Press Release

Head of the Department of Physics

Appointed for the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology today announces the appointment of Prof Nelson CUE (陳顯邦) as designated Head of the Department of Physics.

Prof CUE is presently Chairman of the Department of Physics at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany. As Department Chairman, Prof CUE has helped introduce new degree programmes in Applied Physics and in Physics/Engineering and has assisted in establishing the SUNY/Albany - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Joint Laboratory on Advanced Materials, a collaborative venture between the two Universities.

Prof CUE received a BS in Physics from De La Salle University of Manila, Philippines and a PhD from the University of Washington. He joined SUNY/Albany in 1970 after spending 2 years at SUNY/Stony Brook. He has also held visiting appointments with institutions all over the world including ALS/Saclay, Argonne, Brookhaven, CERN/Geneva, INP/Lyon, INST/Sichuan, LBL/Berkeley and SLAC/Stanford. He was a Professeur Associé at Université Lyon I in 1978-79 and again in 1987-88, as well as a UNDP/TOKTEN Consultant for China in 1986. He has been an Honorary Professor of Physics at Sichuan University since 1984.

Prof CUE is an experimental physicist. He has published over 70 scientific papers in fields ranging from nuclear, atomic and molecular, to solid state physics and has given invited talks at numerous conferences and workshops. His current research interests include quantum electrodynamic processes in strong external fields; the unconventional excitation of a nucleus by capturing a target electron into an atomic orbit; ion implantation; and charge collection ion microscopy. The last is a novel non-destructive technique he helped develop recently for imaging electrical defects in semiconductors. He has co-directed a NATO summer school and co-organized the 11th International Conference on Atomic Collisions in Solids, a conference series in which he still serves as a member of the International Committee.
Prof Cue views the establishment of HKUST as "a milestone for Hong Kong." He regards his appointment as "an unique opportunity to contribute to a visionary enterprise" and his task as "an exceptionally exciting challenge." According to Prof Cue, his Department at HKUST will place emphasis on condensed matter physics. "Of all the branches of physics, it is commonly accepted that condensed matter has the greatest impact on our daily lives since it has been a source of such extraordinary innovations as the transistor, superconducting magnets, solid-state lasers and highly sensitive detectors of radiant energy." He also plans to work closely with other Departments to help advance the electronic, communication, information and other industries in Hong Kong.

Born in Cavite, Philippines of Chinese descent, Prof Cue speaks Puh-Tung Hua and the dialects of Guangzhou, Taisan and Xiamen, as well as a little Tagalog and French. He is married to Lilly Mei and they have two children. Prof Cue is active in Chinese-American affairs in the United States and is a founding member of the Chinese American Alliance of the Capital District of New York. In his leisure time, he plays racquetball and a little squash. He plans to take up sailing after he moves to Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
26 October 1989

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