



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, November 23, 1973

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GOVERNOR INAUGURATES THIRD HONG KONG FESTIVAL

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, this evening extended a personal invitation to everyone in Hong Kong to join in the fun of this year's festival activities.

Speaking at the official opening of the festival at the Hong Kong Stadium, Sir Murray noted that the tremendous variety and scope of this year's programme placed it amongst the largest of its kind in the world.

"It is a programme for everyone, no one has been forgotten," he said.

"The Festival, and the youth of Hong Kong, who play such a prominent part in it, demonstrate the zest and drive of Hong Kong's people -- the zest and drive which have made Hong Kong the greatest city which it is."

Hong Kong, the Governor went on, was the hardest working community he knew. "But we also have a capacity for fun and enjoyment -- that is our secret strength...So this Festival is for fun. Let everyone enjoy it."

Sir Murray thanked Sir Yuet-keung Kan, head of the Steering Committee, and all those who had helped organise the Festival, for their efforts.

In his address, Sir Yuet-keung said that this year's festival promised to be an even greater success in terms of community involvement, as well as more gay, festive and enjoyable.

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More than 750 events had been arranged, he said, providing an extremely wide and varied range of entertainment for all groups of people -- including the old, the young and the physically handicapped as well as people in outlying districts.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of the Governor's speech are distributed separately as a special supplement together with Sir Yuet-keung's address.

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NEW TERRITORIES REFUSE DUMP BEING IMPROVED

The final phase of a project to tidy up the Shuen Wan refuse dump off Ting Kok Road near Taipo will be launched next year.

The work will involve construction of a rubble mound to contain the refuse dump so as to eliminate the possibility of refuse escaping into the sea and causing marine pollution.

When completed in early 1975, the rubble mound, which will cover an area of 2,100 square feet, will be suitable for recreational development.

At present, improvements at the refuse dump are made by blanketing over the dump with earth and instituting a regular maintenance cycle.

The rubble mound project has been designed by the Port Works Division of the Public Works Department which will supervise the work.

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JAPANESE MARINE ECOLOGY EXPERT ARRIVES

To Study Damages To Marine Life Caused By Apleichau Oil Spillage

The government has invited a Japanese marine ecology expert to assess the damages done to marine life as a result of the recent oil spillage from the Apleichau Shell installation.

The expert, Dr. Hiroshi Tokuda, is a Professor of the Tokyo University, who has played a leading role in advising the Japanese Government regarding the impact of marine pollution on the local fishing industry.

Dr. Tokuda arrived this afternoon and was met at the airport by the Director of Protocol, Brig. R.G. Lewthwaite. He was immediately briefed by the staff of the Environment Branch and the Agriculture and Fisheries Department on the oil spillage incident.

Announcing the arrival of Dr. Tokuda, a government spokesman said: "Dr. Tokuda's job will be to assess what, if any, damage to marine life is attributable to the oil spillage off Apleichau from the Shell installation on November 8, 1973. His studies will also include the possible tainting of fish, mollusks and crustacea.

"He will be acting as the government's independent advisor and report his findings direct to the government."

During his stay here, Dr. Tokuda will be working closely with the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and arrangements have already been made for him to examine the species of fishes affected by the oil spillage.

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"The swift commissioning of Dr. Tokuda for the study, an internationally well known marine biologist, demonstrates the government's concern over the possible damages done to fishes and marine life by the oil spillage," the spokesman added.

Dr. Tokuda will also work in close liaison with Dr. M. Spooner, the British expert from the Marine Biological Association Laboratories, hired by the Shell Company to assess the damages done to marine life by the spillage and any related long-term implications.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of Dr. Tokuda will be boxed for collection this evening.

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POPULAR PICNIC AREA TO BE IMPROVED

The Pinewood picnic area at the old gun post in Hatton Road -- a popular spot in the Peak area for weekend picnickers -- is to be improved in about three months' time.

The improvement work will involve the renovation of seven of the old sheds to serve as shelters, and the provision of six barbecue pits at various spots on the site.

The work is expected to begin in January next year, taking two months to complete.

Invitation to tender for the project is gazetted today.

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CAREERS EXHIBITION OPENS

Schools Urged To Stress Guidance On Careers

The Vice-Chancellor of the Hong Kong University, Dr. Rayson Huang, today called on Hong Kong schools to place greater emphasis on careers advice and guidance.

"Schools should not only provide an education, but should also help mould the character of young people", he said.

"Do not merely concentrate on teaching the 'three Rs', "he urged teachers. "Encourage your students to broaden their interests, because the broader the base, the easier it is to build a career."

Dr. Huang was officially opening Careers '74, the second annual careers exhibition staged by the Labour Department's Youth Employment Advisory Service. The exhibition - the largest of its kind ever held in Hong Kong - will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day until December 2, in the Chinese Manufacturers' Association pavilion at the CMA Fair Ground.

Dr. Huang said : "Greater emphasis should be given to careers advice and guidance.

