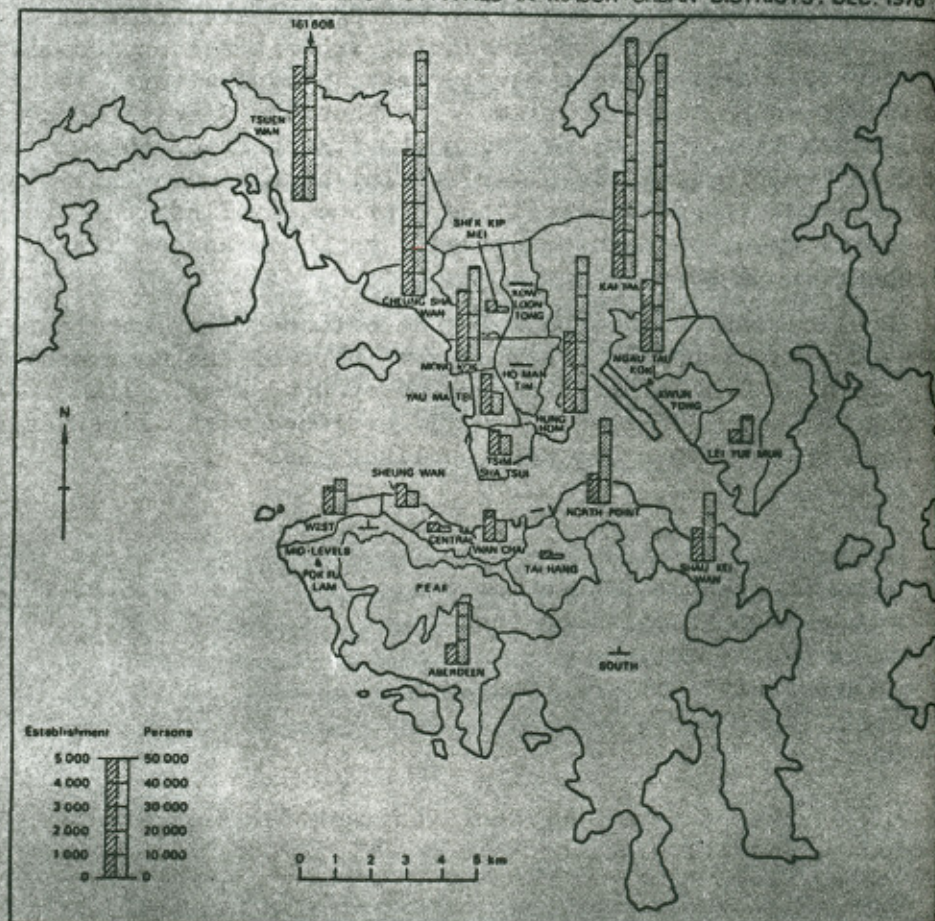


V.F.S. Sit, Small Scale Industry in a Laissez-faire Economy,  
H.K.U., Centre of Asian Studies, 1979, Hong Kong.

V.F.S. Sit, Made in Hong Kong, Hong Kong Geographical Association  
1982.

Map 1

DISTRIBUTION OF MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES IN MAJOR URBAN DISTRICTS, DEC. 1978



# THE HONG KONG GEOGRAPHER

Vol.2 No.1 May 1983

香港地理學會

通訊地址：香港九龍尖沙咀郵局郵箱：九七五五三號

HONG KONG GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION

Correspondence address: Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office P. O. Box No. 97553



Editors of the Hong Kong Geographer

David K.Y. Chu (CUHK)

Ng Yen Tak (CUHK)

Hsu Sheng I (CUHK)

Contributions to the Hong Kong Geographer are welcome. Please send your manuscripts to the editors via the following address:

Geography Department,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong,  
Shatin, N. T.,  
Hong Kong.

NOTE:

Part I of the Hong Kong Geographer will report the activities of the HKGA and hopefully to inform members of other activities related to geography in Hong Kong sponsored by other institutions. Part II of the Hong Kong Geographer will include short feature articles for general readers. These features do not reflect the views of the Hong Kong Geographical Association. The contributors are solely responsible for their papers.



