



## PolyU President re-appointed

The Council of the University has unanimously resolved to re-appoint Prof. Poon Chung-kiung as President of the PolyU for another term of six years from January 1, 1999.

In making the announcement, Council Chairman Dr. Sir Gordon Y.S. Wu paid tribute to Prof. Poon's dedicated service and his contribution to the University's development and strategic planning and also congratulated him for the re-appointment. He expressed confidence that the University will continue to grow under Prof. Poon's leadership. ❖

## President speaks on HKSAR's first 12 months in Canada

*From August 16–21, the President, Prof. Poon Chung-kiung, attended the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) General Conference in Ottawa, Canada. Prior to the Conference, a two-day ACU Council meeting was held, during which Prof. Poon, as a Council member, reported to delegates how Hong Kong has fared since its reunification with China. The following are excerpts of his speech delivered on August 14.*

“More than a year has gone by since July 1, 1997. Despite the difficulties that Hong Kong is facing at the moment, the past year has proved that our transition to Chinese sovereignty has been vastly successful.

Shortly after the celebrations for Hong Kong's reunification with China, we were hit by the Asian financial crisis. Indeed, a full recovery does not seem to be that near. Yet such financial turmoil has spurred Hong Kong to move forward into a period of adjustment at a faster pace than anticipated. Together with the fall in property prices and rentals, inflation and wages have shown a downward trend. In the long run, when these positive changes outweigh the short-term blows to the economy, Hong Kong will increase its competitiveness.

However painful this period of adjustment might be, I have every reason to believe that Hong Kong people will be able to ride out the storm. We have a well-regulated financial sector, an open market and the rule of law.

To be fair, one must not overlook the many achievements that Hong Kong has accomplished in the past twelve months. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's first Legislative Council elections were held in an open manner. On the election day, a record 1.5 million, i.e., over half of the registered voters, cast their votes. For a place like Hong Kong, where its people's participation in open election of the legislature only started in 1985, the elections marked a very important first step in the evolution of Hong Kong's democratic institutions.

As an educator, I am glad to see that the administration in Hong Kong regards the quality of Hong Kong people as a key to our future. Right now, a thorough review of our education structure, from pre-primary through to tertiary education, is already in progress. The issue of possibly switching from three to four years of tertiary education is also being studied.

Over the past year, we have continued to enjoy our precious academic freedom and retain our autonomy. Furthermore, members of Hong Kong's tertiary sector have agreed that we must retain the sector's unique characteristics on the one hand and strengthen its international dimension on the other.

We have concluded that English should remain the medium of instruction in our universities. We have continued to open our campuses to the best talent and ideas in the world by recruiting academic staff from different countries.

While mainland authorities have all along refrained from interfering with Hong Kong's internal affairs, the Central Government in Beijing has repeatedly pledged to maintain Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

Hong Kong people are well known for their resilience and entrepreneurial spirit. The territory has weathered many storms in the past and now still retains all the necessary ingredients for success. I am fully confident that we are steadily and surely on our way forward; and if any of you have a chance to visit Hong Kong in the near future, I bet you too will agree with me.” ❖

# PolyU & partners show off new

The International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA) held its third meeting on the PolyU campus from August 24–26. The Alliance is a network initiated by the PolyU to promote joint applied research and consultancy with member universities from the mainland of China, the UK and the US.

The three-day meeting provided an opportunity for members of the Alliance to discuss key issues such as ways to foster closer links among members, opportunities for collaboration and putting the research deliverables of ISTA members into business and industrial application.

“In the past three years, ISTA, through its incessant and painstaking efforts, has succeeded in integrating the expertise of different institutions and the industrial sector, and promoting commercialization of research products effectively on an international scale which benefit both the institutions and the community they serve,” said Mr. Alwin Wong, PolyU’s Head of Industrial Development (Technology Resources).

Prof. Poon Chung-kgwong, the University President, said: “The PolyU is planning to establish a Rapid Product Development Syndicate (RAPRODS), which will be supported by the University’s Faculty of Engineering, School of Design

and Industrial Centre. The RAPRODS will facilitate the development of ISTA projects and promote the technology and products of the Alliance on an international level.”

