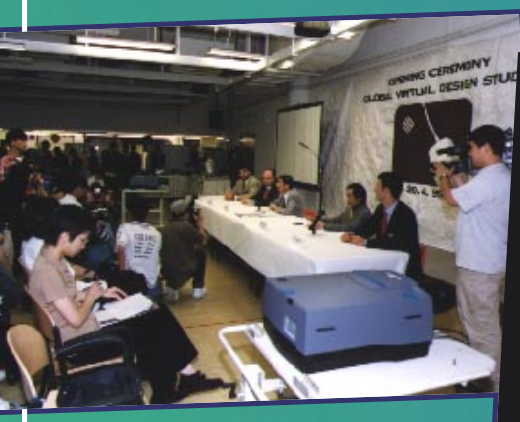
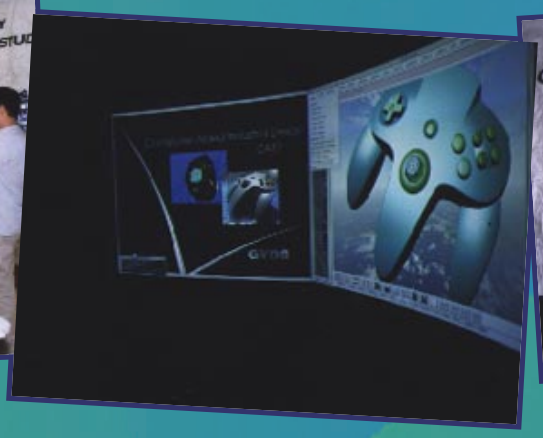
School of Design goes global





Mr. Richard Li Tzar-kai, Pacific Century Group's Chairman and Chief Executive (right), gives his good wishes on the auspicious occasion.

The opening of the Global Virtual Design Studio on campus was hailed as a milestone in the development of design education and Original Design Manufacturing in Hong Kong.

The studio, installed with the latest interactive virtual imaging technology worth $13 million in total, offers a multi-purpose, multi-functional and multi-media facilities custom-built for research, consultancy and student use. With an Onyx2 supercomputer and other state-of-the-art equipment, users can visualize in an immersive environment and share exactly the same audio-visual experience simultaneously with their counterparts at leading design institutions around the world.

The linked-up academic institutions overseas include Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge University and the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. Their participation has made the global design revolution possible through video-conferencing and the exchange of spatial data.

Needless to say, the studio is pivotal to the training of the next generation of designers and long-term development of Original Design Manufacturing in Hong Kong.

Not only will the multi-million dollar facility benefits PolyU students, it will also be made available to commercial partners, such as those involved in the Cyberport project. Prof. Frazer, the mastermind behind the project, commented, "This vital addition to our resources will enable Hong Kong's design community to leapfrog into the future."

The School of Design, the sole provider of design education at tertiary level locally, has revamped its curriculum to focus more on multimedia technology. Courses offered cover the areas of visual communication, industrial and environmental design, fashion design, digital photography and multimedia design.

「環球虛擬設計室」正式啟用

位於設計學系內耗資一千三百萬元的「環球虛擬設計室」現已啟用，為本港設計學教育及原件設計（ODM）的發展增添一股新的動力。

虛擬設計室裝有多用途、多功能及多媒體的先進設備，為研究、專業顧問服務及學習提供多方面的支援。設計室設置Onyx2超級電腦及先進的互動虛擬影像科技器材，讓使用者彷如置身一個偌大的影像空間。

設計室其中一項嶄新科技是可與外國多所著名學府直接聯繫，包括美國麻省理工學院、英國劍橋大學及瑞士蘇黎世科技學院等。理大員生可以透過視像會議的先進功能與世界各地著名設計學院的專才交流，於同一時間感受完全相同的視像體驗、及交換空間數據資料。

此外，設計室的成立對培訓新一代設計師及推動工業界生產原件設計產品應會發揮積極作用。

理大會運用設計室內的先進設施加強設計學的課程內容，使參與數碼港項目的工商機構在運作上，得到更多的人力及技術支援。系主任傅哲強教授表示：「設計室內的先進設備可以協助本港的設計界昂然進入下一個世紀。」

為配合社會對新一代設計人才的渴求，集一百多位本地及外國專才的設計學系已就課程內容進行革新，加入更多資訊科技的元素。目前理大是本港唯一開辦設計學課程的大學，其轄下的設計學系提供多項不同程度的課程，涵蓋視覺傳達、工業、環境設計、數碼攝影及多媒體設計及時裝設計等範疇。

Disney in the spotlight

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Journalists crowd the ceremony theatre to get more news from Disney.

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"During this time more than 100 students from our department have benefited from the experience," said Dr. Pine, Head of HTM. "The *Disney* recruitment teams are always very impressed by our students because they show a high level of interest and motivation towards *Disney*, and because they have such well developed interpersonal skills. I am very happy to see our long-term working relationship being formalized in a partnership agreement."

Other partners of HTM include *McDonald's*, *Kentucky Fried Chicken*, *Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre* and the *Hong Kong Jockey Club*, with *Marriott* soon be added to the list.

