NCCU strengthens ties with top-ranking universities - UCLA and UC Berkeley

Led by President Dr. Se-Hwa Wu (吳思華), Dean of Office of International Cooperation (OIC), Dr. Shu-Heng Chen (陳樹衡) and representative of OIC, Ms. Esther Chow flew to the United States to visit two major partner schools on the west coast- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) on May 23 and 24. This trip was made to discuss and resolve current cooperation issues and explore more cooperative opportunities in the years to come.

NCCU and UCLA became partners under the principles of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2008. Both parties signed student exchange agreement in March, 2013, which will be activated starting from 2014. Before that, Ministry of Education had offered UCLA students scholarships to study Chinese at NCCU since 2007. To further expand the academic cooperation to student exchange and faculty research, NCCU delegates discussed with Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of UCLA, Prof. Scott Waugh; Dean of Humanities, Prof. David Schaberg; professors from Asian languages & Cultures, Prof. Hong-Yin Tao and Prof. Shu-Mei Shih; and Director of Asia Institute, Prof. Bin Wang. President Wu first reviewed NCCU’ recent efforts done by Humanities Center and Social Science Information Center- “Development History of the Republic of China”, a 12-volume-book series contributed by 140 authors. Professor Schaberg was deeply impressed by NCCU’s contribution to China studies. The meeting was fruitful and both parties came up with a number of possible cooperation in the field of digital humanities, water governance, modern history of China, and comparative studies of the city development in Los Angeles and Taipei. Apart from that, two possible institutions that aim to strengthen collaborations on a sustainable basis – building Taiwan Study Center at UCLA and helping UCLA become a member of the Strategic Alliance of the Top Universities of Taiwan, were also addressed.

On the other hand, NCCU became partner school with UC Berkeley in 2010. Under current cooperative framework, students from both universities can apply for the counterpart’s summer session course, but the student exchange agreement has not been activated yet. Besides, NCCU also hopes to send PHD students to UC Berkeley’s summer session program under top university agreement in the near future. Accordingly, this visit was to discuss current exchange issues and to exchange expertise on summer session program with Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost of UC Berkeley, Prof. George Breslauer; head of International Relations, Dr. Ronald Gronsky; and Director of summer session, Mr. Richard Russo. The two propositions brought up by NCCU- renewing student exchange agreement and inviting more Berkeley students to come study in NCCU, both received positive responses. Director of Institute of East- Asian Studies, Prof. Wen-Hsin Yen indicated the cooperation may further include students from relating studies in other top-ranking universities such as Harvard University.

In addition to having talks with distinguished scholars at the two schools, NCCU delegates also visited their school libraries to learn more on archive and spatial planning.

On behave of NCCU, president Wu presented “Development History of the Republic of China” to both school libraries as gifts and also a sign indicating stronger ties and more cooperative opportunities between the two institutions in the future.
“NCCU 2013 World Festival”

Story
by Daniel Guzman Briman
Photo
by NCCU Student Ambassadors

NCCU’s agenda was very busy in May because of the biggest annual multicultural festival on campus, “The World Festival (政大世界狂歡節)”. This festival, celebrated on the second semester of each academic year, aims to celebrate the variety of countries, cultures, and ideologies represented on campus as well as to promote and consolidate internationalization at NCCU. The World Festival is also a good opportunity for international students to proudly represent their countries by signing up for the different activities and contests. It provides a platform for students to speak up and show others the unique beauty of the places they come from.

During the Opening Ceremony, the audience could appreciate the so-famous “Electric-Techno Neon Gods Performance (電音三太子)” followed by a sensual “Belly Dance Show (中東肚皮舞表演)” performed by NCCU local students from the Department of Arabic Language and Culture. The following days of the festival were also packed with impressive performances such as the “Mingdao Elementary School Diabolo Team Performance (明道國小扯鈴隊)” , “NCCU Flamenco Dance Club (政大佛朗明哥舞社)”, “Flag-Drum Dance Team (新唐人旗鼓隊)” as well as two other dance performances by NCCU Russian and Korean Departments, respectively.

