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1 2021 UNTA General Assembly

The annual "UNTA General Assembly 2021 " was held on (11/24) at the "Yu-Yu-Yu Creative Idea Center" on the second floor of the school's library and exhibition hall. President Chang-Hsien Tai gave a speech and kicked off the meeting . This time, International Director Pomin Li of the International Affairs Office gave a briefing on several major events since the establishment of UNTA, including the long-standing "Scholars Exchange Visits", "Research Cooperation", "Online Courses" and "Newsletter" until 2020 and 2021 and other project descriptions. In the future, it plans to hold sustainable related "Summer Camps"

and "exchange students" and "scholarships" between member schools.

This year's UNTA General Assembly has IPB University, Periyar University, Maejo University, Kasetsart University, Rajamangala University of Technology Isan, Mahasarakham University, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Science and Technology of Hanoi (USTH) and NPUST nine school representatives participated.

In the meeting, in addition to the Secretariat's briefing on 2022's future related plans, followed by the election of the 2022 UNTA host school, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Weerapon Thongma, President of Maejo Univer-

city, Thailand and Special Assistant to the President of the Rajamangala University of Technology Isan, Dr. Anirut Pipatprapa" and "Professor Nguyen Hung Quang, President of Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, representatives of the core figures of the three universities gave a briefing on the proposal. After voting, Maejo University, Thailand was selected as the school to host the UNTA annual conference next year, and the UNTA secretariat will assist in the organization of the event. The participating members also look forward to the UNTA annual conference in 2022. Everyone can meet at Maejo University in Thailand.



The 2021 UNTA online workshop "Young voices in SDGs" group photo.

2 The 2021 UNTA online workshop "Young voices in SDGs"

The 2021 UNTA online workshop "Young voices in SDGs" is the first cross-border workshop organized by the UNTA Secretariat in conjunction with the four universities. In the speech, Deputy International Director Jane Helin served as the host of the workshop, which was held on (11/24) at the "Yu·Yu·Yue Creative Ideas Center" on the second floor of the school's

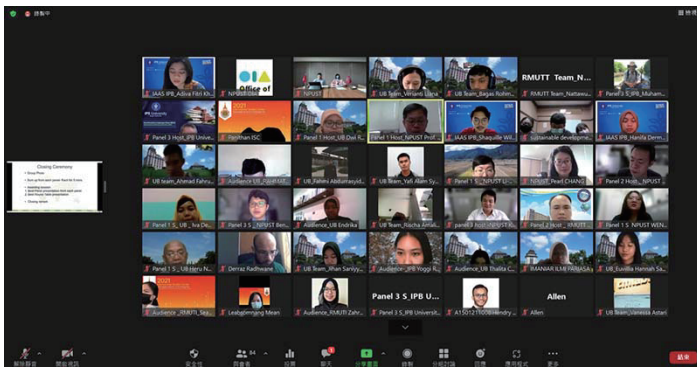
library and exhibition hall. Through the online group discussions and audience voting of "Young voices in SDGs", we hope to jointly promote the research exchanges of students of the Alliance and enhance the energy of academic research.

The workshop is divided into two parts. The first part is "Research Sharing". Teacher Wang Yumin from the Department of Civil Engineering, Teacher Long Wei from the Department of Wood Design and Teacher Zhuang Guobin from the Vaccine Institute are invited to serve as the hosts of each sharing. National Pingtung University of Science and Technology" and "University of Brawijaya, Indonesia", "IPB University of Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia", "Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi" and "University Putra Malaysia" Master and doctoral students from Universiti Putra Malaysia gave special reports on three topics including "Smart Agriculture", "Circular Economy" and "Ecological Restoration", and shared their relate research case. Students participating in this online session can freely choose the sessions and topics they are interested in, and finally the host of each session will select the best research case. There are nearly 30-40 online listeners in each session, and a total of about 100 people participated.

The second part is "Round-Table", which invites "National Pingtung University of Science and Technology", "University of Brawijaya, Indonesia", "IPB University of Bogor Agriculture, Indonesia", The student union of "Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi (RMUTT)" held a group briefing, focused on "sustainability issues", and presented

action cases and reflections. For example, IPB University mentioned many student exchange programs and community service programs that combine SDGs, while Indonesia Brau Java University introduced the policy direction of leading traditional agriculture with modern technology on the theme of the current agricultural plight in Indonesia and child malnutrition.

At the end of the workshop, Deputy International Director Herlin Chien announced the best briefing team voted by the audience, and the University of Brawijaya won the first place with more than 80% of the votes. Liu Liwei, a student from the Department of Civil Engineering, Zheng Guanting, a student from the Department of Wood Design, and Eva Cristine Ronauli, a student from IPB University, won the best research cases in each session.



The 2021 UNTA online workshop "Young voices in SDGs" group photo.

