

28/03/2006

## AI Expert Awarded Croucher Fellowship

Dr Fangzhen Lin, Associate Professor of Computer Science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), has been awarded a Croucher Senior Research Fellowship for his outstanding contributions to artificial intelligence (AI) research.

He received his award certificate, together with six other scholars who have been selected as this year's Croucher Senior Research Fellows, at a ceremony held today (28 March 2006) by the Croucher Foundation. Prof Zhou Guangzhao, Chairman of the China Association for Science and Technology, presented the award certificates.

An expert in AI, Dr Lin is known for his important contributions to the theory and implementation of knowledge representation and reasoning.

Among his many achievements, Dr Lin has developed a methodology for "Computer-Aided Theorem Discovery", which he is applying to find theorems to help analyze and predict computer program behavior. This will assist the design of reliable software, one of the key problems in computer science.



As computer systems control most complex technologies nowadays, for example spacecraft and communication systems, the reliability of software running on these computer systems is of paramount importance, Dr Lin explained. "I hope our research will enable new technologies to be developed that can help in the design of such software," he said.

Dr Lin has also made important contributions to Answer Set Programming, a new paradigm of constraint-based programming that has found applications in semantic web, evolutionary linguistics, scheduling and others. His work includes a novel theory that led to the implementation of answer set logic programs using standard satisfiability solvers.

Dr Lin's research achievements have been widely recognized for many years. He received a Distinguished Paper Award at the prestigious International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) in 1997, as well as gaining the 2000 Best Paper Award at the Seventh International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR2000) and an Outstanding Paper Award Honorable Mention in 2004 from the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI).

Dr Lin earned his PhD in Computer Science from Stanford University in 1991. Prior to joining HKUST, he was a research scientist at Stanford University and the University of Toronto.



The Croucher Senior Research Fellowships were established in 1997 to recognize research achievements by local scientists.

Awardees are released from teaching and administrative duties for a year to concentrate on research.