



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
VALUE OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS IN JULY THIS YEAR FELL BY 1.8 PER CENT	1
PUBLIC REMINDED OF NEED OF PERSONAL HYGIENE TO PREVENT SPREAD OF 'RED EYE' DISEASE	3
MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE DIPLOMAS GAIN MORE RECOGNITION	4
PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE KEPT BUSY WITH OVER 4,000 ENQUIRIES A DAY	5
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON PACKAGING DESIGN WINDS UP TOMORROW	5

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

- 1 -

VALUE OF JULY EXPORTS DOWN BY \$38 MILLION
* * * * *

THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JULY WAS \$2,062 MILLION, REPRESENTING A DROP OF \$38 MILLION OR 1.8 PER CENT BY VALUE AGAINST JULY 1974, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WENT DOWN BY 6.0 PER CENT FROM \$3,067 MILLION IN JULY 1974 TO \$2,883 MILLION IN JULY THIS YEAR, BUT RE-EXPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE BY 2.9 PER CENT FROM \$590 MILLION IN JULY 1974 TO \$608 MILLION LAST JULY.

FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY-JULY 1975 SHOWED DECREASES BY VALUE OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1974 OF 12.6 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 15.3 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 10.9 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD AUGUST 1974 TO JULY 1975 SHOWED DECREASES, BY VALUE, OF 8.7 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 12.2 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 14.0 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE COMPARATIVE FIGURES :-

	JULY 1975	JULY 1974	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,062 (77.2%)	2,101 (78.1%)	- 38	- 1.8
IMPORTS	2,883	3,067	- 185	- 6.0
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	608 (22.8%)	590 (21.9%)	+ 17	+ 2.9
	MAY-JULY 1975	MAY-JULY 1974	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	5,677	6,378	- 701	- 11.0
IMPORTS	8,195	9,686	-1,491	- 15.4
RE-EXPORTS	1,708	1,880	- 172	- 9.1

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

	<u>JAN-JULY</u> <u>1975</u>	<u>JAN-JULY</u> <u>1974</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	11,866 (75.6%)	13,572 (76.0%)	-1,707	- 12.6
IMPORTS	17,702	20,906	-3,205	- 15.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,821 (24.4%)	4,289 (24.0%)	- 468	- 10.9

	<u>AUG 1974</u> <u>TO</u> <u>JULY 1975</u>	<u>AUG 1973</u> <u>TO</u> <u>JULY 1974</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	21,205	23,232	-2,027	- 8.7
IMPORTS	30,916	35,204	-4,288	- 12.2
RE-EXPORTS	6,657	7,736	-1,080	- 14.0

----- 0 -----

/3

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

- 3 -

PUBLIC URGED TO OBSERVE PERSONAL HYGIENE
TO PREVENT SPREAD OF +RED EYE+ DISEASE
* * * * *

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS AGAIN REMINDED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST THE SPREAD OF +RED EYE+ DISEASE, WHICH IS USUALLY PREVALENT DURING THE SWIMMING SEASON.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THE DISEASE, CLINICALLY KNOWN AS ACUTE KERATO-CONJUNCTIVITIES, COULD BE PREVENTED BY OBSERVING THE RULES OF PERSONAL HYGIENE.

HE SAID THE WARM SEASON IS STILL NOT YET OVER AND THE PUBLIC MUST BE ON THE ALERT AT ALL TIMES IN THE PREVENTION OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

STATISTICS FROM TWO GOVERNMENT EYE CLINICS SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF +RED EYE+ CASES IN AUGUST AVERAGED 25 PER WEEK IN THE VIOLET PEEL CLINIC, COMPARED WITH AN AVERAGE OF 50 AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, AT YAUMATI EYE CLINIC, THE WEEKLY AVERAGE WAS 120 AS COMPARED WITH ABOUT 80 LAST AUGUST.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT SINCE RED EYE IS NOT A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE, THERE IS NO RECORD OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF CASES IN HONG KONG, AND THE FIGURES OBTAINED FROM THE TWO GOVERNMENT EYE CLINICS ONLY SERVED TO INDICATE THE TREND OF THE DISEASE.

AN EPIDEMIC OF +RED EYE+ STRUCK HONG KONG IN 1971 WHEN MORE THAN 5,000 CASES WERE TREATED IN AUGUST ALONE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMONEST MEANS OF SPREADING THE DISEASE IS THROUGH CONTACT, FOR EXAMPLE IN PUBLIC PLACES SUCH AS SWIMMING POOLS AND AMONG FAMILIES.

