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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, June 14, 1972

PIPERS HILL AND TAI WOR PING INTERCHANGES

Part Of Scheme To Link Up East And West Kowloon

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Work is expected to start next month on a multi-million-dollar road project which forms part of a scheme to provide a high quality highway across the top of the Kowloon peninsula between the industrial areas in the east and west.

The project consists of two interchanges at Pipers Hill and Tai Wor Ping and the design allows for an expected increase in traffic generated in Sha Tin.

The Pipers Hill interchange will have two single-lane flyovers each 18 feet wide, to be built at the junction of Tai Po Road with Ching Cheung Road.

The first flyover is to enable northbound traffic on Tai Po Road and Lung Cheung Road to cross the junction. A footway is to be provided on it to enable pedestrians to cross the main route in safety.

The second flyover, over the first one, will enable westbound traffic from the north to cross the junction.

All other traffic movements will be via ground-level slip roads.

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When completed in 20 months, the Pipers Hill interchange will permit uninterrupted traffic flow on the main route at the Lung Cheung Road/Ching Cheung Road junction.

Work on the Tai Wor Ping interchange is expected to start in September. It will include the re-alignment and regrading of the existing Lung Cheung Road and Tai Po Road.

The entire road project is expected to be completed in June 1974.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing the model of the Pipers Hill interchange are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes this evening.

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QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

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The Port Health Authorities announced today that quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from Quetta (airport), Pakistan, on account of smallpox.

Meanwhile, quarantine restrictions imposed against arrivals from Kabul (airport), Afghanistan, on account of smallpox have been removed.

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LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE HELPED

Settle 245 Labour Problems In May

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The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department helped employers and employees settle 245 labour problems in May.

As a result of agreement reached, 599 employees received a total of $375,340.

Of this $255,709 was paid by employers as outstanding wages, payment in lieu of notice, statutory holiday pay and bonuses of a contractual nature under the Employment Ordinance and the Industrial Employment (Holidays with Pay and Sickness Allowance) Ordinance respectively.

The remaining $119,631 was paid, apart from the legal entitlements, as severance pay and other ex gratia payments to the employees. Fresh nominal claims made by employees in the same month amounted to $1,008,741.

Officers of various district offices of the Labour Relations Service also handled 1,498 consultations and enquiries about labour laws, industrial relations and personnel management. They visited eight establishments to help employers introduce joint consultative machinery to strengthen communication between labour and management.

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NEW TYPE OF OIL BOOMS

For Fight Against Pollution

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The Marine Department maintains a stock of 500 feet of a new type of oil booms to protect vital areas like typhoon shelters, beaches and waterfronts, and to fight oil leakages from ships.

Oil booms are floating barriers used to confine oil slicks to a particular area, so that a team can move in with emulsifiers or other equipment to tackle the pollution.

A spokesman for the Marine Department said that the oil booms, bought in April last year, belonged to one of the latest models used in combatting oil pollution.

Made of black rubber, these oil booms are three feet in height. When floating on water, about one foot of the boom is visible, with the rest submerged under water.

Owing to their weight, at least two launches and 20 men are required in setting up these booms. They weigh 670 pounds per 100 feet.

These booms can be affected by choppy seas and strong currents, when the oil may escape confinement by the movement of the water.

"In view of their limitations, it is intended that only a limited supply of oil booms will be kept for use in emergencies," the spokesman said.

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GOVERNOR TO ATTEND C.A.S. DINNER

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His Excellency the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will be the principal guest at a dinner to be given by officers of the Civil Aid Services on Friday (June 16) evening.

The dinner will be held at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Restaurant in Happy Valley.

On arrival, Sir Murray will be met by the C.A.S. Commissioner, Dr. the Hon. P.C. Woo, and the Acting Chief Staff Officer, Mr. Chan Chun-ying.

The Police Silver Band will be playing during the dinner.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the dinner covered. It will be held at the restaurant on the 5th floor of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, Happy Valley and will start at 8.30 p.m. The Governor is expected to arrive at 8.15 p.m.

A G.I.S. officer will be on hand to give assistance.

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EXHIBITIONS AT CITY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

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Two exhibitions are now being held at the City Museum and Art Gallery.

One of these is the "Sketches of Hong Kong". It consists of 28 drawings by Charles D. Hoeppner, an American artist who lived in Hong Kong four years ago.

The drawings vividly portray Hong Kong, its buildings, people, streets, beaches, and the countryside.

The exhibition will remain on view till July 5.

The other exhibition is the "Art Now Hong Kong" which has recently returned to Hong Kong after a tour of four cities in the United Kingdom.

It consists of 64 paintings, prints, and sculpture selected from the City Museum's permanent collection.

The exhibition which was originally scheduled to close on June 18, is now extended until July 2.

The City Museum's film programme of the month features a 30-minute colour film entitled "Why Man Creates", showing man's progress from the primitive state to high sophistication through art. The director of the film is Saul Bass, a well-known American designer.

Two shows will be held in the Lecture Room North on Tuesday, June 20, at 3 p.m. and Friday, June 30, at 6 p.m.

Free tickets will be available at the Museum's reception counter one hour before each show.

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RICE IMPORT QUOTA

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The Commerce and Industry Department announced today that the rice import for the third quarter of 1972 had been provisionally fixed at 85,800 metric tons (i.e. 97½ per cent of the basic quota of 88,000 metric tons).

A spokesman of the Department said that rice consumption is usually lower than average in the third quarter of the year because of the warm weather. The slight reduction in the quota takes account of these circumstances.

