Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) delegation signed a cooperation agreement with National Chengchi University (NCCU) on November 12, 2009 to encourage bilateral academic exchanges.

"With the agreement, I wish that both sides can work hand-in-hand and become pioneers in fields of Chinese humanities and social sciences," NCCU President Se-Hua Wu said.

During the meeting, Dr. Zheng spoke about the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). The ARWU is considered the leading authority on ranking international universities. The rankings compare 1200 leading international academic institutions, and are based on a set of criteria that evaluates an institution’s overall contribution to the fields of academic development and research.

The ARWU was established to balance out the previous gap between leading Chinese and international academic research institutions. Since 2003, the ARWU has been published annually at SJTU’s Center for World-Class Universities (CWCU) under the Graduate School of Education (GSE).

Among other things, the ARWU takes into account an institution’s overall academic performance and this includes how many Nobel Prizes its alumni and teachers have won. The frequency its academics are cited in research publications, and the number of papers published in prestigious journals such as Science and Nature.

Even though the ARWU has been referenced by governing bodies as an authority on university rankings, it has still managed to gain a share of controversy. This includes a fierce debate on ARWU’s use of how it complies its rankings. Critics claim that by focusing on the number of academic papers published, or the amount of Nobel Prizes won are not true indicators of a university’s quality. This means that universities that specialize in the humanities and social sciences such as Yale University are excluded from the top ten universities rankings.

However, the French Ministry of Education has recently used ARWU to trigger a national debate on the role of higher education in French society. This has included increasing funding so that France can establish itself as a leading international academic and research centre.

According to Dr. Zheng, the general public and the media only focus on the results and overlook the process and suggested that the ranking should be taken merely as a "reference."
A group of international students of National Chengchi University (NCCU) took part in an elementary school fair to share their multicultural experiences.

Taipei Municipal Wanxing Elementary School organized the fair on December 27, 2009 where international students and staff of the Office of International Cooperation (OIC), of NCCU participated.

During the fair, elementary students and guests participated in a game with NCCU foreign students by practicing saying ‘hello’ in six different languages. However, the highlight of the fair was Santa Claus. Michael Rozanski, a NCCU international student, dressed as Santa Claus and distributed gifts among the elementary school students.

The goal of the fair was for the OIC students to distribute materials and raise awareness about the internationalization of the NCCU’s campus to the various guests.

A notable among the fair’s guests was Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin. Hau lauded NCCU’s internalizational efforts and saw it as a crucial process in maintaining Taiwan’s academic competitiveness. Taiwan’s future success will be how quickly it can adapt to global trends and the quickest way is through language, Hau noted. He was pleased to see that the ‘Hello’ game being played between the OIC students and the elementary students quickly broke down cultural barriers.

NCCU is planning to organize a ‘host family’ program involving the local community and international students. The aim of the ‘host family’ program is to enhance a deeper sense of multiculturalism at NCCU and throughout Taiwan.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE KEEPS INFLUENCES ON CHINA STUDIES

National Chengchi University (NCCU) Department of Political Science has received government subsidies of Humanities and Social Sciences Books Project from National Science Council (NSC), enriching China’s rise and transition collections. With the funding opportunity, Department of Political Science enhances its research acquisition and extends its influences on China Studies.

Chien-Wen Kou (寇健文), Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, said that China Studies have become significant due to the rise of China power. As this project is carried out, there will be increasing number of volumes of China Studies, open to all scholars in Taiwan.

The collection mainly focuses on books related to China Studies that are published after 1949. They will be categorized into four main areas: transformation and development policies of market economics, changes of social structure and management systems, political systems reformation and regime consolidations, and cross-strait diplomacy and security strategies.

Dr. Kou emphasized that the enrichment of the volumes is our first step to maintain NCCU’s influences on China Studies. In fields of humanities and social sciences, books are not only indispensable resources when doing research but also main competitive advantage in academy.

With the implement of the project, NCCU investigates China Studies on the basis of current research, attracts scholars all over the world, and accordingly places itself as a platform of joint research and other forms of academic collaboration.

With the establishing of Economic Corporation Framework Agreement (ECFA), China’s power cannot be ignored”, President Se-Hua Wu (吳思華) said. With the goal of being the biggest research community in Taiwan, NCCU will focus on regional studies in the future.

President Wu expects that by integrating the research resources, NCCU is enhancing its competitiveness in China Studies.

Li-Fang Chou (周麗芳), Dean of the Office of Research and Development, said that as the head of humanities and social sciences, NCCU has abundant and exclusive resources especially in China Studies. This remarkable achievement is helpful in improving cross-strait relations.
**INTERNATIONALIZATION OF ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION**

Sponsored by the Department of Journalism on November 15th & 16th, 2009, three Pulitzer winning journalists shared their experiences during the Pulitzer Prize Winners Workshop (PPWW) at National Chengchi University (NCCU).

The PPWW is an annual event sponsored by NCCU’s Department of Journalism to raise awareness about the media’s role in reporting and documenting the news.

The Pulitzer winners encouraged new journalists to learn from their mistakes. According to Hank Klibanoff, the 2007 Pulitzer winner of History thinks that this kind of advice may sounds cliché, but that it’s true.

