

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Thursday, May 11, 1972

RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION

Advisory Committee Submits Report

The first interim report of the Hong Kong Island Advisory Committee for Recreational Development and Nature Conservation covering the period, November 1970 to December 1971, has now been submitted to Government, the Chairman, Mr. R.C. Clarke, stated today.

This Committee was appointed in November 1970 to advise on schemes for the recreational use and conservation of the countryside and to prepare a 5-year programme for this purpose.

It was set up under the chairmanship of Director of Lands & Survey and has representatives from the University of Hong Kong, Tourist Association, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the Urban Council as well as other Government officers.

In March 1971 the Committee submitted its first 5-year programme together with an estimate of cost. It has subsequently supported this with further details.

It is understood that these recommendations are still being studied and it is hoped that funds will be made available in the not too distant future.

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The main activities of the Committee have been concerned with the formulation of proposals for providing better access into the countryside of Hong Kong Island so as to enable fuller use of the area to be made whilst at the same time enabling better management and control of the various areas to be exercised by the authorities to protect the countryside against vandalism.

The committee considers it essential that additional management centres be established both to protect the countryside from fire and erosion and to provide scavenging and general warden services.

It is proposed that these be placed under the control of the Agriculture & Fisheries Department.

Nature Education

One proposal of the Committee is to establish a Nature Education Trail between Tai Tam Gap and Big Wave Bay, Shek O along which special arrangements will be made to point out interesting aspects of the natural environment including the local geology, flora and fauna.

It is expected that this will have general appeal. The idea has yet to be developed fully but will receive priority consideration once funds are available.

The Committee feels unable to make any real progress on the ground until the level of funds to be made available is known.

Nevertheless it is continuing its examination of the things that can be done once funds are available.

It is also studying management and additional legislative arrangements which may be required together with the staff necessary to give effect to the Committee's proposals.

It is the Committee's intention to issue periodical statements of progress.

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NO ON-ROAD PARKING SPACES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Requests Will Not Be Considered

No requests by individuals for the exclusive use of on-road parking spaces outside their premises would be considered, the Transport Department announced today.

A spokesman said that the department frequently received requests from persons in schools, shops, factories, godowns and blocks of flats for special allocation of on-road car parking spaces outside the premises.

"All these requests have to be refused because, whereas, there are legal powers to reserve parking spaces for certain categories of vehicle, there are no powers to reserve spaces specially for the vehicles of certain people," he added.

The spokesman stressed that the Department was always willing to consider requests for the designation of kerbside spaces for loading/unloading of commercial vehicles and for the parking of various categories of vehicles provided those spaces could be used by any vehicle of the right category.

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INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION
At City Museum And Art Gallery

An international art exhibition which circulates in the Far East has arrived in Hong Kong and is now being shown at the City Museum and Art Gallery under the sponsorship of the Urban Council.

The exhibition is organised by the International Society of Plastic and Audio-Visual Arts (ISPAA) which was first founded in Japan around 1962.

Later branch associations were established in Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brazil, Switzerland, Okinawa, and Hong Kong.

The purpose of the Society is to promote cultural interchange in the visual arts among as many countries as possible.

ISPAA has organised nine exhibitions of the same nature in the past, and this is their tenth exhibition which was first shown in Singapore last October and was subsequently in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok.

All the exhibits are works of the ISPAA members of the various participating countries or localities.

Sixty-six pieces of paintings, prints and sculptures make up the present exhibition.

Among these, there are five from Brazil, thirteen from Japan, sixteen from Korea, seven from Malaysia, seven from Singapore, four from Taiwan, four from Thailand, and ten by Hong Kong artists.

The exhibition will remain open until May 28. Afterwards, it will travel to Taiwan, Korea, and Japan.

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VISIT BY TUBERCULOSIS SPECIALIST

Continuing Interest In Hong Kong Of Medical Research Council

Dr. Wallace Fox, Director of the Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases Unit of Britain's Medical Research Council, has just concluded a week's visit to the Medical and Health Department for routine consultations on tuberculosis control.

The visit is part of the five-year tuberculosis research project agreement jointly concluded in 1967 between the Government of Hong Kong and the Medical Research Council, and recently renewed for another five years.

"A happy and close working relationship has been built up over the years," Dr. Fox said before he left, "and the results of the joint studies are now becoming available. They have already had a considerable impact on the methods of treatment in Hong Kong."

During Dr. Fox's latest visit, he had discussions at the Department's headquarters with Dr. the Hon. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, and other doctors.

But most of his time was spent with staff of institutions concerned with the control and treatment of tuberculosis in Hong Kong. He looked at the latest developments in the Colony's fight against the disease, and was satisfied with progress. This had reached the point where an almost 100 per cent cure could be guaranteed -- provided the patient co-operated to the full, and underwent the prescribed treatment.

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He was particularly interested in the fact that it seemed likely that Hong Kong could soon overcome one of the major drawbacks still existing in the treatment of tuberculosis -- namely, its long duration.

He approved final details of a project beginning next month involving a special study designed to shorten the current duration of treatment for new cases of tuberculosis. Taking part in the study are the Chest Service of the Medical and Health Department, the Hong Kong Anti-Tuberculosis and Thoracic Diseases Association, the Haven of Hope Sanatorium, and the Medical Research Council.

