



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1992

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

FOURTH ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS	1
\$2.9M DONATION FOR SCHOOL PROGRAMMES	2
WHOLE-DAY SESSION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS	3
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY FINED FOR OVERCHARGING	3

FOURTH ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, TODAY (SATURDAY) HAILED THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) AS A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF THAT ORGANISATION.

RETURNING TODAY FROM THE APEC MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10-11 IN BANGKOK, THAILAND, MR CHAU SAID: "WE MADE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS AT THIS MEETING. IN PARTICULAR, WE HAVE DECIDED TO SET UP A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF APEC IN SINGAPORE."

"WE HAVE ALSO DETERMINED THE LEVELS OF CONTRIBUTION WHICH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WILL MAKE TOWARDS THE APEC BUDGET," HE SAID, NOTING THAT SUCH LEVELS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT ON AN OBJECTIVE AND EQUITABLE BASIS.

"THESE DECISIONS WILL GIVE GREATER IMPETUS TO APEC'S ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION TO ENABLE THE VARIOUS WORK PROJECTS OF APEC TO GO FORWARD.

"HONG KONG WAS HAPPY TO SUPPORT THE DECISION ON SINGAPORE AS THE SEAT OF THE SECRETARIAT. SINGAPORE WAS CHOSEN FROM AMONG FOUR COMPETITIVE AND GENEROUS BIDS.

"IT WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION BUT NONETHELESS MADE AMICABLY BY CONSENSUS.

"THE FACT THAT FOUR BIDS WERE MADE REFLECTS THE ENTHUSIASM AND INTEREST OF MEMBERS IN THE APEC PROCESS", MR CHAU ADDED.

THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED THE CURRENT STATE OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT NEGOTIATIONS.

"APEC MEMBERS RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO WORLD TRADE AND URGED IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE ACTION BY ALL CONCERNED TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS BY YEAR END," MR CHAU SAID.

SENIOR OFFICIALS OF APEC MEMBERS BEGAN TO GATHER ON SEPTEMBER 5, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND PREPARED THE GROUND FOR MINISTERS.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE BANGKOK CONFERENCE, THE HONG KONG DELEGATION HELD A NUMBER OF INFORMAL, SEPARATE TALKS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST.

HONG KONG JOINED APEC IN 1991. IT WAS THE SECOND TIME THAT HONG KONG PARTICIPATED IN AN APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING.

/OTHER MEMBERS

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION INCLUDE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG; DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER; DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR JOHN TSANG; PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MISS CHERRY LING AND PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, MISS JOANNA CHOI.

THE APEC COMPRISES 15 MEMBERS: AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CANADA, CHINA, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, CHINESE TAIPEI, THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

\$2.9M DONATION FOR SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

* * * * *

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A \$2.9 MILLION DONATION TO SPONSOR ACTIVITIES PROMOTING THE WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH TO GUIDANCE AND THE "TOWARDS A BETTER SCHOOL MOVEMENT".

THE DONATION WAS MADE BY THE WELLWISHER FOUNDATION LTD, A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC WONG SHING-WAH, SAID TODAY THAT THE WELLWISHER FOUNDATION HAD INITIALLY TRANSFERRED A SUM OF \$500,000 TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND WOULD MAKE FURTHER DONATIONS AT SIX-MONTH INTERVALS OVER THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS.

COMMENDING THE FOUNDATION FOR ITS GENEROSITY, MR WONG SAID WHILE THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS TO PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF EDUCATION SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

"THE DONATION IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN," HE SAID. "THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE COMMUNITY LEADERS FOLLOW THE FOUNDATION'S EXAMPLE IN HELPING TO PROMOTE ACTIVITIES IN THE EDUCATION FIELD."

THIS IS THE SECOND DONATION RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN RECENT MONTHS. THE LAST DONATION WAS MADE BY THE FUNG HON-CHU FOUNDATION IN JULY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SERVICE TO GIFTED CHILDREN.

MR WONG SAID EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 RECOMMENDED THE ADOPTING OF THE WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH TO GUIDANCE, WHICH INVOLVES ALL TEACHERS IN A SCHOOL TO ACTIVELY HELPING STUDENTS TO RESOLVE THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS.

THE APPROACH ALSO STRESSES THE CREATION OF A POSITIVE, CARING AND INVITING ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO EFFECTIVE LEARNING.

"SOME SCHOOLS HAVE, ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, ALREADY INTRODUCED INNOVATIVE PRACTICES SUCCESSFULLY," HE SAID.

/HE ALSO

- 3 -

HE ALSO SAID A GROUP OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS HAD DECIDED TO GROUP THEMSELVES TOGETHER TO LAUNCH A "TOWARDS A BETTER SCHOOL MOVEMENT".

"THEY WOULD SHARE THEIR VALUABLE EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS THROUGH A SERIES OF EXCHANGES. WITH MUTUAL SUPPORT AND JOINT EFFORT, PRINCIPALS COULD MAKE USE OF THE WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH AND OTHER GOOD PRACTICES TO ACHIEVE THE BETTER SCHOOL OBJECTIVE," MR WONG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WHOLE-DAY SESSION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

* * * * *

BI-SESSIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS INTENDING TO TURN WHOLE DAY IN THE 1993-94 SCHOOL YEAR ARE NOW INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, FUNDS WERE NOW AVAILABLE FOR WHOLE-DAY PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO EMPLOY MORE TEACHERS UNDER THE REVISED TEACHER-CLASS RATIO.

AS RECOMMENDED IN EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 AND ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE REVISED TEACHER-CLASS RATIO FOR WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLS HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM 1.2:1 TO 1.4:1.

THE RATIO OF SENIOR TEACHERS HAS ALSO BEEN IMPROVED FROM ONE ASSISTANT MASTER/MISTRESS FOR EVERY FOUR CLASSES TO ONE FOR EVERY THREE CLASSES.

APPLICATIONS FOR CONVERSION TO WHOLE-DAY SCHOOLING IN THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR WILL CLOSE ON OCTOBER 15.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY FINED FOR OVERCHARGING

* * * * *

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OPERATORS ARE LIABLE TO HEAVY FINES FOR OVERCHARGING, LABOUR OFFICER (EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES) MR FRANCIS WONG SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR WONG MADE THE ADVICE IN THE WAKE OF A CASE IN WHICH THE TRUSTESHIP AGENCY IN NORTH POINT WAS FINED \$5,000 BY A EASTERN MAGISTRATE FOR OVERCHARGING \$3,000 PLACEMENT FEE FROM A JOB-SEEKER.

THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WAS ALSO ORDERED TO REFUND THE JOB-SEEKER.

/"UNDER THE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1992

- 4 -

"UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS, THE COMMISSION CHARGEABLE TO A JOB-SEEKER ON SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENT BY AN AGENCY IS NOT MORE THAN 10 PER CENT OF HIS FIRST MONTH'S WAGES," MR WONG NOTED.

HE ALSO REMINDED PROSPECTIVE OPERATORS OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO OBTAIN A LICENCE OR A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND TO PAY ATTENTION TO OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE REGULATIONS ON CHARGING OF PLACEMENT FEES.

"OPERATING AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE IS AN OFFENCE CARRYING A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000," HE SAID.

"LICENSEES MAY FACE THE RISK OF HAVING THEIR LICENCES REVOKED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IF THEY VIOLATE THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES REGULATIONS," HE ADDED.

ENQUIRIES ON THE OPERATION OF OR FEES CHARGEABLE BY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES CAN BE MADE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ADMINISTRATION ON 852 3540 OR 852 3541.

----- 0 -----