

Technological leap demands new approach

By Richard Frost

THROUGHOUT the educational field a renaissance is occurring — born of the need to address the vast increase in the availability of information enabled by technological advances.

This has created the necessity to change the quality of education.

The turn of the next century appears an appropriate time to plan this rebirth, or transformation.

City University will present a public lecture entitled "Transforming the Student Experience in Higher Education".

Professor Lee Harvey, a noted academic from England in the field of quality of education, will speak on transforming higher education to meet the challenges of the next century.

Professor Harvey believes that as the world spins into the 21st century people are being forced to face increasing challenges in their daily lives.

Higher education — a vital part in determining people's life experiences — is also facing major changes.

Funding constraints and quality monitoring are all having a significant effect on the quality of education.

Quality procedures and innovation in teaching have to be more closely

interrelated, both organisationally and in practice, said Professor Harvey.

He believes that quality in higher education should centre on empowering students with the ability to be life-long learners, and not short-term achievers. Transformation would be the key word in higher education, he said.

The future goal will be to transform universities in order to transform students so that they, in turn, may help to transform the organisations they subsequently work for.

Professor Harvey is the director of the Centre for Research into Quality at the University of Central England in Birmingham, and quality adviser to Auckland Institute of Technology, Copenhagen Business School, Griffith University (Australia) and Linnkoping University in Sweden.

He is author of *Transforming Higher Education*, *Employer Satisfaction*, *Student Satisfaction Manual*, among others, and editor of the international journal *Quality in Higher Education*.

The lecture is organised by the Professional Development & Quality Services unit of CityU and will be held at 4pm tomorrow in the Lecture Theatre of the Academic Building, City University of Hong Kong.

■ Call 2788-8799 for more information.