



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday 27
 -Wednesday, September, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Kwun Tong technical institute ready for operation in 1975 ..	1
Exhibition of creative structural design by youth	3
Talk on social welfare	5
Proposed draft legislation on trading in securities	6
International Coffee Agreement modified	7
More roads and drainage for Tuen Mun industrial area	8
Contractors urged to help reduce accidents on building sites	9

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 1 -

MORE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES ON THE WAY

Work on a new technical institute in Kwun Tong is to start at the beginning of December.

The institute -- the second to be built this year for occupation at the start of the 1975-76 academic year -- is one of seven being planned for major industrial areas in addition to the existing institute at Morrison Hill.

These new institutes will greatly promote industry in Hong Kong by providing training for craftsmen and technicians at all levels.

The site for the Kwun Tong institute -- occupying an area of about 130,000 sq. ft. -- is situated at the end of Hiu Ming Street immediately above Kwun Tong Estate.

It will comprise three building blocks, linked together by covered corridors.

The main five-storey block will house a total of 50 classrooms, workshops and laboratories which will have facilities for courses in electrical and mechanical engineering, electronics, textiles (knitting) and garment making.

There are also facilities for a highly specialised printing department. An overseas consultant will be advising on the setting up of this department.

/A four-storey

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 2 -

A four-storey block generally provides for administration offices, a library, and staff and student common rooms.

The remaining block has an assembly hall with a covered play area, canteen facilities on the ground floor and minor staff quarters on the upper floor.

The design of the institute is similar to the Kwai Chung Technical Institute which will also be completed in time for the academic year beginning in 1975.

Two other technical institutes being planned - one in Cheung Sha Wan and one in San Po Kong - are scheduled to admit students in 1976 and 1977 respectively.

Plans and locations for the other three of the seven additional technical institutes in the expansion programme are being actively studied by the government.

Tentative proposals are for them to be built in the new towns of Sha Tin, Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan.

When fully developed, each of the new institutes, including the one in Kwun Tong, will turn out about 500 full-time and 1,300 part-time day students annually. Courses will also be run for evening students.

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/3

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 3 -

"YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORLD" DESIGN EXHIBITION

The "Young People's World," a creative structural design exhibition organised by the Youth Work Unit of the Social Welfare Department, will be held again this year during the Festival of Hong Kong.

It will take place at Kowloon Park from November 24 to December 1 - the third time it has been organised.

"The exhibition serves to arouse social consciousness of young people and provides them an opportunity to convey their ideals and views towards social issues and phenomena in the form of imaginative and creative structural design" said Mr. Antonio Chu, Officer-in-Charge of the Youth Work Unit.

"It also helps to reinforce co-operation among young people through working towards a common project," he said.

Groups of any organisations or schools, or by autonomous combination with participants of not less than seven and aged between 15-25, are invited to participate.

The participating units can select their own themes mainly focused on the expression of views and ideals towards society in the form of creative structural designs.

About 30 selected works will be displayed. An initial selection will be held if entries exceed this number.

Each participating unit will be provided with a piece of land of 10 feet by 15 feet for their exhibit. Height and materials are not limited.

/The budget

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 4 -

The budget should not exceed \$500 for each project and participating groups with financial difficulty may apply for a subsidy from the Social Welfare Department.

Applications together with sketch plans must be submitted to the Youth Work Unit not later than October 30.

Prospectus and application forms are obtainable at the Youth Work Unit of the Social Welfare Department at Room 908, Causeway Bay Magistracy Building, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong (Tel. 5-712467 and 5-705516) or Kowloon Government Offices Building, 18th floor, 405 Nathan Road, Kowloon (Tel. 3-884111 ext. 331).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 5 -

SOCIAL WELFARE BOTH AN AIM AND A METHOD

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. K.W.J. Topley, said today that social welfare is both an aim and a method.

"The aims of social welfare are closely bound up with the methods we use to get there," he said.

It was significant, he said, that the same word social welfare was used both for what we do and what we are trying to arrive at.

Speaking at the luncheon meeting of the 100 Club at the Hong Kong Hilton, he said that real welfare means getting as many people involved as possible "people with wider interest, concern for others, and working with other people."

Mr. Topley said: "If it's everybody's welfare we want then all must get into the act or we will be using a very cold blueprint that does not reflect what we really want.

