



PingTech Newsletter



First President's Forum at NPUST Huge Success, Leads to Creation of the University Network for Tropical Agriculture (UNTA)



On December 12~14, 2012 National Pingtung University of Science and Technology hosted the first ever President's Forum on Agriculture for Leading Universities in Southeast Asia at the NPUST International Conference Hall. University presidents from Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Germany were in attendance at this landmark event, along with Director General Mr. Wen-Tong Lin (MOE) and Director General Mr. Rong-Chuan Wu (MOFA). The focus of the Forum included agricultural education, technology, innovation,

food security and sustainable development. During a roundtable discussion, university representatives agreed on a charter and formally established the University Network for Tropical Agriculture (UNTA) to work towards common objectives in the area of tropical agriculture. Members also agreed that the permanent secretariat for UNTA would be seated at NPUST and that the 2013 and 2014 Forums will be hosted by Indonesia's Bogor Agricultural University and Thailand's Kasetsart University, respectively.



NPUST Thailand Taiwan Education Center Unveiling and Opening Ceremony

National Pingtung University of Science and Technology's Taiwan Education Center (TEC) in Thailand held its unveiling and opening ceremony at the Bangkok campus of Thailand's Kasetsart University on Feb. 21st 2013. Dr. Tony W. T. Lin, Director-General of the Bureau of International Cultural and Educational Relations, NPUST President Dr. Yuan-Kuang Guu, Dr. Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President of Kasetsart University, and other distinguished guests were present to offer their congratulations. The Center in Bangkok and branch office in Chiang Mai will work to expand recruitment of foreign students coming to Taiwan for studies and promote Chinese language and culture abroad. The TEC will also be responsible for holding bilateral higher educational forums, education fairs, Chinese language proficiency tests and coordinating with national policy to promote Thailand-Taiwan academic cooperation and networking with Taiwan's universities.



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Excellence in International Education & Cooperation:

President Guu Recognized for Contributions

Thailand's Kasetsart University conferred an honorary doctorate degree on NPUST president, Prof. Dr. Yuan-Kuang Guu, in Food Engineering for his accomplishments in long-term academic cooperation, faculty and student exchange and research collaboration. During his time as Director of the Office of Research and Development, President Dr. Guu began conducting academic exchanges with Kasetsart University and since then he has continued his hard work at National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, working towards the internationalization of the campus via international cooperation and education diplomacy. NPUST now has sister-university agreements with 21 of Thailand's esteemed universities and every year

approximately 60 teachers or students attend bilateral exchanges or research cooperation projects. For his work, President Dr. Guu was presented with an honorary doctorate degree in Food Engineering during the July graduation ceremony of 2012 and also received a certificate of recognition from HRH Princess Chulabhorn. This is the second honorary doctorate degree that Prof. Dr. Guu has received from Thailand's universities; the first being conferred by Maejo University in 2010. Additionally, at the Taiwan Ministry of Education 2012 Outstanding Education and Public Service Awards Ceremony, President Dr. Guu was also among the recipients who were awarded for their contributions to education in Taiwan.



Dr. Liang-chou Hsia Receives Outstanding Contribution Award at 15th AAAP Animal Science Congress

Professor Liang-chou Hsia, Department of Animal Science, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, is renowned for his expertise in animal science, and his contributions in the field cannot be overstated. Dr. Hsia served as Director of the Animal Farm on campus and has introduced many of the latest international theories and core technologies from his field to Taiwan, held training courses for different levels of students and professionals in the field of animal husbandry and offered classes to educate farmers in new farming techniques. Dr. Hsia, who recently retired, was nominated for and awarded the Outstanding Contribution Award at the 15th Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies (AAAP) Animal Science Congress, held on November 26-30 at Thammasat University, Thailand; making him the first Taiwanese to ever receive this great honor. This prestigious award is presented every two years following a nomination and selection process conducted by representatives of participating countries. Dr. Hsia's contributions to animal science have been the result of the hard work and dedication that he has invested into the field over the past 30 years. He says that following retirement he will still continue his research and hold workshops for farmers to serve the local community.





