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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1991

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ITCB BID TO EXTEND MFA WELCOMED

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THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TEXTILES AND CLOTHING BUREAU (ITCB) TO PROPOSE AN EXTENSION OF THE MULTIFIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) WAS WELCOMED BY MR T.H. CHOW, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE.

A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE ITCB AT THE END OF ITS WEEK-LONG MEETING IN BALI, INDONESIA, STATED THAT THE BUREAU PROPOSES AN EXTENSION OF THE MFA FOR 17 MONTHS FROM 1 AUGUST 1991 TO 31 DECEMBER 1992. IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR AN EXTENSION OF EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON THE SAME OR BETTER TERMS FOR EXPORTERS.

"THE PROPOSAL SEEKS TO SECURE CERTAINTY, STABILITY AND PREDICTABILITY FOR OUR TRADERS. IT IS NECESSARY BECAUSE NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW MULTILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT UNDER THE URUGUAY ROUND HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED. THE NEW ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE EXPIRY OF THE MFA THIS JULY AND THE INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW AGREEMENT MADE IN THE URUGUAY ROUND," SAID MR CHAU WHO LED THE HONG KONG DELEGATION TO THE BALI MEETING.

"THE ITCB PROPOSAL IS A CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE TO SUGGESTIONS BY THE IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO EXTEND THE MFA. AN EARLY AGREEMENT AMONG IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES WILL BE IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST," MR CHOW ADDED.

THE ITCB PROPOSAL WILL BE FORMALLY SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY ALL MFA SIGNATORIES AT A MEETING TO BE HELD ON 16 MAY IN GENEVA.

THE BALI MEETING ALSO REVIEWED THE STATE OF THE TEXTILES NEGOTIATIONS IN THE URUGUAY ROUND AND URGED ALL PARTICIPANTS TO WORK TOWARDS THE EARLY COMPLETION OF THE TALKS.

THE GENEVA-BASED ITCB COMPRISES 22 MAJOR TEXTILES-EXPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDING HONG KONG AND HAS BEEN PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN THE URUGUAY ROUND TALKS ON TEXTILES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE ITCB COMMUNIQUE WILL BE ISSUED THROUGH FAX MANAGER LATER TODAY.

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APRIL DRIER AND SUNNIER THAN NORMAL

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APRIL 1991 WAS DRIER AND SUNNIER THAN NORMAL, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (SATURDAY).

IT WAS THE SEVENTH DRIEST APRIL ON RECORD. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL AMOUNT OF 34.7 MILLIMETRES WAS 79 PER CENT BELOW THE APRIL NORMAL OF 161.1 MILLIMETRES.

MOST OF THE RAIN FELL ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH AND COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO A DISSIPATING TROPICAL CYCLONE OVER WESTERN GUANGDONG.

RAINFALL OVER THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1991 WAS THE 10TH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR THE PERIOD. THE TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 1 AMOUNTED TO 123.1 MILLIMETRES AND WAS 59 PER CENT BELOW THE CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL OF 299.8 MILLIMETRES.

AN INTENSE SURGE OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON TOWARDS THE END OF MARCH LED TO UNSEASONABLY COOL WEATHER DURING THE EARLY PART OF APRIL.

THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 12.1 DEGREES ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 1 WAS THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH. WINDS TURNED EASTERLY DURING THE DAY AND FRESHENED THE NEXT DAY.

THE WEATHER WAS GENERALLY FINE ON THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF APRIL BUT BECAME CLOUDIER ON APRIL 4. LIGHT RAIN STARTED TO FALL ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 5 AS A WEAK REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS.

THE WEATHER BECAME BRIGHTER ON APRIL 7 BUT RAIN RETURNED ON APRIL 8 AS THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED.

THE RAIN AND DRIZZLE TURNED INTO MIST AND LOW CLOUDS ON APRIL 9. FOG HOVERED OVER OFFSHORE WATERS AND ALSO AFFECTED THE HARBOUR AREA IN THE MORNING. AN OIL TANKER RAN AGROUND IN FOGGY WEATHER NEAR JUNK ISLAND. AIR TRAFFIC WAS ALSO DISRUPTED AS A RESULT OF POOR VISIBILITY.

