



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1975

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NEW RULES TO ENSURE SAFE OPERATION OF ABRASIVE WHEELS

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NEW REGULATIONS TO PROTECT WORKERS AGAINST ABRASIVE WHEEL ACCIDENTS WILL COME INTO FORCE ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 1).

THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (ABRASIVE WHEELS) REGULATIONS, WHICH CARRY A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000, GOVERN THE PROPER AND SAFE MANNER OF MOUNTING AND USING ABRASIVE WHEELS.

THESE REGULATIONS ARE SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO CUT DOWN THE RISING TOLL OF ABRASIVE WHEEL ACCIDENTS WHICH, IN THE 16-MONTH PERIOD ENDING LAST SEPTEMBER, KILLED A WORKER AND SERIOUSLY INJURED 265 OTHERS.

REMINDING PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE REGULATIONS, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS. SOO MOK SAU-HA, TODAY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS LEGISLATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS.

+BY VIRTUE OF ITS CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL, SUCH A WHEEL IS BRITTLE AND CAN SHATTER IF HANDLED IMPROPERLY.+

+BECAUSE OF THE HIGH SPEED AT WHICH THESE WHEELS ROTATE, FRAGMENTS FROM BURST MACHINES FLY OFF WITH THE FORCE OF A PROJECTILE AND CAN INCAPACITATE OR EVEN KILL,+ SHE SAID.

UNDER THESE REGULATIONS, WHICH WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 23 THIS YEAR, PROPRIETORS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE:

- \* THAT PERMISSIBLE SPEEDS OF ABRASIVE WHEELS AND SPINDLES ARE NOT EXCEEDED=
- \* THAT NOTICES INDICATING THESE SPEEDS ARE DISPLAYED=
- \* THAT THE WHEELS ARE PROPERLY MOUNTED BY COMPETENT PEOPLE= AND
- \* THAT ADEQUATE SAFETY MEASURES SUCH AS GUARDS, PROTECTION FLANGES AND MACHINE CONTROLS, BE PROVIDED.

IN ADDITION, THE REGULATIONS SET OUT CLEARLY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF WORKERS, WHICH INCLUDE THE PROPER USE OF GUARDS, FLANGES, MACHINE CONTROLS, AND OTHER PROTECTIVE DEVICES. THEY ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING ANY DEFECT TO THE PROPRIETOR.

MRS. SOO SAID A GUIDE EXPLAINING THE REGULATIONS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE HAD BEEN PRINTED FOR DISTRIBUTION, GIVING PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE LAW.

AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE GUIDE, A SEPARATE EXPLANATORY BOOKLET CONTAINING PRACTICAL ADVICE ON THE SAFE OPERATION OF THESE MACHINES WAS BEING PREPARED AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY, SHE ADDED.

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BE DOUBLY CAREFUL WITH FIRES DURING DRY SPELL  
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A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY AGAIN WARNED THE PUBLIC OF THE +GREATLY INCREASED+ CHANCES OF FIRE DURING THE CURRENT DRY SPELL.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS BEGAN LAST THURSDAY, THERE HAD BEEN 276 FIRES, OF WHICH 173 WERE GRASS FIRES. OF THE 93 FIRES REPORTED IN A SINGLE DAY YESTERDAY, 66 WERE GRASS FIRES.

+THIS SITUATION IS MOST DISAPPOINTING,+ HE SAID, +AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE URGING THE PUBLIC TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL BECAUSE OF THE DRIER WEATHER.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THROUGH CARELESSNESS ON THE PART OF PICNICKERS AND HIKERS, THOUSANDS OF TREES WERE DESTROYED AND LARGE AREAS OF COUNTRYSIDE LAID TO WASTE.

+THROWING LIGHTED CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES AWAY WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT, AND CARELESSNESS WITH BARBECUE FIRES ARE TWO MAJOR CAUSES OF RURAL FIRES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE APPEALED TO PICNICKERS AND OTHER VISITORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE TO BE CAREFUL PARTICULARLY IF THEY HELD BARBECUE PARTIES.

+CHOOSE AN AREA SET ASIDE FOR THIS PURPOSE BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND MAKE SURE THAT SOMEONE IS WATCHING THE FIRE ALL THE TIME. WHEN YOU LEAVE, PUT IT OUT WITH WATER AND EARTH.+

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THE FIRES WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE BURNING OF RUBBISH BY VILLAGERS ON OPEN GROUND. HE SAID: +AT A TIME WHEN THE HUMIDITY IS SO LOW THIS IS MOST DANGEROUS BECAUSE THE SMALLEST SPARK COULD LEAD TO A FIRE.+

+UNLESS THE PUBLIC IS ON ITS GUARD AND IS PREPARED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS THERE WILL BE MORE FIRES.+

+FURTHERMORE,+ HE SAID, +THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF GRASS FIRES WILL SERIOUSLY HAMPER THE FIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITIES OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SHOULD FIRES OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS WHERE LIVES ARE AT STAKE.+

/HE REITERATED .....