## PART I. ACTIVITIES

### Executive Committee for 1983-1985

At the Annual General Meeting on February 19, 1983 the following members have been elected for office-bearers for 1983-1985:

Chairman	: Dr. K.Y. Wong (CUHK) (0-633111 ext. 534)
Vice-Chairman	: Ms. Linda T.L. Li (Cheung Sha Wan Cath. Sch.)
Hon. Secretary	: Dr. David Chu (CUHK) (ext.475)
Hon. Treasurer	: Dr. S.I. Hsu (CUHK) (ext. 469)
Committee	: Mr. T.O. Chan
Members	Dr. S.M. Li
	Mr. C.S. Poon
	Dr. K.C. Lam
	Mr. K.L. Cheung

### Announcement

At the Annual General Meeting on February 19, 1983, the constitution and regulations of the Hong Kong Geographical Association were amended subject to approval of the Royal Police Force. The proposed amendments were later approved by the Royal Police Force with effective from the date of A.G.M., i.e. February 19, 1983. The newly amended constitution is attached with this issue of Hong Kong Geographer for your reference.

### Coming Event

On Aug. 19 and Aug. 20, 1983, the HKGA will join the Geography Department, CUHK to stage a public lecture and a demonstration on the use of satellite imagery in geography. The talk will be presented by the experts from the U.S.A. and the demonstration will include the equipment brought along by them, costing over US\$50,000. Since there are only twenty vacancies available for the demonstration, members who are interested should apply in written form to the Hon. Secretary, HKGA, c/o Geography Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. For the public lecture, all HKGA members are welcome, but pre-registration is required to facilitate preparation of handouts and other reference materials. (For details, see the back cover of this issue of Hong Kong Geographer).

In the second half of 1984, the field study committee is going to arrange 1 to 2 field study days, possibly in cooperation with the Inspectorate, Education Department of Hong Kong as the one in last year.

It is tentatively fixed that the 4th Hong Kong Geography Day will be staged at Grantham College of Education on the first Saturday after Lunar Chinese New Year, 1984. Mr. Chan Tat-on will chair the organizing committee. The event will consist of the AGM, a forum and two public lectures. The 5th Hong Kong Geography Day, hopefully will be staged at Hong Kong Baptist College. An organizing committee would be convened with Dr. Li as Chairman.

In order to plan and explore the possibility of organizing a conference on geography and development in Asia around X'mas, 1984, a steering committee is formed. Dr. K.Y. Wong was elected Chairman of the committee, the other two members are Ms. Linda Lee and Dr. V. Sit.

Three Ad Hoc Committees are also formed. One is to investigate the feasibility of organizing a forum for the exchange of views between the serving teachers and the examiners of H-Level, A-Level and CE-Level examinations. Mr. C.S. Poon was elected Chairman of this committee. The other one is an Ad Hoc Committee on Computer Application in Geographical Teaching. Mr. C.S. Poon agreed to be the Convenor, Dr. Li, Dr. Hsu, Dr. Chu, Ms. Li and Mr. T.O. Chan agree to become members of the committee. The third committee is the Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Material Resources. Mr. P.K. Chan agreed to chair the committee, Dr. Chu, Ms. Li, Mr. Poon and Dr. Lam to be members.



## PART II. FEATURES

### UNDERSTANDING ONE'S ADJACENT ENVIRONMENT

David K. Y. Chu

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

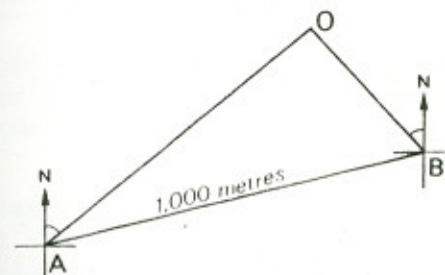
#### Introduction

One needs not go far away to learn geography. Geography starts from where you stand. To most geography teachers, it is always a problem to organize their students to go to see what they think "typical" geographical features within a limited number of field trips and in a very short span of time, for the "typical" geographical features are scattered, if not unavailable. From the author's point of view, it is of course desirable to give the students opportunities to attend well organized field trips to have a close examination of "typical" geographical features, for example, to hire a boat to Sai Kung waters to have a look on the beautiful sea arches, columnar joints, sea caves, stacks, platforms etc. or to go to Ma Shi Chau to see the various kinds of geological phenomena such as folding, sandstones, shales and perhaps with luck, fossils. However, a field trip or two of this kind will never be a good substitute for a well-conceived tour of one's adjacent environment. The reasons of this include: firstly, the former type of field trips give a false impression that geography exists only in distant parts of Hong Kong or in parts of the world outside Hong Kong; secondly between the "typical" features, there is not much to comment from the geographical point of view. The latter, on the contrary, focusses on every possible square inches (or centi-metres) of one's surrounding which conveys a message that geography exists and could supply an explanation of one's familiar environment. An additional advantage of the tour is that not much time is required to conduct such a tour. The question remains how to plan and conceive this tour so that the geographical explanation of the "familiar" features is not superficial and obvious.

