Poll Shows HK People Realistic About Financial Future

Hong Kong citizens hold a realistic view of Hong Kong's economic prospect, believing that Hong Kong will continue to be buffeted by the financial crisis for an extended period and that it will take a fairly long time for the economy to recover, according to a telephone survey conducted by the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies.

In the survey, the third public opinion survey conducted in connection with issues to be discussed at the public policy forum series jointly organized by the Faculty of Social Science and the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, 993 Hong Kong citizens were interviewed about their views on the government policy of maintaining the peg one year into the Asian financial crisis. Most respondents believed that the Hong Kong dollar should not be devalued because it would exacerbate the current recession, and that the government should continue its policy of maintaining the 7.8 linked exchange rate.

At a press conference held on 21st August to announce the survey results, Prof. Liu Pak-wai, professor of economics, said the government should ward off speculators by changing the rules under which stocks and futures are traded rather than intervening in the market. Increasing the margins, for example, would raise the costs of shorting the Hang Seng Index Futures to speculators and discourage them from entering the market, he said.

The findings of the survey, conducted on 11th and 12th August, were also discussed at the public policy forum on finance held at the Cho Yiu Conference Hall on 26th August. Entitled "One Year into the Asian Financial Crisis: The Pros and Cons of Maintaining the Linked Exchange Rate", the function attracted close to 20 local academics, economists, and financial analysts from various sectors, who exchanged views on the recent economic plight of the HK$ and the effectiveness of government policies in dealing with the situation.

The public policy forums series are held with an aim to foster a closer relationship between the government, academia, and the public. They are also intended to promote policy research among University teachers so that greater involvement of scholars in community affairs can be achieved. Three more forums on the themes of industry, environment, and education have been scheduled for the next three months.

Short Course in Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Close to 80 health administrators, doctors, and allied professionals participated in the Short Course in Outcomes and Effectiveness Research organized by the University's Department of Community and Family Medicine and the School of Hygiene and Public Health of Johns Hopkins University from 10th to 12th July 1998 at the Wong Fook Yuen Building. Prof. Joseph Lee, dean of medicine, presided at the opening ceremony.

The course provided an introduction to the methods and issues involved in medical effectiveness and outcomes research, and identified, compared, and tested medical and health technologies and practices in the broad clinical population. The course's teachers were Prof. Neil Powe, Ms. Nancy Fink, and Dr. Damiit Gail from Johns Hopkins University. Prof. Suzanne Ho of The Chinese University was the course coordinator.

Efforts to Preserve Sight

Eye Care Under Probe at International Symposium

Some 180 ophthalmologists from all over the world participated in an international symposium entitled 'The Challenges of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences in the Next Millennium' to discuss recent eye care developments. The event which took place from 20th to 23rd August 1998 at the Hotel Furama Kemsinki was organized by the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

World leading experts in the field of glaucoma, a disease recognized as the number one cause of blindness in Hong Kong, presented their views on the next generation of therapeutic strategies for glaucoma while others discussed the role of neuroprotection and gene therapy for the treatment of the disease. The symposium also featured talks on new treatments for diabetic retinopathy, and laser therapy for age-related macular degeneration and myopic degeneration, two major causes of blindness in Hong Kong. New diagnostic techniques and treatment for common retinal diseases were also discussed, including the use of Multifocal ERG to detect retinal diseases at their early stage.

Severe Shortsightedness a Threat to Sight, Study Finds

Prior to the symposium, the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences also organized an eye screening service for individuals suffering from severe shortsightedness, i.e., 600 degrees or above. Project leader Prof. Dennis Lam pointed out that persons with severe myopia are known to have higher risks of retinal breaks, retinal detachment, open angle glaucoma, and cataract, but little is known about how many of these sight threatening conditions exist undetected. Of the 383 eyes with a mean shortsightedness of 1,000 degrees screened in the project, retinal breaks were detected in close to eight per cent, and retinal detachment was detected in one eye. But most alarmingly, only half of the patients with problems showed symptoms of the problems.

