2011 Study Abroad Fair: Your Window to the World

STORY／PHOTO
BY  David K. W. Wu

From October 24th to November 4th, the 2011 Study Abroad Fair took place at National Cheng-Chi University. This two-week event on international academic affairs was organized by the Office of International Cooperation, with the Career Development Center of the Office of Student Affairs, and the Graduates' Association from the Office of Academic Affairs. The grand collaboration from the three offices and organizations demonstrated how the internationalization of this academic institute worked, and focused more on the students’ interests in international exchange with partner schools and global volunteerism in foreign realms.

Granted as one of the most internationalized higher education institutes in the Republic of China, National Cheng-Chi University owned more than 300 partner academic institutes which are located mostly in North America and Eastern Europe. Furthermore, there were 346 incoming students from all over the world while 348 outgoing students were eager to expand their perspectives around the globe. Recently this institute was ranked top 100 in QS World University Ranking for its foreign linguistic accomplishment as well as its robust development on commerce and social science.

The exhibition not only welcomed delegates from the partner academic institutes and educational exchange offices for the booth presentation, but also arranged lectures on Student Exchange Program & Scholarship and Short-Term Summer Programs & International Volunteers admission. Moreover, there were also a series of introductive speeches from the educational exchange offices to share on how to commit and study in foreign countries as United Kingdom, United States of America, Australia, Germany, and Japan.

There was also a writing contest on sharing international exchange experiences. The champions were Yi-chien Chen (陳頤杰), the student from Department of Political Sciences to Sciences Po Paris for a year, and Daniel Guzman Briman (古狄安), from Nicaragua to study Business Administration here.

Most students are still more interested in studying in United States of America and Western Europe, especially the United Kingdom, for linguistic convenience and cultural inclination, but more and more are concerned about living in China and South East Asia because of the rising international superpower and regional circumstances. Nevertheless, there were more female interviewees in this international fair due to uncertain cultural customs.
OIC holds speech encouraging talented youths to experience overseas programs

The Office of International Cooperation (OIC) invited Pai-Po Lee, the deputy secretary general of Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF), to deliver a speech about the experiences of two overseas programs on October 6, 2011.

Taiwan ICDF is the organization that implements Taiwan’s official development assistance (ODA) and provides specialists, capital and technology. It is also devoted to offering technical cooperation, investment lending, international education and international humanitarian assistance.

The two overseas programs from which Taiwan ICDF employs talented youth are the Taiwan Youth Overseas Service and International Volunteers. Taiwan Youth Overseas Service is a unique program that advocates service in lieu of performing military service in Taiwan. On the other hand, the International Volunteers is a program that engages youths in development assistance work in 35 cooperating countries. It was initiated in 1997 and so far 519 volunteers have participated.

Taiwan ICDF volunteers offer service in several fields, including ICT technology, medical health care, agricultural assistance, mandarin instruction, etc. They excel in the field that is related to their expertise, mainly Mandarin instruction and ICT technology.

Pai-Po Lee encouraged talented youths to volunteer overseas because it’s an opportunity for youths to challenge themselves and develop their own potential. “It’s a good chance for young people to broaden their global vision and provide them good career development,” he said.

“Many companies set volunteering service as a qualification requirement when they recruit new employees and the overseas volunteerism will make them be valued highly.” It’s also a good means for volunteers to pick up languages, especially Spanish and French because the cooperating countries are mostly located in South America, “he added.

These programs are not only good for young people to experience different cultures but also makes them more open-minded toward cross-cultural differences. Most of all, it will expand the horizons of youths on a spiritual level.

Success in foreign student field trip

To allow foreign students to experience more of Taiwan’s culture, National Chengchi University (NCCU) Student Ambassadors organized a 2-day field trip to destinations like Hsinchu, Miaoli, and Taichung.

The trip included activities like rice noodles DIY, paintball games and aboriginal dance etc. The trip was a success for both the hosts and the guests, both of whom cherished the experience.

The trip was held by student ambassadors, a student group under the Office of International Cooperation (OIC), to guide and help international students in the school. One of the Student Ambassadors, Marvin Ruano (馬文龍), says that the trip was a success and everyone had lots of fun.

The most spectacular experience for Marvin was the aboriginal dance in Miaoli; they took part in the Saisiyat (賽夏) Ritual Dance which touched his heart. He also loved the culture and learned how to make Mochi.

Laurien Adriaanse (谷本裕香), who got information about the trip at the general orientation, thought the trip was cool adding that she had never been to those cities before. She also liked the fact that the students mixed well together.

“This is a great way to get more interaction between the international and the Taiwanese students,” she said.

Laurien said the fun started from the very beginning, when they turned the bus into a KTV room. She thought the paintball game was exciting and crazy, and was also astonished by the nice food in the night market in Taichung. However, she thought the best part of it all was the people she met, “I met a lot of great people during the weekend and the atmosphere during the trip was fun!”

Yuka Tanimoto (谷本裕香), a Japanese student, was happy that she got together with other international students. Her best impression was the night market in Taichung, “My friends and I went around the night market with our group leader. I felt happy to be able to have delicious food and a good time with them.”

http://oic.nccu.edu.tw
OZ, an awesome place to be (or study)

In order to assist NCCU (National Cheng Chi University) students in choosing the most appropriate universities to further their education, the Graduate Committee hosted the Australia Study Fair on the 31st of October 2011, with the goal to provide university-selection tips and other useful information about life as an ‘Aussie’.

With a great diversity of ethnic groups, Australia has become one of the most desirable countries for Taiwanese students to continue their studies. ACIO (Australian Commerce and Industry Office) said migrants in Australia compose approximately 40 percent of the entire population, therefore the nation’s atmosphere is considered as friendly as other English-speaking countries. Australia, this young and dynamic country, often stretches out its arms to welcome every man and every woman of every race.

