Taiwan, Singapore team up on smart technology development
NCKU Press Center

Tainan City-based National Cheng Kung University and Singapore Technologies Engineering Electronics Ltd. concluded a memorandum of understanding on smart technology development March 7 in southern Taiwan.

Under the private-academic sector pact, the two sides will leverage their respective research and industrial strengths to jointly advance self-driving technology, build a smart campus, and promote medical care and transportation.

During the initial stage, efforts will revolve around creating automotive vehicle testing and validating systems based on NCKU’s proprietary smart car project, as well as dedicated assessment procedures and processes with National Applied Research Laboratories under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

NCKU President Su Huey-jen said smart technology is an R&D priority and the university is dedicating more resources to key areas such as engineering, medicine, transportation and urban design. The institution also maintains a close relationship with Taiwan’s leading research organizations like state-backed Industrial Technology Research Institute.

According to Su, a 2017 study by U.K.-based marketing firm Juniper Research shows Singapore is a global leader in smart technology development. The partnership will provide NCKU with a great opportunity to learn from the city-state’s successful experiences and high-tech know-how.

In response, STEE Executive Vice President Low Jin Phang described NCKU as an ideal partner given its track record in R&D and talent cultivation. He expects the win-win collaboration to result in spectacular smart living applications and synergies with global uses. (SFC-E)

article from Taiwan Today, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan)

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Noncoding Effects of Circular RNA CCDC66 Promote Colon Cancer Growth and Metastasis, the fruit of four years of study conducted by Distinguished Professor Shaw-Jenq Tsai’s research team at the Department of Physiology at NCKU, was recognized by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) as one of the Best of the AACR Journals in 2017. This is the first time that researchers in Taiwan have received this special honor, and this paper is the first study regarding circular RNA’s function to be actually verified using animal testing and human specimens.

Professor Tsai received the good news in March this year. Not only was their study honored as one of the most-cited articles published in 2017 of the AACR journals, their paper was even placed at the top of the list in Cancer Research, of which more than 600 papers are published annually. This achievement is truly exceptional.

According to the AACR, Cancer Research, in which the paper of Professor Tsai’s research team was published in May of 2017, is the oldest and most authoritative of the AACR’s eight journals. The comprehensive analysis of experimental and clinical data in their study proved that circular RNA indeed has biological functions and that its overexpression promotes the swift growth and metastasis of colon cancer cells. It is an outstanding paper that combines big data analysis in bioinformatics and evidence-based medicine.

The AACR further indicated that after its publication, this study has been eagerly read by many cancer research centers around the world and widely discussed on academic community websites. At the end of the year, it was even rated as a highly cited paper (top 1%) and a hot paper (top 0.1%) by Web of Science, an international authority on paper rankings. In 2018, the number of its citations and the attention it received continued to rise, and it was again rated a highly cited paper and a hot paper by Web of Science.

Professor Tsai attributed the honor to the efforts of the research team. He admitted that research is a path of many hardships but stated that he endeavors to encourage his junior colleagues and students with positivity and optimism. To him, doing research in a down-to-earth manner and then receiving attention and citations from scientists around the world is the best reward for all the efforts.

Professor Tsai explained that with the arrival of the big data era, quality standards for scientific research papers are becoming higher and higher. In addition to being original and not following the footsteps of others, one must also know how to tap into resources and find useful information to implement the study. He said, “In cancer
research filed, around a hundred of cases was enough evidence to support your findings in the past. Now, you need to search for thousands or even tens of thousands of cases to support your theory, and that is extremely difficult.”

According to Professor Tsai, the amount of funds invested in scientific research in Taiwan is only 1.5% of that invested around the world. Among them, 78% of those funds are from private companies, and only 22% come from government to support whole nation’s research, which means Taiwan is far behind other nations in terms of financial resources. However, the advantage in Taiwan is that everyone, including the professors, the postdoctoral researchers, and the students, are working hard. Thus, many innovative ideas or unprecedented studies can be published on prestigious international journals and have the opportunity to shine in the international community and exert a significant impact on the whole world.

Professor Tsai also mentioned that based on the 2017 Nature Index, Taiwan was ranked the 20th in the world in scientific performance, which shows that Taiwan is among the highest in the world when it comes to basic research. However, there has been some decline in recent years, and this should serve as a warning. “Basic research is key to cultivating a country’s scientific strength. The government should invest heavily to support basic research and develop young talent in scientific research so that more fine research teams will be able to enter the international arena and show Taiwan’s scientific strength to the world!”

To thank researchers for their contributions to greater journal quality in cancer research, the AACR held a welcoming banquet and award ceremony during their annual general meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in the US. The AACR is one of the most authoritative medical associations around the world and has more than 42,000 members from around the world. AACR publishes eight journals and keeps tracking how many times each published paper is cited to ensure journal quality.

The research interests of Professor Tsai, distinguished professor of the Department of Physiology at NCKU, include translational medicine, bioinformatics, epigenetics, and endometriosis. He has published around 110 papers that have accumulated over 5,100 citations over the years. He has an H-index of 43 and an i10-index (indicating the number of publications with at least 10 citations) of 86. He has served as the Director General of the Department of Life Sciences in the Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan, and he received the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine in 2014 and the Outstanding Research Award from the National Science Council in 2011.

