香港中文大學
THE
CHINESE
UNIVERSITY
OF
HONG
KONG

PRESS RELEASE

5 pages

To Editor

For Immediate Release 新聞稿

17 June 1997

Hong Kong 1997 Handover Live on Internet

Internet users, local or overseas, will be able to witness a series of events and official ceremonies that mark the change of Hong Kong sovereignty and the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government live on a 48-hour non-stop Internet broadcast.

The Computer Services Centre of The Chinese University of Hong Kong has lined up with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and 14 major local and global ISPs to offer a live video and audio broadcast covering all the major events and official ceremonies, at various locations in Hong Kong from 12:00 noon, 30 June to 12:00 noon, 2 July 1997. The live video will include events such as Governor's Departure, Handover Ceremony, SARG Inauguration, Marching of People's Liberation Army, Reunification Gala as well as the spectacular fireworks over the Victoria Harbour.

"Hong Kong will become the focus of the world at this unique moment. We wish this live broadcast will not only bring the images to the world audience but also boost the development of and upgrade the Internet service in Hong Kong," said Dr Stanislaus Y C Hu, Director of the University's Computer Services Centre.

"It is also the first time in Hong Kong to offer a 48-hour non-stop live Internet broadcast. Every second during these 48 hours will be an unforgettable moment in history. We shall not allow for any hiatus. We have been working with RTHK for a long time and the Centre has the expertise for such an unprecedented live broadcast which covers most part of the world," Dr Hu added.

The live broadcast will be sent to servers of local ISPs via Hong Kong Internet eXchange (HKIX) so that Internet users can assess to. HKIX was set up by the University's Computer Services Centre as a neutral interconnection point for the routing of intra-Hong Kong Internet traffic. Without such an interconnection point, local traffic within Hong Kong has to be routed through the United States, which is highly undesirable because the long-distance circuits are very expensive and are often of relatively low speed. As of June 1997, 34 commercial ISPs are connected which included major regional and global ISPs.

1/5

Besides local major ISPs, the University will collaborate with InterPacific Online in Canada, Bay Junction Technology, Inc. and Progressive Network in the United States to set up mirror servers for overseas users to view the video at real time. Three advanced protocols: RealVideo/ RealAudio, CU-SeeMe and MBONE will be used.

Interested internet users can assess the live broadcast on the website of the University at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/97event. Besides the live video, the University will also provide information on research projects, publications as well as seminars and talks regarding the transition of Hong Kong held at the University.

Attachment   :   Project Description and Content
~~~~~~

Members of the media interested in visiting the Computer Services Centre and follow-up interviews please call Ms Cheung Man-yi of the University's Information and Public Relations Office at 2609-8896.

02/05