crabs."

A small electronic chip was inserted into a number of horseshoe crabs to track their growth and survival rates.

Dr Shin stated that mortality, especially during molting, is the biggest challenge. "We have been able to induce natural spawning and breeding under laboratory conditions. A special feed that enables horseshoe crabs to grow at or above their normal rate has also been developed," Dr Shin said. The programme has improved survival rates to 16%, compared to less than 0.01% in the wild.

CityU has been improving artificial breeding and rearing practices and life support systems for horseshoe crabs with OPCFHK since 2006. Ha Pak Nai, located along the coast of Deep Bay, is a native habitat for the species. Prior to release, a small electronic chip was inserted into a number of horseshoe crabs to track their growth and survival rates. Over the next six months, researchers will return to the mudflats every two weeks to check on the crabs.

In addition, CityU will organise the first-ever International Workshop on the Science and Conservation of Asian Horseshoe Crabs on 13–16 June at Hong Kong Wetland Park. The goal is to engage international experts in a dialogue to develop a strategy for conserving horseshoe crabs in Asia. Participants from Canada, mainland China, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan and the US will discuss topics under four themes: populations, habitats, exploitation and public consensus.

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