



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK HOSTS CONFERENCE ON TRADE FACILITATION
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THE HONG KONG TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE WILL HOST A FAR EAST-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON TRADE FACILITATION ON MARCH 18-19 AT THE HONG KONG HILTON, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE CONFERENCE PROVIDES A FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE ON SIMPLIFICATION OF TRADE DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES.

OVERSEAS PARTICIPANTS AND THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL BENEFIT FROM UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION DEVELOPMENT AND THE APPLICATION OF ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING IN TRADE DATA COMMUNICATION.

GENERAL PROBLEMS OF TRADE FACILITATION AND PROGRESS IN THE ALIGNMENT OF PAPER DOCUMENTS WILL BE DISCUSSED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE. THE SECOND DAY WILL BE DEVOTED TO ELECTRONIC DATA COMMUNICATION.

TRADE FACILITATION EXPERTS FROM THE U.S., U.K. AND CANADA WILL SPEAK ON THEIR NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING TRADE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEMS. SPEAKERS FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, LEADING LOCAL TRANSPORT, BANKING, COMMERCIAL AND ACADEMIC SECTORS WILL REVIEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE OF INTEREST TO ALL BUSINESS EXECUTIVES WHO WISH TO BRING THEMSELVES UP-TO-DATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE DATA COMMUNICATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, INCLUDING THE

CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION,
HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,

OR FROM THE SECRETARY, TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE, C/O TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1535, OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

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HAD ENQUIRY COUNTERS GROWING POPULAR

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THERE WAS A 35 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CALLERS AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR.

THE 27 ENQUIRY COUNTERS ANSWERED THE REQUESTS OF A TOTAL OF 5 223 666 PEOPLE, COMPARED WITH 3 870 205 IN 1979.

OF THESE REQUESTS, 1 866 456 WERE ENQUIRIES, 3 154 264 WERE FOR GOVERNMENT FORMS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS, AND 202 946 FOR HELP IN SOLVING MORE COMPLICATED PROBLEMS.

SUBJECTS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED WERE: TECHNICAL EDUCATION (98 010 OR 5.3 PER CENT OF ALL REQUESTS HANDLED), HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (89 111 OR 4.8 PER CENT), LOCATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES (70 775 OR 3.8 PER CENT), GOVERNMENT JOBS AND VACANCIES (62 666 OR 3.4 PER CENT), AND PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING TIME (52 189 OR 2.8 PER CENT).

GOVERNMENT FORMS IN GREATEST DEMAND WERE THOSE APPLYING FOR: CIVIL SERVICE JOBS (328 768), HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS (255 356), ADMISSION TO THE POLYTECHNIC AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES (211 372), SPONSORSHIP OF COMMUNITY CHEST WALKS (164 996), AND PRIVATE CANDIDATE ENTRY TO GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS (110 519).

THE MAJORITY (95 PER CENT) OF THE MORE COMPLICATED REQUESTS FOR SERVICE WERE FOR PROCESSING OF STATUTORY DECLARATIONS. THESE WERE NEEDED BY THE CALLERS FOR APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS, ENTRY TO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, SITTING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, MARRIAGE REGISTRATION, AND EMIGRATION.

AT PRESENT, PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS ARE LOCATED AT THE 10 CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, THEIR 16 SUB-OFFICES, AND THE INFORMATION SECTION OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IN INTERNATIONAL BUILDING.

TWO MORE COUNTERS WILL OPEN LATER THIS YEAR TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND FOR SERVICE IN STANLEY AND TSIM SHA TSUI.

BESIDES DISTRIBUTING FORMS, ADMINISTERING STATUTORY DECLARATIONS AND ADVISING ON THE SERVICES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND SOME SEMI-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, COUNTER STAFF ALSO HELP IN SOLVING PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND COMPLAINTS, THE MORE COMPLICATED OF WHICH ARE REFERRED TO THE SPECIALIST DEPARTMENTS.

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DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN COMMUNITY SPIRIT CRITICAL
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADEQUATE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND ADEQUATE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN IS NOW CRITICAL, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE, SAID TODAY.

DR HASE WAS SPEAKING TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF TSUEN WAN ON +COMMUNITY BUILDING IN A NEW TOWN+.

HE SAID THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN, AFTER A FEW MINOR INITIAL PROBLEMS, HAD SETTLED DOWN TO A REASONABLY SMOOTH ROUTINE.

