



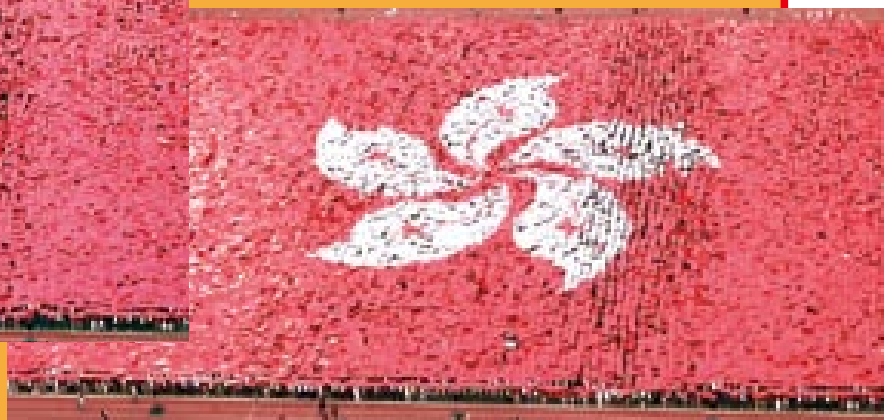
Another World Record Set

The “Flags of Harmony and Unity” formed by 21,726 members of the PolyU community, its supporters and scouts at the Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground on 23 September 2007 has been officially recognized as the Largest Human National Flag by the Guinness World Records.

The giant flags were formed by all participants holding up coloured cardboards together to form the image of the national flag of the People’s Republic of China, and then flipping over the boards to form the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). It was not only the largest activity to celebrate PolyU’s 70th Anniversary, but also an accredited event to commemorate HKSAR’s 10th Anniversary last year.

The event has raised over \$1.3 million to support the establishment of a primary school in Xichuan through the Sowers Action, local elderly services through the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association, and PolyU’s future development.

The first Guinness World Record set by PolyU was registered on 6 October 2002, when 11,273 staff, students and alumni formed the greatest Human Rainbow in celebration of the University’s 65th Anniversary. ❖





13th Congregation

Salute to graduates



More than 9,700 graduates joyfully put on their ceremonial dresses to receive their academic awards in the University's 13th Congregation, which was presided over by Council Chairman Mr Victor Lo Chung-wing, on 1 December. They included 101 Doctor of Philosophy, 28 discipline-based Doctor's degree, 3,280 Master's degree, 4,094 Bachelor's degree, 131 postgraduate diploma and certificate, and 2,107 sub-degree students.

Among them was the first cohort of graduates on seven Master's degree programmes of the following disciplines: Interpreting, Finance (Investment Management), Finance (Wealth Management), Environmental Management and Engineering, Engineering, Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, and Engineering Research Studies.

In particular, more than 550 out of 745 students who had completed their studies at PolyU's outposts on the Chinese mainland made a special trip to Hong Kong to attend the Congregation.

Giving his words of encouragement to the graduates, PolyU President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong said,

“As you go through life, I hope you will strive to cultivate lofty, honourable and compassionate virtues. If you come across someone suffering misfortune, try and lend a helping hand ... Keep refreshing your knowledge to enhance your competitiveness, and keep your confidence, move on and aim for the targets you have set for yourself ... Apply what you have learnt to contribute to a bright future for Hong Kong, the motherland and the whole wide world.”





Dr Roy Chung Chi-ping



Prof. Luan Enjie



Prof. Ryoji Noyori



Five honorary doctorates conferred

The Congregation also saw the conferment of honorary degrees on five distinguished individuals in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions.

Dr Roy Chung Chi-ping, Co-Founder and Vice Chairman of Techtronic Industries Co Ltd, was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration. Under his able leadership, Techtronic has become the world's leading supplier of home improvement products. As a long-serving PolyU Council Member and Deputy Council Chairman from 2002 to 2007 and currently Chairman of the University Court, Dr Chung is instrumental in formulating university policies and supporting fund-raising initiatives. He has also actively engaged in public services, including serving as Vice-Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries and Member of the Commission on Strategic Development.

Prof. Luan Enjie, Commander-in-Chief of China's Lunar Exploration Programme, was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering. After completing his undergraduate and postgraduate education respectively at the Harbin Institute of Technology and Tsinghua University in the 1960s, Prof. Luan embarked on a challenging career in space industry. He has not only contributed to the theoretical foundation of space science, but also pushed ahead with the development of the Long March Rocket and launch vehicles for manned space missions. While serving as Director of the China National Space Administration from 1998 to 2004, he had steered the country's space policies for the 21st century and successfully led and managed a series of important space projects.

