



## OPENING CEREMONY THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 1991



### OPENING PROGRAMME

The Procession.  
Music:  
*Royal Hong Kong Police Silver Band*  
F. R. Parkinson, Director of Music



Address by  
Professor L.M. Birt, AO, CBE;  
*Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales;*  
*Past President of the Association of Commonwealth Universities;*  
*Member of the University Council.*



Address by His Excellency The Governor,  
Sir David Wilson, GCMG; *Chancellor of the University.*

Unveiling of a plaque by H.E. The Governor to mark the Opening of the University.

Address by Professor Chia-Wei Woo, *Vice-Chancellor and President.*



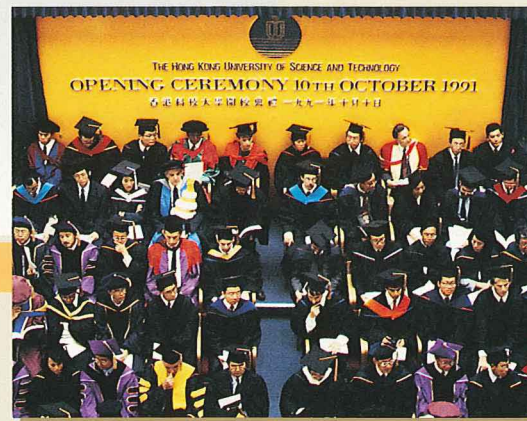
Recession.

Reception at The Staff Club, Atrium Level.

H.E. The Governor's party tours the Campus.



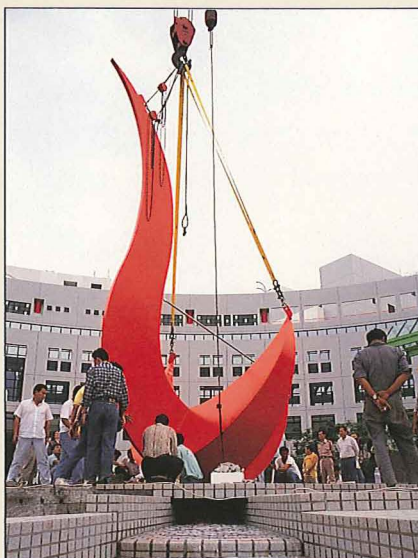
Guests tour the Campus.





## CELEBRATING THE NEW UNIVERSITY

The week of HKUST's Opening Ceremony, 7-12 October, was one of enthusiastic celebration. "It was a crazy, wonderful week," says the man who was responsible for much of the planning for the Opening, Ian Macpherson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Administration and Business. Founding faculty and staff were honoured on Wednesday at an afternoon tea for all and an evening dinner for the senior staff. The President's Advisory Board had its inaugural annual meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday, 10 October, was the University's official Opening. The highlight was the afternoon Opening Ceremony attended by more than 500 guests from Hong Kong and abroad, and 700 HKUST students. The celebration continued into the evening with a 12-course Chinese banquet, hosted by Council members for 280 community leaders and those people most closely involved with the planning and building of the campus. The Governor and University Chancellor, Sir David Wilson, attended both events, which his aides said was an unprecedented show of support. On Friday and Saturday, the University Council had its plenary session, during which they passed "an enthusiastic vote of thanks to all the people involved" in the week's events, Mr Macpherson relates.



■ The steel equatorial bowstring sundial—the centre-piece of the entrance piazza—is hoisted onto its pedestal two days before the Opening. Husband and wife sculpting team Charles Smith and Joan Walsh-Smith created the working sculpture.

Enjoying a "cuppa" at the Staff Tea Party are (from left) Dr Tai-Chin Lo, Prof. Shain-Dow Kung, Prof. Jay-Chung Chen and Mr Ian Macpherson.



