

Amnesty focuses on youth

AMNESTY International has appointed Hong Kong's first full-time human rights education officer, in a bid to stamp out ignorance of the issue in the run-up to 1997.

Angela Lee Nga-kam, 28, spent five years studying mathematics and education at Exeter University in Britain before returning to take up the three-year post.

She aims to concentrate on students who know very little of human rights issues, and intends to train teachers, social workers and youth leaders on teaching human rights issues to the young.

"There is so much to do. We must train the trainers. This is the most efficient way," Ms Lee said.

Amnesty has held meetings with 22

By ALISON NADEL

teachers from 10 Chinese-language schools which are keen to include the subject. Human rights activists have said few children in Hong Kong have even heard of the concept.

Human rights education had become an extremely sensitive issue with continued debate over whether the Tiananmen Square massacre should be included in Hong Kong school history texts.

Ms Lee has already encountered resistance when a senior government education officer last week expressed alarm that she would urge children to challenge the rights of teachers to wield authority.