



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO EDITORS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 1996

Honours for Retiring Vice Chancellor Charles Kao of CUHK

An internationally known expert in communication technology, Professor Charles K Kao, Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, is retiring on July 31 after leading the University for nine years. Professor Kao's colleagues and friends will organize a Farewell Dinner for him and Mrs Kao at the Furama Hotel Kempinski on July 24.

Having led the University into an established institution of excellence, Professor Kao was bestowed with highest honours from his colleagues and the community at large. In recognition of the distinguished service of Professor Kao, the Council of the Chinese University has decided to appoint him Honorary Professor of Engineering as from August 1. The North Block of the University's Science Centre will be named "Charles Kuen Kao Building" at a dedication ceremony to be held in November. The University is also setting up the "Charles Kuen Kao Fund" for the promotion of developments in academic, research and international linkages, as well as student activities.

During his Vice-Chancellorship, Professor Kao has been actively fostering exchanges between the University and higher educational institutions and research centres in China as well as overseas. Upon his retirement, Professor Kao will continue his effort to promote technology transfer and scholarly exchanges.

Speaking at the recent Council meeting, the last attended by Professor Kao as Vice-Chancellor, Sir Quo-wei Lee, the Council Chairman, thanked Professor Kao for his able leadership in steering the University's development.

"We can say the goals that Professor Kao set for himself and the University have been accomplished one after the other. The substantial progress made in the University's overall development and its much-improved academic standing locally and internationally are largely due to Professor Kao," said Sir Quo-wei.

And he wished Professor Kao similar success in achieving his even higher goal in future to promote technological transfer in Hong Kong, China and the Asia-Pacific region.

At a recent Senate meeting, Professor Ambrose King, Pro Vice-Chancellor also praised Professor Kao for his remarkable academic achievements and thanked him for leading the Chinese University to strive for excellence in teaching and research.

Professor Kao has been leading the Chinese University since 1987. During his tenure, the University established two new faculties (Education and Engineering) and introduced various new academic programmes to meet the changing community needs. Seven new research institutes were set up to promote inter-disciplinary research. The

University's management system was re-organised, decision-making functions decentralized to the Faculties, and a one-line budget system introduced. Greater emphasis was placed on accountability and quality assurance. Major efforts have also been made to strengthen academic linkages with centres of excellence worldwide and liaison with commercial and industrial sectors.

Professor Kao also involved actively in the development of research and applications of information technology. Recently, he was honoured with the Japan Prize in the field of Information, Computer and Communication Systems by the Japan Science and Technology Foundation. Having elected him an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences last month, the Academy's Purple Mountain Observatory also decided to name a minor planet in honour of Professor Kao in recognition of his heraldic work in optic fibre communication. The Royal Academy of Engineering, UK is also awarding Professor Kao its premier distinction- the Prince Philip Medal in October. The Provost of Yale, Professor Alison F Richard and Dean of Yale College, Professor Richard H Brodhead and other senior members will host a reception at the end of this month to honour Professor Kao for his efforts to boost ties between the two universities.

Famed as "Father of Fibre Optics", Professor Kao, as the principal author, published a paper on the theory and practice of optical fibre for communication applications in 1966. It brought about a revolutionary change in the use of telecommunication medium and ushered the world into a new information era. The low cost and high performance of the optic fibre would permit powerful new information services to be introduced. For his pioneering work and many contribution to the field of fibre optics, Professor Kao has won over 20 prestigious awards worldwide.

For press enquiries, please call Ms Cheung Man-yi of the University Information and Public Relations Office at 2609-8896.