香港中文大學
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

查詢電話
ENQUIRY TELEPHONE NUMBER
0-6045592

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

PROFESSOR GEORGE J FAN APPOINTED ADMINISTRATIVE DEAN OF ENGINEERING
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

The Chinese University of Hong Kong has appointed Dr George J Fan, 54, as the Administrative Dean of Engineering and Professor of Information Engineering effective from September 21, 1989 to guide the development of engineering studies and research at the University.

Before joining the University, Professor Fan was Director of Numerical Intensive Computing (NIC) project office in IBM, working with senior executives on plans to emphasize the NIC area, which covers supercomputer, minisuper, supermini, advanced workstation and PC.

Prior to that Professor Fan did research in Thomas Watson Research Center for nearly twenty years and held several executive assignments in IBM research, including as the head of the research planning organization for worldwide IBM research labs, and overseeing the technical and financial plans for labs in Yorktown Heights, San Jose, Zurich and Tokyo. He was the Director of Microsystem in IBM, responsible for the most advanced microprocessor work and design system and tools. One of the groups in this section developed the now well known RISC Computer Architecture. Professor Fan is now on sabbatical from IBM to take up the Deanship at The Chinese University.

When asked what attracted him to Hong Kong and to this job in The Chinese University, Professor Fan said, "I have been asked this question many times in the last few months. Basically, I think it is my desire to work with colleagues in CUHK to build a world class teaching and research university."

"When one travels to the campuses in most research universities in the US, one is struck with the fact that there are a large number of first class Chinese students, many of them working in the area of engineering and science. Chinese engineers are also pervasive in research labs and other sectors of the technical industry.

"Now, it is natural for one to think that there are a few people here that can be trained as good engineers, scientists and researchers. It is exciting to me if I can take part in building such an institution. You may say this is a dream but sometimes dreams can come true. And I think we are going to do a lot of exciting things, and I like to add, in a hurry," he continued.

As regards the difficulties of doing this, Professor Fan said, "Well, I think a number of things have to be done. We need to get the private sectors more involved. Building a first rate research university requires a lot of resources, equipment, staff and support.

.../2

"In the United States even the very wealthy schools get a lot of research funding from private industry and government. We have some government support but limited support from private sectors in Hong Kong. If we cannot get some help from the private sectors then we will be disadvantaged when competing with universities around the world. So we have to work hard to get this support.

"But the burden of generating this support is on us. We have to work out plans to convince the private sectors that our product, i.e., the students and research work, will be worthy of their support; that it would help them in their endeavor and society in general," he pointed out.

When evaluating the impact of the brain drain caused by the June-Fourth Incident on recruitment, Professor Fan said, "We have maybe half a dozen active recruiting cases at one time. The picture was not much different than other recruiting jobs I had."

"We are getting our share of the best candidates. The quality of the new recruits is good and I don't think we are suffering. And this is achieved without a good network with leading universities. I think we need to build a better network so that we know where the best candidates are. When we have that we will do a lot better," he added.

The Engineering Programme of The Chinese University, developed on the basis of the existing programmes in Electronics and Computer Science, has been further enhanced since two years ago to offer courses in Electronic Engineering, Information Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science. Courses are designed to provide broad-based and cross-specialization training for a new breed of engineers urgently needed by local industries.

November 3, 1989