

From the Plague to New Emerging Diseases : a Chronicle of Pasteurian Research in Hong-Kong

- An all-ages educational exhibition celebrating the history of lifesaving scientific medical exchange between France and Hong Kong, in conjunction with the 120th anniversary of the Pasteur Institute.

Date: May 27 – July 14 2008

Venue: Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery

In June 1894, mandated by Louis Pasteur, but working from an ill-equipped laboratory in a straw hut in Hong Kong's Kennedy Town, Alexander Yersin identified and isolated the bacillus of Bubonic Plague, one of the deadliest diseases in human history. This great discovery paved the way for sera and vaccine against this disease.

Yersin's remarkable story is just one of many in the 120-year history of Louis Pasteur's Institut Pasteur (IP). Louis and his successors have built a network of thirty international research centres which play a major role in the global effort to identify, contain, and cure infectious diseases in Asia and all over the world.

Locally, the Hong Kong University Pasteur Research Centre (HKU-PRC) continues its valuable and vital work in researching the causes and cures for infectious diseases that impact the region, focusing specifically on dengue fever, HIV AIDS, Avian Influenza, and most recently in the detection and treatment of SARS.

A multimedia exhibition telling the story of Yersin and his discovery, as well as the continuing work of the IP Network, HKU-PRC and the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Medicine, will be on display at the HKU Museum and Art Gallery. Open to the public, this fascinating and engaging look at the past and future scientific collaboration between France and Hong Kong offers entertainment and invaluable awareness to members of the community of all ages.

This exhibit is presented by Friends of the Institut Pasteur Hong-Kong Limited

