Installation of President
Professor Paul Ching-Wu CHU

9 November 2001

香港科技大學校長就職典禮
朱經武教授

二零零一年十一月九日
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校長就職典禮
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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS
典禮程序

- The Pro-Chancellor declares the Ceremony open
大學副監督宣布典禮開始

- The University Orator reads the introduction of the new President
校方代表介紹新任校長

- The Pro-Chancellor installs the new President
大學副監督主持就職儀式

- The Council Chairman presents the Seal of the University to the President
大學校董會主席轉交大學印鑑予新任校長

- The President delivers the installation address
校長致就職講辭
Perseverance... a quality that takes us far. When combined with vision, insight and hard work, it becomes the mark of a great scientist, and of a great human being.

This unique combination of qualities is embodied in the person of Professor Paul Ching-Wu Chu. They have taken him further than any other scientist in the world of superconductivity today. And it is these qualities of his, indeed just some of the many he possesses, which will propel the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology into its next decade and beyond.

Perseverance has been much in evidence in Professor Chu's pursuit of superconductivity, from his early days of PhD research under the famous scientist Bernd T Matthias at the University of California in San Diego. It steered him through a career as an eminent physicist, to his breakthrough discovery in 1987 of stable superconductivity above the boiling point of liquid nitrogen—a discovery that has been called one of the most significant advances in modern physics. This epoch-making achievement prompted the state of Texas to establish the Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston under Professor Chu's directorship, in recognition of the huge potential of his research breakthrough.

To find the root of this tenacity, though, we need to go back further in Professor Chu's life. As a child growing up in Taiwan, he loved anything electric or magnetic, and could put together radios and small motors from scraps and parts that he had found. In school he pursued science, and even when a teacher encouraged him to study painting instead, he never wavered. From undergraduate work at the prestigious Cheng-Kung University, he went on to complete one year of service in the Taiwan Air Force.

The United States was the next stop on Professor Chu's quest for discovery. He obtained his Master's degree in science at Fordham University in New York, but it was California and the exciting research going on in superconductivity that drew him to the University of California at San Diego and PhD studies.

His work in superconductivity and other areas drove him not just to excel at research, but also to instill a love of science and a persevering attitude in his students, as he went on to develop a distinguished academic career at Cleveland State University and the University of Houston after two years at Bell Labs, New Jersey, as a Member of the Technical Staff.

Perseverance, vision and hard work apply not only to scientific discovery, however. As founding Director of the Texas Center for Superconductivity, Professor Chu built the institution from an organization of just seven to what it is today: one of the world's leading centers for high temperature superconductivity, with over 260 faculty, staff and students. All this in the face of cyclical budget cuts, media downplay, and even lack of optimism from fellow scientists.

Professor Chu's career has taken him to the topmost echelons in the world of science. He has consulted and worked as a visiting staff member in some of the most prestigious research centers in the world, including Bell Labs, Dupont, Los Alamos National Laboratory, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and Argonne National Laboratory. He has won some of the highest awards in science, just a few of which are: the World Congress on SuperConductivity's Award for Excellence,
the National Medal of Science of the US, the Bernd Matthias Prize, and the John Fritz Medal, which he shares with such great names as Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison and Enrico Fermi.

He was selected the Best Researcher in the US by US News and World Report in 1990, and was invited in 2000 to contribute a sample of his work to the White House National Millennium Time Capsule at the National Archives, commemorating the most important scientific achievements of the 20th century.

Professor Chu is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Third World Academy of Sciences, Academia Sinica, and is also a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, among others. His research activities extend beyond superconductivity to magnetics and dielectrics. He serves on the editorial boards of several scientific journals, and has published over 460 papers.

Added to these impressive achievements, another of Professor Chu's enduring qualities shines clearly—care for the outcome. His staff, students and colleagues over the years remember his interest and care for even the smallest details of their work. That attitude has earned him loyalty and gratitude, and nurtured younger generations of dedicated scientists who are also concerned members of society. Indeed, students at HKUST are already discovering this—when they find him sitting down to dine with them in the canteens on campus.

Our students are also finding out that Professor Chu wants them to be "all-rounders". He himself is lover of classical Chinese poetry, and knows that only total development makes great human beings, great leaders.

We are proud to have this persevering scientist, caring academic administrator and teacher, and all-round leader at the helm of HKUST today.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, I have the honor to present to you the new President of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Professor Paul Ching-Wu Chu. I am confident that Professor Chu will, from the strong foundation laid down by his predecessor, lead HKUST to even greater heights and to make even greater contributions to Hong Kong, China and the entire world.

Read by Professor Yuh-Shee Chan,
Acting Vice-President for Academic Affairs
I have the honor to take over the helm of this very dynamic and successful University at a crucial time in HKUST's and Hong Kong's development.