■ The faculty dinner was held on Wednesday, 9 October.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

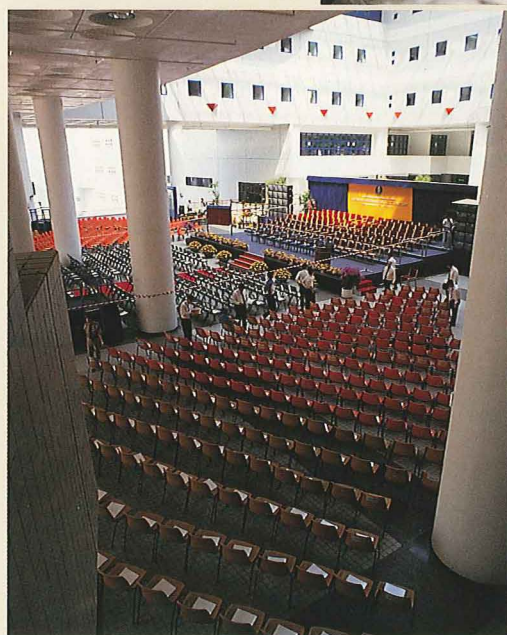
To share the excitement of HKUST's Opening with the public, the Office of Public Affairs organised community celebrations that included exhibitions, a science lecture series by HKUST faculty, and the issue of a variety of commemorative articles, and a concert.

During October, photographic exhibitions showing the new campus were mounted by two leading Hong Kong photographers.

Since July, HKUST faculty have been giving a series of popular science lectures at the new Hong Kong Science Museum.

Hong Kong Telecom and the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) both issued \$50 stored-value cards depicting the University. Posters of the campus were also displayed in all MTR stations. The Post Office, too, issued a postcard with a special postmark for 10 October. The two major English-language newspapers and several leading Chinese dailies published supplements about HKUST on its Opening Day.

The Music Society of Hong Kong Professionals gave a concert in the University's honour on Tuesday, 8 October.



■ Last minute preparations. Staff place programmes on the 1,400 chairs in the Atrium for the Opening Ceremony.



## THE OPENING CEREMONY

### Excerpted from Address by PROFESSOR L. M. BIRT, AO, CBE

*Vice-Chancellor and Principal  
The University of New South Wales  
Member of the University Council*

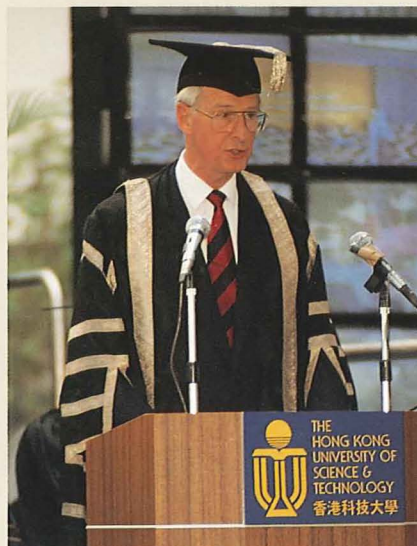
Today we celebrate a very significant event in the history of university education in this region—the development of a new university, of a distinctive kind—the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

This new university will join a family of institutions which has been evolving for some thousand years or so. The pattern of development now being followed in HKUST is that of universities which were established in Europe and later in America during that period—first as great teaching organisations, and then much more recently (indeed, only in the last hundred years or so) as “research” universities in the modern sense....

Let me touch briefly on a personal note!—I was particularly happy to be asked to join, first of all, the Planning Committee of the new University and, subsequently, its first Council—for my own University, the University of New South Wales, has a charter very similar to that of HKUST! We, too, were charged in our founding Act with the responsibility of finding ways of working effectively with industry and commerce, and applying our intellectual and practical skills to the solution of problems which arise in those spheres of Australia’s life. I know, from the forty years of our University’s history, that this is an extremely rewarding, extremely challenging and extremely important undertaking!

HKUST must, therefore, discharge both its particular responsibility, laid on it by its Act [Ordinance], and, as well, the general responsibilities which it shares with all universities, namely the vigorous promotion of scholarship and the application of that scholarship in the most important function of undergraduate teaching, in postgraduate training, and in research covering a wide range of fields....

In consequence, it has come as no surprise to see the University attracting able scholars from around the world to join its staff. Its capacity to do this is a reflection of the imagination and drive of its founding fathers—in particular, of Sir S.Y. Chung, whose tireless leadership as Chairman of the planning group, interim council, and the first University Council, has ensured that the new University has gained strength and standing at an astonishing pace! The University was also most fortunate in its happy choice of Professor Woo as founding Vice-Chancellor, and in secur-



ing the dedication and hard work of those academic and general staff members who have joined it in the last few years. Nor is it surprising that it has enjoyed already the strong and obvious support of government, the Hong Kong administration, leaders of the business world, and its two sister universities. It is very well placed, in consequence, to discharge that broad social responsibility of a university through which scholarship, reflected in teaching and research, is finally justified, namely making wide-ranging and effective contributions to the maintenance and development of the human community at large—particularly of its own “local” community, but also, of society throughout the region and, indeed, the world!

