



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1990

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NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE COMES CLOSER TO REALITY

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HONG KONG'S FIRST NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE - THE SAI KUNG COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE - COMES ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY TODAY (SUNDAY) AS \$5 MILLION IS RAISED FOR THE PROJECT.

THE CENTRE IS TO BE LOCATED IN THE TSIU HANG SPECIAL AREA, A 34-HECTARE SITE BY THE SIDE OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY NEAR SAI KUNG TOWN.

IT ACCOMMODATES A FORMER FARM OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN SAI KUNG. THE AREA IS OF HIGH EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL DUE TO THE SUITABILITY OF ITS TERRAIN, CONVENIENT TRANSPORT AND HIGH LANDSCAPE VALUE.

TODAY'S FUND-RAISING DRIVE, ENTITLED "LIONS WALK AND GROW 89-90", WAS LAUNCHED BY THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, HONG KONG AND MACAU. IT TOOK THE FORM OF TREE PLANTING AND A TRAIL WALK IN WHICH MORE THAN 1,000 LION CLUB MEMBERS TOOK PART.

OFFICIATING AT THE FUNCTION, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, EXPLAINED WHY THE TSIU HANG SPECIAL AREA WAS AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR DEVELOPING MORE FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR COUNTRYSIDE INTERPRETATION AND NATURE EDUCATION.

"THERE IS ALREADY A RICH COLLECTION OF FRUIT TREES, NATIVE FLOWERING TREES AND LOCAL MEDICINAL PLANTS," HE SAID.

"THEREFORE ALL THAT IS NEEDED TO DEVELOP A COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE THERE IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW EXHIBITION CENTRE AND THE UPGRADING OF OTHER ASSOCIATED FACILITIES.

"I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IF THE PUBLIC UNDERSTAND BETTER OUR COUNTRYSIDE WITH ITS RICH VARIETY OF VEGETATION, WILDLIFE AND RURAL HERITAGE, THEY WOULD NOT ONLY DERIVE MORE ENJOYMENT IN THEIR VISITS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE BUT ALSO HAVE A GREATER CONCERN IN TAKING CARE OF IT BOTH FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR CHILDREN," DR LEE SAID.

HE THANKED THE LIONS CLUBS FOR GENEROUSLY AGREEING TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE'S EXHIBITION HALLS, WHICH WOULD BE NAMED IN HONOUR OF THEM.

"THERE IS MUCH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT AND THE COMMUNITY IN TURN WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS MEANINGFUL PROJECT," HE REMARKED.

THE IDEA OF DEVELOPING THE AREA INTO A COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE WAS FIRST MOOTED IN 1986 AND HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNTRY PARK BOARD, SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

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ONE OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING THE COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE RURAL HERITAGE, FARMING, FISHING AND COUNTRYSIDE RESOURCES OF HONG KONG TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CENTRE CAN ALSO PROVIDE A BASE FOR UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC AND FIELD STUDIES AS WELL AS A BASE FOR SCHOOLS AND ORGANISED GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICAL COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION WORK SUCH AS LITTER COLLECTION, TREE PLANTING AND TREE TENDING.

BESIDES, IT WILL SERVE AS A CONSERVATION CENTRE TO PRESERVE RARE AND VALUABLE PLANTS NATIVE TO HONG KONG IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING INFORMAL OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC.

THE PLANNED COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE WILL CONSIST OF FOUR INTEGRAL PARTS:

- * AN EXHIBITION CENTRE OF ABOUT 650 SQUARE METRES FOR THE DISPLAY OF MATERIALS RELATED TO RURAL HERITAGE, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, COUNTRYSIDE RESOURCES AND NATURE CONSERVATION, TOGETHER WITH AN AUDIO-VISUAL ROOM;
- * A FIELD AND OUTDOOR DISPLAY AREA FEATURING FRUIT ORCHARDS, AN ARBORETUM, AN INSECT HOUSE, A ROCKS AND MINERAL GARDEN, A CHINESE MEDICINAL PLANTS GARDEN, A DEMONSTRATION FIELD FOR ECONOMIC PLANTS, A DEMONSTRATION TREE NURSERY AND MANAGED WOODLAND;
- * A PRIMARY FOOTPATH SYSTEM DIRECTING VISITORS TO MAJOR OUTDOOR FIELD DISPLAY AREAS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES (ALONG THESE PATHS, ON-SITE INTERPRETATION MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED AND GUIDED WALKS FOR SCHOOL PARTIES AND ORGANISED GROUPS WILL BE CONDUCTED); AND
- * PUBLIC AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES SUCH AS SHELTERS, REFRESHMENT KIOSK, PICNIC SITES, TOILETS AND PARKING SPACES.

IT IS INITIALLY ESTIMATED THAT THE WHOLE PROJECT WILL COST SOME \$12 MILLION OF WHICH ABOUT \$5.5 MILLION IS THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE EXHIBITION CENTRE.

CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE EXHIBITION CENTRE IS EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BY MID-1991.

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TEACHERS INVITED TO TAKE PART IN CURRICULUM PROJECT SCHEME

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GRANTS TOTTALLING \$1.39 MILLION HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN THE TWO-YEAR CURRICULUM PROJECT SCHEME TO ENCOURAGE TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AIMED AT THE PARTICULAR NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THEIR STUDENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THIS TODAY (SUNDAY) IN REMINDING TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS OF KINDERGARTENS AND SCHOOLS TO SUBMIT THEIR PROJECTS BY MARCH 31.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT 49 PROJECTS WERE SUBMITTED IN 1988, THE DEBUT YEAR OF THE AWARD SCHEME. OF THESE, 35 WERE AWARDED GRANTS RANGING FROM \$3,600 TO \$12,000 FOR KINDERGARTEN-PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECTS AND \$5,000 TO \$16,000 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECTS.

THE 1989 SCHOOL YEAR SUBMISSIONS TOTALLED 77, WITH 53 WINNING AWARDS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT A PROJECT CAN BE DEvised BY A TEACHER OR A GROUP OF TEACHERS IN A SCHOOL OR A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS TO SUIT THE PARTICULAR CURRICULUM NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

THE PROJECTS MAY INVOLVE PRODUCING SIMPLE TEACHING MATERIALS SUCH AS WORKSHEETS FOR SPECIFIC TEACHING TOPICS FOR A PARTICULAR LEVEL, OR MULTI-MEDIA TEACHING PACKAGES WHICH NORMALLY INCLUDE A TEACHER'S GUIDE OR SUGGESTIONS FOR LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS SUCH AS SLIDES, CASSETTE TAPES AND OVERHEAD TRANSPARENCIES.

IN GENERAL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE SCHEME MIGHT INCLUDE PROJECTS ON NEW TEACHING APPROACHES TO SPECIFIC TOPICS IN THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CDC) SYLLABUSES OR CURRICULUM GUIDELINES, AND IN NEW TOPICS OR AREAS OF STUDIES AS ALTERNATIVES TO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CDC SYLLABUSES OR GUIDELINES.

THE PROJECTS MAY ALSO INCLUDE TEACHING AND RESOURCES MATERIALS IN AREAS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED BY THE CDC AIMED AT MEETING THE NEEDS OF PUPILS OR STUDENTS OF A PARTICULAR ABILITY RANGE.

PRODUCTION EXPENSES RANGING FROM \$1,400 TO \$5,000 WILL BE REIMBURSED TO PARTICIPANTS.

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TSUEN WAN DB TO REPORT ON WORK

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL BRIEF REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS ON ITS WORK IN THE PAST YEAR AT A CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY (MARCH 20).

MEMBERS OF RURAL COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, BEGINNING AT 8 PM.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING AND PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARDS TO RESIDENTS WHO HAD HELPED ORGANISE ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR.

THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE ARTS AND SPORTS NURTURE SCHEMES ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE TO BEGIN AT 8 PM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 20) IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

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BOOKLET ON KWAI TSING PUBLISHED

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISTRIBUTE A NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOKLET, "THE MULTI-FACETED IMAGE OF KWAI TSING", TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS THIS WEEK.

THE FULL-COLOURED BOOKLET INTRODUCES THE DIVERSIFIED DEVELOPMENTS AND VARIOUS ASPECTS OF KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI IN 46 PAGES.

TOPICS INCLUDE THE HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT, AREA AND POPULATION, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, DISTRICT FESTIVALS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

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FREE COPIES WILL BE PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS, AREA COMMITTEES AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

RESIDENTS CAN BORROW COPIES FROM THE EIGHT SUB-OFFICES OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE.

IN PRODUCING THE BOOKLET, THE DISTRICT BOARD RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, HOUSING, HOSPITAL SERVICES, REGIONAL SERVICES, SOCIAL WELFARE, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN SHAM SHUI PO
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT ORCHID STREET BETWEEN LARKSPUR STREET AND LILAC STREET IN SO UK ESTATE, SHAM SHUI PO, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM DAILY FROM MARCH 20 TO 22 AND FROM MARCH 27 TO 29 TO FACILITATE WATER IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES CAN ONLY REACH THE MIDWAY OF THE ESTATE VIA LARKSPUR STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 11M WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LILAC STREET, LARKSPUR STREET AND LILAC STREET, OMITTING ORCHID STREET.

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WATER CUT IN TSUEN WAN
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FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 20) TO 9 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TAI HO ROAD, YEUNG UK ROAD, MA TAU PA ROAD AND TEXACO ROAD, INCLUDING THE RIVIERA GARDENS.

ALL PREMISES IN TAI HA STREET, KWAI HOP STREET, TAI WO HAU ESTATE, KWAI CHUNG ESTATE, KWAI SHING EAST ESTATE AND KWAI SHING WEST ESTATE WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

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