



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1980

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SMOKING CAUSES ILL HEALTH

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SMOKING DECREASES LIFE EXPECTANCY AND INCREASES THE INCIDENCE OF SUCH DISEASES AS LUNG CANCER, CORONARY HEART TROUBLE, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA.

THE WARNING WAS GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG CARDIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, DR RAYMOND WU, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 'SMOKING OR HEALTH EXHIBITION' AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL THIS AFTERNOON.

THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOCIETY, THE ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY AND THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG HEART FOUNDATION.

IT IS PART OF A SERIES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ORGANISED TO MARK WORLD HEALTH DAY 1980 WITH THE THEME +SMOKING OR HEALTH: THE CHOICE IS YOURS+.

DR WU POINTED OUT THAT FROM STUDIES DONE BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ENGLAND, A SMOKER OF OVER 20 CIGARETTES A DAY LIVES THREE YEARS SHORTER COMPARED WITH A NON-SMOKER.

+MATHEMATICALLY ONE CAN DEDUCE BY CALCULATION THAT EVERY CIGARETTE YOU SMOKE BURNS AWAY YOUR LIFE BY 5.7 MINUTES,+ HE SAID.

DR WU SAID THAT A MALE SMOKER OVER 45 YEARS OF AGE IS THREE TIMES MORE LIABLE TO HAVE CORONARY HEART DISEASE AND THAT 90 PER CENT OF DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER ARE SMOKERS.

SMOKING ALSO AFFECTS THE HEALTH OF OTHERS, AS IT HAS BEEN SHOWN THAT EVEN PASSIVE INHALERS ALSO SUFFER FROM ILL-EFFECTS OF THE INGREDIENTS OF SMOKE, HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATION FROM TOBACCO CONSUMPTION AMOUNTED TO \$360 MILLION IN 1978, AN AMOUNT THAT COULD BUILD NINE HOUSING ESTATES, HE ADDED.

DR WU STRESSED THAT SMOKING HAS BECOME THE LARGEST SINGLE PREVENTABLE CAUSE OF ILL HEALTH OF MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HONG KONG.

+IT NEEDS THE JOINT EFFORT OF EVERYBODY, PROFESSIONAL GROUPS AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT AGAINST SMOKING FOR A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION WAS PERFORMED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR J.W. CHAMBERS.

THE EXHIBITION, SAID MR CHAMBERS, REPRESENTED A CO-ORDINATED EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

HE SAID THAT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF THE DANGER TO HEALTH REPRESENTED BY CIGARETTE SMOKING, IN THE LIGHT OF THE DETAILED RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN BY DOCTORS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

/MR CHAMBERS .....

MR CHAMBERS SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO ARE AT THE AGE WHEN THE PRESSURES TO TAKE UP SMOKING ARE AT THEIR STRONGEST, SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR DECISION.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EXHIBITION, FOLLOWED BY MOBILE DISPLAYS IN SCHOOLS, WILL HELP MANY YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE A WISE DECISION.

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### CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES GETTING MORE POPULAR

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DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS, MORE THAN 4 800 YOUNG PEOPLE VISITED THE TWO CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES OPERATED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE (YEAS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

A LARGE NUMBER OF THE VISITORS WERE FORM III STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS.

MORE OF THEM WILL BE CALLING AT THE CENTRES IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS IN GROUP VISITS SPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR THEM BY THE YEAS.

IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, THE YEAS ARRANGED A TOTAL OF 88 SUCH VISITS FOR MORE THAN 3 300 FORM III STUDENTS.

A FURTHER 100 GROUP VISITS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR MORE THAN 4 000 FORM III STUDENTS IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE INCREASING NUMBER OF VISITORS REFLECTED THE CENTRES' GROWING POPULARITY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE.

+THIS HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT THE CENTRES, COMPLETE WITH A WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES, ARE MEETING THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKING FOR CAREERS INFORMATION,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER A PROGRAMME SPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR THE GROUP VISITS, VISITORS WERE BRIEFED ON THE THREE OPTIONS OPEN TO FORM III SCHOOL LEAVERS, NAMELY FURTHERING STUDY, FINDING EMPLOYMENT AND RECEIVING VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME ALSO FEATURED A SMALL EXHIBITION OF DISPLAY MATERIALS TO ENABLE THEM TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF JOBS AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG.

THE TWO CENTRES, ONE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF NEW RODNEY BLOCK, QUEENSWAY, AND THE OTHER ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF MA TAU KOK ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, ARE COMPLETE WITH REFERENCE LIBRARIES, SLIDES, FILMS, VIDEO-CARTRIDGES, CASSETTE TAPE-RECORDINGS OF TALKS BY SPECIALISTS AND PRINTED INFORMATION MATERIALS SUCH AS NEWSLETTERS, PAMPHLETS AND LEAFLETS.

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## EXPANSION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

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SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR SLOW-LEARNERS WILL BE GREATLY EXPANDED WITH 22 360 MORE SPECIAL OR RESOURCE CLASS PLACES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 15 380 SUCH PLACES, 14 560 IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 820 IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. BY 1985-86, THE NUMBERS WILL BE 24 660 AND 13 080 RESPECTIVELY -- REPRESENTING A 145 PER CENT OVERALL INCREASE.

