



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1990

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FS SPEAKS OF INCREASED BUSINESS LINKS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT INCREASED BUSINESS LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI WOULD WORK TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA UPON ARRIVAL BACK TO HONG KONG FROM A THREE-DAY VISIT TO SHANGHAI, SIR PIERS SAID THERE WAS MUCH TO BE GAINED FROM GREATER BUSINESS COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES WITH SHANGHAI.

"IT WAS A VERY INTERESTING AND ENJOYABLE VISIT. IT WAS ABOUT FIVE YEARS SINCE I WAS LAST IN SHANGHAI AND CERTAINLY I FOUND A LOT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY," HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE MAIN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OF HIS VISIT, SIR PIERS SAID HE WAS BRIEFED IN SOME DETAIL ABOUT THE PUDONG DEVELOPMENT WHICH WAS OF A VERY LARGE SCALE.

"IT WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO COMPLETE. IT IS A LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, QUITE EXCITING," HE ADDED.

ASKED WHETHER THE PUDONG DEVELOPMENT WOULD POSE ANY KIND OF THREAT TO HONG KONG, SIR PIERS SAID HE SAW IT IN TERMS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES, AND CERTAINLY NOT IN TERMS OF THREAT.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF INTEREST IN THE PUDONG DEVELOPMENT AND IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN SHANGHAI AND URGED BUSINESSMEN TO GO AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES.

DURING THE VISIT, SIR PIERS MET THE MAYOR OF SHANGHAI, MR ZHU RONGJI; THE ADVISER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY, MR LI CHUWEN, OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE'S BANK OF CHINA.

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SCHEME TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP READING HABIT

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A GREATER EXPOSURE TO ENGLISH THROUGH EXTENSIVE READING CAN RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN READING COMPREHENSION AND, OVER A LONGER PERIOD, AN IMPROVEMENT IN WRITING ABILITY AND OTHER SKILLS.

THIS WAS ONE OF THE FINDINGS OF AN EXTENSIVE READING PILOT PROJECT IMPLEMENTED AT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL IN NINE PUBLIC-SECTOR SCHOOLS BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1986 AND AUGUST 1988.

/ENCOURAGED BY

ENCOURAGED BY THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROJECT WHICH WAS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE CURRICULUM AND THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH IN HONG KONG SCHOOLS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION HAS DECIDED TO LAUNCH A HONG KONG EXTENSIVE READING SCHEME IN ENGLISH IN 200 SCHOOLS ON A PHASED BASIS OVER SEVEN YEARS BEGINNING NEXT SEPTEMBER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INSTITUTE EXPLAINED THAT WITHOUT A READING PROGRAMME IN THE CURRICULUM, STUDENTS' READING TENDS TO BE SPASMODIC, HAPHAZARD AND UNREWARDING.

"A WELL-ORGANISED PROGRAMME UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A TEACHER, ON THE OTHER HAND, CAN HELP THEM TO GRADUALLY PROGRESS TOWARDS INDIVIDUALISED READING AND LEARNING," HE SAID.

"EXAMPLES OF THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF EXTENSIVE READING SCHEMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS SINGAPORE, FIJI AND MALAYSIA HAVE TESTIFIED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A READING SCHEME."

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE HONG KONG EXTENSIVE READING SCHEME IN ENGLISH WILL BE INTRODUCED TO SECONDARY 1 CLASSES IN 20 PUBLIC-SECTOR SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER NEXT YEAR.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ONE RESOURCE PACKAGE FOR EACH SECONDARY 1 CLASS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION.

THE PACKAGE CONTAINS 400 BOOKS, BOTH FICTION AND NON-FICTION, GRADED INTO EIGHT DIFFERENT LEVELS; 120 READING CARDS AT TWO DIFFERENT LEVELS TO PREPARE THE WEAKER STUDENTS FOR ENTRY TO THE READING PROGRAMME; RECORD CHARTS FOR MARKING PROGRESS; AND TEACHER'S GUIDES.

