NCKU President shares her love of science with high school girls in Taiwan

NCKU Press Center

National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) President Huey-Jen Jenny Su was invited by Taipei First Girls High School (TFG) to share her learning experience and reflection on being a female scientist in global community on April 14 in Taipei.

President Su talked to a roomful of young female students who were fully engaged in her talk and raised a lot of questions about having higher education, doing research, love for science and problems in life.

TFG Principal Shih Ruey Yang extended her warm welcome to President Su saying, “Many of the students at TFG want to be scientists in the future.”

She also commented that President Su’s talk would definitely motivate students and enables them to view their life goals from another whole new perspective.

In her talk, President Su told the students that acquiring the ability of critical thinking is essential to every one of us for critical thinking is the foundation for learning.

“Besides critical thinking,” she added, “we should also be able to obtain the insights into the challenges of our contemporary society, such as poverty, poor health and hygiene.”

She said, when we are well-prepared, we would be able to fix the problems and make a better world.

“What worries me is that everyone seems to hold a rather passive attitude towards those existed issues that have to be solved,” she noted.

If one thinks others would take care of that problems and therefore keeps silent and ignores the problems, it is very likely that the problems would be worsen day by day.

President Su encouraged the students to stand up and speak out against problem.

“I hope someday when you are ready to contribute to the society, you would make a difference to the human race,” said President Su.

She also mentioned how much she value honesty. “What I have learned along my path to become a scientist is not to lie to others and not to take advantage of others.”

“We may not foresee what would happen in the future. Only when we attain our goals step by step and always be honest would we realize the true meaning of our life,” she added.

At the end, President Su noted, “Female scientists are still in a relatively disadvantage position among scientists in general. We still have a lot of challenges to take up and difficulties to face. Obstacles notwithstanding, a promising future for us is waiting ahead.”
Taiwan-Germany Workshop and Symposium opens in NCKU

NCKU Press Center

[Tainan, Taiwan, April 10, 2017]

National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) is currently hosting Taiwan-Germany Workshop and Symposium where more than 300 faculty and students gathered together to learn and discuss the issues related to Taiwan studies, social sciences in psychology, education and economics, respectively.

The event organized by Public Affairs Research Center for Human Rights at the College of Social Sciences in NCKU took place at the college’s auditorium, April 10-11, to facilitate a dialogue and experiences sharing between Taiwan and Germany in mutual understanding.

Professor Yue-Dian Hsu, Dean of the College of Social Sciences in NCKU, said that this workshop will take advantage of the College of Social Sciences in NCKU and its affiliated Contemporary Human Rights and Public Affair Research Center as a working platform. A new working model or patterns of development, economically, socially and politically, may be exploring or envisaging through our collective efforts from the intellectuals both from Taiwan and Germany, Hsu added.

Professor Hans-Juergen Kerner from Institute of Criminology, University of Tübingen, attended the two-day symposium and said that this is his sixth time visit to Taiwan and the relationship between NCKU and his university is very close, especially in social sciences studies.

Professor Gunter Schubert from European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT), University of Tübingen also invited to join the two-day workshop and symposium.

Prof. Schubert, the Director of ERCCT gave an opening keynote on the topic, “The European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT) - Idea, Concept Objectives.”

He said, “ERCCT is basically a research platform to invite scholars from all over the world including Taiwan to stay in Tubingen, present their research, get feedback on their research by having intense academic exchange and interaction.”

ERCCT also help students develop their PhD research and publish the work and let everybody know the scholar community include wider audience, what Taiwan is or what Taiwan does, basically to life up the visibility of Taiwan and Taiwan studies in Europe, he added.

Three sections included in the symposium: Law and Politics Dialogue between Taiwan and Germany; Politics and Economics Dialogue between Taiwan and Germany; Generation Gap: Experience Exchange between Taiwan and Germany.
New reading center “KnowLEDGE” set up at NCKU to accommodate more students

NCKU Press Center

[Tainan, Taiwan, April 26, 2017]

The “KnowLEDGE” Reading Center, a renewed space for both individual and collaborative learning, is the first reading space on campus to respond to the students’ need for study, discussion, and idea-sharing.

The reading center is divided into two major areas, group discussion area and individual study area.

What makes the space design of the reading center special is that the tables and the chairs here are adjustable based on the number of the students, which provide a more functional and creative environment for students.

The name of the newly-established reading center “KnowLEDGE” was from the idea generated by NCKU Associated University Librarian Prof. Sheng-Fen Chien.

She said, “People associate the first letter ‘K’ with reading.” (In Chinese, the pronunciation of the verb ‘read’ is similar to that of the letter K.) We hope that the reading center can have multiple functions besides providing reading room for students, and that is the new interpretation of the reading center ‘now’. ‘K’ and ‘now’ therefore form the morpheme ‘know’, said Prof. Chien.

She continued, through the process of acquiring ‘knowledge’, people have to ‘know’ the meaning of the knowledge and then transfer it into wisdom by experience and study.

‘Ledge’ means a layer or mass of rock underground, and we interpret ‘ledge’ as the ledge of the deep knowledge is awaiting us to explore it.”

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NCKU calligrapher displays Chibifu on wall

NCKU Press Center

An exhibition of calligraphy by Prof. Yu-Cheng Wu from the Department of Architecture at National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), Tainan, Taiwan, opened at NCKU Library.

Prof. Wu’s calligraphy work displayed Chibifu, also known as First Ode on the Red Cliffs, which is a piece of writing in the fu form, written by the Chinese polymath Su Shi.

The work described a trip that Su Shi took with his friends on the Yangtze River, which took them past the purported site of the Battle of Red Cliffs.

An opening ceremony was held at NCKU Library on the morning of April 19, attending by head of NCKU Library, Director of NCKU Art Center, and representatives from Department of Architecture.

Prof. Wu, an amateur calligrapher who has great passion in writing, said, this work is very challenging for him even though he had learned the arts of ancient calligraphy master such as Su Dongpo and Wen Zhengming.

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