



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK PLEDGES US\$50,000 TO ESCAP TO HELP DISABLED

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HONG KONG HAS PLEDGED US\$50,000 TO THE UNITED NATIONS' ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP) TO HELP PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF DISABLED PERSONS IN THE REGION.

THE PLEDGE WAS MADE BY DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MISS JACQUELINE WILLIS, WHEN ATTENDING A MEETING IN BEIJING LAST WEEK TO LAUNCH THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS 1993-2002.

MISS WILLIS TOLD THE MEETING THAT THE PLEDGE ALSO SHOWED THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT TO ESCAP.

"CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WILL NOT ONLY HELP FUND THE MANY WORTHY PROJECTS TO BE HELD IN THE DECADE BUT ALSO UNDERLINE OUR JOINT EFFORT AND CONVICTION TOWARDS OUR COMMON GOAL," SHE SAID.

SPEAKING UNDER ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM AT THE MEETING, MISS WILLIS SAID THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS 1983-1992 HAD BEEN A VERY FRUITFUL DECADE FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG WHERE THERE WAS A VERY COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PREVENTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF DISABILITIES.

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES ARE MAINLY PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH A NETWORK OF CLINICS AND IN 46 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES COVERING 370,000 WOMEN AND BABIES EACH YEAR," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS REPRESENTS 90 PER CENT COVERAGE OF ALL NEW BORN BABIES IN HONG KONG.

THERE IS ALSO PERINATAL CARE AVAILABLE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AT RISK, WHICH PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF PERINATAL DISORDERS THAT MAY LEAD TO MENTAL HANDICAP, CEREBRAL PALSY AND OTHER DISABILITIES.

"FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN, IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES ARE PROVIDED TO PREVENT COMMON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES," SHE SAID.

SHE ALSO DESCRIBED THE NEONATAL EXAMINATIONS AND SCREENING TESTS FOR ALL NEW BORN BABIES TO ENSURE THAT DISABILITIES WERE IDENTIFIED EARLY.

TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PERSONS, MISS WILLIS SAID SPECIAL CENTRES HAD BEEN SET UP TO PROVIDE CARE AND TRAINING TO DISABLED CHILDREN BEFORE THEY REACHED SCHOOL AGE.

LIKE ALL OTHER CHILDREN IN HONG KONG, DISABLED CHILDREN CAN RECEIVE NINE YEARS OF EDUCATION, EITHER IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS WITH SUPPORT SERVICES.

DISABLED SCHOOL LEAVERS, IF NECESSARY, ARE PROVIDED WITH JOB SKILLS TRAINING IN SPECIALLY DESIGNED COURSES.

/"TRAINED OFFICERS .....

"TRAINED OFFICERS ARE PROVIDED TO ASSIST GRADUATES FROM THESE COURSES AND OTHER DISABLED PERSONS IN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT," MISS WILLIS SAID.

"FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT YET READY FOR OPEN EMPLOYMENT, THERE IS SHELTERED AND SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT TO ENABLE THEM TO FULLY DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL," SHE SAID.

ON A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR ON HONG KONG'S REHABILITATION SERVICES AND POLICIES, MISS WILLIS SAID THERE WERE STILL SHORTFALLS IN CERTAIN AREAS, PARTICULARLY ON RESIDENTIAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

"TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF DISABLED PERSONS AND TO RELIEVE THEIR PARENTS OR CARERS OF THE BURDEN OF LOOKING AFTER THEM AT HOME, THE GOVERNOR HAS RECENTLY PLEDGED THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PLACES TO MEET THE DEMAND OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS," SHE SAID.

MISS WILLIS ALSO SAID HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO BE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ENHANCING ITS REHABILITATION SERVICES.

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JAPAN URGED TO SET UP BASES IN HK

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JAPANESE COMPANIES SEEKING TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THEIR OPERATIONS IN CHINA HAVE BEEN URGED TO IMMEDIATELY SET UP A Foothold IN HONG KONG.

THE ADVICE WAS GIVEN BY THE PRINCIPAL HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN TOKYO, MR DAVID LAN, IN A KEYNOTE SPEECH TO THE KEIZEI DOYUKAI (JAPAN ASSOCIATION OF CORPORATE EXECUTIVES).

HE TOLD THE BUSINESSMEN THAT HONG KONG WAS THE "BEST GATEWAY AND SPRINGBOARD TO CHINA" AND THERE WAS EVERY REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE.

MR LAN SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THIS OPTIMISM. THEY INCLUDED:

- \* CHINA'S EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH RATES WHICH HAD HELPED TO PROTECT HONG KONG AGAINST RECESSIONARY CONDITIONS THAT HAD AFFECTED MUCH OF THE WESTERN WORLD IN RECENT YEARS;
- \* THE RECENT SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION TO THE SECTION 301 NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES; AND

\* THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED POLICY OF FACILITATING ECONOMIC GROWTH BY ENSURING ADEQUATE PROVISION OF PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES.

MR LAN DESCRIBED THE GOVERNOR'S RECENT VISIT TO JAPAN AS A GREAT SUCCESS AND SAID THE MEETINGS HE HAD WITH THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER, OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS LEADERS HAD BEEN FRUITFUL.

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HK TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER SUPPLIES  
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HONG KONG'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF WATER SUPPLIES WILL COME UNDER THE LIMELIGHT AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN 1996.

WATER HONG KONG '96 - THE 10TH ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WATER SUPPLIES ASSOCIATION (IWSA) - HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE FROM OCTOBER 27 TO 31, 1996.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY TECHNICAL VISITS AND POST-CONFERENCE TOURS.