So—this is a happy day which sees the formal launching of this Institution. Those who have worked so hard over many years to give expression to the high ideals adopted by the University have every right to feel both content and proud today. Those of us from the university system in other parts of the world, who share this auspicious occasion with you, salute you. We welcome, with the greatest warmth, another fully-fledged institution into the international “family” of universities. May Hong Kong University of Science and Technology flourish in the years that lie ahead! □

*Professor Birt addresses the approximately 1,200 guests, including more than 700 HKUST students and 60 secondary school principals. Seated on the stage are the HKUST faculty, Council members, heads of sister institutions and many distinguished visiting university presidents and academics from overseas.*





## THE OPENING CEREMONY

### Address by HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR SIR DAVID WILSON, GCMG

*Chancellor*

*The Hong Kong University of Science and  
Technology*

Hong Kong can take a great deal of pride in this opening ceremony and the achievement that it represents. When I officiated at the University Council's inauguration ceremony three and a half years ago, I spoke of the challenges and opportunities that starting up a completely new university presented. To walk around this campus—to talk to those who will now teach and study here—

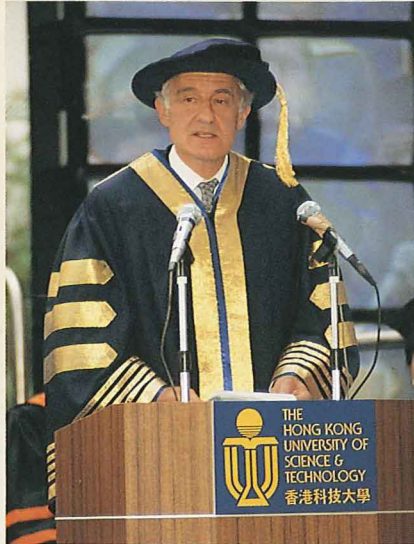
is sufficient to demonstrate how well those challenges have been met and what tremendous use has been made of the opportunities:—a good site and a dramatic setting has been developed with skill and imagination to create a campus that must surely rank as one of the region's finest,  
—a huge construction project has been undertaken at impressive speed to meet Hong Kong's urgent need for more university places,  
—and a major recruitment exercise, both locally and overseas, has succeeded in attracting an outstanding team of academics and administrators.

Academics and students joining this university will benefit from its splendid facilities:

—a large, well-stocked library with a computerised record of contents in both English and Chinese, believed to be the first such bilingual system in the world,  
—a fibre optic based computer system with terminals throughout the campus, linking everything from the academic departments to the library records to the student sitting in his room,  
—extensive, well-equipped teaching and research laboratories equipped so that this university can become a leader in the advancement of science and technology.

It is significant that the building housing these research facilities runs along the central spine of the campus. They will be a focus of the university's activities. Equally important, much of the research carried out here will have practical benefits. Partnerships are being set up with commercial interests which have already committed substantial research funds. Hong Kong now has the exciting prospect of showing how academic scholarship and commercial enterprise can work together. That will benefit both. It will benefit the community too.

Many different people have been involved in establishing this important new centre for learning, teaching and research. They



have given time, talent, inspiration and a great deal of hard work. All can take satisfaction in their contribution to a unique project that will bring enormous benefit to Hong Kong.

On such occasions, I am usually reluctant to single out names for particular mention, because any list always falls short of the number who deserve to be mentioned. Nevertheless I believe that on this important occasion I should make an exception and mention four who have made a very special contribution:

—Sir Edward Youde, my predecessor, who foresaw almost a decade ago the need for an institution of this kind in Hong Kong. It was his foresight and inspiration that gave the early planning its impetus,

—the Stewards of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, who have provided very substantial financial and administrative

assistance which has made possible the ambitious scope of this university, the most outstanding facility that the Club has yet brought to fruition,

—the Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Woo Chia-Wei, who by his tremendous enthusiasm, drive and vision of a new university with a mission to become the best in South-East Asia, has helped attract so many distinguished academics to this new venture,

—and, last but certainly not least, Sir S. Y. Chung, Chairman of the University Council, whose determination and experience has helped overcome the very many practical and administrative problems inevitable in undertaking a project of this magnitude. He has the unique distinction of being closely associated with setting up three major tertiary institutions in Hong Kong over as many decades. I doubt if anyone, anywhere, can match this.

