

# Partnering Sun-wah and Microsoft

Last October saw the establishment of the Sun Wah-PolyU Linux Training & Development Centre on campus.

The first of its kind amongst higher education institutions in Hong Kong, the Centre aims to foster development for Linux professionals and to promote the use of Linux in Asia. It offers an internationally accredited Linux certification programme, which is designed on the basis of the Linux Professional Institute's guidelines and hands-on experience. Elementary, advanced and professional courses are available in the daytime and evening.

The Centre will develop Linux-based applications, such as the Office Suite, which is tailored for small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), graphics applications and utilities such as anti-virus software. There are also plans to offer tailor-made individual office application solutions for SMEs and to provide technical support services for corporate and individual clients.

Mr Jonathan K.S. Choi, Chairman of the



Mr Jonathan Choi (left) and Dr Lui Sun-wing.

Sun Wah Hi-Tech Group said, "The Centre will fill an important gap in providing an internationally recognised Linux training programme in Hong Kong."

"With the University's academic achievements and experience, together with our Group's full technical support, I strongly believe that the high-quality training offered by the Centre will groom outstanding IT professionals who are essential to the technological development in Hong Kong," he added.

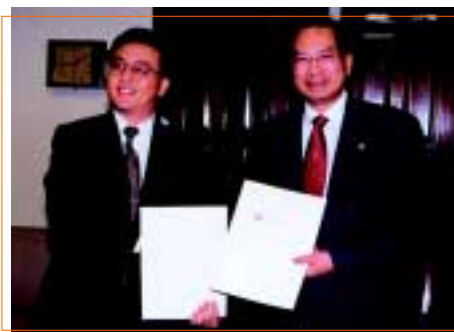
PolyU's Vice President Dr Lui Sun-wing

said, "In view of Hong Kong's paradigm shift towards a knowledge-based economy, our University has established the Institute for Enterprise (IfE) to enhance the competitiveness of business and industry in Hong Kong. I am confident that the partnership between IfE and Sun Wah Hi-Tech Group will help boost the rapid development of Linux-based applications in Hong Kong and Asia, while the Centre will focus on developing a series of application software to meet the growing market needs."

In November, IfE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft China Ltd. to strengthen collaboration through joint academic research and exchange of research staff.

Capitalising on the world class research capability and facilities of both parties, the collaboration will open up opportunities for researchers and students to participate in research and development on software development and other related advanced technology.

"The collaboration is just the beginning of a long-term and meaningful partnership between both organisations and we are looking forward to further collaboration in other areas. To cope with future changes, our University will put more resources and



Signed, sealed and delivered: Dr Zhang Yaqin (left) and Prof. Poon Chung-kwong.

efforts into information technology and conduct more applied research projects in collaboration with the commercial and industrial sectors," said President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong.

Vice President Dr Lui Sun-wing echoed Prof. Poon's view, "Our University is

actively exploring more mid-stream and applied technology research projects with Microsoft and other strategic partners. These projects include software development, desktop applications, computer games using the X Box platform, multimedia applications, Internet home control system and PDA applications."

Dr Zhang Yaqin, Managing Director of Microsoft Research division, also commented, "We realise that people are the most critical factor of success and that is why we will create opportunities for the renowned academic professionals and top-notch experts on the mainland to work together in this collaboration. We feel honored to enter into this collaboration with PolyU."

## Prof. Cheng Siwei talks about venture capital and its development in China

Invited by the University last November, Prof. Cheng Siwei, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, spoke with local entrepreneurs at a roundtable forum about China's accession to the WTO.

Known as the "Father of Venture Capital Development in China", Prof. Cheng described the entry as a win-win situation for both China and the world economy. He said, "The accession to the WTO would inevitably pose pressure on some traditional industries such as agriculture, automobile and petroleum industries. However, globalisation is indeed the world trend and no one could oppose or resist such force. The later the



Prof. Cheng Siwei delivers a talk at PolyU.

accession is delayed, the greater will be the price that we have to pay. China needs the World, and the World needs China."

On the road to building a better future, Prof. Cheng added, "In order to uphold the State's policy on using technology to bring about prosperity, we must aim for the pinnacle of technological development. To do that we must start from the base of developing high caliber people, utilise and retain them. This is the only answer for China's future. Lately we have adopted the strategy of developing new technology as the backbone of the country's future, but this should not be driven from top-down. The involvement of the commercial sector and community at large is vital in the overall picture."

Apart from the active participation in the forum, Prof. Cheng was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration at the University's Sixth Congregation in recognition of his significant contribution to the growth and development of modern China's economy as well as its financial system.

Currently Prof. Cheng is also Chairman of the China Democratic National Construction Association, and Director-General of Management Sciences of the National Natural Science Foundation.



