National Chengchi University (NCCU) Office of International Cooperation (OIC) will participate in the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) hosted by Griffin University, Australia from April 14-16, 2010. OIC will continue expanding its network of sister schools throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

APAIE is a network of Asian academic institutions created to bring together the vast resources of the Asia Pacific region. Its mandate is to integrate and internationalize its member institutions through academic and educational collaborations as Asia poises itself as a leader in 21st century.

NCCU is regarded as one of Taiwan’s most innovative universities with three campuses in Taipei and has an extensive range of programs taught in Chinese and English.

As one of the top schools in Asia, NCCU established OIC to bring the world to Taiwan. There are three departments within OIC: the Cooperation and Exchange Section (CES), the International Education Section (IES), and the Development and Planning Section (DPS).

CES is responsible for dealing with NCCU’s international outreach by building relationships with sister schools and showcasing the academic and research strengths of NCCU.

With 178 sister schools within the NCCU academic network, the goal is to create an Asian network of similar leading research institutions that specializes in innovation and collaboration.

IES is responsible for all aspects of international student affairs, such as credits, scholarships, and offering visiting students employment opportunities.

DPS manages and administers NCCU’s global outreach programs. DPS also plans integration strategies for the ongoing internationalization of NCCU with the goal that Taiwan will maintain its position as a world leader in education and innovation.

After this spring’s APAIE, OIC will continually look for new partnership opportunities at the National Association of Foreign Advisers (NAFSA) in North America in May and with the European Association for International Education (EAIE) in Europe in September, 2010.
IES AT FOREFRONT SERVING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As you walk into the Office of International Cooperation (OIC), your first line of contact is the International Education Section (IES), which is located directly across the main front doors.

“Location, location, location,” said Alison Ho (何芸婷), a senior coordinator in IES. According to Ho, IES’ location perfectly illustrates its role within the OIC. “Our mission is to serve our international students and this keeps us at the forefront of the OIC and very, very busy.”

Established in 2008, the OIC was created with one goal in mind and this was to expand NCCU’s influence outside of Asia. Within the OIC, three departments were established to spearhead NCCU drive as an innovative Asian educational leader with a global footprint.

“We are still evolving as an organization with an international outreach,” Ho said. “The location of each section has their own histories, but now they have a new home in the OIC.”

The OIC and its specialized department were established to meet the concerns of international students by providing them with the most up to date services. The IES is mandated to stand at the front line of NCCU’s global outreach programs with two major mission statements: comprehensive student services and long term policy development.

“For the most part, the IES works as an executive,” Ho said. Aside from fulfilling contracts and policy, the IES also has the added duties of acting as the international student service centre.

The IES deals with international students applications such as registrations and scholarships, including all the potential problems that international students may encounter while studying in Taiwan.

However, the IES has one more key function and that is to offer foreign students easy access to the administration. “Students are welcome to come to us for any kind of problem,” Ho said. “We will contact the office in charge and try to settle the problem as fast as we can.”

IES BRIDGES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INTO CAMPUS LIFE

“Yu-Fen, when can I get my insurance card?” an international student standing in at the counter asks, while another student worries about her course selection results, “Melody, how can I drop this course? It’s annoying.”

This is a typical day in the Office of International Cooperation (OIC), where Melody Chang (張文琳) and Yu-Fen Su (蘇郁芬) work as coordinators in International Education Section (IES).

Once you walk through the front doors of the OIC you will be greeted by Chang and Su. They are two of many upbeat and dedicated OIC staff who have helped hundred of anxious students do the same thing over and over again.

The OIC is the first line of contact when entering NCCU. No matter the request, the staff is busy coordinating students with schools, schools with students, and everything in between.

Chang understands that each school or country has its own “new system,” and that can pose as an obstacle for international students as they adapt into a Taiwanese system. “Students sometimes will be upset or nervous about it,” she said. “All we can do is try our best and offer visiting students a smooth transition.”

Chung and Su can only do so much to help with the transition process as students adjust to life at NCCU, and this is why OIC and IES have established the Buddy Program. The Buddy Program is a solution to ease the transition for visiting international students. The OIC saw a gap in the resources it could offer new students and this gap was very wide when it came to daily-life help. Given these concerns NCCU now has a comprehensive solution in the Buddy Program.

All visiting student will be assigned up to three local students to provide them with a variety of real life help. This includes many services such as airport pickup, housing rental, and course selections.

According the OIC, the Buddy Program is a great way to meet some fantastic local NCCU students and explorer Taipei all with the comfort of a personal tour guild.

Aside from giving hands on information, the Buddy Program is an effective way to help foreign students get to know the Taiwanese culture through a local’s point of view.

http://oic.nccu.edu.tw
As one of the key departments of the Office of International Cooperation (OIC), the Cooperation and Exchange Section (CES) is responsible for coordinating National Chengchi University (NCCU) with the rest of the world.

The CES department consists of Prof. Wang Juei-Chi, head of CES and its team of Paula Hsu, Julie Lee, Johnny Lee, and Kelly Wang.

CES’ mandate is to increase and enhance NCCU’s status outside of Taiwan. In addition to acting as NCCUs window to the world, CES actively seeks to establish and maintain partnership with other leading universities.

