



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, July 9, 1973

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INTEREST-FREE LOANS FOR TRAINEE TEACHERS

Interest-free loans of up to \$1,200 a year are available on application to students who train to become teachers at the three Colleges of Education.

The loans can be repaid by monthly instalments over a period not exceeding four years after completion of the two-year full-time training courses.

"No student should feel that his personal circumstances should stop him from completing his training," Mr. W. Fisher-Short, Assistant Director of Education (Further) said today.

He pointed out that in addition to the maximum interest-free loan, any student in real need could apply for a maintenance grant of up to \$1,600 a year.

Mr. Fisher-Short said: "The amount he may receive will of course depend on individual circumstances. It is necessary for the college authorities to investigate family financial circumstances in such cases, but this is done in the strictest confidence."

All students are required to pay tuition fees of \$400 a year.

The Assistant Director said that career prospects for the fully qualified teacher are bright.

"Hong Kong is entering a period during which secondary education will undoubtedly expand and diversify; the trained teacher has a key role to play in this expansion."

The three Colleges of Education - Northcote, Grantham and Sir Robert Black - are looking for suitable young men and women who are 18 or over to enrol for courses beginning in September this year.

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Northcote offers training through the medium of English while paying due attention to Chinese. At Grantham and Sir Robert Black both English and Chinese are used.

Residential facilities are available for about 100 men and 100 women at Northcote but both Grantham and Sir Robert Black are non-residential at this stage.

"However," Mr. Fisher-Short said, "Sir Robert Black College anticipates having residential facilities when its new buildings at Piper's Hill on Tai Po Road are expected to be completed in time for the September 1974 opening."

The colleges are well equipped with facilities for teacher training in all normal school subjects at the primary and lower secondary level.

"Students are prepared for service at both levels although all students have an opportunity to study the teaching of one or more subjects in considerable depth.

"An important element in the training offered is the further education of the student himself and the development of his personal social maturity," Mr. Fisher-Short emphasised.

All students have available a wide range of social and cultural activities. Student associations and clubs enjoy a considerable degree of autonomy and play a necessary part in the total education of the prospective teacher, he said.

Having completed their courses college graduates are free to enter any employment they wish.

"If they join government or aided schools they are immediately employed as Certificated Masters and enjoy the official scale of remuneration. Private schools, however, usually determine their own rates of salary.

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"Although the colleges do not find posts for their students it should be remembered that the Education Ordinance requires employers to give priority of employment to registered teachers over other applicants without professional training.

"All successful college graduates are eligible to have their names entered in the official Register of Teachers," Mr. Fisher-Short said.

Young people who left school before the current academic year and who wish to enter the teaching profession can obtain application forms from the Education Department, Lee Gardens, Hysan Avenue, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong from July 30.

Intending applicants who are still in school will be supplied with forms by their headmasters.

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REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR SHIPS

A permanent domestic refuse collection service for all ocean-going vessels calling at Hong Kong has been established by the Marine Department in an effort to combat harbour pollution.

The free ship-to-ship service was first introduced in July last year for a trial period of six months and met with reasonable success.

Representatives from the department's Pollution Control Unit are boarding vessels which have been in the harbour for 48 hours as part of a drive to publicise the service.

If these ships have any refuse to dispose of arrangements will be made for its collection.

The Director of Marine, Mr. A. Fletcher, said masters of ships, who wanted to make use of the service, did not have to wait for their vessels to be boarded, but could make appropriate arrangements through their agents or by direct contact with the Marine Department.

He reminded ship masters, owners and agents that it was an offence under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance to deposit any refuse into the harbour or in the waters of Hong Kong. The maximum penalty, on conviction, is a fine of \$20,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The department's harbour scavenging fleet is also clearing drifting timber and refuse in the central harbour area and typhoon shelters to maintain an acceptable standard of cleanliness in the waters of Hong Kong.

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The central harbour cleansing fleet was expanded to its present strength of 24 sampans and eight mechanised cargo boats in January this year.

In addition, there are six sampans and one mechanised boat servicing the waters of Aberdeen and five sampans collecting refuse in the Yau Ha Tei and Causeway Bay typhoon shelters.

An average of 30 tons of rubbish have been collected daily in waters of Hong Kong.

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WATER CUT IN TUNG TAU

The water supply to certain buildings in Tung Tau Estate and the surrounding area will be turned off from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Wednesday (July 11).

This is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area affected is bounded by Tung Tau Tsuen Road, Tung Lung Road, Tung Fat Road and Tai Shing Street including Blocks 6 to 13 and 15, 17, 26 and 27, Tung Tau Estate.

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TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH CANADA

Hong Kong has entered into an agreement with Canada to continue certain export restraints on textiles into the year beginning October 1, 1973.

Announcing this today, the Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. E.P. Ho, said the agreement followed negotiations in Hong Kong last month.

Mr. Ho said Hong Kong had been restricting certain of its textile exports to Canada for a number of years.

"There are no new items on the list of restraints as a result of these negotiations," he said. "Indeed, two items -- cotton woven fabrics and non-terry towels -- have been removed from restraint and some other improvements, including growth, have been agreed."

Hong Kong exports of textiles to Canada in 1972 were valued at \$263.3 million.

