



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, February 1, 1974

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Overseas industrial companies seek Hong Kong partners for joint ventures	1
Restrictions on advertising and display lighting relaxed	3
Proposed street alterations in Western in connection with Urban Renewal Pilot Scheme	4
New government quarters to be built in Kowloon Tong	5
International Mail Centre will be equipped with modern sorting facilities	6
Labour Commissioner commends safety standards in San Po Kong factory	7
Housing Authority to install communal aerials in Oi Man Estate..	9
New Wu York Yu Clinic in Tsz Wan Shan opened	10
Six lots of Crown land being offered for sale this month	11
Tenders invited for a patrol boat for Preventive Services	12
More scholarships for students from Commonwealth countries	13

Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.45 p.m.

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 1 -

LOCAL PARTNERS SOUGHT BY FOREIGN COMPANIES

For Joint Industrial Ventures

Information on 14 proposals by foreign companies for industrial joint ventures or licensing arrangements of possible interest to Hong Kong industrialists was issued today by the Commerce and Industry Department.

They represent active inquiries which have been processed by the department's Industrial Promotion Branch to the point that each of the foreign firms concerned is especially interested in discussing joint ventures or licensing arrangements with potential local partners.

Anyone interested is invited to contact Mr. Thomas Yiu, Assistant Trade Officer in the Industrial Promotion Branch, telephone 5-233781.

The branch is also dealing directly with a number of foreign companies specifically interested in setting up wholly owned subsidiaries in Hong Kong. Some of these projects are heavily capital intensive and represent advanced technology.

The list of industrial investment projects in which local participation is invited is as follows:-

	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Nature</u>
1.	USA	Manufacture of fibre-glass hockey sticks	Joint Venture
2.	USA	Manufacture of machine components such as cylinders and hose lines	Joint Venture
3.	USA	Manufacture of electrical and electronic money handling machines	Joint Venture

/4. USA

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 2 -

	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Nature</u>
4.	USA	Manufacture of pulsators which regulate engine speeds	Sub-contracting
5.	USA	Manufacture of electronic golfing fairways	Licensing Arrangement
6.	USA	Manufacture of packaging machinery, can handling machinery, and conveyor systems	Joint Venture
7.	Canada	Manufacture of polystyrene beer coolers and polystyrene insulating decorative panels	Licensing Arrangement
8.	UK	Production of textile products	Joint Venture
9.	UK	Manufacture of television and record-player stands	Licensing Arrangement
10.	New Zealand	Production of babywear and handkerchiefs	Licensing Arrangement
11.	West Germany	Manufacture of precision tools	Licensing Arrangement
12.	West Germany	Manufacture of printed circuits	Joint Venture
13.	Australia	Production of precision machine tools	Joint Venture
14.	France	Manufacture of chains and padlocks	Joint Venture

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 3 -

LIGHTING RESTRICTIONS EASED

The permitted time for advertising and display lighting has been extended by one hour from 7 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Announcing this today, Mr. Roy Porter, Director of Oil Supplies, said that the economy measures introduced by the Government over the past weeks, together with the voluntary savings made by the public, had reduced Hong Kong's fuel consumption in line with the anticipated 10 per cent reduction in oil supplies during the first quarter of 1974.

"Accordingly it is now possible to extend the permitted time for advertising and display lighting by one hour," said Mr. Porter.

"However", he concluded, "I must add that if we do not maintain our level of voluntary saving, or if the supply situation changes, the Government would have to consider readjusting the new hours, or even the introduction of additional measures."

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/4

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 4 -

PROPOSED STREET CHANGES IN WESTERN

The government intends to carry out a number of street alterations in the area in Western District commonly known as "cat street".

The area is within the approved Urban Renewal District Outline Zoning Plan and now forms the first phase of the Pilot Scheme area, the layout plan for which has been adopted by the Director of Public Works.

The layout plan proposes that the existing streets be laid out as pedestrian ways with Upper Lascar Row forming a shopping promenade.

Substantial alterations will be carried out linking Hollywood Road with Queen's Road Central, roughly along the line of parts of Sai Street and Lower Lascar Row. Parts of Sai Street, Water Lane, Tung Street will be closed from Queen's Road Central.

The existing streets in this area are very steep, narrow and obstructed by hawkers. In redeveloping the "cat street" area, it is considered that the former traditional character could with advantage be recreated in a more contemporary form which would provide for the separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, a Public Works spokesman said.

There will be a substantial reduction in the level between the existing Lower Lascar Row and the new road adjoining Nos. 18/20 Lower Lascar Row.

In order to retain access to this side of the building, the spokesman added, the Government is prepared to consider providing an elevated platform, in conjunction with a retaining wall to support the building, that would replace the access to this side of the building and the private lane.

/However

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 5 -

However, during construction access will only be available from Tank Lane.

The closing date for objections to the proposals is March 1, 1974.

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NEW GOVERNMENT QUARTERS

New staff quarters will be built in Kowloon for those government staff who are eligible for allocation of a flat.

