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Six Institutions Collaborate on Study on "Technology Road Maps for Hong Kong"

The six publicly funded tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have recently received a grant of HK\$200,000 from the Industry Development Board (IDB) for Phase Two of a study on "Technology Road Maps for Hong Kong". The study attempts to "delineate what we already have in Hong Kong and focus on the missing links the provision of which would open up new industrial and commercial opportunities". The study is intended to be "valuable both to the private sector in considering investment and to the public sector for the formulation of policy".

The project was initiated by Professor Charles K Kao, Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and was launched earlier this year under the supervision of a Steering Group comprising several heads and senior academics from all six institutions of higher learning under the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee (UPGC): The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist College, Hong Kong Polytechnic, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and University of Hong Kong. The Phase One Report of the project, entitled "Technology Road Maps for Hong Kong: A Preliminary Study" was submitted to IDB in August, 1990. That Report investigated four technology areas thought to be especially promising for development in Hong Kong: Information Technology, Biotechnology, Materials Technology and Environmental Technology. The Report investigated the strengths, as well as some of the weaknesses, of Hong Kong in the technology field in general, and in these four sectors in particular, and gave detailed examples to show that certain types of technology businesses are suitable for Hong Kong.

The Phase Two study, currently in progress and expected to be completed in early 1991, will look into these areas in much greater depth, pin-pointing business opportunities and identifying any missing infrastructure. As such, the Study is not meant as a merely academic effort, but hopes to help in fostering technology-based industries in Hong Kong.

As part of the envisaged Phase Three study, the group involved in this research expects to be in a position to accept consultancies from the private sector to undertake feasibility studies for investment into technologically based industries in Hong Kong.

The present project represents the first of its kind in two respects. It is the first research project involving the participation of all six institutions, especially at such a level. It also marks one of the first occasions when Government has relied on local expertise in addressing such issues.

This study is coordinated by the Office of Industrial and Business Development of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Tel: 6035107) from which further information may be obtained.