



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SEM welcomes appointment of new VTC Executive Director

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The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, welcomed the appointment yesterday of Professor Lee Ngok as the next Executive Director of the Vocational Training Council (VTC).

As Executive Director, one of Professor Lee's major responsibilities will be to take forward to the implementation stage those recommendations which the Government will eventually adopt following its strategic review of the Vocational Training Council.

"All those within the Government who are involved in vocational education and training look forward to working with Professor Lee in the coming years", said Mr Wong.

Paying tribute to the retiring Executive Director, Mr Horace Knight, Mr Wong said that Mr Knight had played a key role in the development of vocational education and training in Hong Kong.

"The VTC has many strengths and has achieved a great deal over the years", said Mr Wong.

"Professor Lee will be able to build upon Mr Knight's efforts as he leads the VTC into the 21st century".

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## HAD studies the setting up of Building Management Resource Centre

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The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has formed a working group to study the setting up of a resource/enquiry centre on building management to provide more comprehensive assistance to members of the public, owners' corporations (OCs) and building management personnel, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the Building Management Seminar '97, Mrs Lau hoped that the proposed centre would provide the necessary professional advice on building management including legal counsel, repair and maintenance of buildings, finance and personnel management.

"We are now inviting various professional organisations to join in the project and the working group will soon submit a report on the issue to the Secretary for Home Affairs for his consideration," she said.

Mrs Lau also detailed the measures taken by HAD to assist owners in improving building management and handling related problems.

"One of these measures is using legislative means to help owners carry out their building management duties and the Building Management Ordinance was amended in 1993 to facilitate the formation of OCs."

In order to enhance public understanding and arouse their concern over building management issues, HAD and its district offices have regularly organised promotional and educational activities on building management such as seminars, talks and training courses. Leaflets, booklets and videotapes on the subject have also been produced.

HAD is also actively encouraging and assisting owners to form OCs. The staff will pay regular visits to OCs once they are established to give advice on management issues.

As to buildings with management problems, Mrs Lau said nine Building Management Co-ordination Teams (BMCTs) had been formed in nine districts by HAD since 1985. These teams gave owners practical advice on the improvement of building management, and co-operated with other government departments in rendering assistance.

"Over the past 12 years, about 1,000 'target' buildings have been selected by BMCTs for inclusion in the improvement programme. More than 400 of them have seen promising improvement and the Department will continue to work on the remaining buildings on the action list.

"Every year, HAD tries to get more buildings to join the improvement project, hoping that more problematic buildings can benefit from it."

Mrs Lau also pointed out that to meet the residents' needs, HAD had stepped up supporting services to them since mid-1995.

One of these is to strengthen staff training, which covers relevant legal aspects and the provision of guidelines to help them handle enquiries from OCs.

Additionally, the number of liaison officers will increase by 10 per cent and more staff will be deployed to the Building Management Team in the headquarters in the coming financial year.

Mrs Lau stressed that HAD had been allocating huge resources and manpower in carrying out the building management work.

The Building Management Seminar '97 was jointly organised by HAD and the Housing Department, with more than 800 flat owners, office-bearers of OCs and mutual aid committees, and building management professionals participating.

Five professionals spoke on their respective areas of expertise, including the formation of OCs in Home Ownership estates, building electricity maintenance, building repair and maintenance, the Building Safety Inspection Scheme and legal aspects of building management.

Apart from an exhibition highlighting the major aspects of building management, the Fire Services Department had also set up a booth with staff from the department on hand to provide professional advice and answer participants' enquiries on fire prevention.

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## 6,000 students benefit from Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund

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The Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund has supported more than 6,000 students since it was set up in 1987. More than 560 scholars and fellows have completed their studies and are now working in Hong Kong in different fields, contributing to the well being and development of the territory.

This year 855 students were granted awards and scholarships under the Fund to pursue their studies.

An annual awards presentation ceremony, together with a variety show, was held at City Hall this (Saturday) evening to mark the 10th anniversary of the Fund.

Lady Youde, who presented the awards at the ceremony, thanked the donors for their generous support.

"The success of the Fund has all been made possible by the generous support we have received from very many people.

"We are particularly indebted to those who worked so hard to set up the Fund in 1987; and here I should like to pay special tribute to our first Chairman of the Council, the late Stephen Cheong," Lady Youde said.

"I am deeply grateful to my colleagues, past and present, who have devoted long hours to serving on the Board and Council. It is due to the determination and vision of members such as Sir Quo-wei Lee, Chairman of the Board for seven years that we are able to celebrate ten years of growth and success."