MR C.Y. WONG, SENIOR INSPECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE DEVELOPMENT WAS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF PROVIDING MORE SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES.

THESE CHILDREN WERE NOT MENTALLY RETARDED, HE EXPLAINED: +THEY ARE ONLY PROGRESSING IN THEIR LEARNING AT A SLOWER RATE THAN AN ORDINARY CHILD.+

IN ORDER TO DETECT LEARNING DISABILITIES OF A CHILD AT AN EARLY STAGE, PRIMARY ONE TO THREE PUPILS IN ALL SCHOOLS ARE GIVEN A GROUP TEST EVERY YEAR.

MR WONG SAID UNDER THE GROUP TESTING PROGRAMME A CHILD WOULD ONLY BE RECOMMENDED TO ATTEND A SPECIAL OR RESOURCE CLASS AFTER CAREFUL EVALUATION OF THE TEST OUTCOME, SCHOOL RECORDS, TEACHERS' VIEWS AND PARENTS' OPINIONS.

+ONCE WHAT IS BEST FOR A CHILD IS DECIDED UPON, STAFF OF OUR SECTION WILL APPROACH THE PARENTS TO EXPLAIN THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEM AND TO SEEK THEIR APPROVAL,+ HE SAID.

+MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF THE PARENTS CONCERNED HAVE ACCEPTED OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND, IN FACT, THE MAJORITY PREFER TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN STAY ON IN SPECIAL CLASS EVEN AT SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMME,+ HE ADDED.

MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT A SPECIAL CLASS IS FOR CHILDREN HAVING LEARNING DIFFICULTIES IN ALL SUBJECTS WHILE A RESOURCE CLASS IS FOR THOSE WHOSE PERFORMANCE IN BASIC SUBJECTS ARE LAGGING BEHIND.

THE CURRICULUM FOR A SPECIAL CLASS FOLLOWS THAT OF AN ORDINARY CLASS AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE BUT WITH ADAPTION AND MODIFICATION. IN ADDITION, STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO IS 20, MUCH SMALLER THAN AN ORDINARY CLASS. FOR A RESOURCE CLASS THE RATIO IS 60 IN FOUR GROUPS WITH 15 PUPILS EACH.

MR WONG SAID, +THESE ARRANGEMENTS ENABLE A TEACHER TO SPEND MORE TIME AND ATTENTION ON A SLOW-LEARNER WHO MAY PROGRESS AT HIS OWN PACE IN A SPECIAL OR RESOURCE CLASS.

/+THIS WILL .....

+THIS WILL MAKE THE LEARNING PROCESS MORE EFFECTIVE AND CONSEQUENTLY CHILDREN DO SHOW A KEEN INTEREST, PERFORM BETTER AND BUILD UP MORE CONFIDENCE,+ HE SAID.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN TRANSFORMING ABSTRACT CONCEPTS INTO SOMETHING CONCRETE FOR CHILDREN TO GRASP WITH.

THEY HAVE TO DEVISE A LOT OF TEACHING AIDS TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS. IN THIS RESPECT, THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION PROVIDES CONSULTANCY AND +BACK-UP+ SERVICES FOR THE TEACHERS.

THE SECTION IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS. +AT PRESENT, ABOUT 100 TEACHERS ARE UNDERGOING SUCH TRAINING,+ MR WONG SAID.

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#### MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PROBATIONERS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS EXPANDING ITS VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS SO THAT MORE YOUNG OFFENDERS CAN BE HELPED TO REHABILITATE BY PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS SOCIALLY.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH ANOTHER RECRUITMENT DRIVE IN JUNE THIS YEAR AIMED AT ENLISTING A HUNDRED MORE VOLUNTEERS.

UNDER THE SCHEME, VOLUNTEERS FROM VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE WORK FOR SIX MONTHS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S PROBATION OFFICERS TO HELP REFORM OFFENDERS PUT ON PROBATION.

MR PETER LIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHEME'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, POINTED OUT TODAY THAT SINCE THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT STARTED IN 1976, 49 VOLUNTEERS HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR ASSIGNMENTS.

MR LIN SAID 53 WERE RECRUITED IN THE LAST DRIVE. TWENTY-NINE OF THEM WERE INDIVIDUALLY MATCHED WITH PROBATIONERS AND ARE NOW GIVING UP THEIR FREE TIME TO HELPING THE OFFENDERS.

MATCHING ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE REMAINING NEW RECRUITS ACCORDING TO THEIR AREAS OF SPECIALTY AS WELL AS INTERESTS.

BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO A PROBATIONER, MR LIN SAID, VOLUNTEERS ARE TRAINED IN THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PROBATION SERVICE= AFTERWARDS, THEY KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PROBATION OFFICERS WHO WATCH OVER THEIR PROGRESS OF WORK.

+AMONG THE VOLUNTEERS ARE CIVIL SERVANTS, A MANAGER, A SECRETARY, OFFICE CLERKS, A DESIGNER, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, A TELEVISION PRODUCER, A STORE PROPRIETOR AND A MESSENGER,+ HE SAID.

