New Director of LEWI

Prof Chan Kwok Bun, Head and Professor of Sociology of Hong Kong Baptist University, assumed directorship of LEWI from 1 July 2001. With a PhD in sociology from York University in Canada, Professor Chan is internationally known for his writings on international migration, transnationalism, identity, and the diasporas. Continuing his work on the Chinese overseas for more than two decades, his book on the Chinese of Thailand in 2001 and his other book on the Chinese business networks in 2000 are already making an impact in his field. Professor Chan is particularly interested in crossing boundaries that traditionally divide the scholarly community. He has had ample experience working in research teams involving specialists from education, social work, psychology, medicine, psychiatry, public health, anthropology, geography, economics, history, and Chinese studies. Born in China, Professor Chan grew up in Hong Kong, pursued university studies in Canada, and taught in Canada and then in Singapore before joining Baptist University. His current theoretical work is on global cities, cosmopolitanism and hybridity, while he is finishing a book on the social history, culture and heritage of Singapore before independence.

Professor Chan will report to Professor Herbert H. Tsang, Vice-President (Research and Support Services) whose current brief includes international co-operation. Dr Daniel Tse, former President and Vice-Chancellor, in his announcement of this appointment, said: "I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Tsang for shouldering the extra responsibility as Director of LEWI since 1995, for the successful launching of the Institute and the many meaningful programmes and activities established over the years."

New Director of the Western Pacific Rim - China Virtual Research Centre

Dr David Hayward, founding Executive Director of the Institute for Social Research (www.sisr.net) at Swinburne University of Technology, took up the directorship of the Centre starting from August 2001. His research interests include social economics, particularly the funding of social policy, state government finances and housing policy. He has recently co-authored an introductory book on social statistics (Tertiary Press, 2001). Other recent publications include articles and book chapters on the Melbourne housing market (Urban Policy and Research, 2001), the financial and social policies of Australian state and federal governments (Journal of Australian Political Economy), and the relationship between outsourcing and globalisation (Australian Journal of Public Administration, forthcoming). Dr Hayward is also the joint Chief Investigator of the Australian Research Council project, Wired High Rise and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute project on private investment in social housing. As a result of his expertise, Dr Hayward holds numerous public appointments and is a frequent speaker on contemporary social and economic issues.

Meeting of the Provisional Executive Committee of IIBD & LEWI

The Provisional Executive Committee of IIBD & LEWI met on 6 & 7 July at Hong Kong Baptist University. Amidst the first black rainstorm of the year, the intensive one-and-half-day meeting went smoothly and yielded good results. The Institute has successfully obtained an additional domain name (www.lewi.org.hk), and the following programmes/activities are being planned for next year:

28 June-20 July 2002 Summer Institute 2002
22-24 August, 2002 International Conference on "Digital Divides: International Currents in Information Inequalities"
21 & 22 November 2002 International Workshop on East-West Studies and 2nd Joint Board Meeting of IIBD & LEWI
Ateneo de Manila University

Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres has been accorded the RANK OF OFFICER IN THE NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC (Officier de L’ordre National du Merite). The decoration recognises his valuable "contribution to the development of scientific knowledge and education in the Philippines as well as his dedication to the promotion of relations between French and Philippine universities.” The award was conferred by decree of the President of the French Republic upon the recommendation of the French Foreign Minister.

The National Order of Merit was created in 1963 to recognise notable merits achieved during the course of performing state, civil or military services, or service within the private sector. The Order has the same hierarchy as the Legion of Honour of the French Republic. In 1981, Father Nebres was also conferred the Ordre de Palmes Academique for his contributions to the French - Philippine exchange especially in the field of Mathematics. Fr. Nebres' honour is very much shared with the university community. Congratulations, Fr. Nebres!

Hong Kong Baptist University

An Inauguration Ceremony of the Asian Christian Higher Education Institute and Executive Director, Prof Dr David Kwang-sun Suh, was held on Friday, October 5, 2001 at Hong Kong Baptist University. Prof Ng Ching-Fai, President and Vice-Chancellor of HKBU, and Prof Richard Wood, President of United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (United Board), delivered the welcoming address, and Dr Daniel Tse, President Emeritus of HKBU, and Dr Ruth Hayhoe, Director of the Institute of Education, gave congratulatory remarks. The Institute, set up by the United Board, is established with the aim of identifying, supporting and coordinating programmes that will strengthen a Christian presence in academic communities in Asia. It will also act as a means to enhance greater collaboration and mutual support among academic institutions in Asia. The Institute is an integral and largely autonomous part of HKBU, and its core operating costs will be borne by the United Board, a New York-based educational organisation. HKBU and the United Board have a long working relationship because of their shared Christian values. The United Board's mission is to support Christian presence in Asian higher education and HKBU is committed to upholding its Christian heritage in all its educational endeavours. The establishment of the Institute under the joint sponsorship of the two organisations will strengthen the support of Christian higher education in Asia.

Ateneo de Manila University

Hong Kong Baptist University

Keimyung University

To celebrate Princeton University Graduate School's Centennial, an Alumni Council Committee, together with the Princetoniana Committee, compiled a list of notable graduate alumni of the 20th century, and Keimyung University President Ilhi Synn was elected as one of the two outstanding alumni from Korea for his leadership in higher education. A good example of President Synn's educational leadership is Keimyung's achievements in Korean studies. Thanks to President Synn’s foresight and vision, Keimyung has become a national centre for Korean studies. On 16-19 September, Keimyung sponsored the International Conference on Korean Studies (KICKS). Apart from scholars of Korean studies, the conference was attended by representatives of Keimyung's partner institutions.

Simon Fraser University

Accompanied by Dr Colin Jones, Executive Director for International Relations, and Prof Tom Perry, Associate Dean of Arts, Prof Michael Stevenson, the new President and Vice-Chancellor of the University, visited HKBU on 7 May and signed an articulation agreement with School of Continuing Education of HKBU. Prof Stevenson joined Simon Fraser University in December 2000 as the University’s eighth President and Vice-Chancellor. A political scientist by training, Prof Stevenson joined York University in Ontario in 1971 and served as Chair of the Department of Political Science and Dean of the Faculty of Arts before becoming Vice-President, Academic Affairs, in 1993 and Provost and V. P. Academic in 1996.