

*A letter from the ASIALEX Preparatory Committee*

The Conference entitled “Dictionaries in Asia: research and pedagogical implications” is held with a view of setting up the Asian Association for Lexicography (ASIALEX). The Association will act as a catalyst for future co-operative research. In Europe, Australasia and Africa, pan-continental associations of lexicography have been formed, EURALEX, AUSTRALEX and AFRILEX respectively. It will act as a focus for lexicographical development in Asia as well as a clearing-house for research and development information and regional co-operation, with the prospect of attracting grant funding for disbursement.

In order to achieve this goal, a Preparatory Committee was set up in November 1996. It was made up of scholars in the field from Hong Kong and China, and a local major dictionary publisher. They include Dr Andrew Taylor (City University of Hong Kong), Mr Lee Peita (University of Hong Kong), Professor Huang Jianhua (Guangzhou University of Foreign Studies, PR China), Dr Steven Luk (Commercial Press HK Ltd), Dr Gregory James and Ms Amy Chi (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology). The function of the Committee is to make all the necessary arrangements for the setting up of the Association.

We are happy to announce that the preparation work has finished. The first AGM of ASIALEX will be run on the last day of the Conference (Saturday 29th). You are cordially invited to participate in the occasion and register as a member of the Association. Please note that only those who attend the meeting are entitled to vote (refer to Appendix III for the venue and details of the run-down). Attached please find a draft constitution for the Association prepared by the Committee. The registration fee for personal membership is HK\$100 (US\$13) and the registration procedure will be announced during the meeting.

Should you require further information, please come to the ASIALEX INFORMATION COUNTER which will be set up at the exhibition counter of the Language Centre of HKUST on Friday 28th during tea breaks and lunch.

Looking forward to welcoming to the first AGM of the ASIALEX on Saturday.

Best regards

ASIALEX Preparatory Committee