

diagnostic and preventive measures to reduce the mortality of children and to promote improvement in child health care. It is being led by two Chinese doctors who have already spent two years in Canada.

Dr. Tze, the educator, (he is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia) is quick to stress the importance of the education element in this programme. Numerous conferences and workshops have been held, involving hundreds of Chinese and Canadian health care workers, on topics such as hospital management, emergency and outpatient care, pediatric neurology, pediatric nursing and breastfeeding.

The final thrust of the program is the supply and distribution of medical supplies, textbooks and used equipment to children's health care institutions in China. And along with the equipment comes help with the installation and training to run the equipment.

Unceasingly reticent to accept acclaim for these amazing accomplishments, Dr. Tze credits the board and the founding patrons of the Canada China Child Health

Foundation with the support to establish these programs. However, it was Dr. Tze who in 1987, in Beijing at the same time as a delegation of Canadian members of Parliament led by the present Speaker of the House, the Honourable John Fraser, seized the opportunity to ask Mr. Fraser to be a founding member of the Foundation he was considering establishing. Consistent with the magnitude of Dr. Tze's goals, the list of founding patrons and board members now reads like a Chinese and Canadian Who's Who. The generous donation by Mr. Peter Chan of Hong Kong, enabled the Foundation to begin its work in 1987 and fund-raising, donations by individuals, corporations, and government bodies such as CIDA, have allowed it to continue.

Dr. Tze does allow a small measure of pride to creep into his voice as he describes the activities of the Foundation during the devastating flooding of the Yangtze valley in China in the spring of 1991. Provided with 'seed money' by the Canadian government and donations totalling almost CDN\$ 1 million from Hong Kong alone, the Foundation set up an organization to oversee the special health

care needs of all the children in the six provinces affected by the flood.

The team identified the counties or cities most affected and established 49 medical centres. Here damaged cooling and sterilization systems were replaced; needles, vaccines and medicines were provided and free medical care given to all children who required it. When the results were surveyed it was estimated that 6 million people in total, including 2 million children had benefitted from this program with major epidemics of disease totally avoided.

Currently Dr Tze is working to establish a quarterly newspaper which will review current developments and research in children's health around the world. With the support of such international bodies as UNICEF and the World Health Organization, "Global Child Health News and Review" is to have its premier issue this spring.♦

For further information on the Canada China Child Health Foundation or "Global Child Health", please write to: 113-900 Beach Ave, Vancouver BC, V6E 4M2 or fax: (604) 682-6012.

LEADING - EDGE

Canadian hospital proposed for Hong Kong

BY MURRAY CORNISH

Pending approval by the Hong Kong authorities, a hospital built to the highest Canadian standards and using Canadian doctors is in the works for Hong Kong.

The push for the hospital is being led by a group of Chinese-Canadian medical professionals concerned about the future of the territory and looking for ways to lend moral and tangible support.

The group, consisting of 200 doctors and professors, most of whom went to Canada in the 1950s and 60s and who are now highly successful and established in their fields, commissioned a study to determine what course of action they might take.

Several proposals were offered but the one that caught the imagination of this dynamic group was to build a hospital in Hong Kong. Not just an ordinary hospital but one built with the highest Canadian

standards and positioned as the region's leading edge, hi-tech facility, benefitting from the group's considerable financial resources and aggregate, multi-disciplined expertise.

Starting as a 280-bed hospital, the centre would gradually be expanded to 500 beds and would house the latest in medical wizardry and hardware.

One scenario suggests images of complex surgical operations performed in Hong Kong being beamed back to Canada via satellite so that assembled teams of experts there could lend advice and assistance.

The Canadian doctors would each spend rotating periods of several months in Hong Kong, working with the local staff and resident specialists.

Site discussions began with the Hong Kong government in 1988, but unfortu-

nately, after a considerable amount of time and money had been spent on proposals and feasibility studies, the initial Hong Kong Island site had to be given up because of environmental concerns.

Five years and two site proposals later, approval has yet to be given by the Hong Kong authorities on the site and other details such as the space-age satellite concept, but the group has lost none of its enthusiasm.

"There is still no fixed timetable for when construction can begin," says Ophelia Cheung, managing director of Cheung-Macpherson & Co. Ltd, a Hong Kong strategic consulting firm employed by the Canadian doctors. "We now have the financial support of a number of large banking institutions and we are keeping our fingers crossed that the approval will come soon."♦