/MR LIN .....

MR LIN EXPLAINED THAT WHILE PROBATION OFFICERS ASSUME THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY OF GUIDING PROBATIONERS IN IMPROVING BEHAVIOUR, VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE THEM WITH COMPANIONSHIP AND HELP SOLVE THEIR SOCIAL PROBLEMS THROUGH FRIENDLY ATTITUDES, CARE AND UNDERSTANDING.

HE SAID THERE IS WIDE SCOPE FOR DIFFERENT KINDS OF VOLUNTARY EFFORT TO HELP PROBATIONERS.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE PROFESSIONALS MAY CONTRIBUTE KNOWLEDGE IN THEIR OWN FIELD OF SPECIALTY, AND THOSE WHO ARE HOUSEWIVES CAN TEACH HOW TO HANDLE HOUSEHOLD CHORES.

OTHERS MAY GIVE TUITION IN SCHOOL SUBJECTS OR HELP PROBATIONERS DEVELOP MEANINGFUL HOBBIES BY JOINING IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AS PICNICKING, SWIMMING OR PHOTOGRAPHY, HE ADDED.

MR LIN SAID THE IMPACT OF PROBATION WORK ON YOUNG OFFENDERS DEPENDED NOT ONLY ON THE EFFORTS OF PROBATION OFFICERS BUT ALSO ON CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY.

+THROUGH THE COMPANIONSHIP AND GUIDANCE THEY PROVIDE, THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE NO DOUBT GONE A LONG WAY TO HELPING REBUILD THE CONFIDENCE OF PROBATIONERS AND STRENGTHENING OUR PROBATION SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

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#### OLD VILLAGE NEAR TSUEN WAN TO BE RESTORED

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A 300-YEAR-OLD VILLAGE NEAR TSUEN WAN WILL BE RENOVATED AND PRESERVED AS PART OF HONG KONG'S HERITAGE.

THE WORK, ESTIMATED TO COST \$300 000, WILL START IN JUNE AND WILL INVOLVE A ROW OF HISTORICAL BLUE BRICK HOUSES AT YUEN TUN OLD VILLAGE.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (KWAI CHUNG), MR STEPHEN SELBY, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE WORK WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE YUEN TUN OLD VILLAGE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, MR JOHN FORTUNE.

MR SELBY, WHO IS SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, SAID THE VACATED OLD VILLAGE WAS PART OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES CAMP AT YUEN TUN.

THE SUM REQUIRED FOR THE RENOVATION WAS BEING RAISED PRIVATELY, WHILE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROJECT WAS BEING DONE BY THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WORKING ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, HE SAID.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE AN ARCHITECT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR ROGER MATTHEWS- AND THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS), URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DR SOLOMON BARD.

TSUEN WAN COMMUNITY LEADER, MR DEACON CHIU, HAS DONATED \$100 000 TOWARDS THE COST OF THE RENOVATION WORK AND ANOTHER COMMUNITY LEADER, MR CHOU WEN-HIN, OF CHOU'S FOUNDATION, HAS DONATED \$50 000. MR LAM KIN-MING HAS GIVEN \$10 000.

THE COMMITTEE HOPES THAT THE REMAINING SUM WILL BE RAISED BEFORE THE END OF MAY.

THE OLD VILLAGE IS LOCATED 200 METRES ABOVE TSING LUNG TAU. YUEN TUN MEANS +ROUND MOUND+ IN CHINESE.

IN THE EARLY 1960S, RESIDENTS OF THE OLD VILLAGE WERE RESITED AT TSING LUNG TAU WHEN TAI LAM CHUNG RESERVOIR WAS CONSTRUCTED.

THE BLUE BRICK ROW OF SEVEN HOUSES WAS CONSTRUCTED TO A DISTINCT ARCHITECTURAL PATTERN IN RECTANGULAR FORM. AN ANCESTRAL HALL FORMS THE CENTRAL PART, FROM WHICH THERE IS A CORRIDOR CONNECTING ROOMS AND KITCHENS ON EACH SIDE.

RENOVATION WORK WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE CHANNELS AND WORK UNDER THE ROW OF HOUSES TO PREVENT RISING DAMP.

WHEN COMPLETED, A COLLECTION OF LOCAL HISTORICAL ARTEFACTS, INCLUDING ORIGINAL DECORATIONS, FURNITURE AND WORK TOOLS, WILL BE DISPLAYED IN ONE OF THE HOUSES.

AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY.

THE RENOVATED HOUSES, AND FACILITIES AT THE CAMP, CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON REQUEST TO THE CIVIL AID SERVICES.

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BUS TERMINUS TO GET NEW LOOK  
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THE EXISTING TSZ WAN SHAN (SOUTH) BUS TERMINUS AT PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD WILL BE REBUILT TO A HIGHER STANDARD.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR T.D. ARMOUR, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION, SAID THE NEW TERMINUS WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN REINFORCED CONCRETE.

IT WOULD ALSO HAVE A CANTEEN AND A REGULATOR'S OFFICE.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN MAY AND WILL TAKE SOME SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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