

For pay revision, better  
promotion prospects

# 1,000 GOVT TECHNICIANS HOLD SIT-IN

ABOUT 1,000 government technicians started a two-day sit-in yesterday.

They are members of the Association of Government Architectural, Cartographic, Engineering and Surveying Technicians.

They are pressing for a pay revision and for better promotion prospects.

The technicians all went to office yesterday but refused to do any work.

The chairman of the association, Mr Kwok Kam-lam, said all members had joined in the action and the sit-in had gone on as scheduled.

The technicians also put up posters in their office, criticising the Government for ignoring their demands.

Mr Kwok said most members felt the Government had shown no sign of sincerity in resolving the year-long dispute.

The technicians started a work-to-rule two months ago, and decided to escalate their industrial action last Thursday.

The sit-in will end today and the technicians intend to continue their work-to-rule tomorrow.

Mr Kwok said their action would cause delay to some Government projects as the technicians were required to go out with professional staff for field work.

Commenting on the industrial action, a PWD spokesman said the overall effect on PWD capital works projects would not be serious in view of the relatively short duration of the sit-in.

"But the sit-in would obviously cause disruption in day-to-day work," he said.

The management has been in regular touch with the striking technicians,

—by—  
**Garmen Chan**

according to the spokesman. "In fact, meetings had been held between the two parties last Friday and Saturday aimed at resolving differences," he said.

The Government, however, had not contacted the technicians since the sit-in, Mr Kwok said.

The dispute started in September last year when the technicians launched a two-week work-to-rule after their request for a meeting to discuss job benefits with the PWD director was turned down.

The action was suspended when the Government agreed to hold negotiations.

The technicians have been pressing for the creation of a party to study their demands.

The dispute dragged on and two months ago the technicians voted not to do any extra work.

The technicians have demanded that their maximum pay be raised from the present \$3,320 to \$3,650 as well as posting allowances.

They also ask that the ratio of senior to junior officers be increased from the present one to seven to one to three.

The association will hold an extraordinary general meeting at the end of this month to decide on further action.