



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, October 25, 1973

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Feasibility study on computerising certain Public Works Department divisions .....	1
Local Employment Service finds jobs for 1,529 people .....	4
Temporary water charges collection centres in Sheung Shui and Fanling .....	5
Radar station at Cheung Chau to provide aircraft navigational aids .....	5
Landscape garden with harbour view at Signal Hill .....	6
Two Treasury sections move to new address .....	6
Medical Director visits hospitals and clinics on outlying islands .....	7

Thursday, October 25, 1973

- 1 -

PWD PLANNING WIDER USE OF COMPUTERS

\*\*\*\*\*

A detailed study is being made into ways of computerising the operations of certain sections of the Public Works Department.

"While the department already makes use of computer processes, particularly for engineering calculations, there is considerable opportunity to expand the use of computers over a wide range of activities in order to speed up the handling of the increasing volume of paper work, to improve methods of technological calculation and to increase overall efficiency," a spokesman said today.

The study, which is being conducted by a team of consultants from Lowe Bingham Company, began in mid-June this year and is expected to be completed by February.

This work comprises the first stage of a two-part programme and is concerned mainly with preliminary investigations and identification of potential areas for computerisation over the next five years.

This will be followed by a second stage, which will involve the implementation of certain high priority projects, the spokesman said. It will also include the detailed study of problems of staffing and costing and will make recommendations on the department's future developments and requirements.

"The consultants have already investigated and identified a number of potential projects which could benefit from computerisation. Detailed recommendations and a description of their findings will shortly be submitted to the department for consideration," he said.

/Of the .....

Thursday, October 25, 1973

- 2 -

Of the department's non-technical activities, the need for computers appears greatest in the Waterworks Office whose clientele is as large, if not larger, than any other public utility undertaking in Hong Kong.

The spokesman said it was envisaged that computerisation would be applied to customer billing, the application and installation of water meters, and related statistical and administrative work.

"This will cut down the amount of time required for processing information to the public, thus avoiding delays, and reduce the heavy workload."

On the engineering side, which impinges on many aspects of the department's work, the consultants will be making recommendations on technological applications -- that is, utilising computers to solve engineering problems.

Whether the work is in structural or mechanical and electrical engineering, the use of computers saves time and eliminates human errors in calculations, which are usually done by simpler instruments such as the slide-rule. The time saved can be used to present a wider range of design options, and thus improve the quality of technical design.

The consultants are also investigating the advantages of project management with computers for all sections of the Public Works Department.

In the Architectural Office, for example, where there can be at one time as many as 8,000 maintenance contracts, it is essential to keep an up-to-date schedule and accurate costing of the jobs being handled.

/The computer .....

Thursday, October 25, 1973

- 3 -

The computer could be employed throughout all stages of work. Starting with the preparation of contracts, it would continue to receive feedback information on the progress of work until a project was completed.

Another major data processing system which has been under investigation for some time is the establishment of a land data system - the compilation with the help of a computer of relevant information on land lots all over Hong Kong.

"The information gathered would be invaluable for demographic and valuation work and would be available not only to the government but also to the public. In particular, the data system would be of benefit to those professionally concerned with land development," the spokesman said.

The system would also be of service to a number of government departments which are occupied with land problems, such as the Land Office of the Registrar General's Department, in addition to the Crown Lands and Survey Office and the Buildings Ordinance Office of the P.W.D.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

Thursday, October 25, 1973

- 4 -

L.E.S. FINDS JOBS FOR 1,529

\*\*\*\*\*

A total of 1,529 people were successfully placed in employment by the Local Employment Service of the Labour Department in the third quarter of this year.

Of these, 705 were placed in industry, 482 in commerce, 104 in the government service, 134 in the public utilities and 104 in other establishments, the head of the Employment Division, Mrs. SO WONG Mei-yee, said today.

"Among those placed in industry, 389 were apprentices who joined modern apprenticeship schemes with the help of the Apprenticeship Training Unit of the Labour Department," she said.