"Creating firm working relationships with industry partners is one of our major objectives," commented Dr. Pine. "These partnerships not only give our students valuable experience and career opportunities, they also enable the department as a whole to be better informed and connected so that our teaching and research is relevant and up-to-date."

PolyU hosts symposium on smart materials and devices

Prof. Leung Tin-pui, Vice-President (Quality Assurance), welcomes guests and participants.

To promote the use of smart materials for industry, the PolyU held a three-day symposium on "Development Trends in Smart Materials and Devices in the 21st Century" on campus from May 17–19, 1999.

The symposium was well attended by more than 100 participants from academia and industry.

Prof. Choy Chung-loong, Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Applied Physics said, "The innovation and development of smart materials and devices can provide impetus for our industries in the next millennium."

"The symposium, jointly organized by our department and the Chinese Physical Society's Dielectric Physics Committee, will probably lead to collaborative projects between our department and participants, making contributions to academia and industry," he added.

The Department of Applied Physics has dedicated much resource to developing smart materials and devices as well as their applications in industry. In addition to various ongoing projects undertaken by the department, the recent establishment of the Centre for Smart Materials is a highlight of such effort and direction.

Multimedia Innovation Centre in operation

To strengthen the use of advanced information technology in its curriculum and inter-disciplinary research, and to expedite the adoption of digital media technologies among local industries, the University has established the Multimedia Innovation Centre.

The new Centre on campus, with an investment of $15 million, was officially opened on June 11 by Mr. Linus Cheung, Chief Executive of *Cable & Wireless HKT*, and President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong.

Prof. Poon said that the timely establishment of the new Centre would further enhance the use and development of multimedia and the Internet both within and outside the PolyU. With the strong ties to the industry sector in the territory, the PolyU is in a very advantageous position to develop advanced multimedia technology.

"Apart from grooming students with necessary IT knowledge and skills for the 21st century, the Centre is dedicated to developing multimedia technologies that can be widely adopted in education and industry," Prof. Poon continued.

Under the leadership of Dr. Gino Yu, Head of the Centre, who is also an Associate Professor of School of Design, the Centre has assembled a team of experts and state-of-the-art facilities to accelerate the development and deployment of multimedia and Internet applications.

The Centre's three components, Research and Development, Outreach and Industry, and Academia, will synergistically support each other and create a fertile environment for developing new multimedia and Internet applications, training students and transferring both technologies and graduates into local industry.

The Centre will actively work on the five major focus areas of Internet technology, education technology, video games, board-level systems design and media production. Each of these areas will have an immediate impact on creating business opportunities in high technology industry with low research and development cost.

Internally the Centre will also provide strong support to the new programme of School of Design – Higher Diploma in Multimedia Design and Technology, which will admit the first intake of students in the 1999/2000 academic year.

The Centre currently organizes intensive workshops and training programmes in desktop publishing, web design and multimedia for students and staff. Hands-on training, real-world projects and various outreach programmes will be offered in order to support learning and teaching for the education sector, commerce and industry, and the community at large.

As for video game technologies, the Centre is collaborating with leading local game developers to develop the first Asian programme which covers areas of game design and development, as well as research in 3D game engines. The Centre aims to play a leading role in video game development for local industry in Hong Kong.

Supported by a number of laboratories such as Production Studio, Game Development Laboratory, Interactive Television Laboratory, and Web Development Laboratory, the Centre is equipped with an advanced 400G media server, blue screen facilities, and multimedia production software and hardware best suited for the entertainment industry.

Mr. Linus Cheung (2nd from right) and President Prof. Poon inaugurate the Multimedia Innovation Centre.

Keeping an eye on air

The PolyU has recently entered an agreement with The Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences to study atmospheric environment issues of the Yangtze Delta of China as an evolving Metro-Agro-Plex.

Under the auspices of this project, PolyU and the Academy aim to address two concerns: How unprecedented combination of economic and population growth projected for China in the coming decades will affect the country's environmental resources base and how these environmental changes will affect agriculture.

The Regional Air Monitoring and Research Group of the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering and their counterpart from the Academy will undertake the joint research activities. The purpose of the activities is to benchmark air pollution via six stations in the Yangtze basin in relation to the long-term study of crop fields. Crops are adversely affected by ozone air pollution and by the reduction of sunlight due to air pollution haze. Starting from June this year, a series of intensive field studies has already taken place.

The Lin An Weather Station in Zhejiang province is one among six involved in the project. The PolyU has provided instruments for the period June 1999 to June 2000 in Lin An for air quality measurements. In addition, PolyU scientists will be present in the field to conduct calibration and other quality assurance tests for the instruments.

PolyU's international involvement in understanding global and regional air pollution trends can be traced back to its continuing collaboration with NASA, which began in 1992. In the project with NASA, PolyU plays a part in monitoring global pollution trends based on work at its Atmospheric Chemistry Research Laboratory in Hok Tsui, Hong Kong to compile background data for comparison and analysis.

Prof. Zhou Xiuji (2nd from left) represents The Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences to sign the agreement with Prof. M Anson.