In addition, the several advantages that Australia has explain why it has attracted Taiwanese people to embrace it with love. Apart from the diversity, the low crime rates and stable politics have also helped it become one of top choices when one considers studying abroad. The reasonable tuition and living fees are two other distinctive factors. Tuition costs approximately NT$ 1 million to NT$ 1.5 million per year; the annual living expenditure is on average AU$ 16000 to AU$ 17000, relative to America and England. Australia has the lowest expenses, noted ACIO.

Unlike Taiwan’s education system, Australia has two types of Master’s programs: one is by research and the other by coursework. The former requires students to complete a thesis in order to qualify for a degree, while the latter requires the student to complete compulsory units. ACIO suggests that students should seek further information on the official website of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations www.crics.deewr.gov.au.

For students who wanted to apply for a PhD program, the ACIO consultant recommended them to find the course’s professor on the most-wanted list and send their research proposals via the net. If the professor accepts, one can proceed with the application process; if not, one should pursue other alternatives.

For further information, please access www.aec.org.tw for Mandarin and www.studyaustralia.gov.au for English.
International students from IES Abroad Studies explore Taiwan for a week

STORY
BY Daniel Guzman Briman
PHOTO BY OIC

In the first week of November, more than 30 students (most of them from USA) arrived in Taiwan as part of their “IES Exchange Program in Shanghai”. All of them have been in Shanghai for a couple of months already, studying Mandarin Chinese at “上海中心 Shanghai Center” and exploring Chinese culture. As a part of the IES Abroad Program, they came to NCCU Taipei for one week in order to attend several lectures, company visits and tours concerning Taiwan, its’ culture and its’ people. During that week, topics such as politics, medical care, culture and art were discussed in the presence of many professors, assistants and professionals.

The schedule consisted of five days of planned activities. The first days of the week started with many lectures and company visits such as to “Chungwa Telecom Company”. The students also had the opportunity to visit the “KMT” political party and take a look at the President Ma’s political campaign “台灣加油”. A visit to the “Memorial Hall” was also offered to the IES Group. In the last days of the busy week, the group of international students went to “Taipei Zoo”, “Maokong Gondola” and “Hualien” before officially leaving Taiwan on Saturday, November 05th.

The program realized and supervised by OIC “Office of International Cooperation” of National Chengchi University was indeed a success in terms of introducing Taiwan and its culture to the international students. Patricia Yee, from USA, said: “I’m having such a great time here in Taiwan! I think it’s a great country and it has a lot to offer,” Philip Rouse, from England, shared: “The university did a great job, the food is really good and the tours are so well coordinated, I wish we had some more time though”. A lot of positive answers were given and hopefully, these students will come back to Taiwan in the future.

International students take a look at the political campaign “台灣加油” of President Ma as part of their 5 days planned activities in Taipei City. In this visit, the students of IES Abroad Studies have the opportunity to learn more about the ideology and principles of the political party of the current president of Republic of China ROC; President Ma. An interesting “Questions and Answers” space is also provided in which students actively participate.

International students from IES Abroad Studies have fun in their trip to Hualien. This is their last stop in Taiwan, National Taroko Park. The trip realized on Friday, November 4th has as main objective to show to the students the natural resources of Taiwan and one of the most beautiful landscapes of the entire island.

http://oic.nccu.edu.tw
Dr. Duong Thi Hoang Oanh in NCCU talks about “Study in Vietnam”

Dr. Duong Thi Hoang Oanh, the director of the Department of External Relations from Vietnam National University (VNU) in Ho Chi Minh City, visited National Chengchi University (NCCU) on October 17 to talk about the current higher education system in Vietnam.

Dean Shu-heng Chen (陳樹衡) of our Office of International Cooperation (OIC) opened the speech by saying that “a new era is coming” and that “NCCU exchange programs will not only focus on western countries but more on our neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, particularly Vietnam.”

During the speech, Dr. Hoang emphasized important concerns about Vietnam’s current situation with higher education.

Right now, there is a greater number of people who are able to afford higher education than in the past.

However, because of the little supply available, there is a poor response to the high demand. “Believe it or not, we have many universities, but still, we cannot accommodate every student,” Dr. Hoang said.

Beside the insufficient quantity, the quality of education provided for students in Vietnam is another issue their universities have to deal with. Vietnam is trying to advance from their “long tradition of an older education system” and shift their focus from teachers to students in their lectures. “One of the reasons for me to be here, for this trip, is to learn about the educational system in Taiwan and its influence on students’ performance and outcome,” Dr. Hoang added.

Many undergraduate students came to the speech because they are interested in learning about the issues of Vietnam’s current higher education system.

Thomas Lo (羅峻豐) from the Department of English, shared that the part of the speech which gave him the deepest impression “is the challenges of Vietnam’s higher education, such as the new demand of the high education, the old education system, old teaching environment and so on.”

Yu-Chieh Tsay (蔡宇傑) from the Department of Diplomacy, who is also the club president of the Club for Vietnam Culture, Commerce and Politics (政大越南經貿文化研究社, CLB Văn Hồ và Thương Mại, TDH Chính Trị), spoke of a “strong desire” to study in Vietnam and perhaps eventually work there.

Dr. Hoang is looking forward to the benefit of the exchange, including what VNU can learn from NCCU and how NCCU students can find their exchange experience useful in the job market that involves trade between Vietnam and Taiwan.

Although details of the cooperation between NCCU and VNU have not yet been settled, both sides expressed high optimism on our exchange program for the near future.