香港中文大學 THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG





TO EDITORS
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## CUHK Organises Chinese Telemed 96 Hong Kong, Beijing and London Doctors Meet on the Super Highway

Up to 1,000 medical experts in Hong Kong, Beijing and Europe heard presentations and witnessed live demonstrations of advanced operation techniques through audiovisual communication on the Information Super Highway at the **Chinese Telemed 96** conference organised by the Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong today (November 14, 1996).

Professor Joseph Lee, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University said, "Today's conference is the beginning of the development of telemedicine in China. The University is keen in developing telemedicine in Hong Kong and China by linking Hong Kong to Beijing and other major medical centres in China. Telemedicine can be used to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of patients in both regions."

"We will also maintain our linkage with Europe Telemed to keep ourselves update of latest telemedicine techniques and uses," he added.

At today's conference, the Faculty of Medicine at the Prince of Wales Hospital and the General Hospital of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Beijing were linked up with Telemed 96 in London, an annual major conference on telemedicine in Europe. This is the first time that a real time three-way telemedicine conference was arranged among Hong Kong, Beijing and Europe. Live demonstrations of endoscopic surgery, transmission of radiological images from a patient with head injury from United Christian Hospital and the use of laser for treating a patient with a naevus of Ota (a dermatological condition that affects one out of 200 Chinese) were staged in Hong Kong and observed by participants in three places.

The General Hospital of the Chinese People's Liberation Army is the largest general hospital in the army and provides medical and health care for the leaders of the state and the Central Military Commission as well as staff of the three General Headquarters of the military forces.

The Hong Kong Telemedicine Association, an organisation initiated by Chinese University doctors, celebrated its inauguration during the Chinese Telemed 96. Professor Magnus Hjelm of the Department of Chemical Pathology of the Chinese University and Chairman of the Association said, "The Association will serve as a forum for exchange of views about telemedicine and a link to societies and groups in other countries with an interest in telemedicine."

Telemedicine is defined as "providing health care at a distance". Two-way audiovisual communication is a recent technological development that has put telemedicine on the Super Highway, with the potential of improving the quality of health care both within hospitals and in distant areas previously lacking access to expert advice.

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