

Aviation Conference highlights manpower need 航空專業會議籲政府加強人才培訓

Hong Kong's first ever Aviation Conference, with the theme "Aviation – New Career Opportunities for Hong Kong" organised by the University, has attracted over 60 participants from the aviation industry, government departments and educational institutions. Speakers included distinguished personnel from the International Air Transport Association, Cranfield University, Swinburne University of Technology and the British Malaysian Institute.

A press briefing was held after the two-day conference on 21 September, in which experts from the aviation industry strongly urged the Government to step up manpower training to support the long-term development of the industry.

Prof. Fung Kee-ying, Professor of PolyU's Department of Mechanical Engineering and Chairman of the Organising Committee, said, "We are on the threshold of new economic opportunities and the aviation industry clearly has a fundamental role to play. But the benefits to be derived will depend considerably on the expansion of our education system to provide the necessary manpower."

His views were shared by panel members Mr Hogan Loh, Chairman of Far East Flying and Technical School Ltd, and Dr Ted Pryor, Founding Member and immediate past Chairman of the Hong Kong Historical Aircraft Association.

Mr Loh and Dr Pryor elaborated that due to China's entry into the World Trade Organisation, there would be another upsurge in air transport in terms of passengers and cargo, as well as an expansion in air routes, airport facilities and air traffic control systems.

"The expansion requires steady supply of well-trained professionals in various important fields, such as aircraft maintenance, air traffic control, airport management, aviation laws and regulatory control. There is an urgent need to address the manpower supply for these demands," they said.



(from left) Prof. Fung Kee-ying, Dr Ted Pryor and Mr Hogan Loh at the press briefing.

由理大主辦的全港首屆航空專業會議以航空業為香港帶來的就業機會為主題，集中討論航空業的人才培訓工作。為期兩日的會議吸引到六十多位來自航空業、政府部門及學界的人士參與。

此外，大會並邀請到來自國際航空運輸協會、Cranfield University、Swinburne University of Technology及British Malaysian Institute的海外專家發表演說，加深與會人士對航空業最新發展的認識。

會議於九月二十一日圓滿結束，在會後舉行的新聞簡報會上，多位資深業內人士呼籲政府加強人才培訓工作，以應付航空業長遠發展帶來的人力需求。

據活動籌委會主席、理大機械工程學系馮紀應教授表示：「為配合香港目前的經濟發展，航空業的角色非常重要。若香港要從航空業的持續發展中得到益處，必需要在教育制度方面作出配合，培育高質素的專業人才。」

出席簡報會的另外兩位講者為遠東航空學校校長樂均先生與香港歷史飛機協會創會會員兼前任會長Dr Ted Pryor，他們均對馮教授的意見深表認同。

他們表示中國加入世界貿易組織在望，航空運輸在貨運和客運兩方面都會迅速增長。另外，香港在航線、機場設施與航空交通控制系統等方面也需要作出相應的配合。

他們說：「航空業的拓展需要受過良好訓練的專門人才，涉及的範圍包括飛機維修、航空交通控制、機場管理、航空法及監管等。為應付航空業日後的長遠發展，香港需盡快增加這方面的人力資源。」



Experts express the need to strengthen training to cope with future growth in the aviation industry.

Time-honoured tradition of academic exchange

August saw the organisation of three large-scale conferences on campus.

International Manufacturing Conference in China

More than 300 experts in manufacturing engineering from the Chinese mainland and overseas met on 16 August to share their research experience in the development of advanced design and manufacturing technologies.

The two-day Conference, the ninth held, represented the first-time collaboration of five local institutions. Besides our University, the others included City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Hong Kong and Vocational Training Council. The event served as an important platform at the international level for the exchange of the latest ideas and knowledge in the ever-changing field of manufacturing engineering.

Over 300 papers were presented by academics and industrialists from 22 countries, with more than 120 delegates from the mainland. Carrying the theme "Innovation and Technology for the New Millennium", the Conference covered four major

research areas:

- Advanced Materials Processing
- Product and Process Design
- Global Manufacturing and Logistics
- Advanced Manufacturing Systems

Prof. Hendrik van Brussel, Vice President of CIRP, and Mr Thomas Tang, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Productivity Council, were the keynote speakers.

The Conference also featured an industrial forum "Synergy between Hong Kong and Mainland China for Innovation and Technology in Manufacturing".