3 Overseas Community Students Celebrate 2022 Spring Festival in Taiwan

NPUST has enjoyed fruitful academic exchanges throughout Southeast Asia for many years; and for many years, the school has been welcoming good numbers of bright young students from Malaysia into its programs. For these Overseas Community students, Chinese New Year is a time usually spent at home with family and loved ones. And so, with cultural care and support from both the Ministry of Education and Overseas Community Affairs Council, this year on January 24th a Spring Festival Dinner was held for those students to help the feel at home for the holidays.



NPUST Vice-President Chao-lin Tuan greetings to all students.

At the banquet hall in Donggang, NPUST Vice-President Chao-lin Tuan addressed the students, saying

that “because of the pandemic, people cannot return home to be with family. But we hope that this year everyone will be happy and that at this dinner you will be able to enjoy the Chinese New Year atmosphere. We wish everyone health in the New Year and that all your plans will succeed. The Year of the Tiger will be better.”



NPUST freshmen student Chew Yongqi played popular songs on the violin.

Two students from Malaysia, Chan Han Qin and Chen Ching Teng served as the hosts for the event, using lively activities to set the atmosphere and get everyone in a festive mood. The overseas Chinese students demonstrated a variety of skills throughout the program, with Ooi Chun Haw and Lee You Jun opening things up with a fantastic diablo routine performed to Chinese-style music. Three students from the Overseas Youth Vocational Training School (Eng Xin Ye, Nicholas Koe Ming Song, and Tam Hou Wan) and four freshmen students (Yap Han Li, Chan Han qin, Jo Lee Xiao Thong, Ang Jia Min) followed up with a series of Chinese New Year song and dance performances. As they listened to the songs from

back home, the students in the audience joined in and sang along, making for a joyous scene. Adding to the ambiance, Chew Yongqi played a number of popular songs on the violin and immersed everyone in the melodious sounds of familiar songs as they enjoyed their food.

As per custom, Vice-President Chao-lin Tuan made his way from table to table to personally present a red envelope to each student and wish them a safe and happy New Year. The warm gesture was a highlight of the event, and gave the freshmen students celebrating the New Year away from home for the first time quite a pleasant surprise. Also very grateful, the senior students repeatedly thanked the Office of International Affairs and the school for the care they received.



Group photo of lucky draw winners and NPUST Vice-President Chao-lin Tuan.

For the event finale, a lucky draw was held and a fun game gave students a chance to have some extra laughs and prizes. Participating students got on stage and put sticky notes all over their bodies. Then, when the music played, they swayed to the beat to see how

many of the sticky notes they could shake off. When the music stopped, the student with the least notes won.

After the dinner, the party proceeded to Donggang's Donglong Temple— one of Taiwan's famous Wang Ye temples. On the scene, a tour guide introduced the origin and beauty of the architecture and explained about the god of the temple. The guide also shared on the origins of the King Welcoming Ceremony, the building of the King's Ship, the expelling of evil spirits, and the "Sending of the King". The students learned how, according to the folk customs, these things represented "heritage", "recognition of ancestry", "reverence for gods" and "respect for the Tao". During the process, students gained an understanding of Taiwan culture and could also silently pray for the well-being of their family and friends—and for the epidemic to subside as soon as possible with hopes of returning to home in the near future to reunite and celebrate with family and friends.

On January 19, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) held the "2022 Spring Festival DIY Paper Cutting Activity" for international students studying at the university. Kaidi Liu, a retired art teacher, was brought in to demonstrate paper cutting techniques and provide instruction. As the students learned how to make window artwork, they were introduced to Lunar New Year customs and enjoyed a memorable time with one another.



Group photo of "2022 Spring Festival DIY Paper Cutting Activity".

NPUST President Chang-Hsien Tai delivered a short speech at the event, pointing out that "the lunar new year is an important time of celebration for Chinese people. It is also a time when everyone gets together and celebrates the new year. Because of the epidemic, students cannot return home easily and may experience feelings of homesickness. Therefore, colleagues from the International Affairs Office and the school have taken it upon themselves to offer extra care to the students. I will also share a red envelope with everyone for good luck as we celebrate the coming of the Lunar New Year and look forward to a happy year ahead. "

The group of students participating in the paper cutting activity, was quite diverse. Pomin Li, dean of the Office of International Affairs, and Hsi-Hung Chen, Chief of the Education Division, participated in the activity together with other OIA staff members and students from such places as India, Thailand, Indone-

sia, Malaysia, Haiti and Belgium. Together they enjoyed the experience of paper cutting and the rich Lunar New Year atmosphere.



NPUST international students enjoyed the experience of paper cutting.

During the activity, Chun-Yi Lee from the Language Center provided much appreciated assistance with the paper-cut instructions which helped the activity to run very smoothly. The highlight of the event came when President Chang-Hsien Tai personally gave each student a red envelope and wished them joy in the year to come.



President Chang-Hsien Tai personally gave each student a red envelope.

