



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, April 10, 1976

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Promotion of environmental education in Hong Kong	1
New law preventing spread of plant pests and diseases coming into effect on May 1	3
Kowloon City District athletic meet	4
Some 200,000 people benefit from youth scheme	5
"Meet the Media" session	6
Youth leadership camp organised for summer holiday	7

Saturday, April 10, 1976

- 1 -

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG

The Education Department, together with a number of other Government departments, voluntary agencies and firms, have been promoting environmental education in Hong Kong, the Deputy Director of Education (Professional), Mr. Ho Nga-ming, said this afternoon.

He was speaking at the joint prize-giving ceremony of the school vegetable planting competition and the school children flower growing competition.

Mr. Ho thanked Mr. Chauncey Ng, District Governor, Lions International, District 303, for a donation of \$20,000 for two environmental studies projects - "Shore Watch" which will be launched later this month and "Practical Aquatic Ecology" which will begin in early May.

Environmental studies projects organised by the Education Department in recent years include tree-planting festivals, school forestry work camps and training camps for student conservation leaders. With the co-operation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department conservation talks were given to students.

In addition, the Department was responsible for organising the Clean Water Survey and the Pure Air Survey which were sponsored by two firms.

Mr. Ho said that more than 50,000 pupils had taken part in the school vegetable planting competitions. The students come from 90 participating schools in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories.

He thanked the Lions' for donating gardening kits to the schools, thus enabling the students to continue with their practical gardening work. This fitted very well with the aims of teaching environmental studies in relation to nature study and rural science in primary schools.

/This year

Saturday, April 10, 1976

- 2 -

This year pupils from 56 schools took part in the school children flower growing competition, Mr. Ho said.

Note to Editors:

Copies of the lists of prize-winners are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes.

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/3

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Saturday, April 10, 1976

- 3 -

NEW LAW PREVENTING SPREAD OF PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES

The Plant (Importation and Pest Control) Ordinance 1976, which aims at preventing the spread of plant pests and diseases by controlling the importation of plants and soil, will come into effect from May 1.

The new law gives legislative effect to the Plant Protection Agreement for South East Asia, the terms of which Hong Kong is committed to comply.

Under the Ordinance, the importation of certain plants will only be allowed subject to quarantine.

These plants are rubber, tree cotton, sterculia, cocoa, maize, tea, pineapple, citrus, sweet potato, banana, cotton, groundnut and rice.

All other plants require only an import licence issued by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and a valid phytosanitary certificate from the exporting country.

Application for the required licence, for which no fee is charged, may be made by writing to the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Canton Road Government Offices, Canton Road, Kowloon.

A spokesman for the department said, however, there was no restriction on the importation of cut flowers, fruits and vegetable for consumption, grains, seeds and spices for human and animal consumption or for industrial use, timber, dried tobacco and manufactured articles incorporating dried leaves.

/Importation of

Saturday, April 10, 1976

- 4 -

Importation of seeds for propagation is allowed provided that they are accompanied by a valid phytosanitary certificate. However, importation of plants, plant pests and soil in transit or transshipment is permitted provided they are securely packed.

Any person who contravenes any provision of this Ordinance is liable on conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

For further information please contact the Plant Regulatory Unit of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department on Tel. No. 3-688111, Ext. 235.

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ATHLETIC MEET IN KOWLOON CITY

The finals of the second Kowloon City District athletic meet will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at Kowloon Tsai Park, Kowloon City.

The athletic meet is jointly organised by the City District Office (Kowloon City), the Kowloon City District Youth Services Council and the Education Department.

More than 1,400 youths in Kowloon City participated in the 110 sports events, which began on March 21.

The prize-giving ceremony will be officiated by Mr. Michael Caswell, Principal Education Officer (Physical Education), and Miss Betty Mair, Principal Recreation and Sports Officer of the Education Department.

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Note to Editors: Media representatives are cordially invited to cover the meet, which starts at 9 a.m. The prize-giving ceremony will be held at 3.30 p.m.

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Saturday, April 10, 1976.

- 5 -

200,000 BENEFIT FROM YOUTH SCHEME

Nearly 200,000 people have benefited from the Social Welfare Department's "Opportunities for Youth" Scheme, since it was introduced at the end of 1974.

This was stated by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas Lee, today when he opened an Exhibition on the scheme at the Main Concourse of the Ocean Terminal.

Mr. Lee noted that so far financial aids had been allocated to 149 projects in which more than 5,000 young volunteers were involved.

"The expenses required for the running of these projects amounted to some \$180,000 which were met by a grant of \$50,000 from the Special Fund, \$40,000 from the Sir Robert Hotung Charitable Fund and \$90,000 from the Government."

The "Opportunity for Youth" Scheme, is an innovative youth project launched by the Social Welfare Department through its Group and Community Division. The Director said that the main objective of the Scheme was to promote social consciousness in young people, instil a sense of civic responsibility in them, and to encourage them to take part in community services.

"Through this Scheme, young people can apply their skills and knowledge to make plans for, and participate in, activities that are of benefit to the community.

