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新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

Establishment of the First HK Bioconversion Technology  
MIRCEN (Microbial Resources Centre) at CUHK

The Hong Kong Bioconversion Technology MIRCEN (Microbial Resources Centres) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has recently been established at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Prof S T Chang, Chairman and Professor of the University's Department of Biology, has been appointed Director of the new centre for a period of three years from June 25, 1991.

This is the first time a MIRCEN centre has been established in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong MIRCEN, aimed at fostering international collaboration in the fields of microbiology and biotechnology, is expected to make a significant contribution to the Pacific and South East Asian regions, and further strengthen the linkage between Hong Kong and other MIRCEN universities/institutes. The MIRCEN network which extends to 24 worldwide locations includes Asian-Pacific centres sited in Japan, China, Thailand and Australia.

The Department of Biology of the Chinese University, since 1982, has become one of the six associated laboratories of Bangkok MIRCEN, and Prof S T Chang has been co-chairman of Beijing MIRCEN since its establishment in 1988. At present, Prof Chang is also serving as Treasurer of the MIRCEN Director's Council.

MIRCENS are components of a global network involving some 200 scientists in 24 worldwide facilities dedicated to research and the training of investigators in the use of microorganisms for economic development and environmental management of the less industrialized regions of the world. To achieve these goals, MIRCENS in the 19 countries act as centres for local and international collaboration between MIRCEN scientists and others in organizations with similar missions. MIRCEN researchers characterize and preserve microbes they and others have collected and host training sessions. They also play a role in helping developing countries adapt to the sophisticated information and research technologies beginning to creep into their backyard. It is hoped that the MIRCEN programmes can stimulate more local scientists to take their results out of the laboratory and create industries for their communities.

November 20, 1991

Attachment: Photo of Prof S T Chang