+WHAT IS NOW CRITICAL - AND IT IS A MATTER WHICH HAS UP TO NOW BEEN SLIGHTLY LOST SIGHT OF IN THE TERRIFIC PRESSURE OF GETTING THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME INTO GEAR - IS THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN- THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADEQUATE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND ADEQUATE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE,+ DR HASE SAID.

HE SAID WHEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN BEGAN, THE POPULATION THERE WAS BARELY 30 000.

WHEN COMPLETE IT WOULD BE 750 000.

IN OTHER WORDS, MORE THAN 700 000 OF THE EVENTUAL POPULATION WOULD HAVE HAD NO PREVIOUS CONNECTION WITH SHA TIN.

THESE NEWCOMERS WOULD HAVE COME TO SHA TIN FROM SQUATTER AREAS CLEARED FOR DEVELOPMENT, OLD MARK I HOUSING ESTATES UNDERGOING REDEVELOPMENT, FROM FAMILIES ON THE WAITING LIST, FROM EVERY TYPE OF AREA, FROM EVERY CORNER OF HONG KONG.

IN A NEW HOUSING ESTATE BLOCK THE NEW RESIDENTS WERE UNLIKELY TO KNOW ANY OTHER SINGLE FAMILY- ALL THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIONS WOULD BE IN OTHER PLACES.

+CLEARLY THIS IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM OF SOME IMPORTANCE,+ DR HASE SAID.

+MAN IS A SOCIAL ANIMAL AND FEELS UNEASY IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE HE HAS NO CLOSE SOCIAL CONTACTS.

+IT HAS BEEN SHOWN FROM MANY COUNTRIES THAT, WHERE A POPULATION CONSISTS MERELY OF LARGE NUMBERS OF ROOTLESS PERSONS, FAMILY PROBLEMS, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTURBANCES, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, VANDALISM, CRIME AND RIOT WILL ALL BE FAR MORE FREQUENT THAN IN MORE LONG ESTABLISHED AREAS WITH A VIABLE COMMUNITY IN WHICH EACH FAMILY, EACH PERSON, HAS HIS OWN CIRCLE OF FRIENDS AND RELATIONS.+

HE SAID 96 PER CENT OF THE EVENTUAL POPULATION OF SHA TIN WOULD BE PRECISELY SUCH ROOTLESS NEWCOMERS- CLEARLY THE RISK OF ESTABLISHING AN UNHAPPY AND DISSATISFIED POPULATION WAS DEEPLY INHERENT IN OUR NEW TOWN PROGRAMME AND WAS INDEED COMPOUNDED BY THE VERY SPEED AND SIZE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT.

/+OUR AIM

+OUR AIM IN THE NEW TOWNS IS TO PROVIDE A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND NOT MERELY A MORE EXTENSIVE URBAN AREA FOR HONG KONG,+ HE CONTINUED.

+WE SHALL HAVE FAILED TOTALLY IF THE NEW POPULATION IS UNHAPPY OR DISSATISFIED.

+CLEARLY, THEREFORE, BUILDING A VIABLE NEW COMMUNITY IS A MATTER OF SOME URGENCY, PARTICULARLY AS THE NEW POPULATION IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO ARRIVE AT THE RATE OF 5 000 PERSONS A MONTH.+

DR HASE SAID BUILDING A NEW, STABLE, VIABLE AND SATISFYING COMMUNITY WAS NOT, HOWEVER, AN EASY MATTER.

IT WAS SOMETHING WHICH COULD NOT BE IMPOSED FROM OUTSIDE - IF ANY ORGANISATION TRIED TO BUILD A COMMUNITY FROM OUTSIDE SUCH A COMMUNITY WOULD REMAIN ARTIFICIAL AND SHALLOW AND WAS UNLIKELY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

A VIABLE COMMUNITY MUST GROW FROM WITHIN= THE TASK OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT BY ENCOURAGING AND PROVIDING A SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE AND ENVIRONMENT FOR THIS INTERNAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO OCCUR.

HE SAID A VIABLE COMMUNITY REQUIRED A STRUCTURE OF COMMUNITY GROUPS, FORMED OF NUMBERS OF RESIDENTS, LINKED TOGETHER IN SOME SORT OF NETWORK.

