CHI for Quality Housing at Affordable Prices in China

The Centre for Housing Innovations (CHI) of the Department of Architecture, supported by the Ministry of Construction (MOC), was formally established on 18th December 1998 in Beijing. Its inauguration ceremony and first conference took place at the headquarters of the MOC. Participants included minister and vice-minister of the MOC, former and current chairmen of the Committee for Science and Technology (STC) of the MOC, director of the Real Estate Department of the MOC, Secretary for Works of the HKSAR government, and president of the Hong Kong Construction Association Limited.

In June 1998, the Chinese government announced a housing policy guided by the Ministry of Construction. This is a significant step in the development of affordable housing with the best value, within the country's current economic and technical constraints. The CHI integrates housing information, technology, and experience from Hong Kong and mainland China. The large body of research results and experience provides valuable lessons for improving the building standards and quality of affordable housing in mainland China. Moreover, overseas architects, engineers, and developers can participate in both research and actual housing projects. In this way, the CHI provides a clearinghouse for collaboration among international professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering, and construction.

The officers of the CHI are leading figures in government and academia. The honorary chairman is Song Chunhua, vice-minister of the MOC; H.S. Kwong, director of the Real Estate Department of the MOC; Secretary for Works of the HKSAR; and Tunney Lee, Emeritus Professor of Architecture, CUHK.

Survey Questions 'Are they sick in the body or the mind?'

A recent survey conducted by the University's Departments of Psychiatry and Community & Family Medicine found that over a fifth of patients attending primary care clinics were actually mentally sick but manifested physical rather than psychological symptoms and were treated accordingly. Mental illness has always constituted a major part of the physicians' workload worldwide. The survey, conducted in 13 private and public primary care clinics, detected a 21 per cent prevalence of mental disorders among 1,300 patients aged 16 to 64. Of these, somatoform disorder, age, however, was apparently not an important association factor.

The findings are similar to those elsewhere in the world. It is not uncommon that primary care physicians under-recognize mental disorders. Yet the situation may become more serious in Hong Kong where mental illness still carries a significant degree of stigma. Patients often are not ready to accept psychological causes for physical symptoms. Likewise, doctors who are constrained by time in the exploration of psychological issues may treat only the physical symptoms. The management of mental illness needs in-depth training which has been difficult to acquire.

With an aim of detecting mental disorders among primary care clinic attendees and providing them with proper treatment, the two departments translated into Chinese a simple, reliable, and time-saving questionnaire to assist physicians detect mental disorders at the early stage. The two departments are also currently running a pilot programme for local physicians to refresh and update their skills in the diagnosis and management of mental disorders.

Young Onset Diabetes Associated with Genetics

A study by the Faculty of Medicine found that diabetes among the Chinese is different from diabetes among Caucasians in that it affects many young people.

Diabetes mellitus is usually regarded as an aging and lifestyle disease closely related to obesity and physical inactivity. The study however reveals that it has a strong genetic background, particularly among Chinese patients with young onset, i.e., before age 40. More revealing is that there is a trend showing an increasing number of young onset diabetes. Twenty-eight per cent of the diabetic patients attending the Prince of Wales Hospital had their illness diagnosed before the age of 40. The mean age of newly diagnosed patients is 50 compared with 57 in 1990. Over 55 per cent of patients with young onset have positive family history compared with 40 per cent in the older onset group.

High blood glucose and duration of disease are the main factors for diabetic complications. High blood glucose maintained for over five years destroys blood vessels and may lead to widespread organ failure. Young patients face a long duration of the disease, usually over 20 years, and can suffer from severe complications later in life. Screening for diabetes in high risk individuals and optimal control of risk factors are essential in preventing the onset and progression of diabetic complications.

Since genetic factors play a critical role in the development of the disease, the study shows that diabetes is caused by an interaction between genes and environment. The study also found that diabetes among the Chinese is a dominant genetic trait, whereas among Caucasians it is a recessive genetic trait.