As the founder of ISTA, the PolyU has been playing a significant role in providing basic facilities, manpower and initial resources required to support the activities of the Alliance. It also helps identify needs of the international market and match these needs with the technology capability of the Alliance.

Concurrent with the meeting, ISTA held the PolyU-ISTA New Technology and Products Exhibition from August 25–28 to display 14 new technologies and products which have been developed by the PolyU and ISTA members in the last two years, and the commercialization of which have been or are in the process of being finalized. Government representatives, industrial and business partners of the PolyU were invited to view the exhibits on campus.

“We believe that this is the first time a university in Hong Kong has completed product commercialization of such a large scale and successfully transferred them to industry. They are the outcome of successful collaboration amongst the PolyU, mainland institutions and industry,” said Mr. Wong.



*The technology exhibition attracts visitors from various industries.*



*Mr. Joseph Wong shows much interest in the research deliverables from the Fabric Colour Analysis System developed by the PolyU’s Institute of Textiles and Clothing.*



# technology and products



*The PolyU hosts the third ISTA meeting on campus.*

A wide range of new and readily transferable technology and products, including ECG System, X-ray Digital Imaging System, yarn production technology, fabric colour analysis system, high-valued feed additive, system for treating industrial wastewaters, were shown at the exhibition.

Results of ISTA consultancy and research services are marketed through the PolyU Technology and Consultancy Company Limited (PTeC), a not-for-profit consultancy company

set up by the PolyU to support the development of business and industry through its range of consultancy, contract research and product development and design services.

ISTA was initiated by the PolyU and founded with the support of the Ministry of Education of China. Currently, apart from the PolyU, the 16 members of the Alliance are: Tsinghua University, Peking University, The Chinese University of Science and Technology, Fudan University, The Harbin Institute of Technology, Nanjing University, The Remin University of China, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Sichuan Union University, The South China University of

Technology, Southeast University, Tongji University, Xian Jiaotong University, Zhejiang University, the University of Warwick and Purdue University. Meanwhile, the Alliance is actively looking for further collaboration with potential overseas members. ❖



*The President presents a special token of appreciation to Dr. Lily Chiang, Executive Director of The Chen Hsong Group, a partner of the PolyU in the commercialization of medical equipment developed by ISTA members.*



*Dr. Cheung Chun-shun of the Department of Mechanical Engineering (right) explains his unique research on a Diesel Particulate Trap and Cleaning System.*



*Mr. Alexander Tzang, Vice-President, introduced the new technology and products on display to Mr. Joseph Wong, Secretary for Education and Manpower and members of the University Grants Committee and the Research Grants Council.*

## 國際應用科技開發協作網年會召開 嶄新科技展網羅研究產業化成果

由香港理工大學與多所中國內地、英國和美國著名學府攜手成立的國際應用科技開發協作網，於八月二十四日至二十六日假理大校園舉行第三次會員大會。

該協作網成立目的，旨在利用各成員之應用研究成果及專業知識為工業界提供科技資源，將具有市場潛力的新科技項目產業化。是次會議讓協作網成員雲集本港，討論如何進一步加強成員間的相互合作，發掘未來協作網的活動和合作項目，及更有效推動成員的科技成果轉化計劃。

理大工業發展（科技資源）處總幹事黃亮先生表示：「過去三年協作網通過不斷努力，綜合了不同院校及業界的資源及人才，有效地將具有市場潛力的新科技項目商品化，使院校與社會工商界均能互相裨益。」

理大校長潘宗光教授表示：「理大已計劃在未來三年內，加強本校工程學院、設計學系和工業中心的資源，以成立一個快速產品開發中心，以便更有效支持協作網的工作，使我們開發科技和產品更能達到國際的水平。」

理大自創辦協作網以來，一直積極提供基本的設施、人手及資源，協助協作網推行活動。理大亦密切留意國際市場的需求，務求令協作網的科技資源能配合實際的市場需要。

協作網並於同月二十五至二十八日假理大校園舉辦一個新開發科技產品展，展示十四項全新科技及產品，並邀請政府官

員，教育科技界代表及理大的工商業夥伴一同參觀這些豐碩的科研成果。

黃先生續說：「是次展出的先進科技及產品為數不少，也可說是本地的大學首次能完成具有如此規模的工業研究商品化計劃。這些科技成果正是理大、中國內地校及工業界攜手合作的心血結晶。」