To these, and to all those others associated with this project, I offer my warmest congratulations. Hong Kong has much to thank you for. To those who have recently joined this venture, whether as academics, administrators or students, I wish you every success. You have chosen well. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has a great future before it.

Thank you.

*Vice-Chancellor and  
President, Professor  
Chia-Wei Woo, wel-  
comes the Governor and  
University Chancellor,  
Sir David Wilson, to the  
Opening Ceremony;  
Council Chairman, Sir  
S.Y. Chung, looks on.*





## THE OPENING CEREMONY

### Excerpted from Address by PROFESSOR CHIA-WEI WOO

Vice-Chancellor and President  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

### HANDS ON THE PRESENT AND EYES FOR THE FUTURE A Strategy of Anticipation and Participation

Three and a half years ago to this very week, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was inaugurated. At the Ceremony, His Excellency the Governor spoke of the aspirations of the people of Hong Kong. Sir S. Y. Chung, Chairman of the Planning Committee and subsequently the University Council, spoke of his high expectations for the new University. At the Inauguration Dinner that followed, I described the profile of our future graduates by telling the story of one young man by the name of LO Wing Keung: a story set in the year 2001 of a graduate of HKUST, Class of 1996.

I reminisced with Wing Keung on how he had joined HKUST, recalled his years at the University, celebrated his subsequent professional achievements, and crooned with him over his budding romance with Carol—then an MBA student at the University. Thus, long before the actual birth of the University, Wing Keung and Carol became integral members of the HKUST family.

That was when the University was officially conceived. This week we witness her birth. At this very moment, Wing Keung is in Form 6; he will be joining us in two years. In 1995 Carol will enrol in a local university to study the humanities, and then in 1998 come to HKUST for postgraduate work. As yet the two have not met, but their fate is already tightly entwined. What we do here today affects their lives in a profound way.

\* \* \* \* \*

We gather here in this magnificent setting, with the Piazza in our back against a low hill, and the Atrium all around us—open to a panorama of blue waters and green isles. Thus we embark on a journey of learning, creation, and service.

Phase I of this spectacular and yet utilitarian campus encompasses 1.7 million square feet of indoor space and acres of invisible infrastructure. Design and construction proceeded in parallel, on a fast track against the pressure of inflation and countless logistical barriers. Under the leadership of a dedicated project management team provided by The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, numerous architects, engineers, contractors, workmen - and the University's own staff alongside—laboured heroically. Together they made history. By now, Phase-II structure has topped out.

Financially, the Jockey Club's donation of nearly \$2 billion, combined with Government's \$1.6 billion allocation, has succeeded to endow Hong Kong with a fitting facility to house the world-class technological university she wished to build.



While the fast track approach enabled us to open in record-breaking time, it has exacted a high price—in human as well as financial terms. If the University is to expand to an enrolment of 10,000 FTE in 8 years as originally planned, we hope that Government approval would soon be received for Phase-III design to commence immediately, so that difficulties can be better anticipated and construction can be executed in sequential order.

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This brings me to the main theme: *Anticipation and Participation*.

Ours is a public institution established by, and for, the people of Hong Kong. Our primary mission is **teaching**—the dissemination of knowledge: to produce talents that meet Hong Kong's needs. As a university, this means more than responding to short-term job markets. No doubt our graduates should be fully and instantly employable—highly valued *participants* in both the public and private sectors. But they must also be people who are capable of advancing Hong Kong's economy and thereby creating new jobs for their fellow citizens, as well as people who care about the preservation of our natural environment and self-governance for Hong Kong. The latter objectives require *anticipatory* academic planning on the part of the University.

