



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1992

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MORE EMPLOYERS PROSECUTED FOR EXPLOITING IMPORTED WORKERS

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LABOUR INSPECTORS CONDUCTED MORE THAN 3,500 INSPECTIONS LAST YEAR TO ESTABLISHMENTS USING FOREIGN WORKERS. THESE COVERED PRACTICALLY ALL EMPLOYERS IMPORTING FOREIGN LABOUR IN 1991. THE PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTIONS WERE TO ENSURE THAT THE STATUTORY AND CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS OF IMPORTED WORKERS WERE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED.

"THESE INSPECTIONS HAVE LED TO THE DETECTION OF SOME 200 CASES OF BREACHES BY EMPLOYERS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE CONDITIONS OF THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME," SAID ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR MAK SAI-YIU TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE ADDED THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OF IMPORTED WORKERS WERE TAKEN TO COURTS FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

UP TO LAST WEEK, NINE SUCH EMPLOYERS WERE CONVICTED WHILE ANOTHER 18 SUMMONSES HAVE BEEN LAID AGAINST NINE OTHER EMPLOYERS AND PROSECUTION IS BEING CONSIDERED AGAINST A FURTHER 18 EMPLOYERS.

"OF THE 17 CHARGES CONVICTED, 11 RELATED TO UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES AND DEDUCTIONS OF LABOUR SERVICE CHARGE, WHILE THE REST CONCERNED FAILURE TO GRANT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS OR HOLIDAY PAY," HE SAID.

ONE OF THE LATEST CASES WAS THE CONVICTION OF THE ASIA KNITTING FACTORY IN HOK YUEN STREET, WHICH WAS FINED \$1,000 FOR DEDUCTING WAGES OF AN IMPORTED WORKER UNLAWFULLY.

"ALL CASES OF BREACHES BY EMPLOYERS WERE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED BY LABOUR OFFICERS AND LABOUR INSPECTORS, FOLLOWED BY PROSECUTION ACTION, OR WARNINGS TO THE EMPLOYERS TO RECTIFY THEIR IRREGULARITIES," MR MAK SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED 176 WARNINGS TO EMPLOYERS OF IMPORTED WORKERS. MOST OF THESE IRREGULARITIES WERE RELATED TO SUBSTANDARD ACCOMMODATION AND INSUFFICIENT FACILITIES IN THE LIVING QUARTERS. THEY WERE RECTIFIED SUBSEQUENTLY.

MR MAK STRESSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT TOOK A VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF EMPLOYERS WHO EXPLOITED IMPORTED WORKERS AND THAT PROSECUTION WOULD BE INSTITUTED ONCE THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF EXPLOITATION.

HE CALLED ON THOSE IMPORTED WORKERS WHO WERE EXPLOITED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS TO COME FORWARD AND COMPLAIN TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, SO THAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE OFFENDING EMPLOYERS.

"TO SECURE A CONVICTION IN THE COURT, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE WORKER TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH US AND TO TESTIFY AGAINST THE EMPLOYER IN COURT," HE SAID.

/"WE WILL

"WE WILL ASSIST IMPORTED WORKERS WHO WERE DISMISSED BECAUSE OF COMPLAINING TO THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT EXPLOITATION IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT AND IN APPLYING TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR AN EXTENSION OF THEIR STAY IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

AS MANY OF THE OFFENCES DETECTED CONCERNED DEDUCTION AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES, HE REMINDED EMPLOYERS OF THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR THEM TO PAY THEIR IMPORTED WORKERS THE FULL AMOUNT OF WAGES ONCE PAYMENT BECAME DUE.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY PROPOSE TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION OF WAGES AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES FROM \$10,000 TO \$100,000 AND FROM \$20,000 TO \$200,000 RESPECTIVELY, PLUS IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO ONE YEAR.

"BY INCREASING THE LEVELS OF FINE TENFOLD AND INTRODUCING CUSTODIAL SENTENCE, THE LAW SHOULD HAVE THE DESIRED DETERRENT EFFECT ON EMPLOYERS AND SHOULD ACCORD FULLER PROTECTION FOR IMPORTED WORKERS," MR MAK SAID.