#### Field Trip of One's Surrounding

The solution of the above question lies in pre-trip preparation and in application of precision instrument which

can measure objects not usually detected by human eyes or ears. A set of well structured questions are thus necessary. On precision instruments, the range is very broad indeed, depending on the availability of resources and technical knowhow. A compass is most useful and inexpensive, but it can detect magnetic fields of one's environment. Geography teachers could teach students how to orientate their map in dark or when they lose their direction. Besides measuring direction, the compass can be employed as a surveying instrument. Given an object (O) is at an angle at point A, after walking a known distant (to point B), its angle will change as indicated in the following diagram. With this information, one could measure the distance



between OA and OB by trigonometrical methods or by graphical techniques. If resources are available, a noise level metre or water-test kits are instruments that could be employed to analyse the quality of environment. Falling between the two extremes are geological hammer, portable meteorological instruments, pH-paper, soil-test kits. All these are useful to study class-room environment and its adjacent physical geography. The human geography of one's surrounding requires even fewer equipment\*. A set of well-planned questions, supported by a calculator and a questionnaire will be sufficient. Questions like "why the school or the fast-food store next door is located at the present site?", "is there a pattern of usage of the playground near by?" or "are the residents of the district happy with the urban amenities provided in the district?" are thought-provoking and useful to let students to start learning and applying geography to their familiar surrounding.



### An Example

The author's workplace is the Chinese University. It will thus be convenient for the author to quote the Chinese University Campus as an example. It is understandable that the Chinese University Campus has no outstanding or spectacular physical geographical features. However, few people know that many types of rocks are found in such small area. Even fewer people know exactly the variation of noise level in the campus. Not many students can give a scientific explanation of why the Chinese University is located at the present site either. A list of questions are thus raised to the students who participated the field trip of "understanding the geography of your campus"\*\*, including:

- (1) On the 1:50,000 or 1:20,000 (Sheet 7) map published by the Hong Kong Government, the Shatin newly reclaimed area is not on the map. Could one update the shoreline of Shatin by using prismatic compasses?
- (2) Examine and identify the rocks at New Asia College, at the slope behind the United College, and at the cliff opposite the Main Library. Could one be convinced a fault line running between these few checkpoints?
- (3) Measure the sound level at various checkpoints within the campus. Is there any relationship between sound level and the distance away from the Taipo Road?
- (4) The Chinese University Campus displays a mosaic of vegetation. By examining the micro-climatology, the soil structure, availability of water and their chemical properties and of course human intervention at specific checkpoints, can one establish a set of underlying factors that controls their growth and pattern of variation?
- (5) In the context of human geography, the siting of the Chinese University is a typical problem of location of public facilities. What are the factors governing the siting of the Chinese University?
- (6) Opposite the Chinese University Campus is a well-known cove (雅雅山房). Could one think of any reason that it located there?

- (7) Not far away from the Chinese University Campus is a village called Chek Nai Ping (赤泥坪). Compare and contrast these settlements with the traditional villages commonly found in other parts of Hong Kong.

### Final Remarks

It is perhaps not necessary to present answers to the above questions, because readers (or field participants) may come to their own after the tour. What the author would like to remark is that the tour participants' responses were generally very good although they agreed that the geographical features of the Chinese University Campus are by no means exhaustive or "typical", instead, they are very common that they could be overlooked easily.

### Notes

- \* To conduct field trips on urban geography, one may refer to McGee, T.G. and Drakakis Smith D. (1974) Field Work in Urban Geography: Hong Kong and Macau, Longman.
- \*\* The Chinese University Campus is now used by the author as field sites for his course "Data Collection and Field Techniques".

### Appendix

If anybody is interested in the geography of the Chinese University Campus, included in this appendix is a key and a map (Fig. 1) with the geological structure proposed by K.W. Lai (1977). It is followed by map (Fig. 2) of sound level recorded on 28th March, 1983. One could thus draw his own conclusion if the distance of Taipo Road affects the sound level variation of the Chinese University Campus.



