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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2018 SATU Presidents' Forum – General Assembly & Steering Committee Meeting



High-ranking administrators representing the highest-ranked institutions of higher learning located in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam attending the 2018 SATU Presidents' Forum – General Assembly, November 16–17, Ge-Chi Hall of NCKU, Tainan, Taiwan.

Thirty-nine foreign universities sent high-ranking administrators to participate in the 2018 SATU General Assembly, a 25% increase compared with any assembly since 2012.

The 7th Biennial 2018 General Assembly and the 14th Annual 2018 Steering Committee Meeting of the Presidents' Forum of Southeast and South Asia and Taiwan Universities (SATU Presidents' Forum or SATU for short) were both successfully hosted by the National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) on November 16th and 17th. In total, university presidents and high-ranking administrators of 76 out of the 92 SATU member universities attended. These universities included the highest-ranked institutions of higher learning located in the following eight countries, namely India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

#1 ranked university represented for 8 countries, including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The theme of 2018 SATU was “Cultivating Culturally Competent and Globally Engaged Talents.” The three informative keynote speeches centered on the major challenges that academia confronts when collaborating with industry, how universities can more effectively

enhance public health care technologies, and how academia can better prepare their students to tackle real-world problems. The parallel sessions focused on agricultural, engineering, and medical issues related to this year's theme.

Six universities joined SATU this year, raising the total number of member universities from 92 to 98.

During the annual Steering Committee meeting, 6 new membership applications were approved bringing the total membership for 2019–2020 to 98 by the addition of the following universities:

- Hué University (Vietnam),
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (India),
- Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (India),
- King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (Thailand),
- Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia), and
- The University of Danang – University of Science and Technology (Vietnam),

The Joint Research Scheme (JRS) represents one of SATU's most successful programs, resulting in an increasing number of collaborations among researchers in member universities.



2018 SATU Steering Committee Annual Meeting November 16, 2018, Tainan, Taiwan.

The next Steering Committee Meeting, in November 2019, will be hosted by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia and the next SATU General Assembly will meet in 2020 with the theme of "Incorporating Social Responsibility into Our Universities: Challenges, Opportunities, and Possibilities." Until then, the SATU International Secretarial at NCKU will keep its commitments to enhancing the performance of this international platform through the successful Joint Research Scheme program, the local chapter workshops, the summer school program at NCKU, and all plausible networking activities.

2018 SATU Manifesto

More than 50 representatives of the SATU member universities endorsed the 2018 SATU Manifesto with signatures. This declaration reaffirmed the shared belief that the excellence of universities can increase the competitiveness, productivity, resiliency, and well-being of our regions' peoples and societies, and that "we can make a difference together."

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

NCKU iGEM Team Wins a Gold Medal Three Consecutive Years: Overseas Chinese Students Play Major Role

On October 28, 2018 in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., the NCKU iGEM Team successfully competed with 340 teams from around the world and earned the Gold Medal status for a record third consecutive year. Since 2016, NCKU has been sending a cross-disciplinary International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Team, composed of biotechnology, mechanical, and electrical engineering undergraduate students, to the annual iGEM competition. This worldwide synthetic biology competition was first organized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2003, and has focused on combining genetic engineering with different fields of knowledge, including mechanical and electrical engineering, computer science, statistics, and artificial intelligence (AI). Our teams have also won the Best Environment Project Award in the undergraduate division in both 2017 and 2018, and the Best Presentation Award in the undergraduate division in 2018.

Most special, nonetheless, is the fact that the initiator of our NCKU iGEM Team, Professor I-Son Ng of our Department of Chemical Engineering, is an NCKU overseas Chinese student alumni. Equally special, overseas Chinese students have been part of each year's team. These students were, in 2016, He-Qing Seow from the Department of Materials Science & Engineering, in 2017, Nai Yang Yeat from the Department of Biotechnology & Bioindustry Sciences, and in 2018, Zhen Hui Hoe from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Chee Yun Long from the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Zhen Yee Wu and Chun Theng (Patrick) Chong from the Department of Biotechnology & Bioindustry Sciences.

These successful team efforts involving both overseas Chinese students and domestic students not only highlight the importance of outstanding academic knowledge and the ability to work with scholars in other disciplines, but also demonstrate the growing diversity and internationalization of our student body. Our Overseas and Mainland Chinese Students Affairs Division has been dedicated to the recruitment of exceptional overseas and mainland Chinese students, as a part of this division's long-term mission of enhancing the overall academic performance of our university.



The 2018 NCKU iGEM Team members celebrating the competition results.

Overseas Chinese students were important members of the Gold Medal winning NCKU iGEM Teams at iGEM competitions.



The 2018 NCKU iGEM Team members receiving their hard earned Gold Medal and project awards.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Partnership with Purdue University on Cooperative Education



From left to right, Vice Dean Chen Pei-Yin, Dean Lee Woei-Shyan, and Executive Vice President Huang Cheng-Hung of NCKU, and Dean Chiang Mung of Purdue University moments after signing the Agreement on Dual Degree Program and Online Courses.

