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Environmental Symposium Brings Satellite Remote Sensing Experts to Hong Kong

"Environment '93: Symposium on Remote Sensing in Environmental Research and Global Change" is the title of an international meeting at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), 3-6 March. Papers and workshops will focus on the applications of remote sensing technology in monitoring air and water pollution, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Remote sensing is the term for data received from satellites as they pass over the earth's surface; such data has been used in monitoring weather and pollution as well as forest fires and floods. While such studies are routinely carried out in other parts of the world, they are rare in Asia. Nevertheless, Symposium organiser Dr M. Fang of HKUST notes, regional interest and capability are growing rapidly. The Symposium will bring leading academics and specialists from China, Hong Kong, the US, Japan and other European and Asian countries together; the goal is to stimulate research and facilitate collaboration.

The Symposium opens Thursday, 4 March, with a keynote speech on NASA's earth observation programme by John S. Theon, Chief of the Atmospheric Dynamics section of the Earth Science and Applications Division of NASA. His talk will be followed by an address on the airborne remote sensing system of the Chinese Academy of Sciences by Xinnian He of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. The Symposium will continue with overview sessions, paper presentations, and roundtable discussions.

The Symposium is sponsored by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. Members of the organising committee include academics from HKUST, CUHK, the University of Rhode Island and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the US as well as staff of the Royal Observatory, Hong Kong's Environmental Protection Department, and NASA.

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