND, IN SOME CASES, MAY DEVELOP BAD BEHAVIOUR.

"THIS, APART FROM DISRUPTING THE STUDIES OF OTHERS, IS AN IMPEDIMENT TO LEARNING.

"IT IS THEREFORE IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE TAXPAYER WHO HELPS PAY FOR OUR SYSTEM OF FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION, THAT PROPER GUIDANCE BE GIVEN TO SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SCHOOL AND, IF NECESSARY, TO THEIR FAMILIES AT HOME," MR YEUNG SAID.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN CHAPTER 3 OF ECR 4 NOTED THAT THE PROFESSIONAL BACK-UP PROVIDED BY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS IS ESSENTIAL FOR SCHOOL GUIDANCE TEACHERS, AND THAT THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS BY WHICH THE LATTER MAY MAKE REFERRAL SHOULD CONTINUE.

"ENDORSEMENT OF THIS VIEW HAS ALSO COME FROM THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE," MR YEUNG SAID.

"THERE IS BROAD AGREEMENT ON BOTH FRONTS, THEREFORE, THAT THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKING WELL AND SHOULD BE IMPROVED INSTEAD OF RADICALLY RESTRUCTURED," HE ADDED.

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EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES REMINDED OF FEES REGULATIONS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OPERATORS TO OBSERVE REGULATIONS GOVERNING FEES CHARGEABLE TO JOB-SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

"UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS, AN AGENCY MAY CHARGE A JOB-SEEKER \$5 AS REGISTRATION FEE AND ANOTHER \$5 FOR RENEWAL AFTER THREE MONTHS," THE LABOUR OFFICER (EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES), MISS TERESA FONG, SAID.

"THE REGULATIONS ALSO RESTRICT AN AGENCY TO CHARGE AN EMPLOYER NOT MORE THAN \$35 FOR EACH TYPE OF VACANCY REGISTERED AND \$20 FOR RENEWAL AFTER THREE MONTHS," MISS FONG ADDED.

/"ON SUCCESSFUL

"ON SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENT," SHE SAID, "THE COMMISSION CHARGEABLE TO A JOB-SEEKER BY AN AGENCY IS NOT MORE THAN 10 PER CENT OF HIS FIRST MONTH'S WAGES, WHILE COMMISSION FROM AN EMPLOYER IS A MATTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EMPLOYER AND THE AGENCY."

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OPERATOR WAS FINED \$1,400 FOR OVERCHARGING A JOB-SEEKER AND WAS ORDERED TO REFUND THE PLACEMENT FEE OF \$15,560 TO THE JOB-SEEKERS.

THE OPERATOR'S LICENCE WAS LATER REVOKED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

MISS FONG ALSO REMINDED PROSPECTIVE OPERATORS OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO OBTAIN A LICENCE OR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT, NOTING THAT AN OPERATOR WHO FAILED TO DO SO WAS RECENTLY FINED \$2,500.

"OPERATING AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE OR OVERCHARGING JOB-SEEKERS OR EMPLOYERS IS AN OFFENCE WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000," SHE SAID.

ENQUIRIES RELATING TO OPERATIONS OF OR FEES CHARGEABLE BY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES CAN BE MADE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ADMINISTRATION ON TEL. 852 3540 OR 852 3541.

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ANNUAL GOVT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL RACE

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MORE THAN 800 CIVIL SERVANTS FROM 49 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE 10TH GOVERNMENT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL ANNUAL RACE 1991 THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING IN SHA TIN.

PARTICIPANTS STARTED OFF AT THE SHA TIN FIRE STATION, AND CIRCLED ROUND THE SHING MUN RIVER CHANNEL. THE RACE WAS SEVEN KILOMETRE FOR MEN AND FIVE KILOMETRE FOR WOMEN.

THE ANNUAL RACE WAS TO BOOST INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TIES AND FOSTER BETTER TEAM SPIRIT AND STAFF MORALE.

THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION WAS HOSTED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION. OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MRS IRENE YAU, AND THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH.

TROPHIES WERE AWARDED TO THE WINNERS AND THE FIRST 500 PARTICIPANTS WHO FINISHED THE RACE WERE EACH GIVEN A T-SHIRT AS SOUVENIR.

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SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SOLD BY AUCTION
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FORTY SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF \$935,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER EP2 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$110,000.

ANOTHER NUMBER CR1 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$100,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 FOR EN8773

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

	\$		\$		\$		\$
EP3888	15,000	EN272	12,000	EP230	11,000	EN138	30,000
EP113	13,000	EP1116	6,000	2221	50,000	CR1	100,000
XX2688	22,000	EN188	27,000	EN219	5,000	EP2098	4,000
CX557	3,000	EN2328	20,000	EP6328	15,000	EL328	40,000
AH707	10,000	3520	28,000	EM3332	12,000	EP1963	7,000
EN1123	11,000	BB8119	10,000	AW3223	24,000	EN595	5,000
EP3680	3,000	EP908	10,000	AJ1112	23,000	HK1932	24,000
EP2	110,000	HK206	25,000	EP560	8,000	EP128	23,000
AA113	44,000	AK219	9,000	EP6686	5,000	CA557	4,000
EN338	60,000	CW83	50,000	BB1010	56,000	EN8773	1,000

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 162ND ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO \$115,807,605.

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\$4.54M BURSARIES AWARDED TO CHILDREN OF POLICE OFFICERS
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BURSARIES TOTTALLING \$4.54 MILLION HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO 1,806 CHILDREN OF POLICE OFFICERS THIS YEAR, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 4.37 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE AMOUNT OFFERED LAST YEAR.

SPEAKING AT THE 24TH ANNUAL BURSARY CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE POLICE SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB TODAY (SATURDAY), THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, NOTED THAT MANY POLICE CHILDREN HAD BEEN ASSISTED BY THE POLICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST AND THE POLICE EDUCATION AND WELFARE TRUST OVER THE PAST 24 YEARS.

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CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS, MR LI ENCOURAGED THEM TO USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FULLY DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL.

"BY DILIGENT STUDY, I AM SURE YOU WILL ACHIEVE GOOD RESULTS AND WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER UPON A SATISFYING AND PROSPEROUS CAREER WHEN YOU COMPLETE YOUR EDUCATION," HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE TWO TRUSTS WOULD GENERATE SUFFICIENT INCOME TO MEET BURSARY DISTRIBUTION IN THE YEARS TO COME, MR LI PAID TRIBUTE TO THOSE POLICE OFFICERS AND PAST BENEFICIARIES OF THE TRUSTS WHO WERE CONTRIBUTING DONATIONS ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

HE ALSO THANKED THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR MAKING GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE TRUSTS.

THE COMBINED ASSET VALUE OF THE TWO TRUSTS, WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1967, HAS REACHED \$57 MILLION.

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