Europe-Taiwan ties broaden: Cooperation between Universität Tübingen and NCCU

October 01, 2010, National Cheng-chi University (NCCU) and Universität Tübingen signed a partnership memorandum, enhancing collaboration between the two universities, creating a new era of cooperation between Germany and Taiwan.

Established in 1477, Universität Tübingen is one of the oldest public universities in Germany, with over 500 years of academic excellence in the nature sciences and humanities. Universität Tübingen has the added distinction of producing noble laureates. It has nine faculties and 22,000 students while 17 hospitals in Tübingen are affiliated with the university.

Cooperation between Universität Tübingen and NCCU began in 2008, between The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT), Universität Tübingen and Taiwan Studies Center (TSC), NCCU, which created the initial academic exchange that has now blossomed between the two institutions.

On behalf of Universität Tübingen and NCCU, Dr. Gunter Schubert and Dr. Yung-Kuang Kao, directors of ERCCT and TSC held the signing ceremony.

The signing ceremony was held in the Archives Room of NCCU, where more than fifty faculty members were present. Dr. Bernd Engler, Rector of Universität Tübingen, said that regional studies has been a major discipline for Tübingen and he expected to develop a greater understanding on Asia through NCCU’s extensive resources. Dr. Engler acknowledged that NCCU is a leading pioneer in social science in Taiwan and China.

NCCU president Dr. Se-Hwa Wu spoke how this partnership broadens the ties between Europe and Taiwan, and mentioned the 17 partner universities in Germany. In addition, Dr. Wu emphasized the fact that German students made up the largest group of European exchange students at NCCU.

At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Gunter Schubert gave a commemorative coin in memorial of Johannes Kepler’s 500th Anniversary for his influential work on planetary motion.

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International films not to miss

The international award-winning film editor and sound designer, Liao, Ching-Sung and Tu, Du-Chih, spoke at National Chengchi University on Oct. 22, and suggested that international students who want to know more about Taiwan should watch Taiwanese films. Liao and Tu, who have both been awarded the film industry’s highest honor, the "National Literature and Art Achievement Award" are the driving force of "New Movies in Taiwan."

The following is the recommend list of outstanding examples of Taiwanese films. Liao and Tu were both involved in the production of these movies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>The Sandwich Man</td>
<td>International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Dust in the Wind</td>
<td>Festival des Trois Continents (Best Director&amp; Photography)…</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Cape No.7</td>
<td>Hawaii International Film Festival/ Festival International du film asiatique de Vesoul…</td>
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NCCU hosts German and French cinema

To enhance students’ understanding and appreciation for European culture and movies, NCCU library hosted a series of French and German films between September 27 to October 12, 2010. 2010 is the 20th anniversary of Germany’s reunification, and NCCU library chose four German films to celebrate this historic event. The films included serious post war films such as Sophie Scholl and Novemberkind, while Emmas Glück and Die Herbstzeitlosen were light hearted comedies that showcased the humour and passion of German society.

During the German themed movie viewings, the library invited professors from the European Studies Program and Department of Radio and Television as moderators while Stefan Wolle, the Scientific Director of the East German Museum, was on hand to comment on Novemberkind.

In addition, NCCU library also hosted a French cinematic extravaganza that showcased five films about French women - Es Plages d’Agnès, Pas sur la Bouche, Coco avant Chanel, Sur mes levres and Une pour toutes. The library also invited scholars and experts in the field of French culture and media studies to comment on the social and historical impact of these films.

For those who are interested in language and culture are welcome to access the library website to learn more.
"I want to go out and learn more about the world. That is why I am here," said Lee, Yen-Ning (李晏寧), an Accounting freshman at National Chengchi University (NCCU).

Ten-Ning has just returned from a Cambridge summer tour and is now planning her next trip.

Before entering NCCU, Lee had heard a lot about the international exchange available from her high school classmate, who had been to Berkeley as an exchange law student.

Lee is only one of many NCCU students who are now studying. According to the statistics, NCCU sent out 303 students to 128 partner schools last year that spanned across 37 countries.

During the past few months, 259 students left NCCU for international exchange opportunities.

To respond to this growing demand, the Office of International Cooperation (OIC) has been working on enhancing academic connections with leading international universities to increase exchange quotas. So far, NCCU has established partnerships with 196 schools, and this represents an increase of 24 more exchange opportunities than last year.

Mrs. Lin, whose daughter is currently an English freshman, witnessed firsthand the rapid internationalization of NCCU.

“A couple years ago I traveled half of the world to Germany for a tour, and met some exchange students there. They are all from National Chengchi University (NCCU),” she said. “At that time exchange programs were still rare in Taiwan, and I was very impressed with NCCU’s global reach.”

Now Mrs. Lin has encouraged her daughter to take advantage of all these resources to broaden her global view and be part of an exchange program.

Recently the OIC organized a Study Abroad Fair (SAF) from Oct. 25 to 29 to provide students with guidelines for overseas exchanges. More than 15 partner schools gathered in the Fengyu Building and set up recruiting stands, offering details and other exchange information.