The CES has many functions including acting as the recruitment arm of NCCU by targeting international students. In addition the CES also has receives distinguished foreign guests, and offers cultural activities for foreign faculty and students.

In 2009, CES was instrumental in expanding NCCU’s global outreach by linking it to numerous world-class partner universities over 50 countries.

Currently CES is responsible for coordinating and acting as a liaison channel for 74 foreign faculty and 516 international students at NCCU. Besides helping foreigner faculty and students adept, in 2009 CES helped 298 local students participate in their own international experience. CES specializes in matching students with international exchange programs at universities that focus on academic research, language education, and dual degrees.

According to the OIC, within NCCU, the Colleges of Commerce, and Communication have the largest proportion of international cooperation and exchange programs.

CES has been charged with the responsibility of showcasing NCCU’s unique innovative academic strengths by building relationships with other leading international institutions. CES will now be responsible for expanding NCCU’s reputation as a leading international Mandarin training institution.

With a variety of academic specialty and cultural activities, CES serves as a gateway that enhances cooperation and exchange between NCCU and the world.
DeveloPment and Planning, NcCU and you

Within OIC, the DPS administers and is responsible for a broad array of mid and long-term strategic planning focused on increasing NCCU’s global outreach. Its goal is to develop programs designed to enhance NCCU’s position as a leading Asian academic institution.

These overall development strategies consist of inter-linking agendas. However, the core value of the DPS is to offer visiting students a unique education opportunity not found anywhere else in the world.

DPS plays a key role in customizing and designing courses and programs that will match the demands and standards of the world’s most prestigious academic institutions.

Playing a vital role in bridging the gap between a global and local educational experience, DPS has established various resources in helping with the transition period of visiting students. These programs include Student Ambassadors and the Buddy Program, as both programs are designed to ease the orientation period by letting visiting students hit the ground running.

With 178 university partnerships in over 50 countries, the DPS firmly believes in fostering cooperation in joint research and student exchanges with the world’s brightest minds. DPS has an ongoing mission of improving international collaboration in research as well as strengthening NCCU’s role within the international research community.

To help the foreign students fit in the new environment, DPS has been hosting various events aimed at introducing NCCU and Taiwan to a greater audience. “Starting from next semester, we will set up an OICU corner every Friday afternoon and this way it creates a natural environment of interaction between foreign and local students,” said Prof. Chuang.

According to Prof. Chuang, international students have recently established their own student association, which is the first of its kind in NCCU. The International Student Association is assisted by the DPS to help ease the transition for visiting students by giving them a resource base that is tailored to their specific needs. The student-governed organization will represent the voices and concerns of the NCCU foreign students.

Prof. Chuang added that the DPS will concentrate on recruiting top students from around the world by creating an educational environment that is attractive, engaging and innovative.

Within a long-term framework, the DPS will enhance the internationalization of NCCU by linking it into the community.
2010 promises to usher in a host of new initiatives for NCCU’s international community. We feel energized by the endless opportunities that are perfectly symbolized by the year of the Tiger. We plan to drive our work towards completing our S3’: Service, Socialization and Support with the NCCU International Association (NCCUIA).

My first year at NCCU was an opportunity to assess and then identify where I could be put to the greatest use. Over the last year we have been busy working on a new outreach infrastructure, and 2010 is the time to implement, solidify and evaluate all the progress that has been achieved. Our next step is to establish a communication flow between NCCU and its student body.

**S3 - Service**

Recently the NCCUIA has established a new service called the Student Support Group (SSG) and caters to the needs of the international community at NCCU. All SSG members have extensive experience in solving any problem related to NCCU including the nuances of daily life in Taipei. In addition to the SSG, we have also built an online resource aptly named NCCUIA website (http://nccuinternational.wordpress.com/). This website will provide practical and important information for students, promote cultural activities and introduce international students to the many rewarding aspects of Taiwanese life. Finally, we will be launching a new publication named NCCU UNITED, and it will be the first English-language newsletter targeting our international student body. Our first edition will publish March, 2010.

**S3 - Socialization**

2010 is a year of exciting change at NCCU and we’ve kicked it off many events promoting “Socialization”. Since February, NCCUIA has participated in student orientation, trips, academic seminars and social events. NCCUIA ended 2009 with an international Christmas Party. For this next year our plan is to continue creating opportunities to promote interactions, empower critical thinking, and to develop tools for networking.

**S3 - Support**

Finally we have come to “Support,” at NCCU we have many partnership services between the Counseling Center and NCCUIA. These services are available to individuals and group therapies, case management, supportive therapy and medical psychiatric evaluation. One of our 2010 goals is to encourage more interaction with bilingual Taiwanese students and the international student body. We also offer assistance to students with their career development through self knowledge, and planning.

NCCUIA is a new association that welcomes your suggestions, ideas, and participation. We are located in the office of International Student Counselor on the 3rd floor of the Administration building.

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**NCCUIA**

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Please contact us
Email ia@nccu.edu.tw or diraberman@gmail.com
Tel. 09-1083-4400
Find us online at http://nccuinternational.wordpress.com/