



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, January 26, 1974

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Universities urged to play positive role in the management of the community's affairs.....	1
Aerial mapping of the New Territories to assist in future engineering and architectural projects.....	5
Sixty-one new building plans approved last month.....	8
Special stamps for 1974 Arts Festival on sale next Friday..	9
New traffic arrangements in Yau Ma Tei from tomorrow.....	10
New Year party for children of Waterworks staff.....	11
Hong Kong industrialists must adapt to changing conditions in world markets.....	12

Release time: 4.30 p.m.

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 1 -

Note: The following item is embargoed until 8 p.m. tonight (Saturday).

UNIVERSITIES URGED TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Financial Secretary Calls For Constructive Criticism

The Financial Secretary, Mr. Philip Haddon-Cave, this evening called on the universities to play a positive role in the management of the community's affairs and encouraged them to criticise the government's handling of public affairs.

Addressing the Hong Kong University Economics Society Ball, Mr. Haddon-Cave said the whole purpose of education was to sharpen the critical faculty and therefore students and staff "have a particular obligation to take a view on government policies and programmes and express that view in discussion and the printed word."

Students in the Economics Department had special opportunities to do this, he added, for not only were economic questions in Hong Kong of peculiar importance, but of peculiar complexity as well.

Essentially, he said, the Hong Kong style of government was one by consultation and consent with a dependence of feedback of information from community organisations and from the public at large -- both directly and via advisory boards and committees -- and with a dependence on "lively and critical comment" by and through the news media and by such groups as the Economics Society.

./The universities,

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 2 -

The universities, the Financial Secretary said, could play a larger role in the management of community affairs by encouraging more graduates to join the public service.

He was not certain that the civil service was enjoying a fair share of the annual output of university graduates at the present time and he pointed out that of the 3,426 posts in recruitment ranks in the public service which require a first degree as an entrance qualification, some 838 or almost one quarter had not been filled.

He also doubted whether the public service, especially the administrative class, was getting its fair share of the best graduates.

"This may partly be, of course, the result of the prospects offered by the private sector in our growing economy.

"But it may also be because some students, who could find a satisfactory and rewarding career in the public service, are not sufficiently aware of the interesting and varied nature of much of the work involved and of the satisfaction to be gained from serving the community at large."

Mr. Haddon-Cave stressed that there should be a willingness, indeed an anxiety on the part of university staff to serve on government boards and committees. While some were already making a most valuable contribution in this respect, "we could with more," he added.

Noting that the fault lay on both sides and that the government could make a greater effort to tap the store of knowledge and expertise available in universities, the Financial Secretary said, however, that there was room for "a somewhat more forthcoming approach by the academic community."

Wherever

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 3 -

Wherever practical, he said, courses should be slanted so as to contain what might be called a Hong Kong content. "For after all, most graduates are going to live and work in Hong Kong after graduation."

He felt that there were plenty of examples in the field of economics where Hong Kong problems could provide fruitful areas for study and research and noted that the Commerce and Industry Department would only be too pleased to collaborate with the universities in lecture areas to mutual advantage.

Mr. Haddon-Cave also exhorted university staff and students to take an interest in the government's handling of community affairs by following what was being done.

He pointed out that the Hong Kong government was well documented and drew attention to the many publications tabled on Budget Day and others.

Referring to the oft mentioned gap between the government and the public, the Financial Secretary said that while this might be true in a very general sense, he doubted whether it was true in a practical sense considering the system of government in Hong Kong.

Almost every important policy area, he said, involved either an advisory board or ad hoc committee or a competent statutory authority in which both officials and members of the public concerned hammered out solutions for the common good. And when this had been done, he added, findings were published for general public debate and comment.

Mr. Haddon-Cave also expressed doubt whether the gap really existed considering the close contacts particular government departments have with particular sections of the community -- notably the Housing Department with their tenants and the Commerce and Industry Department with the business community, among others.

/Perhaps

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 4 -

"Perhaps the only exception where a gap might exist is between the government and the academic community as such," he said.

"If this gap does exist, or indeed if you feel that it exists, the government would be, I am sure, very responsive to suggestions on how it might be effectively bridged."

The Financial Secretary pointed out that the universities were not ungenerously provided for by taxpayers.

During the four years ending June 1974, he said, the government would have provided \$350 million for the universities' recurrent expenditure, representing four-fifths of the universities' total recurrent income.