4 *NPUST International Student Guidance Wins MOE Award*

As NPUST continues to promote internationalization under the leadership of university president Chang-Hsien Tai, the university has been working with the Office of International Affairs to improve the excellent and comfortable learning environments that they provide to overseas students who come from afar to study in Taiwan. They have also been working to enhance interaction and co-learning between overseas and local students and encouraging international cultural exchanges to increase Taiwanese students' understandings of the different cultural backgrounds of their overseas classmates. In recognition of the excellent results of all their work, on November 23, NPUST was named by the Ministry of Education as the "2021 Excellent School for Foreign Student Counseling Work".

Pomin Li, the Director of the Office of International Affairs offered some remarks, stating that "this honor is due to the joint efforts of the teachers and students of the school. During their studies in Taiwan, the school actively provides assistance, care and guidance to its overseas students, and helps them to solve the problem they encounter from time to time. We also hold many multicultural activities and lectures to promote cultural exchanges between Taiwan and other countries. These activities have been praised by

teachers and students both inside and outside of the school and have helped overseas students feel at ease and enjoy themselves during their time away from home.

NPUST's Office of International Affairs was established in 2004 and is currently organized into the Education Division, Cooperation Division and Development Division. The Education Division is responsible for the enrollment of overseas students, life counseling, handling of overseas student scholarships, residence permits and work permit applications. They also help domestic students with their applications for overseas study scholarships from the Ministry of Education and other organizations.

The Cooperation Division is responsible for managing the university's agreements with foreign sister schools and matters related to student exchanges and short-term overseas study groups. They also make the arrangements for executive visits, international cooperation activities and the reception of foreign guests. On top of this, they are responsible for work related to the Green University project, and are the point of contact for the University Network for Tropical Agriculture (UNTA). The Development Division is responsible for promoting international academic exchanges, the New Southbound project, and overseas special classes. They are also responsible for the Taiwan Education Center in Thailand.

Since 1998, the NPUST and the International Cooper-

ation and Development Fund have been conducting educational diplomacy, working together to recruit students from countries who have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. At the same time, the university has been cooperating with scholarship plans from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology to recruit foreign students for bachelors, masters, and doctorate degree programs. Later, in order to expand the enrollment of students from countries which currently do not have official diplomatic relationships with Taiwan, NPUST began offering a new set of scholarships and bursaries. Currently there are 528 overseas students studying at NPUST, coming from countries all around the world. Over the years, many students who have returned home after studying at the university have performed very well in their career development and have also helped to improved relations between their countries and Taiwan.



5 Maejo University, Received Second Runner-up “Hackulture Innovation...- Culture”: Line up Thai culture...to the Digital World”

Digital Communications students from Faculty of Information and Communication, Maejo University received the second runner-up award for the work, "Muang Kung Pottery: forward to the new generation" from the learning activity platform and creative competition "Hackulture Innovative...Culture": Line up Thai culture...to the digital world" which was organized by the Office of the National Digital Economy and Society Board, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society. The prize was awarded by Mr. Chaiwut Thanakmanusorn, Minister of Digital Economy and Society and Ms. Atcharin Pattanaphanchai, Permanent Secretary.

On this occasion, the students presented the work to Thanpuying Sirikitiya Jensen at the Vayupak Building, Chaeng Watthana Government Center, Bangkok.

The winning team members are as follows:

1. Ms. Ponchita Thaworn
2. Ms. Ponthipha Chandaprom
3. Mr. Nopparuj Phupara
4. Mr. Noraworn Techasorn
5. Mr. Puwaritsorn Chamnongwatt
6. Mr. Nitipon Yuenyong

Under instruction by Assistant Professor Napat Ruangnapakul, Ph.D.



Maejo University Student explains the result of their work.



The winning team members of Maejo University.

6 Maejo University Organized a Project to Build Tribal Farmers into Entrepreneurship, "Doi Omkoi Rice"

Faculty of Liberal Arts by Center for Social Innovation and Peace Studies organized activities under the project to build tribal farmers to become entrepreneurs, "Doi Omkoi Rice" with budget support from the Education Equality Fund (NSO), Community-Based Occupational Development Fund. The goal of this activity was to develop skills for underprivileged workers to become a new generation of entrepreneurs to be able to be self-reliant in a sustainable manner and to strengthen the community. This activity was to practice the skills of packaging rice and Doi rice processing skills into modern products; to create income opportunities from uncertainty in economic crop prices; and, to enhance knowledge and skills for adapting to modern markets and capital. The target group was farmers who were informal workers at Ban Mae Tom, Ban Mae Tom Bon and Ban Ka Be Din, Tambon Omkoi, Omkoi District, Chiang Mai Province. The speakers were from Maejo University, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Chiang Mai University, Faculty of Humanities, Home and Community, Faculty of Fine Arts, Thai Arts and Local Philosophers. In addition, this activity received cooperation and support from local authorities, led by the Prime Minister of Omkoi Subdistrict Administrative Organization.



The speakers were from Maejo University, Faculty of Liberal Arts.



Students learning skill of packaging rice and Doi rice.

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