The findings are also relevant to the development of preventive measures. The study found that young onset diabetes is primarily caused by genetic factors, whereas older onset diabetes is primarily caused by lifestyle factors. This suggests that preventive measures should be targeted at reducing genetic risk factors, such as family history, and at improving lifestyle factors, such as diet and exercise.

It is also the first academia-industry initiative, involving a prestigious institution of higher learning, a major global telecommunications group, and a leading mobile communications operator in Hong Kong, that is specifically aimed at mobile data applications.

The signing ceremony took place on 28th January. Prof. Arthur K.C. Li predicted on the occasion that the collaboration between academia and the private sector would boost the mobile communications industry and enable consumers to enjoy greater mobility.

Partnership with SmarTone and Ericsson to Boost Mobile Communications

The University recently signed a memorandum of understanding with SmarTone and Ericsson to support the research and development of added-value mobile data applications over the GSM and/or third-generation mobile network for Hong Kong and other markets. It includes setting up a research team, developing prototypes, providing network environment support, conducting user trials, and marketing and funding arrangements. The memorandum represents an important step for mobile data applications, widely seen as the cornerstone for the next big advance in mobile communications.

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Identification of Gene Mutation Opens Doors to Cancer Cure

Prof. Eric Lam Ching-wan, assistant professor in the Department of Chemical Pathology, described his discovery of the mutations of a cancer-causing gene as a coincidence, a coincidence which incidentally led to the publication of his research in a leading scientific journal Nature last year.

In late 1995 Prof. Lam and three researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, were discussing their skin tumour research project when Genetech, a top biotechnology company in the US, announced the identification of the DNA sequence of a gene encoding the Smoothened protein. Thus began a collaboration of the three parties, with Prof. Lam and the UC San Francisco researchers spearheading the research on whether the Smoothened protein causes cancer.

Starting with Skin Cancer and Brain Tumour

Each year there are over a million new cases worldwide of basal-cell carcinoma (BCC), a common skin tumour in humans with a continuing increase in incidence. The Prince of Wales Hospital records about 300 cases a year. The tumour grows slowly and rarely metastasizes or causes death. Nevertheless it can cause considerable disease through local invasion and tissue destruction. Treatment is usually by surgical removal but recurrence is common because the tumour is difficult to remove completely. This kind of skin tumour usually arises in elderly light-skinned people as sporadic tumours.

The research team attempted to ascertain whether mutations in the Smoothened gene cause sporadic BCC, and found evidence that they did. Further study by the team revealed that the gene mutation also causes a type of brain tumour most commonly found in children under the age of three. Prof. Lam pointed out that finding the mutation in two distinct tissues suggests that it may be involved in causing other cancers, such as cancer of the oesophagus, breast, and colon.

The greatest challenge in their research, Prof. Lam said, was experimenting with a gene of which they previously knew almost nothing about. "There were moments when he considered giving up. 'When we still had no clue, we were very disappointed and frustrated,' he admitted. But with hard work and persistence, they finally detected cancer growth in the rat embryos injected with the mutated Smoothened gene. They then embarked on further investigations. While their co-researchers at UC San Francisco failed to find any activating mutation in the Smoothened gene of 30 brain tumour samples, the local team chanced upon it in a Hong Kong sample. "That was the great moment," Prof. Lam said, and we all heaved a great sigh of relief."

Pointers for Cancer Detection and Treatment

The research findings point to the use of particular signatures in a new direction. A blood test for mutations in the Smoothened gene can aid early detection of these cancers which may be controlled by simply turning off the gene. Prof. Lam said the gene mutation, which was thought to be caused by exposure to ultraviolet rays, was slight and correction should not be difficult in the case of skin cancer. Our ultimate goal is to develop a topical gene replacement like an ointment to put on the tumour and make it go away," he said. Last year, Prof. Lam obtained a direct grant of $97,000 from the University to further explore the relationship between mutations of the Smoothened gene and BCCs and brain tumours among the Chinese. The findings of that research will soon be released.

