

Grooming talents for the motherland

Campaign corks popped for the new Xi'an Tongli Technology Enterprise Limited – a joint venture formed between Xi'an Jiaotong University and PolyU – which came into full operation in late October 2002.

Under the joint venture, both institutions would operate a college for international enterprises, an international enterprise service centre and an international enterprise incubator centre in Xian. The new company has received its green light from the State Council's Academic Degrees Committee to offer two Master Degree programmes leading to PolyU awards.

PolyU President Prof. Poon said, "Not only has this initiative pulled together resources of both institutions in supporting the national policy of Western development, it also empowers our entrepreneurs to grasp the business opportunities that have arisen from China since its accession to the WTO."

Apart from the new initiative in Xian, PolyU has already set up outpost centres in Hangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai. Training courses designed for executives and managers of the Mainland enterprises, who need to work closely with Hong Kong companies, are launched to cater for the rapid development of China. ❖



Dr Lui Sun-wing unveils a plaque for the new joint venture.



Representatives of PolyU and Xi'an Jiaotong University officiate at the opening ceremony.

China Business Centre celebrates 10th Anniversary



Dr Thomas Chan

The China Business Centre (CBC) has recently staged a series of public lectures and seminars featuring prominent speakers on current topics in celebration of its 10th Anniversary.

The lecture series started with a keynote presentation by Dr Thomas Chan Man-hung, Head of CBC, on relationship between the United States and Iraq and the possibility of another Gulf War as well as its impact on the world economy.

Another highlighting event is a discussion forum held on 13 and 14 December in review of China's situation one year after its accession to the WTO.

Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the HKSAR, Mr Ji Peiding, President of the Legislative Council, Mrs Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai and President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong officiated at the opening ceremony. Other key government officials and academics were invited from the Chinese mainland and locally

to join the forum.

Aimed at furthering management development on the Chinese mainland and providing support to cross-border business activities, CBC has won reputation among trade members and academics since its establishment in 1992. ❖



The China Business Centre celebrates its 10th Anniversary.

President's term extended

The University Council has resolved to extend the appointment of Prof. Poon Chung-kwong as President of the University for another four years until 31 December 2008 following the expiry of his current term of office on 31 December 2004.

Dr Sir Gordon Wu Ying-sheung, Council Chairman, praised Prof. Poon for his commitment and impressive achievements made in his past 12 years of presidency. "It is important for the University to retain the service of such a dedicated and visionary leader as Prof. Poon to lead the University through the tough challenges lying ahead," said Sir Gordon.

Informal consultation sessions were held with officers of the PolyU Staff Association, the Postgraduate Association and the Students' Union, during which widespread support for the re-appointment was received. This echoes with the high rating Prof. Poon has received in a 360-degree performance review conducted in year 2000 reflecting his popularity among the PolyU community.

Expressing his profound appreciation of the Council's decision and the goodwill and trust it represents, Prof. Poon thanked all members of the PolyU community – students, staff, members of the Council and Court alike – for their continuous support. He said, "I'm proud and privileged to have been supported by such a dedicated and capable team of colleagues during the past 12 years and together we had overcome many challenges."

"Guided by the shared vision and commitment, my colleagues and I together will continue to move ahead and rise to future challenges with confidence and enthusiasm," Prof. Poon said. ❖

Time out: management workshop to brainstorm strategy

A total of 110 senior staff attended the Ninth Management Workshop focussing on 'Developing Preferred Graduates' from 9 to 11 December in Macau. The Workshop provided a forum for staff members to share their views on the policies and directions of the University. During the three-day event, staff members reviewed a number of management issues and discussed various topics including copyright issues, curriculum reform for all-round development of students and innovative teaching. ❖



President awarded GBS

President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong has been awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) in recognition of his immense contributions to the development of higher education in Hong Kong and his distinguished service to the community.

Prof. Poon has been one of the 17 personalities awarded the GBS. The honour is the second highest honour a citizen can be given by the Chief Executive in appreciation of their dedication to the community. He was presented the award at the 2002 Honours and Awards Presentation Ceremony at the Government House on 12 October. ❖



The benevolent Tang family

Textile tycoon Dr Jack Tang Chi-chien and his family once again demonstrated their munificent support to the education sector and their fondness for PolyU.

At a ceremony held on 18 October, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong announced that an accumulative sum of \$20 million donation has been made by Dr Tang to the University over the years.

In commemoration of the Tang family's generosity and their contributions to PolyU, the University has named two wings of its teaching blocks after Dr Tang's late parents – Dr Tang Ping-yuan and Mrs Kinmay W. Tang.

Honourable guests including Dr Tang, Chairman Emeritus of Tristate Holdings Ltd. as well as Member of the University Court, and his son Mr Martin Y Tang, jointly unveiled the commemorative plaque in the company of PolyU Council Chairman Dr Sir Gordon Wu Ying-sheung and Prof. Poon. Sir Sze-yuen Chung, Founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Polytechnic Council and a close friend of the Tang family, also attended the ceremony as a guest of honour.

On behalf of the University, Sir Gordon thanked Dr Tang and his family for their



The Tang family and guests pose before the two newly named teaching blocks.

generous donations and continuous support. He said, "Despite the regretful loss of Dr Tang senior in 1971, we are fortunate to have retained close ties with his family members. His beloved wife, the late Mrs Kinmay Tang, son Dr Tang, grandson Mr Martin Tang and other family members have generously offered us their guidance and support which are important to the growth of PolyU."

Prof. Poon also expressed profound gratitude to the Tang family. "Over the years, the University has received a total sum of \$20 million donation from Dr Tang

and in the name of the Victor Tang Charitable Trust. The naming of the buildings records the friendship between PolyU and the three generations of the Tang family," Prof. Poon explained.