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FLAT OWNERS AND TENANTS VITAL IN BUILDING MANAGEMENT

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FLAT OWNERS AND TENANTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN GOOD BUILDING MANAGEMENT, AN OFFICIATING GUEST OF A BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR, MR CHUNG PUI-LAM, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR "PERSPECTIVE AND PARTICIPATION II" AT THE LECTURE HALL OF THE HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM, MR CHUNG SAID IN RECENT YEARS, MORE AND MORE FLAT OWNERS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND THEIR OWN INTEREST IN IT.

HE NOTED THAT TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS AND TO ASSIST FLAT OWNERS TO FORM OWNERS CORPORATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT IS AMENDING THE MULTI-STOREY (OWNERS INCORPORATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

"THE AMENDMENTS INCLUDED THE INTRODUCTION OF MANDATORY CLAUSES, IMPROVING THE UNFAIR CLAUSES IN RESPECT OF DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT AND TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY THE INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FLAT OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT COMPANIES," HE SAID.

MR CHUNG CALLED ON FLAT OWNERS AND TENANTS TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

/"BUT THE

"BUT THE BASIC ELEMENT IN IMPROVING BUILDING MANAGEMENT IS THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF FLAT OWNERS AND TENANTS COUPLED WITH THEIR CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES," HE EMPHASISED.

HE ADDED THAT THE FIVE TOPICS BEING DISCUSSED IN TODAY'S SEMINAR WOULD HELP PARTICIPANTS UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT BUILDING MANAGEMENT. THIS IN TURN WOULD ENABLE THEM TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN MANAGING THEIR BUILDINGS AND TO MAKE THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT SAFER AND MORE COMFORTABLE.

THESE TOPICS ARE BUILDING SAFETY, PARTICIPATION OF OWNERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS, PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS, COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OWNERS AND TENANTS COMMITTEES AND BUILDING MANAGERS, AND INSURANCE IN RELATION TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT EXPERTS WHO SPOKE AT THE SEMINAR INCLUDED AN ENGINEERING CONSULTANT, DR RAYMOND HO CHUNG-TAI; A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, MR STEPHEN YUEN; A MANAGING DIRECTOR OF AN INSURANCE COMPANY, MR ANTHONY YUEN; AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR MOK YIU-KWONG, AND A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, DR CHIU WING-YEE.

THE DISCUSSION SESSION WAS CHAIRED BY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JONES LANG WOOTTON LIMITED, MR LEUNG CHUN-YING.

AN EXHIBITION ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT WAS ALSO STAGED.

ABOUT 290 MEMBERS OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS COMMITTEES, AS WELL AS OWNERS OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS FROM VARIOUS DISTRICTS ATTENDED THE SEMINAR.

THE SEMINAR WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GOOD BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE SEMINAR INCLUDED AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR MOK YIU-KWONG AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (BUILDING MANAGEMENT), MR AUGUSTINE CHENG.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE SEMINAR WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS DUTY OFFICERS LATER TODAY.

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PROPER LABELLING FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD A MUST

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FOOD MANUFACTURERS, RETAILERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND IMPORTERS, WHO PLAN TO INTRODUCE PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL, MUST ENSURE THAT THE FOOD ITEMS ARE PROPERLY LABELLED OR MARKED.

MAKING THE APPEAL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STRESSED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT ALL FOOD ITEMS IN PREPACKAGED FORM, WHETHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY, MUST BE MARKED PROPERLY AS REQUIRED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

"OFFENDERS, WHEN CONVICTED, MAY FACE A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$25,000 FINE AND SIX MONTHS' JAIL SENTENCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

LAST MONTH ALONE, HE ADDED, TWO FOOD RETAILERS IN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN WERE FINED \$2,500 AND \$750 RESPECTIVELY FOR NOT HAVING PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS PROPERLY LABELLED.

THE FOOD ITEMS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN MARKED PROPERLY WERE BISCUITS AND PISTACHIO.

THEY DID NOT HAVE THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD, THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER OR PACKER, THE INDICATION OF MINIMUM DURABILITY, THE NUMERICAL COUNT OF THE CONTENTS OR THE NET WEIGHT OF THE FOOD OR THE NET VOLUME OF THE FOOD AS STIPULATED IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

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NEW YEAR POSTER TO SPREAD PITCH-IN MESSAGE

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AN ATTRACTIVE CHINESE NEW YEAR GREETING POSTER TO TIE IN WITH THE YEAR-END CLEAN-UP OPERATION OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS STARTING TUESDAY (JANUARY 21).

