



University News

Council News



Mr. Thomas H. C. Cheung has been elected a member of the University Council for a period of three years from 20th March 1991, in the category 'not more than four persons, normally resident in Hong Kong, who shall be elected by the Council'.

Mr. Cheung, chairman of the Pacific Group and honorary consul for Sri Lanka in Hong Kong, was a graduate of United College and has been a member of the Board of Trustees of United College for many years. He has also been actively

involved in the University's alumni activities, serving as president of the University's Federation of Alumni Associations and as chairman of various committees of the federation.

Mr. Cheung has also made significant contributions to education through his donations to this university for student activities, to the Federation of Alumni Associations for the establishment of a kindergarten, a primary school and a secondary school, and to the University of Hong Kong for the setting up of a medical research fund.



All Wins for CUHK Debaters



Following the victory of the University's Mandarin debating team over the National Taiwan University team in a debating contest last February, the Cantonese debating team also beat its Hong Kong University counterpart in the final of the Inter-postsecondary Debate held on 10th March 1991 at the Victoria Park.

The Inter-postsecondary Debate is organized annually by Radio Television Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Federation of Students. Twelve postsecondary institutions took part in this year's competition.

The motion for the final - 'There should be representatives from China in the Provisional Airport Authority' - was disclosed to the contestants six hours before the debate. The CUHK

team was speaking against the motion and won by a margin of four to one. That was the team's third victory in the same contest in three years.

Two weeks later on 23rd March 1991 at the Sir Run Run Shaw Hall, another victory was achieved by the University's English debating team in the 20th Intersivity Debating Contest between HKU and CUHK.

The Intersivity Debating Contest was first instituted in 1972. To enhance the impromptu nature of the contest, the topic was disclosed to the contestants only 60 minutes before the debate and a draw on the motion took place at the same time.

Arguing against the motion 'That LegCo should reject the proposed 200 per cent increase in cigarette tax', the CUHK team won by a margin of three to two and Mr. Thomas Leung on the team was selected best speaker in the contest.



University Instructional Media Services (UIMS) Reorganized

From 1st April, the UIMS has been dissolved with its two service components reorganized: the production team has become the Audio-visual Division of The Chinese University Press; the audio-visual technical service team has been subsumed under the Technical Services Unit.

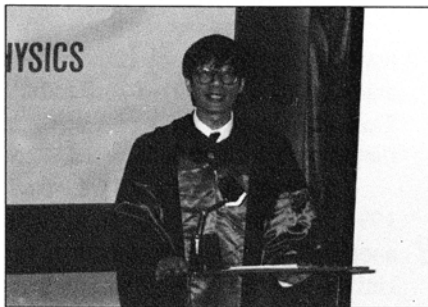
The Audio-visual Division of The Chinese University Press will engage in the production of audio-visual programmes for commercial distribution, and the provision of the following services to academic and administrative departments under a new charging system:

- a. production of overhead projector transparencies and audio/video programmes for academic and public relations purposes;
- b. audio studio recording services; and
- c. duplication of audio and video tapes.

Photographic services for functions and the production and duplication of slides and view-graphs have been discontinued. The Chinese University Press may undertake piecework assignments at commercial rates if they have spare capacity.

The audio-visual technical services team of the Technical Services Unit will continue to manage and maintain the audio-visual equipment in classrooms, lecture theatres, conference rooms, language laboratories and the loan pool in the Pi Ch'iu Building.

Both teams will continue to operate in the Pi Ch'iu Building for the time being. The Audio-visual Division is expected to move with the Press to their new office in the Hui Yeung Shing Building on the Chung Chi campus towards the end of the year.



Professor of Physics Gives Inaugural Lecture

Prof. Kenneth Young gave his inaugural lecture on 'Disorder and Dissipation in Physics' on 22nd March 1991.

In his lecture Prof. Young pointed out that although science is often regarded as the search for order in Nature, there has been considerable interest in recent years in the appearance of disorder in deterministic systems. Disorder leads to loss of information, or increase in entropy, providing an arrow

of time. This arrow of time is related to dissipation – the 'loss' of energy, probability, or information. On the other hand, dissipation apparently conflicts with quantum mechanics, which is needed for describing small systems. Prof. Young further illustrated such concepts with research work on condensed matter physics, optics, and cosmology carried out at the Physics Department of the University.



