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PRESS RELEASE



for immediate release

HKIB STRENGTHENS BIOTECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH LINKS IN CHINA

The Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology (HKIB) of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has recently signed a draft agreement with Yunnan Provincial Commission of Science & Technology (YPCST), PRC, to establish a Hong Kong - Yunnan Biotechnology Development Centre (HYBDC), as disclosed by Professor Dominic Man-Kit Lam, Director of HKIB.

Professor Lam pointed out that the HYBDC, the second joint centre established by HKIB, will capitalise on the biotechnological research strengths of YPCST as well as the strategic position of HKIB in the region in developing and commercialising novel biotechnology products targeted for the world market. The first centre was the Hong Kong - Shanghai Biotechnology Development Centre (HSBDC) set up jointly with The Shanghai Branch of Chinese Academy of Sciences early this year,

Situated in the south-western part of China, Yunnan is a resourceful region with numerous plants, animals and microbes. YPCST, with easy access to resources, is an official, productive organisation for basic and applied research and many of its products and technologies have resulted in economic returns.

"China's economic centres have been concentrated on the coastline while the resourceful inland provinces such as Yunnan are badly in need of an outlet for the rich natural products and technology," said Dr Siu-Leung Lee, Associate Director for Technology & Products Development, HKIB. "The biotechnology industry of Hong Kong will benefit from the national resources and technical expertise of YPCST while HKIB will provide the marketing know-how, and management training for exchange scholars from YPCST."

Established in 1988 with the objective of developing in Hong Kong a globally-connected biotechnology industry, which is gaining importance in the world industry, HKIB has lined up a series of joint ventures, including the establishment of HSBDC and HYBDC, and also an agreement on marketing environmental technologies. Similar agreements in other countries are also anticipated to accelerate the expansion of Hong Kong's technology base while providing new business opportunities for venture investments, as noted by Dr Lee.

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY ON THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1990

HKIB funded by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club will have its foundation stone laid by Mr Gordon M Macwhinnie, Chairman of the Stewards of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club (RHKJC); Sir Oswald Cheung, Steward of RHKJC; and Sir Quo-wei Lee, Chairman of CUHK Council, on Thursday, May 31 at 4:30 p.m. at the construction site in CUHK. Also officiating at the ceremony will be HKIB's Board of Directors, including Professor Charles K Kao, Chairman of the Board; Professor Wang Gungwu; and Professor Dominic Man-Kit Lam.