



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1978

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GOVERNMENT TAKES THE LEAD IN PROMOTING
COMMUNITY RECREATION

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVE RECREATIONAL PURSUITS AND TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE FACILITIES WERE PROVIDED AND PROPERLY MANAGED AND MAINTAINED.

+THE AIM IS TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND SERVICES WITHIN EASY REACH OF MAIN CENTRES OF POPULATION FREE OR AT MINIMAL CHARGE AND TO ENABLE THE ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PUBLIC IN AS SAFE AN ENVIRONMENT AS POSSIBLE,+ SIR MURRAY EXPLAINED.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE +RECREATION AND SPORTS FOR PEOPLE-IN-EMPLOYMENT+ CONFERENCE AT THE CONVENTION CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

BECAUSE HONG KONG IS SO CROWDED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY SO RESTRICTED, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY TO PLAY A MUCH MORE POSITIVE PART THAN ELSEWHERE -- PROVIDING, GUIDING, AND PLANNING FOR THE PUBLIC'S USE OF LEISURE, SIR MURRAY SAID.

ADDRESSING THE 250 REPRESENTATIVES FROM MANagements OF 150 FIRMS, FACTORIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TAKING PART IN THE DAY-LONG CONFERENCE, SIR MURRAY SAID: +IT IS IN MEETING THIS NEW CHALLENGE THAT I SEEK YOUR FURTHER INTEREST.+

+ENLIGHTENED MANagements THROUGHOUT THE WORLD RECOGNISED THAT TENSION AND FATIGUE FOR THOSE EMPLOYED IN MODERN HIGH PRESSURE INDUSTRIAL PROCESS CAN BE ALLEVIATED BY PROGRAMMES OF RECREATION. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, PRODUCTIVITY, EFFICIENCY, EVEN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, CAN ALL BE AFFECTED,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

THE GOVERNOR URGED EMPLOYERS WHO ACCEPT THIS VIEW TO HELP BY ASSISTING AND ENCOURAGING THEIR EMPLOYEES TO BENEFIT FROM RECREATION PROGRAMMES AND BY SHOWING THEM PUBLICITY MATERIAL ABOUT THE PROGRAMMES WHICH ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID FORMATION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION AND WELFARE CLUBS IN FACTORIES AND BUSINESS HOUSES ALSO CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS INVOLVING EMPLOYEES AND MANAGEMENT TOGETHER IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT RECREATION PROGRAMMES, AND THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE WAS THERE TO HELP.

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IN RECENT YEARS IN HONG KONG THERE HAD BEEN AN EXPLOSION OF LEISURE-TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AND CULTURAL PURSUITS, SIR MURRAY SAID. +THIS IS TRUE ABOUT ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT PARTICULARLY ABOUT THOSE IN EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF REST DAYS AND PAID LEAVE. THERE IS A NEED TO BE FILLED.+

SIR MURRAY OBSERVED THAT SINCE 1968 PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES HAVE INCREASED FROM TWO TO EIGHT AND 14 MORE ARE PLANNED OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, MOSTLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THERE ARE NOW 10 PUBLIC OUTDOOR STADIA AND SPORTS COMPLEXES INSTEAD OF THREE AND BY THE MID-1980S THERE SHOULD BE 13 MORE, INCLUDING MAJOR STADIA AT HO MAN TIN, TUEN MUN AND SHA TIN. INSTEAD OF NO PUBLIC INDOOR SPORTS HALLS THERE ARE NOW FOUR WITH TWO UNDER CONSTRUCTION. BY THE MID-1980S THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF SOME 24 MAJOR PUBLIC INDOOR SPORTS BUILDINGS.

+WITH THESE FACILITIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AT LEAST 250 HECTARES MORE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN URBAN AREAS, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE RECREATION WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED,+ SIR MURRAY EMPHASISED.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO NOTED THAT THE ENJOYMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND HONG KONG'S BEACHES HAS DEVELOPED STRIKINGLY. FORMERLY FEW VENTURED INTO THE HILLS OR EVEN TO THE BEACHES, BUT BY 1977 THERE WERE AT LEAST 3 MILLION VISITORS TO COUNTRY PARKS AND SOME 24 MILLION TO BEACHES. FURTHERMORE THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY, ESTABLISHED IN 1976, HOPES TO COMPLETE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR ITS DESIGNATION OF NEARLY HALF THE TOTAL LAND SURFACE OF HONG KONG.

