



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Hong Kong to launch major promotion in USA

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, will lead a high-powered delegation to take part in a major promotion in the United States next month.

Known as "Hong Kong-USA '96", the promotion will take place in three major US cities - New York, Dallas and Los Angeles - between June 3 and 11. It is jointly organised by the Government, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Tourist Association.

The delegation comprises more than 20 Hong Kong's top businessmen and senior Government officials who will speak at business conferences. In addition, there will be workshops focusing on financial services, high-tech manufacturing and tourism in Hong Kong.

A Government spokesman said as part of a continuing effort by the Government to publicise Hong Kong overseas, a country is selected each year for a major promotion. A similar promotion was staged in Europe in 1993, the United States in 1994, and in Japan last year. The United States is chosen again this year because of its importance to our trade and its strong ties with Hong Kong.

He said the objectives of the promotion were to enhance the understanding of Hong Kong and business opportunities which Hong Kong can offer as a gateway to China and the Asia-Pacific region; as well as to strengthen the traditional economic ties between Hong Kong and her second largest foreign trading partner.

Apart from the business conferences, promotion activities also include fashion shows featuring the work of Hong Kong designers, concerts by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra of the Urban Council and an exhibition called "Hong Kong Wonders Never Cease" showing the many facets of Hong Kong life.

There will be film festivals in which a total of nine Hong Kong films will be shown. The premiere of "Hu-du-men" on the opening night of the film festivals will be attended by the leading actresses Josephine Siao Fong-fong and Anita Yuen Wing-yee as well as the director Shu Kei.

A variety show featuring some of Hong Kong's top artistes will be presented by Television Broadcasts Ltd. at the Universal CityWalk in Hollywood. The programme will be televised in the United States and Hong Kong.

Adding an academic dimension to this year's promotion is the designation of Hong Kong's first Distinguished Fulbright Scholar, Professor Charles Kao, Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. A well-known fiber optics specialist, Professor Kao will give a series of lectures to the American academic communities.

The Fulbright Programme, which has been referred to as "the largest and probably most successful cultural exchange programme in history", is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The promotion is supported by major business firms, including Cathay Pacific Airways, HongkongBank, Hutchison Whampoa Limited, Marco Polo Hotels and Sino Group.

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Sino-British Land Commission

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The two sides of the Sino-British Land Commission have agreed that the Commission's 32nd meeting will be held on May 14, 1996 (Tuesday). The meeting will discuss the 1996/97 Land Disposal Programme.

End

S for S starts Torch Run

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Participation in sports activities is an important way to integrate the mentally handicapped into the society, the Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai, said today (Sunday).

"It helps to enhance their sense of self-worth and to break the barrier of prejudice," he said.

He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics organised by the Hong Kong Special Olympics at the piazza of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

He noted that of all the many fund-raising events which were organised to support the Special Olympics, the Torch Run attracted most participants.

It received the wide support of law enforcement departments in a growing number of countries, he said.

Mr Lai commended Hong Kong's disciplinary forces for having a fine reputation for community service.

"We see evidence of that today with large numbers of them joining hands to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause," he said.

Teams made up of staff of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, Customs and Excise, Correctional Services, Fire Services and Immigration departments took part in the three-kilometre Torch Run.

The Royal Hong Kong Police Pipe Band and the Government Flying Services gave performances, while the Fire Services Department put up a water display at a fire boat.

Although the Torch Run was on a smaller scale than international runs which ended with the lighting of the flame at the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics, Mr Lai said, it was nonetheless a great success.

The money raised from the Torch Run this year will provide support for more than 25,000 mentally handicapped persons to join the year-round sports training and competitions.

The fund can also support the Hong Kong team to take part in the Paralympics Games in Atlanta, United States, this August, the Asia Pacific Special Olympics in Shanghai, China, this November and the World Special Olympics Winter Games in Toronto, Canada, in February 1997.

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Campaign to prevent air-conditioner nuisances

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Don't let your air-conditioner become a nuisance to your neighbour as this will cost you a fine of \$10,000.

This is the message of a publicity campaign launched by the Health Education Unit of the Department of Health.

The campaign is organised under the sponsorship of the Urban and Regional Councils.

As part of the campaign, a 24-hour hotline - 2723 0013 - carrying a pre-recorded message has been set up to advise members of the public on methods of preventing nuisances caused by air-conditioners.

"The aim is to remind the general public to effect due repair and maintenance to their air-conditioning systems with the approach of the summer season," a spokesman for the Department said today (Sunday).

"Unwanted drippings, hot air and excessive noise are the common nuisances emitted from defective air-conditioners," he said.

He pointed out that if a fresh water cooling tower was improperly maintained, it might cause Legionnaires' disease and affect health.

"Owners of fresh water cooling towers are advised to drain the towers regularly, and the towers should be cleansed and sterilised every six months to prevent the growth and spread of Legionella bacteria.

"The heat release part of the air-conditioning system, such as water cooling tower or air-cooled condenser, should be installed at a suitable position such as roof, podium etc. to avoid causing hot air nuisance to the neighbourhood," he said.

The spokesman also advised the general public to choose a type of air-conditioner that does not drip.