The late Dr Tang Ping-yuan was the first Chairman of the Polytechnic Planning Committee during the period of 1969 to 1971. Under his chairmanship, Dr Tang senior and the Committee studied the possibility of establishing a polytechnic in Hong Kong. In spite of the untimely death of Dr Tang senior in 1971, Sir Sze-yuen succeeded his work and finished the proposal for the government. Their recommendations later led to the establishment of the Hong Kong Polytechnic in 1972.

Dr Tang has kindly followed the footsteps of his father by becoming a Founding Member of the Council between 1972 and 1976 and Member of the University Court from 1995 till now.

The two buildings – one seven and one eight storeys high – were located at the southwestern corner of the university campus. The buildings house the School of Nursing, the School of Hotel and Tourism Management as well as many other academic departments.



Sir S.Y.: in memory of his close friend



Dr Tang receives token of thanks from Sir Gordon.

Businessman invests on worthy cause

Renowned businessman Mr Daniel Koo, Chairman of Shui Hing (HK) Limited, presented a cheque of \$2.5 million to President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, in support of the university's long-term development. A lecture theatre was named after Mr Koo in recognition of his generous donation on 21 November.

Prof. Poon expressed his profound gratitude for Mr Koo's benefaction during the ceremony, "Let me assure you that our University shares your concern for grooming the kind of talent that will contribute toward the well-being and growth of Hong Kong and China."

Mr Koo shared his appreciation, "It gives me great pleasure to support what I consider to be a worthy cause. To support the future development of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, in particular in the area of student enhancement, is deeply meaningful to me."

Being a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr Daniel Koo is a known pioneer in local retail industry. Born in Hong Kong and educated both in Hong Kong and Shanghai, Mr Koo has been operating businesses including department stores, specialty shops and supermarkets since 1946. He has brought to the territory quality merchandise from the US and Europe and nurtured what had been a humble family business into today's well-established enterprise.

Located in core building PQ303, the Daniel Koo Lecture Theatre has a seating capacity of 116 persons and offers excellent audiovisual equipment. The lecture theatre is widely used for general teaching purpose, seminars and academic workshops.



Prof. Poon (left) thanks Mr Koo for his kind donation.



Mr & Mrs Koo (third and fourth from right) share happy moment with friends and family.

Face to face with Sir Gordon

MSc students in Industrial Logistics Systems were excited to meet Dr Sir Gordon Wu Ying-sheung, Council Chairman, during a departmental talk held by the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) on

17 October. Sir Gordon also took the opportunity to visit the Department's new Centre for Enterprise Systems.

Invited by Prof. W.B. Lee, Chair Professor and Head of ISE, Sir Gordon shared his views on the benefits of building a "Zhuhai-Hongkong-Macau Bridge" towards Hong Kong's future, especially on enhancing Hong Kong's position as a logistics hub in the region.

Sir Gordon pointed out that the proposed bridge would not only strengthen the transportation network by providing a passage through Hong Kong, Macau to Zhuhai, but would also accelerate development of local logistics industry. The bridge could turn Hong Kong into an economic driver for the Southern China and establish links with cities in the inland areas of China. In doing so, Hong Kong would become a centre of purchasing, storage and distribution for China.

Students showed great interest in Sir Gordon's insightful talk and were enthusiastic to share their opinion during the discussion session which lasted for more than an hour.



From left: Prof. Lee, Sir Gordon, Mr K.L. Choy and Dr Stephen Ng pose at the new Centre for Enterprise Systems.

Main news in brief

\$12.6 million product design software received

The California-based software manufacturer MSC.Software Corporation has committed a donation of HK\$12.6 million worth computer-aided engineering modeling and analysis system software to the Department of Mechanical Engineering - a boost to the University's product design and analysis programme. Senior Vice President of MSC. Software, Mr Christopher St. John especially flew to Hong Kong to attend the donation presentation ceremony held on 17 December 2002. All donated software would be used in support of the University's BSc Programme in Product Design and Analysis, jointly offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the School of Design and the Industrial Centre.



Regional efforts are sought for better air quality

The University has joined hands with the Government's Environmental Protection Department and three international organisations to host a regional workshop on better air quality management in Asia and Pacific Rim Cities from 16 to 18 December 2002. This large-scale event aimed at strengthening cooperation in the formulation and implementation of air quality management and control policies.



New tie with Princess Margaret Hospital

The University and Princess Margaret Hospital - a member of the Hospital Authority - have recently entered into agreement on forming long-term partnership in the development of academic, research and community services. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 8 November by Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, President of PolyU; Dr William Ho Shiu-wei, Chief Executive of Hospital Authority and Mr Vincent Fang Kang, Chairman of Hospital Governing Committee, Princess Margaret Hospital. The event was joined by Dr Leong Che-hung, Chairman of the Hospital Authority.

Winter School for hospitality professionals

The University's School of Hotel and Tourism Management and The Hong Kong Hotels Association have joined hands to launch the Hong Kong Winter School in January 2003 to help senior hospitality executives keep abreast of the industry's advancement in service quality and other management issues. For course details, please visit its website at www.polyu.edu.hk/htm/main_update.htm

Joint venture with Warwick bears fruit

The industry-led Integrated Engineering Business Management Programme (IEBMP), jointly offered by PolyU and The University of Warwick in the UK, held its 10th Congregation on 1 November. This year, a total of 128 IEBMP students successfully completed the programme. This part-time programme provides training for trade professionals from executive to middle management level.

Info Weekend sees big jump in attendance

More than 24,000 secondary school students and members of the public - a 20 per cent rise compared to same event last year - visited PolyU on the Education Info Weekend held on 12 and 13 October 2002 to obtain first-hand information on PolyU's study programmes and campus facilities.