After 10 years of extraordinary advancement, HKUST has established itself as a beacon for young universities globally. In just one decade, HKUST's scientific and technological discoveries, and the outstanding work of its Schools of Business and Management, and Humanities and Social Science, have secured it a world-class reputation. The University is proud to have achieved this for Hong Kong, and the community at large should be too.

Yet, surprisingly, I find that HKUST's accomplishments often go unrecognized in the very place that created it and on whose behalf it strives. Our success has shone abroad yet remains largely unseen at home.

The result has been that many of Hong Kong's high-flying secondary school graduates have failed to take advantage of our first-rate faculty and excellent facilities. We are, however, starting to perceive a change as more top young minds are taking up the exciting and top-notch education that awaits so near at hand. I intend to reveal to every one of them the added value of attending HKUST, and to make all Hong Kong people realize the asset in its midst.

I shall turn the spotlight on Hong Kong's best-kept secret by beginning to forge the University's remarkable energies into a distinctive HKUST culture. We are still very young compared to Oxford and Cambridge, Stanford and MIT. However, HKUST was planned, built and opened in just five years and has risen to international prominence in less than 10. It is part of our founding tradition, the soil in which our roots are planted, to defy the odds and move rapidly towards our goals.

As we come of age in our second decade, I seek to define and nurture a spirit that makes HKUST students instantly recognizable. This spirit will be a badge of distinction that not only identifies our graduates in Hong Kong, but in all the corners of our global society. A place at HKUST will be a passport to the world of decision-makers, creative thinkers and international innovators.

HKUST is Hong Kong's only research university dedicated to science and technology development and its management, with a specific mission to assist the region's social and economic development. Its spirit will be born of the hard work, pursuit of excellence and creativity that already distinguish the University and will ensure this engine of change continues to drive Hong Kong forward.

Such a powerhouse of learning will be in great demand. Local students and scholars will mix with the brightest and best from other countries who will be drawn to Hong Kong by the prospect of studying and working at HKUST. The University can truly serve as a meeting point bringing together the minds of East and West, and the multicultural citizens who emerge from our beautiful Clear Water Bay campus will be rich in vision and awareness.

My vision is tied to the times we now face. Much has changed in the 10 years since the University was founded. Hong Kong faces an economic slowdown at
home and uncertainty abroad. Funding cuts place a major strain on HKUST's plans for progress. The reduction of tertiary education budgets between 1998 and 2001 will be followed by further cuts in the next three years for all Hong Kong universities. Given the wider economic climate, our effort to raise financial support from the private sector will not be easy.

In the past 12 months, the glittering advance of information technology has appeared to many to lose its luster. The community appears to stand at the crossroads in its development as a high-tech society. But now is definitely not the time to waver. While the dotcom bubble has burst, the technological revolution goes on and Hong Kong must not be left behind. The economic challenge Hong Kong is facing can only be met with the development of high-value added products and services via high-tech development.

HKUST specializes in the key areas driving leading economies: nano science and technology, biotechnology, molecular neuroscience, advanced materials, microelectronics and microsystems, Internet and information technology, China and global business management. Our graduates, with their top-class academic training and all-round cultural nourishment, provide the much-needed human resources to implement high-tech change. Our research and development with local industry brings new businesses into being. The University has an essential role to play in lifting the economic gloom currently descending on Hong Kong minds.

I rise to this challenge and as the University's chief coach and cheerleader encourage others to do the same. I will need my dedicated faculty and staff to create efficiencies and yet continue to build a rewarding environment that attracts the best researchers, teachers, staff and students. I will need the community's support. With the guidance of the University Council, I will actively work with all sectors of Hong Kong—Government, business, industry and the public—to build social awareness of the University's important mission and to strive for the much-needed resources.

Together we will make an unbeatable team. Together we will nurture well-rounded leaders of tomorrow, create new knowledge and technology, and propel Hong Kong through the current economic transition. Together we will light the way to the future.

Thank you.
朱經武教授集上述特長於一身，因此在今天的超導領域
中領袖群倫。他更將憑他的意志、遠見、洞察力、勤奮等
素質，帶領香港科技大學邁進第二個十年，創造更輝煌的
未來。

朱教授歷來不捨的性格，在他的超導研究中顯露無遺。
他早年於美國加州大學修讀博士學位課程，追隨著名科
學家伯爾尼德﹒馬提雅斯研究超導。這種精神一直引領他成為
傑出的物理學家，於1987年在液化氮沸點以上發現穩定的超
導特性。這個重大突破被譽為現代物理學最重要的成就之
一。德州更因這時期的成就對未來影響深遠，特別在休斯
敦大學成立了德州超導中心，聘請朱教授為首位中心主任。

朱教授對超導研究不離不棄，其根源可追溯到童年時
代。那時候，居於台灣的他，對一切有關電力或磁力的東西
都深感興趣。一些廢鐵、零件到了他手上，就可裝嵌成無線
電收音機和小型引擎。在學校裡，他專攻理科，雖然也有
老師勸他轉為習查，他也為所動。在著名的成功大學
修畢本科課程之後，他加入台灣空軍服役了一年。