"STUDENTS WILL START READING AT A LEVEL APPROPRIATE TO THEIR READING ABILITY AND THEY ARE EXPECTED TO WORK THEIR WAY THROUGH THE READING LEVELS AS THEY MOVE UP TO SECONDARY 2 AND SECONDARY 3.

"IN THE SECOND YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION, THE CLASS WILL SHARE THE RESOURCE PACKAGE WITH A NEW SECONDARY 1 CLASS. AND BY THE THIRD YEAR WHEN THE CLASS IS PROMOTED TO SECONDARY 3, IT WILL BE SHARING THE PACKAGE WITH A SECONDARY 2 AND YET ANOTHER NEW SECONDARY 1 CLASS."

SCHOOLS TAKING PART IN THE SCHEME WILL BE ADVISED TO DEVOTE ONE TO THREE PERIODS IN THE SCHOOL TIMETABLE FOR TEACHERS TO PREPARE THE STUDENTS FOR THE PROGRAMME, CHECK PROGRESS, ANSWER QUERIES AND SHARE READING EXPERIENCES.

THE INSTITUTE WILL ORGANISE SEMINARS AND INDUCTION COURSES FOR TEACHERS. FOR SCHOOLS USING CLASS READERS, SPECIAL GUIDELINES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO HELP THEIR TEACHERS TO ADOPT AN EXTENSIVE READING APPROACH SO THAT THEY CAN FINISH ONE BOOK IN FOUR TO FIVE PERIODS.

"THIS WAY, STUDENTS WILL READ A LARGE NUMBER OF BOOKS, INSTEAD OF STUDYING IN DETAIL A FEW READERS IN A YEAR, AND DEVELOP THE HABIT OF READING EXTENSIVELY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SCHOOLS INTENDING TO JOIN THE SCHEME MAY CONTACT THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION ON TEL. 771 9418.

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FELLOWSHIPS ESTABLISHED TO RESEARCH INTO
LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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THE HONGKONGBANK LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND TODAY (SUNDAY) ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE HONGKONGBANK FELLOWSHIPS AS PART OF ITS \$20 MILLION LANGUAGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME CONDUCTED THROUGH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION (ILE).

IN ADDITION, DETAILS OF THE FIRST SIX PROJECTS DEVISED AS THE CORE OF THE PROGRAMME LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE, DR VERNER BICKLEY, HAVE ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED.

THE HONGKONGBANK FELLOWS WILL JOIN A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE SIX INITIAL PROJECTS.

ESTABLISHED IN MAY THIS YEAR, THE HONGKONGBANK LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND SUPPORTS A VARIETY OF LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, FOCUSED ON ISSUES OF PRACTICAL CONCERN TO EMPLOYERS, CURRICULUM PLANNERS AND TEACHERS.

"IF HONG KONG IS TO RETAIN ITS STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A POOL OF COMPETENT ENGLISH SPEAKERS AVAILABLE," SAID MR GEORGE CARDONA, CHAIRMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND AND MANAGER GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS, HONGKONGBANK.

"THIS PROGRAMME IS A SERIOUS EFFORT TO FOSTER LANGUAGE TEACHING AND WE HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN GETTING THE PROGRAMME UP AND RUNNING IN SUCH A SHORT TIME."

DETAILS OF THE FIRST SIX PROJECTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

* SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS AND EMPLOYMENT:

* TECHNICAL INSTITUTE LEAVERS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

EMPLOYERS IN BOTH THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS HAVE NOTED SHORTCOMINGS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITIES OF NEW RECRUITS WHO HAVE JOINED THEM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE FIFTH YEAR OF SECONDARY SCHOOL.

THESE TWO COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS WILL ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THE GAP IN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY BETWEEN SCHOOL LEAVERS AND THE PARTICULAR LANGUAGE SKILLS THAT ARE REQUIRED IN THE WORKPLACE.

THE PROJECTS WILL ALSO DESIGN AND CONDUCT SPECIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GRADUATES.

/* TARGETS, ATTAINMENT

* TARGETS, ATTAINMENT LEVELS AND ASSESSMENTS:

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO THE OCTOBER 1989 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT WHICH RECOMMENDED A NUMBER OF MEASURES THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE STANDARDS OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH IN HONG KONG.

ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT A FRAMEWORK OF SPECIFIC TARGETS (WHAT CHILDREN SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO AND KNOW AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENTS (TASKS AND TESTS TO ESTABLISH WHETHER CHILDREN HAVE ACHIEVED THE TARGETS) SHOULD BE DESIGNED FOR CHINESE, ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS.

THE PROJECT WILL DEVELOP BROAD TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENTS FOR ENGLISH FOR PRIMARY 3 AND 6 AS WELL AS FOR SECONDARY 3.

SYLLABUS, ASSESSMENT AND TEACHING/LEARNING/MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES WILL BE PRODUCED AND MATERIALS TO HELP TEACHERS TO TEACH TOWARDS THE TARGETS WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED. IT WILL ALSO PUT TOGETHER AN IN-SERVICE EDUCATION PACKAGE FOR TEACHERS.

* BRIDGING PROGRAMME FOR SECONDARY ONE STUDENTS:

INSTRUCTION IN THE MAJORITY OF HONG KONG PRIMARY SCHOOLS IS GIVEN IN THE MEDIUM OF CHINESE, AND ENGLISH IS TAUGHT FOR ONLY SIX OR SEVEN PERIODS A WEEK AND AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

ALL CHILDREN LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE, THEREFORE, A VERY WIDE LANGUAGE GAP TO CROSS IF THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOLS USE ENGLISH, OR EVEN A MIXTURE OF ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR MOST SUBJECTS.

TO HELP STUDENTS TO CROSS THIS GAP MORE EASILY, THIS PROJECT WILL DESIGN MATERIALS COVERING SOCIAL STUDIES, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND ENGLISH FOR A SPECIAL COURSE TO BE OFFERED BY SCHOOLS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF SECONDARY SCHOOL. IT IS INTENDED THAT THE COURSE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY TEACHERS ENTIRELY THROUGH ENGLISH.

* COLLEGES OF EDUCATION LANGUAGE PROFILES AND BRIDGING COURSES:

SOUND, SKILLFUL TEACHING IS ESSENTIAL IF STUDENTS' LANGUAGE LEARNING IS TO BE EFFECTIVE. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE HONGKONGBANK LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT THIS ILE PROJECT CENTRED ON TEACHER TRAINING.

THE PROJECT WILL ESTABLISH PROFILES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY THAT TEACHERS SHOULD HAVE BEFORE THEY TEACH ENGLISH OR BEFORE THEY USE ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR DIFFERENT SUBJECTS.

MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT TEAM WILL ALSO DESIGN COURSES FOR THE PRACTICE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, AND COURSES TO HELP POTENTIAL STUDENTS TO MEET MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS. THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN COOPERATION WITH SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

* TARGETS FOR TEACHERS OF PUTONGHUA:

IN LINE WITH ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES, THE ILE HAS LAUNCHED A FURTHER PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A PROFILE OF THE MINIMUM LANGUAGE ABILITY REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO ENABLE TEACHERS TO TEACH PUTONGHUA EFFECTIVELY IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

AFTER DRAWING UP THE PROFILES AND PREPARING APPROPRIATE MATERIALS, THE PROJECT TEAM WILL DESIGN AND RUN IN-SERVICE COURSES TO HELP TEACHERS TO IMPROVE THEIR PUTONGHUA SKILLS.

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CAMPAIGN TO DRIVE HOME FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE

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ABOUT 1,900 KITCHEN FIRES OCCURRED IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF THIS YEAR AND ALMOST ALL OF THEM WERE CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS, NEGLIGENCE OR IGNORANCE, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE 1990/91 FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN, MR MARCH SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF FIRE AND THE RESULTANT TRAGIC EFFECTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS, THEREFORE, CONTINUING WITH THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN TO GET PUBLIC COOPERATION TO HELP REDUCE INJURIES, LOSS OF LIVES AND PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY FIRES," HE SAID.

THE MAIN THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN IS KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY. IT AIMED AT EDUCATING PEOPLE THE COMMON RULES ON SAFE COOKING AND MAINTENANCE OF APPLIANCES USED IN THE KITCHEN.

