

2 major projects in offing

PARAMEDIC SCHOOL PLAN

HONGKONG will soon have its own paramedic institute and the first hotel and catering management school in the entire Southeast Asia, the Academic Secretary of Hongkong Polytechnic has disclosed recently.

The Academic Secretary of Hongkong Polytechnic, Lo King-man, said these two ambitious projects had been presented in the Triennium Plan the Polytechnic submitted to the Universities and Polytechnic Grant Committee (UPGC) early this year.

According to secretary of UPGC, Stanley Bailey, the committee has approved these proposals and the Hongkong Polytechnic has been asked to provide detailed plans and a financial estimate by September.

When the paramedic institute was established, hopefully intime for student intake by August next year, it will offer courses to train physiotherapists, radiographers, medical laboratory technicians, speech therapists, chirotdists, occupational therapists and dieticians.

These courses will be geared to the requirement of ~~the professional~~ of paramedic professionals are draft and presented to the Legislative Council.

There is no legislation controlling their practice and the only professional training available in Hongkong are in-service training courses offered by government run hospitals for their own trainees.

But there are hundreds of private medical laboratories offering all kinds of paramedic services here without any legislative demand to show their qualifications.

Mr Lo said the Hongkong Polytechnic will probably cooperate with Government run hospitals, the University of Hongkong and eventually the Chinese University in running these courses.

"The students will take their theory classes in the Polytechnic and do their practicals in the hospitals where the necessary equipment is available," Mr Lo said.

"They may have to go to the universities to attend classes in medical science, anatomy and physiology," he said.

When talking about the hotel and catering management school Mr Lo remarked that Hongkong has a prosperous hotel and tourism trade but very few managerial personnel in this trade are Chinese.

He said the Polytechnic proposed to set up two 40-student classes on a sandwich basis - while one class is attending theory lessons at Polytechnic the other class will be working full time at local hotels as part of their training.

According to a spokesman of the Hotel Association, the nearest institute training managerial level personnel is the University of Hawaii.

The courses related to this industry in this part of the world are all confined to the lower level jobs.