An equally important mission is **research**—the creation of knowledge: activities ranging from purely intellectual pursuits to innovations and developmental projects. Purists in the academic world often harbour disdain for technical development which is less than trail-blazing. But public institutions to society are like fish to water: We gain life-sustaining support on the basis of our *participation* in society's wealth-building. From the other end, pragmatists in the business world often question the value of what they see as ivory-tower pursuits. We must explain and hold on to the conviction that it is the University's obligation to perch on the cutting edge of knowledge in *anticipation* of unpredictable breakthroughs.

HKUST was given yet one other mission: **service**—the application of knowledge: service to the region's industry and commerce. Unlike first world countries and the other Little Dragons, Hong Kong has few major R&D laboratories. Our tertiary institutions are now making a concerted effort towards providing consul-



tancies and contract research; the new University will be an aggressive *participant*. However, in *anticipation* of major changes in Hong Kong's attitude towards technology and R&D, HKUST intends, also, to help spearhead the formation of an industrial technology corridor linking Clear Water Bay and Junk Bay in an environment of quality living: a Mini Silicon Valley anchored by multinational R&D labs and local hi-tech industries.

The missions of a university are teaching, research, and service. Thus the toil of the new University is a tale of anticipation and participation entwined....

\* \* \* \* \*

We have just now embarked on an adventurous journey to the Rose Garden. Seldom do cities anywhere see projects as ambitious as Hong Kong's land-sea-and-air infrastructure developments. To design, construct, operate, maintain, and constantly upgrade new facilities, Hong Kong will need many thousands of engineers and managers. Is Hong Kong fully *anticipating* such manpower demands? Does Hong Kong expect to meet all these demands, as in the past, with expats and overseas contractors?

Hong Kong has never carried out a project of this magnitude; past successes cannot be counted upon to provide adequate guidance. What we do know is that overseas expertise comes at high prices; and its supply may not remain stable. We cannot afford to be totally dependent.

One other factor must not be overlooked. The Rose Garden presents Hong Kong with a tremendous opportunity to provide well compensated and professionally challenging jobs to her local citizens. The people of Hong Kong will enjoy mentally and physically *participating* in modernising their own metropolis. They are the ideal candidates to train and qualify for the many new jobs.

In *anticipation* of what society will surely call upon the new University to do, we commenced our *participation* in this venture by accelerating the establishment of relevant academic programmes long before the announcement of the Sino-British airport agreement. Specialists in the fields of infrastructure development, environmental studies, and transportation were appointed to head

academic and R&D units. Contracts are being negotiated with government departments to facilitate faculty consultancy. Post-graduate training is offered to engineers and managers in critical specialities, in many cases through advanced degree courses for on-the-job personnel. We have no time to lose.

\* \* \* \* \*

Modern economic development requires three kinds of infrastructure: human, physical, and technological. Hong Kong is weakest in her technological infrastructure and, as a result, finds it difficult to effect a rapid transition from yesterday's labour intensive economy to tomorrow's technology based society.

For a people known for our uncanny ability to identify and capitalise on niches, niches are now hitting us in the eyeball without being seen. We are no longer capable of borrowing technology deftly and cost-effectively. If this trend is not soon reversed, we may fall even farther behind the other three Little Dragons and face the risk of being overtaken by what I call the "Baby Dragons" like Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

In *anticipation* of the call to help rebuild Hong Kong's technological infrastructure, the new University labours to bring together specialists who are experienced in analysing market demands, designing industrial processes, adapting global trends to local conditions, counselling

the public sector on long-range planning, and collaborating with the private sector on near-term production. These practical activities are of the highest priority for Hongkongers. In response, the University *participates* by leaning towards applications in its first decade, bearing in mind all the while that applications are derivatives of fundamental knowledge.

As the University moves into its second and third decades, Hong Kong's corporations will likely have advanced to the frontiers of technology. Creation of new technology, rather than replication, will carry the day. By then, the polytechnics will have become pillars of Hong Kong's existing industries, permitting society the luxury of investing more of its human and financial resources to fundamental research. In *anticipation* of that coming revolution in Hong Kong's academic environment, we encourage even now



Two video walls, each made up of 20 television screens, gave staff in the upper balconies of the Atrium a good look at the Ceremony proceedings.



*participation* in pure research, albeit with measured zeal. We respect seeking knowledge for knowledge's sake as a part of HKUST's founding culture. This culture will serve as the ammunition we've placed in store for a coming generation to use in that coming revolution.

