DAVID C LAM INSTITUTE FOR EAST-WEST STUDIES

LEWI Resident Graduate Scholarship (RGS) Programme

To further stimulate inter-institutional collaboration, the joint board of LEWI and IIBD at its last meeting proposed to establish a number of "resident graduate scholarships" to enable graduate students to come to Hong Kong to conduct research. The idea is to maximise the use of the Institute’s facilities and turn it into a vibrant research centre on East-West Studies. The programme will allow a number of graduate students from different member institutions to spend a semester or an academic year in Hong Kong and work on a thesis approved by the Institute, under the joint supervision of HKBU faculty members and their supervisors back home. It is a reciprocal arrangement, i.e., graduate students from HKBU can also go abroad for one semester or one year working under the joint supervision of a LEWI member. All LEWI members are invited to join this programme. For further information, please contact the LEWI Secretariat (lewi@hkbu.edu.hk), or see website: http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~lewi/programme/RGS.htm.

LEWI Working Paper Series

LEWI will initiate a Working Paper Series to foster dialogues among institutions and scholars in the field of East-West Studies. Globalisation has multiplied and accelerated inter-cultural, inter-ethnic, and inter-religious encounters, intentionally or not. In a world where time and place are increasingly compressed and interaction between East and West grows in density, numbers and spread, East-West Studies has gained a renewed mandate. The paper series will provide a forum for the speedy and informal exchange of ideas as scholars and academic institutions attempt to grapple with issues of an inter-cultural and global nature. Article manuscripts, preferably in a WORD file in fonts not less than 11 point Times New Roman, should be submitted via email to LEWI Secretariat (lewi@hkbu.edu.hk).

International Conference on “The Digital Divide: International Currents in Information Inequalities”

Co-organised by the Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology, LEWI and IIBD, the conference will be held on August 22-24, 2002 at HKBU. The conference aims at building an international network of scholars interested in "the digital divide" phenomenon, and attempts to explore topics such as: histories and places of digital divide; access, content and intellectual property; culture, language and digital divide; international information infrastructures; governing technological societies; generational divide; comparisons of information places; and digital rights, the new meritocracy and equal opportunities. Conference website: http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~lewi/conferences/conferences.htm. Please send paper abstracts to the Conference Secretariat (lewi@hkbu.edu.hk) before 15 May 2002.

International Workshop on “East-West Studies”

To stimulate further collaboration in “East-West Studies” especially among members, LEWI will organise an international workshop on the same topic on November 21, 2002, in Hong Kong. The first part of the workshop will deal with the theoretical and conceptual aspects of “East-West Studies”. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for experience sharing, including achievements, obstacles and barriers that participants might have encountered in the course of promoting “East-West Studies”, the workshop will also explore the possibility of inter-institutional co-operation. Workshop website: http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~lewi/conferences/conferences.htm. For information about the academic programme of the workshop, contact Professor K B Chan, Head and Professor of Sociology and Director of LEWI (ckb@hkbu.edu.hk). For logistics, contact Workshop Secretariat (lewi@hkbu.edu.hk). Please send paper abstracts before 1 August 2002.
News From Members

Hong Kong Baptist University

The University, together with nine international LEWI members, joined the Shenzhen Virtual University Park (SVUP), Guangdong, China, in November 1999 and has been provided with a temporary office since. Last October, a new office building for all SVUP member universities was completed where HKBU’s permanent office is housed. To further explore the vast educational market in China and in the Shenzhen city, which is just next door to Hong Kong, the University recently established through its School of Continuing Education a Learning Centre in the heart of Shenzhen. Student recruitment started in January and classes will commence after the Chinese New Year in February 2002.

Peking University

In January 2002, Peking University and Hong Kong Baptist University set up a Joint Institute of Applied Mathematics in Beijing to boost collaboration in research of applied mathematics. The Joint Institute was established on the solid foundation built between the two universities through years of fruitful collaboration. Professor Xu Zhihong (許智宏), President of Peking University, visited HKBU on 29 January 2002. Beside meeting with Professor C F Ng, President and Vice-Chancellor of HKBU, President Xu visited LEWI and held a meeting with Professor Chan Kwok Bun, the Director.

Lund University

The Lund University Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies (http://www.ace.lu.se) is an inter-disciplinary research centre located on the campus of Sweden’s largest university, with national responsibility for the co-ordination of academic research on developments in East and Southeast Asia. The Centre is about to launch a new website called GO EAST by spring. Its objective is to collect and disseminate information and news about research and education on East and Southeast Asia in Sweden, and make it available for specialists as well as ‘interested others’. The long-term vision of GO EAST is to inspire coming generations of academics to make the study of East and Southeast Asia their choice. Meanwhile, the Centre is inviting applications for its 2002 / 2003 academic year postdoctoral fellowship in support of research on politics, economy and society in the countries of East and Southeast Asia and/or the region as a whole. Application deadline: May 1, 2002.

Simon Fraser University

Simon Fraser University will launch a new body "SFU International" which will formally come into existence in the spring of 2002. "SFU International" will report directly to the President of the University, giving it very high profile and priority in university planning. Dr Nello Angerilli, Executive Director of SFU International, visited HKBU on 23 November 2002. Dr Angerilli will also be SFU’s new official representative on the LEWI board. Welcome aboard! Dr Angerilli, and our thanks to his predecessor, Professor Tom Perry, for his good work and support of LEWI activities.

Swinburne University of Technology

To provide better support services for international students and to help them with their transition to a new country and a new university, Swinburne’s Lilydale campus has launched a mentoring programme. "When the scheme was first introduced," said Joanne Austin, the divisional manager, administration at Swinburne, Lilydale, "we had no applicant to be a mentor... We now have more students volunteering to be mentors than we have places." The benefits are two-way as mentors gain an international experience at home, learn new cultures, new languages and gain different perspectives on many things including their studies. (Campus Review, December 5-11, 2001)