The most anticipated event was indeed the “Fashion Show – Costume Show (各國服裝秀)”, which showed traditional costumes from different countries all over the world and the “Food Festival (美食嘉年華)” where you could try the most exotic cuisine and traditional dishes from all around the world prepared by NCCU international students themselves. According to the visitors, their favorite stands were those from European countries, especially the ones representing Czech Republic, Spain, and Romania, whose dishes were taught in the “Workshop: Romania Night!”. However, it was the “Caribbean Flavor Stand – Saint Kitts and Nevis” who won the first place in the “Booth Decoration Competition (攤位布置競賽)”, followed by Morocco in second place, and Mainland China in third.

There were also a variety of interesting talent shows such as “Can You Sing in Cantonese? – A Fun Contest! (五粵天歌唱比賽)”, and “An Aboriginal Night – Starry Night 「原‧夜」晚會”.
NCCU reaches its 86th anniversary milestone

National Chengchi University (NCCU) commemorated the 86th anniversary of its establishment by holding a series of events from May 13 to May 20. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and local community gathered from different places for the annual celebration. The anniversary was marked with a variety of programs and activities throughout the week. More than 80 years of people, ideas and accomplishments have been the solid foundation of the well reputed university today and are continuing to project optimistically into the future.

The Homecoming Day attracted alumni from all over the world on May 18. To welcome the alumni, NCCU Pilot team (政治大學引水人) took them for a comprehensive campus tour, updating their memory of NCCU campus environment and its community. Passing through NCCU Archive Building (校史館), Art & Culture Center (藝文中心), the newly built Zih Chiang Residence Hall No.10 (自強十舍), Waterfront Lift (水岸電梯), and the new Research Center (研究總中心) while listening to how NCCU has become in internationalized university with more than 500 partners around the world and gained its global recognition after their gradation, many of them were amazed at the evolution of the university. Waterfront Lift, for example is one of the major efforts done to better connect NCCU with its community as part of the “We Are Family Project,” a project facilitating a closer tie with its neighbors. Fascinated by the story and ideas behind the construction of the new facilities at NCCU, they felt proud how their alma mater has advanced and were at the same time looking forward to its new visions.

Annual Sport Games held on May 17 and 18, was also one of the featured events. Busy and lively sports schedule demonstrated the energetic and dynamic side of the people at NCCU, students and faculty both highly devoted to sports. Of all the games, cheerleading competition was almost always the highlight, a competition that required different levels of coordination and teamwork, which undoubtedly was not only a physical training and practice but also an educational opportunity.

To add to the fun of the anniversary, this year NCCU hosted several special activities to celebrate the anniversary. For instance, NCCU I Love You (政大520) solicited wedding photos taken at NCCU campus. NCCU Scenery (政大一景) invited talents to submit creative snaps of the beautiful scenery of the university. Cake Decorating Competition (創意蛋糕大賽) attracted numerous teams of students and faculty members to create their perfect cake to mark the joyful anniversary. The Anniversary Celebration Ceremony (校慶慶祝大會) itself took place on May 20. Among many others, five alumni, seven teachers and researches, ten faculty members, and six students were awarded eminent figures and granted with certifications. The outstanding alumni came from such backgrounds as law, education, communication, etc. Many of them already CEOs, they humbly expressed their gratitude for how NCCU has supported their career and life and did not forget to give an inspiring speech to the audience. Their well established reputation and success in Taiwan has served as a good model for the current students. With extraordinary achievements recognized in the society from diverse disciplines, NCCU is believed to continue its enduring legacy and its firm step into an ever-brighter future.
New education ideas brought back from Vocaclium Berlin 2013 Vocational Fair

STORY
BY Tina Cheng
PHOTO
BY OIC

The Vocaclium Berlin 2013 was held on 5-6, June 2013 at Berlin, Germany by the IfT Institute for Talent Development and Industry (IfT Institut für Talententwicklung) with a focus on university-industry cooperation and study abroad opportunities. The fair, with 280 exhibitors, attracted a total of 12,000 visitors on the two days. Ms. Caroline Tsai, Executive Manager for European Affairs from the Office of International Cooperation (OIC) National Chengchi University (NCCU), participated in this vocational, career, and education fair brought back new ideas of education and internships. This occasion also offers companies and schools the chance to recruit potential German high school students.