"If an air-conditioner drips, affix a metal tray fitted with a hose underneath the air-conditioner to drain away the water drippings properly. For water cooling tower of large air-conditioning system, install an anti-splashing guard to eliminate the dripping nuisance," the spokesman added.

He stressed that proper maintenance and regular inspection were important to ensure that the machine functioned properly.

Under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, if an air-conditioning unit drips or emits excessive heat in such a manner as to be a nuisance, the authority may issue a notice to the user for rectification within a specified period. Non-compliance of which will constitute an offence.

"Offenders may be fined up to \$10,000," the spokesman said.

Publicity letters, posters and leaflets giving advice on the proper use of air-conditioners will be widely distributed to the management of housing estates, large shopping arcades, industrial buildings, owners corporations, mutual aid committees, suppliers of air-conditioners and members of the public.

Publicity through the mass media will also be arranged to arouse public concern on the issue.

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Employment agency licence revoked

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The Labour Department today (Saturday) urged operators of employment agencies to comply with the law, or their licences could be revoked.

The call followed the revocation of the employment agency licence of the Topbeeth Limited in Kowloon Bay by the department.

The company was recently fined \$2,500 at the Kwun Tong Magistracy for overcharging a Filipino domestic helper.

"Under the Employment Agency Regulations, an employment agency can only charge a successful job seeker a commission of not more than 10 per cent of his or her first month's salary," Labour Officer (Employment Agencies Administration), Miss Corrina Cheng said.

"Charging any other fee, such as registration fee, is strictly prohibited," she added.

Under the Employment Ordinance, the Commissioner for Labour may refuse to issue or renew, or may revoke a licence if the person operating or intending to operate the agency has contravened any provision of Part XII of the Employment Ordinance or the Employment Agency Regulations.

Enquiries and complaints on the operation of employment agencies can be made to the Employment Agencies Administration in person or by telephone at 2852 3535.

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Slope maintenance exhibition to open at Lok Fu

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An exhibition on slope maintenance will begin tomorrow (Monday) at Lok Fu Shopping Centre, Phase 1.

The exhibition will last for a week until May 19, and will be open daily between 10 am and 10 pm.

Organised by the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering Department, the exhibition is part of the department's continuing efforts in promoting public awareness of the importance of slope maintenance.

It will feature various aspects of proper slope maintenance by means of colourful illustrations, photographs, charts and graphs.

Also to be shown at the exhibition is a new educational video on slope maintenance, which aims to promulgate the message that property owners should maintain slopes within their lots to prevent the occurrence of landslide.

Visitors can take home leaflets on slope maintenance and the GEO's hotline service, and the guide book entitled "Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance".

The exhibition will be staged later in other venues, including Tai Wo Estate in Tai Po, Hang Fa Chuen in Chai Wan, Luk Yeung Sun Chuen in Tsuen Wan and Cheung Fat Estate on Tsing Yi.

Information on slope maintenance can also be obtained by calling the GEO's 24-hour automatic hotline 2762 5165.

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Applications for health courses invited

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Applications are now invited for the next round of health worker training courses organised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) in conjunction with three professional health care training institutes.

The three institutes are the College of Nursing Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Hong Kong St John Ambulance Association. The first of a total of seven courses is scheduled to start on August 5.

"The courses are organised with an aim to meeting the demand for health care staff in residential care homes for the elderly as well as raising the professional standard of health workers," a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

SWD has provided training places for 560 health workers in 1995-96 and plans to train 630 additional health workers in 1996-97.

"Under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation, all health workers are required, among other things, to complete training approved by the Director of Social Welfare before being qualified for registration.

"The registration fee will be increased from \$150 to \$164 with effect from May 31," the spokesman said.

Each training course, lasts for 11 weeks and covers 140 hours, is designed to equip trainees with the necessary knowledge and skills for a comprehensive understanding of health care for elderly persons.

The content of the course includes lectures on basic nursing skills for elderly persons, physiological and psychological development and common medical conditions of the elderly, basic skills in interpersonal relationship, communication and management of residential care homes for the elderly.

"Hong Kong residents who have completed Form 3 or equivalent and are competent to complete the training course can apply.

"Priority will be given to those who have two or more years of working experience in services for the elderly and those who have received medical, nursing, first aid or home nursing training," he said.

Copies of invitation have already been sent to elderly home operators, inviting them to recommend suitable candidates for the course. Posters of the training courses will also be put up at all public housing estates and group work units of SWD.

Individuals who are interested to take up a job in elderly homes may obtain an application form from any of the three institutes or SWD's Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly at Room 2354, 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

Enquirers may be made to the licensing office on 2961 7220 or 2961 7221. The deadline for application is May 31.

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Fresh water cut in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long

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Fresh water cut to some premises in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long will be temporarily suspended between 11 pm on Wednesday (May 15) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains to be carried out.

In Sham Shui Po, the suspension will affect the area bounded by Nam Cheong Street, Tai Po Road, Castle Peak Road, Kweilin Street and Fuk Wing Street.

Meanwhile, in Yuen Long, the suspension will affect the area bounded by Hop Yick Road, Tai Tong Road, Fau Tsoi Street, Yau San Street, including Kin Tak Street, 70 Fung Cheng Street, and nos 4-40 and 1-33 Hop Yick Road.

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