Fig.1 The Chinese University of Hong Kong

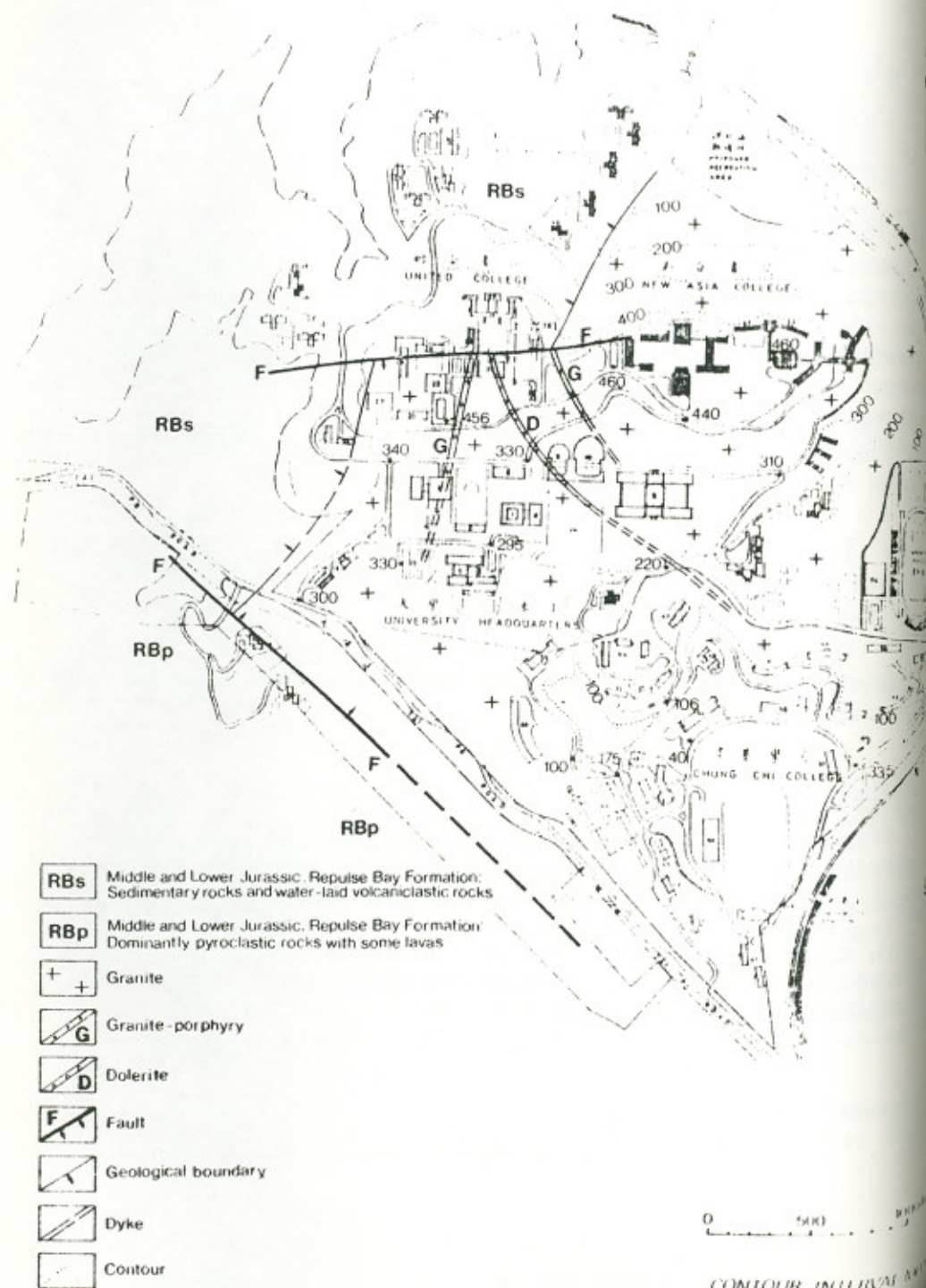
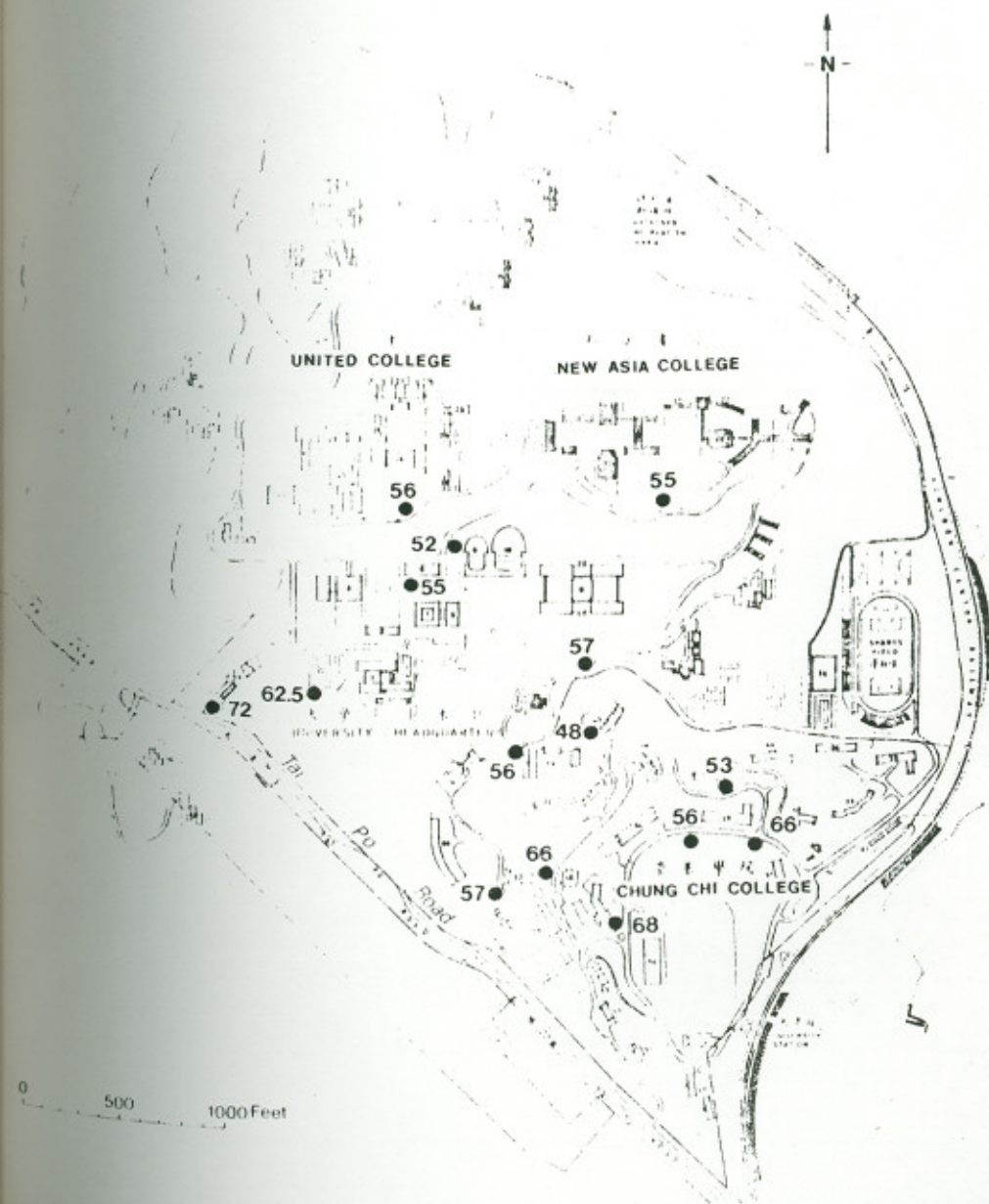