REFERRING TO THE FACILITIES FOR CULTURAL PURSUITS, SIR MURRAY REMINDED THAT 10 YEARS AGO THE ONLY PLACES FOR PUBLIC CULTURAL PERFORMANCES WERE IN THE CITY HALL. LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR HAVE SEEN THE ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE AND THE BAPTIST COLLEGE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL. THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL SEE THE COMPLETION OF MAJOR CULTURAL COMPLEXES IN TSIM SHA TSUI, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND SHA TIN.

COMMENTING ON THE CONFERENCE ITSELF, SIR MURRAY SAID THE AIM BEHIND THIS WAS A MOST LAUDABLE AND WELCOME ONE AND HE WAS SURE THE PROGRAMME WOULD GIVE THE PARTICIPANTS A GREATER INSIGHT INTO WHAT BENEFITS COULD BE DERIVED BOTH BY MANAGEMENT AND THE WORK FORCE FROM A CONCERTED EFFORT TO PROMOTE A PROGRAMME OF RECREATION AND SPORTS FOR PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT.

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INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS IN HONG KONG'S CHILDREN DECLINING
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THE PROVISION OF A COMPREHENSIVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE HAS CONTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE REMARKABLE DROP IN THE INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS AMONG CHILDREN IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. S.F. LAM, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EYE CARE EXHIBITION AT CITY HALL THIS MORNING, DR. LAM SAID THE INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS IN CHILDREN DECLINED FROM 5.8 PER CENT IN 1967 TO 1.8 PER CENT IN 1976.

THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED BY THE PENINSULA JAYCEES WITH HELP FROM THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT AND THE OPHTHALMIC SERVICE OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

DR. LAM SAID 10 YEARS AGO THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF EYE COMPLAINTS LEADING TO BLINDNESS WERE INJURIES AND INFECTION.

+TODAY, THOUGH WE STILL HAVE INJURIES AND INFECTION CAUSING BLINDNESS, A NEW CAUSE HAS BEEN ADDED -- AND THIS IS DEGENERATION,+ HE SAID.

DR. LAM SAID THIS, IRONICALLY, HAS LARGELY BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE IMPROVED GENERAL HEALTH OF THE POPULATION, BETTER CURATIVE MEDICAL CARE AND A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING AMONGST THE CITIZENS OF HONG KONG.

+WE ARE NOW LIVING LONGER AND REACHING AN AGE WHERE WE ARE BEGINNING TO ENCOUNTER DEGENERATIVE CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROCESS OF AGING, WHICH AFFECTS THE WHOLE PERSON -- HIS BONES, HIS HEART, MOST SYSTEMS AND ORGANS AND, UNFORTUNATELY, HIS EYES,+ HE SAID.

IN THE TREATMENT OF EYE CONDITIONS, THE ACTING DIRECTOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A NUMBER OF OPHTHALMIC UNITS TO GIVE SPECIALISED MEDICAL TREATMENT TO THOSE WITH EYE CONDITIONS NEEDING IT AND TO PERFORM CORNEA TRANSPLANT OPERATIONS.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE MANY VOLUNTARY BODIES OF PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS, WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME, EFFORT AND MONEY TO COMPLEMENT THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF EYE CONDITIONS.

DR. LAM SAID THE EYE CARE EXHIBITION WILL ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THEIR EYES HEALTHY BY THE ACQUISITION AND FORMATION OF PROPER HABITS RESULTING IN GREATER HAPPINESS THROUGH THE POSSESSION OF HEALTHY EYE-SIGHT.

THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 6.30 P.M. DAILY UNTIL AUGUST 29. VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL GET A SPECIAL BONUS OF HAVING THEIR VISION TESTED FREE OF CHARGE AND A BOOKLET ON EYE CARE.