"HONG KONG BEING ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED PLACES IN THE WORLD MEANS THAT ALMOST EVERYONE HERE HAS TO LIVE IN A MULTI-STORY OR HIGH-RISE BUILDING. EVEN A SMALL FIRE OCCURRING IN ONE OF THESE BUILDINGS CAN THEREFORE AFFECT THE SAFETY OF MANY PEOPLE," MR MARCH SAID.

"AS THE KITCHEN IS THE HOUSEHOLD'S 'NERVE-CENTRE' AS FAR AS COOKING IS CONCERNED, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THIS IS WHERE MOST DOMESTIC FIRES OCCUR," HE ADDED.

/MR MARCH

MR MARCH POINTED OUT THAT 24 PEOPLE HAD ALREADY DIED AND OVER 400 HAD BEEN INJURED IN FIRES THIS YEAR.

"SAVE FOR THE DETERMINATION AND SKILLS OF OUR FIREMEN WHO HAVE RESCUED OVER 1,100 PEOPLE INVOLVED IN FIRES THIS YEAR ALONE, THE DEATH TOLL WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE FAR HIGHER," HE SAID.

TO HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE ON FIRE SAFETY AT HOME, A 30-SECOND TV PROMOTIONAL FILM AND A POSTER DEPICTING ONE OF THE MAJOR CAUSES OF KITCHEN FIRES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED. OTHER PUBLICITY MATERIALS INCLUDE A PAMPHLET AND STICKERS ADVISING THE PUBLIC TO FOLLOW KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY RULES.

"MOBILE FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITIONS WILL BE STAGED AT PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND COMMERCIAL CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS," HE ADDED.

MR MARCH THANKED THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR RENDERING HELP IN PLANNING AND PROMOTING THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO THE KWONG ON BANK FOR ITS GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP OF THE CAMPAIGN.

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WINNERS IN ASD'S ANNUAL DESIGN AWARD SCHEME

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THE OPERATIONAL AND SERVICE CENTRE OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND FOUR OTHER BUILDING PROJECTS EMERGED AS WINNERS IN THIS YEAR'S ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL AWARD SCHEME.

THE CENTRE, LOCATED AT JAVA ROAD, NORTH POINT WAS DESCRIBED BY THE SCHEME'S JUDGING PANEL AS "A CLEVER AND ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN".

THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE DESIGN AND DETAILING WAS ALSO RECOGNISED BY THE JUDGES. IT IS BOUND ON THREE SIDES BY SLIP ROADS OF THE EASTERN CORRIDOR.

IT PROVIDED OFFICES, WORKSHOPS, COVERED AND OPEN STORES, AND OTHER ANCILLARY FACILITIES FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

APART FROM THE CENTRE, THE OTHER WINNING DESIGNS ARE THE CREMATORIUM AND COLUMBARIUM AT CHEUNG CHAU, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL COMPLEX IN YEUNG UK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, THE REDEVELOPMENT OF SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE STAGE II PHASE A AND THE RESTORATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY BUILDING IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

A TOTAL OF 12 PROJECTS COMPETED FOR THIS YEAR'S AWARD. THE COMPETITION WAS FIRST HELD IN 1983.

TO COMPETE, A PROJECT HAS TO BE DESIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT. IT SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED AND COMPLETED WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

/THE JUDGING

THE JUDGING PANEL WAS CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR JOSE LEI, AND COMPRISED OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, MAJOR GENERAL G H WATKINS; HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, PROFESSOR K.C. LYE; AND URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR JASON YUEN.

THE CREMATORIUM AND COLUMBARIUM IN CHEUNG CHAU WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A COLUMBARIUM WITH 1,000 NICHES AND WITH LANDSCAPED AREAS SERVING AS GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE.

THE JUDGING PANEL WAS OF THE VIEW THAT THE DESIGN IS INTERESTING, CHARMING AND FUNCTIONAL TO PROVIDE A PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS ENVIRONMENT.

THE BUILDINGS TEND TO CREATE AN AURA OF RELAXATION, TRANQUILITY AND PEACE OF MIND IN WHAT IS, NORMALLY, A SAD AND TRAUMATIC OCCASION.