Retinal breaks can be treated easily and successfully with laser therapy. Without timely treatment, however, retinal breaks and retinal detachment may lead to blindness.

Eye Research

The following two eye projects proposed by staff of the University have succeeded in obtaining financial support from different quarters:

- Hong Kong Study on Visual Disability in the Aged Population (HK$807,660)
  Sponsor: International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, National Eye Institute
  Investigators: Prof. John Michon, Dr. Joseph Lau

- Epidemiology of School Myopia in Hong Kong: Prevalence, Incidence and Risk Factors Analysis (HK$705,985)
  Sponsor: Health Services Research Fund
  Investigators: Prof. Dennis Lam, Dr. Joseph Lau
Staff Development Programmes/Grants

The University administers a variety of fellowships, scholarships and grants for teaching and administrative staff to conduct research, pursue further studies in local or overseas institutions, or broaden their experience through participation in conferences and publication projects. The following is a summary of the major grants for staff development and the recipients of such awards approved in 1996-97 and 1997-98.

C.Y. Kwan Endowment Fund for Staff Development
- Awardee: Prof. Ma Lai-chong, Joyce, associate professor, Dept. of Social Work, Period: 12th-23rd August 1996
- Awardee: Prof. Ho Suk-san, Susan, assistant professor, Dept. of Pharmacy, Period: 24th November-15th December 1996

Freemasons’ Fund for East Asian Studies
- Awardee: Prof. Alfreda Studlin, associate professor, Dept. of Anatomy, Period: January-December 1996

Harvard-Yenching Visiting Scholars Programme
- Awardee: Prof. Sandy Luk, assistant professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Period: 25th August 1997-24th July 1998

Lee Hysan Foundation Endowment Fund for Staff Development
- Awardee: Prof. Li I-kang, Andrew, lecturer, Dept. of Architecture, Period: 1st July-15th August 1996
- Awardee: Prof. Ho Suk-san, Susan, assistant professor, Dept. of Pharmacy, Period: 29th May-11th August 1997
- Awardee: Prof. Li I-kang, Andrew, lecturer, Dept. of Architecture, Period: 29th May-11th August 1997
- Awardee: Prof. Sandy Luk, assistant professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Period: 25th August 1997-24th July 1998

Orientation for New Teaching Staff

Thirty-three new faculty members attended a one-and-a-half-day orientation programme organized by the Teaching Development Unit (TDU) on 27th and 28th August 1998. The purpose of the programme was to prepare new teaching staff for the tasks ahead and to familiarize them with the University and its services.

The event started with welcoming speeches by Prof. Leslie N.K. Lo, head of the TDU, and Prof. Kenneth Young, pro-vice-chancellor. In the experience sharing session, the TDU invited Prof. Leung Kwok (Psychology), Kevin Au (International Business), Robert Cocks (Accident and Emergency Medicine Academic Unit), Andrew Li (Architecture), Weng Po Cheri (Information Engineering), and Jimmy Yu (Chemistry), representing the spectrum of faculties, to speak to the newcomers on teaching. This was followed by questions from the participants.

In the afternoon, the newcomers were assigned to four groups for discussion with experienced staff on teaching methods. The four facilitators were Prof. Freeman Chai (Architecture), Prof. Chua Bee Leng (Management), Ms. Kimberly McGrath (English Language Teaching Unit), and Mr. Paul Sze (Curriculum and Instruction).

On the second day the new staff were introduced to the library, and computer and personnel services of the University by representatives from the respective offices.

Orientation Camp for Medically Inclined Sixth-formers

The Faculty of Medicine organized the first Orientation Camp for Sixth Formers to provide thorough information on the Faculty and its MB ChB programme to students with the interest and potential in pursuing a career in medicine.