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COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION BOOSTED BY FIVE MORE COUNTRY PARKS
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THE DESIGNATION OF TWO COUNTRY PARKS AND THE GAZETTING OF THREE OTHERS HAS EXTENDED THE PROTECTION OF HONG KONG'S COUNTRYSIDE AND RECREATION RESOURCES TO MORE THAN 140 SQUARE MILES.

THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE GAVE NOTICE OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE PAT SIN LENG AND NORTH LANTAU COUNTRY PARKS AND GAZETTED FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION THE TAI MO SHAN, TAI LAM AND LAM TSUEN COUNTRY PARKS.

ACCORDING TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR. MARTIN LEWIS, THE 14 COUNTRY PARKS AND ONE SPECIAL AREA SO FAR DESIGNATED OR GAZETTED COVER AN AREA OF 36,488 HECTARES -- ABOUT 143 SQUARE MILES.

THE PAT SIN LENG COUNTRY PARK OF 3,150 HECTARES IS WEST OF THE PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR AND STRETCHES FROM STARLING INLET TO CLOUDY HILL NEAR TAI PO. THE AREA, IDEAL FOR INTENSIVE HIKING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDES THE RUGGED PAT SIN RANGE (HEIGHT ABOUT 600 METRES) AND TAI MEI TUK, WHICH ADJOINS THE PLOVER COVE COUNTRY PARK. IT WILL BE MANAGED FROM MANAGEMENT CENTRES PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT LUK KENG AND HOK TAU.

THE NORTH LANTAU COUNTRY PARK (2,200 HECTARES) CONSISTS MAINLY OF RUGGED MOUNTAINS AND SCATTERED WOODLANDS. IT IS NORTH OF THE RIDGELINE BETWEEN SUNSET AND LANTAU PEAKS AND EXTENDS FROM NAM SHAN IN THE EAST TO NGA YING KOK (NEAR TAI O) IN THE WEST.

MR. LEWIS SAID THAT DURING THE NEXT YEAR MORE EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMPSITES IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH LANTAU COUNTRY PARKS.

THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN WILL BE SURROUNDED BY FOUR COUNTRY PARKS: SHING MUN AND KAM SHAN, WHICH WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO BE DESIGNATED, AND TAI LAM AND TAI MO SHAN WHICH APPEARED IN FRIDAY'S GAZETTE.

THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK, ONE OF THE LARGEST FOREST AREAS IN HONG KONG, COVERS 5,560 HECTARES AND INCLUDES THE TAI LAM CHUNG RESERVOIR AND SEVERAL OTHER MINOR DAMS OF 220 HECTARES. EMBRACING THE AREA OF MOUNTAINOUS LAND TO THE WEST OF TAI MO SHAN AND LYING SOUTH OF THE YUEN LONG PLAIN, THE PARK STRETCHES FROM LAM TEI (NEAR TUEN MUN) EASTWARDS TO ROUTE TWISK.

HONG KONG'S LARGEST WATERFALL AT NG TUNG CHAI, A BEAUTIFUL AND POPULAR PICNIC SITE, IS WITHIN THE TAI MO SHAN COUNTRY PARK. COVERING AN AREA OF 1,640 HECTARES, THE PARK IS WEST AND NORTH OF SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK, EAST OF ROUTE TWISK AND STRETCHES FROM THE TAI PO KAU SPECIAL AREA TO THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE LAM TSUEN VALLEY.

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THE THIRD COUNTRY PARK TO BE GAZETTED FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION THIS WEEK IS 1,735 HECTARES OF MOUNTAINS, UNDULATING HILLS AND VALLEYS AROUND LAM TSUEN. SITUATED WEST OF TAI PO AND NORTH OF THE LAM TSUEN VALLEY, THE PARK INCLUDES THE KAI KUENG AND TAI TO YAN MOUNTAINS. THE LAM TSUEN COUNTRY PARK HAS EXCELLENT HILLS FOR HIKING.