Prof. Ryoji Noyori was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science. Prof. Noyori won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2001, together with Prof. William S. Knowles and Prof. K. Barry Sharpless, for their work on asymmetric synthesis of organic compounds. Their pioneering research has led to the development of important new drugs such as cure for Parkinson's disease. He is currently President of RIKEN, a Japanese national natural sciences research institute with nearly 3,000 scientists, and Chairman of the country's Education Rebuilding Council. He has been affiliated with PolyU over the years and was conferred the title of Distinguished Honorary Professor in 2002.

Dr Henry Wu Hung-lick and **Dr Chung Chi-yung**, President and Principal of the Hong Kong Shue Yan University, the territory's first private university, were conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Social Science. The couple founded Shue Yan College as an independent liberal arts college in the 1970s. With their persevering efforts, Shue Yan has grown from a relatively small college to the assumption of full university status in 2006 with a student enrolment of about 4,000. Over the years, they have overcome many obstacles in bringing Shue Yan to its present scale, even to the point of selling their own property to fund the construction of the new campus.



Dr Henry Wu Hung-lick



Dr Chung Chi-yung

PolyU getting ready for four-year degrees



13th
Congregation

In his Congregation speech, Prof. Poon stated that PolyU is taking active steps to prepare for the implementation of the four-year university curriculum. He emphasized that the structural reform is not just about the additional year for learning.

“We must address the needs of society and devise innovative new curricula and pedagogies, so that our students can achieve their full potential. This is the best way to groom a new generation of graduates.”

In terms of curriculum reform, PolyU's main task is to implement two integrations, namely “integrating across disciplines” and “integrating theory and practice”.

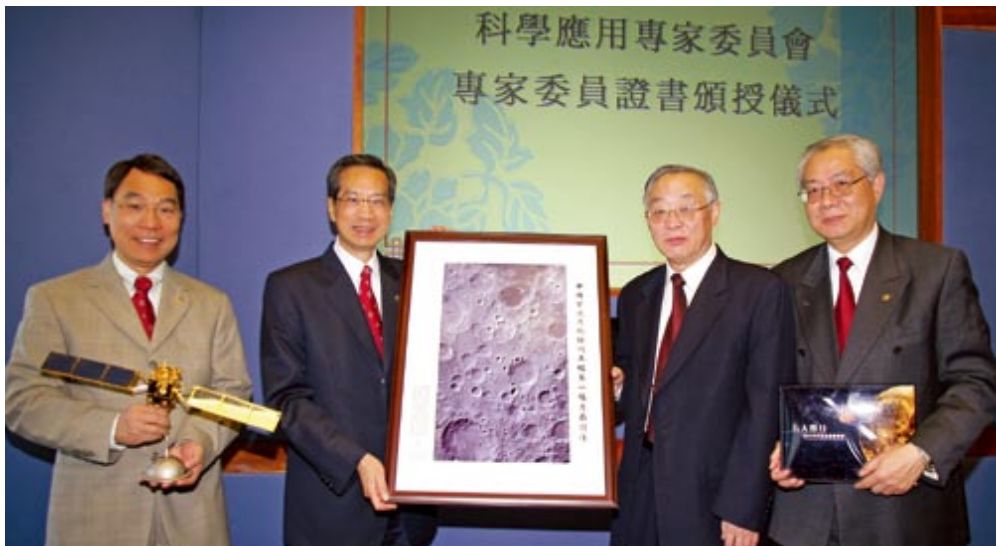
Since the new academic structure will also facilitate mutual recognition of credits with overseas institutions, the University is pressing ahead with its exchange programmes in a bid to further internationalize the campus.

In addition, Prof. Poon urged the Government to provide sufficient resources to support the universities' endeavours. He also called upon the authorities concerned to formulate a comprehensive set of criteria which can reflect accurately the research capabilities of different types of institutions. “Only then will it be possible to encourage all the institutions to capitalize on their respective strengths to serve society,” he remarked.