At present, the service has 261 vacancies on its books. "These vacancies vary from executives to office boys in commerce, engineers to general workers in industry and artisans to messengers in the civil service," Mrs. So said.

The service provides free facilities to assist employers and job-seekers alike. Job-seekers are invited to register personally at any branch of the Service, bringing with them their identity cards and a photograph.

Employers with vacancies which they wish to fill are invited to telephone any office of the Service. (Tel. No. 5-282523 and 3-688131).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5 .....

Thursday, October 25, 1973

- 5 -

SPECIAL CENTRES FOR COLLECTION OF WATER CHARGES

\*\*\*\*\*

Temporary collection centres will be set up by the Taipo District Office at Sheung Shui and Fanling for the collection of water charges for the second period of 1973.

The Sheung Shui collection centre will be located at the Sheung Shui Public Enquiry Centre at Shek Wu Hui and will operate on November 14 and 15. The other will be at the Fanling Rural Committee Office at Luen Wo Hui and will operate on November 16.

Business hours will be from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at both centres.

Residents of the districts are urged to use these facilities which are specially provided for their convenience.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RADAR STATION AT CHEUNG CHAU

\*\*\*\*\*

A radar station to house navigational aids for guiding aircraft movements will be built on top of a hill at the northern end of Cheung Chau Island.

The station will comprise a dangerous goods store, a switch room, a fire-fighting room, a transformer room, a generator room and rooms for navigation equipment.

An area occupying some 6,000 square feet will be paved as part of the building project.

Work will start in December this year and will be completed in about 14 weeks.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

Thursday, October 25, 1973

- 6 -

LOOKOUT GARDEN AT TSIM SHA TSUI

\*\*\*\*\*

Work on a contour garden complete with walks, lookout platforms and shelters at Signal Hill (Black Head Hill), Tsim Sha Tsui, will begin in mid-December.

It will be a well landscaped area covering about 2.75 acres north of the Middle Road Playground. Because of its altitude, the site commands a panoramic view of much of the harbour and Hong Kong Island.

As Signal Hill is one of the oldest and best-known signal stations of the Royal Observatory, the existing typhoon signal mast will remain.

Some of the existing buildings on the site will be converted into pavilions, stores, offices and toilets, while those in poor condition will be demolished.

It is expected that when construction is completed in March, the garden will provide a popular lookout spot for local residents and tourists.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW ADDRESS FOR PENSIONS AND EDUCATION ALLOWANCES SECTION

\*\*\*\*\*

The Pensions Section and the Education Allowances Section of the Treasury will move to new premises at the New Sincere Building, 9th floor, 173 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong on October 28.

All enquiries after that date should be directed to the new address or through telephones Nos. 5-441684, for Pensions Section, and 5-448736, for the Education Allowances Section.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

Thursday, October 25, 1973

7

ANNUAL VISIT TO ISLAND HOSPITALS, CLINICS

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, today visited a number of government hospitals and clinics on outlying islands in the course of an annual inspection.

Accompanied by Dr. Ronald Perry, Principal Medical Officer (New Territories), Mr. Arthur Starling, Chief Hospital Secretary, and Miss E.J. Gregory, Acting Chief Nursing Officer Princess Margaret Hospital, Dr. Choa spent the day looking over facilities on Peng Chau and Lantau Islands.

He visited in turn the clinic and maternity home on Peng Chau, the clinic and maternity home at Mui Wo, the South Lantau Hospital, and the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Clinic at Tai O.

There were mothers, in-patients and out-patients at some of the clinics, and Dr. Choa spent some time discussing their illnesses with them.

Medical officers in charge took the opportunity to suggest changes either in routines or facilities, and Dr. Choa made a note of everything he heard.

The Medical and Health Department's services to outlying areas include not only fully-staffed permanent hospitals and clinics, but also a floating clinic service and a "flying doctor" service on a weekly basis for residents in remote or inaccessible areas.

In addition, a helicopter service is available in emergencies.

- - - - O - - - -

Release time: 6.30 p.m.