

# Pursuing quality teacher education

**A**t a signing ceremony held on 10 January, University President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong and Prof. Ruth Hayhoe, Director of The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED), have exchanged the following two collaboration agreements:

- Agreement for Academic Collaboration, to mark the formal alliance of the two institutions,
- Collaboration Agreement for the Bachelor's degree programme in English Language Teaching, to mark the first initiative under the aegis of the alliance.

Under the academic collaboration agreement, the two institutions will undertake various programmes and activities, including the launching of academic programmes, the exchange of students and the organisation of joint conferences and seminars.

In the spirit of the academic collaboration agreement, the alliance will launch a four-year Bachelor's degree programme in English Language Teaching (ELT).



*Prof. Poon and Prof. Hayhoe are most delighted to see a promising start of the collaboration.*

Offered with both academic and practical emphasis, this programme integrates specialist academic studies (in English language) with professional training from Year 2 onwards. This allows for a coherent curriculum with clearly defined connections between academic and professional elements of the programme; it also means that more time is available for professional development.

Students on the programme will spend two summers in English-speaking countries to gain intensive exposure to the language in both educational and social contexts. They will also be placed in Hong Kong schools where they can learn from experienced teachers.

Graduates of the programme will be awarded a BA (Hons) degree in ELT by PolyU. It is anticipated that they will

have Qualified Teacher Status, and meet the requirements of the Government's language benchmarking scheme.

This unique programme will be offered to an initial intake of 30 PolyU students in autumn 2001. ❖

## New members join Consortium of Continuing Education Institutions

**T**he Consortium of Continuing Education Institutions (CCEI), initiated by the University, has expanded its network beyond the territory as two new members, namely the Macau Polytechnic Institute and the Hong Kong Productivity Council, formally joined the alliance last November.

During the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Vice-President Dr Lui Sun-wing; Mr Edmund S. L. Sung, Branch Director (Acting), Hong Kong Productivity Council; Prof. Lee Heong-iok, President of Macau Polytechnic Institute; Mr Andrew Ma, Co-ordinator of Caritas Adult and Higher Education Service; Mr Chan Cheuk-hay, Principal of the Hong Kong College of Technology; and Mr Leung Kai-lik, Director of Spare Time Study Centre, the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions.

According to Dr Anthony Tam, Director of PolyU's School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED), the University would consider credit transfer for students of consortium members to further their studies at SPEED through the "Credit Accumulation Mechanism" ❖



*Representatives of CCEI gather at PolyU to welcome the two new members.*

# Growing up with PolyU

***“Well done is better than well said,”*** Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the US, once said. This expression rang true at a recent informal tea gathering with President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong and a group of journalists to mark his tenth year with the University. The meeting room was filled with plenty of laughter, memories and anecdotes, and all agreed that Prof. Poon’s actions spoke louder than his words.

Marking the milestones for the President’s decade-long tenure is to also trace the milestones of Hong Kong as a city. The development of PolyU has kept a close pace with the changes of Hong Kong, and played an important supporting role in the city’s success.

“I feel that in the past 10 years I have helped lay a solid foundation for the University,” Prof. Poon said. “We will continue to develop PolyU into an institution that is closely linked with our society, and give our students an all-round education.”

As the top administrator of an institution of over 20,000 students and staff, Prof. Poon strongly believes that communication is the key to success. “I try to stay in touch with various bodies — faculty, students, staff, alumni and professionals,” Prof. Poon said. “Good communication has proven useful in identifying problems and thus having them solved at an early stage.”

This invisible link is an integral part of PolyU. For example, Prof. Poon frequently meets with different groups, including the Students’ Union, Staff Association, Postgraduate Association in addition to department heads and faculty deans. There are also



***The press meets with Prof. Poon about his past 10 years and the road ahead at PolyU.***



***Prof. Poon is confident that the blueprints next to him will be translated into reality soon.***

meetings with general grade staff, where the absence of department heads or senior staff enables participants to speak freely and candidly on issues that concern them. Such privilege is extended to everyone. “I encourage a sense of openness with everyone,” he said. “If something needs to get done, let’s talk about it.”