THE THIRD WINNING DESIGN, THE YEUNG UK ROAD REGIONAL COUNCIL COMPLEX, WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE MARKETS AND INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC IN TSUEN WAN.

THE PANEL FELT THAT THE INTERACTION AMONG THE VARIOUS USES OF THIS BUILDING HAS BEEN HANDLED VERY WELL AND THE DESIGN WAS PRODUCED WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

FOR THE SAI KUNG RECREATION CENTRE, THE PANEL COMMENTED THAT THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE CENTRE WERE WELL BLENDED INTO THE SURROUNDINGS WHICH CREATED A PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE IN A SEMI-RURAL SETTING.

THE CENTRE WAS CONVERTED FROM A FORMER ARMY BARRACK AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS AND ADDITIONAL FACILITIES WERE INTRODUCED IN PHASES. THE SECTION COMPLETED RECENTLY INCLUDED AN ARCHERY FIELD, AN ADMINISTRATION BLOCK, A CANTEEN, TENNIS COURTS AND SQUASH COURTS.

THE RESTORATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY BUILDING IN TSIM SHA TSUI WAS A CONSERVATION PROJECT WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED IN 1883.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS AND AVAILABLE EVIDENCE WERE USED IN THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR FEATURES OF THIS BUILDING TO ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE.

THE EXISTING OFFICES WERE ALSO INTENSIVELY REFURBISHED AND CONDITIONS IMPROVED TO PROVIDE CONTINUED OPERATIONAL OFFICES FOR THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

THE JUDGES COMMENTED THAT THE PROJECT HAD BEEN EXPERTLY HANDLED TO CAPTURE THE LANGUAGE OF THE ERA WHICH WAS WORTHY OF A SPECIAL MERIT.

THE PANEL WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE SUBMISSIONS OF RESTORATION AND REFURBISHMENT, AND A SEPARATE SET OF AWARDS BE ESTABLISHED TO REFLECT THE CAPABILITIES OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN THIS KIND OF WORK.

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HALF-WAY HOUSE FOR EX-MENTAL PATIENTS IN TSEUNG KWAN O

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A HALF-WAY HOUSE FOR DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS WILL BE SET UP IN TSUI LAM ESTATE, TSEUNG KWAN O, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALEXANDER FUNG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A TWO-WEEK MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN SAI KUNG DISTRICT, MR FUNG SAID THE HALF-WAY HOUSE WOULD PROVIDE SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO THOSE DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS, WHO HAD BEEN CERTIFIED SUITABLE TO TAKE ACCOMMODATION AT THE HOUSE.

"I FIND THE FACILITY EXTREME MEANINGFUL AS IT WILL AUGUR WELL IN HELPING THE DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS RE-INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY REPRESENTATIVES FROM MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, FOR THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES.

"THEIR GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT SOCIAL BENEFITS IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THE LIVING ENVIRONMENTS OF TSEUNG KWAN O HEALTHY AND LOVELY," MR FUNG SAID.

THE ACTIVITIES, WHICH WILL INCLUDE A CARNIVAL, EXHIBITIONS, TALKS, QUIZ COMPETITIONS AND VISITS TO ORGANISATIONS OFFERING REHABILITATION SERVICES, ARE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AND AREA COMMITTEES AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS IN TSEUNG KWAN O.

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CARNIVAL TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE TREATED TO AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AND GAMES AT AN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH CARNIVAL TO BE HELD THIS WEEKEND (NOVEMBER 10).

ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CARNIVAL AIMED TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ON HEALTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE CARNIVAL WILL TOP OFF A SERIES OF HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME PLANNED IN SUPPORT OF THIS YEAR'S WORLD HEALTH DAY AND COINCIDED WITH ITS THEME "OUR PLANET, OUR HEALTH" WITH HIGHLIGHTS ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH.

A MIXED AND BALANCED PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO DISSEMINATE HEALTH MESSAGES TO VISITORS.

