

349 registered trade unions

There are a total of 349 registered trade unions in Hongkong with a membership of 327,931 — an overall increase of 21,777 compared with the previous year — according to the 1974-75 Annual Departmental Report of the Registrar of Trade Unions.

The figure comprises 292 employees' unions with a membership of 317,041, an increase of 21,873; 44 employers' associations with a membership of 4,879, a decrease of 60; 12 mixed organisations with a membership of 6,007, a decrease of 40; and one trade union federation (Federation of Hongkong Printing Trade Workers Unions) with a membership of four registered employees' unions.

The report said of the employees' unions, 67 are affiliated to the Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) and 85 to the Trades Union Council.

The left-wing FTU and right-wing TUC are registered as societies under the Societies Ordinance.

The FTU affiliates claimed 184,440 members, an increase of 14,393 over the previous year. They gained 14,855 members and lost 462.

The TUC affiliates declared a total of 32,099 members, a net decrease of 3,342 compared with the previous year. They gained 494 members and lost 3,836.

An estimate of the paid-up membership of the FTU affiliated unions, based on the

examination of trade union accounts received during the year, indicated the paid-up position to be approximately 148,233 members or 80.4 per cent of the declared members.

Similarly, the estimated paid-up membership of the TUC affiliates was approximately 26,521 or 82.6 per cent of the declared membership.

The number of women members in employees' unions stood at 59,423, an increase of 7,798 over last year's figure of 51,625.

A summary of accounts received during the year ended December 31, 1974 showed that total union funds amounted to \$34,538,559, an increase of \$5,858,277. This was matched by a rise in total expenditure which amounted to \$31,639,185, an increase of \$6,051,903.

Income from members by way of subscriptions and contributions amounted to \$11,821,577, an increase of \$2,469,537, compared with the previous year.

Income from other sources rose by \$3,388,740 to \$22,716,982, mainly due to higher income from schools, clinics, loans, rent and various union business undertakings.

Total welfare benefit payments increased by \$471,902 to \$3,368,913, mainly due to unemployment, death gratuities, education, marriage, maternity and relief benefits.