President Ma Encourages Innovation for the Future: NPUST Ready for the Challenge



President Ma Ying-jeou visited National Pingtung University of Science and Technology on May 5, 2012, to talk about using Green energy to jumpstart the next generation. President Ma said that he would like to transform Taiwan into an energy-saving, low-carbon island. While visiting, President Ma also took a spin in an electric car, which is one of NPUST's many recent great achievements in R&D. The electric car President Ma rode in was one of three models of electric powered cars developed by an NPUST team, which made use of eco-friendly, long lasting, 3C zinc-air fuel cell batteries as its power source. Professor Chiu-Feng Lin, Dean of College of Engineering, who led the team said they overcame problems of power deficiency during acceleration by creating a "hybrid zinc-air – lithium powered model" The professor and students were unanimous in expressing that "smart electric cars are 'going main-stream' – so there is no need to fear rising gas prices anymore!" And the timing couldn't be better, as President Ma emphasized during his speech, Taiwan needs to take action to develop technology to meet future energy needs. After talking on Green development, President Ma also took time to interact with students and encouraged them to do their best to care for the environment by doing such things as using eco-friendly bags or turning off lights when leaving a room. NPUST has already taken significant action to do its part in making the future Green and this visit has offered new incentive!



The 7th Taiwan-Thailand Bilateral Conference



National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) hosted the 7th Taiwan-Thailand Bilateral Conference on October 17 of 2012. This two-day bilateral conference is hosted biennially by NPUST

and Thailand's Kasetsart University (KU) and allows participants to take part in oral or poster presentations and field trips. NPUST's Department of Food Science has been actively engaging in a variety of academic cooperation and exchange programs with Thailand universities over the years, and KU is one of NPUST's closest partners. Since 2001, NPUST and KU have co-hosted six bilateral conferences and hope to promote a number international collaboration and development efforts in the fields of food science and agriculture. To help work towards their goals, the conference invited field experts and several prestigious agriculture scholars from Thailand universities to share and exchange knowledge and novel technology with experts from academic and research institutes in Taiwan. Keynote speeches at the conference included "Agro-Industry and Food Science Network in Thailand and ASEAN" by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siree Chiseri, Vice President for Academic Affairs, KU; and "Green Bio-business of Taiwan Creates Infinite Commercial Opportunity" by Dr. Jen-Pin Chen, Deputy Director General, Agriculture and Food Agency, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan, ROC. The conference was a great success, and NPUST and KU look forward to the contributions to agriculture that will be seen as a result of these bilateral initiatives.

Outstanding Performances at International Venues!



Congratulations to Director Dr. Tzou-Chi Huang of NPUST's Department of Biological Science and Technology and his team for receiving the 2012 Invention Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) gold medal award! Dr. Huang recently took part in the ITEX 2012 and his cutting-edge method, which can prepare 6-Shogaol from Zingiber Officinale by using supercritical fluid, captured the judges' unanimous favor and won him the gold medal in the Biological Science and Technology category. Dr. Huang's invention uses carbon dioxide to create supercritical extractions and has proved

effective in killing leukemia cells. The method used involves purified high-pressure gel filtration and is not only clean, safe and non-toxic, but can produce extractions that can be used in foods, cosmetics or medical products. A patent (I363651) on this productive process has been filed and Dr. Huang's work was also published in the international journal, Drying Technology.

Congratulations to Prof. Cheng-Fa Tsai's team, Department of Information Management, who took home two golds and a silver from the 2012 International Warsaw Invention Show. The team won one gold for their data cluster analysis technology, which has a speed and accuracy that is likely the highest in the world. Their second gold was for a Cloud Computing, RGB cube based model which is a noticeable step up over such applications as Adobe Photoshop 9. Their silver medal was awarded for their high speed and quality Cloud Computing compression technology.



Congratulations also to Assoc. Prof. Wen-Tung Chen of the Department of Hotel and Restaurant Management who won the Gold Medal Award for Individual Category - Best dish - Meat & Vegetable Hot Dishes at the 7th World Championship of Chinese Cuisine, held in November, 2012 in Singapore.