"Welfare isn't just a job for the government but for all sorts of people."

It is for this reason Mr. Topley said that the Social Welfare Five Year Plan was worked out with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service on the widest possible basis of consultation getting as many people involved as possible.

He congratulated members of the 100 Club on recognising a need by taking up the task of helping the victims of violent crimes at about the same time that government's own scheme was launched.

/He suggested

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 6 -

He suggested that when this has really got off the ground, perhaps the 100 Club could also fill in other needs by expanding on new initiatives such as further plans for widows and orphans.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Topley's speech will be distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press Boxes this evening.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON SECURITIES

Note to Editors: The Commissioner of Securities, Mr. J. Selwyn, will be holding a press conference tomorrow (Friday) when he will outline proposed draft legislation relating to trading in securities.

The meeting will start at 3 p.m. in the G.I.S. 35 mm theatre on the fifth floor of Beaconsfield House.

Representatives of the media are invited to attend. Television crews are requested to arrive early so that they will have ample time to set up their equipment.

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/7

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 7 -

MODIFICATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT

The Commerce and Industry Department announced today that, as from next month, applications to import coffee into Hong Kong from member countries of the International Coffee Agreement will no longer have to be supported by certificates of origin, re-export or replacement.

The change follows a number of modifications to the International Coffee Agreement which will become effective on October 1.

A spokesman for the Department said, however, shipments from ICA members consigned to Hong Kong before October 1, but arriving after that date, must still be certified and the documents surrendered to the Department as previously.

As a result of the modifications, former provisions regarding export quotas will also cease to apply.

The spokesman pointed out that the revised provisions of the ICA would mean there would be no quantitative limitations on imports of coffee from countries which are not ICA members.

But he reminded importers and exporters that, despite the changes referred to, all imports and exports of coffee must still be covered by valid licences issued by the Commerce and Industry Department.

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/8

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 8 -

BETTER ROAD AND DRAINAGE FACILITIES FOR TUEN MUN

Road and drainage works will begin soon in Tuen Mun to serve the industrial area west of the San Hui River channel.

The works will involve the formation and the surfacing of about 15,000 feet of roadway, and laying of sewers and stormwater drains.

The roadway system will be linked to a causeway road in the area and lead onto Castle Peak Road.

In addition, a short length of road will be constructed at the southern end of Sham Shing Hui in an area designed for development for the local fishermen.

The project is expected to take 20 months to complete, and will provide access and drainage facilities for factories on some 50 acres of land.

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/9

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 9 -

BUILDING CONTRACTORS URGED TO HELP REDUCE ACCIDENT RATE

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, today expressed grave concern about the safety of workers in the building construction industry and urged the contractors to take positive action to reduce the present alarming accident rate.

The appeal was contained in a letter sent to some 1,824 registered contractors of the building industry to remind them of their obligations under the new Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations.

The regulations - designed to safeguard the health and improve the welfare of workers employed on construction sites - were passed by the Legislative Council on August 1, 1973, and will come into effect on May 1 next year.

They place considerable legal obligations upon a contractor or, where there is more than one contractor, upon the principal contractor.

In his letter, Mr. Price pointed out that in 1972, accidents on construction sites caused injury to 4,435 workers, and killed 65.

"All these accidents resulted in great losses in terms of workmen's compensation, temporary stoppages of work and the services of skilled workers who are difficult and expensive to replace," he said.

Beyond these economic losses, he added, there was the immeasurable suffering caused to the injured or to the dependants and families of deceased workers.

/Mr. Price

Thursday, September 27, 1973

- 10 -

Mr. Price said: "While I realise that ignorance, carelessness, or perhaps indifference of workers and foremen may be major underlying causes of accidents, I must point out that supervisors and foremen, and indeed all members of amnagement, have a moral responsibility to teach the ignorant, to give firm guidance to the careless, and to instil safety consciousness in the indifferent."

To assist contractors to train their supervisors and foremen, the Commissioner said, the Industrial Safety Training Centre of the Labour Department would run a number of training courses specifically designed to meet the needs of the construction industry.

He strongly advised those who had not applied for places on these courses - offered by the Centre free of charge - to do so without delay.

He said: "It is in the interests of the contractors and in those of the community that they should join forces with me to achieve in 1974 a **marked** reduction in the appalling number of accidents occurring on construction sites."

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.