IMCC is a biennial event inaugurated in 1983. With the support from the prestigious International Institution for Production Engineering Research (CIRP), the past eight successful conferences have been held in Guangzhou, Wuhan, Nanjing, Beijing, Harbin, Hong Kong SAR and Singapore.



An energetic lion dance performance welcomes the audience from home and abroad.

Second Pan-Pacific Conference on Rehabilitation: Neurological Rehabilitation

More than 240 academics and experts in neurological rehabilitation, mainly from Australia, Britain, the Chinese mainland, Canada, Hong Kong SAR, Israel, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, UK and US, gathered at PolyU to present their latest research findings in neurological rehabilitation.

Jointly organised by the University's Department of Rehabilitation Sciences (RS) and the Health Science Centre of Peking University, the three-day Conference provided a valuable opportunity for leading scholars to exchange their views on how to facilitate more effective rehabilitation of clients with neurological disorders by combining the eastern and western practices of rehabilitation.

The Conference covered four sub-themes, namely pain management, sensori-motor rehabilitation, functional rehabilitation, and cognitive rehabilitation.

The keynote and plenary speakers included prominent international and local scholars and experts who have achieved excellence and international recognition in the field: Prof. Daniel Bourbonnais from the University of Montreal, Canada; Prof. Stephen Haley from Boston University, US; Prof. Han Jisheng from Peking University, China and Prof. Barbara Wilson from the Medical Research Council, UK; Prof. So Kwok-fai and Prof. Virginia Wong of The University of Hong Kong; Dr Leonard Li of Tung Wah Hospital; and Ms Sheila Purves of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation of the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation.

As the sole provider of tertiary education in occupational therapy and physiotherapy in the territory, RS is particularly mindful of its important role in training qualified rehabilitation professionals and in promoting research in these disciplines.

First Hong Kong Symposium on Chirotechnology

More than 150 academics in chirotechnology, mainly from Hong Kong SAR, the Chinese mainland, Europe, Japan, Taiwan and the US, gathered at the University to present their latest research findings in the field.

Jointly organised by PolyU's Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology (ABCT), the Open Laboratory of Chirotechnology, the Hong Kong Chemical Society, and the Hong Kong International Chemical Sciences, the two-day Symposium aimed to provide a valuable opportunity for leading scholars to exchange their ideas and promote further collaborations among institutions.

Prominent scholar in chirotechnology Prof. Ryoji Noyori, Director of Research Centre for Materials Science at Nagoya University in Japan, gave an opening keynote lecture on "Rapid and Productive Asymmetric Hydrogenation". The closing keynote lecture on "Advances in Selectivity for Catalytic Metal Carbene Reactions" was presented by eminent academic Prof. Michael P. Doyle, who



(1st row from left) Dr Dick Wife of Netherlands, Prof. Bill Chan of ABCT, Prof. Ryoji Noyori of Japan and PolyU's Vice President Prof. Philip Yeung.

is currently Vice President of Research Corporation and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Arizona, US.

According to Prof. Albert Chan Sun-chi, Chair Professor of Chemical Technology and Head of ABCT, the field of chirotechnology is one of the most important emerging technologies. "In the past two decades, the use of chirotechnology in the production of chiral organic compounds has become one of the most

important breakthroughs in the pharmaceutical industry. In addition to its high scientific interest, the economic potential of chirotechnology is tremendous: the world market sales of chiral drugs is estimated to be more than US\$100 billion," he said.

He further disclosed that PolyU had been playing a pivotal role in Hong Kong in bringing together local and mainland expertise to work together on the further advancement of chirotechnology. Moreover, the research team headed by Prof. Chan has already discovered three new catalysts for the process of asymmetric synthesis and successfully registered for patents in the US.

In the face of the escalating need for rehabilitation services, the Centre for East-meets-West in Rehabilitation Sciences has been designated as one of the University's "Areas of Strategic Development". Prof. Christina Hui-Chan Wan-ying, Chair Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences of RS and Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the Conference, elaborated that "the Centre seeks to merge the best of Chinese therapeutics with the best of Western rehabilitation. Under this thematic framework, the goal of the Centre is to promote evidence-based rehabilitation practice through high quality education that is informed by interdisciplinary research. To this end, the Centre has developed strong links with both international and local tertiary institutions." ❖



(from left) Prof. George Woo; Dr E. K. Yeoh, Secretary for Health and Welfare, Hong Kong SAR; Prof. Christina Hui-Chan Wan-ying and President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong at the opening ceremony.