



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, January 16, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

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CALL FOR ADULT EDUCATION EXPANSION

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Adult Education in Hong Kong needs a large, generous expansion policy if the quality of life of the people is to be improved and if wider opportunities, educational and cultural, are to be available.

This was stated today by the Deputy Director of Education (Administration), Mr. C.J.G. Lowe, at the graduation ceremony of the Evening School of Higher Chinese Studies.

Mr. Lowe said the Evening School of ~~Higher Chinese Studies~~ remained one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of the adult education facilities provided by the Education Department.

He deliberately linked the Evening School with adult education because "that is its true function."

The school operates an intensive three-year course in the evening on a part-time basis. The course is designed to provide an opportunity for post-secondary studies in Chinese Literature, philosophy, philology, English Language and Literature, Chinese Classics and Poetry.

The school has 23 lecturers, among whom are many Chinese scholars, and 380 students in 14 classes. Six of the classes are held at King's College and the other eight at the Grantham College of Education.

Many students travel long distances to attend the course. "The attraction is the chance to study Chinese culture at a high level with well-qualified and experienced lecturers," Mr. Lowe said.

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He was sure that this important course would prove successful in attracting the level of support necessary to ensure its continuation.

"It would certainly be a retrograde step if that were not to happen, particularly at a time when the real importance of Chinese is being strongly emphasized," he said.

"It is ironical to note that at a time when more emphasis is being laid on the study of Chinese that your Evening School has been quietly doing precisely this since 1951."

He hoped that the school would plan for a big occasion for its 25th anniversary in 1976.

In urging the school to publicise and make known what it has to offer, Mr. Lowe said: "Hong Kong is now on such a vast scale that people simply do not know what opportunities for self-improvement are available."

Congratulating the graduates on their success and thanking the lecturers for working so hard, Mr. Lowe stressed: "It must be clearly realised that education at whatever level is a co-operative process and if you wish to gain benefit from education, you must put a worthwhile contribution into it. This, I think, applies both to students and teachers and it cannot be too strongly emphasized."

Mrs. Lowe distributed diplomas and prizes to the graduates.

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NEW PRISONS SUPERINTENDENT IS A LADY

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An expert social worker in crime psychology and administration of correctional institutes has joined the prisons service in Hong Kong.

She is Miss K. Anne Haughton, who took up her post this week as Superintendent of the Tai Lam Centre for Women which has about 140 inmates at present.

A Canadian citizen, Miss Haughton was recommended to Hong Kong by the Sydney Commissioner for Corrective Services under whom she worked as Executive Assistant in charge of staff development.

She has five years of practical experience in Canada and Australia, and holds an honours degree in psychology and sociology from McGill University, a master's degree in correctional administration from the University of Ottawa, and a post-graduate degree in criminology from Sydney University.

While in Canada, she worked as a Classification Officer/Psychologist in the Maximum Security Federal Prison for Women and as a Prison Officer in a male institute for alcoholics, drug addicts and sex offenders, as well as doing research for the Canadian government.

Her first impressions of Hong Kong's small group of women offenders are that they are younger, more polite and appear to be more amenable to discipline.

"The Tai Lam Centre itself is more institutionalised, the discipline is strict and both the security and administration is good," she said.

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As a prison officer of wide experience, she does not believe however that a prison should make life unpleasant for offenders. "They are imprisoned not in order to receive more punishment but to be guided and taught to respect the principles that guide an orderly society so that they can become useful members to the community.

"Being deprived of freedom in a prison is in itself punishment. We must remember that the individuals kept here are people also, only they have special problems," she said.

Separation from society and the family, Miss Haughton went on, could be very difficult -- particularly with women. "Usually other alternatives are considered before a woman is sent to prison, and those who are admitted are usually difficult cases."

In Tai Lam Centre, offenders were not completely removed from society, she said, because their families were encouraged to visit them and there were facilities for young children to stay with their mothers serving time. And after an inmate left the centre, after-care officers continued to help her re-adjust to normal life.

In carrying out her responsibilities, Miss Haughton will be following three different sets of rules as the Tai Lam Centre is in fact a training centre, a drug addiction treatment centre, and a prison and remand centre all in one.

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While most of her work will be administrative, she said she would be considering some improvements where necessary. Citing an example, Miss Haughton said that while it might not be possible to bring offenders out to society during the time of their confinement, "it was possible to bring activities of society into the prison."

"Programmes could, for instance, be improved to introduce more vocational training inside, so that the offenders can have better job opportunities when they leave," she said.

In the meantime, one of her first tasks will be to work on the removal of Tai Lam Centre to new premises in Stanley Training Centre in about six months' time.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Miss Haughton's photograph are boxed for collection.

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#### TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS IN KOWLOON

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Motorists are advised that a number of minor traffic diversions will be made at the junction of Tai Po Road and Lung Cheung Road as from Friday (January 18).

The new arrangements are to facilitate construction work on the Tai Woh Ping interchange and will remain in force for about seven months.

Traffic signs will be posted and motorists are advised to observe them.

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NEW TRADE DIVISION SET UP

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A new trade division has been established by the Commerce and Industry Department to deal with certification, licensing and trade investigation matters.

Mr. Paul Wong, an Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry, has been appointed to take charge of the new division. He was previously head of one of the department's two commercial relations divisions. His successor is Mr. Peter Tsao.

A department spokesman said today that the re-organisation had become necessary because of expanding activities in a number of areas.

Part of the responsibilities of the new division has been taken over from the department's industry division, which has come under heavy pressure in recent months. Other responsibilities have been transferred from the administration division.

Mr. Wong has taken up his new post after returning from a trade conference in Bangkok.