會上展品涉及多個科技領域，計有心電圖儀、X光數碼成像系統、先進紡紗技術、紡織物料色差分析系統、生產高增值飼料添加劑的新生產技術、三合一工業廢水處理系統等。

協作網成員的顧問服務及研究成果由理大科技及顧問有限公司協助推動。該非牟利公司提供一應俱全的專業服務，包括諮詢顧問、研究及產品開發及設計等服務，推動工商業的發展。

國際應用科技開發協作網由理大建議創立，並得到中國教育部的全力支持。現時，協作網成員除理大之外，尚有十六家大學：清華大學、北京大學、中國科學技術大學、復旦大學、哈爾濱工業大學、南京大學、中國人民大學、上海交通大學、四川聯合大學、華南理工大學、東南大學、同濟大學、西安交通大學、浙江大學、英國華威大學及美國普度大學。此外，協作網正積極邀請具潛力的海外著名學府加盟。 ◆



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## Forum attracts 50 Chinese business leaders

To provide a platform for leading Chinese entrepreneurs to meet and discuss their development strategies, the PolyU and the Zhejiang University jointly organized a CEO Forum on "Enterprise Competition and Development Strategy towards the 21st Century".

This "CEO Forward-looking Forum and Round-table Discussion", held on July 3 and 4 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, attracted some 50 prominent mainland business leaders. Participation was by invitation and all participants were CEOs of leading enterprises in the Mainland.

Kicking off the event was a keynote speech by leading computer manufacturing industrialist, Dr. Stan Shih, Chairman and CEO of the Acer Group, who spoke on financial crisis and competition in today's business world.

Other distinguished speakers at the Forum, each of whose enterprises represent a gross annual output exceeding HK\$100 billion, included:

- Dr. Chow Yei-ching, Chairman, Chevalier



Dr. Shih

International Holdings Ltd.;

- Mr. Cheng Hui-ming, Managing Director, SEREF Capital (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.;
- Mr. Chuang Kuo-chin, General Manager, Far East Machinery Co. Ltd.;
- Mr. Huang Ming-ho, General Manager, Victor Taichung Machinery Works Corporation Ltd.;
- Dr. Casper Shih, Chairman, Global Chinese Competitiveness Foundation;
- Mr. Lin Hsin-i, Chairman, Taiwan Transportation Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (TTVMA);

- Mr. Hsu Chung-jen, Chairman, President Chain Store Corporation;
- Mr. Victor Cha, Managing Director, HKR Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd

The Forum focused on four special topics: quality management and market positioning; technology development strategy and application for enterprises; strategies for human resources management and development; and financial crisis, corporate development strategy and marketing strategy.

An opening ceremony for the event was held in a banquet on July 2, which was officiated at by Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, the PolyU President; Dr. Stan Shih; Prof. Pan Yun-he, President of Zhejiang University, and government representatives of the Zhejiang province.

The CEO Forum marks one of the co-operative initiatives launched following the last year's establishment of the Zhejiang University-PolyU International Executive Development Centre in Hangzhou as a training base for executives and professionals in China. ❖

## 理大浙大合辦企業首腦論壇

香港理工大學與浙江大學於七月三至四日，就「面向廿一世紀企業競爭與發展戰略」主辦傑出企業總裁前瞻論壇，為多位企業首腦提供一個交流探討企業發展策略的機會。

是次「傑出企業總裁前瞻論壇及圓桌會議」於浙江杭州浙江世界貿易中心大飯店舉行，並邀請了五十位來自中國內地的商界翹楚。

該會議由國際知名電腦業鉅子、宏碁集團主席施振榮博士先發表主題演講，探討金融危機與企業競爭的問題。是次身兼特邀論壇主席的施博士，是全球頂尖個人電腦製造商宏碁集團的創辦人之一，更曾獲世界銀行及國際貨幣基金組織評選為一

