By far National Chengchi University’s biggest annual cultural event, NCCU World Festival, was held at the Muzha campus from May 4 to 14 by the Student Ambassadors (SA). In terms of showcasing NCCU’s diversity and cultural depth, the event is also known as “Expo 2010 NCCU”, in recognition of the Expo 2010 Shanghai. NCCU student body consisting of foreign and local students all actively participated in by demonstrating their distinct talents as well as a window into the cultural performances of their home countries.

The Global Summer Party opened NCCU World Festival on May 5 at Rome Square. The activities included Justin Yore’s African drumming, an international student dance, and a rousing performance by Kim Seul-Ki, a Korean student studying in the Department of Advertising. Kim had recently participated in a singing competition on Taiwanese TV show. Aside from these students, the nearby communities also joined the party.

Chen Shu-Heng (陳樹衡), dean of Office of International Cooperation (OIC) and SA volunteer group that have extensively contributed in promoting the internationalization on NCCU’s campus.

During the 10-day event, there was a World Food Culture Exhibition on the first floor of the Commerce Building, showcasing international and traditional gourmet delicacies. NCCU’s talented international students were busy with the World Culture Broadway, by performing traditional native dances in front of the Administration Building.

The United Food Nations was held on Si-Wei Road from May 11 to 14. International students offered their regional fares by hosting stands under the assistance of SA. Culinary treats ranged from the eclectic diversity of Latin American and African, to the more familiar foods of the United States, South Korean, and Southeast Asian. Overcast skies and rainy weather did little to rain off this festive event as students, faculty and curious gourmands braved the elements of this international culinary event.
College of Commerce has its moment again

Gordon talks to NCCU students in a session.

In 2006, this is the second international accreditation granted to the College of Commerce within the past five years. Senior Manager of the College of Commerce Christine Be said that EQUIS is a leading academic accreditation system under the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD). It is regarded as one of the three major organizations (AACSB, EQUIS and Association of MBAs) to accredit higher education institutions of management and business administration.

EQUIS has accredited 126 top ranked international business schools. College of Commerce Dean Robert Su said that being able to obtain both AACSB and EQUIS accreditations from the world’s two major economies (the US and the Europe) would demonstrate the NCCU’s international recognition in its internationalization and research.

College of Commerce Associate Dean Chen Chuen-lung said that this is not an accidental success as the College of Commerce has made every effort to attain EQUIS accreditation standards, especially in its internationalization and research.

Chen said that due to the competitive nature of leading international business schools, the College of Commerce has opened a series of courses with a concentration on Management in Asia to feature out its unique position in the global education market.

“‘Internationalization’ to benefit our local students and feature ‘localized internationalization’ to favor international students,” he said.

Peru mucho gusto

Chinese, said Gordon. Three NCCU students are participating in an exchange program at Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Peru via the Office of International Cooperation (OIC). NCCU has established relationships with leading universities in Latin America, including Mexico, Brazil, and Peru. In the future, NCCU students and faculty will look forward to having further academic exchanges and cooperation with other leading Peruvian institutions such as Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru (PUCP), Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM), Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH), and Universidad del Pacifico (UP).

More than 30 students attended this session organized by OIC. Students were active asking a variety of questions about studying and traveling in Peru. According to José Cortés, a Peruvian student presently studying in the IMBA, “People in Taiwan have very similar attitudes with Peruvians towards family and society. Although people here look different from Peruvians, I still feel I am home.”

Memorandum

The memorandum of understanding between National Chengchi University (NCCU) and Victoria University of Wellington was signed on May 10, making it NCCU’s first sister school in New Zealand.

Claire Tao, the international coordinator at Office of International Cooperation (OIC) said since NCCU hasn’t had any sister schools in New Zealand, the memorandum gives students more options and opportunities to study in the South Pacific in the future.

Victoria University is particularly well known for its programs in law, the humanities, and science. Wellington is abundant in its art and culture and is renowned for its famous galleries and museums. In addition, it has its art festivals that add an extra spice to daily life. Most of these activities are free and open to the public.

Neil Quigley, the deputy vice-chancellor and professor of economics at Victoria University, proposed three cooperated areas of international relations, language programs, and future markets, hoping to have more academic interactions with NCCU.

Neil said Victoria University is interested in NCCU’s China studies, Cross-Strait studies, and international relations programs, especially in the field of strategy and security.
Adapting to a new cultural environment can be an exciting yet daunting experience. For international students who are unfamiliar with Taiwan or the Asian lifestyle, National Chengchi University (NCCU) has implemented the Buddy Program to offer assistance.