Among his duties is the administration of the new licensing scheme for plastic raw materials, and certification procedures for Hong Kong products.

The Trade Investigation Branch, which also comes under his control, deals with the enforcement of various regulations concerning trade matters.

Re-organisation of the department will enable the Industry Division, presently headed by Mr. John Roberts, to concentrate on industrial development matters and industrial investment promotion activities.

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1973 BUSY YEAR FOR HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

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Nearly 1.5 million enquiries and cases were dealt with by the Home Affairs Department last year - an increase of about 6.5 per cent over the 1972 figure.

The subjects most frequently raised were in connection with rent control and tenancy, housing and public assistance, a department spokesman said.

Most enquiries concerned the Rating and Valuation Department. Enquiries relating to this department totalled 127,744. This was followed by the Judiciary with 93,177 enquiries, the Education Department with 76,299, the Immigration Department with 65,829, and the Housing Department with 59,470.

All the enquiries were handled by the 19 Public Enquiry Centres and the two Tenancy Inquiry Bureaux operated by the Home Affairs Department.

In addition a total of 577,528 government application forms of various kinds were distributed through the Enquiry Centres last year.

Most of these forms were applications for government vacancies, housing estate units and entries to the two technical institutes.

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NEW CLINIC FOR TSZ WAN SHAN

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The Wu York Yu Clinic, a new Medical and Health Department standard clinic and maternity home in Tsz Wan Shan, will be opened on February 1. It will bring the total of government clinics to 50.

A plaque to mark the opening will be unveiled by Mr. Wu Yee-sun, chairman of the Wing Lung Bank. Mr. Wu and his brother, Mr. Wu Jieh-yee, together donated \$800,000 towards half of the construction cost in memory of their late father, after whom the clinic is named.

Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, will attend the opening ceremony and address the gathering.

The three-storey clinic, which will be fully operational on February 4, has six consulting rooms and three treatment rooms separately on the ground and first floors. An out-patient department and a dispensary are also on the ground floor.

The maternal and child health centre is on the first floor and the maternity ward on the second.

Facilities for minor operations, demonstrations, sterilisation, isolation, administrative and health offices, staff quarters, and the Auxiliary Medical Service, take up the remaining space.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

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The Postmaster General announced today that all post offices will be closed on Lunar New Year Day (January 23) and on January 25, and no mail will be delivered on those two days.

For the convenience of the public, however, there will be one mail delivery on January 24 and all major post offices on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories will open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

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RETIREMENT

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Note to Editors: Mr. Wong Kam-chi, a Clerical Officer Class I, will be retiring shortly after more than 32 years in the public service.

Mr. Wong has been working in the Rating and Valuation Department as a clerical officer for the past 22 years.

To mark Mr. Wong's retirement, the acting Commissioner of Rating and Valuation, Mr. T.F. Edwards, will present him with a memento on behalf of his colleagues at 4.30 p.m. on Friday (January 18).

Reporters and photographers are welcome to cover the presentation which will take place at the department's headquarters at 1, Garden Road.

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FIRE RISK HIGH - PUBLIC URGED TO TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION

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The Fire Services are responding to five times as many fire calls during the current dry weather conditions as compared with the humid months.

A spokesman for the Fire Services revealed this today as he urged the public to do everything possible to prevent fires.

He noted that in the summer months, when the level of humidity was above 80 per cent, the department attended an average of 240 calls per month. This figure trebled to 720 when the humidity fell to 65 per cent, and rose sharply to 1,200 calls when the humidity dropped to 58 per cent.

"The public must be made fully aware of the greatly increased risks to life and property during the current dry spell," the spokesman said.

"Not only do fires start more easily, they also spread with much greater speed. A fire in the home will race through the area in seconds, cutting off avenues of escape and causing much greater damage than during normal period."

He attributed many fires to carelessness, citing the disposal of lighted cigarettes ends and matches as an example. "Ensure that cigarette butts or matches are properly extinguished before throwing them away. In this way you will be doing your bit to reduce Hong Kong's terrible fire toll," he said.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

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The following prices were realised today (Wednesday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew -- old crop	Good	-
-- new crop		-
S.C.Jien -- old crop	Good	1.58
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	-
10-15% Broken	Good	-
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Good	-
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	5.0	3.2	4.0
Big-Eyes	Good	3.0	0.7	2.0
Squid	Limited	5.8	3.0	4.0
Hair-Tails	Normal	1.8	1.0	1.5
Lizard Fishes	Normal	3.7	1.0	2.0
Croakers	Normal	2.3	1.0	1.8
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	3.4	2.5	3.0
Melon Coat	Scarce	2.8	2.0	2.4
Breams	Limited	4.7	3.8	4.0
Yellow Belly	Good	1.6	0.8	1.2
Mackerels	Good	4.6	3.0	3.8
Red Goat Fish	Good	3.3	0.8	2.0
Fork-Tail	Good	1.4	0.95	1.2
Horse-Head	Normal	6.5	4.0	5.5
Melon Seed	Normal	3.5	2.2	2.6
Pomfrets	Limited	9.0	7.5	8.0
Garoupas	Normal	7.0	5.0	6.0
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Normal	1.6	0.5	1.0
White cabbage	Good	0.6	0.2	0.4
Chinese Lettuce	Good	0.5	0.15	0.3
Chinese Kale	Good	0.5	0.15	0.3
Spring onion	Normal	1.6	0.6	1.2
Spinach	Good	0.3	0.2	0.5
Water cross	Normal	1.4	0.3	0.3
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.5	0.2	0.3
Tomato	Normal	1.4	0.6	1.0

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>( \$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	285

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