MR. LEWIS SAID THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY WAS AIMING TO DESIGNATE AN ADDITIONAL FIVE PARKS BEFORE THE END OF 1979.

A COUNTRY PARK IN THE MA ON SHAN AREA IS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION. SITUATED BETWEEN THE SAI KUNG AND LION ROCK COUNTRY PARKS, IT WILL INCLUDE THE PAK SHA WAN (HEBE HAVEN) PENINSULA, KOWLOON PEAK, NGONG PING AND MA ON SHAN ITSELF.

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DEBUT OF HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
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THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOUNDED BY THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE ITS INAUGURAL CONCERT AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 29).

THE 90-MEMBER ORCHESTRA COMPRISES YOUNG PEOPLE FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. THEIR AGES RANGE FROM EIGHT TO 23.

AT THE CONCERT ON AUGUST 29, JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE ORCHESTRA WILL PERFORM UNDER THE BATON OF MR. DAVID STONE, HONG KONG'S MUSIC CONSULTANT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MR. STONE ARRIVED HERE LAST MONTH WITH THE COUNTY OF AVON SCHOOLS ORCHESTRA AND IS RUNNING A SUMMER COURSE FOR MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

TICKETS FOR THE CONCERT ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CITY HALL BOOKING OFFICE.

ENQUIRIES ON THE CONCERT CAN BE MADE TO THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE ON 5-283257.

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LIBERATION DAY CEREMONY AT CITY HALL

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HONG KONG WILL OBSERVE THIS YEAR'S LIBERATION DAY WITH A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT CITY HALL ON MONDAY (AUGUST 28) AT 11 A.M.

DURING THE CEREMONY, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) WILL LAY WREATHS AT THE SHRINE IN MEMORY OF MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS WHO DIED DURING THE BATTLE OF DECEMBER 1941 OR LATER AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE SOUNDING OF THE LAST POST OF A TRUMPETER, A TWO-MINUTE SILENCE AND REVEILLE, AND THE FIRING OF THREE VOLLEYS OF SALUTE.

THE FIRING PARTY AND TRUMPETER WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE REGIMENT.

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+WATER ACTIVITIES SAFETY CARNIVAL+ AT REPULSE BAY

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A +WATER ACTIVITIES SAFETY CARNIVAL+, ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, WILL BE HELD AT REPULSE BAY ON MONDAY (AUGUST 28) FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M.

AS PART OF THE SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS CAMPAIGN, THE CARNIVAL AIMS AT PUTTING ACROSS THE +PLAY SAFE+ MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC WHEN TAKING PART IN VARIOUS AQUATIC SPORTS.

A FULL PROGRAMME OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND GAMES WILL BE HELD IN THE TWO-HOUR CARNIVAL. IT WILL INCLUDE TREASURE HUNT, DRAGON BOAT RACE, TEAM SPIRIT COMPETITION AND DEMONSTRATIONS GIVEN BY HONG KONG CANOE UNION, HONG KONG UNDERWATER FEDERATION, HONG KONG AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION AND ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY (HONG KONG BRANCH).

CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS, MR. CHAM SIU-LEUN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CARNIVAL ON MONDAY (AUGUST 28) AT REPULSE BAY. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A GOVERNMENT VAN (AM 2102) WILL LEAVE QUEEN'S PIER AT 8.30 A.M. SHARP.

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BUS RESTRICTION ON SHING MUN ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (AUGUST 28), SHING MUN ROAD NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WO YI HOP ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUSES, EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE DRIVERS.

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FIRING PRACTICE

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON FOUR DAYS NEXT WEEK.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF THE FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
AUGUST 29 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.
AUGUST 30 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.
AUGUST 31 (THURSDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 1 (FRIDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, August 26, 1978

SUPPLEMENT

SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR AT THE CONFERENCE ON
"RECREATION AND SPORT FOR PEOPLE-IN-EMPLOYMENT"

Ladies and Gentlemen :

The aim behind this conference is a most laudable and welcome one. In recent years in Hong Kong there has been an explosion of leisure-time requirements for outdoor recreation and cultural pursuits. This is true about all young people, but particularly about those in employment through the introduction of rest days and paid leave. There is a need to be filled.