"Bearing in mind that more and more patients are treated on an out-patient basis, this shortening of treatment, if successful, will mean a breakthrough of major proportions," Dr. Fox said.

"Not only will the treatment of tuberculosis in Hong Kong be revolutionised, but it will be short and relatively inexpensive."

Dr. Fox's visit will be followed by further visits by staff of the Medical Research Council to ensure that close and continuous consultations be maintained on this project, and the possible implementation of its findings in the improvement in the control and treatment of tuberculosis in Hong Kong.

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PREVENTION OF ENTERIC DISEASES CAMPAIGN

The Urban Council will launch a one-month campaign on prevention of enteric diseases from tomorrow (Friday).

The aim of the campaign is both to raise the alertness of the public towards the danger of enteric diseases and to improve the standard of hygiene in the preparation of food.

Note to editors: Dr. M.H. Huang, Chairman of the Urban Council's Environmental Hygiene Select Committee, will hold a press conference in Wong Tai Sin Community Centre in Shing Tak Street at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow to publicise the campaign.

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MORSE PARK POOL TO HOLD SWIMMING GALA
Will Be Closed To Public On Saturday

The Morse Park Swimming Pool Complex will be closed to the public this Saturday (May 13) from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association will be holding its Age Group Swimming Gala during that period.

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TOUGH ACTION AGAINST "SPACE GRABBERS"

Heavy Fines On Conviction

The Resettlement Department is taking tougher action against "space grabbers" in its estates.

In recent months many convictions have been secured in the courts against hawkers and shop tenants in resettlement estates who persist in taking up more space than has been allocated to them.

"Such selfishness on the part of shopkeepers and hawkers must be discouraged," a spokesman for the Resettlement Department said.

He added that not only do they deprive the tenants of open space, which is already so scarce, they cause serious obstruction and make cleansing difficult if not impossible.

The spokesman said that in a recent case at Wong Tai Sin, where a rattan shop had taken over a large area of about 300 sq. ft. outside the shop, the shopkeeper was convicted and fined \$3,000. In addition he was bound over in the sum of \$2,000.

"Such prosecutions will continue in increasing numbers until hawkers and shopkeepers recognise that they must co-operate or face the consequences."

Recent clean-up campaigns in the estates have done a lot to give back the open spaces around the blocks to the domestic tenants, but a number of stall hawkers and shopkeepers refuse to keep within their boundaries and have had to be prosecuted.

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"Prosecution seems to be the only effective deterrent when offenders persist in this way," the spokesman said.

He added that in Lei Cheng Uk estate, six hawkers in the cleaned-up area occupying resited stalls were fined sums ranging up to \$300 for storing goods outside the stall area.

In other estates, prosecution against shopkeepers who were storing their goods outside the shop ranged up to \$600.

The same problems have arisen in resettlement factories and during April alone 33 successful prosecutions were taken against factory tenants who were causing obstruction by leaving raw material, or finished goods, outside their factories in the public spaces.

In these cases, fines ranged up to \$2,500.

Note to editors: A photograph illustrating this item
is boxed separately this evening.

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BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

Nos. 32 & 34 Tai Ping Shan Street

The Building Authority today declared Nos. 32 and 34 Tai Ping Shan Street Hong Kong to be in a dangerous condition and ordered demolition.

In a statement issued this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these four-storey pre-war buildings, which share a common staircase, were inspected as a result of a report from another Government Department.

It was found that the brackets supporting the front projecting balconies are extensively decayed and, being beyond repair, should be removed.

However there are fractures in the brickwork of the front main wall and although not showing signs of recent movement, these are such that demolition or removal of the balconies could not be safely carried out.

In addition there is a large fracture in the party wall near the junction with the rear main wall which shows signs of recent movement.

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on June 22 were posted today.

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PROPER CO-ORDINATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

Significance Of Second Estate Welfare Building In Sau Mau Ping

Mr. Thomas C.Y. Lee, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, said to-day with the growing complexity and sophistication of Hong Kong's problems, it was only through the proper co-ordination and location of government and voluntary services that residents could have their needs met promptly.

He was speaking at the formal opening of the Sau Mau Ping (South) Estate Welfare Building, the second in the area. It houses a number of government and voluntary agencies, all working together "under the same roof in the provision of co-ordinated welfare services."

Mr. Lee noted that with the new building, there were now six estate welfare buildings, and three more were being planned. In all of them, welfare services were being made possible as "an integrated whole."

The concept of a multi-purpose building providing a variety of services in a housing estate was unique to Hong Kong, and had proved successful in Lam Tin, Shek Lei, Ngau Tau Kok and Tsz Wan Shan, but Mr. Lee understood that other cities in the region were interested in Hong Kong's example and might take the idea up.