HONG KONG HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE IWSA AS THE VENUE FOR THE CONFERENCE AS A RESULT OF BIDDING MADE BY A DELEGATION OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AT THE ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP BOARD MEETING OF THE IWSA IN KUALA LUMPUR IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

AT THE MEETING, THE HONG KONG DELEGATION HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR M S HU, MADE A MOST CONVINCING PRESENTATION IN COMPETITION WITH BIDDING BY DELEGATIONS FROM BEIJING AND SYDNEY.

BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR KUALA LUMPUR, MR HU WAS PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR HIS BIDDING BY MANY PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES AND TERTIARY EDUCATION BODIES, CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND CONTRACTORS, AIRLINES, HOTELS AND TRAVEL AGENCIES.

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, HAS CONGRATULATED MR HU ON HIS SUCCESSFUL BIDDING.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT 600 OR MORE DELEGATES FROM OVER 20 COUNTRIES WILL ATTEND THE 10TH ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS IN THE WATER SUPPLIES INDUSTRY.

THE PROGRAMME WILL PRIMARILY INCLUDE TECHNICAL SESSIONS AND VISITS COVERING SUBJECTS ON WATER RESOURCES, WATER TREATMENT, AND PLANNING, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS.

AN EXHIBITION BY CONSULTANTS, CONTRACTORS, SUPPLIERS AND MANUFACTURERS RELATED TO THE WATER SUPPLIES INDUSTRY WILL BE HELD CONCURRENTLY WITH THE CONFERENCE.

/MR HU, .....

MR HU, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC BOARD OF THE IWSA, POINTED OUT THAT THE EVENT WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF WATER SUPPLY.

IT WILL FOSTER GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WATER EXPERTS AMONG COUNTRY MEMBERS OF THE IWSA, HE ADDED.

OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF WATER SUPPLY, THE EVENT WOULD ALSO ENHANCE THE PROFILE OF HONG KONG AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY.

IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE IWSA, HOSTED THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON "ALUMINIUM IN DRINKING WATER".

"THIS EVENT, ALTHOUGH OF A MUCH SMALLER SCALE THAN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE, HAS PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT WITH VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY-RELATED GATHERING," HE SAID.

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#### CAMPAIGN ON CONSTRUCTION SITES A SUCCESS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN ON CONSTRUCTION SITES TO REMIND EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SITE SAFETY TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR MR KAN HON-SANG SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) DURING THE TWO-PHASE CAMPAIGN MOUNTED BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY, AND BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, FACTORY INSPECTORS INSPECTED A TOTAL OF 422 CONSTRUCTION SITES INCLUDING 39 CAISSON SITES.

DURING THE INSPECTIONS, FACTORY INSPECTORS CONCENTRATED ON HIGH RISK AREAS SUCH AS PLACES WHICH MAY CAUSE FALLS OF PERSONS AND CAISSON WORK.

THE USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS THE SAFE OPERATION OF LIFTING EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS, AND HOUSE-KEEPING WERE ALSO LOOKED AT, MR KAN SAID.

MR KAN SAID ENFORCEMENT ACTION WAS TAKEN OUT AGAINST 224 SITES FOR SERIOUS BREACHES OF SAFETY REGULATIONS RESULTING IN THE ISSUING OF 475 SUMMONSES, INCLUDING 30 SUMMONSES AGAINST 19 CAISSON SITES.

AMONG THE SUMMONSES, 256 WERE OFFENCES RELATED TO FALL FROM A HEIGHT, 67 RELATED TO THE SAFE USE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND 49 ON ELECTRICAL SAFETY.

THERE IS ALSO ONE SUMMONS AGAINST A WORKER FOR NOT WEARING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTOR, HE ADDED.

UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, IT IS THE DUTY OF THE EMPLOYERS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF WORKERS BY PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING A SAFE WORKING PLACE.

MR KAN REITERATED THAT WORKERS MUST ALSO CO-OPERATE WITH EMPLOYERS AND USE THE REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO AVOID BEING INJURED.

"OUR INSPECTORS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION AND WILL MOUNT MORE OPERATIONS, IF NECESSARY, TO SEE TO IT THE SAFETY LAW IS BEING OBSERVED," HE SAID.

HE SAID UNSCRUPULOUS CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS WHO CHOSE TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW WOULD BE PROSECUTED.

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#### NEW APPLICATION ARRANGEMENT FOR DUMPING LICENCES

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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) A NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC DUMPING LICENCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ALL APPLICATIONS FOR DUMPING LICENCES FOR NEXT YEAR SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PORT WORKS, FIFTH FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON.

UNDER THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE, A LICENCE IS REQUIRED FOR DUMPING ON CROWN LAND ON HONG KONG ISLAND, IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT PUBLIC DUMPING LICENCE CONDITIONS HAD RECENTLY BEEN RELAXED TO PERMIT THE DISPOSAL OF BROKEN ROCK AND CONCRETE OVER 250 MILLIMETRES IN SIZE AND SMALL QUANTITIES OF TIMBER AT THE DESIGNATED SITES.

THE OTHER MATERIALS ALLOWED UNDER A DUMPING LICENCE ARE EARTH AND BUILDING DEBRIS FREE FROM MARINE MUD, HOUSEHOLD REFUSE, PLASTIC, METAL, INDUSTRIAL AND CHEMICAL WASTE, ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATTER, AND OTHER UNSUITABLE MATERIALS.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1992

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FRESH WATER CUT IN SAI KUNG

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SAI KUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 8) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES INCLUDE THOSE AT PO TUNG ROAD, SAI KUNG YEE KUK STREET, TAK LUNG BACK STREET, TAK LUNG FRONT STREET, SAI KUNG TAI STREET, WANG STREET, SAI KUNG MAIN STREET, SAI KUNG ROAD, SEE CHEUNG STREET, SAI KUNG HOI PONG STREET, TAN CHEUNG, YAU MA PO AND FUI YIU HA.

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