Conference on Gender and Society

The Gender Research Programme of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies organized an international conference entitled 'Gender and Society: The Pacific Rim Experience' on campus from 21st to

22nd March. The objective was to study the relationship between social development and gender issues. Apart from local academics, over 10 scholars and experts from the Pacific Rim countries such as USA, Taiwan, mainland



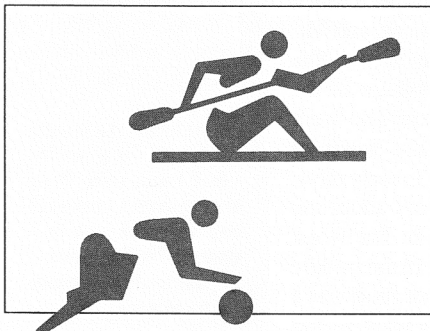


China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Japan attended the conference and took part in the discussion sessions. Participants also presented findings of research projects on women

and cultural tradition in Hong Kong, sex-role attitudes in Hong Kong, women organizations in Hong Kong, and education, employment and earnings of Hong Kong women.



1991 Sports Medicine Conference



The University's Centre of Sports Medicine and Sports Science, the Physical Education Unit, and the Department of Extramural Studies jointly organized the eighth Annual Sports Science Conference on the 'Development of Sports Culture' on 23rd March at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Over 200 sports scientists and guests attended the function and shared their expertise and experience in the

development and promotion of sports culture. Discussion topics included the interest of the local population and their attitude towards sport; the status of sports culture in Hong Kong and other countries; factors affecting the development of sports culture; and strategic plans for the future.

The conference was sponsored by the Amateur Sports Federation & Olympic Committee, Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Sports Development Board.



Business Administration Festival & Engineering Festival



Students and faculty of the Business Administration Faculty and the Engineering Programme organized two separate festivals on campus last month to foster closer links with the community.

The theme of the Business Administration Festival this year was business ethics. Programmes included an exhibition entitled 'Environmental Protection and Commercial Interests', a forum on profits and social responsibility, a talk about life of business administration students at The Chinese University, and other performances and inter-

collegiate ball games. Activities lasted for a week from 19th to 26th March and attracted over 2,000 participants.

The Engineering Festival was held from 22nd March to 4th April. A series of seminars and demonstrations and an exhibition were organized during the two weeks to introduce high-tech developments in engineering in the nineties, and to explore how advanced technology has affected people's everyday lives. Visitors were particularly attracted by the second generation cordless telephone on display and live TV broadcasts by satellite. Many also tried the workstations and Macintoshes newly installed at the various engineering departments.



In the March issue we reported on the University's 'Long Service Award Presentation Ceremony 1990-91' held on 2nd March 1991, and profiled 11 recipients of the award. In this issue we will profile 10 more staff members honoured for 25 years' service to the University.

**Dr. Wong Kwan-yiu
Department of Geography**

To Dr. Wong Kwan-yiu, the long service award is a meaningful memento and not a consolation prize for aging. Far from feeling old, he is eager to continue his work in the Department of Geography, and would like to see the department winning international acclaim some day. Dr. Wong obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Hong Kong and his Ph.D. from Australia, and has since taught in United College. 'When I first joined The Chinese University, teaching activities at the Department of Geography were still being developed. It was in 1968 that I began to be involved in administration work, at a time when departments were not working in perfect unison. Later, a re-structuring of the University helped to improve administrative efficiency and facilitated communication among faculty members,' Dr. Wong recalls. Dr. Wong enjoys playing darts, badminton, and swimming in his spare time.



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**Mr. Fung Kwong-shan
Office Assistant
College Office, United College**

Before joining United College, Mr. Fung worked at a hospital. United College proved to be a much more pleasant place to work, and Mr. Fung decided to move to the Sha Tin campus with the college in the early 1970s. As someone who went through the best and the worst of times on the campus in its early days, Mr. Fung now reminisces about the past with much affection. The worst of it was to be relocated in the middle of nowhere. Shopping for food was a nightmare. One had to walk to the main entrance of the University early in the morning and catch a minibus to the Taipo marketplace to buy food. To save trouble, Mr. Fung used to bring home a whole week's supply from each 'long march'. To make matters worse, campus roads were not yet completed, and shopping trips were comparable to mountaineering. The happiest moments for Mr. Fung, on the other hand, were those spent playing basketball and volleyball with resident staff and students in the spacious playgrounds on the campus.