More than 160 training companies, colleges and universities joined Vocaclium Berlin to promote their educational institutions and study programs. It was the first time for education division of the Taipei Representative Office in Germany to participate in this fair and NCCU was one of the invited universities representing Taiwan. Taiwan booth was well visited by over 150 students with 30 prearranged appointments. Most inquiries received were in the fields of business administration, social sciences, medicine, law, psychology, computer science, electrical engineering, and language learning.

Other than colleges and universities, a great number of vocational schools participated in the fair to talk directly to high school students. Several renowned German companies such as Mercedes-Benz, Bayerische Motoren Werke AG and Allianz also seized the opportunity to introduce their enterprises and provide the students vocational training opportunities. This may be an indicator of the differences between Taiwan and Germany’s educational systems; the latter emphasizing more on technical education, skills training and development courses.

Moreover, Ms. Tsai strived to augment existing relationships with partner schools as well as build new ones. She paid a visit to three schools, including Freie Universität Berlin, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. A partner school cooperation agreement between Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and NCCU will be signed thereby offering a new choice for NCCU outgoing exchange.

During her short stay in Berlin, Ms. Tsai brought back some tips that might be useful for future NCCU outgoing students. First, as a student in Berlin, you can purchase a semester ticket, valid for the current semester and allows you to use the public transportation in Berlin. Besides that, the cost of living in Berlin is lower compared to other capitals in Europe. “This really benefits students who are going to study in Germany,” said Ms. Tsai. “Hopefully, we will be able to boost the number of current incoming (60) and outgoing (44) exchange students and continue strengthening the collaboration ties with Germany.”

Representatives from the Taipei Representative Office in Germany, National Chengchi University and Tamkang University attend Vocaclium Berlin 2013, actively promoting education in Taiwan to attract students from Germany.

### Visiting Guests

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<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
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http://oic.nccu.edu.tw
International students play their own Chinese legend

Sounds of Chinese musical instruments pealed during the night as each actor and actress concentrated on the rehearsal in preparation for their stage performance. Among them, ten were actually international students from National Chengchi University (NCCU) performing the roles of Peking Opera, experiencing the essence of Chinese culture.

Students from China, Korea, Germany, Czech Republic, U.S.A and Morocco participated together in the class 'To Learn Chinese Opera with Fun' to explore the beauty of Chinese opera. In addition to visiting National Taiwan College of Performing Arts, appreciating the shows in the theaters, and learning the background knowledge of Chinese opera, these students even performed on stage at Armed Forces Cultural Center on May 18 to demonstrate the knowledge and skill they have acquired from the classes.

Professor Zhen Guo (郭貞) from the Department of Advertising, who took on the role of directing the class, gladly shared her thoughts on the process of preparing for the event. This time, they were fortunate to have the most famous Chinese orchestra and professional actors and actresses working collaboratively to produce the intricate stories, Legend of Tang Dynasty and Song Dynasty. With support from NCCU, Guo can once again led international students into the complicated world of Chinese opera this semester. Although they faced financial difficulties and occasional language barriers with the students, Prof. Guo and other teachers still held on to their faith and overcame these challenges at the end.

After weeks of practice, the actors and actresses became more skilled and acquainted with their roles. Acting as eunuchs, knights and fairies in the Chinese opera, they spent much time learning the gestures, lyrics and dance. One of the fairies, played by American student Heather Dahl Bayer (貝海瑟) said, “It was hard to learn to stand with holding the hands in lotus form and legs crossed at the beginning, but I really like the elegance of the pose. Though I did not understand completely each element contained in Chinese opera, I still tried to appreciate its beauty. It is a nice experience to perform on the stage.”