The program, which runs during the spring and fall semesters, pairs international exchange students and summer students with domestic students who help to ease the transition in coming to NCCU.

“The main purpose of Buddy Program is to ensure that all new international students receive help and feedback by one to three local NCCU students, both before and after they have settled in Taiwan,” said Johnney Huang (黃清富), head of the program.

“Buddies can also offer linguistic support and cultural guidance. It presents students with the opportunity to create international friendship and social networks,” Huang added.

“In a country that I have never been to, a language that I don’t speak – a good buddy is priceless!” said Philip Hedestad, an exchange student from Sweden. His buddy Mu-ya Hong (洪睦雅) has helped him to buy necessities, showed him around Taipei and NCCU.

“Basically, she made me feel very welcomed to Taiwan,” he added. Mael Cadeddu, a French exchange student, also said that his buddies have brought him to several places such as Jioufen, Hualien and Taroko. “Visiting these places with a local is totally different from visiting them by myself. With my buddies I can learn about the history of each place and knowing the culture makes the visit more interesting,” he noted.

“Thanks to this program, I can meet typical Taiwanese families, and cook Taiwanese food with my mother’s buddy. I really appreciate it,” Cadeddu said.

An exchange student from the Czech Republic, Zuzana Krejci pointed out, however, that some exchange students have some reasons have lost contact with their buddies. She suggested that a party themed buddy meeting held on campus and during the semester may help to solve the problem.

Buddy Program

The Chair of CLC, Shang-kuan Chang(張冠銘) said that besides language courses, CLC offers students opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural activities, such as competing in the 2009 Taipei Dragon Boat Festival, visiting museums and performing in the Chinese Singing Contest.

“This is not just a one-way thing. The cultural experiences we have given foreign students are as important as the ones that they have given us,” Chang said. “We would like to make this drama competition nationwide in the near future.” he added.

Students have incorporated song and dance in their plays. From Taiwan betel-nut local culture to environment protection, the student-written plays have showed fascination with the wide variety of creativity.

A creative adaptation of the famous Cinderella story emerged the winner. “I am a bit nervous to be on stage but it is really fun,” said Matthew Hanlon(馬特) who dressed up as the Cinderella’s stepmother.

Shigemi Kumagai(熊谷茂美), a Japanese student, said that how to dance coordinately with her team members was the biggest challenge. Due to time constraints, they have only one week to prepare for the competition.

She added that learning Chinese is not easy but her learning experiences here is overall satisfying. “Most importantly, I have a really good impression of Taiwan during my stay,” Kumagai said.

http://oic.nccu.edu.tw
Cultural experience trip in sanxia

On May 7th, The NCCU Campus Caring Group once again held an exciting cultural trip for the international students to introduce them to the traditional arts and culture of Taiwan. The trip was held in Sanxia and over a dozen international students representing seven different countries, Campus Caring Group and OIC staff all participated.

The NCCU Campus Caring Group was founded in 1993, comprising of the spouses of retired faculty members. These dedicated volunteers provide extensive and diverse services for NCCU’s international student body. These services include offering daily life advice, welcoming visiting families, organizing cultural activities, one-on-one Chinese tutoring and counseling to help newcomers adapt to the local environment.

“I really appreciate what the Campus Caring Group has done for us. They really make me feel like I am home” said Kim, a South Korean student.

The Sanxia trip was planned by Jin-Yu Wang, the head of the Campus Caring Group. The students had a chance to learn traditional dye and make their own scarves in the Sanxia Dye House, explore the classical architectural of Sanxia Qingshui Zushi Temple and discover the architectural wonders of the temple in the Li Mei-shu Memorial Gallery. The students had a chance of experiencing a window into traditional Taiwan by strolling through Minquan Old Street.

“Thanks for all the members in the Campus Caring Group, you really put your heart and soul into this. Because of this trip, I not only know more about traditional arts and Taiwanese culture, but also made friends from many different countries” said Cao, a Chinese student.

In the mean time, the Campus Caring Group is starting to plan another cultural activity which is the Dragon Boat festival, which will be held in June.

“We hope that through our services, the international students in NCCU can adapt to the culture, environment, and life in Taiwan easier as well as get their studies on track smoothly. We also hope that they can still feel the warmth and care, although they are away from their homes.” said Mrs. Moa, a member of the Campus Caring Group.

The Campus Caring group is an integral part of the international students’ experience and transition period at NCCU.