

For Immediate Release
14 March 1995

INTERNET ENRICHES LANGUAGE LEARNING AT HKUST

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology students who are studying English are practising their new skills with people from around the world through the Internet.

HKUST students are joining specialized Internet discussion groups or tapping into a virtual reality environment called MOO, where people talk in real time.

"Talking on the MOO encourages fluency and vocabulary as it is real-time and it forces you to think much faster. It is also good for improving your typing skills!" says HKUST language instructor Sarah Carmichael.

Ms Carmichael monitors her students' progress by requesting a weekly sample of one of their Internet "conversations".

"Some people have questioned the value of learners talking to learners, but I think as long as people are using the language, they are benefiting," says Richard Pemberton, a senior language instructor and the co-ordinator of HKUST's Self-Access Centre for language learning.

In April, the Self-Access Centre will run a workshop to introduce ways language students can use the Internet to supplement their classroom instructor or private study.

Note to Editors:

Direct enquiries to the Office of Public Affairs at 2358-6305 or 2358-8555.