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TO NEWS EDITOR  
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### **CUHK Students Set off for Beijing for International Debating Contest**

"To be gifted with a silver tongue is not so good as to have a clear head," said Xu Hailou, a postgraduate student from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and member of the Putonghua debating team that will leave for Beijing tomorrow (Aug 18) to take part in an international contest with tertiary students from around the world.

The eight participating universities are: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of South California, The Korean Foreign Language University, Fu Jen Catholic University, University of New South Wales, University of Bonn, Nanjing University and National University of Singapore. Organised by China Central Television and the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation, this international debating contest aims to promote the use of Putonghua, and to strengthen ties and enhance cultural exchange among young people.

The four participating CUHK students - Virginia Chan Pui Shan, Chow Kin, Jenny Sit Tsang and Xu Hailou will be competing with students from the University of South California on the August 22nd preliminary round on the topic of "Information Superhighway is favourable to the developing countries". The CUHK team will have to argue against the motion.

The four students are elated over the trip to Beijing as they view it as an invaluable experience to meet with people from different parts of the world and widen their horizons.

From past experience in inter-varsity debating contests, the team of four has come up with a unanimous conclusion on the key to success. "Unity, cooperation and coordination of the whole team is the crucial factor for defeating your opponents," said Xu Hailou.

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"Clarification of the topic is also very important as it will influence logical thinking. For instance, the concept of 'information superhighway' bears distinctly different meanings and definitions in Western and Eastern countries. And its subtly different definitions in Taiwan, Mainland China and Hong Kong further complicate the problem," continued the PhD student in Biology.

The Preliminary Rounds consist of four debates over four days starting on August 19th, followed by two Semi-Finals and a Grand Final. Each team comprises four debaters. Apart from the Champion and the Runner-up, awards will also be presented to the "Best Debater" and an "Excellent Debater".

Meanwhile, another debating team from CUHK will take part in the First Bestari International English Debating Tournament 1995 to be held at the end of August in Malaysia. The English Debating Team from CUHK will benefit from the exchange with counterparts from Canada, India, USA, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

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Note to Editors: Photo distributed via GIS press boxes.

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