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**Dr. Robert Dan
Director, University Health Service**

When Dr. Robert Dan says his career at The Chinese University started from three absolute zeroes, he is not joking. The first zero was when Chung Chi College established its own college clinic and infirmary in 1963, with Dr. Dan as its first and only physician. At that time, when both staff and students were few, he needed work only in the morning; the rest of his time was spent helping a welfare agency for needy children. The second zero was when Dr. Dan was tasked with coordinating the medical services for the three constituent colleges of the University and for the central administration before the Sha Tin campus was ready. The third zero was helping to set up the University Health Service on the Sha Tin campus as well as serving as its first director. In all three tasks, Dr. Dan had to start from scratch, hence the three zeroes. As director of the University's health centre, he has always emphasized the prevention of disease and the dissemination of health information to members of the University. 'Nobody but you yourself are ultimately responsible for your own health. Don't place it in the hands of doctors, whose task is to treat you only when you are sick,' Dr. Dan advises. Since he took up the present post, he has been preaching this gospel with colleagues of the clinic and is pleased to see that this attitude is now widely accepted on the campus. Asked about his hobbies, the doctor cites Cantonese opera, swimming, ball games, and hiking.

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Mr. Lee Wu-kung
Clerk, Dean of Students' Office
New Asia College

Before joining The Chinese University, Mr. Lee Wu-kung had a taste of the bitter side of life. Arriving in Hong Kong by himself from a war-torn China, his first days here were spent in the rock beds of a quarry at Ma On Shan. Only two years later was he able to enroll in New Asia College to study philosophy, his favourite subject. Upon graduation, he pursued a teaching career. Later, Mr. Tang Jun-yi, one of the founders of New Asia College, was looking for an assistant with some training in philosophy to collect research materials, proofread manuscripts, and take care of documents. Mr. Tang remembered what a fine student Mr. Lee had been, and Mr. Lee was more than glad to work for a scholar he admired. He used his spare time to study at the University and very soon obtained his BA degree. After Mr. Tang's retirement, Mr. Lee transferred to the Dean of Students' Office at New Asia, where he could work together with his old classmates, and has served there ever since. Mr. Lee spends most of his leisure time in reading books about philosophy and practising Chinese calligraphy.



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Mr. Wong Kai-chee
Senior Lecturer
Department of Chinese Language and Literature

After obtaining his master's degree from the University of Hong Kong, Mr. Wong Kai-chee chose to join Chung Chi College instead of his alma mater for an academic career. As he explains, 'Chung Chi was recruiting at that time. What could be more appropriate for someone who teaches Chinese to join The Chinese University?' When notified of the long service award, his immediate reaction was, 'Thank the University for remembering her veterans.' As regards the development of the campus over the years, Mr. Wong is pleased to have witnessed the transformation of a barren hill-top into a full-fledged University. He is, however, also saddened to see that the 'natural park' that once surrounded the campus has now turned into new towns made of concrete highrises. As for the future, Mr. Wong looks forward to the day when a concerted effort among

colleagues will help make the University a world authority in sinology. In his leisure time, Mr. Wong likes to go to movies and hiking.



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Mr. Wong Sik-yee
Clerk, School of Education

Mr. Wong Sik-yee joined the School of Education of The Chinese University on the recommendation of friends. Although he has stayed in the same post ever since, the job does not bore him. The School of Education is constantly developing and work assignments change accordingly. He still remembers 1967 – the year of living dangerously – when classes were held in Mong Kok, which was then a hot spot of riots and where explosives were frequently found in street corners. He also remembers with much amusement that 'In the early days of the school, seven students were served by eight or nine teachers.' Meanwhile, because clerical staff members were so few in number, and opportunities for staff interaction were rare, Mr. Wong became a rather quiet man. Only as the school expanded did he have the chance to open up and become talkative. A Cantonese opera lover, Mr. Wong joins various groups with like interest to practise singing in his leisure time.



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Miss Chung Kit-bing
Senior Personal Secretary
College Head's Office, United College

Miss Chung Kit-bing gave up a 'prestigious' Central District job for the simple working environment of a tertiary educational institution. Since joining United College as a personal secretary, she has served various college heads and registrars and was once a member of the college's registry and personnel department. She now talks happily of the calmness she enjoys on the campus instead of the quick temper she used to have when serving business establishments. Among numerous memorable experiences at the University, the most unforgettable was serving as the secretary of both the college head and registrar in 1972. She had to attend to numerous tasks while liaising with a large number of people. The work pressure was naturally great but so was her job satisfaction. Away from work, Miss Chung likes to collect stamps, travel, pay visits to painting exhibitions, and, in recent years, has collected Chinese ceramics and porcelain.