MORNING FOG ON APRIL 10 GAVE WAY TO BRIGHTER WEATHER DURING THE DAY. TEMPERATURES ROSE BY SEVERAL DEGREES AS A WARM SOUTHERLY AIRSTREAM BECAME ESTABLISHED.

THE WEATHER FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS REMAINED GENERALLY FINE AND WARM EXCEPT FOR SOME MORNING AND EVENING MIST. AN EASTERLY INTERLUDE ON APRIL 14 BROUGHT COOLER AND GENERALLY MISTY CONDITIONS.

THE TEMPERATURE SOON RECOVERED OVER THE NEXT FOUR DAYS BUT THE VISIBILITY REMAINED POOR AT TIMES, PARTICULARLY OVER OFFSHORE AREAS.

ANOTHER SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON IN THE MORNING OF APRIL 19 BROUGHT FRESH NORTHEASTERLY WINDS AND COOLER CONDITIONS. THE WEATHER BECAME CLOUDY WITH PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN.

/THE RAIN .....

THE RAIN EASED OFF AFTER THE MORNING OF APRIL 21, BUT THE CLOUDS DID NOT BREAK UNTIL APRIL 23.

FINE WEATHER PREVAILED FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES GENERALLY ON THE RISE. THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 30.4 DEGREES ON APRIL 26 WAS THE HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH AND ALSO THE WARMEST SO FAR THIS YEAR.

CLOUD AMOUNT INCREASED ON APRIL 27, LEADING TO MISTY CONDITIONS THE NEXT DAY AND MORE FREQUENT OCCURRENCE OF DRIZZLE. THE DRIZZLE TURNED INTO RAIN IN THE EVENING OF APRIL 29 AS CLOUDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMNANT OF TROPICAL STORM VANESSA SPREAD TOWARDS THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS.

HEAVY DOWNPOUR AND THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED OVER THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE TERRITORY IN THE MORNING OF APRIL 30. ALTHOUGH THE RAINFALL AMOUNT RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FOR THE DAY WAS NO MORE THAN 30 MILLIMETRES, OVER 100 MILLIMETRES WERE RECORDED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN HONG KONG ISLAND.

TROPICAL STORM VANESSA WAS THE ONLY TROPICAL CYCLONE THAT OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN THE MONTH OF APRIL.

OF THE 24 AIRCRAFT DIVERSIONS IN APRIL, MOST WERE DUE TO THE FOGGY WEATHER ON APRIL 9. THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON APRIL 5. THUNDERSTORM WARNING WAS ISSUED ON APRIL 30.

THE ONLY SIGNAL HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WAS AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE & TIME OF HOISTING	DATE & TIME OF LOWERING
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WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MARCH 31 4.05 PM	APRIL 1 7.30 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	128.7 HOURS ;	19.8 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	13.44 MJ/SQ.M. ;	0.30 MJ/SQ.M. ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	34.7 MM ;	126.8 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	73 PER CENT ;	5 PER CENT LESS THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	81 PER CENT ;	2 PER CENT LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	25.6 DEGREES CELCIUS ;	0.7 DEGREE CELCIUS ABOVE NORMAL

/MEAN AIR .....

MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	22.8 DEGREES CELCIUS ; 0.6 DEGREE CELCIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	20.9 DEGREES CELCIUS ; 0.7 DEGREE CELCIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	19.2 DEGREES CELCIUS ; 0.2 DEGREE CELCIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	91.6 MM ; 15.3 MM BELOW NORMAL

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IMPORTANCE OF SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS RECOGNISED

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SEX EDUCATION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP A POSITIVE AND HEALTHY ATTITUDE TOWARDS SEX.