"And a careers master's teaching load should be adjusted to enable him to devote adequate time to his very important task."

Dr. Huang said that schools should make careers information easily available, and not lock it up in the school library or teachers' room - as often happened.

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He urged schools to allow time for their students to attend careers seminars and exhibitions, visit work places to see actual working conditions, and encourage careers talks.

"Do not grudge the time spent on these various activities," he said, "because education means little if, on completion of his studies, a student finds that he is ill-prepared for life -- one aspect of which is earning a living."

Dr. Huang warned young people to take great care in choosing a career. "A lifetime's happiness and prosperity can depend upon this choice," he told students from the Ng Wah College and the Precious Blood Middle School who were among the officially-invited guests at the opening. The two schools were invited because they were the first to respond to the Labour Department's invitation to schools to arrange visits to the exhibition.

Dr. Huang said: "A wise choice, taken after careful thought, can mean satisfaction and recognition, and a sense of fulfilment which will affect one's outlook and life.

"An unwise choice will be followed by discontent and boredom which will blight a lifetime.

"And the loss then is not only the individual's; it is society's. It is a waste of human material - a loss the more sad because it could have been avoided."

In his introductory speech, the Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, said it was estimated that the total number of secondary school students coming on to the labour market each year was now over 30,000.

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"I hope that every young person in Hong Kong who is about to embark on a career will visit this exhibition," said Mr. Price, "because nowhere else is such a variety of careers information so readily accessible.

"No young person, no parent, no teacher, should miss the opportunity provided by this exhibition.

"The exhibitors cover a wide spectrum of employment opportunities, ranging from industry and commerce to government and the service industries.

"In addition to models, film and photographic displays, actual demonstrations and equipment, there is a wealth of written information which can be taken away and studied."

Mr. Price urged any school or youth group which had not yet arranged a visit to the exhibition to do so by contacting the Youth Employment Advisory Service of the Labour Department.

Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Dr. Huang's and Mr. Price's speeches are boxed for collection.

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NEW SPECIALIST CLINIC FOR WANCHAI

A modern eight-storey specialist clinic, the Tang Chi Ngong Specialist Clinic, is to be built in January next year on a site in Wanchai next to the Tang Shiu Kin Hospital.

When completed in the middle of 1975, it will replace the specialist out-patient facilities now available in the Violet Peel Polyclinic, which is expected to be closed down in 1976 for redevelopment in connection with plans now under consideration by the Children's Playground Association for the area of the Southorn Playground.

The Tang Chi Ngong Specialist Clinic will be an out-patient clinic with the largest number of consulting rooms among the new government clinics proposed over the next few years.

There will be 21 consulting rooms compared with the nine consulting rooms in the present Violet Peel Polyclinic. Facilities will include an operating theatre for minor surgery.

The building is to be provided with a car park. Each floor is being designed to accommodate a particular type of specialist service such as ear, nose and throat on one floor, dermatology on another, maternal and child health service on another, and so on.

Half of the cost of construction is being met by Sir Shiu-kin Tang, after whose father, the late Tang Chi Ngong, the clinic is being named. The government will meet the remainder of the expenses, and recurrent costs.

The clinic could eventually form part of the regionalisation of medical and health services proposed by the Medical Development Advisory Committee in its recently-published report.

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FOOD SELLING MACHINES - A BUSINESS

New measures to bring health regulations up-to-date for the running of food business in the New Territories will be introduced from February 1 next year.

The new measures, contained in the Food Business (New Territories) (Amendment) Regulations 1973, are published in today's gazette.

Under the amending regulations, the operation of food vending machines will be considered a food business and the health authorities will be provided with powers to prosecute the owner of an unlicensed business when its operator cannot be located.

At the same time, the regulations discontinue the need to license shops which sell fruit or Vegetables, and introduce a simplified system to calculate the minimum kitchen area required for restaurants of different sizes.

Similar amendments to the Food Business By-laws, which apply to the urban areas, are expected to be made in the near future.

Commenting on the new regulations today, a spokesman for the Urban Services Department explained that a coin-operated food vending machine was now considered a food business and required a permit because it was necessary to maintain high standards of hygiene to safeguard public health. There has also been an increasing number of such machines being used to sell food.

On the other hand, the spokesman pointed out, it was no longer necessary to license fresh provision shops selling fruit or vegetables, except cut fruit and fresh fruit juice, because there was now little risk to public health from their sale.

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On the minimum requirement for kitchen areas in restaurants, the overall restaurant floor area rather than the seating area will be taken as a basis for calculation.

The previous system, however, will continue to be applied to those restaurants licensed before February next year, unless alterations to the kitchen or seating accommodation are made after that date.

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MARKET FACILITIES FOR LAM TIN RESIDENTS

Three modular markets will be completed in July next year to serve about 35,000 people of the Lam Tin Estate in Kwun Tong.