PRODUCED BY THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE, THE POSTER FEATURES AN EMBROIDERY SHOWING THE CAMPAIGN MASCOTS, THE DRAGON OF CLEANLINESS (DOC) FAMILY IN A SEA OF CLOUDS.

THE CUTE DOC FAMILY, COMPRISING THE DRAGON OF CLEANLINESS, THE COUNTRY DRAGON, THE BEACH DRAGON AND TWO KID DRAGONS, IS HOLDING A SCROLL SAYING: "GOOD FORTUNE BESTOWS UPON EVERY HOUSEHOLD".

/SOME 200,000

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SOME 200,000 COPIES OF THE POSTER WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR GREETING POSTER IS AVAILABLE AT THE GIS NEWSROOM.

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NEW CONTRACT FORM FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS

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A SIMPLIFIED STANDARD EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS WILL COME INTO USE ON JANUARY 27 (MONDAY) TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF CONTRACT ATTESTATION.

"THE REVISED CONTRACT IS ALSO INTENDED TO HELP MINIMISE INCORRECT ENTRIES IN THE CONTRACT FORM," SAID LABOUR OFFICER MRS MARIAN LI TODAY (SUNDAY).

MRS LI STRESSED THAT THE CHANGE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACT PARTIES.

"THE NEW CONTRACT WILL BE MORE CONCISE AND EASY TO COMPLETE, WITH FEWER BLANKS TO FILL IN, AND THE EXPLANATORY NOTES ATTACHED TO THE CONTRACT HAVE BEEN MADE MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND SIMPLE TO READ," SHE NOTED.

"THERE WILL BE A ONE-MONTH CHANGE-OVER PERIOD SO THAT OLD FORMS SUBMITTED TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BEFORE FEBRUARY 27 WILL STILL BE ATTESTED," MRS LI SAID.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW STANDARD EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT IS THE RESULT OF A JOINT REVISION EXERCISE BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

THE NEW CONTRACT FORMS (FORM ID 407) ARE NOW OBTAINABLE AT THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AT WAN CHAI TOWER 2, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, AND AT ALL ITS 10 BRANCH OFFICES.

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STUDENTS TO SHOW THEIR DANCING SKILLS

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ABOUT 3,800 STUDENTS FROM 241 SCHOOLS ARE COMPETING IN THE 28TH SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL WHICH WILL END ON JANUARY 28.

THE ANNUAL EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS SPORT COUNCIL.

COMPETING FOR PRIZES IN THE WESTERN FOLK/NATIONAL DANCE, CHINESE DANCE, ORIENTAL DANCE AND MODERN DANCE EVENTS ARE 368 TEAMS, 176 OF WHICH ARE FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 173 FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 19 FROM SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

THE THREE SECONDARY AND THREE PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL SCORES IN THEIR BEST FOUR DANCES WILL WIN THE OVERALL CHALLENGE AWARDS.

THE MOST PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL AWARD WILL GO TO A SECONDARY AND A PRIMARY SCHOOL, BASED ON THEIR PAST AND CURRENT PARTICIPATION AND RESULTS.

SCHOOLS WINNING HONOURS OR HIGHLY COMMENDED WILL BE INVITED TO PERFORM AT THE WINNERS PERFORMANCES AND PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE ON APRIL 7 AND 8 AND AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL FROM APRIL 16 TO 18.

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YOUTH VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

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THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME (SYP) COMMITTEE TODAY (SUNDAY) PRESENTED SCHOLARSHIPS TO 20 YOUNG PEOPLE AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE HONG KONG SPORTS INSTITUTE, SHA TIN.

THE YOUTHS WERE AWARDED THE SCHOLARSHIPS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE 1991 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AND THE VOLUNTARY SERVICES THEY HAD RENDERED TO THE COMMUNITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID: "IN THE 1991 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, MORE THAN 11,000 ACTIVITIES WERE ORGANISED ATTRACTING SOME 1.27 MILLION PARTICIPANTS. THE SERVICES RENDERED BY VOLUNTEERS HAD CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMME."

ELEVEN OF THE AWARD RECIPIENTS WILL ATTEND AN 18-DAY OUTWARD BOUND COURSE AND THE OTHER NINE WILL ATTEND A 10-DAY COURSE.