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Dr. Serena S. H. Jin
Senior Lecturer
Department of Translation

A graduate of Chung Chi College whose first job was in translation, Dr. Jin's destiny has long been tied to The Chinese University and translation. After coming 'home' with a master's degree from the United States, she became an instructor in the Department of Religious Knowledge and Philosophy and has been with the University since. Later on, she was invited to fill a vacancy in the Translation Division of the Department of English and to help expand the division into the first-ever translation department in a local tertiary institution. Now, looking back, Dr. Jin talks with much satisfaction about how a once neglected division grew into a full-fledged department. However, a 'minor' regret is that, after so many years, translation is not yet a major subject for students in CUHK, limiting further development of the department. Away from work, Dr. Jin enjoys flower arrangement, travel, music, social dance, and studying languages. But no hobby is more absorbing than translation. She is a member of the Bilingual Law Advisory Committee and president of the Hong Kong Translation Society, and is now busy planning a concert to raise funds for the establishment of a translation fund in Hong Kong.



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Mrs. Eva B. C. Ko
Senior Lecturer, Department of
Social Work

Mrs. Eva B. C. Ko has, since her secondary school days, dedicated herself to volunteer social service. After graduating from the University of Hong Kong as an economics major, she went to the UK and the Netherlands in pursuit of knowledge about social policy and social work administration. She returned to Hong Kong to work in the government's Social Welfare Department, which later sent her to Canada to receive postgraduate training in social work. With a master's degree in the subject and an urge to contribute more in this field, Mrs. Ko joined United College in the mid-sixties and helped to found its Department of Social Work with Dr. Ho Kam-fai, who is now professor of



Mrs. Ko has been closely involved in the development of social work as an academic subject and as a profession both in Hong Kong and in China...

social work in the University. She still remembers those hectic days when she had to teach, to liaise with various welfare organizations, and to supervise the field work of students at the same time. Mrs. Ko has been closely involved in the development of social work as an academic subject and as a profession both in Hong Kong and in China and has represented local social workers in many international conferences. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and knitting. She has even given classes on these subjects for colleagues at United College. 'I just hope to nurture a greater sense of belonging through these get-together activities,' Mrs. Ko says modestly.

Dr. Yuen Ting-cheuk
Senior Lecturer, Department of Chinese
Language and Literature

Dr. Yuen Ting-cheuk was a long-time member of United College who has only recently transferred to the newly established Shaw College. Realizing that not many jobs could offer opportunities for research, Dr. Yuen chose teaching as his career after obtaining his Ph.D. Now, after more than 20 years, he does not hesitate to point out that teaching itself no longer offers him the excitement, which, for an academic like him, can only be found in research. As a result, Dr. Yuen engages in research all the time, leaving little time for recreation. Listening to pop music is perhaps the only hobby he can name. As far as research is concerned, Dr. Yuen specializes in pre-Qin scholarship, Song history, script on brass mirrors and the ancient language of Qidan, about which he has made significant findings. Regarding the development of the University, Dr. Yuen has few complaints but would like to see a better Chinese literature and history collection in the Library.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professorial Appointments

Professor of Systems Engineering

Prof. Vincent Lum has been appointed as professor of systems engineering from 25th March 1991.



Prof. Lum graduated from the University of Toronto, Canada in 1960. He furthered his studies in the USA and obtained his MS degree in electrical engineering from the University of Washington in 1961, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois in 1966.

Prof. Lum joined IBM in 1962, first as associate engineer, and then as research worker. From 1973 to 1985, he served as project manager of various procedure automation and information management projects in the company. Prior to joining this university, he was professor of computer science in the Naval Postgraduate School, USA for six years.

Aged 57, Prof. Lum is married, with two sons and a daughter.

Professorial Inaugural Lecture

Prof. George Fan, professor of information engineering, will deliver his inaugural lecture entitled 'Information, Communication and Computers' in Lecture Theatre 6, Lady Shaw Building on 19th April at 5.00 p.m. All are welcome.