Piera Chen
Research Monograph No. 40
On the South China Track: Perspectives on Anthropological Research and Teaching

Anthropological research and teaching on South China have been attracting more attention in academia than ever before. A considerable number of anthropological studies on South China have been published exploring issues including the socio-cultural dynamics of power relations, identities, local development, modernization, indigenousization, and transnationalism, which have been spawned by the emergence of post-Asian popular cultures. Yet, with the great advances in transportation and mass communication, discussing South China as a self-sufficient entity has become problematic. It is due to the fact that the business and migrating network of the region affects not only how people experience one another, but also how societies change in terms of their goals. Edited by Sidney C.H. Cheung, this research monograph aims to review the expansion in anthropology research and teaching in South China, including Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China, to discuss areas which need to be developed in order to ensure the relevance of anthropology in a fast-changing world, and to assist the Department of Anthropology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in developing research and teaching programmes which are relevant to mainland China, Hong Kong, and the world.

ISBN 962-441-540-4, 279 + viii pages, paperback, HK$60

Occasional Paper No. 89
The Asian Financial Crisis and After: Problems and Challenges for the Hong Kong Economy

Written by Liu Pak-wai, this paper argues that Hong Kong had one of the highest cost structures in the world before the outbreak of the Asian financial crisis. Hong Kong's economic restructuring after 1979 led to a rapid increase in demand for skilled manpower, social welfare, and infrastructure and the economy needed to develop new economic activities to sustain its economic growth and employment. This led to a significant decrease in the labour force participation rate and emigration. The paper argues that to achieve the goal of maintaining long-term economic growth and employment, Hong Kong must change its immigration policy so as to balance the needs for innovation and technology, Hong Kong cannot just rely on local talent but must draw on the global pool. Hong Kong will need to invest in developing research and teaching programmes in fields which need to be developed in order to ensure the relevance of anthropology in a fast-changing world.
Home Financing Allowance (HFA)

1. The market rentals of on-campus quarters at Residences 1-5 have been determined and placed on the University website www.cuhk.edu.hk/bursary/generic.htm for all staff members’ information. These rentals will be assessed and reviewed annually by the Rating and Valuation Department.

2. Staff members who do not purchase property before 1st April 1999 may apply to the Home Finance Department on or before June 30th 1999 for the Home Financing Allowance (HFA) of $35,750 for renting campus accommodation, provided that the rental contribution is up to 7.5% of the staff’s total salary income. If the HFA is utilized for home purchase, the full amount of the allowance is taxable as cash allowance. However, if it is utilized for rental purpose on a 100 per cent accountable basis, it is regarded as rent refund and the staff will not have any tax liability.

3. 7.5 per cent rental contributions are not required of staff using HFA to rent accommodation at Residences 1-5.

4. According to a letter issued by the Inland Revenue Department on 21st January 1999 on tax treatment in respect of Home Financing Allowance, if HFA is utilized for home purchase, the full amount of the allowance is taxable as cash allowance. However, if it is utilized for rental purpose on a 100 per cent accountable basis, it is regarded as rent refund and the staff will not have any tax liability.

5. To allow for postal delay, applications for HFS reaching the Bursary on or before 10th April 1999 will be treated as having been received before 31st March 1999. No backdating will be entertained for applications received after 10th April 1999.

Blood Donation Campaign 1999

The schedule of the campaign is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th March (Monday)</td>
<td>Science Centre: Students’ Common Room, ELG 104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th March (Tuesday)</td>
<td>United College: Hall of Shek Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th March (Wednesday)</td>
<td>New Asia College: Students’ Common Room Amenities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th March (Thursday)</td>
<td>John Fulton Centre: Room 103 Multipurpose Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th March (Friday)</td>
<td>Chung Chi College: Chung Chi Tang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time: 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Donors should be aged between 16 and 65, weigh at least 40.9 kg, and be in good health.

Parental consent is required for those aged 16 to 18. Male donors can donate blood four times a year whereas female donors can donate three times a year.

Influenza Vaccination

- Have plenty of fluids as well as nutritious and easily digested food
- Take adequate rest
- Moisten good ventilation
- Observe good personal hygiene—such as thorough hand-washing, and covering mouth with tissue when coughing.