九九五年「新興市場的傑出企業首腦」獎。

是次為大會作專題演講者，另包括八位香港及台灣的知名企業首腦。他們管轄下的公司，全部年產值總和逾一千億港元。他們包括：旭日集團主席楊釗博士；其士集團主席周亦卿博士；新加坡商華開財務顧問股份有限公司總經理鄭慧明先生；遠東機械工業股份有限公司總經理莊國欽先生；台中精機廠總經理黃明和先生；全球華人競爭力基金會董事長石滋宜博士；台灣車輛工業同業工會理事長林信義先生；台灣統一超商公司總經理徐重仁先生；以及香港興業亞太有限公司董事總經理查懋成先生。

大會顧問理大副校長曾慶忠先生說：

「是次我們首次舉辦這論壇，正好提供一個難能可貴的機會，讓兩岸三地的企業總裁能分享他們寶貴的經驗及提昇其企業的競爭力。」

大會又特別探討了四項專題：即品質管理及市場定位；企業的科技發展戰略及應用；管理人才的運用策略；以及金融危機及企業發展策略和市場策略。

論壇的開幕晚宴於七月二日舉行，由理大校長潘宗光教授、施振榮博士、浙大校長潘雲鶴教授及浙江省政府代表主持。

是次論壇為理大與浙大繼去年在杭州合辦國際企業培訓中心後，攜手支持中國內地工商界發展的其中一項活動。 ❖

## Conference to promote teaching and learning in higher education

To showcase best practices in teaching in Higher Education in Hong Kong, the PolyU is organizing the first conference in an annual series of activities dedicated to enhancing teaching and learning in higher education in Hong Kong.

Entitled "Quality in Teaching and Learning: A Celebration of Best Practices in Hong Kong Higher Education", the Conference will take place under the auspices of the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review Consultative Committee of the Government's University Grants Committee (UGC).

"Response to the call for conference papers has been good with more than 100 papers being offered", said Dr. John Jones, the PolyU's Director of Educational Development and Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee.

Apart from the PolyU, the participating UGC-funded institutions are: City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong Institute of Education, Lingnan College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and The University of Hong Kong. Each of these institutions will take its turn to organize the Conference in the future.

The Conference will be held from December 10-12 at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kowloon Bay, with distinguished keynote speakers including Dr. Edgar Cheng, UGC Chairman; Dr. John Hinchcliff, President of Auckland Institute of Technology in New Zealand; and Prof. Cheng Kai Ming, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong.

Besides, the Conference will feature presentations, symposia as well poster/computer-based displays, and all papers presented at the Conference will be published in a refereed conference proceedings. For details, visit the website at <http://ettu618.edu.polyu.edu.hk/QLT98> or email to: [qtl\\_1998@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:qtl_1998@polyu.edu.hk).

## International honour for paper on quality management



*Prof. Cheng (left) and his colleague and former PhD student Dr. Ngai posed together last year when Dr. Ngai received his doctoral degree from the PolyU.*

In recognition of its authors' outstanding contribution to the body of knowledge, ANBAR Electronic Intelligence has recently given the Highest Quality Rating to a research paper written by PolyU Assistant Professor Dr. Eric Ngai Wai-ting of the Department of Computing and Prof. Edwin Cheng, PolyU Vice-President (Research and Postgraduate Studies) and Chair of Management.

Judged "excellent" and cited in the ANBAR's management "halls of fame" among a selection of works by the world's best management authors, the paper was entitled "Identifying potential barriers to total quality management using principal component analysis and correspondence analysis", published in *International Journal of Quality and Reliability Management*, (UK, Vol 14, No. 4, 1997).

The article demonstrates the usefulness of multivariate statistical techniques for quality management researchers, and details the methods used in both principal component and correspondence analysis, using a data set obtained by the authors concerning the potential barriers to total quality management implementation by Hong Kong companies.

The ANBAR Citation of Highest Quality Rating will be carried for five years at the ANBAR Hall of Excellence, which can be found on the Internet at URL: <http://www.anbar.co.uk/anbar/excellence/authors.htm>. ANBAR Electronic Intelligence is an on-line service that reviews the top journals in the world each month, ascribing quality ratings to their content.