

Human Rainbow sets new Guinness record

The giant Human Rainbow formed by an amazing 11,273 members of the PolyU community on 6 October 2002 has been officially recognized as the largest in the world by the Guinness World Records.

The Rainbow was formed by staff, students, alumni, friends and their families in celebration of the University's 65th Anniversary. Each participant wore a colored T-shirt and cap and arranged themselves around the Hong Kong Stadium. The record was set in front of Mr Tung Chee-hwa, Chief Executive of the HKSAR and the University Chancellor.

The event raised about \$2 million for PolyU, the Children's Cancer Foundation and The Hong Kong Society for the Aged. The previous world record was set five years ago in the US by a group of 6,444 people in Houston, Texas. For details, surf the Guinness World Records Web page at: <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/index.asp?ID=53123> and PolyU's 65th Anniversary Website at <http://www.polyu.edu.hk/cpa/anniversary/>.

PolyU's series of Anniversary Celebrations held between last March and December raised about \$5 million for the University and the needy. ❖



President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong (centre), Deputy President Mr Alexander Tzang (right) and Human Rainbow Organizing Committee Chairman Mr Lam Tai-fai proudly displaying the Guinness certificate.

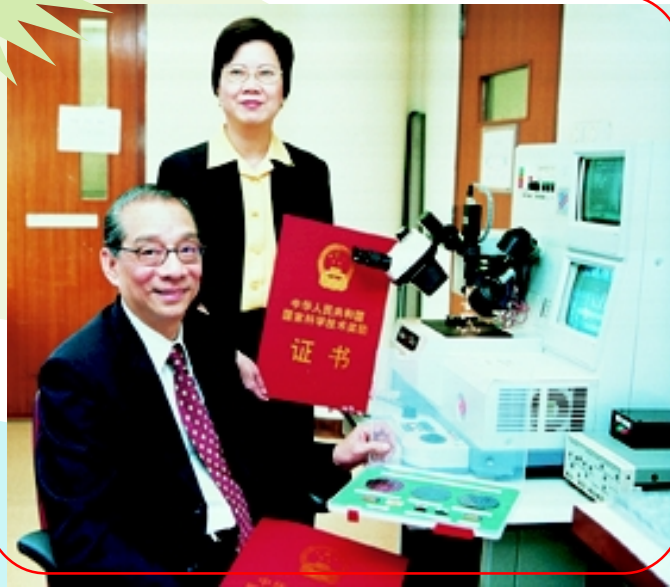
Another fruit borne by the University is the release of the commemorative album *65 Years of Education and Innovation* and a CD-Rom named *Celebrating 65 Years of Education and Innovation*. The hard-cover, 120-page album chronicles the proud history of PolyU as a pioneer of professional education in Hong Kong. Both the English and Chinese editions are priced at \$300 each. The CD-Rom contains reports and video clips on the Anniversary Celebrations as well as the e-version of commemorative album. For details, please call 2766 6986 or 2766 5197.

The online version of the album can also be viewed from PolyU's Anniversary Website. ❖

Materials research experts reap invention award

Congratulations!

理大教授首奪國家技術發明獎



Prof. Chan and Prof. Choy holding their award certificates.

應用物理學系的陳王麗華教授和蔡忠龍教授，憑着科研項目「一種新型的壓電及熱釋電材料研究與應用」，成為首奪國家技術發明獎獎項的香港科研人員。

Two PolyU physicists, Professors Helen Chan Lai-wa and Choy Chung-loong, have been named winners of a State Technological Invention second-class award. It marked the first time local scientists have won this award.

Organized by China's State Council, the State Technological Invention Award (STIA) recognizes the achievements of researchers whose significant technological invention is being used to produce products, industrial techniques, materials and their related systems by applying the knowledge of science and technology. It is one of the five award categories of the highly prestigious 2002 State Science and Technology Awards (SSTAs).

The award for the two scientists' project was presented by the then Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji to Prof. Chan at a ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People held on 28 February.

Commenced in July 1998 and completed in June 2001, the award-winning project was entitled "Piezoelectric and pyroelectric

materials for sensor and mechatronic device applications". It made use of the special characteristics of ceramic/polymer composite materials to perform sensing and actuating functions.

These materials are important components for sensing and actuating devices with industrial and medical applications, e.g. transducers for medical ultrasound imaging, transformers for liquid crystal display and sensors for fire alarm.

With a grant of \$4.5 million from the Hong Kong Government's Innovation and Technology Fund, the two applied advanced technology to the development of ultrasonic transducers for wire-bonding machines.

"It was the first time that Hong Kong and Macau scientists were allowed to compete for the award and we were very glad that our project was nominated by the Innovation and Technology Commission," Prof. Choy said. Prof. Choy is Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles and Chair and Head of the Department of Applied Physics. He was also recipient of

the 1997 State Natural Science third-class award.

"The award is a great encouragement to our project team," Prof. Chan, Professor from the same department, enthused. In the course of their work in this area, Prof. Chan said, they had trained six PhD and 11 MPhil students plus 12 other researchers.

The team has also benefitted from their partnership with ASM International, a semiconductor packaging equipment production company, in developing the technology.

The project is one of the initiatives of PolyU's Centre for Smart Materials, which has already been designated as a priority Area of Strategic Development in the University.

Another two second-class awards conferred under the SSTAs' category of State Natural Science Award (SNSA) went to Prof. Huang Jing-song of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Prof. Lee Shuit-tong of the City University of Hong Kong.