Stress Management Campaign

An exhibition on how to manage stress will be run at the Health Centre from 29th March to 9th April 1999. A video on stress relaxation will be played in the venue and pamphlets on how to handle pressure will also be given away.

Mail Delay

The University Mail Room handles around 300 letters and parcels daily with wrong or insufficient address information. We would like to remind all staff members that the Mail Room checks the addressee’s name against a staff list in hard copy provided by the Personnel Office, and dispatches such mail to related University units. If the addressee’s name is not listed, the mail is returned to the post office to avoid further delay. At this is a manual process and the staff list is currently updated on a quarterly basis, delay is unavoidable. Please note that providing correct and detailed correspondence address is the only way to avoid unnecessary delay in mail. Thank you very much.

Art Museum Exhibition

Art Museum Exhibition

The exhibition will feature one hundred rubbings selected from the Art Museum collection. Representative pieces include items from the Wu Family Shrines and Cai Family Garden in Huxiang, Shandong, of the Han Dynasty, Buddhist grottoes of the Northern Dynasties, sarcophagi from satellite tombs in Qianling of the Tang Dynasty, and Ming and Qing stone carvings such as a Longing Gathering scene carved in early Ming. Some rubbings will be displayed side by side the original stones or bricks which are in the Art Museum collection. They include bricks of the Warring States and Han periods, votive stoles of the Northern Dynasties, and epitaphs of the Sui and Tang dynasties.
Information in this section can only be accessed with CWEM password.

若要瀏覽本部分的資料，
請須輸入中大校園電子郵件密碼。
香港主要藻類——馬尾藻
功能千變 有待研究

研究介紹
香港主要藻類——馬尾藻
功能千變 有待研究

馬尾藻的用途也十分廣泛：它含碘，可製成藥物，治療甲狀腺腫大；它的纖維質和蛋白質，具食用價值。

以馬尾藻為日常食品的東南亞一帶沿海居民便以馬尾藻為日常食品中的配料；從馬尾藻提煉的褐藻膠，更是食品、醫藥、紡織、油漆及多種其他工業不可缺少的原料。

根據記錄，馬尾藻有四百多個品種，分布於東北大鵬灣東平洲附近的馬尾藻。是現今人類所知的約百種野生綠藻中，佔了三分之一。馬尾藻的繁殖力極強，每株的繁殖力極強，每株繁殖數百株或數千株，有的甚至數萬株。

馬尾藻的生態特徵
馬尾藻的生態特徵

**生態特徵**
伍教授表示，除了半葉馬尾藻之外，其他幾種馬尾藻都是多年生的。它們在水溫較低的地區繁殖，所以在秋末冬初長得最快，有的甚至可以在一個月內長二十厘米以上，最長者可達二米。

初步估計，它們的生命周期是三至四年。

伍教授研究情況規定為預測年，於九八年九月完成，後又香港去年受厄爾尼諾現象影響，造成異常的氣象變化，海水水溫上升，促使馬尾藻提早繁殖。伍教授已將研究計劃延期至九九年九月才結束。

相關研究
除了對馬尾藻的外形特徵及生態進行研究外，伍教授又與生物系何慧玲教授聯繫進行研究馬尾藻的藥用價值。初步研究結果顯示，馬尾藻具有抗癌、降血壓的功能，並對保護肝臟，減低肥胖和肝硬化有一定效用，但具體的療效、療效，以及治療等問題，仍有待進一步研究。

伍教授及生物系的黃榮春、張志強及鍾厚賢三位教授最近獲中大研究基金會撥出六十萬元的經費，以擴大及深入研究藻類的藥用和食用價值，以及它們在生物技術與其他領域的應用。這些研究成果將於本年六月廿一至廿五日在本校舉行的第三屆亞洲太平洋藻類研討會上發表。
優質中國文化教育計劃

中國語言及文學系與電算機科學及工程學系獲得優質教育基金會贊助，籌劃「優質中國文化教育計劃」，以加強學生的中國文化教育。此計劃的內容因應高中學生程度而設，除舉辦一連串文化導賞活動以外，亦不斷探索新的中國文化教學方法，例如透過網頁組織中國文化科的教學資源及利用聯網交流教學心得，讓教師和學生可以藉著資訊科技和親身觀賞文化節目的機會，汲取中國文化的知識。