Close to 80 sixth-formers recommended by their principals attended the camp which was held on 4th and 5th August. Accompanied by medical students of the University, they visited pre-clinical departments, the Prince of Wales Hospital, and tried their hand at simple experiments. The highlight of the tour was the visit to the operating theatre where the sixth-formers, each donning an operating gown, observed the work of surgeons in one of the busiest operating theatres in Hong Kong.

In the evening a gathering was organized by the medical students, wherein alumni of the faculty were invited to share their experiences with the sixth formers.

Summer of Language-learning and Culture

Over 100 students from Chung Chi College participated in the college’s Summer Study Abroad Programme, one of the many highlights of its Language Enhancement Programme. This year, the students were given the opportunity to brush up their English at the Oxford English Centre in England. Besides regular classes, excursions, sightseeing tours and social gatherings were organized to give the students a better understanding of the local culture and enhance their oral proficiency through interactions with local people. The participants found the experience extremely rewarding and precious.

The Summer Study Abroad Programme was first launched in the summer of 1996.
Prof. S.T. Kwok Outlines Plans for the Faculty of Arts

From the economic shocks in the 70s to the Sino-British talks in the 80s, from the beginning of the transitional period to the opening of the Chek Lap Kok airport, Hong Kong has undergone multifarious changes. As a faculty that traditionally emphasizes synchronization with the times, how should the Faculty of Arts respond to changes and the approaching millennium? Prof. Kwok Siu-tong, the newly elected Dean of Arts, believes that repositioning the faculty in relation to university, society, country, and the world, is crucial.

Uniqueness of Research in the Arts

Research in the arts disciplines traditionally tends to be an individualized effort, emphasizing the individual scholar’s profound and thorough understanding of a topic. It is substantially different from group research, which involves the expression of many different viewpoints on a broad topic and is more prevalent in the medical, engineering, and science disciplines. As it tends to be more extensive in scale and scope than individual research, group research is generally given more favourable consideration by the Research Grants Council (RGC) when vetting earmarked grant applications. The very nature of research in the arts disciplines sets them at a disadvantage in the competition for financial support for research.

Prof. Kwok pointed out that for medium- to small-sized departments such as the Departments of History, Japanese Studies, or Fine Arts, developing a large research proposal involving the entire department is neither easy nor practical unless the research interests of all teaching staff coincide. However, the department may then suffer from another setback—a lack of diversity. It is unreasonable to expect the departments to demonstrate both harmony and diversity in terms of research interests. A characteristic of the Department of History, for instance, is its comprehensive—there are staff doing research on different eras and areas. Group research would necessitate a narrowing down of their respective topics which would subsequently limit the research development of the department, Prof. Kwok explained. A related issue is having enough appropriate local reviewers. Given the diversity of the fields of specialization, researchers with similar interests may be few competitors, and hence, may adversely affect reviews.

Another problem for the faculty is the RGC’s requirement that research be ‘relevant’ to the demands of society. The good thing about being ‘relevant’ is, amongst other things, that immediate contribution to society is an essential characteristic of the faculty and the University as a whole. Therefore, what is special about the faculty is the sense of belonging, and their identification with the times, society, and this university, are more important. ‘A research project at the Department of Philosophy or the Department of Fine Arts, for example, may not have any direct bearings on the demands of the times,’ he said. ‘The kind of intellectual reflection involved may be of a higher level than what one would expect of mundane living. Yet how is this going to help a project in the competition for research funding?’

The sub-dean of research development is to work closely with the Arts and Languages Panel of the University’s Research Committee and the Research Institute for the Humanities to coordinate research efforts within the faculty and to encourage interdisciplinary research. Prof. Kwok hopes that in this way, the faculty will find new directions for development and intellectual reflections of a more interdisciplinary nature will take place. ‘On the one hand, we hope to maintain the uniqueness of the faculty, and on the other hand, we have to heed the government’s requirement,’ Prof. Kwok concluded.

