

*For immediate release*

*30 August 1999*

## A NEW CHAPTER IN CYBER EDUCATION

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) is bringing a new era to Hong Kong's on-line education through a series of home-grown and University-industry cooperative programs. Today (30 August 1999) the University hosted an inauguration ceremony for the Center for Enhanced Learning and Teaching (CELT) and a joint-venture signing ceremony for the Cyberschool of Information Technology (Cyberschool in short). Dr Alice Lam, JP, Chairwoman of the University Grants Committee, and Professor Chia-Wei Woo, President of HKUST, officiated at the ceremonies.

The key objective of CELT is to facilitate effective learning and teaching by fostering a culture in which both students and teachers can learn to continuously upgrade their knowledge and skills to face today's global challenges. CELT Director Dr Grace Au said, "We aim to support the University's mission in advancing the quality of education through continuous improvement in effective learning and teaching methods and technologies."

The Cyberschool, a joint venture between HKUST, Cable & Wireless HKT and IBM China/Hong Kong Ltd, is an on-line learning infrastructure. It utilizes web-based course delivery and multimedia technologies that will enable students to access from campus or at home a wide range of tertiary-level information technology (IT) courses over a broadband internet.

Cable & Wireless HKT provides the bandwidth indispensable for speedy delivery of on-line multimedia courses. Dr K.H. Cheng, Chief Technology Officer of Cable & Wireless HKT, said, "With the extensive coverage of the broadband network, every home can be transformed into a virtual classroom, offering students the convenience of learning at their own pace while providing them with a high level of interactivity."

IBM will provide the necessary hardware and their "Learning Space" system for course development and hosting. "IBM is excited to participate in this innovative project and is glad to have the opportunity to contribute," said Cindy Cheng, IBM Greater China Group's e-Business and Multi-industry Solutions Executive. "We believe that the Cyberschool is an answer to today's and tomorrow's education needs."

"At a major research university, teaching and research go hand in hand," said Professor Leroy Chang, HKUST's Vice-President for Academic Affairs. "Here at HKUST, the application of new technologies in teaching brings together our strengths in information technology and our commitments to students' learning. It is our goal, both locally and internationally, to become a leader in the on-line delivery of education."

### Note to Editors:

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