

With heartfelt thanks to our donors *Naming of campus facilities*

Three campus facilities were recently named after respected community leaders in grateful appreciation of three major donations concerned.

Li Ka Shing Tower reshapes the campus skyline



Dr Li talks about the '3Qs' before unveiling a commemorative plaque with Sir Gordon and Prof. Poon and receiving a souvenir from PolyU.



On 4 December, the University celebrated the naming of its "Li Ka Shing Tower" at a special ceremony.

This follows the University Council's decision to name this tallest building on campus after Dr Li Ka-shing, Chairman of the Li Ka Shing Foundation, in recognition of his earlier donation of \$100 million to PolyU. This is the largest amount of personal donation ever received by PolyU since its inception.

Speaking at the ceremony, Council Chairman Dr Sir Gordon Wu said, "In achieving its series of ambitious plans for the 21st century, PolyU does count on the support of visionary community leaders like Dr Li."

Dr Li expressed appreciation of PolyU's recognition. He said at the ceremony that PolyU has a long history and has indeed made longstanding contribution to the growth and development of Hong Kong.

In his speech, Dr Li shared his view of seeing the '3Qs' – IQ (Intelligence Quotient), EQ (Emotional Quotient) and SQ (Spiritual Quotient) – as his key to success. He urged that faced with the transformation of the local economy and global economic downturn, one must continue to positively and persistently forge ahead.

冬日校園有感

中文及雙語學系講師 張衍源

校園冬暖綠如茵，
 依樣紅磚結構新。
 文理工商期首選，
 行藏用捨貴情真。
 天工開物當成務，
 勵學培才在利民。
 歲晚不凋松柏志，
 諸生濡沫可傳薪。



Located at the heart of the campus, the new, 18-storey Li Ka Shing Tower provides a total gross floor area about 22,500 square metres, and is now fully open for occupancy. The building forms the core of PolyU's Phase VI campus development project, accommodating student computing facilities, classrooms, lecture theatres, administrative offices, academic departments, staff restaurants and exhibition space.

The Tower takes on a contemporary outlook and is largely in a red-brick colour, in tune with the other buildings on campus. The overall design comprises two basic forms prevailing on campus: blocks and cylinders. Its sculptural form is visually dynamic, with window walls, interlocking geometrical forms as well as a sense of symmetry and solidity.

The building boasts a rich and proud inheritance. It takes over from the site of the former Main Building, which was first opened in 1957 as the new home of the then Hong Kong Technical College, forerunner of the Hong Kong Polytechnic and PolyU.



Dr Li's donation, made last year in the name of the Li Ka Shing Foundation, is contributing to the long-term development of the University and facilitating the further advancement of its professional and continuing education activities as well as services to business and industry.

University President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong said, "As Hong Kong heads towards a knowledge-based economy, Dr Li has enthusiastically donated towards the development of higher education to support the strengthening of its pool of talents. His vision and support for us thus mean much more than sponsoring PolyU. It is also about furthering the long-term development of Hong Kong and the motherland as a whole."

The Li Ka Shing Foundation was established in 1980 to promote the development of education and healthcare. Dr Li and his Group of companies have donated about \$4.5 billion towards various charitable activities in Hong Kong and the mainland.

◀ **Dr Li flanked by Sir Gordon, Prof. Poon and Deputy President Mr Alexander Tzang at the lobby of the Tower.**

Naming of Chan Sui Wai Building

Earlier on, the University named a wing of its teaching block after the late Mr Chan Sui-wai in recognition of the generous donation of \$15 million from the Chan's Family Charity Trust to support the University's future development.

At a ceremony held on campus on 6 September, Mr Chan Sui-kau, brother of the late Mr Chan Sui-wai, Mrs Chan Wu Wan-kwai, wife of the late Mr Chan and her son Mr Chan Wing-kee, presented a donation cheque of \$15 million to Sir Gordon and Prof. Poon. Mr Chan Sui-kau is Founding Member of the PolyU Court and Chairman of YangtzeKiang Garment Manufacturing Co. Ltd., and Mr Chan Wing-kee is the company's Managing Director.

Mr Chan Sui-kau said, "We now make this donation to The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, in memory of my elder brother Sui-wai and as a token of our support for the cultivation of talent and the development of Hong Kong's education."

The Chans have pioneered the development of Hong Kong's garment manufacturing industry.

As ardent supporters of education, they have donated generously towards the construction of a teaching block in Peking University and of schools in Dongguan, Panyu and Shunde.

The "Chan Sui Wai Building" houses classrooms, laboratories and a Centre for Independent Language Learning.



(From left) Prof. Poon, Mr Chan Sui-kau, Sir Gordon, Mrs Chan Wu Wan-kwai and her sons Mr Chan Wing-kee and Dr Chan Wing-to.

