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TO NEWS EDITOR  
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**WORLD-RENOWNED ADVOCATE OF DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION  
TO SPEAK ON "EDUCATION AND POWER"**

Those who want to know more about the current liberal educational philosophy should not miss the public lecture to be given next week by the well-known advocate of democratic education, Professor Michael Apple from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA.

The lecture, entitled "Education and Power", will be held on Monday (March 13) at 4 pm in Lecture Theatre 2, Sino Building in The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

According to Professor Apple, education is not a neutral activity, and is deeply implicated in relations of cultural, economic and political powers.

"This is very visible in the conservative movement now becoming increasingly powerful in many nations throughout the world," he said, citing as examples the push to link the needs of business and industry with educational policy and practice; the privatization and marketization trends which are turning education into a "commodity"; and the move towards "central control over knowledge and values within the state".

"All of this may be contradictory, but it is having profound effects on our very definition of democracy and citizenship and on our understanding of what education is and who it is for. The ultimate result may be very damaging to an education worthy of its name," he said.

Professor Apple has worked with governments, universities, unions, and dissident groups in many nations to democratize educational research, policy and practice. He has recently returned from trips to Bosnian refugee camps and the West Bank in Israel to find out what is being taught to children under different ethnical rule.

Before engaging in post-graduate work, Professor Apple was an elementary and secondary school teacher and president of a teachers' union.

He is currently working on a set of policy recommendations for curriculum evaluation for the United States to counter the movement toward centralization of control over education.