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TO NEWS EDITOR  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 10, 1993

## International links crucial to university, says Vice-Chancellor

In pursuit of educational excellence, Hong Kong institutions need to further extend linkages with leading academic institutions around the world, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong said today.

Prof. Charles Kao Kuen was speaking at the opening of the Tin Ka Ping Building on the university's Shatin campus, which brings under one roof various offices for promoting academic exchanges.

"By means of faculty and student exchanges, inter-library co-operation and collaborative research programmes arranged through these offices, we are able to advance our own standards and compete on a worldwide basis," he said.

The new building -- officially opened today by the Governor, Mr. Chris Patten -- houses the Universities Service Centre, which has one of the world's best collections on contemporary Chinese studies; the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies; the Office of Academic Links and the Hong Kong- America Centre.

There are also an extension to the University's main library, and an Independent Learning Centre, where students can improve their competence in a second language through self-access language learning facilities.

As the University undergoes rapid expansion, which sees student population increasing to 11,000 from 9,700 in the 1992-95 triennium, the 9,000 square metres provided by the Tin Ka Ping Building help to ease space shortage and ensure that the Chinese University remains a quality place of learning, teaching and research, said Prof. Kao.

The 11-storey tower is named in honour of eminent industrialist, Mr. Tin Ka Ping, who donated HK\$25 million towards the university's academic research and development programmes last year.

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