Lecture by Wei Lun Visiting Professor

Prof. Wang Yuan, president of the Chinese Mathematical Society, has been invited to visit the University as Wei Lun Visiting Professor and to give a public lecture entitled 'Mathematics in China - present situation and development' on Saturday, 27th April at 11.15 a.m. in Lecture Theatre 6, Lady Shaw Building. The lecture is sponsored by the Wei Lun Foundation Ltd. and will be conducted in Putonghua. All are welcome.

VC's Cup Tournament 1990-91

The Organizing Committee of the 1990-91 VC's Cup Staff Sports Tournament announces that this year's tournament will take place on Sunday, 21st April at the University Sports Centre. There will be three sports events: soccer, basketball, and tennis. Heats, semi-finals and finals will all be held on the same day.

As in the past, six teams will participate in the various events and staff members interested in taking part in the competitions should contact their respective team captains as soon as possible.

Captains of the six participating teams are:

Tel. Ext.

Yellow Team (Administrative units, Department of Extramural Studies, Office of International Studies Programmes and Information Management Unit)

<i>Soccer</i>	Mr. S. S. Tam (Personnel)	2269
<i>Tennis</i>	Mr. Gordon Kui (IMU)	2745 - 2749
<i>Basketball</i>	Mr. Hardy Tsoi (SRRSH)	2820

White Team (Faculty of Arts, Institute of Chinese Studies, and Chinese Language Centre)

<i>Soccer</i>	Mr. Philip Fung (French)	2661
<i>Tennis</i>	Dr. W. H. Lee (Japanese)	2523
<i>Basketball</i>	Dr. Thomas Luk (English)	2803

Green Team (Faculty of Business Administration)

<i>Soccer</i>	Mr. Danny Cheng (O & M)	2772
<i>Tennis</i>	Dr. Japhet Law (OSM)	2093
<i>Basketball</i>	Dr. Robert Terpstra (Finance)	2792

Red Team (Faculty of Medicine and University Health Service)

<i>Soccer</i>	Dr. John Yeung (Pharmacology)	2864
<i>Tennis</i>	Dr. Michael Tam (Physiology)	2878
<i>Basketball</i>	Mr. Warman Cheng (MDL)	2887

Purple Team (Faculty of Science and Computer Services Centre)

<i>Soccer</i>	Dr. Michael Chang (IE)	2970
<i>Tennis</i>	Mr. Thomas Tsui (CSC)	2745 - 2749
<i>Basketball</i>	Mr. C. H. Cheng (CSC)	2745 - 2749

Blue Team (Faculty of Social Science, School of Education, and non-professional staff of PE Unit)

<i>Soccer</i>	Dr. J. J. Lee (Social Work)	2559
<i>Tennis</i>	Dr. Y. Leung (Geography)	2473
<i>Basketball</i>	Mr. Mark Sheldon (GPA)	2709/2605

The tentative schedule for the day is as follows:

9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	Heats
2.00 - 3.30 p.m.	Semi-finals and final's for soccer and tennis
2.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Basketball semi-finals
3.30 - 4.30 p.m.	Basketball final
4.30 - 5.00 p.m.	Prize-presentation
All are welcome.	

Overseas Education Allowance

Rates of Overseas Education Allowances (Boarding School Allowances) payable to eligible staff members with children studying in the United Kingdom and the United States of America have been revised in accordance with a similar revision by the government, with retroactive effect from the autumn term of 1990.

Payment calculated on the basis of the old rates will be adjusted accordingly and arrangements for appropriate reimbursement will be made by the Bursar's Office to the staff members concerned.

JUPLAC Library Card

The holder of a JUPLAC (Joint University & Polytechnic Libraries Advisory Committee) library card is entitled to use the facilities of all the libraries under the auspices of the committee. They include the libraries of the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Polytechnic, City Polytechnic, Hong Kong Baptist College, the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Lingnan College and The Chinese University. The card holder may also borrow books from these libraries provided that they observe the regulations of the libraries concerned.

Teaching and administrative staff of Terms of Service A or equivalent may apply for a JUPLAC library card at the Circulation Counter of the University Library. Please direct all enquiries to ext. 2306.

Scenic Trail for Jogging and Exercise

If you are a jogger, would you welcome the idea of a specially designed jogging trail on campus? Do you like exercise stations along the way? How about natural soil surface for the whole or part of the trail? Do you have any good ideas for the routing of the trail? Should some other recreational facilities be tied in with the trail so that families and friends can participate together? Or you think such a trail is not really necessary because people can jog anywhere?