## Keeping IT development up to par

The first joint-university IT contest will take place at PolyU to promote better understanding and interest in technology among university students.

Funded by the Association of Computer Machinery, an arm of the SAR Government, the contest is an opportunity for students from all tertiary institutions in Hong Kong to exchange ideas and learn about technology in a fun and active way.

Organised by PolyU, the five-month event will be separated into three rounds: IT Quiz, Practical Project Competition and Collegiate Programming Competition. A budget of \$550,000 has been allocated by the Association for the entire project.

The IT Quiz will challenge the contestants' knowledge and speed in a game-show like atmosphere. It is open to all university students in Hong Kong.

Mr William Chow, Principal of the Hong Kong Computer Institute, is one of several industry experts involved in the IT contest. He is in charge of organising the Practical Project

Competition and is also on its judging panel. "We hope that an event such as this will not only raise general awareness, but also help to lift the standards among tertiary students in IT applications."

Projects submitted will be judged on the guidelines of practicality and applicability to the Hong Kong market. "We are looking for innovation, user friendliness and reasonable money investments," Mr Chow continued.

The final round is the Collegiate Programming Competition. Each participating university will present a student team. A specific question will be given to all teams and they will be given several hours in a closed-door session to provide a written solution – a task that requires quick thinking under pressure.

The finale will take place around June, with all the winners from every category announced and a prize presentation ceremony will be staged.



# Science education expands at PolyU

**T**wo final-year students of the University have recently been presented the Prof. Chau Wai-yin Memorial Fund Scholarships, which are established in remembrance of the late Deputy President, Prof. Chau Wai-yin, who passed away in 1998.

At the same ceremony, a public lecture on engineering science was also held to turn Prof. Chau's vision of promoting science education at PolyU into a reality.

In commemoration of the life and work of Prof. Chau, the University set up the Prof. Chau Wai-yin Memorial Fund in 1998 to support various important education initiatives, including Memorial Scholarships and Memorial Lectures.

As President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong explains, the primary objective of setting up this Memorial Fund is to provide local talents with scholarships during their studies at the University so that they can develop their potential to the full.

This year, Mr Yu Wai-ming, a year-three student from the Department of Applied Physics, and Mr Tse Yan-yin, a year-four Optometry and Radiography student, are awarded for their academic excellence and all-round performance.

With the aim of fostering the further advancement of science education, and hence contributing to the long-term development of quality education in Hong Kong, the Memorial Fund also supports a



*Mr Tse Yan-yin receives the scholarship from President Prof. Poon.*



*Mr Yu Wai-ming (right), another scholarship recipient.*

series of lectures on science and science education to be conducted by eminent scientists.

The first Memorial Lecture was presented by Prof. L. M. Keer, Walter P. Murphy Professor of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Northwestern University in the US, on 24 November.

Prof. Keer shared with the audience his insights on the topic of "the Design of Hard Coatings for Fatigue Enhancement".

Prof. Chau Wai-yin joined the former Hong Kong Polytechnic as Head of Department of Applied Physics in 1987. He was conferred the title of Professor by the Polytechnic in 1988.

In his illustrious academic career, Prof. Chau held different senior positions with several major renowned institutions, including the Queen's University in Canada and The University of Hong Kong.

He made significant contributions to PolyU's continued progress and development, especially in the successful formulation and implementation of the University's first Strategic Plan.

Prof. Chau graduated from The University of Hong Kong with top honours in 1961 and obtained his doctorate in Physics from Columbia University in the US in 1967.



*Prof. Keer begins his lecture as Mrs Mabel Chau, wife of the late Prof. Chau, looks on.*



# A new world of toy design



**T**he Hong Kong Toy Design Competition 2001, co-organised by PolyU and The Toys Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, is opened to students and individuals both in Hong Kong and the mainland, as well as Hong Kong-based toy companies.

The toy industry in the territory is one of the largest manufacturing industries, with the largest volume of export in terms of production values. Last year alone, the export figure exceeded HK\$85 billion, making Hong Kong the largest toy exporter in the world.

Mr David Yip, Organising Committee Chairman and Managing Director of Redbox Toy Factory Ltd. said, "For toy manufacturers to prosper, we need to focus more on Own Design Manufacturing (ODM) and Own Brand Manufacturing (OBM). Coupled with more creative designs, application of high technology and building up of stronger sales and marketing network, we can then maintain our competitive edge and market share. Through the competition, we aim to reposition the industry in the international market through the encouragement and development of more creative and innovative designs."

PolyU Vice-President Dr Lui Sun-wing, also Organising Committee Co-Chairman, said, "There is actually a large pool of creative minds in Hong Kong and the mainland that the industry can tap on. In addition, China is a huge domestic for local toys companies to get into. This is why we expand the Competition to allow entries from the mainland this year. Hopefully some of these designs could be commercialised in the near future."