Square named after alumnus Suen Chi-sun

The "Suen Chi-sun Memorial Square" has been named after the late Mr Suen Chi-sun in recognition of the generous donation from the Simatelex Charitable Foundation to support PolyU's long-term development, particularly in areas related to mechanical and electrical engineering.

At a naming ceremony held on 13 December, Mr T. C. Ho, Representative of Simatelex Charitable Foundation, presented a donation cheque of \$7 million to Sir Gordon and Prof. Poon. The plaque of the Memorial Square was unveiled by Mrs Suen Chow Yuet-kam, wife of the late Mr Suen and Chairperson of Simatelex Group, and Ms Esther Suen, daughter of the late Mr Suen and Chairman of Advisory Committee of Simatelex Charitable Foundation. The donation is so far the largest donation that the University received from the family of an alumnus.

Ms Esther Suen said, "It was obvious to us that he benefited tremendously from the time he spent at the Institution and was proud of being an alumnus."

The late Mr Suen Chi-sun was a distinguished graduate of the then Hong Kong Technical College in the 1950s and founder of the Simatelex Manufactory Co. Ltd., a prominent industry leader in the electrical home appliance industry. A dedicated philanthropist, Mr Suen established the Simatelex Charitable Foundation to help nurture engineering professionals in the territory.

The Suen Chi-sun Memorial Square, boasting a total area of over 1,700 square metres, is conveniently located in the central part of the campus.❖



(From left) Sir Gordon, Mr Ho, Mrs Suen and Prof. Poon.

Blazing new trails in chemistry

PolyU has great potential to achieve world-class excellence in the area of chemical technology, the selection results of the second round of the University Grants Committee's Areas of Excellence (AoE) scheme revealed.

The proposal "**The Hong Kong Institute of Molecular Technology for Drug Discovery and Synthesis**", jointly submitted by PolyU and The University of Hong Kong (HKU) in collaboration with four other local universities, won a total of \$48 million funding for a five-year period out of a total of \$99.8 million awarded to three proposals in the selection exercise.

The two leaders at the helm of this AoE are Prof. Albert Chan Sun-chi from PolyU, and Prof. Che Chi-ming from HKU.

Announcing the results, UGC Chairman Dr Alice Lam, said, "The UGC made a very good start in the first round by supporting three proposals with a total funding allocation of more than \$120 million. In this second round, the number of quality proposal has increased and we are greatly encouraged. The three supported proposals are in areas where clear potential for Hong



Kong to excel has been established. We are very hopeful that in five years' time the three teams will be able to demonstrate success to the benefit of the entire community of Hong Kong."

Dr York Liao, Chairman of UGC's Areas of Excellence Committee, said, "To uphold the notion of 'excellence' and, to make sure that all funded proposals are capable of attaining world-class excellence, we have applied a stringent benchmark in evaluating

all AoE proposals. In total, the UGC received 55 initial proposals from the eight UGC-funded institutions".

The mission of the Institute of Molecular Technology is to implement world-class science and technology in the area of drug discovery and synthesis. The Institute will invent novel methodologies for the preparation and structural modification of new drug candidates as well as for proven drugs that carry no patent rights. Environmentally friendly technologies for drug synthesis will also be invented. Commercially applicable technologies are expected to be attained within the next five to 10 years.

Furthermore, PolyU experts, also from Prof. Chan's Department of Applied Biology and Chemistry Technology, are involved in another AoE which was awarded funding in this round of selection. Entitled "**Chinese Medicine Research and Further Development**", the AoE seeks to promote the modernization of Chinese medicine and provide clinical research for drug development. ❖

Chemist earns nation's top academic title

Prof. Albert Chan Sun-chi of PolyU emerged as one of the six distinguished local scholars elected as new members of the prestigious Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

"This is definitely very special recognition of my research work," said Prof. Chan, who is currently Chair Professor of Chemical Technology and Head of the Department of Applied Biology and Chemistry Technology. "I would like to emphasise that while the CAS membership is personal, the honour associated with my election belongs to all of my co-workers and to PolyU. The UGC and RGC also deserve much of the credit for the financial support of our study. This membership will help us to strengthen research collaboration with our mainland colleagues."

CAS membership is the highest academic title in the field of science and technology in China and an honour of life tenure conferred by the state. An election of members is held every two years, and the number of newly elected members in each election should not exceed 60.

The 56 new CAS members elected most recently were screened from among more than 300 candidates nominated by CAS members and/or academic institutions all over the country. Currently, CAS has more than 600 members. ❖



New website to promote quality teaching

Representatives from the publicly funded tertiary institutions in the SAR saw their collaboration bear fruit as they witnessed the launch of the website “Teaching Effectively in Higher Education in Hong Kong” (TEHE) on PolyU campus on 29 October.

Funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC), the website is designed to present a selection of useful resources for teachers who are engaged in higher education.

