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TO NEWS EDITOR FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RGC CONFERENCE GRANTS BENEFIT CU POSTGRADUATES

Post graduate students of geography, scientific computing and bio-medical sciences, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, are among those who will benefit from the firstever Research Grants Council (RGC) Postgraduate Students Conference/Seminar Grants.

Besides promoting contacts among postgraduates of different disciplines in the seven government-funded institutions, the scheme also provides opportunities for them to interact with eminent scholars from abroad by supporting accommodation and travelling for these visitors.

In the first round of allocation, the results of which were announced recently, three proposals from the Chinese University have altogether gained support to the tune of HK\$100,000. These include:

- * Geoinformatics '95 Hong Kong an International Symposium on Sustainable Development and Environmental Monitoring to be held in May;
- * The Conference on Application of Novel Polymerase Chain Reaction DNA/RNA Fingerprinting Technology in Biological and Medical Research to take place in November; and
- * The Winter School on Iterative Methods in Scientific Computing and Their Applications to take place in December

"Currently, at least ten biological science/medical science laboratories in Hong Kong's universities are actively using the DNA/RNA fingerprinting technology in their research," said Dr. Kwan Hoi Shan from the Chinese University's Department of Biology, who organizes the November conference.

"It would therefore be very useful to organize a conference for the post-graduate students from these laboratories to present their results, express their scientific thinking and discuss the difficulties they have during the research work," he explains.

The eminent scholars to be brought in as a result of the grants include:

- * Prof. Michael Goodchild, Director, National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, in the U.S.
- * Prof. Gene H. Golub, Fletcher Jones Chair Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University; and
- * Prof. Michael McClelland, Associate Director, California Institute of Biological Research.

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