"THIS GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THROUGH ACTIVITIES AND TOUGH TRAINING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/SINCE 1977

SINCE 1977, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS BEEN SPONSORING SCHOLARSHIPS TO YOUTH VOLUNTEERS OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO ATTEND OUTWARD BOUND COURSES.

THIS YEAR, THE SYP COMMITTEE RECEIVED 46 NOMINATIONS FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN SYP ACTIVITIES. AMONG THEM, TWO WERE FROM THE HONG KONG SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. THE 20 AWARD RECIPIENTS WERE SELECTED BY A BOARD CHAIRED BY MR KWOK KA-MING.

A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION WAS PRESENTED TO EACH OF THE 26 NOMINEES WHO WERE NOT AWARDED WITH THE SCHOLARSHIPS.

THE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM 16 LAST YEAR TO 20 THIS YEAR IN VIEW OF THE IMPRESSIVE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS.

OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE THE SYP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR PETER LEE; THE SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR KWOK KA-MING, AND A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MISS SUSIE HO. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YOUTH COMMISSION, MR ERIC LI WAS INVITED TO DELIVER A SPEECH ON VOLUNTEERISM AT THE CEREMONY.

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FESTIVAL HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHORUS RECRUITS MEMBERS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE IS INVITING YOUNG CHORAL SINGERS AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 16 TO JOIN THE NEWLY FORMED FESTIVAL HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHORUS.

THE CHORUS WILL STAGE A SERIES OF PERFORMANCES IN THE "FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92" TO BE HELD IN CANADA BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 26 AND OCTOBER 6.

A MUSIC OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FESTIVAL WILL BE THE BIGGEST OVERSEAS PROMOTION HONG KONG HAS EVER STAGED.

"IT WILL BE A MULTI-FACETED CULTURAL, TRADE AND BUSINESS EVENT IN FIVE CANADIAN CITIES," HE SAID.

THE PURPOSE OF THE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE IS TO PROVIDE INTENSIVE CHORAL TRAINING TO A SELECTED GROUP OF YOUNG SINGING PROTEGE WHO WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACT AS CULTURAL AMBASSADORS AND TO PERFORM IN THE FESTIVAL.

"SELECTION WILL BE MADE THROUGH AUDITION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE BEST TALENTS ARE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT HONG KONG.

TRAINING WILL START IN MARCH. THE CHOIR WILL REHEARSE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE IN WAN CHAI.

/THE TRAINING

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THE TRAINING PROGRAMME WILL BE AS VARIED AND COMPREHENSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE AURAL AND CHORAL TRAINING, DANCE TRAINING AND PERFORMANCE RITUAL.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO JOIN THE HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP, TO BE ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSES.

THEY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FREE RETURN AIR PASSAGES AS WELL AS FREE BOARD AND LODGING, BUT SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR UNIFORMS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE SHA TIN MUSIC CENTRE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 15.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 606 5739.

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NEW COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE IN TAI MO SHAN

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) IT WOULD BE AN ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE WHO VISITED THE NEW TAI MO SHAN COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CENTRE, MR BARNES SAID ON DISPLAY AT THE CENTRE WERE EXHIBITS ON THE RURAL HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA, ITS CLIMATE, ECOLOGY, GEOLOGY AND DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF COUNTRY PARKS CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CENTRE IS WELL LOCATED TO SERVE BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS VISITORS. THE PLACE IS READILY ACCESSIBLE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND THERE IS A PUBLIC CAR PARK NEARBY.

"FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY INCLUDE BARBECUE AND PICNIC SITES, CAMP SITES, MACLEHOSE TRAIL, FOREST TRAIL, FAMILY WALK AND SHELTERS," HE SAID.

ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNTRY PARKS VISITOR CENTRES, MR BARNES SAID: "THEY ARE SET UP TO PROVIDE VISITORS WITH INFORMATION ON THE COUNTRY PARKS, THEIR VEGETATION, WILD LIFE, HERITAGE AND SCENIC SPOTS.

IN THESE CENTRES, VISITORS CAN GET INFORMATION ON WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TYPES OF FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRY PARKS.

/"THESE VISITOR

"THESE VISITOR CENTRES ALSO SERVE AS USEFUL BASES FOR THE PROMOTION OF COUNTRYSIDE EDUCATION," HE SAID.