Full details about the new arrangements will shortly be issued by the Commerce and Industry Department.

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SEMINAR ON CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

Engineers in the construction industry will have an opportunity to discuss the question of safety in construction work at a three-day seminar jointly organised by the Labour Department's industrial safety training centre and the civil engineering department of the University of Hong Kong.

Mr. P. Lumb, head of the Civil Engineering Department, will officially open the seminar at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) in lecture room B of the University. Some 30 engineers, both fresh and past graduates, will attend.

Mr. Chan Wing-kai, Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, said accidents on construction sites over the past months had remained high but the department was tackling the problem positively by involving the management in a concerted effort to reduce accidents.

The programme of the seminar, he said, would include an engineer's role in construction safety; health hazards in civil engineering works; safety use of "Ramset" gun; use of explosives; and fire prevention and rescue on construction sites.

The participants will visit building sites in Kowloon and the High Island water scheme. They will also tour the Industrial Safety Training Centre where machine guards and protective equipment are on display.

The executive director of the Hong Kong Productivity Centre, Mr. W.H. Newton, will give the closing address and present certificates to the participants on Thursday (July 12) at 4.30 p.m. at the Industrial Safety Training Centre in Canton Road Government Offices, 3rd floor.

Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a
photographer/reporter to cover the opening
and closing ceremonies.

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LADY MACLEHOSE VISITS WELFARE AGENCIES

Lady MacLehose, the President of the Community Chest, will be visiting two member agencies this week.

On Wednesday (July 11) she will tour the summer camp at the Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village at 5 p.m. The camp provides ideal facilities for family and youth group outings.

Managed by the Chinese YMCA, the camp catered for nearly 100,000 people last year.

Conference facilities are also provided in the village, forming an ideal venue for holding seminars, conferences or training programmes.

At 9 p.m. the following day (Thursday) Lady MacLehose will visit the Ruby Mow Fung Shelter which provides temporary accommodation for street sleepers and old people who have been discharged from hospitals and are awaiting permanent housing.

Similar shelters are also located in Kowloon City and Ma Tau Chung.

Lady MacLehose will be accompanied on both visits by Miss Susan Hume, Social Secretary of Government House; and Mr. Colin Morrison, Executive Director of the Chest.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send representatives to cover the visits. On Wednesday, a YMCA launch will be waiting at 4 p.m. at the pier near the University railway station in Ma Liu Shui to take the press across to the village. The Ruby Mow Fung Shelter is located at 21 Hospital Road on Hong Kong Island. Editors are reminded that on Wednesday it will be impossible for the same reporters to cover another visit by Lady MacLehose to the Social Welfare Department's summer youth camp at Kai Ham Village. This visit is due to begin at 4.15 p.m.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS IN WESTERN

The Building Authority today ordered the demolition of two buildings in Queen's Road West.

They are No. 5, which has been declared dangerous, and No. 3 which is liable to become dangerous.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said today that these four-storey pre-war buildings had been under observation for some time.

A recent inspection of No. 5 revealed that fresh movement had occurred in the party walls which could give rise to collapse.

Due to similar defects and decayed timbers there is also the risk of collapse of No. 3 when the next door property - No. 5 - is demolished.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on August 20 were posted today.

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RETIREMENT OF TWO PWD STAFF

Two staff members of the Public Works Highways Office will be retiring shortly after a total of more than 50 years of service.

They are Mr. Mak Chun-yuen, Senior Surveying Assistant (Engineering), and Mr. Ho Ting-cheong, Inspector of Works I.

To mark their retirement, Mr. G.A.G. Sapstead, acting Principal Government Highway Engineer, will present each of them with a farewell gift on behalf of their colleagues at a ceremony to be held on Wednesday (July 11).

Mr. Mak first joined the civil service in 1948 as an assistant surveyor in the Port Works Division and has served in a number of posts. He was promoted to his present position in 1963.

He has played an active role in promoting sports within his department and is the chairman of the Hong Kong Miniature Football Association.

Mr. Ho Ting-cheong started as a foreman in 1947 and was transferred to foreman I two years later.

He was then promoted to Inspector of Works II in 1959 and Inspector of Works I in 1968.

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Note to Editors: The presentation ceremony will be held at 4.45 p.m. in the Highways Office, Room 814A, 8th floor, Murray Building. You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover it.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.



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SUPPLEMENT

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STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, said this evening:

"The action taken by the midwives, health auxiliaries and inoculators -- as announced by them -- is to last 24 hours ending at midnight tonight.

"At this moment, the time is not yet up, and reports from government maternity and port health offices are still coming in.

"From all information available so far, government maternity and inoculation services have continued today with little evidence of disruption of routines. Members of the public who did come for inoculation were attended to, and were not required to wait unduly for service.

"It is possible that the weather might have played some part in reducing the field activities of health auxiliaries.

"The Government has gone to great lengths to consider carefully all the proposals which the nursing allied grades have made. Their proposals have been examined from all angles. The overall average increase has been 30 per cent.

"In negotiations of this sort, clearly there must come a time when further increases would be unfair to other grades. As I have said many times, if there is any information to show that the private sector offers better salaries and benefits than the Government, then such information will be considered, and the door is still open for further negotiations."

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.