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Professor Lucian W Pye, Ford Professor of Political Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, delivered the first of a series of two public lectures entitled "Chinese Nationalism and Modernization" at the Chinese University yesterday (January 8) as the University's Wei Lun Visiting Professor.

In the lecture subtitled "The Challenge of Modernization to the Chinese National Identity", Professor Pye addressed tensions and contradictions between Chinese nationalism and the goal of modernization. The lecture also focused on the patterns of the intellectual's position in response to the development of the treaty port system and then the emergence of the dominant political class that distrusted intellectuals but was also interested in modernizing China. How the tensions and contradictions had affected the position of the Westernized educated Chinese was also analysed. The lecture was attended by academics, students and members of the public.

Professor Pye's second lecture subtitled "Overseas Chinese between the World and Beijing?" will be held tomorrow (January 11) at 4:30 pm in Room L1, R C Lee Lecture Hall, Science Centre of the Chinese University. All are welcome.

The second lecture will deal with the changing position of the overseas Chinese, including the people of Hong Kong, as the part of development of a Chinese diaspora. The changing position of the overseas Chinese will be compared with the situation of the Jews in their diaspora. Professor Pye will specifically examine what has been the experience of Overseas Chinese as they have moved upward and become more assimilated in modern societies. This raises questions about their feelings about patriotism to China, which ties in with the topic of the first lecture.

Professor Pye is a brilliant political scientist with world-wide recognition. He is one of America's leading authorities on the politics of Asian countries, particularly the People's Republic of China, and has been appointed as an advisor on foreign affairs to the United States Government.

Professor Pye's visit to the Chinese University is sponsored by the Wei Lun Visiting Professorship/Fellowship Programme which has been established through the very generous donation of the Wei Lun Foundation Limited for the purpose of promoting the discovery and dissemination of knowledge and specifically for sponsoring internationally renowned scholars in various academic disciplines to visit and lecture at the University.

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