**Fukushima: a wake-up call for our nuclear future**

A twenty-year veteran with Atomic Energy of Canada and an active member of the international research community, Prof. Woon stated that we should first consider the Fukushima crisis in its own context. The issue of a level 7 disaster rating, which ranks Fukushima alongside the meltdown at Chernobyl, was an attempt to describe a complex situation with one number.

In contrast to Chernobyl, where the main reactor blew sending radioactive material across Europe after the explosion and fire, the crisis in Fukushima had a relatively slow build-up after the earthquake and tsunami hit the Daiichi plant, and the subsequent explosion and fire. But the number of reactors involved is not one, but four. The reaction to the partial meltdowns in units 1, 2, 3 and 0 of the plant “appeared to be just chaotic,” Prof. Woon remarked.

For both of us, this is the seeming lack of a procedure to deal with the crisis. Without a procedure, immediate decisions are crucial, but the chain of decision-making had to reach the senior management and as high as the prime minister. Hence the otherwise difficult to understand decision not to use seawater to cool units 2 and 3 immediately after unit 1 had failed.

At the corporate level, the crisis has drawn out the ramifications of applying concepts of “acceptable risk” to nuclear power. Prof. Woon said that corporate profitability and other business-focused considerations could lead to less than adequate considerations of public safety. In essence, corporate longevity and public safety can be antagonistic, at least in crisis situations.

The consequences of any nuclear disaster, let alone those that might be abetted by corporate considerations, are sobering. Prof. Woon estimated that it will take at least ten years to get to a stage where people may start to think about going back to the 30 kilometre exclusion zone around the stricken Fukushima plant. That would be the minimum time for people to go back to their usual lives, but even then buildings might have to be specially constructed for protection against radiation from the contaminated soil, and agriculture would take still more time to revive. Psychological effects on the people and social effects on the society are even harder to assess.

Clean-up efforts will also be a lingering concern. Three options seem probable. One would be to bury radioactive material somewhere in Japan, which might not be feasible given the country’s urban density. The second would be collaboration between Japan and Russia to dispose of the waste in the much larger country’s underpopulated regions. The third would be the Chernobyl-style evacuation. None of these options would be a particularly easy undertaking.

Given this context it would be all too easy to dismiss nuclear power as a viable energy option. Yet Prof. Woon maintained that fossil fuel usage is unsustainable

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**福島事故的警示：前瞻核能發電**

福島事故發生兩十年後，核能大壩成為了人們的緊張焦點。核電站的歷史地位，與其說是無與倫比的，不如說，核電站在歷史的時空中，扮演著不可或缺的角色。核電站在歷史的時空中，扮演著不可或缺的角色。

福島災區的核電站，是人類取得的核能技術的一大成就。核電站在現代能源結構中佔據著重要的地位，是人類能源利用的重要組成部分。核電站在現代能源結構中佔據著重要的地位，是人類能源利用的重要組成部分。

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Inauguration of the Hong Kong Academy of Humanities
香港人文學院正式成立

In April 2011, the Hong Kong Academy of Humanities was established in Hong Kong. The Academy is a non-profit foundation focused on the humanities in the fields of philosophy, history, sociology, language, literature, arts, Chinese culture, and education. The establishment of the Academy is to promote the development of the humanities in Hong Kong, to encourage research and innovation in humanities disciplines, and to promote public understanding of the humanities.

The Academy's mission is to bring together the leading humanities scholars from across Hong Kong to form a strong and united voice on behalf of the humanities, and to promote the recognition and promotion of humanities scholarship in and internationally. The Academy also aims to assist local humanities scholars in developing research and collaboration in Asia and other international communities.

Newly elected President of the Academy is Prof. Kam Louie, Dean of Arts, University of Hong Kong. "The humanities, which play a vital role in enriching Hong Kong life, need to be better explained and promoted -- to government, business and the community -- and who better to do this than the territory's most distinguished humanities scholars?" he said.