NCKU and Purdue University, located in West Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A., have established an “Agreement on Dual Degree Program and Online Courses” to consolidate a partnership on cooperative education. This agreement was signed on November 29, 2018 by Purdue University’s Dean of the College of Engineering, Professor Chiang Mung, and by both NCKU’s Dean of the College of Engineering, Professor Lee Woei-Shyan, and Vice Dean of the College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Professor Chen Pei-Yin, and witnessed by the Executive Vice President of NCKU, Professor Huang Cheng-Hung. Also in attendance representing Purdue University were the Associate Dean for External Affairs in the College of Engineering, Professor Dimitrios Peroulis, the Assistant Dean for Global Engineering Programs, Professor George Chiu, and the Senior Associate Vice President for Advancement of Purdue Engineering, Ms. Alyssa Wilcox.

NCKU’s Office of International Affairs (OIA) played a key role in establishing an innovative bachelor and master’s degree program with Purdue University.



This agreement establishes an innovative 3+1+1 cooperative bachelor’s and master’s degree program incorporating Purdue Engineering Online courses, the first of its kind signed by Purdue University with a university located outside of the U.S. If accepted into the program, students will take Purdue Engineering Online courses, beginning in their third year, to obtain a head start on their academic training at Purdue University. Highly motivated fourth-year NCKU undergraduate engineering students will have the opportunity to complete both their bachelor of science degree from NCKU and master’s degree from Purdue University, by taking two years of coursework at Purdue University.



From left to right, Vice Dean Chen Pei-Yin and Dean Lee Woei-Shyan of NCKU, and Ms. Alyssa Wilcox, Dean Chiang Mung, Associate Dean Dimitrios Peroulis, and Assistant Dean George Chiu of Purdue University just after the signing ceremony, which was held in the on-campus NCKU Museum.

As part of this partnership, faculty members of Purdue’s College of Engineering will teach intensive courses at NCKU on a regular basis. The hope is that these dual degree and faculty exchange programs will lead to greater educational and research collaborations that will enhance the global competitiveness of both universities.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2018 Fall Semester: Overseas & Mainland Chinese New Student Orientation

The annual 2018 Overseas and Mainland Chinese New Student Orientation, held on September 3rd, was hosted by our Overseas and Mainland Chinese Students Affairs Division (OMCSAD), with assistance from our campus's Overseas Chinese Students Association (OCSA) and Mainland Chinese Students Association (MCSA). There were 220 new students in attendance, including 154 overseas and 66 mainland Chinese students. The overseas Chinese students came primarily from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Macau, Indonesia, and Myanmar, with a smaller number arriving from Vietnam, Thailand, Canada, the United States, Brazil, Spain, Paraguay, Malawi, South Africa, and Japan.



Overseas and mainland Chinese students attending NCKU's annual new student orientation.



Associate Vice President for International Affairs Chen Chia-Yuan welcoming the new students to our university.

A visit to the library was provided for the first-year graduate students following the orientation. In addition, the OCSA was introduced and overseas Chinese students were encouraged to register for the 2018 OCSA Orientation Camp. Lastly, 4th-year students from both the OCSA and MCSA took this opportunity to help the new students complete the admission process, which marked the beginning of their college studies in Taiwan.

Associate Professor Chen Chia-Yuan, our Associate Vice President for International Affairs, opened the orientation with warm words of encouragement and support for these new students. Director Fenny Wang of the OMCSAD and her staff members followed by introducing some of the more important services offered by their division, including assisting with health insurance, the Taiwan residence certificate, work permits, and scholarships. Director Wang hoped that these incoming freshmen and first-year graduate students will realize that her campus division can help them with both daily life and academic problems.

The Overseas and Mainland Chinese Students Affairs Division of our OIA hosts an annual new student orientation for overseas and mainland Chinese students.



Director Fenny Wang introducing the services that the Overseas and Mainland Chinese Students Affairs Division provides for international Chinese students at NCKU.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Sarawak Taiwan Alumni Association Visits National Cheng Kung University



Visiting Malaysian high school principals, teachers, and counselors at the famous Banyan Garden of the NCKU campus.

On August 21, 2018, the President of the Sarawak Taiwan Alumni Association, Zhang Zhangyuan, and a group of 24 Malaysian high school principals, teachers, and counselors visited our university. They received a brief introduction to NCKU, and information on how international students should apply to our university and about the counselling and consultation services available to all our students.

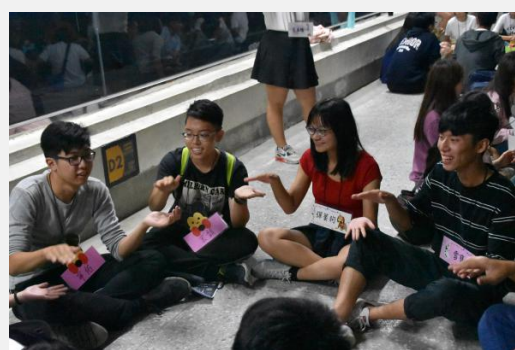
In recent years, the number of overseas Chinese and Malaysian students from East Malaysia, where Sarawak is located, attending NCKU has been rapidly increasing, especially among those who excel in mathematics and the hard sciences. East Malaysia, therefore, has become an important region from which to enroll international students.

