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## New Research Center Advances China Studies

With the establishment of its new [Center on China's Transnational Relations](#) (CCTR), the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) has taken yet another major step in the promotion of research and education in China studies.

"China's accession to the WTO, the success of the open-door policy, dramatic economic growth, and an assertive foreign policy have combined to make an unprecedented impact in the region and around the world, while global forces in their turn are also having a significant effect on China's own development," says Prof David Zweig, Director of CCTR and Professor of Social Science.

"These dramatic changes have spurred the Division of Social Science to set up the CCTR as a means of focusing on the increasingly intensive interaction between China and rest of the world which is now taking place against a backdrop of increasing globalization," he adds.

The inauguration ceremony for the Center was held today (30 November 2004), officiated at by Dr Ronnie Chan, sponsor of the Center, Prof Yuk Shee Chan, Vice-President for Academic Affairs of HKUST, and Prof Zweig.

The ceremony also featured an inaugural lecture by Prof Kenneth Lieberthal entitled "Hu in Command: Now Comes the Political and Economic Challenges". A leading expert on Chinese politics, Prof Lieberthal was Special Assistant to the President of the United States for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for Asia at the National Security Council. He is currently a faculty member of the University of Michigan, and Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution for 2004-05.



From left: Prof Yanjie Bian, Head of the Division of Social Science; Prof David Zweig; Prof Yuk Shee Chan; Prof Kenneth Lieberthal; Dr Ronnie Chan; Prof William Tay, Acting Dean of School of Humanities and Social Science; and Prof Alvin So



Prof Kenneth Lieberthal

Prof Paul Chu, President of HKUST, said: "I am extremely proud to witness the establishment of this new facility, a center of study which will build on our strengths in the social sciences and China studies, particularly because here, in Hong Kong, we are in a unique position to promote in-depth research in China's transnational relations."

CCTR was formally set up in September under the auspices of the Chan Tseng Hsi Foundation, whose HK\$1 million donation prompted a matching grant from the Government.

CCTR aims to advance research and discussion on issues in China that have implications beyond the country's borders. A comprehensive program



of public lectures, international conferences, policy workshops, and a summer institute is scheduled. Working with Center Director Prof Zweig and Associate Director, Prof Alvin So, are ten CCTR

Associates who specialize in economics, legal studies, sociology, political science/international relations and Asian studies.

Prof William Tay (right)  
presents souvenir to Dr Ronnie Chan