Prof. Zhang Long, Chair Professor of Comparative Literature and Translation, City University of Hong Kong, was elected the Academy's Vice-President. "As the current Vice-President of the Academy, I am committed to promoting the development of the humanities in Hong Kong, encouraging research and innovation in humanities disciplines, and promoting public understanding of the humanities." he said.

The Academy is expected to play a significant role in promoting the development of humanities in Hong Kong, encouraging research and innovation in humanities disciplines, and promoting public understanding of the humanities. The Academy's goal is to become a leading institution in the humanities in Hong Kong, and to contribute to the development of humanities in Asia and other international communities.
Three PolyU scholars elected as Foundation Fellows

Besides being elected as an executive committee member, Prof. Huang Chu-ren, Chair Professor of Applied Chinese Language Studies and Dean of PolyU Faculty of Humanities, was also elected as a Foundation Fellow of the Academy. Another two PolyU scholars who were elected as Foundation Fellows are Prof. Chu Hung-lam, Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Chinese Culture, and Prof. Winnie Cheng, Director of the Research Centre for Professional Communication in English at the Department of English.

理大三學者成為創院院士

理大講席教授兼人文學院院長黃屋仁教授除了被選為學院執委外，亦獲選為學院其中一位創院院士。黃屋仁教授日前接受《文汇报》訪問時表示，他感謝理大校方對理大文化及語言學科的長期支持，以及理大英文語言及傳播研究中心這些年來不懈努力。

Prof. Huang Chu-ren

Prof. Huang Chu-ren received his PhD in linguistics from Cornell University in 1987 and has since played a central role in developing Chinese language resources and in leading the fields of Chinese corpus and computational linguistics. He has directed or co-directed the construction of many important corpora.

He has published eight journal and book articles, and has written more than 300 conference papers on different aspects of Chinese linguistics and computational linguistics. He has also edited some 15 books or journal special issues.

Prof. Huang is one of the 19 permanent members of the International Committee on Computational Linguistics. He is also the first and the only Chinese in this prestigious institution in the field. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of Cambridge Studies in Natural Language Processing and also serves on the editorial boards of important journals.

Recent publication: Entitled Ontology and the Lexicon: A Natural Language Processing Perspective, published by Cambridge University Press in the Cambridge Studies in Natural Language Processing Series (2010), this volume depicts the relationships between ontologies and lexicon in a multidisciplinary perspective and focuses on the integration of lexical resources and semantic technologies.

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Prof. Chu Hung-lam

Prof. Chu Hung-lam graduated from the Chu Hai College in Hong Kong and earned his PhD in East Asian Studies from Princeton University. Prof. Chu is currently a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is an active researcher and serves as the associate director of the editorial board of a number of scholarly journals and as a reviewer of manuscripts. He has written six books and contributed to 70 refereed articles.

He was a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. and a research fellow of the Institute of History and Philology at the Academia Sinica in Taipei before returning to teach in Hong Kong. Prior to joining PolyU, he was Professor and Deputy Chairman of the Department of History and Director of the Research Centre for Confucian Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Recent publication: “Stories of the Great Ming Conquests”, included in his poems, biography, book titles and texts written when making acquaintances.

Prof. Winnie Cheng

Prof. Winnie Cheng is currently Adjunct Professor at University of International Business and Economics, Beijing; Nankai Institute of Technology, Zhejiang University; and Zhejiang Sci-Tech University in China. Her main research interests include English for specific purposes (ESP), intercultural business and professional communication, intercultural pragmatics, corpus linguistics, conversational analysis, discourse analysis, discourse integration, outcome-based education, work-integrated education, and collaborative learning and assessment.

Recent publication: “Entitled Exploring the corpus of English for specific purposes (ESP)”, this textbook adopts a practical approach to guide readers in acquiring the relevant knowledge and theories to enable the analysis, explanation and interpretation of corpus results, a key aspect of the many areas within applied linguistics.

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