The site of the new quarters is to the east of Broadcast Drive opposite Marconi Road. Work on forming it for building works is expected to begin in March.

On completion of this work, in about August this year, a construction contract will be let for building the superstructure.

The quarters will consist of three blocks and will have a total of 51 units.

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/6

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 6 -

MAIL CENTRE WILL HAVE MODERN SORTING FACILITIES

The \$33 million International Mail Centre to be built on the Hung Hom Reclamation will be equipped with some of the most advanced machinery for letter and mail sorting.

A spokesman for the Post Office said today that the machines would minimise manual work involved in processing mail and reduce time needed for sorting.

On the construction of the centre, he said piling work would begin in the first half of this year.

When completed, the steel frame of the building will be put up to be followed by the main construction work.

The two-storey centre, one of the biggest of its kind in Southeast Asia, will have an operating space of about 80,000 square feet.

Meanwhile, the government is to set aside more than 10,000 square feet of foreshore and seabed at Hung Hom for the construction of piers for the centre to facilitate mail handling to and from launches.

This will include the receipt and despatch of surface mail.

The size of the area involved was described in a notice in today's gazette which calls on all persons having objections to the proposal or any claim of private right to submit their objections or claims in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months.

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Friday, February 1, 1974

- 7 -

SAFETY STANDARDS OF SAN PO KONG FACTORY PRAISED

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Ian Price today praised the management and workers of a large Kowloon watch-strap factory for their successful efforts in keeping down the industrial accident rate.

Mr. Price was visiting the Stelux Manufacturing Company Limited in San Po Kong - the fifth in a series of factory visits to enable him to keep up-to-date about local working conditions. He was accompanied by Mr. Barry Walsh, Principal Information Officer, and Mr. Stanislaus Tsao, Labour Officer in charge of the Industrial Undertaking Unit.

After touring the factory, Mr. Price said he was impressed by the factory's high standard of housekeeping and excellent layout, which provided good and safe working conditions.

He told workers they had contributed greatly to accident prevention by playing their part in maintaining a good standard of housekeeping. "If all workers in Hong Kong were as safety conscious as you, the number of accidents at work would not have reached the present disturbing level," he said.

In the factory, with a work force of 2,100, there has not been one fatal accident during the past ten years, and there have been less than 10 minor accidents a year. "This is a record of which management, foremen and employees should be proud; and their success in accident prevention sets a good example to other factories," Mr. Price said.

/During a

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 8 -

During a discussion with management on safety policy, the Commissioner was pleased to learn that foremen were given responsibility of ensuring safe working practices. He was particularly impressed by the safety devices on the machinery, some of which were specially designed by foremen.

"By virtue of your enlightened attitude, your employees are able to participate in the promotion of industrial safety," he told Mr. A.E. Gazeley, the General Manager. "This sense of involvement is vital in accident prevention."

Mr. Price was told that in addition to preventive safety devices and safe work methods, management and workers co-operated in providing remedial measures in case of accidents. A full-time nurse was engaged to provide preliminary medical treatment to injured workers, and 21 employees held First-Aid Certificates issued by the St. John Ambulance Association.

The Commissioner pointed out that at present there was a grave shortage in industry of personnel trained in first-aid. However a recent amendment to Factories and Industrial Undertakings (First Aid in Registrable Workplace) Regulations, gives recognition to a wider range of qualifications for first-aiders. These now include courses run by the Auxiliary Medical Service, Civil Aid Service and the Hong Kong Red Cross.

"It is of the utmost importance that first-aiders should be available on the factory floor to give emergency treatment to injured workers," he said. "I hope the new regulations will enable industry to recruit more workers with first-aid training, so ease the present shortage."

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/9

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 9 -

TV AERIALS IN ESTATES

Communal television aerials will be installed at the Housing Authority's newest estate - the Oi Man Estate at Ho Man Tin.

This service to tenants is expected to be available later this year.

"Oi Man has been chosen initially for this pilot scheme and if it proves acceptable, it is our intention to expand this service to other estates", a Housing Authority spokesman said.

Tenants at Oi Man need not budget for the cost of installation and maintenance as it is the Authority's intention to include the cost in the rental for easy administrative purposes.

The Authority has advertised for contractors interested in carrying out such installation to register with the Housing Department so that a list can be drawn up from which tenders might be invited in the future.

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/10

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 10 -

EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC CO-OPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT

Dr. Choa Lauds Public Spirit Of Brothers At Clinic Opening

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. Gerald Choa, said today completion of the new Wu York Yu Clinic in Tsz Wan Shan was "another good example of public co-operation with the government in the setting up of more medical institutions."

He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the new three-storey clinic, towards the construction of which two prominent local bankers, Mr. Wu Yoo-sun, chairman of the Wing Lung Bank, and his brother, Mr. Wu Jieh-yee, had donated \$800,000 in memory of their late father, after whom the clinic is named.

Dr. Choa said the clinic, with six consulting rooms, three treatment rooms, an out-patient department, a dispensary, and a maternal and child health centre, would be providing services from Monday onwards that were much needed by the growing population in the rapidly-developing Tsz Wan Shan area.