PolyU has undergone dramatic changes from its attainment of full university status in 1994. As pointed out by the University Grants Committee in the recent Management Review of the University, “The President has clearly been instrumental in guiding PolyU through the transition period (from a Polytechnic to a University).” There were many “firsts”, to name a few: starting with the implementation

of the Strategic Plan Vision 2001, for the period from 1995 to 2001, the founding of the International Strategic Technology Alliance, with the introduction of the “Non-Academic Achievements Self-Recommendation Scheme” for student applicants. These initiatives form a strong “architecture” in which future developments can be supported. PolyU continues to operate under the triennium strategic planning system. “It enables us to think forward and to follow through with our plans,” Prof. Poon said. “Success can only come with long-term vision.” The new millennium has seen the drafting of the strategic plan for the period 2001–2007.

Witnessing PolyU’s developments of the past decade, it is easy to behold the future. In 1996, the PolyU Technology and Consultancy Co Ltd was established to foster closer ties with various industries, where academics can provide solutions for Hong Kong’s enterprises. In 1997, the first mainland training outpost was opened in Zhejiang, followed by one in Beijing and another one in Shenzhen. Last year, in collaboration with Pacific Century CyberWorks, the University launched Hong Kong’s first virtual university, HKCyberU.

In anticipation of China’s entry into the WTO, this foundation will ultimately enable Hong Kong to stake a claim in the future of world commerce. “I feel that China’s entry is a valuable opportunity for us,” Prof. Poon said. “Through our collaboration with industries, student exchanges, our consultancy work and practical training for students, PolyU is ready to move ahead and take advantage of the opportunities that the WTO will bring to China and Hong Kong.”

Part of this exciting development is the building of a professional complex. “We are here to make Chinese companies more competitive



in the international arena," Prof. Poon continued.

However, students are still the priority of Prof. Poon. "Our students is proof of what we can accomplish." In addition to the constant effort to improve the academic environment for students is the ultimate aim to provide them with an all-round education.

"I have a duty to Hong Kong and our students, and to stand behind PolyU. This is my home," Prof. Poon said. Two years ago, when accepting the renewal of his contract until 2005, Prof. Poon expected to see more visions materialise. The future looks bright indeed.

A student hostels project with the capacity to accommodate more than 3,000 students will be completed soon. "Part of university

education experiences for students is campus life," Prof. Poon said. "With the new hostels, our students will be able to hone the social skills they need to succeed in life." Prof. Poon will also maintain the University's strong academic profile, with the introduction of double-degree programmes, and nurture well-rounded, responsible citizens that will contribute to the prosperity of Hong Kong. "Our Jockey Club Auditorium opened last year is a new platform for students to cultivate their appreciation for cultural activities."

It sounds like Prof. Poon will be very busy in the near future, but he seems to take it all in his stride. "I have a deep affection for this University," Prof. Poon said. "All of us are working towards a common goal." ❖

## Milestones for the past decade



### 1991

- Appointment of Prof. Poon Chung-kwong as Director of the then Hong Kong Polytechnic
- Conferment of the Institution's first PhD degree

### 1992

- Started collaboration with US National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) to study global atmosphere.

### 1993

- UPGC approved the Institution's self-accreditation of degree programmes.

### 1994

- Attainment of full University status

### 1995

- Implementation of the first Strategic Plan, for the period 1995/2001. The plan was also the first ever formulated by tertiary institutions in Hong Kong.
- Founding of the International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA)
- Founding of the Federation of PolyU Alumni Associations

### 1996

- The Holinser Space Forceps were used aboard the MIR Space Station. The second-generation devices will be used by European Space Agency in its 2003 Mars Mission.
- Establishment of PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co Ltd

- Establishment of Areas of Strategic Development in a number of identified areas of particular discipline strength
- Launch of the territory's first DBA programme
- Establishment of PolyU (Western Canada) Association

### 1996/97

- Launch of the "Preferred Graduate" Development Programme
- Introduction of the Departmental Assessment system, an internal QA framework to ensure the quality of services

### 1997

- Establishment of the first mainland training outpost in Zhejiang. Two more were set up in Beijing (1999) and Shenzhen (2000) respectively.
- Launch of "Outstanding Alumni Awards"

### 1997/98

- Revamped academic curriculum, including the inclusion of English as mandatory subjects and the implementation of credit-based system; and (in 1998/99) the inclusion of written Chinese, Putonghua & general education as mandatory subjects.