The Fund has disbursed a total of \$12.6 million in the 1996-97 academic year. Awards made include 12 awards for overseas studies; four medals for students who have obtained outstanding results in public examinations; 17 awards for disabled students; 89 scholarships for diploma and undergraduate students; 41 fellowships for post-graduate students and 691 prizes for senior secondary school students.

Exclusive sponsorship in the amount of \$600,000 towards the Young Friends of the Hong Kong Arts Festival Scheme has continued in 1996-97 with the aim to increase secondary school students' exposure to the performing arts.

The visiting professorship scheme, first launched by the Fund in 1995-96, aims to promote cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the other parts of the world. This year, two eminent scholars, namely Prof Alan Baker of the Department of Mathematics, University of Cambridge and Prof Robert J Sternberg of the Department of Applied Social Studies, Yale University, have been selected for the award. They will visit Hong Kong sometime in April and May 1997 to conduct seminars and deliver public lectures.

Competition for the overseas fellowships and scholarships for 1997-98 was keen. 12 students from 221 applicants have won the awards. They will each receive a maximum of \$228,000 and \$210,000 a year for a fellowship award and a scholarship award respectively. They are required to return to work in Hong Kong for at least three years after completion of their studies.

An overseas award exclusively for disabled students was introduced in 1994. The 1997-98 scholarship recipient is a visually impaired student who plans to study Psychology at Rice University in USA.

Four students who obtained outstanding results in the 1996 public examinations have been awarded the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Medals.

A total of \$356,429 has been expended on the Award Scheme for the Disabled Students, under which 17 students have been provided with financial assistance for the purchase of study aids.

This year, 35 postgraduate students have been awarded the local fellowship at \$38,000 each and 89 undergraduate/diploma students have been awarded the local scholarship at \$22,000 each. In addition, 6 postgraduate students have had their local fellowships renewed.

The variety show, which came after the presentation ceremony, featured performances by several Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund music scholars, students of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Kam Sze Leung's Band and local performing stars Cass Pang, George Lam and Albert Au.

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### Information kit to promote film classification system

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The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) has recently produced an information kit on the film classification system and film censorship standards for distribution to secondary schools and parent/teacher associations.

The kit, consists of pamphlets, posters and fact sheets, is part of TELA's publicity campaign to enhance young people's understanding of the current three-tier film classification system.

It also aims at arousing a greater awareness among parents and teachers of their role in providing guidance for their children or their students in the selection of films.

A spokesman for TELA said today (Sunday): "We hope school principles and teachers will support our campaign by using the information in the kit as part of their curriculum.

"I am sure it will help increase the students' knowledge on the system and provide useful guidance in their choice of films, thus helping them to choose films suitable for them," he added.

Besides, staff from TELA will visit schools regularly to give further information on the film classification system.

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### Winners performances of Schools Dance Festival

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The Prize Presentation and Winners Performances of the 33rd Schools Dance Festival will be held in April.

The performances are jointly presented by the Education Department, the Urban Council, the Regional Council and the Hong Kong Schools Sports Council.

A selection of Chinese, Oriental, Modern and Western Folk/National Dances will be performed by students who have attained honours awards in the festival this January.

Some 4,400 students from 239 schools participated in this annual event.

The Overall Challenge Awards of the Secondary and Primary School Sections went to SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School and Sam Shui Natives' Association School (AM) respectively.

St Paul's Convent School, Sacred Heart Canossian College and Bishop Hall Jubilee School attained the first, second and third runners-up of the Secondary School Section.

Yaumati Catholic Primary School (AM), Dr Catherine F Woo Memorial School (AM) and Yaumati Catholic Primary School (PM) were the first, second and third runners-up of the Primary School Section.

Meanwhile, Sacred Heart Canossian College and Yaumati Catholic Primary School (PM) were awarded as the Most Progressive Schools.

Winners performances will be held at the Auditorium, Tsuen Wan Town Hall on April 1 (Tuesday) and April 2 (Wednesday); and at the Concert Hall, City Hall on April 16 (Wednesday) and April 17 (Thursday) at 7.30 pm.

Tickets of \$35 and \$45 are available at URBTIX. There will be a 10 per cent discount for each purchase of 10 or more tickets.

Student tickets of \$25 are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

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#### Fresh water cut in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong will be suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (March 19) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

In Sham Shui Po, the suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Cheung Sha Wan Road, Nam Cheong Street, Un Chau Street, Shek Kip Mei Street, Fuk Wing Street and Wong Chuk Street.

In Kwun Tong, the suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Kwun Tong Road, Tung Yan Street, Hip Wo Street, Wan Hon Street, Sui Wo Street, Shung Yan Street and Hong Ning Road, as well as those in Ka Lok Street, and Cheung On House and Hing On House of Wo Lok Estate.

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