



# Silkroad

Nov/Dec 2014 NCCU OIC Newsletter **ISSUE.49**



# ABOUT OIC

Internationalization has been one of the endeavors of National Chengchi University (NCCU). As a result, the Center of International Education and Exchange (IEE) was established in 2004, which later became the Office of International Cooperation (OIC). Under the leadership of the first director of the Center, Dr. Yeh-Yun Lin, numerous goals were set, which included increasing the quantity and quality of English-taught courses and programs at NCCU, creating an international learning environment, and expanding international student and faculty exchange.

In 2006, Dr. Shu-Heng Chen took over the leadership of IEE. Under his guidance and management, IEE/OIC has continued to carry forward and enhance the goals and ideals of globalization. In 2012/2013 academic year, the total numbers of NCCU's university level partners have been increased to over 260, the total numbers of incoming and outgoing exchange students have been increased to 1,000 each year, and there are over 500 degree seeking international students at NCCU.

In order to receive and manage the large number of international students, extensive efforts have been developed to create an international environment, e.g. the establishment of over 600 English taught courses, Chinese language teaching, numerous social, cultural, and academic activities to service foreign students. In addition, OIC has initiated programs to encourage Faculty Ambassador and Faculty/Researcher Exchange.

What's driven the OIC leader and staff to initiate and continue to develop this endeavor is the strong sense of vision and mission - to benefit students and faculty to expand their global academic and cultural horizon, and to provide opportunities for them to be trained as valuable social leaders and global citizens. The numbers of exchange activities may continue to vary, but the unity of vision and mission will never waiver.

Visiting Guests		
NATION	INSTITUTION	DATE OF VISIT
USA	Kentucky State University	2014.11.03
Japan	Tsuru University	2014.11.03
USA	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2014.11.04
Japan	Kobe University	2014.11.07
Canada	University of British Columbia	2014.11.12
Germany	University of Duisburg-Essen	2014.11.12
USA	University of South Carolina-Columbia	2014.11.13
Multiple	QS Joint Meeting	2014.11.14
Czech	Palacky University in Olomouc	2014.11.14
Japan	Meiji Gakuin University	2014.11.19
Slovak	University of Economics in Bratislava	2014.11.24
USA	Fulbright Taiwan	2014.11.25
Spain	Real Academia Espanola	2014.11.25
USA	George Mason University - Korea Incheon Global Campus	2014.11.26
Malaysia	Universiti Malaysia Sabah	2014.11.27
Macau	University of Macau	2014.11.28
Germany	DAAD	2014.12.03
USA	James Madison University	2014.12.09
France	Jean Moulin University Lyon 3	2014.12.11
Germany	University of Wuerzburg-cancelled	2014.12.11
Spain	University of Malaga (UMA)	2014.12.12
Japan	Hiroshima University	2014.12.12
Germany	DAAD	2014.12.12
Japan	Hokkaido University	2014.12.15
England	Imperial College London	2014.12.15
USA	Fordham University	2014.12.16
Japan	Nihon University	2014.12.18
Ireland	Dublin Institute of Technology	2014.12.19
Czech	Czech Economic and Cultural Office Taipei	2014.12.22
England	School of Oriental and African Studies(SOAS), University of London	2014.12.23



# OIC receives awards for providing excellent support to international students

Story by Yuan Yi

National Chengchi University's (NCCU) Office of International Cooperation (OIC) was awarded by the Ministry of Education in Taiwan for providing excellent guiding service and support to international students in October 2014. Ms. Melody Chang, incoming exchange student coordinator at the OIC, received award for her remarkable performance serving numerous exchange students.

By setting up this award program, the Ministry of Education aims to enhance the dialogue between Taiwanese and foreign colleges and to honor those institutions, as well as individuals, for unprecedented support for international students.

The OIC has established various services in order to help international students have a pleasant stay at NCCU. For example, the International House (I-House) is staffed with bilingual co-workers for 24 hours per day to support the international students at any time directly in their accommodation. The OIC has also designed English-taught courses exclusively for exchange students. One decisive criterion of the award is the establishment of creative solutions. These initiations have impressed the Ministry to award the OIC with the prize.