### 1998

- UGC approved construction of Student Hostels.
- Reviewed education system with other heads of institutions and representatives from different sectors of secondary schools.

### 1999

- Preliminary findings of UGC's Management Review on the Institution were highly encouraging. PolyU was commended for good management.
- Establishment of Institute for Enterprise
- Establishment of the School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED) to foster lifelong education
- Completion of the Jockey Club Auditorium
- Founding of PolyU (Eastern Canada) Association

### 2000

- Establishment of the University Motto, Vision, Mission and Values
- Co-founded the HK CyberU, Hong Kong's first virtual university, with Pacific Century CyberWorks
- Establishment of the Consortium of Continuing Education Institutions and the Credit Accumulation Mechanism
- Introduction of the "Non-Academic Achievements Self-Recommendation Scheme"
- In the first ever assessment by the Chinese Academy of Sciences on its 12 laboratories jointly established with higher education institutions in the SAR, two laboratories under the aegis of PolyU were ranked the second and the fourth by the national expert panel.
- Donation of \$100 million from the Li Ka Shing Foundation
- Drafting of the second Strategic Plan for the period 2001/2007





# Reaping coveted *awards* at International Invention Expo

**A**t the International Invention Expo held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre 16–20 November 2000, the brainchildren of PolyU staff took six awards in total. The honour went to the following:



Dr Tam Hwa-yaw (left), with the fruit of his labour, and Ir. Lo Kok-keung.

*Gold*

## Cylindrical Microlens Array for Long-period Gratings Fabrication

Dr Tam Hwa-yaw and Dr S. Y. Liu  
(Department of Electrical Engineering)

*Silver*

## Electric Cable Sheath Opening Tool

Ir. Lo Kok-keung, Dr Eric Fung Hoi-kwun and Yuan Jing  
(Department of Mechanical Engineering)

*Bronze*

## Versatile Computer Modeling Technique for Power System Stability Analysis

Dr Tse Chi-tong and Dr Chung Chi Yung  
(Department of Electrical Engineering)



Ir. Lo Kok-keung introduces his invention.

## Diesel Particulate Trap

Dr Cheung Chun-shun, Ir Tony Chan Sui-ling, Dr Chuen Chun-wah, Dr Hung Wing-tat, Ir. Lo Kok-keung and Dr Eric Fung Hoi-kwun  
(Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Department of Civil & Structural Engineering)

## The Ferric Reducing (Antioxidant) Power (FRAP) Assay

Dr Iris F. F. Benzie and Prof. J. J. Strain  
(Department of Nursing and Health Sciences)

## Perforation of Hollow Fibres with Laser Induced Micropores through Fibre Wall

Dr Lau Kai-shui, Dr Peter Chan Kwong, Prof. P.W. Chan, Dr W.Z. Gong, Dr K.H. Wong and Prof. Philip Yeung Kwok-wing  
(Department of Applied Physics, and Institute of Textiles & Clothing)



Dr Tam explains the theories behind.

The PolyU projects, together with other winning projects, were selected from more than 600 entries from Hong Kong and the mainland.

Comprising an exhibition, an invention competition and a seminar, IExpo 2000 aimed to promote inventions and innovations both to the business community and the public. Organised by the China Association of Inventions and Hong Kong Productivity Council, the event offered a forum where inventors, exhibitors, manufacturers and entrepreneurs from Hong Kong, the mainland and overseas met to exchange experience in innovative technology and product development.

The University hosted exhibition booths where a number of inventions of our academic colleagues were showcased.