NPUST Showcases its Amazing Developments

Pingtung University of Science and Technology put on an exhibition to showcase 67 of its research and development accomplishments. Among the items on display, were three Shampignon Mushrooms weighing over half a kilogram and a 4 wheel independent drive electric car. The jumbo sized Shampignon Mushrooms which were cultivated from a Brazilian species are three times larger than regular mushrooms and can weigh more than 200 grams each. The technique for cultivation has already been transferred to producers and they currently sell for at least 2000NTD per kilogram. Behind the development of these giant mushrooms is professor Wen-Jinn Liang who explained that unlike regular mushrooms which are cultivated with sawdust, the Shampignon use pangolagrass. The technique also does not require pesticides, and growing materials are reusable thereby helping to lower carbon levels. The exhibition also had on display a face-to-face, three person powered bicycle that allows riders to sit opposed to one another across a tabletop setting, as well as a 4 wheel independent drive electric race car, which was taken for a test spin by President Ma Ying-jeou during his visit. Other highlights of NPUST's recent research developments include a wind and wave powered water desalination machine, coffee skin care products and a new technique for growing "Rainy Mushrooms" which allows for cultivation in all four seasons.



2012 GreenMetric World University Ranking: PingTech 32nd

Universitas Indonesia (UI) announced the results of its GreenMetric Ranking of World Universities on January 8, 2013. The list, which compares university efforts to develop campus sustainability and environmentally-friendly university management, was published for its third year. This year, 215 universities from 49 countries took part, which is a significant increase over last year's 178 universities and 42 countries. The results are computed from information provided online by participating universities. This year the information was organized under six main categories. These categories and their weightings are: Green Statistics (15%), Energy and Climate Change (21%), Waste Management (18%), Water Usage (10%), Transportation (18%), and Education (18%). NPUST placed 32nd in the world, 9th in Asia and 4th in Taiwan. Among the categories, NPUST was the 1st in Taiwan and 22nd in the world for Education.



Taiwan President and Gambian President Plant NPUST Cultivated Monkey Bread Tree

President Ma Ying-jeou and Gambian President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh visited the Kaohsiung District Agricultural Research and Extension Station (ARES) on July 29th and planted a monkey bread tree which was cultivated in the NPUST nursery. During this occasion the presidents were met by a very enthusiastic welcome from Gambian students who waved Republic of China and Gambia national flags. These students who have traveled great distances to come to Taiwan for studies were thrilled at the opportunity to see their own President here in Taiwan.

NPUST has more than 30 students from Gambia enrolled in undergraduate, master's or PhD programs; a majority of which are studying in the field of Tropical Agriculture. The monkey bread tree was cultivated from seeds given to President Ma by President Jammeh while President Ma was visiting Gambia. At that time President Jammeh served a batch of monkey-bread tree fruit juice, explaining about the special features of this tree and how it is exceptionally well suited for tropical climates. President Ma transferred the seeds to NPUST for experiments and cultivation. Finally this series of events came full circle when the two presidents had the opportunity to plant the tree together in Taiwan.



His Majesty King Mswati III and Queen of Swaziland, Prime Minister and Other Dignitaries Visit NPUST



On October 28, 2012, His Majesty King Mswati III and the Queen visited NPUST with other delegates, warmly welcomed by NPUST President, Dr. Mike Yuan-Kuang Guu, faculty members and administrative staff. International students were also present, attending the briefing held at the NPUST library and viewing the exhibits set up to share NPUST's biotechnology achievements with His Majesty King Mswati III and the other guests. The king's visit was preceded by a May visit from Swazi Prime Minister, Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, who was accompanied by Mr. Richard Chiu, Secretary General of the Department of African Affairs, MOFA. And the month prior, a group of Swazi dignitaries, including Swazi Minister and Vice-Minister of Science and Technology also visited the campus. The Kingdom of Swaziland and NPUST have built a strong relationship based on cooperation in agriculture and aquaculture initiatives and these important visitations not only affirm the academic success of NPUST, but have provided opportunities to share some of NPUST's latest biotechnology and agriculture R&D achievements with Swaziland as both sides look forward to continued future cooperation.