Prof. Pei-Chun Che, Dean of the OIC, said, 'It is the passion for serving both international and local students which has led the OIC to the results of today.' According to her, the collaboration between the OIC and other



Prof. Pei-Chun Che, Dean of the OIC (right) and Ms. Melody Chang (left) are proud receiving this award, hoping to provide even better service in the future.

departments is crucial to provide better international services. She wished for the international students not only to experience the local culture and the warmth of the Taiwanese people, but also to have an open mind and to gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their own culture through their experiences in another country.

The awardee Ms. Chang, who is in charge of the applications, course selection and transcripts of the incoming exchange students, said, 'I am happy to be able to help them. I try to do my best, but sometimes, it is really not an easy job, because I have to take care of about 300 students by myself. I have received many cards, flowers and presents from former students. These are truly delighting moments to me.'

The achievements of the OIC are appreciated by the exchange students at NCCU as well. Elena Margallo from the University of Navarra in Spain, currently doing her exchange semester at NCCU, said, 'I appreciate the Buddy Program and the organization NCCU International Youth very much. They have organized different kinds of events and gave us helpful information about accommodations, campus facilities, and locations.' Zinovyeva Alexandra from the Moscow City Pedagogical University shared, 'At NCCU, it is quite easy to find useful information. I always get quick responses when I need support.'

The award is not only a recognition for OIC's achievements, but also an encouragement to improve the overall support to international students at NCCU. Both Prof. Che and Ms. Chang are looking forward to seeing more friendly services for international students in every department of NCCU.



Prof. Pei-Chun Che, Dean of the OIC (in the middle wearing glasses) and Ms. Melody Chang (behind Prof. Che in dark jacket) are happy sharing their experience with other colleagues and staff.

# Professor Carol Lin brings innovation and new goals to the Office of International Cooperation

Story by Lauri Wei Lu

Newly appointed Dean of the [Office of International Cooperation](#) (OIC), Professor Carol Yeh-Yun Lin, was welcomed into the office last month in November. With the background of business administration, Professor Lin is confident that her past experience in the administrative unit of an international company will be a great help in conducting new approaches and strategies within the OIC. This is not Professor Lin's first experience with the office. Ten years ago, Professor Lin was already the head of the [Center of International Education and Exchange](#) (IEE), which later became the OIC now. Her sense of mission in continuing boosting the internationalization at National Chengchi University (NCCU), sharpening the competitive aspect of NCCU, and her hopes for cultivating international talents were the main reasons that motivated her to take the helm once more.

In an interview with the [NCCU Spotlight e-paper](#), Professor Lin expressed her admiration for the efforts the university has made toward internationalization these past few years. Meanwhile, she also mentioned some areas for further improvement. For example, she observed that while the [Buddy Program](#) assisting international students feeling at home is highly popular, local students often find it hard to maintain enthusiasm for a whole semester. Besides, she suggested that the vacant rooms in the [I-house](#) may be put to good use by holding international camps during the summer/winter vacation that involve both local and international students.

However, an existing obstacle to overcome is the growing cost of offering free [Mandarin lessons](#) to incoming students that have outnumbered outgoing exchange students. By sending more of our students

abroad, Professor Lin hopes to introduce new forms of exchange, for instance, following [Purdue University's](#) model of calculating exchange hours and days to go on exchange during the semester or winter/summer vacation. In addition, according to her, we could learn from some Japanese universities, who work closely with international organizations and send students to Switzerland, where most international organizations are located, as an idea worth following. Apart from student exchange, faculty exchange will also be a focus through which NCCU professors are exposed to more international experience while NCCU students can also benefit from visiting international professors.

To Professor Lin, internationalization requires far more than just English language skills. Latin America, East Europe, and African countries are all rising influences that should not be overlooked. To NCCU students, Professor Lin emphasized the importance of keeping a sharp eye on current international affairs, and becoming a global citizen.

With a four-year term, Prof. Lin is looking forward to working with the new NCCU President to bring NCCU a new page on internationalization.



Photo by Song Xiu Ya

With a four-year term, Prof. Lin is looking forward to working with the new NCCU President to bring NCCU a new page on internationalization.

# Nothing is impossible, impossible is nothing.

Story by Kelly Wang and Piece Lai

National Chengchi University's (NCCU) doors are always open to all international students coming from different backgrounds. This year, the Office of International Cooperation (OIC) welcomes Ms. Geraldine Miranda from Georgetown University as an exchange student to study at the International Master's Programs in Asia-Pacific Studies (IMAS).