MR BARNES NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS WERE RUN BY THE PARK WARDENS IN THESE CENTRES TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN KEEPING COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN.

"VISITORS ARE ALSO REMINDED OF THE NEED TO RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE, TO PREVENT HILL FIRE, TO DISPOSE OF LITTER IN LITTER BINS AND TO MAKE USE OF THE PARK FACILITIES PROPERLY," HE ADDED.

MR BARNES ALSO NOTED THAT LAST YEAR, SOME 10 MILLION PEOPLE HAD VISITED THE COUNTRY PARKS FOR HIKING, CAMPING, PICNICKING, FIELD STUDIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

HE THANKED THE PAST AND PRESENT COUNTRY PARKS BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY PARKS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD, MR CARLOS CHEUNG.

IN PRESENTING HIS VOTE OF THANKS, DR LEE PAID TRIBUTE TO MR BARNES FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT IN DEVELOPING HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAD WORKED HARD TO MAKE THE TAI MO SHAN VISITOR CENTRE PROJECT POSSIBLE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD, COMMUNITY LEADERS OF CHUEN LUNG, STAFF OF GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE, THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE TAI MO SHAN COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE IS LOCATED AT TAI MO SHAN ROAD. IT OCCUPIES A FLOOR AREA OF 370 SQUARE METRES AND TAKES \$4.7 MILLION TO SET UP.

SOME OF THE INTERESTING ITEMS FOR VISITORS INCLUDE COMPUTER GAMES ON COUNTRY PARKS INFORMATION; TIMBER RECOGNITION ACTIVITY; INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EIGHT VILLAGES AND THREE SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS IN THE TAI MO SHAN AREA AND DISPLAYS OF DIFFERENT ROCK TYPES IN THE VICINITY.

THE CENTRE IS OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT THE NEWSROOM LATER TODAY.

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NEW GEO REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

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THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE (GEO) OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAS INTRODUCED A NEW SERIES OF REPORTS KNOWN AS GEO REPORTS TO ADD TO ITS EXISTING PUBLICATIONS ON THE GEOLOGY AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OF HONG KONG.

HEAD OF THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE, DR ANDREW MALONE, SAID AS PART OF ITS POLICY TOWARDS RELEASING TO THE PROFESSION GEOTECHNICAL AND GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION OF GENERAL TECHNICAL INTEREST, THE GEO IS NOW MAKING AVAILABLE, FREE OF CHARGE, A NUMBER OF INTERNAL REPORTS.

THESE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONSULTING ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS, RESEARCH INSTITUTES, LIBRARIES, AND INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS UNDER A NEW PUBLICATION SERIES ENTITLED "GEO REPORTS".

THE REPORTS IN THE NEW SERIES ARE SELECTED FROM A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNAL REPORTS PRODUCED BY GEO.

SINCE 1990, SELECTED GEO INTERNAL REPORTS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC IN THE CIVIL ENGINEERING LIBRARY (CEL) WHICH, FOR A DECADE HAS BEEN THE FOREMOST GEOTECHNICAL LIBRARY IN HONG KONG.

DR MALONE SAID THE PUBLICATION OF GEO REPORTS WAS A FURTHER EFFORT TO PROMULGATE TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF GEOTECHNICAL PRACTICE IN HONG KONG.

INITIALLY, 11 GEO REPORTS COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS ARE PLANNED FOR PUBLICATION.

THESE INCLUDE THE ANNUAL REVIEWS OF HONG KONG RAINFALL AND LANDSLIDES FOR THE YEARS 1984 TO 1989; PROPERTIES OF HONG KONG ROCKS AS AGGREGATES FOR CONCRETE; DESIGN OF FOUNDATIONS IN GRANITIC AND VOLCANIC ROCKS IN HONG KONG; BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON GEOLOGY AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OF HONG KONG AND SETTLEMENTS CAUSED BY TUNNELLING, AS WELL AS SPECIALISED TESTING OF LOCAL SOILS AT A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY.

THE FIRST SIX GEO REPORTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

AS MORE REPORTS IN THIS NEW SERIES BECOME AVAILABLE, THEY WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE CEL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER "UPDATE" AND AUTOMATICALLY SENT TO LOCAL LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES.

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