PingTech's International Youth Ambassador and Volunteer Exchange Programs



Students from NPUST's Applied Linguistics have been granted MOFA subsidies to take part in an International Youth Ambassador Program and work towards the expansion of Taiwan's "flexible diplomacy". The aim of the project is to develop an understanding of Taiwan's national conditions and culture among the future leaders of foreign countries. And in order to develop and strengthen foreign relationships, university and civil resources were combined to create a "soft power" cultural exchange. This International Ambassador Exchange Program held by MOFA selected 301 teachers & students to form the 43 teams that were sent to 21 ally nations and 17 friendly nations to conduct youth cultural exchanges. One team, comprised of six student representatives from NPUST together with assistant professor Mei Chen Lin acted as youth ambassadors to Guam, where they conducted an exchange with local Guam students. Meanwhile, NPUST's International Volunteer Association headed to Medan, Indonesia for community service work. The project called for recruitment of outstanding students from the different departments representing both the schools of humanities and social sciences, looking for volunteers who have a sense of team mission and are capable of designing and leading community service activities. The goal of the trip is to expand community service and diversify international volunteer service work.



The 32nd Technique Training Class for Overseas Youth

The 32nd Technique Training Class for Overseas Youth officially commenced at 8:30 am on March 1st in the audio-visual room located in the Department of Plant Industry at NPUST. The two-year program, which is focused on more practical plant industry and tropical agriculture training, is designed to help students obtain employment or run an agricultural business of their own after graduation. A total of 64 students coming from Malaysia and Indonesia took part in the training course and together with NPUST's president, Dr. Yuan-Kuang Guu, and other professors, the students were encouraged by the prospect that many of them would later return home to make contributions to their countries in related fields.



Austrian Education and Research Representatives Interested in Taiwan's Strengths

From November 8th to 13th, 2012, Dr. Christoph Ramoser, head of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science Department for International Relations together with nine cultural and educational representatives from Austrian higher education agencies, research organizations, recruitment and marketing agencies, and top universities paid visit to Taiwan on request from Taiwan's Ministry of Education. Following the visit, major changes are expected to develop in the academic cooperation relationship that exists between the two countries. In the past the focus has been to send Taiwan students to Austria to study in areas of music and arts; however at this time, Austria is now showing interest in Taiwan's areas of strength and would like to promote bilateral cooperation in such areas as life sciences, traditional medicines, health care systems and climate change.





Congratulations to NPUST's ICDF students for winning 2012 TICA CUP!



On December 8th at the 2012 TICA Cup, 32 of PingTech's ICDF Scholarship students fought hard to win the championship title! The Taiwan International Cooperation Alliance (TICA) was established by Taiwan IDCF in 2003 and every year a sporting event is held at one of the ICDF member universities for international students to take part in and show Taiwan what they are made of. This year the competition was held at Tainan University of Science and Technology and NPUST's representative international students took home the gold, out-competing 300 other students representative of 18 of Taiwan's universities and coming from 26 different countries!



Zainal Abidin: First UB-NPUST Double Degree Graduate



Zainal Abidin is the first student to graduate from the double degree program jointly held by NPUST and University of Brawijaya, Indonesia (UB). Abidin graduated from the Department of Agribusiness Management and now works at UB as a lecturer. Abidin explained that during his studies, the excellent quality of NPUST's teaching and facilities helped keep him motivated, saying that NPUST offers a "good academic atmosphere not only for Taiwanese, but also for foreign students" Abidin also wanted to express his gratefulness to his two advising professors, Dr. Wen-Chi Huang, at NPUST and Dr. Devanto S. Pratomo at UB as well as NPUST's President Guu and faculty members.



Bridging the way to a Brighter Academic Future!



On December 17th 2012, six participants of the Indonesia Bridging Program reported to the NPUST Office of International Affairs and were received by OIA Dean, Dr. Henry H. H. Chen, who introduced them to NPUST and discussed with them a variety of academic opportunities. During the three-month training, students were familiarized with the campus and attended classes, lab activities and field trips. Activities were focused on either Food Science or Agribusiness depending on the academic interest of the individual student, and they learnt new techniques through hands on activities. NPUST also arranged field trips for the six students to learn more about Taiwan culture.



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