文化活動已於本年年初開始，中文系於二月六日舉辦公開講座，題為「從〈與青年談中國文化〉到《承教小記》——小思暢談中國文化」。主講嘉賓為本校中文系盧瑋鑾教授，她以唐君毅弟弟的角度，為千多名來自五十多間中學的師生導賞唐君毅先生的〈與青年談中國文化〉一文，並暢談學習中國文化的課題與關聯，為配合是次講座，該計劃為中國文化科教師舉辦教學坊，又為部分學生舉辦閱讀《承教小記》的工作坊，以討論對談的形式，取得良好的交流示範效果。

十位傑出醫學教師獲褒獎

十位醫學院教師獲學生推許，當選醫學院第二屆最傑出教師，並於上月三日的頒獎典禮上接受學生的祝賀。醫學院院長李川軍教授在儀式上強調，好的教學能誘發學生的學習潛能，該院為這些傑出老師感到驕傲，並感謝他們對教育工作的奉獻。

醫學院設立此獎項，旨在鼓勵及表揚在教學上有傑出表現的教師。所有得獎者都是由學生投票選出，並由學生在頒獎禮上介紹他們的獲獎原因和優點。

借鑑台灣的電腦輔助教學經驗

台灣的資訊科技比香港發展得更早，且能配合學校的體制，以提高教與學的素質。台灣教育部多年前發展了一套名為「好學專輯」的電腦軟件，廣受台灣師生歡迎，成效頗高。

中大教育學院一直致力發展香港的資訊教育，努力推廣電腦輔助教學；為借鑑台灣的經驗，於一月三十日邀請台灣教育部電子計算機中心韓善民女士來校主持講座，以「電腦輔助教學推廣與落實」為題，介紹及展示「好學專輯」軟件的應用，並回答與會者的問題。

開發流動數據應用技術

本校積極支持並推動高科技工業的發展，於一月廿八日與數碼通及愛立信簽署合作備忘錄，開發適用於GSM及第三代流動通訊網絡的增值流動數據應用技術。

圖為(左起)李國章校長、數碼通行政總裁伍清華先生及愛立信董事總經理楊國雄先生。

一百萬元支持中醫藥發展

法書院書院監督王定一先生捐資一百萬元予本校，成立「王定一中醫藥發展基金」，以加強中大與東華三院的合作，該院擁有全港最具規模的中醫診所。支票致贈儀式於上月五日舉行，圖為李國章校長(左)接受王定一先生(右)捐贈。

影視人主持吐露夜話

二月九日的「吐露夜話」則由電視廣播有限公司節目分部助理經理鄧特希先生主講，與員生分享他的創作路向。鄧先生曾監製《妙手仁心》和五輯《壹號皇庭》。

首屆香港助產學研討會

首屆香港助產學研討會由護理學系與香港助產士會於一月十五日在香港會展舉行，探討「助產學的藝術與科學：生育婦女的心理照顧」。

黃濤及陳國興教授

房地產業展望

今年香港房地產業展望，以「香港房地產業」為題，發表演講。
中國城市住宅研究中心成立

本校獲國家建設部科技委支持，於去年十月二十八日在北京成立了中國城市住宅研究中心。研究中心成立典禮和第一次研討會在建設部舉行，出席者包括建設部部長俞正聲、副部長宋春華，建設部科學技術委員會主任儲傳亨，建設部科技委副主任徐培福、房地產司司長馮俊，香港工務局局長鄺漢生，以及香港建造業協會會長謝禮良等。

去年六月，內地頒布了以市場為導向的住房政策，取代分房制度，並且將住房變成商品，推出市場銷售。市民必須根據個人的經濟能力，利用銀行貸款或其他方式購買自己的住房。故此，如何結合新的建築技術，以最高經濟效益興建優化型並符合一般市民經濟負擔水平的住宅，是最迫切和最重要的研究課題。香港中文大學中國城市住宅研究中心可結合兩地人才、經驗、資訊，以及技術設備，根據研究的需要，把香港和海外的研究成果和經驗引進內地，改善內地住宅的居住和環境質量。此外，研究中心的運作模式，容許香港和海外的建築師、工程師和開發商直接參與住宅研究和發展計劃，可促進各地專業、建築及工程營造業界人士的合作。

