

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 22, 1993

WORLD-RENOWNED FUZZY LOGIC EXPERT LECTURES AT CHINESE UNIVERSITY

Prof. Lotfi A. Zadeh from the University of California at Berkeley -- who first raised the concept of fuzzy logic in 1965, and in so doing has broken new grounds in computer research and inspired many applications which benefited our daily lives -- will be lecturing in Hong Kong for the first time next Tuesday (October 26).

At the public lecture starting 4:30 pm at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Sir Run Run Shaw Hall, Prof. Zadeh will speak about "Fuzzy Logic and Soft Computing: Principles, Applications and Perspectives".

Fuzzy logic is now a household phrase as Japanese manufacturers continue to churn out electrical appliances which use this state-of-the-art technology to maximize efficiency and minimize wastage. There are rice cookers, washing machines, air-conditioners, and even cars that employ fuzzy logic.

Fuzzy logic had initially met with scepticism and even scorn because it challenged a long-standing tradition in science which accorded much more respect to quantitative, formal and precise theories than to those which were qualitative, informal and approximate.

Prof. Zadeh was said to have come up with this innovative concept after a heated debate with friends as to whose wife was more beautiful. Beauty is, of course, rather difficult to determine objectively. This argument triggered Prof. Zadeh to devise the idea of "fuzzy sets".

According to him, fuzzy sets such as attractive people, tall people, large numbers, play an important role in pattern recognition, interpretation of meaning and especially abstraction, which is the essence of the human thinking process.

With the embracing of fuzzy logic by the Japanese following the launch of the Japan Fuzzy Systems Research Foundation in 1972, this new concept quickly won a world-wide following. It has since been applied to control steam engines, cement kilns, subway systems, robots and even spacecraft.

During next week's lecture, Prof. Zadeh will discuss the recent advances in fuzzy logic and soft computing and their potential applications.

Born in Baku, Russia of Iranian descent, Prof. Zadeh is currently Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at UC, Berkeley. The 72-year-old professor is still active in research on fuzzy logic and neural network theory.

Prof. Zadeh received his PhD degree from Columbia University in 1949. He became full professor in Columbia in 1957, and left for UC, Berkeley, in 1959, where he served as chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering from 1963 to 1968.

Among the many awards and accolades he received during his distinguished career were the Education Medal (1973), Centennial Medal (1984) and Richard W. Hamming Medal (1992) awarded by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Sponsored by the Wei Lun Foundation, the lecture is part of the University's 30th Anniversary programmes.

All are welcome to attend the lecture. Secondary schools are also encouraged to organize their senior form students to come. For seat reservation, please contact the Chinese University's Information and Public Relations Office at 609 7293.

Note to Editor,

You are cordially invited to send a representative to cover the above lecture. Details are as follows:

Date : October 26, 1993 (Tuesday)

Time : 4:30 pm

Venue: Sir Run Run Shaw Hall
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Shatin, New Territories

A special bus will depart for the lecture venue from the University Train Station at 4:10 pm. A map of the Chinese University is attached for reference.

For further information, please contact Mrs Shirley Kwok of the Chinese University's Information and Public Relations Office at 609 7294.