Always a fearless fighter, despite her parents' worries about her health condition, Geraldine dreams to be a diplomat and was determined to come to Taiwan to study Politics in Asia. Suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), Geraldine is a living proof that it is possible to exist without special nursing care and assistance. SMA is a rare hereditary disease characterized by general muscle wasting and progressive loss of movements. Overall muscle weakness has confined her to wheelchair and affected her mobility considerably. Even confronting with the difficulties SMA brings to her daily life, she believes 'When one door closes, someone will always be there to help you open another.'

Born in Texas and growing up in Arizona, with parents immigrating from Mexico, Geraldine has since young developed her interest in languages. In addition to Spanish, French and English, she spent six months in Korea to learn the language in 2012 and moved

further her learning of Chinese since 2013. 'The Chinese words are more beautiful, and I especially love the intonations of Cantonese,' which she is now self-studying, she praised. Certainly SMA did not stop Geraldine from continuing her studies in Taiwan. Earlier this June, she was advancing her Chinese in National Taiwan Normal University on Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, activities of daily living supported by Taiwan Disability-Free Association. Since she was accepted to NCCU, Ms. Melody Chang, Incoming Exchange Coordinator at OIC, has been in constant contact with her, making sure she has all the assistance needed.

Secretary Jen at OIC also recruited a group of 20 volunteer NCCU students to take shifts helping Geraldine with her daily care like grooming, bathing, toileting, dressing, wheelchair, etc. Geraldine admitted that she really appreciates OIC arrangement which is unprecedented for her.

During her stay in Korea, an organization conditioned the support given to her asking Geraldine to hire a helper from the United States, whom she would need to pay 16 hours per day. 'But I don't need someone to take care me for 16 hours a day,' she said. It is a lot more efficient to have students' help based on her necessity, and it is also a great opportunity for her to meet new local friends and



Photo by Liu, Po-Hun

Secretary Jen, second from the right in black, together with other NCCU student volunteers, takes turns to assist Geraldine every day and now they feel like a family.

practice Chinese with them.

To speed up the training process of the volunteer students, Secretary Jen consulted Mrs. Cheng, wife of a NCCU janitor, for professional nursing advices. For two weeks in a row, Jen arrived at Geraldine's as early as 6:00 a.m to personally make sure Geraldine had been receiving a proper care. Geraldine was also amazed when Jen, after Geraldine's exhausting trip to Hong Kong for visa, paid a visit to her one evening bringing a lot of food with her. 'Joyce (Secretary Jen) is really nice and humble! She takes care of me just like my mother,' she shared.

In addition to the assistance provided by OIC, Geraldine also named a list of classmates from IMAS who help her borrow books from the library, print hand-outs, and run other errands. Director of IMAS, Prof Calvin Lin, who is paying close attention to this case, has also been regularly updated with Geraldine's learning process and new life in Taiwan.

Touched by all the warm hearts she encountered at NCCU, Geraldine is not regretting the decision she made to explore Taiwan, even though it was difficult to adapt to the new environment at first. Geraldine's positive attitude towards life and learning is a great example for other SMA friends, proving that everything is possible.



# NCCU attends 10th QS-APPLE

Story by Carrie Huang

Seizing an opportunity to present National Chengchi University (NCCU) to the world, Office of International Cooperation (OIC) attended the 10th QS Asia Pacific Professional Leaders in Education (QS-APPLE) which took place in Taipei from November 11 to 13. “It was a great occasion for NCCU to introduce its programs and seek cooperation with other schools,” said the International Manager Ms. Kerri Wu.

The QS, aiming at motivating people around the world to fulfill their potential by fostering international mobility and educational achievement, was founded in 1990 and has steadily become the world's leading network for top careers and education. By holding annual conference and exhibition in Asia, QS-APPLE offers a platform for higher education institutions to exchange their knowledge in international cooperation. The conference was sponsored by [Taipei Medical University](#) this year and a multitude of academics from 231 institutions in 37 countries attended and 88 papers were presented and discussed.

During the session, notable guests including Prof. Flora Chia-I Chang (Tamkang University), Prof. Yun Yen (Taipei Medical University), Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Hai-Sui Yu (University of Nottingham), the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Mrs. Winnie Eley (University of Newcastle) and the President of [City University of Hong Kong](#), Prof. Way Kuo, were invited to share their insights and experiences related to various educational



This year for the first time, NCCU has her own booth decorated beautifully and creatively with pictures, brochures, and posters.

issues. Their topics varied from “The Future of Higher Education from a Taiwan Perspective,” to “Strategic University Positioning,” allowing the attendees to briefly comprehend the strategies they promoted to enhance the education quality.