中國城市住宅研究中心指導委員會推舉建設部宋春華副部長、香港工務局鄺漢生局長、香港中文大學李國章校長出任名譽主席，建設部科技委徐培福主任和中大建築學榮休講座教授李燦輝教授任執行主席，建設部前科技委主任及副主任儲傳亨和許溶烈擔任顧問委員，而建設部科技委徐正忠副主任和中大鄒經宇副教授則擔任執行秘書。

生命教育未受重視

宗教系的調查顯示，宗教、倫理和公民科較不受教育當局、家長和學生重視，教育當局給予的資源偏低，而且相對的師訓不足。

主持研究的吳梓明教授認為，優質的生命教育較優質教育還重要。宗教、倫理和公民科目有很大的相關性，能幫助學生提升生命素質，正確認識生命的意義，珍惜和尊重自己及別人的生命；早前的童黨燒屍案就反映了生命教育不足的弊端。

調查發現，在九百九十三名受訪教師中，分別有七成二、七成及六成四的教師認為家長、學生、教育當局對上述三科的重視程度偏低。七成二表示缺乏資源；另有八成八教師承認專業及在職訓練不足。

吳教授表示，這些科目的教師大多主修哲學、心理學、社會學等學科，並沒有倫理、公民和宗教的訓練。為此，他們成立了「倫理、公民及宗教科教育網頁」，鼓勵教師把教材上網，互相參考。

心病還須心藥醫

精神科學系與社區及家庭醫學系合作的調查研究發現，超過五分一到診所求診的人患有精神病，但他們往往只述說身體上的病徵，而給當作身體不適來處理。其實，針對病人的精神問題才能藥到病除。

調查是在十三間私人及公眾診所進行，共訪問了一千三百名十六至六十四歲的病人，發現當中二成二的人有精神病，其中以身心病（百分之十一）、抑鬱（百分之八）及焦慮（百分之六）最為普遍；女性患者比男性多，而在不同的年齡組別之間（十八至三十四歲，三十五至四十四歲及四十五至六十四歲），則沒有顯著差異。

精神科學系彭顯達教授指出，本港的精神病患者比率與其他地區的相近。精神病尤其是抑鬱及焦慮，往往導致身體健康惡化、生產力下降、工作或家居表現欠佳等。根據各地的研究，醫生常會忽略病人不適的心理因素，導致五至八成患有精神病的病人沒有診斷出來；這個比例在香港可能更高，因為精神病有負面的社會標籤，病人會向醫生提及各樣的身體毛病，但不相信這些毛病是由心理問題導致，而醫生亦因為診症時間有限，只醫治病人的身體毛病，不會探究不適的心理因素。

精神科學系與社區及家庭醫學系合作，翻譯了一份簡單、可靠及便捷的問卷，讓醫生可及早察覺病人是否患有精神病; 又為本地醫生提供先導訓練計劃，讓他們掌握診斷及治理精神病的技巧。

華人糖尿病多屬遺傳

醫學院研究發現，華人的糖尿病多屬遺傳，與西方人的不同。大部分患有早發性糖尿病的華人，並沒有常見的糖尿病指標因素如肥胖或年老，但他們的家族成員都有糖尿病；這種病若不能及早診斷和治療，後果會十分嚴重。

在一千五百名年齡由十八至二十五歲的調查對象中，糖尿病的發病率為百分之七，其中糖尿病家族病歴為一成五，糖尿病的年齡為六十七歲以上，則為百分之十。逾六成患者在受訪前未悉本身已患上糖尿病。

內科及藥物治療學系陳重娥教授指出，華人糖尿病的危險因素包括家族遺傳、肥胖、高血壓及高血膽固醇，其中有一個因素的人患上糖尿病的機會較正常人高六倍，五個因素皆具者風險則更高達五十倍。

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