SUCH A STRUCTURE PROVIDED THE SKELETON, AS IT WERE, FOR THE LESS FORMAL GROUPS OF FRIENDS WHICH PROVIDED THE BULK OF ANY REAL COMMUNITY.

A SUCCESSFUL FORMAL COMMUNITY GROUP WOULD VERY QUICKLY DEVELOP AROUND IT INFORMAL GROUPS OF FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES, AND WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ENCOURAGEMENT AND EXAMPLE TO OTHERS TO GET TOGETHER ON A FRIENDLY BASIS.

ONCE SUCH A STRUCTURE WAS OPERATIONAL A REAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT WOULD BEGIN TO GROW.

MOST PEOPLE HAD ONLY A MODEST DEGREE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT, BUT SOME HAD A GOOD DEAL.

IF THOSE WITH A GOOD DEAL OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT GATHERED THEMSELVES INTO SUITABLE GROUPS WITH AN ENERGETIC AND VIGOROUS LIFE, THEN THEIR COMMUNITY SPIRIT WOULD GROW AND FLOURISH= THE ORDINARY CITIZEN WOULD FIND HIS COMMUNITY SPIRIT GROWING TOO AS A RESULT OF THE EXAMPLE GIVEN.

+IN ANY STRUCTURE IT IS THE BASE WHICH PROVIDES THE STABILITY FOR THE WHOLE, AND THIS IS TRUE OF A COMMUNITY STRUCTURE EQUALLY WITH ANY OTHER,+ DR HASE SAID.

+OUR PRIMARY AIM, THEREFORE, IS TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS AND ASSIST THEM TO FORM COMMUNITY GROUPS AT THE MOST BASIC LEVEL, THAT OF THE INDIVIDUAL HOUSING BLOCK.

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+AS EACH BLOCK IS COMPLETED AND THE NEW RESIDENTS MOVE IN, WE AIM TO VISIT EACH FAMILY OVER A PERIOD OF A FEW WEEKS, TO IDENTIFY THOSE INDIVIDUALS WILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR TIME TO THE BETTERMENT OF THEIR BLOCK, AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO FORM THEMSELVES INTO AN MAC.+

DR HASE SAID WHAT WE WERE DOING IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY BUILDING IN THE NEW TOWN WAS TO TRY TO ASSIST RESIDENTS TO DEVELOP A SOCIAL STRUCTURE ALONGSIDE THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE BEING PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

AS WELL AS CHECKING THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES, THE WORK INVOLVED IDENTIFYING PUBLIC SPIRITED RESIDENTS, ENCOURAGING THEM TO FORM A SKELETON OF COMMUNITY GROUPS, AND ASSISTING THEM BY INDICATING AREAS OF WORK IN WHICH THEY COULD FUNCTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TWO DANGERS OF EITHER TRYING TO DO TOO MUCH BY TRYING TO FORM A SOCIETY FOR RESIDENTS RATHER THAN MERELY ASSISTING RESIDENTS TO FORM ONE THEMSELVES, OR TRYING TO DO TOO LITTLE HAD TO BE AVOIDED.

+THE JOB IS DELICATE, TIME-CONSUMING AND DIFFICULT, BUT ITS NEED IS CLEAR AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TREMENDOUS,+ DR HASE SAID.

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HK REPRESENTED AT REGIONAL FISHERIES MEETING

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HONG KONG WILL BE REPRESENTED AT AN IMPORTANT REGIONAL MEETING ON FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND STOCK ASSESSMENT WHICH BEGINS IN THE PHILIPPINES TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, LEFT FOR MANILA TODAY TO REPRESENT HONG KONG AT THIS FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

THE MEETING IS SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATING PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS' FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION.

DURING THE FOUR-DAY MEETING, DELEGATES FROM A NUMBER OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WILL DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS CONNECTED WITH FISHERIES MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND STOCK ASSESSMENT.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS FISHERIES POLICIES OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES, AND AREAS WHERE MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RESULTS SHOULD BE MADE.

BEFORE RETURNING TO HONG KONG, MR RIDDELL-SWAN WILL VISIT VARIOUS FISHERIES ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES TO DISCUSS FISHERIES MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST WITH OFFICIALS THERE.

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NEW CHANCES FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING

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PART-TIME IN-SERVICE COURSES OF TRAINING FOR TEACHERS (ICTT) IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE OFFERED ON BOTH A TWO-YEAR AND THREE-YEAR BASIS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER THERE WILL BE NO INTAKE TO ICTT COURSES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR, HE SAID.