/THERE WILL

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THERE WILL BE AN EXHIBITION ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH VIDEO SHOWS ON HEALTH EDUCATION, AND THE DISPLAY OF WINNING ENTRIES OF PHOTO AND ESSAY COMPETITIONS WHICH WERE RECENTLY CONCLUDED. THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 15 GAME STALLS.

IN ADDITION, THE HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND THE SILVER BAND OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES WILL ALSO BE THERE TO PERFORM.

THE "ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH" CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND IN WAN CHAI FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 10). ADMISSION IS FREE.

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SSP FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY BEGINS

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THE SHAM SHUI PO FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY KICKED OFF TODAY (SUNDAY) WITH MUCH FANFARE.

ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 1,000 SENIOR RESIDENTS, THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL AT THE MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND FEATURED CHORAL SINGING, FOLK DANCE AND CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL ELDERLY CENTRES.

THE SHAM SHUI PO KAIFONG WELFARE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION AND THE SHAM SHUI PO ARTS ASSOCIATION CHILDREN'S CHOIR ALSO PERFORMED AT THE SHOW.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALAN FUNG, SAID THIS WAS THE THIRD FESTIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

BUT THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME WOULD BE LARGER IN SCALE AND MORE DIVERSIFIED IN NATURE, HE SAID.

A LARGE-SCALE EYE-CARE CAMPAIGN AND EXHIBITION AND AN AWARD SCHEME AIMED AT COMMENDING SENIOR CITIZENS FOR PAST CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY ARE INTEGRAL FEATURES OF THE FESTIVAL.

MR FUNG HOPED THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAD ALLOCATED ALMOST \$100,000 TO THE FESTIVAL WHICH WOULD LAST UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

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STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CSD'S WORK

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MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE, MOST OF THEM STUDENTS, HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST TO VISIT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) ON ITS OPEN DAYS ON NOVEMBER 10 AND 11.

A CSD SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOOD RESPONSE HAD INDICATED THAT MANY STUDENTS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES AND WERE INTERESTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FOR INMATES.

"IN PARTICULAR, THOSE STUDENTS TAKING ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COURSES MAY FIND THE VISIT USEFUL BECAUSE IT WOULD SUPPLEMENT WHAT THEY WOULD LEARN FROM THE TEXTBOOKS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE OPEN DAY IS AN ANNUAL EVENT ORGANISED WITH AN AIM TO INTRODUCE THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. IT ALSO FORMS PART OF CSD'S RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN.

THROUGH VARIOUS DISPLAYS, VISITORS WILL KNOW MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENT CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PENAL INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS THE TRAINING FOR CORRECTIONAL STAFF.

THERE WILL ALSO BE DEMONSTRATIONS ON HANDCUFFING TECHNIQUE, ANTI-RIOT CONTROL AND SELF-DEFENCE EXERCISE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOMED TO THE OPEN DAYS. GUIDED TOURS WILL BE ORGANISED FOR GROUPS WHO HAVE MADE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

GROUP ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 823 5118.

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REDEVELOPMENT OF BOWLING GREEN IN VICTORIA PARK

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE BOWLING GREEN IN VICTORIA PARK, HONG KONG.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE BUILDING HOUSING TOILETS, CHANGING ROOMS, A MEETING ROOM AND OTHER FACILITIES SUCH AS ARTIFICIAL TURFING FOR LAWN BOWL COURTS, ARBOUR AND SITTING BENCHES.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 23.

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BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR IN MONG KOK

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A FREE BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR OFFICE-BEARERS OF OWNERS' CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE AND AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN MONG KOK WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 18 IN THE FA YUEN STREET URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX.

THE SEMINAR IS PART OF A SERIES OF EVENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN TO HELP IMPROVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

LECTURES WILL BE GIVEN BY BUILDING MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE SUPPORTED BY VISITS TO A PRIVATE BUILDING AND A HOUSING ESTATE ON NOVEMBER 25 TO GIVE PARTICIPANTS FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF CARING FOR A BUILDING.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND ITS TAI KOK TSUI SUB-OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 45 TIT SHU STREET. DEADLINE FOR THE APPLICATION IS NOVEMBER 13.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 787 0775.

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