



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NEW RUNWAY VISUAL RANGE SYSTEM FOR AIRPORT

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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAS BEEN GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO EQUIP THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WITH A NEW RUNWAY VISUAL RANGE (RVR) SYSTEM WHICH INCORPORATES THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES IN THE FIELD.

THE NEW SYSTEM, COSTING ABOUT \$2 MILLION, IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL BEFORE THE END OF 1984, REPLACING THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN IN SERVICE SINCE 1974.

MR H.K. LAM, SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER AT THE OPERATIONS AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, SAID RVR INFORMATION, TOGETHER WITH DATA ON THE HEIGHT OF THE CLOUD BASE, THE HORIZONTAL VISIBILITY AND OTHER WEATHER CHARACTERISTICS, ASSISTS THE PILOT IN DECIDING ON WHAT PROCEDURES TO USE IN HIS TAKE-OFF OR LANDING OPERATION.

RUNWAY VISUAL RANGE, HE SAID, IS DEFINED AS THE MAXIMUM DISTANCE IN THE DIRECTION OF TAKE-OFF OR LANDING AT WHICH THE RUNWAY LIGHTS OR MARKERS DELINEATING THE RUNWAY CAN BE SEEN BY THE PILOT AT A HEIGHT CORRESPONDING TO THE AVERAGE EYE-LEVEL OF THE PILOT AT TOUCHDOWN.

ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO), RVR INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ROUTINE METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS AND DISSEMINATED TO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS AND PILOTS OF APPROACHING AND DEPARTING AIRCRAFT.

THE ICAO ALSO STATES THAT SUCH REPORTS SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED WITHIN 15 SECONDS OF THE OBSERVATION WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE REPORTS.

MR LAM SAID GENERALLY, RUNWAY VISUAL RANGE COULD BE OBTAINED BY A HUMAN OBSERVER MEASURING THE DISTANCE TO THE FURTHEST LIGHT THAT HE COULD SEE FROM ONE SIDE OF THE RUNWAY. THIS METHOD, BASED ON THAT DEVELOPED BY THE BOARD OF TRADE IN THE U.K., WAS INTRODUCED AT THE HONG KONG AIRPORT ON JANUARY 1, 1970.

HOWEVER, MR LAM EXPLAINED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO COUNT LIGHTS AT LONG DISTANCES, SAY BEYOND 1 000 METRES, AND SOMETIMES IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE RUNWAY POSITION AT SHORT NOTICE UNDER ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

THERE IS ALSO THE ADDED DIFFICULTY THAT THE HUMAN OBSERVER METHOD PROVIDES NO CONTINUOUS RECORD AND THE OBSERVATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO PERSONAL DISCREPANCIES SO THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT OF ICAO FOR REPORTING ALL CHANGES IN RVR WITHIN 15 SECONDS.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE HONG KONG AIRPORT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY SHOULD INVESTIGATE AND PROVIDE RVR MEASURING EQUIPMENT AT THE HONG KONG AIRPORT.

THE PRESENT RVR SYSTEM, INSTALLED IN 1974 AFTER MUCH CAREFUL TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION, CONSISTS OF THREE SETS OF TRANSMISSOMETERS -- EACH COMPRISING A RECEIVER AND A PROJECTOR -- LOCATED AT THE THRESHOLDS AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RUNWAY.

THE THREE SUB-SYSTEMS ARE CONNECTED BY CABLE TO A CENTRAL PROCESSING AND CONTROL UNIT AT THE AIRPORT METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE (AMO). DISPLAYS OF RUNWAY VISUAL RANGE AT EACH LOCATION ARE AVAILABLE AT THE AMO AS WELL AS AT THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER.

MR LAM EXPLAINED THAT IN MORE TECHNICAL TERMS, THE OPERATION OF THE TRANSMISSOMETER IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE PROJECTOR EMITS LIGHT PULSES OF HIGH ENERGY AND SHORT DURATION WITH CONSTANT PEAK INTENSITY AT A FREQUENCY OF ABOUT 90 FLASHES PER MINUTE. THE RECEIVER, WHICH IS ALIGNED WITH THE PROJECTOR AT A DISTANCE OF 150 METRES, RECEIVES THESE SHORT PULSES OF LIGHT AND CONVERT THEM INTO ELECTRICAL SIGNALS BY MEANS OF A PHOTO-DIODE.

