



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, May 15, 1973

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IMPROVED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS FROM WATER SCHEME

A comprehensive programme is now being carried out in connection with the High Island Water Scheme to improve irrigation systems in parts of the Tai Po and Sai Kung Districts.

The programme involves the building and reconstruction of a large network of diversion dams, irrigation channels and pipe-lines to convey water to some 1,100 acres of agricultural land.

Before commencement of the various intake works for the HIWS programme, an extensive survey of land and water sources was carried out in the farm areas in order to reserve an adequate amount of water according to the existing acreage, land use pattern and potential development.

Considerable effort was then devoted to planning, design work, cost estimating and programming for the introduction of improved irrigation facilities.

Mr. P.Y. Tang, engineer of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department said the improved irrigation systems will ensure a more economical use and even distribution of water by minimising the chances of leakage and the resultant loss of water.

The programme, which began in 1971, is expected to be completed in 1975.

The cost of the whole project is estimated at \$6.9 million. So far, \$1,221,000 has already been spent on irrigation works in Tai Mong Tsai, Sha Kok Mei, Shatin Wai, Ngau Pei Shan and Siu Lek Yuen.

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In Siu Lek Yuen, for example, 36 diversion dams, 18,000 feet of irrigation channels and 10,000 feet of irrigation pipeline will be built at a cost of about \$760,000.

Diversion dams, built across rivers, will raise the water level enabling the water to flow into the fields along channels or through pipelines.

The dams are equipped with check gates and floodways to regulate the flow of water to meet the varying irrigation needs throughout the year.

Each irrigation system consists of a diversion dam, a channel and a pipeline or simply a pipeline on its own. The dams and the channels are built in concrete and the pipelines consist of galvanized iron piping.

Surveys are continuing for further irrigation improvements for other areas in the two districts.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN CAUSEWAY BAY

A number of premises in the Causeway Bay area will be without a water supply for five hours from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Thursday (May 17).

The temporary stoppage is to allow staff of the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test in the area.

The area affected will be bounded by Link Road, Hoi Ping Road, Hysan Avenue, Yun Ping Road, Pennington Street, Irving Street, Keswick Street, Leighton Road from Yee Wo Street to Caroline Hill Road, Haven Street, Caroline Hill Road and part of Eastern Hospital Road including Tung Wah Eastern Hospital and the Hong Kong Stadium.

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USE OF COMPUTERS IN TRADE FACILITATION

A British expert in the use of computers for simplifying trade procedures and documents will arrive in Hong Kong on Thursday (May 17) to familiarise businessmen and officials on the latest developments in this field.

He is Mr. Don Trafford, the Electronic Data Processing Manager of the U.K. Simplification Of International Trade Procedures Board (SITPRO).

A spokesman for the newly-formed Hong Kong Trade Facilitation Committee said today that Sitpro had already done a great deal of work on computer applications in trade facilitation.

During his briefings -- to be attended by businessmen, representatives of trade associations and government officials -- Mr. Trafford will present a "demonstration package" of a computer processing scheme developed for the London Airport.

It was considered that the expansion of cargo movement through the airport would, in time, force an unacceptable slowing down in the handling of airfreight and the system was introduced as a means of overcoming the limitations imposed by conventional paper systems.

Mr. Ian Tomlin, the chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Facilitation Committee, today welcomed Mr. Trafford's visit and said that the application of automatic data processing and advanced data transmission techniques "to information flows in international trade" was assuming a growing significance.

Because of this, he said, it was important that Hong Kong, being so dependent on trade, should keep fully abreast of all developments in this area.

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MID-LEVELS FLYOVERS

Two new flyovers will be built over the Garden Road roundabout to cater for the increasing volume of traffic in the Mid-Levels area.

One of the flyovers will carry eastbound traffic from Robinson Road over the roundabout to Magazine Gap Road, and the other will take northbound traffic from Magazine Gap Road to Garden Road.

The carriageways will have a standard width of 12 feet providing single lane traffic.

Ground level roads in the vicinity will also be widened as a part of the improvement scheme.

Construction of the two flyovers is expected to begin towards the end of the year. The estimated cost is \$4 million.

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PAY RISE FOR COPPER-WARE WORKERS

Workers in the copper-ware trade are to receive wage increases of between 15 and 18 per cent.

Representatives of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Copper-ware Union and the Hong Kong and Kowloon Copper-ware Merchants Association today signed a collective agreement on wage increases in the presence of officers of the Labour Department.

This agreement, retrospective to April 16, provides for new piece rates for some 300 items of copper-ware.

Union demands for a wage increase of from 20 to 25 per cent were first put forward in early March.

The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department was called in to conciliate in the dispute in early April when direct negotiation failed to bring about a compromise.

Two meetings between the parties concerned were subsequently held at the office of the Labour Relations Service.

Settlement was reached on April 12 whereby it was agreed that a collective agreement giving effect to the terms of settlement should be drawn up this month.

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TSAN YUK SOCIAL CENTRE TO BE RENAMED

The Tsan Yuk Social Centre is to be renamed the Western District Community Centre later this week.

A special ceremony to mark the occasion will be held on Thursday (May 17) to coincide with the 12th anniversary of the centre.

Presentations of certificates of commendation to volunteers and prizes to winners of the Western District Drawing Competition will also be held.

Officials from different organisations in the district and the Social Welfare Department will officiate.

The programme will include an exhibition on the work of the centre which members of the public may be able to see any time from 3 to 10 p.m. that day.

The young members of the Tsan Yuk Social Centre have also organised three functions for Saturday, May 19, as part of the anniversary celebrations. These are a fun-fair for 500 children, a party for 120 senior residents of the district and a variety show and youth ball for 150 young people.

The centre is one of the community/social centres run by the Social Welfare Department and is situated in Western Street, Sai Ying Poon.

At the moment, it has a total membership of 760 and is used daily by an average of about 1,300 people.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the celebrations which begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 1973.

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TRAFFIC FLOW TO BE IMPROVED

New arrangements for both motorists and pedestrians will come into operation in Connaught Road Central on Friday (May 18) morning with the introduction of traffic signals at the junction of Connaught Road and Pedder Street.

Westbound traffic on Connaught Road Central turning into Edinburgh Place will be diverted further westwards to make a U-turn at the new traffic signals and then by a left turn into Edinburgh Place via the eastbound lanes of Connaught Road.

The present gap in the central divider of Connaught Road opposite Edinburgh Place will be closed.

Pedestrians wanting to cross Connaught Road Central at Edinburgh Place will have to go by the subway to the east of the Mandarin Hotel. The pedestrian signals and crossing at Edinburgh Place will be removed.

The new arrangements, which will improve the flow of traffic in the area, will come into force at 10.30 a.m. on Friday.

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ACCIDENT PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Note to Editors:

At 9.30 tomorrow morning (Wednesday, May 16) Mr. Szeto Wai, will officially open a special one-day conference on "Accident Prevention in the Construction Industry" at the Industrial Safety Training Centre of the Labour Department in Canton Road Government Offices, 3rd floor, Kowloon.

The conference, jointly organised by the Training Centre and Jardine Insurance, is the first such effort between private enterprise and the department, and follows recent sharp rises in accidents in the construction industry.

You are invited to send a reporter/photographer to cover the occasion.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.