Fig.2 Sound Level Recorded (in DBA)





(continued from back cover)

(B) Demonstration and Presentation

Date: August 19, 1983 (Friday)

Venue: Chung Chi College,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS LIMITED TO 20 ONLY

Programme includes introduction to the Measurronics and Video System, Mapping and Analysis of Remote Sensed Data, Remote Sensing Applications in Agriculture, Meteorology and Contemporary Tasks, Natural Hazards and Crop Production and others.

HKGA members who would like to participate in this programme must apply to the Hon. Secretary of HKGA with a brief resumé of the applicant.

WORKSHOP ON REMOTE SENSING

Jointly sponsored by Geography Department,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
and The University of North Dakota.

Programme:

(A) Public Lecture

Date: August 20, 1983 (Saturday)

Venue: Chung Chi College,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 9:00- 9:40 a.m.  | Innovations in Land Use Management and the Applications of Remote Sensing to Agricultural Regionalization (Prof. W.A. Dando and Prof. S.D. Chang) |
| 9:40-10:20 a.m.  | Date Acquisition by Remote Sensing (Prof. R.D. Mower)   |
| 10:20-10:40 a.m. | Tea Break   |
| 10:40-11:20 a.m. | Data Analysis (Prof. J.W. Wyckoff and Prof. G.E. Johnson)   |
| 11:20-12:00 a.m. | Data Presentation (Prof. F. Hickok, Prof. S.D. Chang & Prof. G.E. Johnson).   |
| 2:00- 4:00 p.m.  | Public Display of Equipment and Operation of Equipment (Measurronics, computer, images, photos and cartography).                                  |

\* HKGA members who would like to attend the public lecture should register with the Hon. Secretary of HKGA, c/o Geography Department, CUHK. Pre-registration is required for the preparation of handouts and other reference materials.