HE REITERATED THAT THE RED FIRE WARNING, WHICH HAD BEEN IN FORCE FOR QUITE SOME TIME, MEANT THAT EVERYTHING WHICH WOULD BURN BOTH INDOORS AND OUTDOORS DRIED OUT.

+IF THE PUBLIC IN THEIR OWN AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS' INTEREST RESPOND TO THIS WARNING BY TAKING PRECAUTIONS AND AVOID ALL ACTS OF CARELESSNESS, LIVES AND PROPERTIES WILL BE PROTECTED.+

MEANWHILE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT CALLED ON VISITORS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES AND RESIDENTS IN RURAL AREAS TO BE VERY CAREFUL WITH FIRES.

IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID, VILLAGERS WHO INTENDED TO BURN WEEDS OR OTHER WASTE MATERIALS MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO CAUSE ANY GRASS FIRE.

A NUMBER OF FIRES OVER THE WEEKEND WERE STARTED IN THIS WAY. ANYONE SETTING FIRE DELIBERATELY, WHETHER IN BUILT-UP AREAS OR ON OPEN GROUND, COULD BE PROSECUTED FOR ARSON.

VILLAGERS WISHING TO START FIRES ON THEIR GROUND SHOULD CONSULT THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S CONSERVATION AND FORESTS DIVISION BEFORE DOING SO.

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### FUN FAIR FOR 1,000 CHILDREN

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ABOUT 1,000 CHILDREN IN TSUEN WAN WILL ATTEND A FUN FAIR ORGANISED BY THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

THE FAIR WILL BE HELD IN THE BASKETBALL PITCH OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE BETWEEN 2 P.M. AND 5 P.M.

THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY A BAND AND A LUCKY DRAW.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS MAKING DETERMINED ATTEMPTS TO INTRODUCE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS IN HONG KONG, MR. LAI KA-KUI, SCIENCE INSPECTOR OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, TOLD THE ASIAN YOUTH COURSE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT MORRISON HOUSE TODAY.

THIS IS BEING DONE IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE HONG KONG CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION AND VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

+ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN BOTH EXAMINATION AND TEACHING SYLLABUSES,+ MR. LAI SAID.

IN HONG KONG EDUCATIONAL INTEREST IN THE ENVIRONMENT, FROM BOTH INTRA-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR POINTS OF VIEW, THOUGH COMPARATIVELY NEW, HAS BEEN EXTREMELY KEEN AND GATHERING TREMENDOUS MOMENTUM BOTH WITHIN SCHOOLS AND OUTSIDE DURING THE LAST DECADE.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH INTRA-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DATES BACK TO THE MID-FIFTIES WHEN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STARTED ORGANISING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THESE STUDIES.

SINCE THEN, MR. LAI SAID, ACTIVITIES OF THIS KIND HAD BECOME MORE VARIED AND THE POPULARITY AMONG PUPILS AND TEACHERS IN BOTH SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAD INCREASED TREMENDOUSLY.

+ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES AIM AT MAKING BOTH THE TEACHERS AND THE PUPILS AWARE OF THEIR ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,+ THE SCIENCE INSPECTOR SAID.

HONG KONG PUPILS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THEIR FORMAL SCHOOL LIVES - PRIMARY ONE.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY IS NOT TREATED AS AN INDEPENDENT SUBJECT IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM. THE PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGY, CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS CONTINUOUSLY FROM PRIMARY ONE TO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE STANDARD AND WITHIN VARIOUS DISCIPLINES SUCH AS THE SCIENCES, SOCIAL STUDIES AND GEOGRAPHY.

MR. LAI SPOKE ABOUT SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS TREE-PLANTING, FLOWER-GROWING, VEGETABLE-PLANTING, TRAINING CAMPS FOR STUDENT CONSERVATION LEADERS AND SCHOOLS' CONTRIBUTION AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE +KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN+ CAMPAIGN.

HE ALSO MENTIONED CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS FOR STUDENT TEACHERS AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION TOURS FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHERS.

/ON SCHOOL .....

ON SCHOOL PROGRAMMES FOR MEASURING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS, MR. LAI RECALLED THAT 18,440 PUPILS TOOK PART IN A CLEAN WATER SURVEY IN MID-1973 WHEN ABOUT 100 FRESH WATER STREAMS IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE INVESTIGATED.

THE SURVEY RESULTS WERE SENT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (EPCOM) IN SEPTEMBER 1974. THE REPORT WAS FAVOURABLY RECEIVED AND IT WAS LATER REPORTED THAT THIS SURVEY WOULD BE USED AS A MODEL FOR SIMILAR SURVEYS IN EUROPE.

AS PART OF THE PURE AIR SURVEY, +PROJECT WINDSHIFT,+ WHICH AIMED AT SURVEYING AIR FLOW CARRYING POLLUTANTS, WAS LAUNCHED IN MARCH 1975.