THESE COURSES ARE PROVIDED BY COLLEGES OF EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS NOW EMPLOYED IN AIDED OR PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHO, ALTHOUGH SUITABLY QUALIFIED ACADEMICALLY, DO NOT POSSESS THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS TO MAKE THEM ELIGIBLE FOR CLASSIFICATION AS +QUALIFIED TEACHERS+.

THE CHANGES ARE IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A POLICY STATEMENT ON ICTT COURSES CONTAINED IN THE 1978 WHITE PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE COURSES NOW OFFER A WIDER RANGE OF ELECTIVE SUBJECT AREAS. APPLICANTS, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOTE THAT THE ELECTIVES ART AND DESIGN, MUSIC AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION ARE OFFERED ONLY ON THE THREE-YEAR COURSES.

CONTENTS OF THE COURSES INCLUDE LECTURES AND TUTORIALS, AND SUPERVISION OF PRACTICAL TEACHING OVER THE PERIOD OF TRAINING.

PARTICIPANTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE COURSES WILL BE AWARDED CERTIFICATES ACCORDING QUALIFIED TEACHER STATUS.

SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WILL BE CONDUCTING THE COURSES IN CHINESE WHILE NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WILL CONDUCT THEM IN ENGLISH.

NO TUITION FEES WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE TRAINING COURSES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE TWO-YEAR COURSES WILL BE RUN ON A DAY-RELEASE BASIS ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM= WHILE THE THREE-YEAR COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THREE EVENINGS A WEEK FROM 4.30 PM TO 6.30 PM.

APPLICANTS SHOULD EITHER BE FULL-TIME PERMITTED OR REGISTERED TEACHERS IN PRIVATE OR AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS= GRADUATES OF HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE (FROM 1970), HONG KONG SHUE YAN COLLEGE (FROM 1976) OR LINGNAN COLLEGE, HONG KONG (FROM 1979)= OR FINAL YEAR STUDENTS AT THESE THREE POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES.

ONLY GRADUATES OR FINAL YEAR STUDENTS OF THE THREE COLLEGES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TWO-YEAR DAY-RELEASE COURSES.

THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE THREE-YEAR EVENING COURSES ARE FIVE SUBJECTS AT GRADE E OR ABOVE, INCLUDING THE LANGUAGE RELEVANT TO THE COURSE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION= OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION JOINT SELECTION BOARD.

/APPLICANTS WHO

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APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO STUDY ART AND DESIGN, MUSIC OR PHYSICAL EDUCATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A PRACTICAL TEST IN THE SUBJECT SELECTED.

ALL APPLICATION FORMS AND GUIDANCE NOTES ARE AVAILABLE FROM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, LEE GARDENS, 3RD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG, AND ITS SUB-OFFICE AT 405 NATHAN ROAD, 6TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

FORMS FOR THE ENGLISH COURSES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG= AND FORMS FOR THE CHINESE COURSES ARE AVAILABLE FROM SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, CALDECOTT ROAD, PIPER'S HILL, KOWLOON.

+AN APPLICANT MAY SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR ONLY ONE COURSE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COMPLETED FORMS, IN DUPLICATES, SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE JOINT SELECTION BOARD AND FORWARDED TOGETHER WITH PHOTOCOPIES OF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION TO WHICH ADMISSION IS SOUGHT BY NOON ON FEBRUARY 28.

IF THE APPLICANT IS CURRENTLY TEACHING, HIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE HEAD OF SCHOOL.

IN THE CASE OF FINAL YEAR STUDENTS OF THE THREE POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE PRESIDENTS OF THE COLLEGES= WHILE GRADUATES OF THESE COLLEGES SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS IN PERSON.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE ABOVE TRAINING COURSES DID NOT INCLUDE TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, AND INFORMATION ON THESE COURSES WOULD BE ISSUED SEPARATELY AT A LATER DATE.

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NEEDY FAMILIES RECEIVE LUCKY MONEY PACKETS

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ABOUT 2 500 WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WILL SHORTLY RECEIVE A LUNAR NEW YEAR +LAI SEE+ PACKET FROM A CHARITABLE FUND ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

DONORS OF THE TANG SHIU-KIN/HO TIM CHARITABLE FUND HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE THE TRADITIONAL GRANT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, WHO IS THE TRUSTEE OF THE FUND.

