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Hong Kong was the venue of a double Silver Jubilee event from August 1 to 5. Two joint Conferences commemorating the 25th anniversaries of the UNESCO conferences on the Global Impacts of Applied Microbiology (GIAM) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong were held at the Shatin Town Hall in the New Territories. Dr the Honorable Sir Q W Lee, Chairman of the Education Commission of Hong Kong, officiated at the opening ceremony.

The Conference Organiser, Professor Shu-ting Chang, is also the Chairman of the Biology Department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The department operates a biotechnological research laboratory in collaboration with the university's Biochemistry Department and current projects include research and training on protein and genetic engineering, fish farming, environmental protection and medical diagnosis.

The joint conferences attracted more than 400 experts in microbiology & biotechnology from 45 countries. Previous GIAM Conferences were held at Stockholm (1963), Addis Ababa (1967), Bombay (1969), Sao Paulo (1972), Bangkok (1975), Lagos (1980) and Helsinki (1985). The next one is scheduled for Guatemala in two years' time.

Conference activities were supported by a number of local and international agencies. Notable amongst the latter were UNESCO, UNEP, the ICRO Panel on Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology, and the Commonwealth Science Council.

Primary features of the Conference were the valuable communication between participants from various parts of the world and the sense of reality that was engendered among all those engaged in a broad range of activities related to biotechnological research, development and exploitation.

August 16, 1988