One of the most sought-after events was QS-APPLE—QS Squared Debate which focused on the gap between the labor market and the education institutions and brought up the debates over the motion “universities should only produce graduates that employers want.” At the start of the session, 28 percent supported this statement and 72 percent were opposed. By the time the discussion ended, the second round of voting revealed that the overall opinion of the academics had slightly shifted towards supporting the motion, though the initial standing remained strong: 38 percent for supporters, and 62 percent for the opposition.

“Attending QS-APPLE was a great opportunity for NCCU to enhance its international awareness,” said Ms. Kerri Wu. It was not the first time for NCCU to engage in the event as Ms. Wu has also attended the conference in South Korea last year in 2014.

Though being one of the top universities in Taiwan, NCCU still struggles to compete with higher institutions in Japan and South Korea. The unique cultural pattern of South Asia also attracts an increasing number of international students. Ms. Wu indicated that these aspects bring the opportunity to expose to international education circle critical to OIC faculty. During the conference, NCCU representatives aimed at promoting the International Master’s Programs and finding potential partners for further cooperation.



Prof. Carol Lin (left), the new Dean of Office of international Cooperation did not miss the chance to meet representatives from all over the world.

# 2014 Olympics, Closer–Further– Better

Story by Piece Lai

The ‘2014 Olympics: Run away from your phone’ were held on 25 October at the National Chengchi University (NCCU) stadium. Organized by the Office of International Cooperation (OIC), the games were hosted by Student Ambassadors (SA) for which they collaborated with National Taiwan University’s (NTU) International Student Information Service Club (ISIS), National Taiwan Normal University’s (NTNU) Office of International Affairs (OIA) Volunteer Team, and National Taiwan University of Science and Technology’s Association for International Affairs (AIA).

Starting from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., about 200 students from the four schools and different countries formed teams to compete in the basketball, soccer and volleyball matches. Together with the performance, leisure games and the raffle sections, the event ended with a great success.

The one-day Olympics began with

the opening ceremony during which Prof. Vance Kuang-Ta Lo, Director of the Cooperation and Exchange Section in OIC at NCCU, wished the students for good games. Performance given by the Dance Club of NCCU was followed by a special ceremony to cage the phone props, echoing the event’s theme.

Around eight teams enrolled in each section. Representatives from NTU won the basketball and soccer games while NCCU team succeeded in volleyball match. The day was concluded with the exciting closing ceremony during which the winners were awarded with medals and souvenirs.

‘The annual activity aims to bring international and local students from different schools together to strike up friendships through sports,’ said Brandy Huang, chief of SA at NCCU. Indeed, the aim was successfully fulfilled.

‘Most of the times we are surrounded by exchange students so it is good that we may get the chance to know more locals,’ said Mr. Arasch Hakimi, student of NTU who came from Germany and joined a basketball group that included local students.

Moreover, Ms. Rita Liang, helper of

OIA Volunteer Team from NTNU, who always enjoys watching ball games, had met a new friend from the United States through the event. ‘It is really great to see international and local students together enjoying the games,’ she said. Mr. Shawn Huang of AIA from NTUST, also considered this event as a great opportunity to interact more with international students.

In addition, Ms. Nadine Haeberle, student at the College of Commerce at NCCU, had also formed a group of six with friends from Germany, Spain, France and Australia. ‘We heard about the event on the orientation day so we decided to join,’ she said. The volleyball team drew colourful marks on their faces to show their solidarity and to support the 2014 Taiwan LGBT Pride scheduled on the same day.

‘International students always enjoy sports,’ said Ms. Kate Lin, the staff at OIC in charge of the event. The OIC has been supporting the inter-school games for consecutive years, improving with every event. Student delegates from each university also agreed that the Olympics is a good tradition to carry on.



International students enjoy the performance by the Dance Club of NCCU during the opening ceremony.



The volleyball team from NCCU draws colourful marks their faces to represent their unity and support for the 2014 Taiwan LGBT Pride scheduled on the same day.



About 200 students from NCCU, NTU, NTNU and NTUST gather at NCCU Stadium, participating in the opening ceremony.

## Silkroad Newsletter Information

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