This group also met with the overseas Chinese and other East Malaysian students currently attending NCKU and toured the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, where the administrative offices for our international engineering programs are located. The firsthand exposure to the international student situation at NCKU obtained by these visitors has strengthened the level of friendship existing between our university and the Sarawak Taiwan Alumni Association, with the future benefit of encouraging enrollment cooperation with additional East Malaysian schools.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2018 OCSA Orientation Camp

The 2018 Overseas Chinese Students Association (OCSA) Orientation Camp was successfully held from October 5th to 7th at the Chiayi Tiaotiao Ecological Farm, featuring “Disney Dream Wonderland” as the theme. The new students explored this “wonderland” camp like the main characters of movies. Forty-six freshmen from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Macao, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and South Africa joined the event in the company of 67 staff and student members of the OCSA.



Overseas Chinese freshman students, and staff and student members of the OCSA during the first night of the 2018 OCSA Orientation Camp.

The camp began with ice-breaking games, performances, and singing sessions during the first night on the NCKU campus, before moving to the farm for the following two days. Once at the farm, the freshmen participated in a series of activities, including group Player Killing (PK) games, station games, and the highlight of the camp – the campfire get-together. The OCSA leaders hoped that this orientation offered new experiences for these overseas Chinese freshmen, which will help them develop a sense of belonging with the OCSA community and assist them in adapting more rapidly and easily to life in Taiwan.

Recruiting Students in Europe and South and Southeast Asia

During November and December 2018, the Director of ISAD, Assistant Professor Li Yueh-Heng, led a group of NCKU faculty and ISAD staff members on visits to universities in France, India, Laos, Sweden, and Thailand. They also promoted NCKU at the Student's Fair (Salon de l'Etudiant), an education event held in Paris, France on December 8, 2018.

The visits to India, Laos, and Thailand have been motivated in part by Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, launched in September 2016 with the purpose of enhancing cooperation and exchange between Taiwan and 18 countries in Southeast and South Asia, and also Australasia.

Recently, NCKU has been particularly interested in recruiting students from Laos and Cambodia, as well as, increasing collaborations with universities, research institutes, and industry in these two countries, endeavoring to establish such collaborations for the enhancement of the international competitiveness of NCKU and of all partners involved.



The Director of ISAD, Assistant Professor Li Yueh-Heng (fourth from the left in the back row), and ISAD staff members promoting NCKU and other Taiwanese universities at the Student's Fair, held in France.



NCKU faculty members and ISAD representatives visiting with administrators and faculty members of the National University of Laos, located in Vientiane, Laos.

Go Abroad Forum

Our Internationalization Information and Service Division (IISD) and NCKU Student Union co-hosted a 4-night "Go Abroad" forum on September 28th, and October 1st to 3rd, in coordination with our International Relations Division (IRD). This forum was held to encourage NCKU students to study abroad in both short-term student exchange programs and graduate degree programs. During the first two nights, Taiwanese who had worked or conducted research abroad in Cambodia, Russia, and Australia discussed how living abroad had provided valuable learning and life experiences, and had promoted self-discovery and a clearer sense of self. On the third night, recent NCKU students who had gone abroad in exchange programs and current international exchange students at NCKU shared their experiences in adapting to life in foreign cultures. On the final night, NCKU alumni who had obtained their master's degrees in the UK provided valuable insights on preparations for and precautions while studying abroad.



Upper portion of the post promoting the "Go Abroad" forum held on the NCKU campus at the beginning of the 2018 Fall Semester.



A large number of NCKU students attending the opening night of the 4-night forum.

The 2018 NCKU International Summer School had 31 students representing the following universities: Institut Teknologi Bandung (Indonesia), Nagasaki University (Japan), Osaka Prefecture University (Japan), Osaka University (Japan), the Chinese University of Hong Kong (China), the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia), the University of Malaya (Malaysia), the National University of Kaohsiung (Taiwan), Tamkang University (Taiwan), the Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), and NCKU.

2018 NCKU International Summer School

The 2018 NCKU International Summer School was successfully held from August 2 to August 17, featuring *i* Circular Economy (*i*CE) as the theme, where “*i*” meant intelligent, international, industrial, integrated, and interactive. All the classes were taught in English and centered on leading-edge circular economy principles as practiced worldwide and by the local Taiwan Sugar Corporation (Taisugar), our industry partner. Optional classes were also offered on Chinese language and culture. In addition, the students participated in a large number of extracurricular activities that helped to foster perhaps lifelong, cross-cultural friendships.

The field trips were among the most popular activities of this program and exposed these students to the real-world applications of circular economy methods being utilized currently by Taisugar. This domestic company has been actively exploring how to employ such methods to both increase profits and better protect and sustain our natural environment.



Students, instructors, and directors of the 2018 NCKU International Summer School at the opening ceremony.



Official poster announcing the “intelligent Circular Economy” or iCE 2018 course.



Students listening to their guide on a field trip to the Taisugar greenhouses located in Tainan, during the 2018 NCKU International Summer School.

NCKU Office of International Affairs (OIA)

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