

Press release

24 June 2004

The Queen opens Tanaka Business School at Imperial College London

Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the newly-built Tanaka Business School at Imperial College London today. The Queen was accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of York.

Funded by a 25 million donation from technology investor and Imperial alumnus Dr Gary Tanaka of Amerindo Investment Advisors Inc, this landmark building creates a highly-visible entrance to the College on Exhibition Road, London SW7.

The Business School's new home, designed by international architecture studio Foster and Partners, includes a striking stainless steel drum housing a vertical stack of interactive lecture theatres, a multi-purpose Forum Area, enclosed study spaces, café and breakout area. All behind a grand colonnade announcing its presence on Exhibition Road.

David Brooks Wilson, Director of Estates, Imperial College London, said:

We are very proud of this building, it not only provides a magnificent new home for our Business school but an impressive and striking entrance to one of the countries finest universities. The design led development of this building is fully in line with the Colleges masterplan to provide a quality environment suitable for world class teaching, learning and research.

For further information
please contact Katy Harris at
Foster + Partners,
T +44 (0)20 7738 0455
F +44 (0)20 7738 1107
E press@fosterandpartners.com

Spencer de Grey, a partner at Foster and Partners, added:

Our design for Tanaka Business School establishes a new public presence for Imperial College London in the heart of South Kensington with its dramatic colonnade and stainless steel drum.

Ian Maddocks, Project Manager at Buro Happold said:

Buro Happold is delighted to have been part of the design team involved in the Tanaka Business School which created an opportunity to bring innovative engineering solutions to the challenges facing Imperial College in the new Millennium. We are extremely pleased with the finished building and have enjoyed a warm working relationship with Imperial College's Estates Division. This has allowed good design to flourish for the future benefit of the College and students,

Nick Mather from Gardiner &Theobald Management Services said:

As Project Managers, we were delighted to lead this outstanding project team from the concept stage to the delivery of this fantastic signature building. The Project required all the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the consultant team and specialist contractors to come up with a visually stunning building using groundbreaking materials and techniques whilst working within a clearly defined budget and programme. The project ethos was one of collaboration and shared responsibility from the outset and it is heartening that this philosophy still prevailed on completion.

The Queen and The Duke were greeted at the entrance of Tanaka Business School by Sir Richard Sykes, Rector of Imperial College, who introduced members of the Tanaka family and Lord Foster. Principal Professor David Begg then led a tour of Tanaka Business School that included a visit to a lecture theatre where David Miles and students discussed the mortgage industry, and exhibits of some of Imperials research projects and spin-out

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ventures.

Welcoming Her Majesty, Sir Richard said:

The building in which we now stand represents another step in bringing to fruition the far-sighted vision and wisdom of your ancestor, Prince Albert. Far ahead of his time, he recognised that people would live better, in a more prosperous country, if art and science were properly directed to useful purposes.

Lord Foster and his colleagues have designed a building in which students and staff from all disciplines can interact. It is this interaction which will produce the discoveries of the future. We strive to maintain our excellence in science. We are continually seeking to update our science and this, of course, means we have to update our facilities.

This building, I believe, has also restored grandeur to this part of Exhibition Road. Indeed, it has been likened to the original Crystal Palace, which housed the Great Exhibition of 1851.

I am delighted to pay tribute to a 21st century philanthropist our alumnus, Dr Gary Tanaka. We are here to celebrate his magnificent gift and the creation of our Business school, so aptly named after him.

Before departing, The Queen and The Duke met Imperial guests, staff and students at a reception in the building atrium where The Queen unveiled a plaque commemorating their visit.

The Queen is Visitor of Imperial College London. She last visited the College in 1998 when she opened the Sir Alexander Fleming Building, also designed by Foster and Partners.

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The Duke of York attended in his capacity as the UK's Special Representative for Trade and Investment.

Photographs and film of the opening are available on request.

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