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The Chinese University of Hong Kong has been designated as the regional headquarters of the Network for Microbiology in Southeast Asia, an academic body sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeking to promote communication and cooperation among national institutions in the region. This follows a meeting of the Network's Coordinating Board held in Jakarta in September 1983. At the same meeting, Professor S.T. Chang, Professor of Biology at the University, was appointed Executive Secretary to the Network. Both appointments are for three years effective from March 1, 1984.

In its role as regional headquarters of the Network, The Chinese University will promote and coordinate regional operational programmes such as training courses, seminars, and joint research projects and would be the channel for distribution of information and publications, and the exchange of personnel.

Funds will be provided by UNESCO to cover expenses and activities carried out by the Network and the headquarters.

Each serving term of the Headquarters is 3 years and can be extended for a second term of 3 years, by the end of which, the appointment will be rotated to other offices of the Network within the region.

The ten-member Network, established in 1975, comprises Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, S. Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The major activities of the Network for 1984 include:

- Workshop on Biotechnology in Industrial Development -Malaysia.
- (2) Workshop on Biological Control of Insect Pests and Diseases - Philippines.
- (3) Training Course on Fermentation Technology of Recombinant Organisms - Australia.
- (4) Training Course in Hybridoma Technology Thailand.
- (5) Training Course on Special Techniques in Electron Microscopy - Singapore.