

Academic first for Hongkong

HONGKONG will hold the world's first conference on academic accreditation in 1991 to publicise efforts to maintain the standard of the territory's degrees.

The idea is the brainchild of the Provisional Hongkong Council for Academic Accreditation (PHKCAA), which was formed to work out arrangements to validate degree courses offered by non-university tertiary institutions.

PHKCAA chairman Dr David Bethel recently led a delegation to North America to examine accreditation methods.

At a meeting of the association yesterday, he said reaction to the proposed conference in mid-1991 was good. "Such a conference would prove to be an effective way of publicising Hongkong's intention to maintain its degree standards at internationally acceptable levels."

Dr Bethel said the names of more than 350 prominent local and overseas academics and non-academics had been placed on the council's register of subject specialists, and will form the backbone of validation teams to be appointed by the future Hongkong Council of Academic Accreditation to be established late next year.