WIDOW OR WIDOWER FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WILL EACH BE GIVEN A RED PACKET OF \$100.

THE PACKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S NETWORK OF 26 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

/SIR SHIU-KIN

SIR SHIU-KIN TANG AND MR HO TIM, TOGETHER WITH THE DIRECTOR, WILL PERSONALLY PRESENT THE RED PACKETS AT ONE OF THE DISTRIBUTION PLACES.

THE FUND, FOUNDED BY SIR SHIU-KIN AND MR HO IN 1977, PROVIDES IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES FACING A LIFE CRISIS.

IT HELPS THEM TO COPE WITH HARDSHIPS ARISING FROM UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS DEATH OF A BREADWINNER, AN ACCIDENT TO A FAMILY MEMBER, OR SUDDEN OR PROLONGED SERIOUS ILLNESS.

IT PROVIDES CASH GRANTS TO THE FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL TO MAINTAIN A CHILD THROUGH HIS EDUCATION, OR TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS WHEELCHAIRS NOT OBTAINABLE FROM ANY OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCE.

GRANTS ARE ALSO GIVEN TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS AND EXPENSES ARISING FROM PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, CHRONIC ILLNESS, HOUSE MOVING, AND ADDITION OF CLOTHINGS OR OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS OVER FESTIVE PERIODS.

IN PARTICULAR, THE FUND HELPS MEET URGENT NEEDS ARISING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS AND COVERS THE BASIC FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

IN THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1980 GRANTS TOTALLING OVER \$416 000 WERE PAID FROM THE FUND. IN THE SAME PERIOD IT RECEIVED 16 CONTRIBUTIONS AMOUNTING TO ABOUT \$393 000.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS MAY BE MADE TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, PO LEUNG KUK OR THE HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

SOCIAL WORKERS OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MAY ALSO REFER HARDSHIP CASES REQUIRING URGENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE FUND AT THE PO LEUNG KUK, OR TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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TSUEN WAN STARTS CLEAN HOME CAMPAIGN

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A WEEK-LONG +CLEAN ENVIRONMENT STARTS AT HOME+ EXERCISE WAS LAUNCHED IN TSUEN WAN TODAY TO REMIND HOUSEWIVES TO TIDY UP THEIR HOMES FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

REPRESENTATIVES OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES OF VARIOUS MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS HAD BEEN INVITED TO MAKE A SPECIAL CONCERTED EFFORT TO CLEAN THE COMMON PARTS OF THEIR BUILDINGS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

TEMPORARY COLLECTION CENTRES HAD BEEN SET UP TO PROVIDE A FREE SERVICE TO RESIDENTS TO DISPOSE OF OLD FURNITURE AND DOMESTIC RUBBISH, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/RESIDENTS WERE

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RESIDENTS WERE ALSO URGED TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE EXISTING REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS.

MEANWHILE, A DISTRICT-WIDE OPERATION TO CLEAN CANOPIES ALSO STARTED THIS WEEK AND CLEANSING STAFF OF THE TSUEN WAN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO ADVISE AND HELP RESIDENTS.

HEALTH INSPECTORS WILL VISIT BUILDINGS TO ENSURE THAT THE CANOPIES ARE FREE FROM ACCUMULATED REFUSE AND RESIDENTS ARE FULFILLING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLEARING THEM.

+THOSE WHO IGNORE THE ADVICE OF THE INSPECTORS WILL BE SERVED A NOTICE REQUIRING THEM TO REMOVE THE RUBBISH WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

LITTER BUGS WERE WARNED THAT THEY FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$1 000 ON FIRST AND \$2 000 ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION.

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FACILITIES FOR SWIMMERS AT LIDO BEACH

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SWIMMERS AT LIDO BEACH OFF CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES THIS YEAR.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS INVITED TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BEACH BUILDING WHICH WILL HOUSE A TOILET, A KIOSK, A FIRST AID ROOM, CHANGING ROOMS, COMMUNAL SHOWERS AND A STORE-ROOM.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MARCH TO BE COMPLETED IN JULY IN TIME FOR SUMMER.

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TSUEN WAN WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 28) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AREA COVERS PREMISES ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM CHAI WAN KOK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN TOWN TO THE 11-1/2 MILESTONE IN TING KAU.

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