The markets will have a total of 30 stalls for selling meat, fish or poultry, 16 for cooked food, and 138 for vegetable and fruit.

Costing more than \$1 million to build, the markets are located on open grounds between Blocks 16 and 24 of the Estate.

Work is expected to start in January next year.

Details of tenders for the project are published in today's gazette.

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IMPROVING HONG KONG - EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

The District Commissioner, New Territories, Mr. D. Akers-Jones today called on members of the public, regardless of age, to take the initiative in improving our society and making Hong Kong a better place to live in.

Speaking at the second speech day of the Heung Yee Kuk, Yuen Long District Secondary School, Mr. Akers-Jones emphasised that "no act, however small, is unimportant" in working towards this goal.

He urged the students to follow the examples of their principal and teachers, and "when the opportunity comes work for the good of the community."

All of us, young and old, can serve the community "in the effort to clean Hong Kong and to improve our society, serving the community and as a result, making Hong Kong a better place in which we all live," Mr. Akers-Jones said.

He commended the staff and students of the school on the high standard they had achieved in the short period that the school had been opened, and thanked the founders - members of the Heung Yee Kuk and the Board of Management - who devoted much time, energy and money in making the school a reality thereby adding to the educational facilities in Yuen Long.

Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Akers-Jones' speech are boxed for collection.

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KOWLOON BAY FIRE VICTIMS TO GET HIGHER GRANTS

The Housing Department is to increase the rebuilding allowance for those made homeless in fires and natural disasters who are not eligible for direct public housing, and the first people to benefit will be the victims of last week's squatter fire at Kowloon Bay.

In the past re-accommodation grants of \$1,000 had been paid out of the Emergency Relief Fund (formerly the Community Relief Trust Fund) to each family who were genuine disaster victims but were not entitled to public housing. For families with more than five members there was an extra \$200 for each additional head. The new rate will be a basic \$1,250 - an increase of 25 per cent - with \$250 for each additional head over five.

Most of the victims of last week's squatter fire will be allocated sites in a new Licensed Area being made ready nearby. They will use the grant to rebuild their homes.

Mr. K. Topley, Director of Social Welfare and chairman of the Emergency Relief Fund Committee, said today (Friday) that the new rate was based on a realistic re-assessment of current prices of building materials. "It is only just," he said, "that victims should be able to meet the prices of wood and tin sheeting when they come to rebuild."

Housing Department staff will work through the weekend to process claims for the Fund allowance. Payments will be made next Tuesday.

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Representatives of more than 350 families today turned up at the Squatter Control Office at Tung Tau Estate and at the Kowloon Bay Licenced Area Office to have their claims processed. A number of claims are still being investigated.

A spokesman for the Housing Department said more than 400 families comprising about 500 people have been weeded out as imposters as a result of Wednesdays site identification and today's processing.

"Apart from this, we have also been successful in checking out nearly 100 overclaiming cases," he said. "These families overclaimed in order to get a bigger site and receive more cash grant."

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Release time: 7.45 p.m.



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SUPPLEMENT

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GOVERNOR OPENS THIRD FESTIVAL OF HONG KONG

Following is the full text of Sir Murray's speech at the opening ceremony:

Sir Yuet-keung, Members of Organising Committees, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The tremendous variety and scope of the 1973 Festival programme places it amongst the largest of its kind in the world. It is a programme for everyone, no one has been forgotten. The Festival, and the youth of Hong Kong, who play such a prominent part in it, demonstrate the zest and drive of Hong Kong's people - the zest and drive which have made Hong Kong the great city which it is.

On behalf of the community I thank you Sir Yuet-keung, as head of the Steering Committee, together with your committees, and the Services, Government departments, firms, organisations and countless individuals who have given so much of their time and effort to organise this third festival. I congratulate you and them on what has been prepared for us.

We in Hong Kong are the hardest working community I know, our success depends on it. But we also have a capacity for fun and enjoyment - that is our secret strength. Once we had little time or money for it, now we have a little more. So this Festival is for fun. Let everyone enjoy it.

I take great pleasure in declaring open the 1973 Festival of Hong Kong.

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THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL BRIGHTEST EVER -- SIR YUET-KEUNG

The following is the full text of Sir Yuet-keung Kan's address at the opening ceremony:

Your Excellency, Lady MacLehose, Ladies and Gentlemen:-

May I bid you a most hearty welcome on the happy occasion of the opening of this, the Third Festival of Hong Kong.

Two years ago Your Excellency's first public engagement after being sworn in was the opening of the Second Festival of Hong Kong, a festive occasion which provided a most auspicious beginning to your term of office here.

This year's Festival promises not only to be even more gay, festive and enjoyable, but also to be an even greater success in terms of community involvement. More than 750 events have been arranged, providing an extremely wide and varied range of entertainment for all groups of people in this Colony, including the old, the young and the physically handicapped as well as people in outlying districts.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I now ask Your Excellency to declare the 1973 Festival of Hong Kong open.

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