As usual, the Department will keep development in the rice trade under close review, and may issue a supplementary quota during the quarter should circumstances so warrant, the sopokesman said.

In the five months of this year, Hong Kong imported approximately 156,200 metric tons of rice. Of this amount, Thailand supplied 66 per cent and China 27 per cent. The remainder came mainly from Australia and Burma.

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FACT SHEET ON FIRE SERVICES

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Hong Kong's Fire Services Department is "the second largest in the Commonwealth and one of the best equipped."

This is stated in a new fact sheet on the Fire Services.

It says that "in 1868, after a series of disastrous fires, Hong Kong's first fire brigade was formed under the command of a police magistrate. It was an integral part of the police force, with a strength of 66."

The fact sheet is the latest in a series produced by the Government Information Services to offer "instant information" on different aspects of Hong Kong.

Together with the new fact sheet, revised copies of two others, "Hong Kong's Medical & Health Services" and "Hong Kong's Preventive Service" have also been published.

Each of these is designed to provide essential facts on a particular subject, and is tailored to the requirements of businessmen, journalists and research workers from abroad who require more specific information but have no time to search for it in more comprehensive works of reference.

The fact sheets are produced in both English and Chinese and, wherever necessary, revised on an annual basis to keep them up-to-date.

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Note to editors: Copies of the fact sheets are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes this evening.

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EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED

32 Found Jobs In May By Placement Unit

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Thirty-two disabled were found various jobs during May by the Social Welfare Department's Liaison and Placement Unit.

Of the total, 12 were crippled, seven blind, six recovered mental patients, three retarded, three deaf, and one formerly seriously ill.

Most have been found suitable work in industry -- as sewers, packers, apprentices, messengers, labourers, and kitchen helpers. Two blind were engaged as telephone operators, one by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, and the other by the Haven of Hope Sanatorium.

Commenting on the May figures, Mr. Paul Leung, Liaison and Placement Officer, says more industrialists "have become aware of the ability of trained disabled to contribute successfully to the manning of their factories."

But he regrets it is "still difficult to place the more severely disabled, for example, wheelchair cases, largely due to problems such as transportation, factory design, and lack of space for wheelchair movement."

Mr. Leung describes the disabled who cannot use their legs because of paralysis as "intelligent people whose other faculties are in no way hampered by their inability to move without assistance."

He feels the industrial community should make an effort to overcome problems related to mobility, because "wheelchair cases make good workers, with an enormous productivity potential. They are eager to contribute reciprocally to the benefit of people who benefit them."

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DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRYSIDE FOR RECREATION PURPOSES

Government Accepts Plans

Large Stretches Of Countryside To Be Opened Up

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Large stretches of countryside in the New Territories and on Hong Kong Island are to be opened up and developed for recreational purposes.

This is one of the recommendations contained in the Five-Year Recreational Development Programmes which Government has accepted in principle.

Announcing this today (Wednesday), a Government spokesman said that facilities provided under these two programmes will add considerably to the recreational opportunities of large numbers of people and represent a practical use of our land resources.

It is estimated that the cost of the two programmes will be approximately $33 million in capital expenditure and $5 million per year in recurrent expenditure when they are fully implemented.

New Territories

The main feature of the New Territories Five-Year Recreational Development Programme is to develop a number of Country Parks.

These parks will be sited in places easily accessible from urban areas and provided with various facilities for the use of large numbers of visitors.

Initially, four Country Parks, each with an area of two square miles, will be set up at Shing Mun, Lion Rock, Pak Sha Wan, and Pak Fu Tin. In each of them the following will be provided:-

/(a) surfaced .....

(a) surfaced tracks for service vehicles and fire engines;

(b) surfaced and unsurfaced foot tracks;

(c) barbecue pits, shelters, seats, benches and tables;

(d) pavilions with toilet facilities;

(e) refuse bins;

(f) water supplies; and

(g) a park management centre with appropriate staff.

Picnic places, barbecue pits, toilets, etc. will also be provided in the 40 square miles recreational area surrounding the Country Parks.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department will be responsible for managing the Country Parks and the recreational areas.

Staff members of the Department will keep these places clean and take steps to prevent fire, soil erosion, littering, destruction of vegetation and pollution of water catchments.

Hong Kong Island

The Hong Kong Island Five-Year Recreational Development Programme adopts a similar approach to that of the New Territories Programme. It consists of three main elements:-

(a) a system of tracks and footpaths based on the existing network;

(b) picnic spots in the more popular and accessible areas at Quarry Bay, Tai Tam, Shek O Road, Birch Hill, Pokfulam, Mount Davis and Wong Nei Chung. They will be provided with barbecue pits, tables and benches, toilets, pavilions and litter bins; and

(c) two management centres initially.

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These two development programmes have been submitted, respectively, by the District Commissioner, New Territories and the Director of Public Works, and represent the first recommendations of the New Territories and Hong Kong Island Advisory Committees for Recreational Development and Nature Conservation.

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EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO SWEDEN

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The Director of Commerce and Industry today issued a Notice to Exporters on the export of restrained textiles to Sweden.

The Notice covers (a) liberalisation of export of certain garments to Sweden, (b) 1972-73 control arrangements to June 30, 1973, and (c) introduction of export authorisation scheme.

Trade associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters (Series 6) will receive copies of the notice shortly.

People who wish to seek advance notice of its contents are invited to contact the following officers of the Department:

Mr. H.T.W. Lau - Assistant Trade Officer
Tel. No. H-229777

Mr. A.R. Swinton - Industry Assistant
Tel. No. H-247315

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Release time: 6.30 p.m.