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NEW HOME BASE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Teaching and research facilities of the Faculty of Social Science at the Chinese University of Hong Kong receive a major boost with the opening of the Sino Building today.

Officially opened by the Deputy to the Governor, Mrs. Anson Chan, the new teaching block brings together the four departments of Architecture, Psychology, Sociology and Geography, and houses the Centre for Environmental Studies.

The nine-storey building has a floor area of 5,000 square metres. It provides much-needed up-to-date teaching and research facilities, such as lecture theatres and laboratories, as the University gradually expands its social science programmes in sync with community needs.

"Our Faculty of Social Science has developed extensive international linkages and academic exchange programmes with world-renowned universities, which is instrumental to the attainment of educational excellence," said the Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prof. Charles Kao, at the opening ceremony this morning.

"The Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies has, for example, launched a collaborative research programme on urban development with the University of Toronto," he said.

And the University is joining hands with the Yale University and scholars from nine academic institutions in China to conduct a multi-disciplinary research programme in various aspects of developments in Southern China -- including social welfare, comparative urban management, and air and water pollution.

The Faculty of Social Science has nine departments, offering undergraduate major programmes in Anthropology, Architecture, Economics, Geography, Government and Public Administration, Journalism and Communication, Psychology, Social Work and Sociology.

Most of the departments also offer Master's and Doctoral degree programmes. Architecture, the newest department, has just graduated its first batch of 26 students this year.

The Sino building is named in honour of the Sino Group, chaired by Mr. Robert Ng, which donated HK\$20 million towards academic and campus development in the Chinese University.

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