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FIRST USER OF IBM'S RIOS SYSTEM
CUHK PLANS CAMPUS-WIDE WORKSTATION NETWORK

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has become Southeast Asia's first user of the RIOS workstation, latest product of International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), through participation in an "Early User Agreement". Other US academic institutions which have participated in similar programmes included University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University and Carnegie Mellon University.

Initial experimentation with RIOS carried out by the university's Engineering Programme indicated that the model excelled in speed performance; it can run 20 times faster than a high speed personal computer. Such a differential in speed is equivalent to the difference in the speed of a car and that of a jet plane, hence opening up the possibilities of many new research. Advanced engineering works such as computer-aided design, multimedia, chemistry and physics calculations, large systems simulation, and artificial intelligence are some examples of the research area.

Apart from IBM, the University is also actively seeking joint projects with other major computer vendors. The Apple Computer, for example, recently contributed two top range computer systems for carrying out research in Chinese medicinal information retrieval system and in advanced scientific typesetting system.

Amongst many of its research projects, the Engineering Programme is building up one of the most advanced campus-wide computer network in Asia. The network will be supported by hundreds of state-of-the art workstations with performance at least as powerful as the new IBM workstations.

Established in 1988 with the objectives of fostering a new breed of engineers for local industries and carrying out research projects in advanced technology, CUHK's Engineering Programme offers courses in Electronic Engineering, Information Engineering, Computer Engineering and Computer Science for 650 students this year. The student intake is expected to be increased to 800 in two years' time.

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