For the full text of the speech, see http://www.polyu.edu.hk/cpa/polyu/media/13congregate_e.php

PolyU scientists take part in China's Lunar Exploration

理大科學家參與國家探月工程



(From left) Prof. Chan Sun-chi, Prof. Poon, Prof. Luan and PolyU Vice President (Academic Staffing and Resources) Prof. Ko Jan-ming (左起) 陳新滋教授、潘宗光教授、樂恩傑總指揮及理大副校長(教研人才與資源) 高贊明教授

The University has entered into an agreement with the Lunar Exploration Centre of the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence since 2006 to initiate exchange and cooperation in training and scientific research. Apart from the participation of Prof. Chen Yongqi, Head of PolyU's Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics, in China's Lunar Exploration Programme, the University is honoured that Prof. Albert Chan Sun-chi, Vice President (Research Development) and Member of the Chinese Academy of Science, has also been appointed by state authorities as a Member of the Experts Committee for the national project recently. The appointment certificate was presented by Prof. Luan Enjie, Commander-in-Chief of the Lunar Exploration Programme and PolyU Honorary Graduate, to Prof. Chan at a special ceremony held on the university campus last December.

During the ceremony, Prof. Luan also presented a copy of the first picture of

the moon captured by Chang'e I to the University President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong. The picture, which marks the success of the country's first lunar probe project, is limited to 150 copies, and PolyU's picture is numbered 112.

理大自二零零六年與中國國家月球探測工程中心簽訂協議後，雙方在人才培育、科學研究及學術交流三大範疇，積極開展交流與合作。繼本校土地測量及地理資訊學系主任陳永奇教授獲邀參與探月工程研究後，本校副校長(科研發展)兼中國科學院院士陳新滋教授也於最近獲委任為國家繞月探測工程科學應用專家委員會成員。

國家航天局月球探測工程中心總指揮、理大榮譽博士樂恩傑教授於去年十二月訪問理大期間，頒授專家委員證書予陳教授。同時，樂教授將中國首次月球探測工程——嫦娥一號拍下的首張月球照片副本贈予理大校長潘宗光教授。該珍貴的月面圖像照片只共印行了一百五十張，理大所獲的照片編號為一一二。



Prof. Chen Yongqi (first from left) exchanges views with Prof. Luan. 陳永奇教授(左一)與樂總指揮交流意見。



Prof. Luan presents the appointment certificate to Prof. Chan Sun-chi. 樂總指揮頒授專家委員證書予陳新滋教授。



Prof. Shi receives the award certificate at a presentation ceremony held in Beijing. 史教授早前親赴北京接受獎項。

Geo-Informatics expert bestowed State Natural Science Award

地理資訊系統專家獲頒國家自然科學獎

Congratulations to Prof. John Shi Wenzhong of the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics (LSGI) who has recently been presented the 2007 State Natural Science Award (Second-class). Organized by the State Council, the award is the highest honour given by the Central Government in recognition of advancement in basic research in natural science.

Prof. Shi's research on the principle of modeling uncertainty in spatial data and spatial analysis has provided a solid foundation for modern Geographical Information Science (GIS). In advancing the study, Prof. Shi has brought together a research team comprising members from Tongji University, Information Engineering University and Wuhan University. The dynamic data models and mathematical analysis built upon his theory can greatly improve the accuracy and quality of spatial data, thereby promoting the further advancement of GIS in both theory and practices. Some of

the research findings have been applied in Europe for modeling errors of land use maps, and used in the national standards such as specifications for digital geological data evaluation of the China Geological Survey.

This year, 39 scientists from different parts of the country have been presented the second-class prize of the annual award, while no first-class prize was given out.

理大土地測量及地理資訊學系史文中教授榮獲二零零七年國家自然科學獎二等獎。該獎項每年由國務院頒發，是中國內地自然科學領域中設立的最高殊榮，以表彰在基礎科學研究上取得優秀成果的科學家。

多年來，史教授持之以恆地研究地球空間數據與空間分析的不確定性原理，為當代地理資訊科學奠定了重要的理論基礎。他的



President Prof. Poon (left) and Head of LSGI Prof. Chen Yongqi (right) extend their congratulations to Prof. Shi. 潘校長(左)與土地測量及地理資訊學系系主任陳永奇教授(右)恭賀史教授獲獎。

研究隊伍成員來自同濟大學、信息工程大學及武漢大學。一些研究結果在歐洲已被應用來為土地利用圖的誤差建模，和被中國地質調查局在數位地質資料評價規範方面採納為國家標準。

今年全國共有三十九位科學家獲二等獎，一等獎則從缺。