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Professor Fang Kaitai receives China's 2008 State Natural Science Award
方開泰教授獲二零零八年國家自然科學獎二等獎

Professor Fang Kaitai receives the prestigious award at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing
方開泰教授出席在北京人民大會堂舉行的頒獎典禮

Emeritus Professor Fang Kaitai was presented with the 2008 State Natural Science Award (Second Level) by China's State Council. Professor Fang's project, Theory, Methodology and Applications of Uniform Design, was carried out in collaboration with Professor Wang Yuan, an HKBU Honorary Doctor of Science and Fellow of the Academy of Mathematics and System Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Their work was one of 34 award-winning projects.

Professor Fang was greatly honoured to receive a national award. "My special thanks go to the funding bodies, my collaborator and the University. I am grateful to President Ng Ching-fai and Professor Rick Wong, Dean of Science, for their continuous encouragement. I also wish to thank all the research and supporting colleagues who provided me with unfailing support."

The award-winning project took a multi-disciplinary approach and involved number theory, statistics and numerical analysis. The project was the first in creating a theory and methodology of uniform design and exploring how it relates to classical factorial design, modern optimal design, supersaturated design and combinatorial design. The project was especially praised for its originality and its contribution in opening up a new direction for future research and establishing a new Chinese school of thought.

Professor Fang served the University for 15 years as Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics. In 2006, he joined the Beijing Normal University – Hong Kong Baptist University United International College in Zhuhai.

Professor Fang became known as the "Father of Uniform Design" after he collaborated with Professor Wang Yuan in 1978 to invent the concept of uniform design, which has become one of the major factorial experimental designs in the devising of computer experiments. The concept has gained international recognition and is applied in a variety of fields, including space science, chemical engineering, the pharmaceutical industry and automobile manufacture.

榮休教授方開泰最近獲中國國務院頒發「國家自然科學獎二等獎」，獲獎項目名為「均勻試驗設計的理論、方法及其應用」，與浸大榮譽理學博士暨中國科學院數學與系統科學研究院院士王元教授合作，成為全國三十四個獲獎項目之一。

方教授對獲得國家級的榮譽感到非常榮幸，他說：「特別感謝資助機構、合作夥伴和大學一直以來的支持，非常感激吳清輝校長和理學院院長黃偉國教授的鼓勵，還有研究人員和同事不辭勞苦地協助我，讓我可專注把工作做好。」

得獎項目是跨學科研究，涉及數論、統計學和計算方法，首次創立了均勻設計理論與方法，揭示了均勻設計與古典因數設計、近代最優設計、超飽和設計、組合設計的聯繫。項目的創新性獲得特別嘉許，被讚揚開啟了一個嶄新的研究方向，樹立了中國人開創的學派。

方開泰教授服務浸大十五年，曾任數學系講座教授和系主任，並於二零零六年起任教於北京師範大學－香港浸會大學聯合國際學院。

方教授享有「均勻設計之父」的美譽，與王元教授在一九七八年發明了「均勻設計」，是當今因子試驗設計和仿真試驗設計的主要方法之一。設計在國內外均得到廣泛認同，應用領域包括航天、化工、製藥、汽車等。

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