Uniqueness of Publishing Activities

‘Publish or perish’ may be a platitude for academics, yet being able to produce a required quantity of publications remains a painful reality for many. ‘It is unreasonable to expect the departments to demonstrate both harmony and diversity in terms of research interests. A characteristic of the Department of History, for instance, is its comprehensive—there are staff doing research on different eras and areas. Group research would necessitate a narrowing down of their respective topics which would subsequently limit the research development of the department,’ Prof. Kwok explained. A related issue is having enough appropriate local reviewers. Given the diversity of the fields of specialization, researchers with similar interests may be few competitors, and hence, may adversely affect reviews.

Another problem for the faculty is the RGC’s requirement that research be ‘relevant’ to the demands of society. Prof. Kwok believes what the faculty or this university is dealing with is the world and questions of human existence which may not directly have much to do with the practical needs of a particular society. ‘A research project at the Department of Philosophy or the Department of Fine Arts, for example, may not have any direct bearings on the demands of the times,’ he said. ‘The kind of intellectual reflection involved may be of a higher level than what one would expect of mundane living. Yet how is this going to help a project in the competition for research funding?’

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Uniqueness of Teaching Staff

The faculty has undergone multitudinous changes. As a faculty and a university, are more important. ‘A research project at the Department of Philosophy or the Department of Fine Arts, for example, may not have any direct bearings on the demands of the times,’ he said. ‘The kind of intellectual reflection involved may be of a higher level than what one would expect of mundane living. Yet how is this going to help a project in the competition for research funding?’

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Culture and Education

The sub-dean for cultural and educational development will be responsible for promoting culture in educational activities among secondary schools and youth in general. ‘As academics at this university should not hide in an ivory tower. An important mission in the founding of the University is to contribute towards the society we live in. There are 10 departments at the Faculty of Arts, each of which is responsible for the arts and society in its own way. There’s a lot we can offer. We have to decide how,’ said Prof. Kwok.

Budget Cuts

Would the carrying out of these basic issues be affected by tightening resources? Prof. Kwok said an ideal underlying the founding of the University back in 1963 was its cultural mission towards China which it should carry out through the development and dissemination of Chinese culture and Chinese-Western cultural exchange. The University was created to be one with a world view and Chinese characteristics. This founding ideal, Prof. Kwok pointed out, is closely related to the mission of the Faculty of Arts. ‘The arts and humanities are about the study of people and the value of people. Resources are important for our development but it is not the most important consideration. People’s ideals, their sense of mission, responsibility, and belonging, and their identification with the times, society, and this university, are more important.’

Piera Chen
新任講座教授

Professorial Appointments

- 工商管理及電子商務學系教授
  Professor of Systems Engineering and Management Engineering

大學宣布委任梁健輝教授為系統工程及管理學講座教授，於1998年八月十五日起生效。

- 財務學及會計學系教授
  Professor of Finance and Accounting

大學宣布委任姚大衛教授為財經及會計學講座教授，於1998年八月十五日起生效。

- 教育行政及政策學系教授
  Professor of Educational Administration and Policy

大學宣布委任沈怡禮教授為教育行政及政策學講座教授，於1998年八月十五日起生效。

- 資訊科學及通訊工程系教授
  Professor of Information Science and Communications Engineering

大學宣布委任梁健輝教授為資訊科學及通訊工程學講座教授，於1998年八月十五日起生效。

- 教育學及心理學系教授
  Professor of Education and Psychology

大學宣布委任張嘉祥教授為教育學及心理學學講座教授，於1998年八月十五日起生效。

- 電子及資訊工程系教授
  Professor of Electronics and Information Engineering

大學宣布委任梁健輝教授為電子及資訊工程學講座教授，於1998年八月十五日起生效。

- 人文及語言系教授
  Professor of Humanities and Languages

大學宣布委任姚大衛教授為人文及語言學講座教授，於1998年八月十五日起生效。

- 序列講座教授
  Recipient Professors

- Prof. Gerard Haw In-mu
  教授

- Prof. Jack Lam Yee-lay
  教授

- 教職員福利

University Benefits

- 加薪

Salary Revision

- 20% 增加

从1998年4月1日起，現時所有教職員加薪20%。
these programmes in early September. Further enquires may be directed to the Personnel Office (Ext. 7191 or 7288).