THE ELECTRICAL SIGNAL, AFTER BEING AMPLIFIED, IS FED, THROUGH A TRANSMISSOMETER CONTROL UNIT, TO A VISIBILITY PEN RECORDER AND ALSO TO THE RVR COMPUTER LOCATED IN THE AMO. INPUT TO THE COMPUTER ALSO INCLUDES THE GENERAL BACKGROUND LUMINANCE OF THE AERODROME MEASURED BY A SENSOR LOCATED AT THE BALCONY OF THE AMO, AND THE LEVEL TO WHICH THE HIGH INTENSITY RUNWAY LIGHTS ARE SWITCHED BY THE AERODROME CONTROL.

THE OUTPUT FROM THE COMPUTER IS THE DIGITISED RVR VALUE WHICH IS SENT TO THE MASTER DISPLAY UNIT. THE DIGITISED SIGNALS ARE IN TURN SENT TO +SLAVE+ DISPLAYS AT THE AERODROME CONTROL, THE APPROACH CONTROL, THE PAR (PRECISION APPROACH RADAR) POSITION, AND THE PILOT BRIEFING COUNTER IN THE AMO.

THE DISPLAY UNITS SHOW THE CURRENT RVR IN FOUR DIGITS, PRECEDED BY ONE OF THE SIGNS +, =, AND -, INDICATING THAT A REPORTED RVR HAS INCREASED, REMAINED UNCHANGED OR DECREASED SINCE THE LAST READING.

MR LAM SAID THE PRESENT SYSTEM HAS BEEN SERVING WELL. HOWEVER, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN RECENT YEARS HAVE RESULTED IN EXTENSIVE MODIFICATIONS IN THE ELECTRONICS AND THE OPTICAL SYSTEM IN THE LATEST MODELS.

ALSO, BECAUSE SPARE PARTS FOR THE PRESENT SYSTEM ARE NO LONGER MANUFACTURED, IT IS LIKELY TO BECOME UNSERVICEABLE BY THE END OF 1984, HE SAID.

THE NEW SYSTEM WILL INCORPORATE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY OBSERVATIONS OF THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE RUNWAY.

IT HAS THE SAME NUMBER OF TRANSMISSOMETERS BUT EACH TRANSMISSOMETER SYSTEM WILL INCLUDE A TRANSCEIVER UNIT AND A NUMBER OF REFLECTOR UNITS. ADDITIONAL REFLECTORS CAN BE FITTED TO THE TRANSMISSOMETERS WHICH CAN MEASURE METEOROLOGICAL VISIBILITY OVER TWO KILOMETRES.

MR LAM SAID THE NORMAL SERVICEABLE LIFE OF THE RVR SYSTEM IS ABOUT TEN YEARS. IF NECESSARY, THE SYSTEM CAN BE DISMANTLED AND REINSTALLED AT A NEW LOCATION AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$50 000 AT CURRENT PRICES.

IMPORTANCE OF RETRAINING TEACHERS STRESSED

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+THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF RETRAINING TEACHERS, AND NEARLY HALF OF THOSE ON TRAINING COURSES IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ARE IN-SERVICE, PART-TIME STUDENTS,+ THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, MR KEN TOPLEY SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FOURTH SYMPOSIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ASSOCIATIONS OF SCIENCE EDUCATION TODAY, MR TOPLEY SAID THAT IT WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO RETRAIN SCIENCE TEACHERS, BECAUSE DEVELOPMENTS WERE BEING MADE AND NEW CONCEPTS INTRODUCED AT AN EVER INCREASING RATE.

+IN ORDER TO KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS, IT IS NECESSARY TO DISCUSS RIGOROUSLY THE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE.+ SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD BENEFIT SCIENCE TEACHERS AND PUPILS, MR TOPLEY SAID.

HE WELCOMED OVERSEAS DELEGATES, FROM MORE THAN 15 COUNTRIES, AND PRAISED THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION FOR ORGANISING THE FIRST SYMPOSIUM OF ITS KIND TO BE HELD IN HONG KONG.