美國是朱教授科研旅程的第二站。他在紐約霍油大學取
得科學碩士學位，但為加州和那裡引人入勝的超導研究，驅使
他轉往聖地牙哥加州大學攻讀博士學位課程。

畢業後，朱教授在新澤西州的貝爾實驗室當了兩年技術
員，然後轉往克利夫蘭州立大學和休斯敦大學任教，卓然有
成。不但在超導和其他研究領域成果豐碩，也喚發了學生
鑽研科學的熱忱，培養他们锲而不捨的處事態度。

堅毅、遠見和勤奮這些特質不僅有助於科學發明。作為
德州超導中心的創辦主任，朱教授領導中心從最初只有七名
工作人員，發展為今天世界頂尖的高溫超導研究中心，旗下
教員、工作人員、學生等有260多人。在這之前，超導研究
經歷了多次削文、傳媒的輕視，甚至連科學界同僚也不表
樂觀；然而他都一一克服過來。

朱教授在事業上步步登高，成為科學界的頂尖人物。
他曾在一些著名的研究中心擔任顧問和訪問研究員，包括
貝爾實驗室、杜邦、洛斯阿拉莫斯國家實驗室、美國太空
總署馬歇爾太空飛行中心、阿爾岡國家實驗室等。並且獲頒
多個科學界最高榮譽獎項，包括世界超導大會卓越成就獎、
美國國家科學獎章、伯爾尼德馬提雅斯獎、約翰佛里茨大奬
等。歷史上一些科學偉人，如貝爾、愛迪生及弗米等，都曾
獲約翰佛里茨大奬。

朱教授於1990年獲《美國新聞及世界報道》雜誌選為全
美國家優秀研究者，並於2000年應邀把其發明的超導體樣本
置於美國國家檔案館的白宮國家千禧時間囊內，以紀念20世
紀的重大科研成果。

朱教授是美國國家科學院、美國文理學院、第三世界
科學院、台灣中央研究院，以及其他多個主要學術機構的
院士，並且是中國科學院的外國院士。他的研究範圍除了
超導外，還有磁學和介電學。他也是好幾份科學期刊的
編輯委員會成員，曾發表過460篇學術論文。

朱教授不但成就輝煌，他那用心細密、一絲不苟的處事
態度也令人佩服。多年來，他的下屬、學生和同事都記得朱
教授對他們工作的重視和關心及於細微的小節。這種
態度為朱教授贏得愛戴和感激，並影響了後輩科學家的後輩
培養關心他人的情操。科大學生也發現這位新校長在校園的
食堂裡和他們同席進餐，漸漸體會到朱教授這種性格特質。

學生們也漸漸了解朱教授期望他們全面發展、廣見
洽聞。朱教授本人酷愛中國古典詩詞，並深明全人教育才能
造就偉大的人物。偉大的領袖。

今天，科大有幸聘得這位锲而不捨的科學家，這位洞察
力強的學術主管和教師，這位目光遠大的領袖主持校政，
實在值得我們自豪。

朱經武教授在事業上步步登高，成為科學界的頂尖人物。
感到十分荣幸，能够在科大和香港发展的关键时刻，接掌这所朝气蓬勃、成就非凡的大学。

经过十年的突飞猛进，科大已成为全球新成立大学的典范。在短短十年内，科大在科研和技术上的优秀发展，以及商学院和人文社会科学院的杰出成就，获得国际声誉。科大为香港争光，我们固然感到自豪，香港各界人士也应感到光荣。

奇怪的是，科大虽然建于香港并致力造福香港，她的成就在本地却往往受到忽视。我们的杰出表现光耀海外，但相形之下，在本地却鲜为人知。

结果，许多成绩优秀的本地中学毕业生没有好好利用本校一流的师资和先进的设施。可幸这种情况正在改变。愈来愈多顶尖的中学生开始把握这个近在咫尺、接受一流教育的机会。我期望让每一名科大学生都懂得欣赏不同文化，散见世界各地的人士也应引以为荣。

我所提出的这些理想与我们的时代有密切关系。创校十年来，社会经历了不少变化。香港经济转弱，外国的情况也不明朗。大学资助削减，严重影响科大的发展计划。政府继续削减高等教育经费后，在未来三年度将进一步削减。而在整体经济情况看来，向私营机构筹款并不容易。

过去一年，科大正迈向第二十年，逐步趋向成熟。我希望界定并培养一种科大精神，使科大学生在即刻为人辨识。这种精神将为科大毕业生的标志，让香港社会乃至全世界都看到科大学生的优异素质。入读香港科技大学将等于取得国际护照，进入决策者、创意思想家和国际发明家的世界。

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