He noted that the clinic was being opened to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Wing Lung Bank, "as one of the important financial institutions contributing significantly to the economy of Hong Kong."

He referred to the two brothers as civic-minded residents who, although actively involved in providing financial services to the community, had not lost sight of the needs of the poor and the sick.

Dr. Choa said they were following the precept and example of their late father, who did not hesitate to help the poor and the needy.

/Before

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 11 -

Before inviting Mr. Wu to unveil a plaque and declare the clinic open, Dr. Choa thanked all members of the Medical and Health Department, and the Public Works Department, who had had a part to play in the planning, construction, equipping, and other work in connection with the Wu York Yu Clinic.

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LAND SALES

Two lots of Crown land in Chai Wan with a total area of 20,850 square feet suitable for industrial development will be put up for auction later this month.

Also for sale, will be two residential lots located in Chai Wan and Tin Hau Temple Road. They measure 48,000 square feet and 18,000 square feet, respectively.

The auction will take place in the City Hall Lecture Room at 2.30 p.m. on February 22.

Meanwhile, two lots of Crown land in Tung Yuen Street, San Ka Tsuen, with a combined area of 47,380 square feet, are being offered for sale by tender.

Located near the Yau Tong coastline, they are suitable for industrial and/or godown purposes requiring direct access to the harbour.

Tender forms, notices and conditions of sale are available from the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, or from the Kowloon Government Offices in Nathan Road.

Closing date for tenders is 12 noon on March 1, 1974.

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/12

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 12 -

PREVENTIVE SERVICE NEEDS MOTOR BOAT

Tenders are now invited for the supply of a motor boat on hire at hourly rates to the Preventive Service of the Commerce and Industry Department for a period of one year starting from April 1, 1974.

The boat will be used to convey Preventive Service officers to ships at anchor in the harbour and for patrols within Hong Kong waters.

It is expected that the total sailing time per month will not be less than 200 hours and the total waiting time 500 hours.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the General Office of the Preventive Service Headquarters, Room 1020, Rumsey Street Multi-Storey Car Park Building, 10th floor.

They must be submitted before 12 noon on February 22.

Details of tendering are published in today's gazette.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

Friday, February 1, 1974

- 13 -

MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COMMONWEALTH STUDENTS

The Hong Kong Commonwealth Scholarships Selection Committee, of which the Director of Education is the Chairman, will be able in future to award more scholarships to well qualified post-graduate students from Commonwealth countries.

This follows approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council of the financial commitment involved in increasing from two to four the number of awards made each year under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

These Commonwealth Scholarships are tenable at the universities in Hong Kong for a period of two years with the possibility of extending for a further year if the institution concerned makes the proposal.

The Selection Committee, which includes two representatives from each of the universities, is scheduled to meet in April to consider applications and to select candidates for this year's awards.

The two Vice-Chancellors are of the opinion that it is desirable for any institution of higher learning to have a number of students from overseas both for the effect on academic standards as well as to enable local students to meet students from different backgrounds and environments.

"Hong Kong has benefited from this scheme under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and has received more than it has given," a spokesman for the Selection Committee said.

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Friday, February 1, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Friday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See New -- old crop	Good	1.80
-- new crop		--
S.C.Jion -- old crop	--	--
Po Ngai	Good	1.47
Chu Cho	--	--
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.74
10-15% Broken	--	--
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.52
A1 Super	Good	1.32 1.42
Whole Glutinous	--	--
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.74
<u>Australian Rice</u>	--	--
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	1.42
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	--	--

/Supplies and *****

Friday, February 1, 1974

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Normal	5.5	3.6	4.5
Big-Eyes	Normal	3.0	0.8	1.8
Squid	Scarce	7.0	3.5	5.0
Hair-Tails	Good	2.4	0.8	1.5
Lizard Fishes	Limited	2.5	1.0	1.9
Croakers	Normal	2.2	0.8	1.5
Conger-Pike-Eels	Good	3.0	2.0	2.9
Melon Coat	Normal	2.6	1.3	1.8
Breams	Normal	5.2	4.0	5.0
Yellow Belly	Normal	2.0	1.0	1.6
Mackerels	Good	5.0	3.6	4.0
Red Goat Fish	Normal	1.5	0.8	1.0
Fork-Tail	Good	1.6	0.9	1.2
Horse-Head	Normal	6.5	4.0	5.3
Melon Seed	Limited	3.0	1.7	2.5
Pomfrets	Scarce	12.0	9.0	10.0
Garoupa	Scarce	10.0	6.5	8.5
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

/Supplies and

Friday, February 1, 1974

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Normal	1.4	0.4	1.0
White cabbage	Normal	0.6	0.2	0.4
Chinese Lottuce	Normal	0.7	0.2	0.5
Chinese Kale	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.6
Spring onion	Normal	0.8	0.3	0.6
Spinach	Normal	0.7	0.2	0.5
Water cress	Normal	1.0	0.2	0.6
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.4	0.2	0.3
Tomato	Limited	1.4	0.5	1.0

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Normal	\$285

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