Many organisations and associations in Hong Kong, including private clubs, voluntary agencies, local sports clubs, Clansmen's Associations, Kaifongs, District Sports Councils and many other groups have helped to fill this need.

However, the four main bodies most directly concerned are the National Associations and the Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee; the Urban Council; the school sports associations and the Hong Kong School Sports Council; and the new Government Recreation and Sports Service.

Overall the Council for Recreation and Sport advises the Government on how facilities for recreation sport in both the urban and rural areas may be expanded, and most effectively utilised, and how financial assistance should be given to amateur sports. The Council has a Community Recreation Sub-Committee, and the Chairman, Mr. F.K. Hu, will be joining in the panel discussion later today. Suitably Mr. Hu is also a member of the Urban Council which has made such an important contribution.

/ Government's

Government's overall policy objective is to encourage participation in active recreational pursuits and to ensure that adequate facilities are provided and properly managed and maintained at least for those activities, which appeal to large numbers of people. The aim is to provide facilities and services within easy reach of main centres of population free or at minimal charge and to enable the activities to be undertaken by the public in as safe an environment as possible.

Enlightened managements throughout the world recognise that tension and fatigue for those employed in modern high pressure industrial processes can be alleviated by programmes of recreation. Physical and mental health, productivity, efficiency, even industrial safety, can all be affected.

Employers who accept this point of view can help by assisting and encouraging their employees to benefit from recreation programmes and by showing them publicity material about the programmes which are being organised.

The formation of sports and recreation and welfare clubs in factories and business houses also contributes towards involving employees and management together in planning and carrying out recreation programmes, and the Recreation and Sports Service is there to advise and assist.

In considering what you can do you will certainly be moving with the times. An extraordinary revolution in the use of leisure has taken place in Hong Kong. Consider what has happened over the last ten years and is planned for the next. Since 1968 public swimming pool complexes have increased from two to eight and 14 more are planned over the next ten years mostly in the New Territories. There are now ten public outdoor stadia and sports complexes instead of three and by the mid-1980s there should be 13 more, including major stadia at Ho Man Tin, Tuen Mun and Sha Tin. Instead of no public indoor sports halls there are now four with two under construction, as well as the Queen Elizabeth stadium at Morrison Hill and that at Hung Hom. By the mid-1980s there will be a

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total of some 24 major public indoor sports buildings. With these facilities and the development of at least 250 hectares more public open space in urban areas, the opportunities for active recreation will be greatly enhanced.

The enjoyment of the countryside and Hong Kong's beaches has also developed strikingly. Formerly few ventured into the hills or even to the beaches, but by 1977 there were at least three million visits to our country parks and some 24 million to our beaches. The Country Parks Authority was only established in 1976, yet by the end of this year the Authority hopes to complete its designation of nearly half the total land surface of Hong Kong.

In 1968 the only places for public cultural performances were in the City Hall. Last year and this year have seen the establishment of the Hong Kong Arts Centre and the Baptist College Academic Community Hall and the next five years will see the completion of the Tsim Sha Tsui Cultural Complex as well as cultural complexes in Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and Sha Tin. The Government is providing these facilities in response to a growing demand for and awareness of the arts, encouraged by the top quality performances in local festivals and increasingly by our own local orchestras and artists.

Hong Kong is based on hard work, sound management, imaginative investment, and an ability to place first things first. Long may this continue. But recreation and intelligent use of leisure have their part to play in our rapidly evolving society. Because Hong Kong is so crowded and geographically so restricted, it is necessary for the Government and the community to play a much more positive part than elsewhere - providing, guiding, and planning for the public's use of leisure. It is in meeting this new challenge that I seek your further interest.

Today's conference programme will, I am sure, given you, as employers, a greater insight into what benefits can be derived both by management and the work force from a concerted effort to promote a programme of recreation and sports for people in employment.

I now have much pleasure in declaring the Conference open and wish you all an enjoyable and rewarding day.