The Competition is divided into three groups, namely Student, Public and Enterprise. The Enterprise group is a category newly introduced. Manufacturers can choose to take part in any of these five sub-categories: Boys, Girls, Soft, Electronics and Computer Games, or Others. The Enterprise group is included to give recognition to local companies who have already achieved success in overseas markets with their creative and innovative toy designs.

As the Diamond Sponsor, Ms Karen Yip, CEO of Sunevision Super-Office, explained why they supported this competition, "Knowledge and Creativity, being the theme of this competition, are the two essential elements that our company believes in. The three major judging criteria: marketability, creativity and feasibility in operation are also the key attributes of our company's direction."

Besides Sunevision Super-Office, other sponsors include Chen Hsong Machinery Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Nam Hoi Enterprise Ltd., L.K. Machinery Co., Ltd., Luen Shing Holdings Ltd., Pro-Technic Machinery Ltd., Y.T. Cheng (Ching Tai) Ltd. The event is also supported by Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Toys Council and Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

The judging of Student and Open Groups will be held in two rounds: preliminary screening and final judging. Entrants of the Enterprise Division are directly admitted to the final-judging round. The deadline for the final judging is 31 May 2001 for all groups. Results will be announced in September/October and the Award Presentation Ceremony will be held in December 2001. ❖



*Mr Peter Yanofsky (middle) of Wow Wee International Ltd. shows his company's new products at the launching ceremony.*



*(from left) Lucy Wong of SUNEvision presents a cheque to Mr David Yip of the Toys Manufacturers' Association and Geoffrey Wong of PolyU.*

# Preparing students for the challenging future

**A**t a ceremony held last November, the University celebrated the huge success of the 'Preferred Graduate' Development Programme with representatives from participating Partner Companies and supporting organisations.

Launched in the summer of 1997, the Programme creates a win-win situation for both students and Partner Companies. The invaluable practical work experience gained during placements will prepare students to become graduates equipped with better qualities and higher capabilities in real working contexts.

Last summer saw overwhelming responses from the private and public sectors to the Programme, with more than 140 new companies successfully recruited as Partner Companies and supporting organisations. The number of participating companies has increased fourfold from 126 in 1997 to 524 this year. Out of the 670 students who joined the Programme this year, about 370 students took up local placements and 102 students went abroad

for placements in 16 countries. A group of 184 students had the chance of receiving summer training on the mainland while 14 students have been placed in Taiwan.



**Prof. Tang Pak-lai (left) of Student Affairs Office presents a certificate to a representative of a partner company.**

President Prof. Poon was very much aware that the expansion of the Programme was only possible with the tremendous help from the business and public sectors. He said at the ceremony, "I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to our partners for their contribution to and their faith in the Programme. Your long-standing support gives us the assurance that we are on the right track of providing the community with the graduates it needs, and that you share our vision and commitment."

Upon satisfactory completion of a placement, the student trainee will receive a "Certificate of Achievement", jointly issued by the Partner Company and the University. The number of students and the requirements of their fields of studies can be reviewed with flexibility on an annual basis.

## Tennis tournament goes with a swing

**T**he PolyU Millennium Celebrity Fund-raising Tennis Tournament, the first-ever fund-raising sports event organised by the University, was held on a lovely Sunday morning last October.

Besides raising external funding to support various strategic initiatives and developments of the University, particularly the Student Hostels and the Professional Complex, the event aimed to help strengthen the relationships between PolyU and various sectors in Hong Kong.

Enthusiastic support has been received from sponsors and participants, comprising government officials, businessmen, partners and members of the University – alumni and Council members. The total 32 participants were divided into four groups to compete, each of them named after a sponsor.

The event has successfully raised over HK\$1 million.



**The Hon. Mrs Rita Fan, President of the Legislative Council, in action.**

### Shun Tak Group Cup

- Mr Leo Kwan, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs, Home Affairs Bureau
- Mr Lian Tse, Deputy District Commander of Shamshuipo, Hong Kong Police

### Ryoden (Holdings) Ltd. Cup

- Mr Danny Ngai, President, Artin Industrial Co. Ltd.
- Mr Kenneth C. H. Ng, Principal, Shatin Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education

### New York Life Insurance Cup

- Mr Raymond Ham, Area Manager—Retail Banking, HK Main Branch, Hang Seng Bank
- Mr David P. T. So, Area Manager, Kowloon West, Hang Seng Bank

### Dr John C T Chan Cup

- Mr Pang Chung, Hon. Secretary General, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee, Hong Kong
- Ms C. K. Pang, daughter of Mr Pang Chung