



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1978

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LABOUR COMMISSIONER STRESSES
IMPORTANCE OF PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS
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PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS HAVE BECOME A SOURCE OF TECHNICAL MANPOWER SUPPLY FOR HONG KONG INDUSTRY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING IN CANTONESE AT THE UNVEILING OF A COMMEMORATIVE STONE FOR THE MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN SHA TIN, HE SAID PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDED HONG KONG'S VITAL INDUSTRIES WITH PEOPLE WHO HAD THE NECESSARY FOUNDATION FROM WHICH THEY CAN DEVELOP NEW SKILLS AS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES.

MR. WILLIAMS NOTED THAT IN 1977, ALMOST 90 PER CENT OF THE BOY GRADUATES FROM PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ENTERED INDUSTRY.

THE MAJORITY, HE ADDED, WERE PLACED IN PROPER APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES BY THE TRAINING COUNCIL DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

+THIS NOT ONLY REFLECTS EMPLOYERS' PREDISPOSITION FOR PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS BUT ALSO INDICATES THAT PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS HAVE BECOME A SOURCE OF TECHNICAL MANPOWER SUPPLY THAT IS VITAL TO HONG KONG,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID.

AS FAR AS CAREERS IN INDUSTRY ARE CONCERNED, HE SAID, STUDENTS IN PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS HAVE A DEFINITE ADVANTAGE OVER THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

+BECAUSE OF THE BASIC PRACTICAL TRAINING GIVEN IN PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, THOSE WHO WISH TO ENTER INTO AN APPROVED APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR A CAREER IN INDUSTRY ARE NORMALLY EXEMPTED FROM THE FIRST YEAR OF A CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP AS WELL AS FROM THE FIRST YEAR OF THE RELATED PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE CRAFT COURSE IN A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID.

+THE MORE DETERMINED CAN CONTINUE THEIR TECHNICAL STUDIES ON A PART-TIME BASIS TO ACHIEVE TECHNICIAN STATUS,+ HE ADDED.

EARLIER, MR. JOHN MARDEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SHA TIN SCHOOL WOULD FIT IN WITH ALL THE TREMENDOUS CHANGES WHICH WERE TAKING PLACE IN THE AREA.

HE SAID: +THE FLEXIBILITY OF A PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL MEANS THAT IT CAN VARY THE EMPHASIS OF ITS CURRICULUM TO FIT IN WITH THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE OFFERING PRACTICAL COURSES IN SUBJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACTUALLY DISCUSSED WITH THE COMMUNITY LEADERS HERE AND WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE REALLY USEFUL TO THE STUDENTS WHEN THEY COME TO DECIDE ON A CAREER.+

MR. MARDEN ADDED THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS WOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE AND EVERYONE WOULD BE WELCOME.

THE SCHOOL COMPLEX, WHICH WILL COMPRISE THREE BLOCKS, TWO OF WHICH WILL BE SEVEN STOREYS HIGH, IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS FIRST BATCH OF 360 BOYS AND GIRLS IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

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REPORT ON FOURTH QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS COMPILED A REPORT ON A QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY HELD IN JANUARY THIS YEAR - THE FOURTH OF A SERIES OF QUARTERLY SURVEYS.

IN THE SURVEY ABOUT 700 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER LAST YEAR, AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER THIS YEAR.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT SEASON AFFECTS THE SURVEY RESULTS CONSIDERABLY AND HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN ARE LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FIRST QUARTER THIS YEAR THAN ABOUT THE FOURTH QUARTER LAST YEAR.

IN THE TEXTILE AND WEARING APPAREL SECTORS, OPINIONS VARY WIDELY REFLECTING SUBSTANTIAL UNCERTAINTY. PLASTICS AND FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO BOTH EXPECT AN UPTURN.

THE OTHER MANUFACTURING SECTORS, EXCEPT ELECTRONICS, LOOK FORWARD TO A STEADY ADVANCE.

CONSTRUCTION EXPECTS A CONTINUATION IN THE UPTURN IN BUSINESS AND THE SERVICES SECTOR PREDICTS MODERATE IMPROVEMENT.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS EXPECT A SEASONAL DOWNTREND AFTER A HIGH FOURTH QUARTER.

