



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, January 30, 1973

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EXPANSION OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG

Specialist Course For Teachers To Be Started

The Government is taking yet another step to expand physical education opportunities for students in Hong Kong.

A specialist course in physical education will be introduced from September this year at the Grantham College of Education.

Miss E.S. Mair, of the Education Department's Physical Education Section, said today that the course was the first of its kind in Hong Kong.

It was specially designed to train outstanding young teachers in schools and teacher trainees from the three Colleges of Education to become qualified teachers of physical education for Hong Kong's secondary schools.

"The Government is trying to improve physical education in Hong Kong through a third-year physical education training programme for teachers."

Miss Mair said that initially about 15 men and 15 women who showed promise as teachers of physical education would be selected for the course, after completing two years at the Colleges of Education.

"This course will help train physical education teachers who will be qualified to teach up to the sixth forms and will be responsible for the organisation of physical education within the school," she continued.

To provide facilities for the training programme, a multi-purpose games hall is being built at the Grantham College of Education. Construction is expected to be completed in August 1973.

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"In the past ten years, the extra-curricular, recreational and outdoor training aspects of the school physical training programme have been developed very quickly in most schools.

"Compared with the previous decade, physical education has moved a big step forward, in spite of the fact that there has been lack of facilities and trained teachers," Miss Mair said.

There are two schools sports associations responsible for organising inter-school sports.

Every year the Physical Education Section, in conjunction with the Schools Sports Association, holds three annual competitions -- the Inter-School Gymnastics Competitions, the Inter-School Dance Festival and the Primary School Games Day.

From time to time overseas coaches are invited here with funds provided from the Sir David Trench Recreation Fund.

So far Hong Kong has had a coach for swimming, table tennis and badminton and expects to have an overseas coach for athletics, basketball and gymnastics during 1973.

Part of the coaching assignments are designed to provide advanced training for local physical education teachers.

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MACHINE SHOP AND METAL WORKING TRADES
Manual On Minimum Job Standards Published

A manual setting out the minimum job standards and specifications for 22 principal jobs in the machine shop and metal working trades has been published and is now on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong.

This important publication, in English and Chinese, was prepared by the Machine Shop and Metal Working Industrial Committee of the Industrial Training Advisory Committee.

"The manual should play an important role in improving the quality of our future skilled manpower," a spokesman for the Committee said.

Generally the job standards aim at -

- (i) establishing generally acceptable skill standards for the principal jobs in the trades;
- (ii) providing guidelines for courses at technical institutions or vocational training centres;
- (iii) helping managements in devising in-plant training programmes for apprentices and in determining the competency of a person, either a new or existing worker, for a particular job; and
- (iv) standardising the nomenclature already used in the trades.

Specifically the job standards indicate the skills and knowledge which competent workers in the principal jobs should have. They also indicate the type of training and technical courses as well as the necessary educational background for entry into training if the workers are to be equipped with such skills and knowledge.

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The Machine Shop and Metal Working Industrial Committee points out that the job standards have been pitched at such a level to allow existing standards to be raised to meet the requirements of modern technology.

It also recommends, among other things, that proper recognition should be given to those who have been trained to the specified standard.

It stresses that all employers in the trades will find the manual a useful book of reference.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

New traffic arrangements will be introduced in Caine Road this week to improve flow of the traffic.

From Thursday (February 1), westbound traffic on Caine Road will not be permitted to turn right into either Old Bailey Street or Elgin Street between 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. on weekdays. Sundays and public holidays are not included.

This arrangement is to improve the traffic flow at these road junctions during the morning rush hour.

In Kowloon, Cambridge Road between Durham Road and Lancashire Road will be made one-way southbound. Lancashire Road between Cambridge Road and Waterloo Road will be made one-way westbound.

The new arrangement, which will come into effect at 10 a.m. on Thursday, is to enable road improvement works to be carried out in Waterloo Road between Flint Road and York Road.

Appropriate traffic signs will be put up to guide motorists.

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STUDIES OF SEWAGE DISCHARGE

Pollution Survey Ship Employed

A pollution survey ship is being used by the Government for carrying out studies of sewage discharge into Hong Kong waters.

Mr. Tin Yuen-kwan, Engineer of the Drainage Works Division, Public Works Department, said that the studies involved the observation of current strength and direction, the measurement of water quality at fixed stations and "float following" observation.

The last exercise takes the form of tracing the path of a float released at selected stages of the tide at a particular location.

The ship is also used in sampling water at various beaches, and in routine monitoring of water in Victoria Harbour, Tolo Harbour and Castle Peak Bay, as recommended by the Consultant Engineers in their report on Marine Investigation into Sewage Discharges.

Mr. Tin said that the ship, "Chop Yat", is equipped with a small laboratory so that some of the water samples collected can be processed as soon as possible for the purpose of analysis.

"Other samples are tested in the Drainage Works Division Laboratory in Farm Road Government Branch Offices," he added.

"The interpretation of the information collected will indicate the dispersion and dilution of sewage discharges and guide us in the planning of possible locations and designs of sewer outfalls and treatment facilities," Mr. Tin said.

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SALARIES TAX HIT NEW HIGH IN 1971-72
Improved Conditions Of Service Reflected

Net salaries tax assessed in the last financial year amounted to a new record of \$163.4 million as compared with the previous year's record of \$126.4 million.

This was stated by Mr. F.E. Rainbow, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, in his 1971-72 Annual Report.

He said the increase represented 29.3 per cent over the previous year and was nearly three times the amount of tax assessed in 1966-67.

"The marked increase in net tax assessed clearly indicates the considerable increase in the level of emoluments paid to employees during the year," Mr. Rainbow said.

It also reflected the "improved conditions of service offered by employers in general as a result of favourable trading or other activities" mainly carried on in Hong Kong, he added.

During the year, a total of 47,123 people was assessed salaries tax. The average charge per capita during the year was \$2,233.

Mr. Rainbow said this was considerably higher than the average of \$1,980 in 1970-71, "confirming the trend of recent years and indicative of the generally continuing rise in levels of remuneration".

The largest number (60.4%) of taxpayers fell within the income range of \$1,000 to \$3,000 per month.

A total of 2,627 taxpayers paid their salaries tax at the standard rate of 15 per cent on the total income less charitable donations but without any deduction for personal allowances.

This group was charged with \$55.5 million or 45.7 per cent of the 1971-72 Salaries Tax charged.

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CONCERTED EFFORTS TO REDUCE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Labour Commissioner Appeals To Management And Workers

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Paul Tsui, today urged management, supervisors and employees alike to work and think as a team to prevent or reduce industrial accidents.

He was speaking at the presentation of prizes to the winners of the 5th Industrial Safety Poster Contest at the Industrial Safety Training Centre of the Labour Department.

Mr. Tsui said that industrial safety posters were one of the many means used to cut down on accidents.

"They serve to remind employees of some specific safety practice which has been previously taught to them, or to remind them of some hazard to which they may lay themselves open," he said.

"The most effective poster," the Commissioner said, "loses its impact if it remains on display for lengthy periods. So a constant flow of new posters is required each year to fulfil this requirement."

The Labour Department issues 12 such posters every year and it is envisaged that this number will be increased in the future, Mr. Tsui added.

The poster contest was organised by the Labour Department in conjunction with the Education Department. It attracted nearly 200 entries and the past high standard of design has been maintained.

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Release time: 6.30 p.m.