"Beyond this," he added, "about one half of the fee income is paid for from government grants. Furthermore, almost all of the cost of the universities' main building programmes, as well as their senior staff housing programmes, were financed from public funds to the tune of \$150 million in the same four years."

.....

Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of the Financial Secretary's speech are available for collection in the Press boxes at G.I.S.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 5 -

LARGE SCALE AERIAL MAPPING SURVEY OF HONG KONG

To Assist In Planning Future Satellite Towns, Major Engineering Projects

Areas in the New Territories earmarked for development under the 10-year housing programme are being mapped from the air on the largest scale ever attempted by the Survey Branch of the Crown Lands and Survey Office.

During the past few months, some 3,000 aerial photographs of the New Territories and outlying islands have been taken through a special camera installed on board the twin-engined "Islander" aircraft of the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force.

From the air photographs, plans at 1:500 scale with contours at one metre intervals will be plotted by photogrammetry, the science of plotting maps accurately from air photographs. The new 1:500 plans are among the first to be produced for Hong Kong at metric scales and with metric contours and spot-heights, and will be of immense benefit to the planning of future satellite towns and major engineering and architectural projects, a spokesman for the Survey Branch said.

In addition to this special mapping for the engineers and architects who are planning and designing the new towns, 'strip-maps' for new roads and for the improvement of existing roads are being produced. These include the new Castle Peak Road, the South Lantau Road and a new road to Clear Water Bay Beach.

Apart from these very large-scale engineering plans, other maps at 1:1,000 scale, with contours at two metres intervals, will be produced for the Crown Lands and Survey Office to replace the existing series at inch/foot scales.

/The largest

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 6 -

The largest scale plans previously produced by the Survey Branch have been at 50-feet: 1 inch (1:600) for the urban areas of Hong Kong and Kowloon, and 100 feet: 1 inch (1:1,200) for the whole of the New Territories.

The survey data and the aerial photographs on which the surveyed control points have been pinpricked are being sent to two specialist air survey firms which were recently awarded contracts for the photogrammetric plotting of details from the photographs onto the plans. The firms are Associated Surveys Pty. Ltd. of Perth, Australia, and B.K.S. Surveys Ltd. of Northern Ireland.

A spokesman for the Survey Branch explained that two contracts were awarded partly because of the increasing amount of mapping urgently required and partly because the two firms had come up with very close bids.

"A major advantage of this arrangement," he said, "is that the period of time needed to complete the required mapping will be considerably shortened. This is vitally important in view of the great urgency of the 10-year housing programme."

The spokesman said specialist firms were needed to carry out the photogrammetric plotting because this sort of work required expensive equipment and highly trained operators.

He also pointed out that there would be a concentrated and urgent demand for this sort of work in the next year or two in connection with the housing programme. "It will be followed by a continuing but less urgent demand indefinitely when all existing plans will be revised and re-contoured in metres."

/In this

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 7 -

In this connection, the spokesman said, the Director of Public Works was considering whether or not it was more economical and practical to set up a permanent plotting unit in the Public Works Department.

"The new metric plans now being produced will further establish Hong Kong's claim to be the best mapped territory in the Far East and possibly one of the best in the world," he added.

The new 1:500 plans will be strictly for engineering and architectural use while the 1:1,000 maps will, as in the case of other government maps and plans, be put on public sale when they become available.

.....

Note to Editors: Copies of two aerial photographs of Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi Island, taken at different altitudes during the current survey, are boxed for collection.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 8 -

NEW BUILDING PLANS

Sixty-one new building plans were approved by the Public Works Department last December -- 37 less than the previous month, but 19 more than in December 1972.

Among the plans approved were three for school buildings, in South Bay Close, Braemar Hill Road and in Tai Po. There were also plans for building three factory buildings, extensions to two existing factories and a saw mill.

In the same month, 69 permits were issued for occupation of completed buildings. Twenty-nine of these were on Hong Kong Island, six in Kowloon, and 28 in the New Territories.

Among these completed buildings were a fishermen's housing unit in Sai Kung, a godown building in Oil Street, a dormitory building in the University of Hong Kong, and two houses for presidents of the Chinese University.

Three factory buildings, in Tuen Mun, Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan, with a total usable floor area of about 180,000 square feet, were also completed for occupation.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 9 -

ARTS FESTIVAL STAMPS ON SALE SHORTLY

The set of commemorative stamps for the 1974 Hong Kong Arts Festival will go on sale at all post offices this Friday (February 1).

