

The UK people should pick up Asian languages, try hard to understand China and Asia and attempt to engage with them right now'

Bristol University took up the baton that was dropped by Durham University when it decided to close its department for East Asian studies two years ago.

It is setting up a Centre for East Asian Studies that will bridge the gap between Europe and Asia. Heading the centre will be **Joshua Ka Ho Mok**, who is moving from City University in Hong Kong, in January.

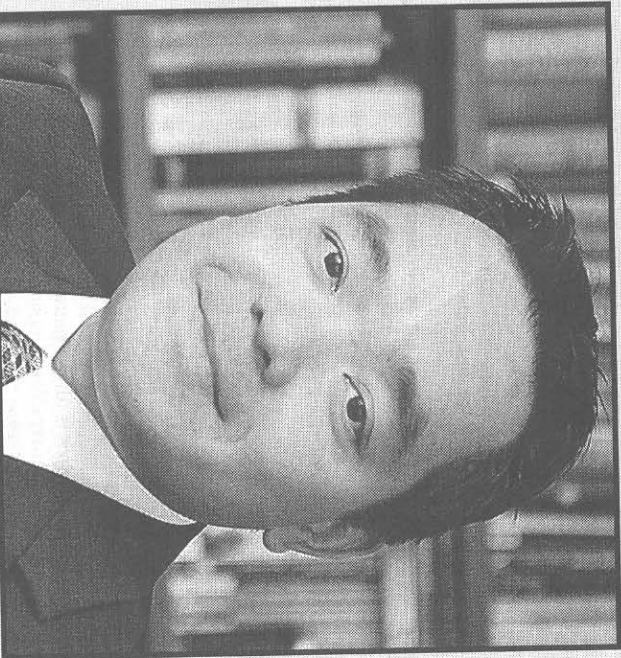
Dr Ka Ho Mok said: "Bristol's move is wise and imaginative since China and East Asia will develop into a major economic zone in the next ten to 20 years."

The emphasis on

contemporary and comparative perspectives was unique, Dr Ka Ho Mok said. He said that the centre would capitalise on the potential benefits of the expansion of East Asian societies.

"Unlike other China or Asian-related centres in the UK, Bristol positions its East Asian Centre as a place engaging in contemporary development and comparative policy and development studies," he said.

While the Government had been well aware of the importance of language training, the new strategy was very important, Dr Ka Ho Mok said.



Forward looking: Joshua Ka Ho Mok of Bristol University

"The UK people should pick up Asian languages, try hard to understand

China and Asia and attempt to engage with them right now.

"We should be forward looking, China and Asia are really rising."