"Moreover, it is through actual participation that young people will find their role in the community and appreciate the various social problems."

In the Exhibition, 38 projects are displayed, including programmes for the handicapped, projects for the elderly, recreational activities for the children and services for rural people.

Mr. Lee said that the theme of the Exhibition was to show members of the public the various community service projects initiated and promoted by the young people.

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Saturday, April 10, 1976

- 6 -

"All the projects displayed here are designed and mounted by the youngsters themselves," he said.

The Director felt that young people, provided with the right opportunities and proper guidance, would be able to realise their ideals, develop their potentials and at the same time make contributions to the community.

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"MEET THE MEDIA" SESSION

Note to Editors: A "Meet the Media" session will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday (April 14).

The Acting Director of Legal Aid, Mr. T.L. von Pokorny, will attend the meeting which will take place in the G.I.S. Theatre on the fifth floor of Beaconsfield House.

You are cordially invited to send your representatives to cover the meeting. Television crews are advised to arrive early so that they will have ample time to set up their equipment.

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/7

Saturday, April 10, 1976

- 7 -

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ORGANISED FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY

Summer will soon be with us and plans have been formulated once again to help young people make the best use of their leisure time while on vacation.

As in the past six years, the Social Welfare Department, together with the British Forces, has lined up a camping trip to help develop the character, self-reliance and leadership qualities of selected participants in order that they may be better equipped to serve the community.

This year, two residential camps providing good opportunities for youngsters to learn a variety of leadership skills will be organised.

The camps, lasting three weeks each, will be held at the Royal Air Force, Kai Tak, from June 27 to July 17 and from July 25 to August 14. They are for youngsters, both boys and girls, aged between 18 and 25. There will be 120 participants for each camp. Applications are now being accepted from those interested in joining the course.

Application forms are available at the Social Welfare Department's Youth Work Unit, Central Post Offices Building, Top Floor, 405 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon (Tel. 3-884111 Ext. 334). The closing date for applications is May 7.

Participants will be chosen by an interview panel comprising representatives from the Social Welfare Department, the British Forces and voluntary organisations. Selections will be made on the basis of command of English, experience in youth work, knowledge of local affairs and physique. A medical examination, a physical fitness test and a swimming test are also required.

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Saturday, April 10, 1976

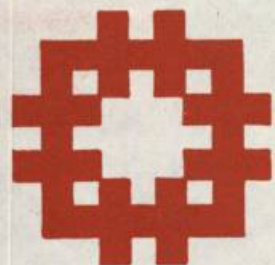
- 8 -

Apart from fun and games, the camp will offer a comprehensive programme to develop skill, common sense, physical fitness, initiative and confidence.

Subjects to be covered in the camp will include expedition, canoeing, map-reading, physical activities, rock climbing and leadership training. A certificate will be awarded to those who participate in all the activities in the course.

The British Forces are mainly responsible for the administrative and instructional sides of the course while the Social Welfare Department handles recruitment, liaison with participants and follow-up action such as research and assessment.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS RELEASE 新聞稿

Saturday, April 10, 1976

NEW HOME FOR HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Applications Section of the Housing Department is to move from its office at 10 Middle Road to the new Housing Authority Headquarters next to Oi Man Estate later this month.

To prepare for the removal, the section will be closed temporarily from next Monday (April 12) to Wednesday (April 21).

It will resume its normal service in the new office on Thursday (April 22). The new address is 101 Princess Margaret Road and its telephone number will be 0502123-4. Correspondence may also be addressed to P.O. Box 9192, Kowloon City Post Office.

The Housing Authority Secretariat and the various divisions of the Housing Department have hitherto been accommodated in offices in Ma Tau Kok Road, Middle Road, and San Po Kong.

They will all be centralised under one roof at the new Headquarters building in May to enable the department to function more efficiently.

Meanwhile, Housing Department architects are putting finishing touches to the 21-storey building situated in the heart of urban Kowloon.

Divisions and Sections of the Housing Department will gradually take up offices in the headquarters building from next month and the removal should be completed towards to end of the month.

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一九七六年四月十日
星期六

房屋署各部門
陸續遷往新廈
申請組下週開始搬遷

房屋署申請組將於下週由中間道十號遷往愛民邨旁新落成的房屋委員會總辦事處辦公。

由於進行搬遷工作，申請組將由下星期一（四月十二日）至四月廿一日（星期三）的一段期間暫停辦公。

四月廿二日（星期四），該組將在公主道一〇一號新辦事處恢復辦公，電話為三一〇五〇二一二三及〇五〇二一二四，函件仍可寄九龍城郵政局郵箱九一九二號。

房屋委員會秘書處及房屋署各部門，迄今分設在馬頭角道、中間道及新蒲崗各辦事處辦公。

由五月起，該等部門將集中在房屋委員會總辦事處辦公，以提高工作效率。

房屋署建築師現正為該座位於九龍市中心的廿一層新總辦事處大廈，從事最後的裝修工作。

房屋署其餘各部門，將於下月陸續遷入新總辦事處，搬遷工作定於五月下旬完竣。