



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, June 21, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Urgent consideration being given to sending a mission to Japan to try to get increased supplies of plastics materials for local manufacturers	1
Spot checks by Commerce and Industry Department indicate rice prices returning to normal	2
Assistant Director of Aviation to attend six-day airport operators conference in Hanover	3
Technical education division expanding and moving to new accommodation	4
19 year-old youth receives stiff sentence for using firearm to resist arrest	5
Seven fishermen to receive navigation certificates	6
New English enquiry programme conducted by Secretariat for Home Affairs	7
13th anniversary of Wong Tai Sin Community Centre	8
A commemorative vase symbolising the "international brotherhood of Scouting" displayed in the City Hall	9

Thursday, June 21, 1973

- 1 -

PLASTICS MISSION TO JAPAN BEING CONSIDERED

The Commerce and Industry Department is giving urgent consideration to sending a mission to Japan for talks with the Japanese government and materials producers in an effort to get increased supplies of plastics materials for local manufacturers.

An Assistant Director of the department, Mr. R. Porter, said today that for such a mission to be successful it would have to leave very soon if the increased supplies were to help the manufacturers over their peak production period in July and August.

"However, it would not be productive to go without all the facts at its disposal."

With this in mind, the department has embarked on a publicity campaign, starting today, appealing to plastics manufacturers to complete the questionnaires recently sent to them.

Advertisements have been placed in a number of papers asking the manufacturers to furnish accurate returns by the weekend (June 23).

He said he hoped they would appreciate that the sole purpose of the department in asking for this was to "help them over this difficult period".

"With the help of the Trade Development Council new sources of supply have been located, but if the problem is to be overcome increased supplies from Japan are essential," Mr. Porter emphasised.

He explained that everything possible was being done to alleviate the present shortage of plastics materials.

"Many discussions have been held by Commerce and Industry Department officials with representatives of manufacturers and importers, and the Director, Mr. E.P. Ho, has held discussions with the Japanese Consul-General in Hong Kong," Mr. Porter said.

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/2

Thursday, June 21, 1973

- 2 -

SPOT CHECKS SHOW FALL-OFF IN RICE PRICES

Spot checks by inspectors from the Commerce and Industry Department show that retail rice prices are falling back to acceptable levels.

During the past two days shops retailing rice on both sides of the harbour have been visited and rice is now being sold in the price range \$1.20 to \$1.80 per catty.

When "panic buying" started due to completely unfounded fears that Hong Kong might face a rice shortage, prices went as high as \$2 to \$2.20 per catty.

"We are now satisfied that the market has stabilised, but a close eye will be kept on prices to ensure that no unreasonable fluctuation occurs," a spokesman for the department said today.

Stern warnings to "toe the line" have been given by the department to rice trade operators who have abused the government's control scheme.

One importer who failed to offer reasonable supplies for sale has been ordered to put on the market the balance of his stock at the normal market rates (\$115 per picul for one hundred percent whole Thai Rice).

If he finds difficulty in securing buyers, the Commerce and Industry Department will authorise alternative retail outlets to purchase from him directly.

Several wholesalers who put an excessive "mark-up" on their supplies to retailers have been warned that unless they can give a satisfactory explanation it may be necessary to advise registered importers to make no further sales to them.

/Wholesalers

Thursday, June 21, 1973

- 3 -

Wholesalers are being requested to insist that the retailers they deal with display price tags on rice offered for sale in their shops.

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Note to Editors: A picture showing a spot check by Commerce and Industry officials will be boxed this evening.

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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OPERATIONS TO BE STUDIED

Mr. B.D. Keep, Assistant Director of Civil Aviation (Technical and Planning), will leave for Germany on Saturday (June 23) to represent Hong Kong at the Conference of the Airport Operators Council International.

The six-day conference opens in Hanover on June 25 and will discuss a broad range of topics concerned with operations of airports throughout the world. The questions of airport access and aircraft noise will also be discussed.

After the conference, Mr. Keep will visit airports at Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich and Zurich to study the latest development in airport operation and planning.

He is expected to return to Hong Kong early next month.

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/4

Thursday, June 21, 1973

- 4 -

NEW OFFICES FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVISION

The Technical Education Division of the Education Department is expanding to help meet the main thrust of Hong Kong's educational effort in secondary and technical education.

To cope with this expansion, the division is moving from the department's headquarters in Lee Gardens to new accommodation on the 2nd floor of Bonaventure House, 91 Leighton Road, tomorrow (Friday).

It will now be responsible for the development of 5-year courses in existing and new secondary technical schools as well as implementation of the approved programme for pre-vocational schools and technical institutes.

In addition it will maintain the closest possible links with the Hong Kong Polytechnic.

The division is headed by Mr. Andrew J. Kingwell who took up his appointment in February 1973 as Deputy Director of Education (Technical). His new telephone number is 5-793777.