The University Library and its branch libraries will be closed on 1st October (National Day), 2nd October (the day following National Day), 6th October (the day following the Mid-Autumn Festival) and 28th October (Chung Yeung Festival), and closed earlier at 5.00 p.m. on 5th October 1998.

The swimming pool will be reserved for the whole day for the University/college swimming gala from 22nd to 25th September and on 9th and 30th October 1998.

The University swimming pool will be closed earlier at 5.00 p.m. on 5th October 1998 for the Mid-Autumn Festival.

For further information, please visit the CHANT website at http://chant.ics.cuhk.edu.hk.

For accounting and audit purposes, a label can be used for one vehicle only.

An eligible staff who is planning to change his/her vehicle for the following academic year must also submit his/her new Driver's Licence and the new or renewed Vehicle Registration Certificate.

For any questions, please contact the University Driver's Licence Office at Ext. 7191.

University Driver's Licence Office
University of Hong Kong
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
Information in this section can only be accessed with CWEM password.

要瀏覽本部分的資料，
請輸入中大校園電子郵件密碼。
新聞與傳播學系
李少南教授

新任系主任
本學年有十多位教師首次獲委任為系主任，本刊訪問了他們，請他們談談各自的抱負。本刊歡迎各位新任系主任的訪問，其他的會在《中大通訊》英文版續刊載，敬請關注。

該系研究部預備於香港大學文學士及哲學士課程，後者曾以中國哲學為主，但近年已開始延聘東方哲學和比較哲學，研究中國學術文化。希望與國際學術界合作，逐步發展成為研究中國學術文化的一個重要中心。

該系研究部的發展與教學，其中最重要的就是課程的編排和教學方法的改革。課程編排方面，該系將會特別注重對學生的研究和思考能力的培養，並會將研究和教學方法的改革貫徹到課程的培訓和教學過程中。

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社會科學院與香港亞太研究所上月的民意調查顯示，七成半市民贊成太研究所上月的民意調查之一，由廖柏偉教授主編和香港亞太研究所合辦進行，成功訪問了九百九十三名成年市民。五、六成一年齡介乎廿一至四十歲，約一及十二日晚上六至十時的「公共政策論壇系列」研究講座。

廖教授說，可能市民目睹東南亞各國金融風暴的衝擊後，大部分市民對香港的經濟前景持懷疑態度，沒有相應的樂觀，並且不斷減弱香港經濟在短期內復蘇的機會，認為可能政治家的政策不利於香港經濟。

調查結果顯示，三成半市民認為金融風暴持續一年以上，七成估計香港經濟預期三至五年以內復蘇，市民又支持政府穩定港元的立場，認為港府一旦棄守，對香港經濟、失業率、股市、樓市和銀行體系帶來嚴重影響。

廖教授認為，市民可能目睹東南亞各國金融風暴的經驗，知道了貨幣貶值的後果，因此支持政府力保聯係匯率。廖教授舉例，說港股從一九九七年十一月一日假富麗華酒店舉辦「二十一世紀一一眼科的挑戰」國際研討會，匯集一百八十名各地專家探討眼部護理的最新發展，以幫助病人及早預防眼病。

眼科及視科科學系上月二十七日日假在香港亞太研究所舉辦紀念二十世紀一一眼科的挑戰，國際研討會，匯集一百八十名各地專家探討眼科護理的最新發展，以及骨科、神經科、婦科、內科等疾病的診斷及治療。