Officiating at the ceremony were Mr Peter Cheung, Secretary-General of UGC, Prof. Cheng Yin-cheong, Chairman of the Teaching Development Sub-Group of UGC, and PolyU President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong.

Addressing the ceremony, Prof. Poon said, “The website signifies the joint effort of all the UGC-funded institutions in advancing the quality of teaching for Hong Kong’s higher education.”

Co-ordinated by PolyU, all UGC-funded institutions have contributed towards the development of the TEHE website at <http://teaching.polyu.edu.hk>. It enables teachers, in particular those in the tertiary sector, to access a pool of useful resources on teaching and learning as well as news and events related to the academic field. It will also be a channel for sharing ideas and experiences among university teachers. ❖



At the launching ceremony: (from left) Prof. Cheng, Prof. Poon, Mr Cheung and Vice President Prof. Leung Tin-pui.



Innovative projects on display



The University proudly showcased the deliverables of close to 70 cutting-edge projects through more than 30 display items at the Innovation Expo held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in November.

Over an area of 350 square metres, PolyU displayed the largest number of exhibits in the event, which attracted more than 120,000 visitors.

With the theme “Today’s Technology Tomorrow’s World”, the Expo was organised by the Innovation and Technology Commission to demonstrate Hong Kong’s achievements in innovation and technology and to enhance public awareness of their importance in the upgrading of the quality of life. The five-day event featured displays from local universities as well as numerous public and private organizations. ❖



Tool for Mars mission strikes gold in Eureka fair

An innovative, Hong Kong-made space tool captured a gold medal in the Brussels Eureka 2001, thanks to the collaborative efforts of a team of scientists from both within and without the university.

Known as the "Mars Rock Corer", the project was led by Dr Ng Tze-chuen, a dentist; Prof. Yung Kai-leung, Associate Professor of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering, PolyU; Mr Yu Chun-ho, Engineer of the Industrial Centre, PolyU; and Mr Chan Chiu-chenug, an independent engineer. The work of these Principal Investigators is supported by the Industrial Centre under the directorship of Dr Chris Wong Ho-ching. The team has the honour of having Prof. Yang Chen-ning, Nobel laureate in Physics, as the project advisor.

The Brussels Eureka, also called the 50th World Exhibition of Invention, Research and Industrial Innovation, was held in Belgium from 13-19 November. This annual meeting of leading researchers, creators of new technologies and technology transfer professionals featured one of the world's most prestigious innovation contests. The contest and exhibition were subscribed by over 600 entries from more than 50 countries.

The delegation to the contest was led by Dr Ng and Miss Juliana Tam Mei-yuk, Training Officer of the Industrial Centre.

The Rock Corer is hailed as the most critical tool to unlock the mystery of exobiology on the planet Mars. The initial concept was conceived from the design of a pair of dental forceps invented by Dr Ng for gripping different shapes and sizes of porcelain inlays. With the help of PolyU experts, the idea was developed into the Space Forceps System which consists of 70 interconnectable components for astronauts of space stations and shuttles.

With further outside help for the team, the concept was then developed into the Planetary Micro Sampling tools for surface and subsurface rock coring and soil sampling. These tools attracted the attention of European Space Agency to appoint the team to develop the Rock Corer for the Mars Lander Beagle 2 of their Mars Express, to be launched in 2003.



The Rock Corer is a multifunctional tool which can be used to grind, drill, core and grip rock samples, with a low energy consumption of two watts, a small size and weighting only 370 gm.

The Mars Rock Corer will perform The First Planetary Rock Coring in the solar system for mankind after landing on the surface of Mars on Boxing Day 2003. It will be the first instrument made by local Chinese to touch the soil of a planet outside earth. For more details, visit <http://www.hkmars.net>.

Earlier in the year, another associated project "Space End-Effectors for Mars" won the 1010 Award for Innovation in the Leader of the Year 2000 awards organised by the Sing Tao Group. Last year the project also won "The Most Innovative Award" in the Election of 10 Engineering Wonders in Hong Kong organised by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers.❖

Advanced research institute unveiled in Shenzhen

In declaring The PolyU Shenzhen Research Institute open, PolyU reached a new milestone in boosting its research and professional services and in developing high technology in collaboration with mainland scientists and researchers.

Officiating at the Institute's opening ceremony in Shenzhen on 4 September were Prof. Cheng Siwei, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Mr Zhuang Xinyi, Vice Mayor of Shenzhen.

