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新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 12, 1994

# ENGINEERING FACULTY TO TAKE ON GREATER ROLE IN TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

With the opening of its new "home" in the purpose-built Ho Sing-Hang Engineering Building, the Engineering Faculty of The Chinese University of Hong Kong is all set to play a greater role in technological advancement in Hong Kong which is crucial to the continual prosperity of the territory, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Charles Kao Kuen, said today.

"New technologies are constantly creating exciting business opportunities for companies, as well as potential services which can be of tremendous benefit to the man in the street," said Prof. Kao.

"Through close cooperation with the industries, we hope to translate these technologies into real boons for Hong Kong people," he said.

The Faculty's achievements in new technologies include: the successful connection of a medical imaging telecommunication network which connects distant hospitals for more efficient diagnosis; and pioneering research which produces the first home-grown laser diodes - important opto-electronic components which make up our telecommunication network.

Researchers at the Faculty are pursuing other equally exciting projects which aim to develop: a mobile voice-and-data communication unit which is as handy as a pager but allows instantaneous, real-time retrieval as well as despatch of a wide range of information such as stock prices, personal messages; a unified standard platform for Chinese computing in an open system environment; a personal communication satellite which is convenient enough to be carried around.

Speaking at the opening of the building -- which was officiated by the Governor, Mr. Chris Patten -- Prof. Kao said the Faculty will add a fifth department of Mechanical Engineering this year. Student intake at the undergraduate level will rise by 43% to around 1700 over the next two years to meet the growing demand for engineers.

The University has been offering engineering programmes in Electronics, Computer Science and Information Engineering since 1970, 1973 and 1988 respectively. The Faculty was established in 1991 with the addition of the fourth Department of Systems Engineering.

The new engineering block houses some of Southeast Asia's most advanced laboratories in telecommunication, electronics and computer science.

The building was named in honour of Dr. Ho Sin-Hang, the renowned founder of the Hang Seng Bank, in appreciation of his staunch support of the University. Last year, the S H Ho Foundation made a generous HK\$40 million donation to the University for the establishment of the Ho Sin-Hang Education Endowment Fund which will be used to support visiting professorships, medical education, research and other developments.

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