WITH REGARD TO BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER LAST YEAR, THE SURVEY INDICATED THAT BUSINESS IMPROVED WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

FOR WEARING APPAREL, OPINIONS VARIED, BUT BUSINESSMEN IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY SEEMED TO BE FAIRLY SATISFIED WITH THEIR FOURTH QUARTER PERFORMANCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO AND PLASTICS BUSINESS REPORTED SOME DECLINE WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE SEASONAL.

PRINTING AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS REPORTED GOOD PERFORMANCE WHILE THE REST OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTORS REPORTED MILD ADVANCES. CONSTRUCTION AND THE SERVICES SECTORS BOTH EXPERIENCED REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENTS.

FOR WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN AT THEIR SEASONAL PEAKS, SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES OVER THE THIRD QUARTER WERE REPORTED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THE DATA, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO FACILITATE A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

/+APART FROM

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+APART FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REQUIRING ANSWERS IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS, THE FIRMS IN THE SURVEY WERE ASKED TO COMPARE THE FOURTH QUARTER JUST PAST WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND SIMILARLY FOR THE FORTHCOMING ONE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THEY ONLY HAD TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, A CERTAIN VARIABLE WAS UP, SAME OR DOWN.+

THE SPOKESMAN CAUTIONED THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN THE INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS, AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS AND STATISTICAL TABLES ON VARIOUS ECONOMIC VARIABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS.

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KCR GENERAL MANAGER TO TAKE UP NEW POST
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MR. R.E. GREGORY, WHO HAS BEEN GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SINCE APRIL 1974, WILL BE LEAVING HONG KONG TOWARDS THE END OF THIS MONTH TO TAKE UP A NEW POST IN BOTSWANA.

BEFORE COMING TO HONG KONG, MR. GREGORY, WHO IS 48, HAD WORKED FOR BRITISH RAIL FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS.

THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT HAVE ASKED BRITISH RAIL TO TAKE OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR RAILWAY, AN 800-KILOMETRE LINK BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA, AND BRITISH RAIL HAVE REQUESTED THE URGENT RELEASE OF MR. GREGORY TO TAKE UP THE POST OF GENERAL MANAGER OF THAT RAILWAY. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAVE AGREED TO THIS REQUEST.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT A REPLACEMENT FOR MR. GREGORY AS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KCR WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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OPENING OF TSUEN WAN PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA

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THE TSUEN WAN PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA - THE FOURTH TO BE OPERATED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT - WILL BE OPENED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) BY THE CHAIRMAN OF TSUEN WAN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR. PETER YEUNG.

THE NEW PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA IN YEUNG UK ROAD HAS A FRONTAGE OF MORE THAN 300 METRES CONSISTING OF 40 UNIT BERTHS AND 38 LORRY PARKING SPACES.

IN ADDITION, WASH ROOM FACILITIES, A PANTRY AND THREE REST SHELTERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR CARGO OPERATORS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE AREA WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE NOW OPERATING IN CARGO WORKING AREAS IN WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI AND KWUN TONG.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THERE HAD BEEN A TENDENCY FOR WAREHOUSES AND GODOWNS TO MOVE FROM THE URBAN AREAS TO TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

+THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA IN THE DISTRICT WILL FACILITATE THE ORDERLY AND RAPID FLOW OF BREAKBULK CARGO AND WILL BE PROVIDING A SERVICE OF IMMENSE BENEFIT TO THE PORT IN GENERAL, AND THE TSUEN WAN CARGO OPERATORS IN PARTICULAR,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT FIVE MORE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS ARE PLANNED FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT, CHAI WAN, RAMBLER CHANNEL TYPHOON SHELTER, CHEUNG SHA WAN AND TUEN MUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE TSUEN WAN PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA IN YEUNG UK ROAD AT 10.30 A.M. TOMORROW. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A GOVERNMENT VAN (AM 2082) WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT TSIM SHA TSUI AT 9.45 A.M.