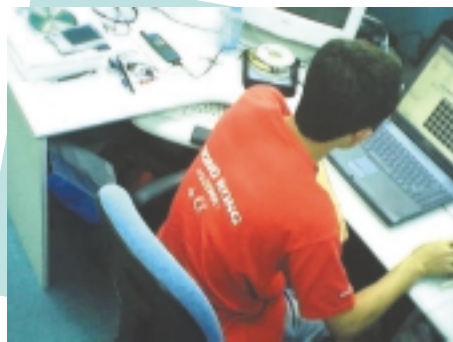
Having become a member of the Shenzhen Virtual University Park last year, PolyU further set up the Institute, based mainly in the Park's premises at the Shenzhen High-Tech Industrial Park. Under the directorship of Dr Lui Sun-wing, PolyU Vice President (Partnership and Continuing Education), the new Institute is a conglomeration of research centres and training facilities with five units in full operation:

- The **China Accounting and Finance Research Centre** has embarked on collaborative studies with prestigious institutions such as Peking University and Tsinghua University, and launched extensive co-operation with mainland financial institutions including the Ministry of Finance and the National Audit Office.



Unveiling the Institute: (from left) PolyU President, Prof. Cheng, Mr Zhuang and Dr Lui.

- The **Hong Kong Young Industrialists Council Executive Training Centre** is an initiative to meet the demand of high-calibre management professionals of enterprises in the Pearl River Delta. The Centre was set up jointly with The Hong Kong Young Industrialists Council with the support of Tsinghua University's Research Institute in Shenzhen.
- The **MIC Multimedia Technologies Ltd in Shenzhen** specialises in areas such as Digital Signal Processing, Web-enabled distance education, development of electronic games and 3D animation.



- The **Institute of Materia Medica** and The **Institute of Modern Chinese Medicine** offer new biological and chemical technology and world-class laboratory facilities for supporting a

modern Chinese medicine industry and for developing high-quality health products and drugs for the international market.



The Shenzhen Institute is staffed by a host of research and administrative personnel and has more than 3,800 square metres of office and laboratory space.

The opening ceremony was followed by a book release ceremony of Prof. Cheng's English title *Studies on Economic Reform and Development in China*. The Institute helped review the manuscripts and coordinated its publication by Oxford University Press.

The event was further followed by a "Symposium on High-Tech Enterprises' Financing" co-hosted by PolyU and China Venture Capital Corporation.



SMILE develops assessments system for Examinations Authority

The University and the Hong Kong Examinations Authority (HKEA) has entered into an agreement to develop the Basic Competency Assessments (BCA) System. The contract covers the development of the main BCA system, and the provision and facility management of the hardware system.

Mr Choi Chee-cheong, Secretary of HKEA, and Dr Lui Sun-wing, PolyU Vice President (Partnership and Continuing Education), signed the agreement on behalf of the two parties on 7 December.

The BCA System, initiated by the Education Commission, aims to facilitate online assessment of the competency of students from primary one to secondary three in three core subjects, namely, Chinese, English and Mathematics. The System, a pioneer of its kind in the world, will provide a user-friendly environment to enable a large number of students to undertake assessment concurrently using the latest Web-based technologies. A pilot run will be held in June 2002.



Dr Lui (left) and Mr Choi at the agreement signing ceremony.

Dr Lui said, "We are proud that the SMILE Technologies Ltd, a spin-off company of PolyU which specialises in Web-based database technology, has been awarded this project through a competitive public tendering process."

Headed by Associate Professor Dr Stephen Mak and Lecturer Mr Lennon Choy of PolyU's Department of Building and Real Estate, the project team was previously involved in the design and development of the System for Multimedia Integrated Learning (SMILE). This university-developed

intranet software can be easily employed in school settings to enhance student-teacher interaction and school administration. SMILE launched an Application Service Provider (ASP) version in mid-1999 and over 110 primary and secondary schools have used this system since then.

Building on the success of SMILE, PolyU was awarded the BCA contract amidst fierce competition from other tenderers.

SMILE caters for the needs of primary and secondary schools to develop multimedia learning materials for Web-based access and to help teachers monitor the progress of individual students. Students can submit their homework online, review the teachers' comments, and join the System's subject-based online discussion forum. It also provides a cost-effective platform for school administrators to retrieve information and produce examination records, and for parents to access school announcements, check their children's records and communicate with the schools.

Industrial Centre celebrates silver jubilee

PolyU's Industrial Centre (IC) celebrated its 25th anniversary with university staff and friends at a banquet held in Nikko Hotel on 26 October.

The guests of honour included Sir Sze-yuen Chung, Founding Chairman of the then Hong Kong Polytechnic, Council Chairman Dr Sir Gordon Wu and Dr Ng Tat-lun, Steering Committee Chairman of IC.

IC Director Dr Chris Wong said the Centre has remained committed to its mission of providing quality industrial training for education and technology-based industries since its establishment in 1976.



From left: Dr Wong, Sir Sze-yuen, Sir Gordon, Deputy President Mr Alexander Tzang, Dr Ng Tat-lun and Vice President Dr Lui Sun-wing.