THIS POSITIVE AND HEALTHY ATTITUDE WOULD LEAD TO A GREATER AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF MATTERS OF PERSONAL AND INTERPERSONAL INTEREST, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR LI SAID THIS IN OPENING A SEX EDUCATION ACTION GUIDELINES FORUM ORGANISED BY THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

HE SAID SEX EDUCATION WAS REGARDED AS AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF THE CURRICULUM AND ITS IMPORTANCE WAS RECOGNISED BY SCHOOLS AND THEIR SPONSORS.

A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR SHOWED THAT 46 PER CENT OF SCHOOLS, COMPARED TO 30 PER CENT IN 1987, HAD A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME ON SEX EDUCATION, HE SAID.

"AND 67 PER CENT HAVE EITHER APPOINTED A CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OR A TEACHER TO CO-ORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOL."

TWELVE PER CENT OF SCHOOLS IN THE SURVEY HAD ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD SET UP A SEX EDUCATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE IN THE 1990-91 SCHOOL YEAR.

MR LI SAID THE IMPORTANT ROLES OF THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL WORKERS IN PROVIDING COUNSELLING AND SUCCESSFUL SEX EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

HE HOPED THAT PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS COULD SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE IN THE FORUM AND WORK OUT A SET OF ACTION GUIDELINES IN SEX EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

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## HEALTH NURSES' ROLE IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PLANS TO REDEFINE THE ROLE AND SCOPE OF HEALTH NURSES IN THE FUTURE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) SYSTEM, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"WHILE THE LEVEL OF SKILLS AND EXPERTISE OF NURSES IN THE DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS IS INDISPUTABLE, THE WORKING PARTY ON PHC HAS RECOGNISED THAT THERE IS SCOPE FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION AND MORE EFFECTIVE UTILISATION OF THEIR EXPERTISE," HE SAID.

DR LEE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION ON "ENVIRONMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH", ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG NURSING ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF NURSING IN CELEBRATION OF THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY.

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS THE CURRENT PRACTICE IN MANY COUNTRIES THAT NURSES WERE ASSUMING INCREASING RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DELIVERY OF PHC.

"APART FROM PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO DOCTORS IN THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS, NURSES ARE ALSO TAKING UP AN EXPANDED ROLE OF A 'HEALTH NURSE' WHICH INCLUDES HEALTH PROMOTION, AND REHABILITATIVE, PREVENTIVE AND EDUCATIONAL WORK.

"AS FOR HONG KONG, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS INVITED EXPERTS FROM OVERSEAS, INCLUDING TWO FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO), TO COME TO HONG KONG TO ADVISE ON THE SUBJECT," DR LEE SAID.

"THEIR PROPOSALS ARE IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PHC," HE ADDED.

DR LEE STRESSED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE FUTURE PHC SYSTEM WOULD RELY ON THE SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF AND THE CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

TURNING TO THE EXHIBITION, THE DIRECTOR SAID THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH WAS INCREASINGLY BEING RECOGNISED.

"THE WORKING PARTY ON PHC HAS RECOMMENDED THAT HEALTH EDUCATION SHOULD BE ENHANCED TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF COMMON MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND TO PREVENT THE ONSET OF DISEASE.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT IN A SOCIETY LIKE HONG KONG WHICH IS CHARACTERISED BY INTENSE COMPETITION AND STRESS," HE SAID.

DR LEE SAID THE WHO HAD ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO INTRODUCE A MENTAL HEALTH COMPONENT INTO PHC PARTICULARLY ON THE PREVENTION OF MENTAL AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS.

"EARLY DETECTION OF THESE DISORDERS AND PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE CARE AT A PHC SETTING WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY PREVENT THEIR DETERIORATION AND, IN TURN, LESSEN THE DEMAND FOR SPECIALIST SERVICES," HE SAID.