Hallym University in South Korea, for example, is one of the visiting partner schools. Dr. Dong Gyu Ahn, the President of Korean Association of Foreign Student Administrators (KAFSA), gave credit to OIC’s effort of organizing the SAF saying that this was the perfect venue to obtain timely and relevant information.

“Students here are very ambitious,” he said. He was impressed to see how NCCU students actively compete for every chance to develop their lives and careers.

Vanessa Lepetit, an exchange student from Paris Graduate School of Management in France, worked as a volunteer student ambassador to promote her home university. Lepetit is the first exchange student from the Paris Graduate School of Management to study NCCU.

In addition, NCCU students who participated in different programs before also came to share their overseas experiences. Chelsea Wu (吳藺芝), a Risk Management and Insurance sophomore, said attending the U.S. Enterprise and Economy Summer Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology helped her blend academic theory and real world examples to create a new level of learning.

“One of the tours was to the Federal Reserve Bank, where I saw hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. bills just a few feet away from me,” she said.

Over 70 students gather in the meeting room to learn more about the overseas study program.

Distinguished Guests at NCCU

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<tr>
<th>SCHOOLS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universität Tübingen</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Oct 1, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Oct 4, 2010</td>
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<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
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<td>Oct 4, 2010</td>
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<td>University of Goettingen</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria University of Wellington</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Oct 25, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hallym University</td>
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National Chengchi University (NCCU) is known for its quality of short-term programs. The most recent one-week program co-hosted with International Education of Students Abroad (IES Abroad) will be held from Nov. 6 to Nov. 13, and once again proves that bigger is always better.

This short-term program is embedded into a semester-long study abroad program held by the IES Abroad Shanghai Center. A total of 28 students from various American universities will stay in Shanghai for three months and then travel to Taipei to round out the program.

This year NCCU is the exclusive partner university to co-host the program with IES Abroad in Taiwan.

The NCCU’s program provides the visiting American students with four different Taiwan based concentrations to choose from, including politics, economy, community development and ecology.

To enhance and reinforce the learning experience, field trips will be scheduled to offer hands on examples of the concepts being covered.

For instance, Tsao, Hsien-Shao (曹先紹), a senior researcher at the Taipei City Zoo, will give his lecture on “Taiwan Econology” from within the Zoo adding to the real world relevance of the lecture.

To add to the programs’ richness, a lecture called “Environment Protection and Community Development” will be in the East coast city of Hualien.

Hualien is known for its vast natural resources and pristine beauty. The field trip will cover more than just sightseeing, but will also examine the regional land development policies of some of Taiwan’s more geographically remote communities.

Rebecca Lin (林京瑋), coordinator from the Office of International Cooperation (OIC), said that with all the activities being planned, the visiting American students won’t forget these experiences.”

While some field trips are arranged based on fixed topics, others are scheduled to explore other popular issues affecting Taiwan.

The upcoming November elections are the prefect real world materials for a course on Taiwanese politics. Students will be visiting the campaign headquarters of the two major competing parties to experience an inside look at Taiwan’s democratic process.

Besides getting their hands dirty in local politics, visiting students will also attend the 2010 Taipei International Flora Exposition.

This is only one of the many study abroad programs held by NCCU. Other regular partner school programs include exchanges with the University of Bocconi, Purdue University and the University of Innsbruck.

In the study abroad program, partner schools will send students to NCCU for a one-week or two-week academic stay. A series of intense lectures and tours will be scheduled based on the needs of the visitors.

As Taiwan increasingly dominates the world’s attention, the Deputy Dean of College of Commerce at NCCU Samuel Chen (陳泰龍) said that these programs owe their popularity by taking a closer look at Asian economic and social issues through grass roots perspective.

However, more importantly, Chen highlighted the fact that Taiwan is an Asian leader with its unique relationship with China within a global context.

“Working with such elite schools, of course, is an opportunity for us, and it’s a challenge as well, since we continuously develop remarkable programs that draw and keep their attention.”

Chicago-based IES Abroad, established in 1950, is one of the nation’s oldest not-for-profit study abroad providers. This academic consortium enrolls more than 5000 students annually, with more than 90 programs in 32 cities.

Unique from other education institutes, IES Abroad has established academic relationships with many universities in a similar manner as Erasmus, a European Union student exchange program. Courses taken in IES Abroad can be claimed for by those partner schools.

Two years ago, when the center of IES Abroad in Shanghai came to Taiwan to seek a local partner to co-host a short-term program, NCCU stood out from the list with its reputation and leading academic internationalization.

Dr. Wang, Juei-Chi (王瑞琦), the Head of Cooperation and Exchange Section of OIC, said that through the process of holding a program like this, OIC is building bridges into the future.

As students from IES Abroad come from diverse international institutions, they always return home and help bring the next generation of visiting students to NCCU through the life-changing time they had in Taiwan.

“It will definitely promote NCCU well deserved reputation as an international host and as the premier educational institution in Taiwan,” she said.