The speakers urged the students to take some risks and grow from the experiences. Making mistakes is a natural building block and that the fastest way to improve yourself is by understanding these weaknesses and turning them into strengths.

According to Julie Cart, the 2009 Pulitzer winner for Explanatory Reporting, that even if she makes a big mistakes and her boss yells at her, that once everything settles down, there are many valuable lessons to be learnt from the experience.

“You must have a passion in what you do. This passion is an important step in developing a satisfying and rewarding career,” Cart said.

All three Pulitzer winners spoke about how traveling helped their careers move forward and that there was no better way to enrich yourself.

Damon Winter, winner of the 2009 Pulitzer for Feature Photography, said that traveling is a perfect way of training and has helped developed himself into a superior photographer. “When you travel you have to pay attention to the little details just as much as much as the big ones”.

Klibanoff added that when he was 29 years old, he quit his job, traveled around, and finally found a new job in Boston. He now considers traveling as an essential part of his lifestyle, and that it gives him the energy to continue writing.

During the second day of the conference, six journalism students representing their various journalism programs were given the chance to speak with the Pulitzer winners.

Li Yun-chen of Shih-Hsin University thought that Klibanoff’s year spent working on his book showed what he wasn’t so much concerned about the history itself, but about its overall social impact and how it has continually reshaped society.

According to Dr. Liu, the MOE has launched various international cooperation projects, such as Connecting Classrooms and Global English Villages. The MOE is dedicating to strengthening the language programs in all levels of Taiwan’s educational systems.

In 2008, the MOE and British Council established Connecting Classrooms. Connecting Classrooms offers an international collaborative learning environment for students and teachers.

Dr. Liu further introduced other projects such as an International Study Tour and a placed greater emphasis on secondary language education in high schools. Students are encouraged to join an International Study Tour to explore and pursue advanced degrees in foreign countries.

Currently the U.K. is a world leader at developing and leveraging their various educational systems. In 2004, Global Gateway, a UK based educational network was created with the aim of partnering UK and international educational institutions. The MOE goal is utilize aspects of the UK’s international educational model to further develop Taiwan’s potential as a Chinese language-learning center.

The MOE expects elementary and secondary schools to use the international experiences from local universities and create a flexible network of educational resources.
For a better understanding of the value of an international dual degree, National Chengchi University’s (NCCU) Department of Accounting invited Dr. Urton Anderson, of McCombs School of Business in The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), to speak at NCCU. McCombs’ Department of Accounting has partnered with NCCU in establishing a graduate level international dual degree.

This new dual degree is a Master in Professional Accounting (MPA) and offers a flexibility not found anywhere. Applicants may choose from two alternative pathways with these being either a traditional or integrated approach. The traditional approach is available to applicants who have completed the necessary requirements for a bachelor degree. Students in the MPA program are required to finish the program within 12 to 18 months.

Once completed, students will be qualified to take their relevant accounting examinations. In comparison, with an integrated approach, students must complete a five-year degree and will graduate with both a bachelor and master’s degree.

MPA students have various choices for their future careers such as employment opportunities ranging from financial institutions to management consulting firms. In 2009, 96 percent of MPA students found a job with the first year of graduating due to the program’s prestigious reputation it has attracted an additional 20 percent more applicants in 2009 compared to 2008.

In 2009, US News and World Report ranked the MPA as the number 1 accounting program in the US.

Dr. Anderson suggests that foreign language abilities are major advantages for breaking into the international job market. By taking relevant courses in information technology and other business related communication courses the MPA is the prefect tool in leveraging yourself into the next stage of your professional development.

### CHINESE STUDENTS SHARED STUDY EXPERIENCES IN TAIWAN

**STORY / NCCU News**
**TRANSLATION / Jia-Wen Hsieh**

A group of Chinese doctoral exchange students shared their experiences about Taiwan at National Chengchi University (NCCU) on November 6, 2009.

The Chinese group consists of 10 members who got together for a Breakfast Gathering hosted by the College of Law as a part of their two-month research and study scholarship program. The aim of the program is to encourage cross-strait academic exchanges in law. The Chinese Development Fund and NCCU have been jointly sponsoring the exchange program since 2004.

Many of the visiting students expressed their surprise to find such abundant and rich legal resources in Taiwan. They thought that even though the gap between Taiwan and China was narrowing they were interested to note that NCCU maintained such an extensive and deep pool of legal resources. According to the students, Taiwan still plays a leading role in interpreting and researching Chinese legal conventions.

The Chinese students praised the task-oriented teaching approach used in Taiwan as uniquely different to China, and it left the impression that there are many ways to learn.

The Chinese students, however, observed that Taiwan has adopted many German and Japanese legal norms. The students believe that too much emphasis is placed on legal dogma and not enough attention has been paid in adapting these legal systems for Taiwan’s social needs.

In order to let students see the real Taiwan, the College of Law arranged various field trips including an island tour.

The Chinese students said that before this visit, their impression about Taiwan was mainly based on what they had seen in China’s media. According to them, the program has certainly changed their views about Taiwan. The students noted that the landscape is astonishing, people are friendly and the traditional culture is well preserved in Taiwan.

### Distinguished Guests at NCCU

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