中國氣象科學研究院名譽院長周秀驥教授是此項研究的首席科學家。

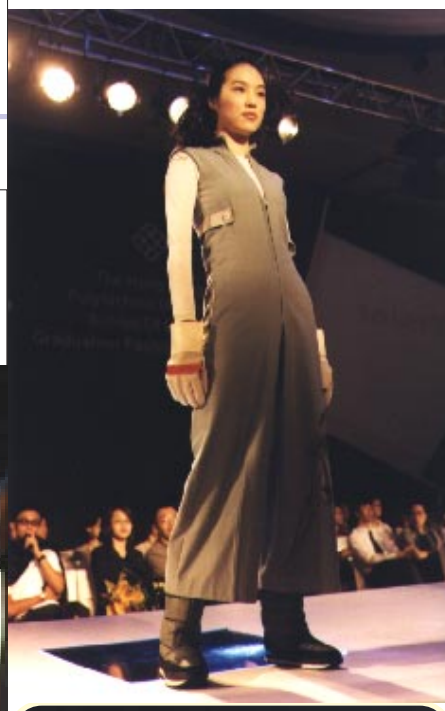
理大最近與中國氣象科學研究院(氣科院)簽訂合作協議，就長江三角洲發展中城鄉複合體研究項目，進行大氣環境的研究。

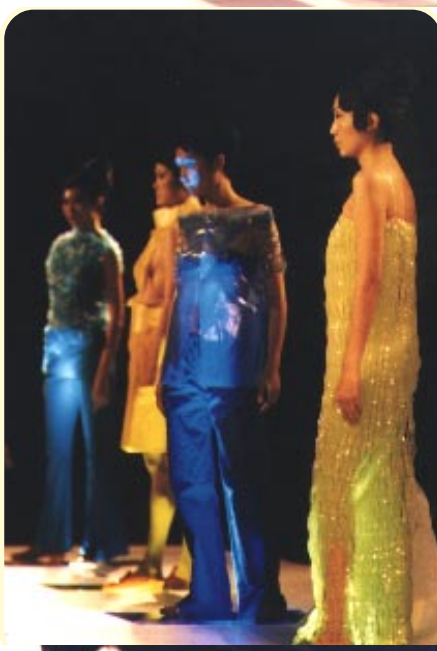
這個合作計劃旨在探討兩大問題: 一、中國未來數十年經濟和人口增長將怎樣影響國家的環境資源; 二、環境變化將怎樣影響中國的農業。

研究工作由理大土木及結構工程學系區域空氣監測研究小組和氣科院的相應小組共同負責，透過在六個長江三角洲的氣象站進行空氣質量觀測，以評價穀物基於臭氧污染以及污染薄霧引致陽光減少的影響。研究的形式是在一九九九至二零零零年於長江三角洲聯合進行密集的野外觀測研究。

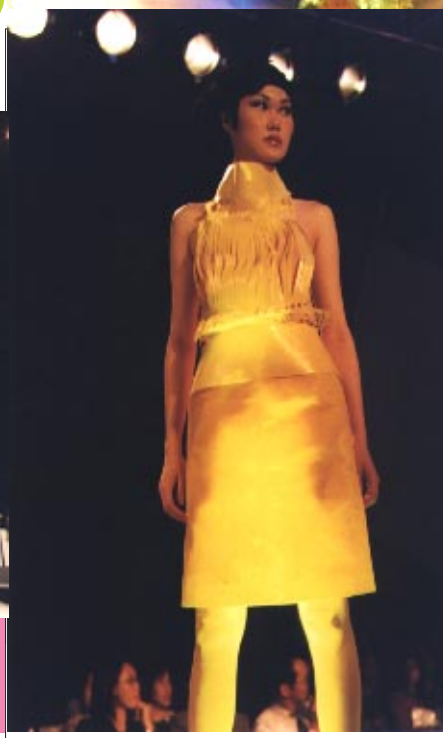
浙江臨安氣象站是六個監測站之一。理大負責於本年六月起向這個氣象站提供監測儀器，以便測量空氣質量，歷時一年。此外，理大也會派遣研究人員對上述監測系統進行標定及其它質量保證的測試。

理大參與監測亞洲區以至全球的空氣污染問題源自一九九二年開始與美國太空總署的合作項目，該項目仍在進行，理大的大氣研究小組於港島南端鶴咀設立了大氣監測站，長期收集大氣樣本供比較分析之用。





Staging unlimited creative ideas
- Graduation Fashion Show 1999



設計學系十九名應屆畢業生於五月十一日假灣仔君悅大酒店舉辦時裝作品表演，展示他們的服裝設計才華。

本屆時裝展的主要贊助來自置地公司所成立的置地時裝發展基金，該教育基金致力培育本地年青傑出的時裝設計學生；其他贊助商包括法蘭克福展覽(香港)有限公司、馬莎有限公司及縱橫2000有限公司。

Nineteen graduating students from School of Design displayed their flair and innovation at the Graduation Fashion Show 1999 at the Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel on May 11.

The event was sponsored by *The Landmark Fashion Foundation*, a charitable trust established by *Hongkong Land* to nurture fashion design students, *Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd*, *Marks & Spencer (Hong Kong) Ltd* and *G2000 Apparel Limited*.