香港中文大學 THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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Cultures under probe in international conference

Political culture of western countries, democratic ideals of the Chinese, McDonaldization of Taiwan, cultural identity and politics of South China, democratic transition in Russia... these are but a few of the wide range of topics to be discussed at a 13-day international conference which opened today (Dec 29) at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

A key event of CUHK's 30th Anniversary Celebration Programme, the International Conference on Cultural Criticism 1993 is co-organised by the University's Research Institute for the Humanities and the Centre for Psychosocial Studies in Chicago. The Conference brings together 100 leading scholars from mainland China, Taiwan, the U.S., Canada, Britian and Russia, and local academics and cultural workers from different fields. It is open to all who are interested to join.

Some of the prominent participants from overseas include: Prof. Charles Taylor From the Department of Political Philosophy of McGill University, Canada; Craig Calhoun, Director of International Studies, University of North Carolina; Prof Richard Rorty from the University of Virginia; and Boris Mikhailov, Head of the U.S.-Canada Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

Local participants have diverse background ranging from philosophy, ethnic studies, literature, cultural studies, general education, social sciences, political studies, film studies, journalism, architectural design, advertisement, visual arts to performing arts.

The conference aims to promote cross-cultural and cross-discipline exchange, with a view to stimulate participants to reflect on their indigenous culture and strengthen their international perspectives. There will be keynote speeches, round-table discussion, forum and cultural performances.

Some of the interesting topics for discussion include: new urban cultural forms in fashion, government posters and newspaper advertisements; Chinese culture as represented by the Shenzhen Chinese Folk Culture Villages; pornographic culture in Hong Kong journalism and freedom of expression; the crisis of Hong Kong television; film market in China; and the changing public sphere and popular culture in Beijing.

For further information about the conference, please call Miss Judy Leung of the CUHK's Research Institute for the Humanities at 6097097.

For press enquiry, please contact Miss Annie Lam or Mrs Shirley Kwok of CUHK's Information Office at 6097267 or 6097294 respectively.