\* \* \* \* \*

Effective *participation* is driven by sound strategies, total commitment, and hands-on implementation. Hongkongers are known to be superior participants. Our hands have always firmly gripped the present. But a modern society's development is a dynamic process constantly influenced by a changing ambience. Past accomplishments do not guarantee future success. We must now learn to anticipate, for *anticipation* offers options, tests responses, prevents mismanagement, and optimises the outcome. In this world of fierce competition, a small society like ours in Hong Kong either achieves distinction or faces extinction. There is little middle ground. The choice is ours, and our eyes must envision the future.

If the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology family is to acquire a unique personality—one that is shared by friends and supporters like you, faculty and staff like us, the First Class of students sitting in the hall today, and many thousands of Wing Keungs and Carols coming through these crossroads on their way to the 21st Century—it will be a personality which strives to fuse anticipation and participation with its *hands on the present and eyes for the future*. □



(top) Council Chairman, Sir S.Y. Chung, (first on right) and Council Vice-Chairman, Cheng Hon-Kwan, (second on left) greet the Governor and Lady Wilson.

(middle) The faculty dressed in their academic robes. The University's mace, a 3-dimensional representation of the University's logo, was used for the first time in the ceremony.

(bottom) Director of Library, Min-min Chang, explains the library network's Chinese character retrieval system to the Governor.



## THE OPENING BANQUET CELEBRATION

### Excerpted from Address by SIR S.Y. CHUNG, GBE, JP

*Chairman of the Council  
The Hong Kong University of Science  
and Technology*

It is both a privilege and pleasure for me, on behalf of the University Council, to extend to you all our most warm and hearty welcome to this gala dinner to commemorate the opening of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. We are indeed much delighted and honoured that so many distinguished guests, both local and overseas, are able to come and share with us the celebration of this momentous occasion in the history of this new university. We are particularly pleased to have the presence of the Governor of Hong Kong, who concurrently is the Chancellor of the University, Sir David Wilson, and the first lady of Hong Kong, Lady Wilson.

The opening of the University of Science and Technology is a proud moment not only for all those involved with this great project but, I believe, also for the people of Hong Kong. This is because Hong Kong has, once again, done what many had said was impossible or at least very difficult to do. We have planned, designed, constructed, organised and opened a technological university for the 21st century in exactly five years.

As a matter of interest, let me take you back to the year 1986 when in one of the early summer days, I was summoned to the



Government House by the late Governor, Sir Edward Youde, and was given the responsibility of planning and building the third university for Hong Kong. I still remember vividly the words of the late Governor. He impressed on me that although the deadline for the first admission of students was set at not later than the academic year 1994/95, it was hoped that it could be made earlier in view of the accelerating outflow of professionals and managers and the rising cost of tertiary education overseas.

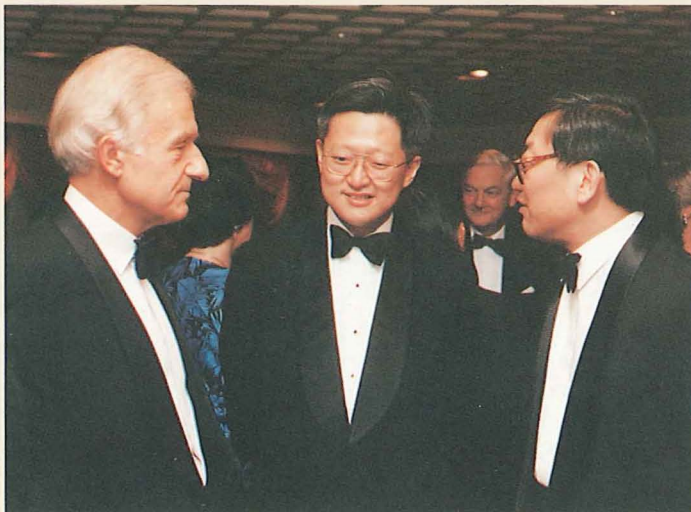
It was with this sense of urgency that the Planning Committee started its work in October 1986. Within a short period of 18 months, the Planning Committee had decided on the name of the University, located the magnificent site at Clear Water Bay for its campus, conducted an architectural competition for the campus design, prepared the drafting instructions for the University Ordinance and, very importantly, recruited the founding Vice-Chancellor.

