



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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CHINESE UNIVERSITY STARTS CHEMICAL LAB WORKSHOPS TO TRAIN YOUNG SCIENTISTS FROM CHINA

The Chinese University of Hong Kong is launching a long-term "Open Chemical Laboratory" programme to train young Chinese scientists and promote research collaboration between China and Hong Kong.

The Programme comprises a series of workshops on the principles and practical application of major scientific instruments for advanced chemical research.

Funded by a HK\$2.1 million grant from the Lee Hysan Foundation (HK), the scheme has the support of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Bureau of Science and Technology of the State Planning Commission. Led by eminent chemists from the Chinese University as well as abroad, the workshops will be held each summer.

"The starting up of these Chemical Lab Workshops marks a milestone in the long-standing collaboration between Hong Kong and Chinese scholars," said Professor Thomas Mak Chung Wai, Chairman of the Chinese University's chemistry department.

Basic chemical research has had enormous impact on the evolution of human society through the important discoveries of many new materials such as man-made fibres, plastics and glass, said Prof Mak.

Recent research is focusing on new materials for high technology, such as new crystals, liquid crystal displays, semi-conductors, super-conducting materials and optical fibres, which are set to provide even greater impetus for technological advancement in many spheres including electronics and telecommunications, he added.

To promote research in these areas, the University's chemistry department is equipped with an array of high-powered instruments -- including high resolution nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers, mass spectrometers, X-ray diffractometer and image plate system, modern static and dynamic laser light scattering facilities and a multi-purpose surface science analysis system.

The first of these Chemical Instrumentation Workshops begins tomorrow (June 17th) and will run for three consecutive weeks. Participants are 20 scholars, who are all under 40-years of age and holders of postgraduate degrees. They represent the top universities and research institutes from all over China, including Peking University, Nankai University, Chengdu Institute of Organic Chemistry, Lanzhou University, Shandong University, Hangzhou University, Fudan University, Nanjing University, Xiamen University, Fuzhou University and Zhongshan University.

The Workshop entitled "Modern Techniques of Single Crystal X-ray Analysis" will be chaired by Professor Thomas Mak, Dr Jenny P Glusker of the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia, USA, who is also editor of the prestigious journal *Acta Crystallographica Section D*; and Dr Ward T Robinson of the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, who is also President of the Asian Crystallographic Association.

There will be lectures, supplemented by hands-on sessions in small groups to be led by Professor Zhou Gongdu (Peking University) and Professor Zhou Zhongyuan (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chengdu Institute of Organic Chemistry) and CUHK's research associates and graduate students.

It is hoped that the participants could master the basic operation of the key instruments through the intensive training.

The second workshop, on "the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance of Biological Molecules", will also be launched this summer, starting from July 31st. The third, fourth and fifth workshops are scheduled for the summers of 1996 and 1997 respectively.

Note to Editor:

The photo accompanying this release will be sent via GIS press boxes. For press enquiries, please contact Mrs Shirley Kwok of The Chinese University of Hong Kong at 2609-8897.