



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, October 27, 1973

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FIRST CONTROLLED MARINE DEPARTMENT CARGO
HANDLING BASIN UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Hong Kong's first large scale cargo handling basin is now being built on the Wan Chai Reclamation while 10 other similar facilities are being planned or under construction.

Disclosing this today, a spokesman for the Marine Department said that the cargo handling basins are being built to cater the future demand of the ever increasing conventional lighter cargo operations on the waterfronts up to the early 1980's.

The spokesman said the Wan Chai Cargo Handling Basin was a pilot scheme which will provide comprehensive cargo handling facilities for vessels and vehicles.

It will include a canteen, toilets, shower facilities and public telephones for workers using the Basin. An administrative building and shroffs office will be located within the compound.

The Basin, to be managed by the Marine Department, is located on the Wan Chai Reclamation east of the ferry pier concourse.

There will be a concrete apron adjacent to the whole length of seawall backed up by a 25-foot wide lorry parking strip. Apart from this, there will be a 35-foot wide carriageway within the Basin.

"Construction of road and drainage works on the site is now in full swing and it is expected to be completed in May next year," the spokesman added.

/"Vehicles

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"Vehicles will be charged at an hourly rate for time spent in the Basin and day and night rates will differ," the spokesman said.

However, no vehicle, or vessels will in general be allowed to occupy space at the Basin unless actually working cargo.

In Kwun Tong, a cargo handling basin will also be built on the waterfront at the extension of Hoi Bun Road to be run on similar lines to Wan Chai.

Sites for other cargo handling basins have been earmarked on the reclamation at Chai Wan, Shaukiwan, Western Reclamation, Kowloon Bay, Tong Mei Road in Tai Kok Tsui, Shamshuipo, Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan and Castle Peak.

In the meantime, additional temporary public cargo handling areas will be allocated on the future reclamation in Central to the west of the Macau Ferry Terminal and Shamshuipo to relieve the heavy congestion at the existing public cargo waterfronts on both sides of the harbour.

Last year, a total of 6.3 million deadweight tons of cargo was handled over all public cargo waterfronts.

About 2,000 port working craft, excluding small tugs for towing lighters, are now involved in traditional cargo operations within the port. Such craft include non-motorised steel lighters and motorised wooden cargo junks.

"Comprehensive legislation is in its final stages which will give the Director of Marine control over designated areas of the waterfront which will be either enclaves similar to Wan Chai or more open public waterfronts," the spokesman disclosed.

/"Other

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"Other waterfronts will then be excluded from cargo working activities," he stressed.

"The legislation will give control over vehicles, vessels and persons in such enclaves or areas and will enable the Director of Marine to remove anything causing obstruction, including any cargoes which are abandoned or causing obstruction," the spokesman added.

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G.I.S. OFFICER POSTED TO COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

Note to Editors: Mr. Brian Hickman, Principal Information Officer, has been appointed Public Relations Officer to the Commerce and Industry Department. He is on secondment from the Government Information Services.

Mr. Hickman's office is in Commerce and Industry Department headquarters at 46, Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong, and his telephone number is 5-257749.

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WARNING AGAINST IMPOSTERS

Members of the public are warned against imposters selling advertising space in official publications of the Inland Revenue Department and soliciting funds for charities.

A spokesman for the department said today that reports were received from time to time of such people who claim to be officers of the department.

"The department does not insert any advertisement in the information pamphlets it issues to the public nor does it solicit funds for charities," he emphasized.

Under special circumstances, an officer of the department -- acting in his official capacity -- may call personally to make enquiries or to deliver correspondence such as urgent demand notes for unpaid tax.

"However the officer who makes the delivery is not permitted to receive cash or cheques in settlement of the demand note.

"Payment must be made only to the listed official revenue collection centres," the spokesman added.

The officer must have both an identity card and a written authority, with his photograph, from the Commissioner of Inland Revenue issued specifically for the purpose.

"Any caller should be asked to produce these identification documents before entry," the spokesman stressed.

He added that if anyone had any doubt as to the caller's request or intention the Deputy Commissioner should be contacted immediately at telephone No. 5-95270, or the Principal Tax Inspector at telephone No. 5-248001 extension 21.

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GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER RETIRES

Mr. J.M. Pettigrew, Government Water Engineer, is retiring after 22 years' service with the Government.

Mr. Pettigrew was first appointed as a Mechanical Engineer in November 1951. In 1961 he was promoted to Senior Engineer, and again to Chief Mechanical Engineer in 1965. He was promoted to his present post in the following year.

To mark the occasion, Mr. A.S. Robertson, Director of Public Works; and Mr. W.T. Knight, Director of Water Supplies, will be presenting Mr. Pettigrew with a gift on behalf of his colleagues in the Waterworks Office.

The presentation ceremony will be held on Tuesday (October 30), the same day that Mr. Pettigrew is going on pre-retirement leave.

Note to Editors: The ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday in the conference room of the Public Works Department on the 21st floor of Murray Building. You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the event.

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IMPROVEMENT OF DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Work to improve the drainage system and stability of the slopes in the Shau Kei Wan Village areas is expected to begin next month.

The work, which will take about 15 months to complete, involves the construction of retaining walls and about 4,000 feet of stormwater drains.

On completion, the risk of flooding during the rainy season will be greatly reduced.

Also to be improved is a stormwater drainage system near the Children's Orthopaedic Hospital and Convalescent Home at Sandy Bay.

The improvement work will involve the replacement of the existing stormwater drain by a 320-foot culvert.

The work, expected to begin in December, will take about six months to complete.

Both projects have been designed by the Drainage Works Division of the Civil Engineering Office of the Public Works Department.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.