PolyU President re-appointed

The Council of the University has unanimously resolved to re-appoint Prof. Poon Chung-kwong 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-kwong, 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.
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-kwong, 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.
technology and products

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 Jiaotung University, Sichuan Union University, The South China University of Technology, Southeast University, Tongji University, Xian Jiaotung University, Zhejiang University, the University of Warwick and Purdue University. Meanwhile, the Alliance is actively looking for further collaboration with potential overseas members.
Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Chinese Universities of the Mainland and overseas will jointly launch the Autumn 1998 "Torque-free Single Yarn Production Technology" exhibition. The exhibition will feature a Torque-free Single Yarn Production Technology technology system for industrial wastewaters.

The exhibition will also feature an X-ray Digital Imaging System and a special Holter Electro-Cardiograph (ECG) recorder. These technologies and systems are designed to provide a comprehensive and innovative approach to industrial wastewater treatment.
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 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，舉辦了「面向廿一世紀企業競爭與發展策略」企業首腦論壇，為多位企業首腦提供一個交流探討企業發展策略的機會。

論壇於七月三至四日在浙江大學於七月三至四日，舉辦了「面向廿一世紀企業競爭與發展策略」企業首腦論壇，為多位企業首腦提供一個交流探討企業發展策略的機會。

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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/QTL98 or email to: qtl_1998@polyu.edu.hk.

International honour for paper on quality management

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.