HE ADVISED THAT PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE SHOULD, THEREFORE, STAY AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS SO AS NOT TO SPREAD THE DISEASE.

IF A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY HAS CONTRACTED THE DISEASE, THE OTHER MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE CARE NOT TO SHARE THE SAME TOWEL OR HANDKERCHIEF AND SHOULD PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO PERSONAL HYGIENE.

THE DISEASE IS OF ACUTE ONSET, CAUSING REDNESS AND SORENESS ON THE EYES, VARYING FROM SLIGHT IRRITATION TO SEVERE PAIN.

TREATMENT CONSISTS OF APPLICATION OF EYE DROPS OR OINTMENT ON THE EYES AS ADVISED BY A DOCTOR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

- 4 -

MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE DIPLOMAS GAINS MORE RECOGNITION
* * * * *

ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTION IN BRITAIN, THE INSTITUTE OF BUILDING, HAS RECOGNISED DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED BY THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN RECOGNITION TO COURSES INCLUDE THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN ENGINEERS, THE SOCIETY OF ELECTRONIC AND RADIO TECHNICIANS AND THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), MR. DANIEL WATERS SAID: +THE REPUTATION AND STATUS OF THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE HAS BEEN FURTHER ENHANCED BY THESE RECOGNITIONS.

+UNDOUBTEDLY, THESE RECOGNITIONS WILL IMPROVE THE STANDING AND EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS OF THE GRADUATES OF THE INSTITUTE.

+I HOPE THAT SIMILAR RECOGNITIONS WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IN THE FUTURE.+

THE LATEST RECOGNITIONS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF BUILDING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE THE TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AWARDED BY THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

HOLDERS OF EITHER THE DIPLOMA OR HIGHER CERTIFICATE ARE QUALIFIED FOR TECHNICIAN MEMBERSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF BUILDING, A PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTION WITH SOME 23,000 MEMBERS.

THE HOLDERS OF THESE QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE EXEMPT FROM GROUP ONE SUBJECTS OF THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION. THIS MEANS THAT THEY NEED TO PASS ONLY THREE SUBJECTS TO COMPLETE THIS EXAMINATION.

THE INSTITUTE OF BUILDING WAS FORMED IN 1834. LIKE OTHER SIMILAR PROFESSIONAL BODIES ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION IS TO MAINTAIN A SATISFACTORY HIGH STANDARD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THOSE PRACTISING THE PROFESSION WHICH IT REPRESENTS. IT DOES THIS BY PROVIDING A LINK BETWEEN THOSE CONCERNED WITH RESEARCH AND THE PRACTISING MEMBER.

THE INSTITUTE WORKS CLOSELY WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TRADE AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OVERSEAS INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

----- 0 -----

/5

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

- 5 -

PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE

THE 23 PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES OPERATED BY THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HANDLED 734,636 ENQUIRIES IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR — AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 4,000 A DAY.

MOST OF THE ENQUIRIES WERE ABOUT APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HOUSING, SCHOOL AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

THE CENTRES ARE MANNED BY TRAINED STAFF WHOSE WORK INCLUDES ANSWERING QUERIES ON GOVERNMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES, SUPPLYING INFORMATION ON AND DISTRIBUTING FORMS FOR GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, PROCESSING AND ADMINISTERING STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, AND DISTRIBUTING EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS TO NEEDY RESIDENTS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

THEY ARE ALSO OFTEN CALLED UPON TO INTERPRET LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS FOR ILLITERATE PEOPLE.

THE SERVICES OFFERED AT THE ENQUIRY CENTRES ARE FREE.

ANYONE CAN WALK IN ANY OF THE CENTRES AND ASK FOR INFORMATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SAID. ENQUIRIES OR COMPLAINTS COULD ALSO BE MADE BY TELEPHONE, HE ADDED.

COPIES OF A LIST OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY ENQUIRY CENTRE.

----- 0 -----

PACKAGING DESIGN SEMINAR CLOSSES TOMORROW

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE REGIONAL SEMINAR ON PACKAGING DESIGN FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETS WILL CONCLUDE WITH A SHORT CLOSING CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 11.30 A.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY). YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT.

THE REGIONAL SEMINAR BEGAN ON AUGUST 27 AND IS BEING ATTENDED BY SOME 24 DELEGATES FROM 12 COUNTRIES PLUS NINE PARTICIPANTS FROM HONG KONG. ITS AIM IS TO PROMOTE EXPORTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC BY ENCOURAGING AN AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PACKAGING DESIGN.

----- 0 -----