IN MID-APRIL 1975 THE ACID RAIN SURVEY WAS LAUNCHED AND THE FINDINGS SHOWED THAT HONG KONG'S RAIN WAS INDEED ACID. SINCE THIS SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT AT A TIME OF QUITE HEAVY RAIN WITH SOME THUNDERSTORMS, IT IS PLANNED TO REPEAT THE MEASUREMENTS IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1976 WHEN THE RAIN IS MORE GENTLE.

ANOTHER PROJECT - ESTIMATING PARTICLES IN THE AIR AND STUDYING PLANTS AND AIR POLLUTION - WAS LAUNCHED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ACID RAIN SURVEY.

MR. LAI SAID THAT BEFORE THE END OF THE 1975/76 ACADEMIC YEAR +IT IS PROPOSED TO HAVE YET ANOTHER PROJECT CALLED SHORELINE ECOLOGY, WHICH IS BEING PLANNED BY A COMMITTEE WITH MEMBERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND BIOLOGY TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS.+

THIS PROJECT WILL INVOLVE A STUDY OF THE SHORELINE OF HONG KONG AND THE FACTORS AFFECTING THE LIVING ORGANISMS FOUND THERE.

MR. LAI IS ONE OF THE GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE TEN-DAY COURSE WHICH IS BEING ATTENDED BY DELEGATES FROM HONG KONG AND A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE NETHERLANDS, INDIA, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, BORNEO, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA. THE COURSE ENDS TOMORROW.

OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE PROFESSOR L.B. THROWER AND DR. M.H. WONG OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND MR. CHRIS REIJ, THE INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FEDERATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND CONSERVATION, ONE OF THE ORGANISERS OF THE COURSE. THE OTHER ORGANISERS ARE THE INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY, THE HONG KONG CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION AND THE YOUTH ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP.

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SEMINAR ON NEW SYLLABUS FOR CHEMISTRY

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A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON THE +NEW SYLLABUS FOR CHEMISTRY (FORMS IV-V)+, ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SCIENCE INSPECTORATE AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION, WILL BE HELD AT DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL TOMORROW.

THE AIM OF THE SEMINAR IS TO INTRODUCE TO CHEMISTRY TEACHERS OF THOSE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED SCIENCE CURRICULUM, IDEAS AND CONCEPTS ON THE APPROACH AND METHOD OF TEACHING THE NEW SYLLABUS FOR CHEMISTRY IN FORMS IV AND V.

THE SPIRIT OF INQUIRY IS STRONGLY ADVOCATED IN THE NEW SYLLABUS, WHICH IS A CONTINUATION OF THE INTEGRATED SCIENCE CURRICULUM AT FORMS I-III LEVEL.

MRS. LOUISE MOK, PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM PLANNING OFFICER (SECONDARY), WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING AT THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR.

BECAUSE OF LIMITED PLACES, ONLY 90 CHEMISTRY TEACHERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR.

PARTICIPATING TEACHERS, APART FROM ATTENDING LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS AND FILM SHOWS, WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO CARRY OUT SOME OF THE EXPERIMENTS SUGGESTED IN THE NEW SYLLABUS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A DISPLAY OF REFERENCE BOOKS, HOME-MADE APPARATUS AND MODELS AT THE SEMINAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE SEMINAR COVERED. IT WILL START AT 9.15 A.M. IN THE SCIENCE DEMONSTRATION ROOM AT THE DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL, MONGKOK, KOWLOON.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED IMPROVE  
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EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE CONTINUED TO PICK UP LAST MONTH AND THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOUND WORK FOR 36, THE HIGHEST FOR A MONTH SO FAR THIS YEAR.

ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THEM WERE EMPLOYED BY THE CATHAY CLOTHING INTERNATIONAL LIMITED AS MACHINE-SEWING OPERATORS. THEY INCLUDED SIX WHO WERE CRIPPLED, FIVE DEAF AND TWO MENTALLY ILL.

THE OTHERS ARE WORKING AS CARETAKERS, PRESS MACHINE OPERATORS AND LABOURERS.

THIRTEEN WERE EMPLOYED ON A PIECE-RATE BASIS AND ELEVEN ON DAILY RATES RANGING FROM \$12 TO \$16. THE PAY FOR THE OTHERS VARIES BETWEEN \$300 AND \$600 A MONTH.

MR. CHAN SHIU-WING, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT, SAID: +IT IS INDEED ENCOURAGING TO FIND THAT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED IMPROVED IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. IT IS ALSO COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT EMPLOYERS ARE NOW MORE WILLING TO TAKE ON DISABLED PEOPLE.+

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WATER STOPPAGE IN KOWLOON CITY  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE INTERRUPTED ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 31) FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. TO ALLOW A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT.

PREMISES BOUNDED BY JUNCTION ROAD, TUNG TAU TSUEN, TUNG LUNG ROAD AND TUNG WOR ROAD, INCLUDING MEI TUNG ESTATE, WILL BE AFFECTED.

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