Send your opinions to The Secretary, Campus Link, c/o Sir Run Run Shaw Hall before the end of April. All suggestions will in turn be channelled to the Buildings Office for consideration or implementation.

New Publication of The University Press

The following book will be sold at a 20 per cent discount to staff members at the University Bookshop, John Fulton Centre:

《佛利民在中國》 (*Friedman in China*) (in Chinese) translated by Ronald W. C. Teng, xxiv + 140 pp., (paperback, HK\$50).



■ Prof. David Gwilt, professor of music, has been appointed a member of the Council for the Performing Arts by HE the Governor for two years from 1st April 1991.

■ Prof. P. C. Leung, professor of orthopaedics and traumatology, has been reappointed to the Council of the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong by HE the Governor for three years from 1st January 1991.

■ Dr. Stephen Tang, lecturer in sociology, has been appointed by HE the Governor as adjudicator of the Immigration Tribunal for a period of two years from 1st March 1991.

■ Prof. Yeung Yue-man, professor of geography, has been invited by the Institute of Geography, Guangzhou to serve as a member of the editorial committee of *Tropical Geography* from January 1991 to December 1995.

■ Prof. Mun Kin Chok, professor of

marketing, has been invited to serve as adviser to the Chinese Marketing Association from March 1991.

■ Dr. K. M. Chan, reader in orthopaedics

Services to the Community and International Organizations

and traumatology, has been appointed a member of the editorial board of *The World of Sports Medicine*, official journal of the International Federation of Sports Medicine, from 1990 to 1994. Dr. Chan has also been elected Secretary-General of the Asian Federation of Sports Medicine from 1990 to 1992.

■ Prof. Arthur K. C. Li, professor of surgery, has been appointed a member of the editorial board of *The National*

Medical Journal of India and of *The British Journal of Surgery*.

■ Dr. Tsao Pen-yeh, lecturer in music, coordinated and hosted two concert-lectures as part of the 1991 Hong Kong Arts Festival's 'Weekend Divertimento' series in February. Dr. Tsao has also been invited to serve as chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee and a member of the International Academic Programme Committee of the 31st International Council for Traditional Music World Conference to be held in Hong Kong in July.

■ Mr. Robert Wu, director of the Office of Industrial and Business Development, has been appointed a member of the Industrial Technology Committee of the Industry Development Board by the Secretary for Trade and Industry from 1st January to 31st December 1991.

(All information in this section is provided by the Information Office)

The University Built

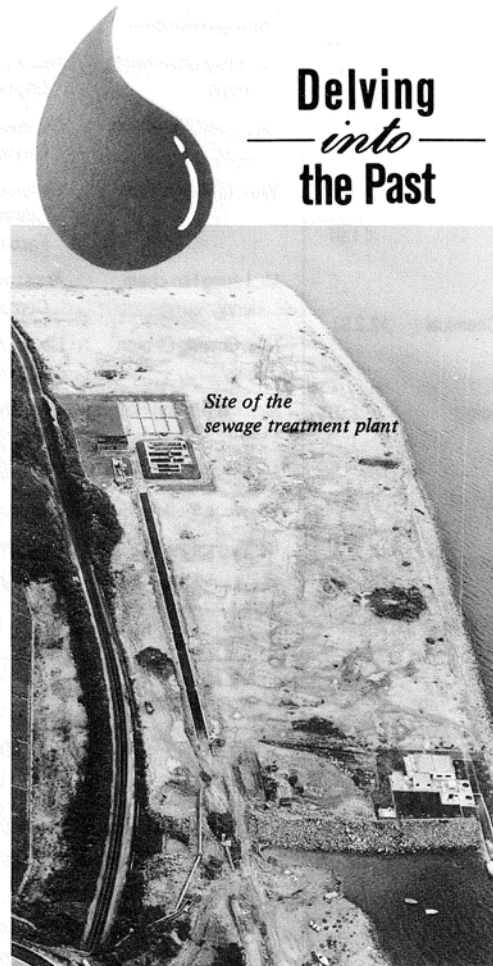
Hong Kong's First Sewage Treatment Plant

The Chinese University is justifiably proud of the fact that it was instrumental in constructing the first-ever sewage treatment plant in Hong Kong. Today, nearly two decades after its inauguration in 1971, the plant no longer exists. It has been honourably retired in order to make way for the construction of the Tolo Harbour Highway.

