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CUHK gained support for Environmental Research

In a visit to The Chinese University of Hong Kong yesterday (March 6), Lord Caithness, Minister of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with special responsibility for Hong Kong, on behalf of the British Foreign Office, presented an advanced noise monitoring system, noise planning software and some books to the university's Centre for Environmental Studies. The equipment and books were received by Professor Charles K Kao, the Vice-Chancellor of the university.

The donation of the environmental noise analyzer, software and books to the Centre is both timely and significant, enabling members of the Centre to embark on an environmental noise research programme in Hong Kong where noise is a much-concerned environmental problem. With the equipment, the Centre will undertake a survey of environmental noise and study the propagation of, and human response to noise in an urban setting. The software can also enable the urban planners and highway engineers to properly align roadways so that the noise impact of various infra-structure projects can be minimized.

The Centre for Environmental Studies was established just over a year ago at The Chinese University of Hong Kong to employ a multi-disciplinary approach to solve environmental problems. The Centre draws on the experience and expertise of an interdisciplinary research team from various academic departments and has since its inception, launched four research programmes focusing respectively on innovative waste treatment technologies, environmental health, environmental decision support systems, environmental education, policies and law.

In addition to noise analysis, other research projects being carried out by the Centre are mobility and toxicity of heavy metals in contaminated marine and estuarine sediments, beach epidemiology, environmental decision support system, and environmental education in Hong Kong, to name but a few examples.

During his visit, Lord Caithness also toured a laboratory working on the analysis of micropollutants and their effects on health.

March 6, 1992