PUBLIC URGED TO SUPPORT CHILD SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, TODAY (SATURDAY) CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PO LEUNG KUK'S CHILD SPONSORSHIP SCHEME FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PO LEUNG KUK SPONSORS' DAY AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, MRS GOODSTADT SAID THE SCHEME, WHICH HAD BEEN IN OPERATION FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, GAVE THE CHILDREN A SENSE OF LOVE AND CARE WHICH WAS VITAL TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

"THROUGH REGULAR VISITS AND ATTENTION BY THE SPONSORS, THE CHILDREN AT PO LEUNG KUK WILL BE ABLE TO WIDEN THEIR SOCIAL CIRCLE AND INCREASE THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CHILD CARE SERVICES, MRS GOODSTADT SAID THE INTRODUCTION OF SUCH SERVICES AS CRECHES AND DAY NURSERIES WAS NECESSARY AS A RESULT OF THE RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG AND THE CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WORKING MOTHERS AND SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES.

SHE SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS TO DEVELOP "PRIORITY FOSTER CARE SERVICE" AND "SMALL GROUP HOMES".

"IT IS HOPED THAT THESE PROGRAMMES COULD ENABLE THE CHILDREN TO HAVE A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT, GIVEN THE CHANCE OF LIVING IN A FAMILY-LIKE ENVIRONMENT," SHE ADDED.

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DISABLED SOCIAL WORKER AWARDED

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TWENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD LEUNG SAI-CHEUNG IS NEVER DETERRED BY HIS DISABILITY.

ON THE CONTRARY, THE WHEELCHAIR-BOUND ASSISTANT SOCIAL WORK OFFICER IS DETERMINED TO TACKLE HIS WORK - WHATEVER THAT COMES ITS WAY.

AND HIS DETERMINATION PAID OFF TODAY (SATURDAY) WHEN HE WAS AWARDED THE OUTSTANDING DISABLED PERSON OF 1991, AN AWARD JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF ADMIRALTY IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID MR LEUNG HAD SUCCUMBED HIS DISABILITY AND TURNED IT INTO A STRENGTH THAT HELPED HIM DEVELOP A CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK.

/HAVING WORKED .....

HAVING WORKED IN THE SHA TIN FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE FOR THREE YEARS, MR LEUNG HAD ESTABLISHED A TRUST WITH HIS CLIENTS WHO WERE BESET WITH ALL SORT OF PROBLEMS AND CAME FOR ADVICE OR COUNSELLING.

HE WAS AN IN-TAKE WORKER OF THE CENTRE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERVIEWING ALL THOSE WHO CAME FOR ASSISTANCE.

MR LEUNG SAID: "I LOVE MY WORK BECAUSE IT DEALS WITH PEOPLE. IN THE PROCESS OF MY WORK, I COME TO REALISE THAT IT IS THE BASIC REQUIREMENT IN LIFE FOR EVERYONE OF US TO HELP OTHERS."

MR LEUNG SAID AT THE OUTSET SOME PEOPLE WERE SURPRISED TO SEE AN OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORKER ON WHEELCHAIR.

"BUT VERY SOON, THEY TALKED TO ME FRANKLY ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS," HE SAID.

FALLING INTO REMINISCENCE, HE RECALLED HIS EXPERIENCES IN TACKLING A MYRIAD OF PROBLEMS LIKE THOSE OF THE ABLE-BODIED.

"NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE. IF THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE SAID THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS A BUILDING WITHOUT A LIFT, COULD NOT STOP HIM FROM VISITING HIS CLIENTS.

"I CAN SEEK HELP FROM OTHERS. THE PEOPLE HERE IN HONG KONG ARE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL," HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG SAID HE NEVER HESITATED TO ASK FOR HELP.

HE ALSO LOVED TRAVELLING. LAST YEAR, HE VISITED SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

MR LEUNG SAID: "I FOUND THE ACCESS TO BUILDINGS, PUBLIC PLACES AND MUSEUMS IN THESE COUNTRIES FAR BETTER THAN THOSE IN HONG KONG."

HE SAID HE FELT HONOURED TO BE AWARDED. HE SAID: "THIS AWARD I SHOULD SHARE WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN SHA TIN FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE BECAUSE WE WORK AS A TEAM."

HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD SHARE HIS AWARD WITH HIS BELOVED MOTHER.

"THIS IS A WONDERFUL GIFT FOR HER ON MOTHER'S DAY TOMORROW," HE SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE OFFICER AT WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN GIS NEWSROOM.