To mark the occasion, Sir Kenneth Fung Ping-fan, Chairman of the Festival Committee, will buy the first set at the General Post Office in Pedder Street at 8 a.m. that morning.

The Postmaster General, Mr. M. Addi, will present Sir Kenneth with a first day cover and a souvenir stamp sheet afterwards.

From Monday to Thursday next week, the special stamps will be exhibited on the first floor landing of the General Post Office building from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The stamps, in 10-cent, \$1 and \$2 denominations, feature traditional Chinese opera masks which symbolise the theme of the Arts Festival.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 10 -

TRAFFIC RE-ROUTINGS IN YAU MA TEI

New traffic arrangements will be introduced from 10 a.m. tomorrow (Sunday) around Ferry Point Estate in Yau Ma Tei to improve traffic circulation in the area.

Under the new arrangements, Man Sing Street between Man Wai Street and Man Ying Street will be re-routed one-way for southbound traffic; Man Cheong Street between Ferry Street and Man Sing Street to one-way westbound; Man Wai Street between Ferry Street and Man Sing Street to one-way westbound; Man Yuen Street between Ferry Street and Man Sing Street to one-way eastbound; and Man Ying Street between Ferry Street and Man Sing Street to one-way for westbound traffic.

At the same time, the newly installed two-hour parking meters on Man Wai Street, Man Yuen Street, Man Ying Street and the unnamed street to the west of Ferry Point Estate will be brought into operation.

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 11 -

DAY OF FUN FOR WATERWORKS STAFF

A Chinese New Year party for some 2,000 children of Waterworks staff will be held next Sunday (February 3) at Kowloon Wah Yan College.

A large number of game stalls, organised by various divisions in the Waterworks Office, will be set up to entertain the children at the annual fun day.

There will be food and gift parcels for everyone, and in the afternoon there will be a programme of drills by boy scouts and girl guides, folk dances, lion dances and a comedy act by popular artistes.

During the occasion, the Director of Water Supplies, Mr. Wilfred Knight, will present Kirkwood awards -- gold medals subscribed by textile and engineering firms in memory of the former engineer of the Office -- to junior staff.

Winners for the year 1973 are Mr. Law Kai Chuen, Foreman III, Mr. Lo Wing Ho, Foreman III, Mr. Li For Yung, Labourer, and Mr. Lee Chun Lin, Artisan I.

They were all outstanding in their work during the year and were exemplary to their colleagues in their performance of duty.

Note to Editors: You are welcome to cover the children's party to be held on February 3 at Wah Yan College (Kowloon). Mr. Yeung Man Hon, Press Liason Officer of the Waterworks Office, will be present to assist the Press.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 12 -

INDUSTRIALISTS MUST ADAPT TO CHANGING CONDITIONS
IN WORLD MARKETS

The Secretary for Economic Services, Mr. Derek Jones, today emphasised that it was up to industrialists to react to changing conditions in world markets and to strive to maintain the profitability of their enterprises.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Cotton Spinners' Association, he said that the shortage of raw materials, currency uncertainties and market fluctuations had brought about more daunting challenges, but he was certain that these would be met by the ability and flexibility of Hong Kong's industry to respond to changing circumstances.

The government, he said, would continue to assist industry and he noted that positive steps were taken recently to further promote industry by modifying the industrial land policy to sell sites on a restrictive user basis for new industries introducing high technological skills.

"It is the job of the government, first to maintain a proper economic climate within which our industry can function to the best advantage and, secondly, to do what it can to remove or alleviate the impediments to our trade which are imposed by governments overseas," he said.

Mr. Jones gave a re-assurance that the Hong Kong government would continue pressing for the lifting of the exclusion of Hong Kong textiles and footwear from the European Economic Community's generalised preference scheme.

/Referring

Saturday, January 26, 1974

- 13 -

Referring to the continuing growth of the economy, Mr. Jones said its strength lay in the disciplined manner in which it operates.

Hong Kong's free port and monetary and foreign exchange system, low taxation, and the absence of widespread industrial strife had all contributed to the growth and strength of the economy.

"All these elements form an interlocking system which has served Hong Kong very well over the last quarter century since the Second World War. And they can continue to serve us well in future," Mr. Jones said.

"Any well meaning, but uncomprehending, tendency to remove or fundamentally change any of them, could have unforeseen consequences for our prosperity and future economic growth."

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

- - - - 0 - - - -