# 理大表彰六位傑出中國學者

## Paying tribute to six distinguished Chinese scholars



The scholars pictured with Mr Weng Fengchao, Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in HKSAR (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and President Prof. Poon (next).

Six renowned scholars from the Chinese mainland were honoured last October at the presentation ceremony of the University's "Distinguished Chinese Visiting Scholars Scheme 2000".

The distinguished scholars are:

- **Prof. Li Shaozhen:** the first ophthalmologist elected as Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, she is currently Professor of Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre at the Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Science and Country Advisor (PRC) of Helen Keller International.
- **Prof. Yao Xinsheng:** a leading scholar in Chinese pharmaceutical science, he is Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and Professor of Natural Products Chemistry at Shenyang Pharmaceutical University.
- **Prof. Hu Yuxian:** a specialist in earthquake engineering. Elected as Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1991, he is now Professor of the Institute of Geophysics at China Seismological Bureau.
- **Prof. Lu Jianming:** a leading scholar on modern Chinese, he is Professor of Peking University's Chinese Department, and Director of its Research Centre of Chinese Linguistics.
- **Prof. Huang Shanglian:** a prolific scholar in optoelectronic engineering, he was elected as Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering in 1995, and is now Professor of the Department of Optoelectronic Engineering at Chongqing University.
- **Prof. Lu Shibi:** a pioneering scholar in the study of artificial joint, he is currently Chief and Professor of the Orthopaedics Department, General Hospital of Chinese People's Liberation Army.

The Chinese Visiting Scholars Scheme is part of the University's endeavours to promote and enhance academic exchange between Hong Kong and the mainland. Since its launch in 1994, a total of 38 Chinese scholars in various academic disciplines have participated in exchange activities through the Scheme. ❖

本校於去年十月底展開二零零零年度傑出中國訪問學人計劃，並舉行典禮表揚六位內地知名學者。由中央人民政府駐香港特別行政區聯絡辦公室副主任王鳳超先生及校長潘宗光教授擔任主禮嘉賓。

今年膺選參加該訪問計劃的六位學者為：

- **李紹珍院士**——中國眼科界首位中國工程院院士，她主持的「白內障防治研究」曾獲一九九六年國家科技進步三等獎，現時李院士為中山醫科大學中山眼科中心眼科教授及海倫凱勒國際防盲組織中國顧問。
- **姚新生院士**——中國藥物學的權威；他的研究成果包括以中藥防治癌症及中藥複方的現代化等。他研究開發的新藥共四項，另在內地成功申請專利十二項，發表論文七十篇。姚院士現為瀋陽藥科大學教授。
- **胡聿賢院士**——中國著名的地震工程學專家；他曾以研究渤海灣鑽油地點的地震風險及核電廠的抗震設計獲國家獎項；並在一九九一年榮膺中國科學院院士，現時胡院士為中國地震局地球物理研究所研究員。
- **陸儉明教授**——現代漢語語法研究的權威；其主要研究範圍包括現代漢語教學、句語研究、虛詞的運用及中文信息處理等。陸教授著作甚豐，發表論文逾一百五十篇，著書十多本，現時在北京大學中文系執教，兼任北大漢語語言學研究中心主任。
- **黃尚廉院士**——中國的光電工程專家；其研究範圍包括精密儀器、測量科學、光電技術、光學字符識別與圖像處理、光纖傳感器及智能結構系統，他在一九九五年當選為中國工程院院士，現為重慶大學光電工程系教授。
- **盧世璧院士**——中國研究骨科人工關節的先驅；他特別專長於關節外科、周圍神經損傷及骨腫瘤等研究。盧院士從醫五十年間曾著書十餘冊及發表論文逾二百篇，現時在解放軍總醫院擔任骨科主任醫師兼教授。

傑出中國訪問學人計劃是理大推動香港和內地學術交流的重點活動之一。這項計劃自一九九四年推出以來，已有三十八位著名中國學者透過計劃訪問理大。膺選的學者分別由校內不同的學系提名。他們在訪港期間，與有關學院及學系的教職員交流學術研究心得，並主持公開講座及研討會。 ❖