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INSURANCE MANPOWER SURVEY REPORT PUBLISHED

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THE REPORT ON A MANPOWER SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE INSURANCE TRAINING BOARD OF THE FORMER HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL IN JUNE 1981 HAS BEEN PUBLISHED.

THE REPORT SETS OUT TO GIVE, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, THE OVERALL SITUATION OF THE HONG KONG INSURANCE INDUSTRY'S CURRENT MANPOWER AS WELL AS THE TRAINING AND THE POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS WORK FORCE.

COMMENTING ON THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, MR ANTHONY KAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE INSURANCE TRAINING BOARD, SAID, +AS REFLECTED BY THE SURVEY FINDINGS, THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS IN NEED OF WELL-TRAINED AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

+MEETING SUCH A NEED SHOULD BE TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY IF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS TO OPTIMIZE ITS ROLE IN HELPING ESTABLISH HONG KONG AS A LEADING FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE ASIAN PACIFIC AREA.+

MR KAN ADDED THAT AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT PLANNED AND ORGANISED TRAINING FACILITIES IS THE PREREQUISITE TO IMPROVING THE SERVICE QUALITY OF THE INDUSTRY TO MATCH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

IN HIS VIEW, THE REPORT CONTAINS APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE MANPOWER SITUATION OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY.

THE REPORT IS ON SALE AT \$25 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

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SPORTS GROUNDS SOON READY FOR USE AGAIN
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FINISHING TOUCHES ARE BEING PUT TO THE IMPROVEMENTS TO BOTH THE YUEN LONG STADIUM AND YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND AT TSUEN WAN, AND THE FACILITIES WILL SOON BE RE-OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR FIRST DIVISION FOOTBALL MATCHES AND ATHLETIC MEETS.

IN YUEN LONG STADIUM, A COVERED PERMANENT STAND WITH SEATS FOR ABOUT 2 000 SPECTATORS HAS BEEN BUILT TO REPLACE THE WOODEN STAND, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

REFURNISHMENT OF THE EXISTING UNCOVERED PERMANENT STAND, ACCOMMODATING ANOTHER 3 000 PEOPLE, HAS ALSO BEEN COMPLETED.

TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE YOUNGER POPULATION IN YUEN LONG, THE PREVIOUS SIX-LANE RUNNING TRACK OF THE STADIUM HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO AN EIGHT-LANE, ALL-WEATHER TRACK.

WORK ON THE RUNNING TRACK, SHOT PUT CIRCLE, DISCUS-THROWING CAGE AND SAND PIT ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

NEW CHANGING ROOMS, TOILETS, A REFRESHMENT KIOSK, STORAGE ROOMS AND COMMITTEE ROOMS ARE ALSO PROVIDED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID ADDING THAT THE COST OF THE WHOLE PROJECT WAS ABOUT \$12 MILLION.

AT YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND, FIRST DIVISION FOOTBALL WILL SOON BE PLAYED AT THE STANDARD TURFED SOCCER PITCH.

IT CAN HOLD AS MANY AS 4 000 SPECTATORS WHEN FIRST DIVISION FOOTBALL MATCHES ARRANGED BY THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IS HELD AT THE SPORTS GROUND.

ERECTION OF NEW FENCING AND CROWD CONTROL FACILITIES WHICH COST ABOUT \$1.25 MILLION ARE NEARLY COMPLETE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF WAN TSUI ROAD
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WAN TSUI ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH LIN SHING ROAD AND A POINT 40 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WAN TSUI LANE IN CHAI WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 6 AM ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (DECEMBER 29 AND 30) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, CMB ROUTE 82 (BETWEEN CHAI WAN EAST AND NORTH POINT FERRY) WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CHAI WAN ROAD.

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WATER TAPS OFF IN TSUEN WAN
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR 10 HOURS FROM 9 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 30) TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY TAI HO ROAD, TEXACO ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND YEUNG UK ROAD, AND INCLUDES PREMISES IN MA TAU PA ROAD, FUI YIU KOK STREET, WANG LUNG STREET, LUNG TAK STREET AND MA KOK STREET.

ALSO AFFECTED WILL BE WALDORF BUILDING, TSUEN WAN POLICE STATION AND SHEK WAI KOK ESTATE.

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