Guests attending the ceremony included Mr. Peter Chan Chi-kwan, the Urban Councillor; Mr. Lam Chik-ho, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the United Christian Hospital; Mr. Lee Yiu-bor, of the Gospel Preaching Group of Overseas Chinese Christians; Mr. Wong Ping-lai, President of

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the Chinese YMCA; Mrs. Wong Chan-siu, Permanent President of the Sau Mau Ping Kaifong Welfare Advancement Association; and Mr. Leung Sai-chuen, Resettlement Officer, Sau Mau Ping Resettlement Estate (South).

Mr. Lee referred to the nursery, youth, health and community services in the building being made available by government departments and various agencies. He had every confidence they would be used to the maximum benefit of the estate's residents.

Of the Social Welfare Department's Estate Community Work Office, he said it would work with the local community and the agencies within the building "to encourage the development of community groups and volunteer services, help residents identify their needs, and co-operate so that appropriate action could be taken for community betterment."

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FOUR SUPPLIES OFFICERS RETIRING

Director To Present Farewell Gifts

Four officers of the Government Supplies Department who have a total of more than 150 years of service are retiring shortly.

They are Mr. Ho Poon-kan, Senior Supplies Officer, Mr. Chu Sheung-ye, and Mr. Lai Tat-ki, Supplies Supervisor Class II, and Mr. Wong Kwong-sin, Supplies Assistant.

To mark their retirement, the Director of Government Supplies, Mr. F.J. Young, will present farewell gifts to them on behalf of their friends and colleagues on Friday.

Note to editors: You are welcome to have the presentation covered.

It will be held at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, May 12, at the Recreation Club on the top floor of the Government Supplies Department in Oil Street, North Point.

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THREE MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO BE COMMENDED

For Efforts To Put Out Fire

Mr. H.T.J. Hutchins, the Chief Fire Officer, Hong Kong and Marine, will present Director of Fire Services commendation certificates and a small monetary award, to three members of the public tomorrow (Friday).

The presentation will take place at Shau Kei Wan Fire Station at 4 p.m.

The certificates will be presented to Mr. Chan Kwai Fong and Miss Chan Yuk Chun for their efforts in trying to extinguish a fire which occurred at Chai Wan Resettlement Estate on December 8 last year.

An award will also be made to the widow of Mr. Leung Kwok Shun who died from burns he received at this fire.

Note to editors: You are welcome to have the presentation covered.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Employers Urged To Adopt Positive Attitude

The Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, Mr. A.H. Carter today urged employers to adopt a positive attitude towards accident prevention and advocated joint efforts by workers, managements and the Labour Department in the war against industrial accidents.

He appealed to industrialists to take full advantage of the free training facilities provided by the Centre, and called upon top managements to "formally adopt a safety policy and implement it within their respective companies" in order to maintain adequate protection for their employees.

In October, 1971, Mr. Carter had sent 1,500 circulars to proprietors of industrial undertakings and factories where woodworking machinery was installed, offering them free training facilities for their workers.

"Only 51 employers responded," he added.

A similar letter sent to companies where power presses were in use, produced an even poorer result, he said.

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THUNDERSTORM AND SQUALLY SHOWERS HIT HONG KONG

Landslides, Flood And Blocked Roads

Various government departments swung into action early today to clear roads, move traffic and give assistance to hundreds of people affected by the heavy downpour which lashed the Colony last night and early this morning.

Up to 5 p.m. today, most of the roads on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories had been cleared.

On Hong Kong Island, only Deep Water Bay Road outside House Nos. 28 and 79 was blocked.

In Kowloon, seven roads are still partially blocked. They are in Wong Tai Sin, Mongkok and Sham Shui Po.

In the New Territories, only 19½ milestone, Castle Peak Road was partially blocked -- by an uprooted tree.

Numerous minor landslides and widespread flooding caused by the heavy rain brought havoc to many parts of the Colony this morning.

In the urban areas, traffic was affected as vehicles moved through flooded streets at snail's pace. Many cars broke down and were stranded in knee-deep water, adding to the traffic chaos.

Most of the landslides reported were of a minor nature, but some roads were blocked. No casualties were reported.

Several house collapses were also reported.

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At first light this morning, Public Works Department workers were out in force to clear away mud and rocks blocking roads while firemen had a busy time answering calls for help from people stranded in the rainstorm.

Teams of Resettlement Department staff were sent out to squatter and licenced areas to check on the situation.

Damage was reported not serious.

Resettlement and Social Welfare Departments have registered hundreds of flood victims and have given them relief articles and if necessary, temporary shelter.

Over 1,000 flood victims in the Kowloon Walled City were registered by the Social Welfare Department and given relief.

At Sai Tau Village, where serious flooding occurred this morning, 38 people were led to safety by firemen.

At the height of the rainstorm early this morning, a fourth-alarm fire broke out at Hill Road, Western District, adding to the work of the firemen.

Late this afternoon, six bodies - that of four adults and two children - had been found on the second floor of the building. They were removed to the public mortuary. Six people are still unaccounted for.

Train services were disrupted early this morning when water and mud blocked the second of the main line south of the Beacon Hill Tunnel.

Shuttle services were operated between Lowu and Shatin for several hours before normal services were resumed.

A total of 164.6 m.m. of rain was recorded by the Royal Observatory between midnight last night and midday today. Yesterday, 116.5 m.m. of rain fell.

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Release Time: 8.00 p.m.