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CAREERS SEMINARS FOR STUDENTS

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A SERIES OF 12 CAREERS SEMINARS IS BEING ORGANISED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICES FROM FEBRUARY 20 TO MARCH 15.

THESE SEMINARS, AIMED AT PROVIDING FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON A WIDE RANGE OF CAREERS, WILL INCLUDE TOPICS SUCH AS TELECOMMUNICATION, TEXTILE INDUSTRY, ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION, NURSING, BANKING, HOTELS AND TOURISM.

A TOTAL OF 48 TALKS COVERING 23 TRADES AND PROFESSIONS IN HONG KONG WILL BE GIVEN DURING THE SEMINARS AT VARIOUS CENTRES, INCLUDING THE CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE IN CAINE ROAD= POPE PAUL VI COLLEGE IN TSUEN WAN= KWUN TONG MARYKNOLL COLLEGE= LOK SIN TONG YU-KAN-HING SCHOOL= QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL IN KOWLOON AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK YUEN LONG DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST OF THE SERIES OF SEMINARS WILL BE HELD AT THE CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE AND WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +IT IS OUR HOPE THAT STUDENTS WILL GET SOME INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF PROFESSION AND HAVE THE CHANCE OF DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH ENGINEERS, TELEVISION PROGRAMME PRODUCERS, PERSONNEL MANAGERS AND SPECIALISTS FROM VARIOUS FIELDS. IN THIS WAY, THEY COULD BE BETTER PREPARED WHEN THEY COME TO CHOOSE A CAREER.+

REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE WILL ALSO BE TAKING PART IN THE SEMINARS.

THE TALKS BY SPECIALISTS WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH SLIDES AND FILM SHOWS AND A MOBILE EXHIBITION OF CAREERS INFORMATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE FIRST OF THE SERIES OF CAREERS SEMINARS TO BE HELD AT THE CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE, CARITAS HOUSE, NO.2 CAINE ROAD, HONG KONG, ON FEBRUARY 20 AT 9.15 A.M.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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NINE STAFF MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT
SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT RETIRING
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NINE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WITH A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 270 YEARS SERVICE IN THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE RETIRING SOON.

THEY ARE MR. YUEN CHUNG, CHARGEHAND= MR. YEUNG CHEUK, MR. LEE HAI-LUN AND MR. HO KWOK-YEUNG, ARTISANS I= MR. POW KUM-KWONG, CLERICAL OFFICER I= MR. WONG CHAK, GANGER= MR. CHAN SHEUNG, FOREMAN AND MR. WONG YIP AND MR. PETER YU, LABOURERS.

TO MARK THEIR RETIREMENT, THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR. F.J. YOUNG, WILL PRESENT THEM WITH FAREWELL GIFTS ON BEHALF OF THEIR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS AT A CEREMONY TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 4 P.M. TOMORROW AT THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT'S CANTEEN ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING IN OIL STREET, NORTH POINT.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT AND WANCHAI
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 A.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY) PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE RESTRICTED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND MIDNIGHT DAILY ON SEVERAL SECTIONS OF ROADS IN NORTH POINT.

THESE SECTIONS OF ROADS ARE:

- * NORTH POINT ROAD BETWEEN JAVA ROAD AND WHARF ROAD,
- * WHARF ROAD BETWEEN NORTH POINT ROAD AND TONG SHUI ROAD, AND
- * TONG SHUI ROAD (SOUTHBOUND) BETWEEN WHARF ROAD AND JAVA ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE INTRODUCED TEMPORARILY FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS ON TWO SECTIONS OF JAVA ROAD TO FACILITATE ITS RECONSTRUCTION.

THESE ARE:

- * JAVA ROAD (EASTBOUND) BETWEEN NORTH POINT ROAD AND TONG SHUI ROAD, AND
- * JAVA ROAD (WESTBOUND) BETWEEN TONG SHUI ROAD AND TIN CHONG STREET.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECTION OF SPRING GARDEN LANE SOUTH OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND WILL LAST UNTIL MID-MARCH.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN ALL THESE AREAS TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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