Above all these, however, the most challenging decision of the Planning Committee was to bring forward the opening date of the University by three years from 1994 to 1991. This recommendation, subsequently endorsed by the Government, has since proved very appropriate indeed. The early opening of the University will contribute much to the implementation of the recent Government policy to double the first-degree first-year places from 7,500 in 1990 to 15,000 in 1995, as pronounced by the Governor in his Annual Address to the Legislative Council in October 1989.

After the inauguration of the University in April 1988, tremendous efforts were directed worldwide for the recruitment of academic staff. At the same time, The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club have greatly supported the University not only with a most generous donation of almost two billion Hong Kong dollars towards the construction cost of this campus but also by acting as the project manager overseeing its design and construction....

The opening of the University today is the culmination of the cooperative efforts of thousands of people over the past five years and is also the beginning of a new academic enterprise. This new

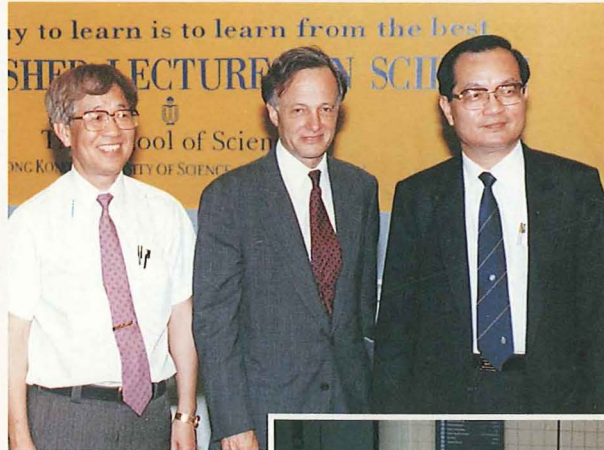
■ (from left) The Governor, the Chairman of the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee, Mr Andrew Li, and Senior Legislative Councillor, the Hon. Allen Lee, at the Gala Banquet.





## HKUST IN ACTION

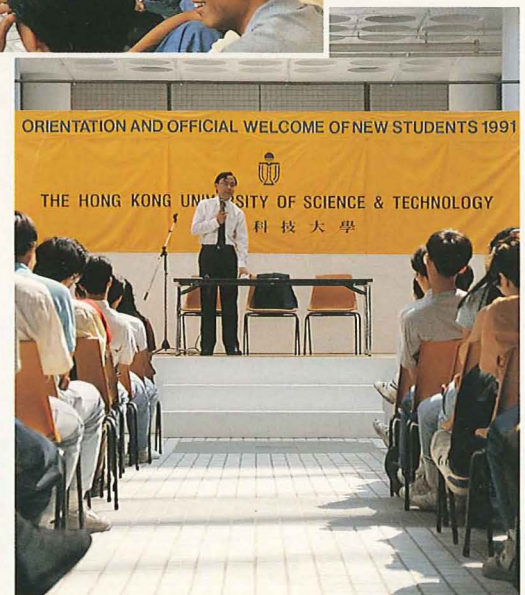
- Nobel laureate in chemistry Professor John Polanyi inaugurated the School of Science's Distinguished Lectures in Science on 7 October with the topic, "The Molecular Dance in Chemical Reactions". He is flanked here by Science Dean, Professor Shain-Dow Kung (left), and Head of Chemistry, Professor Nai-Teng Yu (right). Professor Polanyi took part in the Opening, donning his red academic robe from the University of Manchester.



- HKUST's founding class of students meet one another for the first time during Orientation, held on campus from 26-30 September.



- The President's Advisory Committee (PAB) had their inaugural meeting from 8-9 October. Pictured here from left, Lord Brian Hilton Flowers, Professor Zhou Guangzhao, Dr Morris Chang, Lord Francis Leonard Tombs of Brailles and Professor Chang-Lin Tien.



- PAB member, Chancellor of UC Berkeley, Professor Chang-Lin Tien, chats with Professor Thomas E. Stelson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Development.



- Professor Chih-Yung Chien, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, tells the new students of HKUST's goals and objectives.