Ma Liu Shui in the early days of the University was a quiet, serene place, but as the campus developed in phases throughout the seventies, a growing staff and student population soon began to challenge the rudimentary means of sewage disposal which existed at that time. It was no longer possible, or indeed ethical, to continue to allow the raw effluent to drain directly into Tolo Harbour. A sewage treatment plant would present the only solution to the growing problem, and since it would be the first plant of its kind in Hong Kong, it was essential for it to be designed and built by professionals with previous expertise in this area.

The design and construction work were subsequently contracted out to a Japanese company, which also provided specialist staff to train the local operators once the construction of the plant was complete. This was not without its difficulties though, as the works supervisor of the Buildings Office responsible for the management of the plant in those days, Mr. Fung Kai-on, recalls, 'The Japanese didn't speak much English, and we didn't understand Japanese, so in order to communicate with each other, we had to use gestures! Fortunately the operating procedures weren't too complicated and after a bit of practice we soon picked up the skills necessary to operate the plant.'

The plant was designed to work on an activated sludge process which would



Delving
into
the Past

Site of the
sewage treatment plant

purify the waste water coming mainly from the toilets. Incoming sewage from all over the campus was directed through drains to the new plant. After the various purification processes of grit removal, primary sedimentation, aeration and comminution, the water quality would be of a high enough standard to be discharged, through an underwater pipe, into Tolo Harbour.

The sewage treatment plant was located on the northern side of the present Marine Science Laboratory, occupying a site of 5,670 sq.m. Construction work started in the summer of 1970, and by mid-1971 trial operations had begun. Later on that same year, the plant was fully operational and capable of treating 1920

cu.m. of waste water every day. The total cost of the plant was \$2.5 million. Being the first sewage treatment plant in the territory, it obviously attracted a constant stream of visitors, who came from schools, organizations, and various government departments.

Mr. Fung still recalls the pride of his Japanese colleagues who designed and installed the plant, and the absolute confidence which they had in the purity of the water, maintaining that after treatment, the waste water would be perfectly drinkable. With slightly more scepticism and reservations, Mr. Fung issued a challenge to his Japanese colleagues: drink a glass of the treated effluent and he would treat them to a Chinese meal. Ultimately the Japanese experts were brave enough to sample a glass of the finished product and so were able to enjoy the promised meal at the expense of their hosts.

For 15 years the sewage treatment plant fulfilled its role faithfully and effectively, but then in 1986 the Government decided to build the Tolo Harbour Highway, a plan which would require the land occupied up till then by the plant to be absorbed into the highway. The waste water from the University campus would in the meantime have to be rechannelled to the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Plant. On the face of it, the University lost one of its most valuable and necessary assets, but in reality it probably gained more than it lost, as Mr. Vincent Chen, director of Buildings Office, explains, 'When the plant was demolished it had already been in use for 15 years and the whole operation was stretched to its limit. Some parts of the plant were wearing out, and new facilities were urgently needed. The highway project came at just the right time to enable the University to save the funds necessary for a new sewage plant. An unexpected bonus also appeared in the shape of a large plot of land adjacent to the University, granted in compensation by the government for having to requisition the site of the sewage plant for the highway and the new railway track.'

With this plot of land, the University was able to improve the transportation network on the campus. So, instead of losing, the University actually gained. ○

Personalia

Information in this section can only be accessed with **CWEM password**.

We welcome your contributions

1. *Items for the next issue (mid-May 1991) should reach the Editor by 27th April 1991.*
2. *All contributions and suggestions should be sent to the Editor, CUHK Newsletter, c/o the Publication Office, University Secretariat, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (ext. 2936).*
3. *Contributions should bear the writer's name and contact telephone number, and may be published under pseudonyms. Articles without Chinese translations will appear in the English version of the Newsletter only. No anonymous letters will be published.*
4. *The Editor reserves the right to reject contributions and to edit all articles for reasons of clarity, length or grammar. Those who do not wish to have their articles amended should indicate clearly in writing.*
5. *No part of this Newsletter may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.*
6. *This publication has a circulation of 1,100 and is primarily intended for staff members of CUHK. Copies are also sent to local educational institutions and individuals associated with the University. Those who wish to be included on the mailing list please contact the Newsletter direct.*

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