



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
New consultative system to stimulate public participation in policy-making process	1
Registration of companies passes 30,000 mark	3
New session of Legislative Council resumes tomorrow	4
Accidents on construction sites claim six lives	5
Companies interested in possible joint ventures with overseas firms asked to contact DC & I	6
Visiting U.N. drug experts to meet the Press tomorrow	7
Temporary water interruption in Western District	7
Motorists reminded to give precedence to emergency vehicles.	8
Governor remits mandatory sentence on 14-year-old boy	9

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 1 -

GREATHER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN POLICY-MAKING PROCESS

A new consultative system is to be introduced shortly to encourage more members of the public to participate in the government's policy-making process.

Under the new procedure, future important government policy programmes will be published as a Green Paper for full public discussion before a decision is made. The decision will then take into account the opinion of the community.

This will enable members of the public to make known their views on government proposals before these are shaped into firm policy.

To a wide extent, the public is already being consulted on major issues and the new move will broaden this accepted practice.

There are at present about 120 advisory boards and committees on which views other than those of government officials are represented.

The representatives come from many walks of life -- some of them are ordinary people, while others, because of their professions or businesses, are more knowledgeable in special subjects.

Draft legislation is also published in advance and commented on before it passes into law and White Papers are issued from time to time for public comment.

However this latter course is taken at a stage of the decision process when the proposals are about to be finalised. The publication of Green Papers will provide expanded scope for public involvement and consultation before proposals affecting the community are accepted and implemented.

/Commenting

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 2 -

Commenting on the new procedure, a government spokesman said public attitudes varied greatly according to social and economic status, educational background, and age range of different groups within the population.

"The use of the Green Paper procedure will provide a channel for the inflow of public opinion essential to sound policy planning," he said.

On some occasions, however, the new procedure may not be very practicable, as with Budget proposals and questions on which the advice of statutory bodies has been sought.

"Nevertheless, there are many issues on which public comment can be of great value to the government in formulating policy," the spokesman added.

He was confident that the process of public consultation would develop wider community involvement in the affairs of Hong Kong.

All government resources, especially the services of the Information Services Department and Radio Hong Kong will be utilised to publicise the Green Papers and to stimulate public discussion.

The methods to be employed will include radio discussions, "meet the media" sessions and public affairs programmes on television.

The Green Papers will be summarised in leaflet form to reach the widest readership.

Comments by the public will be collated and assessed, and will provide accurate and comprehensive data for the government's policy-makers.

- - - - 0 - - - -

13

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 3 -

OVER 30,000 COMPANIES REGISTERED IN HONG KONG

Another milestone was passed in the Companies Registry recently when the total number of companies on the register exceeded 30,000 for the first time.

Commenting on the rapid increase in the number of companies, the Registrar of Companies, Mr. W. Hume said it had taken just over 100 years for the first 10,000 companies to be incorporated since incorporation of companies in Hong Kong began in 1865.

The next 10,000 companies appeared on the register in the following five years -- that is, from 1966 to 1971. "In little more than two years since 1971 the number of local companies incorporated has risen by 10,000 to a total of over 30,000," said Mr. Hume.

Every company on the register is obliged to file a variety of documents relating to its affairs, and the staff concerned often call at the Companies Registry to inspect the files. "It will be appreciated, therefore, that the Companies Registry is now much busier than it has ever been at any time in its history," Mr. Hume added.

The documents that a company has to file are set out in a booklet in both English and Chinese. These booklets are issued free of charge to all new companies and they are available at all times in the Companies Registry.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 4 -

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Six Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council will speak tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon on a motion of thanks for the Governor's address to the Council's new session.

They are Mr. P.C. Woo, Mr. Szeto Wai, Dr. S.Y. Chung, Mr. Wilfred Wong, Mr. R.H. Lobo and Mrs. Joyce Symons.

The remaining Unofficial Members will speak on Wednesday, November 14.

Officials will reply on November 28 and 29.

Twenty sessional papers will be tabled in the Council tomorrow. They include the Hong Kong Narcotics Progress Report for the year ending March 31, 1973; the Annual Report by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries for the year 1972-73 and the Report of the Board of Education on the Proposed Expansion of Secondary School Education in Hong Kong over the next decade.