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/5

Thursday, June 21, 1973

- 5 -

STIFF SENTENCE FOR USING FIREARM

The Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Briggs, said today that the seven-year prison term he imposed on a 19-year-old youth was to act as a deterrent to others who used firearms of whatever sort when resisting arrest.

The defendant, Mak Wing-fai had pleaded guilty to charges of possession of arms and ammunition, making use of a firearm to prevent arrest, and wounding with intent.

The Supreme Court was told that Mak had a modified toy pistol and a 16-inch knife with him when a police party raided a billiard room in Wan Chai on February 15, this year.

He started to run on seeing the police. When he reached Luard Road, he fired at two police officers who were chasing after him.

One of the bullets hit the ballpen of an inspector who was not injured as a result.

The police later found some more modified toy weapons in Mak's house.

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/6

Thursday, June 21, 1973

- 6 -

CERTIFICATE^S FOR FISHERMEN

Seven young fishermen will be presented with navigation certificates tomorrow (Friday) on completion of a six-month training course conducted by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

They are Mr. Li Kwok-ming, Mr. Choi Chung-wo, Mr. Lo Siu-ki, Mr. Lam Chun-wai, Mr. Cheung Tung-kwai, Mr. Chan Chi-keung and Mr. Lam Wai-kit.

The training course aims at providing a working knowledge of chartwork, seamanship, signalling and navigation by "dead reckoning". The department hopes that this will encourage the fishermen to search for new and richer fishing grounds.

During their course, the seven trainees were taken on two one-week cruises on "Cape St. Mary", the department's research vessel.

Mr. J. Thompson, Assistant Director (Fisheries) will be presenting the certificates at 2.30 p.m.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the presentation ceremony and to attend the tea party afterwards. It will be held in the navigational classroom on the second floor of the Fish Marketing Organisation's Secondary Practical and Primary School at 2, Tin Wan Hill Road, Aberdeen.

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/7

Thursday, June 21, 1973

- 7 -

NEW ENGLISH ENQUIRY PROGRAMME

A new public enquiry session entitled "What's Your Problem" will be featured in the second part of the weekly English television programme "Spectrum" to keep non-Cantonese speaking people informed of government policies and regulations.

Conducted by the Secretariat for Home Affairs, the special session aims at complementing the Chinese radio enquiry programme presented regularly over Radio Hong Kong and Commercial Radio.

Residents from all walks of life may send in their questions which will be answered by Mr. John Chambers, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs and Mrs. Dora Taylor, Officer-in-charge of the Information Division of the Secretariat for Home Affairs.

Senior officers of various government departments concerned are also invited to take part in the programme to give more detailed and expert answers to questions.

The television programme, covering a great variety of subjects, is shown over the Pearl network of T.V.B. every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. and at 10:10 p.m. over the English Channel of R.T.V. every Monday.

Members of the public may send in their written questions to

"Information Division,
Secretariat for Home Affairs,
International Building,
10th floor,
141 Des Voeux Road Central,
Hong Kong."

or

"Spectrum - What's your problem?"
Radio Hong Kong,
Broadcasting House,
Broadcast Drive,
Kowloon."

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/8

WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNIVERSARY

Another community centre run by the Social Welfare Department is celebrating its anniversary this week -- the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre which was opened 13 years ago.

Since then it has become the centre of community life in the area.

Among the many projects it has started is a service for old people and programmes for leadership training and development of volunteers. "All projects are geared to cater to those living in the area", said Mr. Basil Leung, the Warden.

Among the other services provided in the same building are a nursery, a practical training centre and a club for deaf people, all run by voluntary agencies.

A party to mark the centre's 13th anniversary will be held tomorrow (Friday) afternoon, followed by a variety show in the evening.

Programmes have also been arranged for the coming weekend when a party for young people will be held on Saturday (June 23) evening and a fun fair for children and a Chinese opera show on Sunday. Details and tickets for these events can be obtained from the centre's group work unit.

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Note to Editors: You are welcome to send a reporter/photographer to cover the celebrations. The party will take place at 4 p.m. tomorrow and the variety show at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, the party for young people starts at 8 p.m. at the Centre. On Sunday, the fun fair will be held at the centre and starts at 2 p.m. The Chinese opera show that night will be held at Morse Park beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 21, 1973

- 9 -

WORLD SCOUTING VASE ON DISPLAY

A commemorative vase which was presented to the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, by the Scout Movement in Hong Kong will be displayed at the City Hall main foyer for a week beginning today.

The vase belongs to the classical design of the "Clermont" which flourished in the early 20th Century.

A number of local supporters of the Scouts acquired the commemorative vase, normally for presentation to heads of states, from the World Scout Movement. It was later presented to the Governor, the Chief Scout of Hong Kong, who asked that it be displayed at the City Hall as a symbol of the ties which inspire the international brotherhood of Scouting.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.