Seven bills will be read for the first and second time.

They are the Motor Vehicle Insurance (Third Party Risks) (Amendment) Bill 1973, the District Court (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1973, the Telecommunication (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1973, the Education Scholarships Fund (Amendment) Bill 1973, the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill 1973, the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1973 and the Community Relief Trust Fund (Amendment) Bill 1973.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 5 -

SIX DIE ON WORK SITES

Six workers were killed and 347 injured last month in accidents on construction sites, according to figures released by the Labour Department.

The Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, Mr. A.H. Carter, said today many of the accidents could have been avoided had both management and workers taken adequate steps to remove the hazards prevailing in the industry.

"Effective accident prevention will never be achieved unless both management and workers are willing to join forces with the government to reduce the present high accident rate," he stressed.

"In particular, management should take an active and positive role by not only complying with all legal requirements, but also by ensuring that their supervisors and workers receive proper safety training."

The Industrial Safety Training Centre offers, free of charge, basic and advanced training courses to personnel in industry.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 6 -

OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT ENTERPRISE

The Commerce and Industry Department is anxious to obtain more information on Hong Kong companies which might be interested in expanding their operations through enquiries from overseas.

"Of particular interest are companies engaged in the metal-based industries such as tool and die-making, electro-plating and anodizing, and general machining to fine tolerances," a spokesman for the department said.

However, he added that more information and contacts were needed on other industries as well.

The Industrial Development Branch of the department has for many years encouraged investment in Hong Kong's manufacturing industry.

It has received many enquiries from overseas industrialists wishing to place sub-contracting orders or to enter into joint venture or licensing arrangements with local manufacturers.

The spokesman said: "The enquirers, who come from a very wide range of industries, often ask for the names of Hong Kong factories which have the capacity and the capability to carry out particular manufacturing processes."

He added that very often these enquiries resulted in useful business.

Interested parties are invited to contact Mr. K.C. Kwong of the Industrial Development Branch at telephone No. 5-445656 who will be pleased to answer questions on this subject.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 7 -

VISITING DRUG EXPERTS TO MEET PRESS

Note to Editors: The chairman of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs Ad Hoc Committee for the Far East Region, Mr. J.T. O'Connor, will discuss the outcome of his committee's four-day fact-finding visit to Hong Kong at a press conference to be held in the 35 mm. Theatre, 5th floor, Beaconsfield House, at 9.45 a.m. tomorrow (October 31).

The United Kingdom representative on the 10-member committee and Head of the Home Office Drugs Branch in London, Mr. C.J. Train, is expected to take part in the Press conference along with the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr. N.G. Rolph.

You are invited to have the meeting covered.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER CUT

Water supply to a number of premises in Western District will be interrupted for eight hours starting from 10 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).

The temporary stoppage is to facilitate connection of a fresh water mains.

All premises in Kom U Street, In Kui Lane and Ko Shing Street will be affected, as well as Nos. 121-165, Queen's Road West.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 8 -

EMERGENCY VEHICLES NEED CLEAR WAY

Motorists are reminded that they should give way to emergency vehicles so these can get to their destinations as quickly as possible.

"Delay in getting to the scene of a fire, serious accident, or crime can result in unnecessary loss of life and property," a spokesman for the Transport Department said today.

Drivers must draw to the side of the road, and if necessary stop their cars, on hearing the sound of a gong, bell or siren indicating the approach of an emergency vehicle.

"By co-operating in this way, they can enable fire engines, ambulances and police vehicles to get through quickly," he added.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

Tuesday, October 30, 1973

- 9 -

REMISSION OF SENTENCE

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today remitted the sentence of a 14-year-old boy who was given a six months mandatory sentence for possessing an offensive weapon in a public place.

The boy was aged 13 when he was first charged, but due to the illness of the magistrate who heard the case, he reached the age of 14 when the sentence was passed and the term of imprisonment was then mandatory.

He later made an appeal which was turned down.

The authority to grant the remission is given to the Governor under Article 15 of the Letters Patent which provides him with the prerogative of granting pardons and remitting fines or sentences.

The boy was due for release from prison with the normal maximum amount of remission sometime next month.

The Governor's decision today will enable him to be released this evening.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release time: 7.00 p.m.