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NCKU College of Medicine and Harvard School of Dental Medicine Sign MOU

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National Cheng Kung University will be making offers of admission to its first class of students at the School of Dentistry for the 2019 academic year. Dean of the College of Medicine, Jang-Yang Chang (張俊彥), led delegates- among which included Chair of the School of Medicine, Professor Shyh-Jou Shieh (謝式洲); Professor Shu-Fen Chuang (莊淑芬) at the Institute of Oral Medicine; Professor Oscar Guey Chuen Perng (彭貴春) at the College of Medicine (Office of International Affairs); Professor Chih-Hsien Chi (紀志賢); and Assistant Professor Yung-Chung Chen (陳永崇)- to make an official visit to the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in Boston. On April 4th, in the presence of Director-General Douglas Yu-Tien Hsu (徐佑典) of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, as well as representatives from both universities, Dean Jang-Yang Chang and Dean R. Bruce Donoff of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine signed the memorandum of understanding.

The newly established “School of Dentistry” at NCKU is of transgenerational, prospective, and innovative significance in Taiwan. NCKU President Huey-Jen Jenny Su (蘇慧貞) attaches great importance to the future management and development of the School of Dentistry, encouraging proactive, long-term interactive relationships with top universities worldwide on education and research. The memorandum of understanding with the Harvard School of Dental Medicine is expected to give rise to the following: basic and clinical research, continuing education, conferences, workshops, and faculty exchange programs. It anticipates in-depth communications to both greatly enhance the innovations of education in the NCKU School of Dentistry, and to breathe new life into dental education in Taiwan.

Located in Massachusetts, Unites States, Harvard University was founded in 1636. Renowned for its history, academia, and influence in American higher education, this private Ivy League school is one of the most prestigious universities in the world that provides comprehensive programs in scientific research. Professor Shu-Fen Chuang, Director of the Department of Stomatology at the NCKU Hospital, points out that the Harvard School of Dental Medicine sits at the Longwood Medical and Academic Area, and thus has long gained abundant experience and outstanding performances in dental training programs. With help from Professor Jarshen Lin (林嘉賢) at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, the NCKU School of Dental Medicine was given opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences regarding curriculum design and education with faculty members at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

As the most important medical center in southern Taiwan, NCKU Medical College understands that “Stomatology” is essential, and established the “Department of Dentistry” 30 years ago when the hospital was newly built. In 2002, the one and only “Institute of Oral Medicine” in southern Taiwan made its appearance, followed by the establishment of the “School of Dentistry” in 2019. “The time is ripe,” said the Dean of the College of Medicine, Jang-Yang Chang. “It is a milestone for NCKU Medical College to introduce the School of Dentistry.” With 30 years of experience in clinical training of stomatology as well as 16 years of well-grounded research, NCKU Hospital has long cultivated a complete teaching system in stomatology, and has trained nearly a thousand interns, PGYs (Post Graduate Year Program), and Residents. The NCKU College of Medicine offers substantial resources in teaching faculties, graduate programs, and internship opportunities at medical centers, providing students with a
favorable learning environment.

On top of the abundant academic resources and comfortable environment, Director of the NCKU Institute of Oral Medicine, Yuh-Ling Chen (陳玉玲), said that in order to encourage interdisciplinary learning and developing second expertise, the School of Dentistry also provides optional courses on science and engineering, hoping to integrate traditional dentistry with novel digital technologies, as some of the outstanding faculties have done. Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Science and Technology, Professor Dar-Bin Shieh’s (謝達斌) research in oral pathology combined with nanomedicine has been awarded the National Innovation Award many times; Professor Shu-Fen Chuang and Assistant Professor Yung-Chung Chen both specialize in biomechanics and biomaterials of dentistry; Professor Tung-Yiu Wong (王東堯) has developed the 3D simulation software in cooperation with the Department of Mechanical Engineering at NCKU. They all stand as top-notch interdisciplinary professionals.

National Cheng Kung University, School of Dentistry will be making first-time offers of admission in 2019, reserving 7 seats for students from indigenous communities or rural areas, in hope that they would make contributions to their hometown after graduation, subsequently raising the number of dental professionals in rural areas. The NCKU School of Dentistry expects students to devote themselves to improving oral healthcare in Taiwan in the future.

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Groundbreaking of NCKU College of Medicine’s Second Research Building: Renewed Focus on Developing Geriatric Research

NCKU news center

Having entered the 35th year since its founding, National Cheng Kung University’s College of Medicine started a new chapter in its development, specifically the construction of the College’s Second Research Building which broke ground on August 3rd. The facilities in this $840 million-NTD and 11-story research building will primarily be dedicated to geriatric research, which is in line with the current trend of global medical development. The project draws together the combined resources of the University’s administration, the College of Medicine as well as the NCKU Hospital’s wealth of experience with clinical medicine, in order to engage in cross-field research on the development and application of medical technology in geriatrics. In addition, with the construction of the University’s smart hospital for the elderly on the horizon, NCKU is poised to become an important node for geriatric research in Taiwan and a leader in the development of smart cross-field geriatric treatments.

At 10 am on August 3rd, NCKU President Dr. Huey-Jen Jenny Su led university officials, including NCKU Vice President Cheng-hung Huang, Dean of the College of Medicine Dr. Jang-Yang Chang, and Superintendent of NCKU Hospital Chyun-Yu Yang, in the groundbreaking ceremony where prayers and rites were performed for the smooth and successful construction of the research building. Over a hundred people were in attendance at the ceremony, including Tainan City Government Health Bureau Director Yi Chen, Academia Sinica scholar Wen-Chang Chang, MOHW Tainan Hospital Superintendent Bor-Shyang Sheu, and distinguished professor Ih-Jen Su from Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology.

NCKU College of Medicine’s Second Research Building will be built on NCKU’s Cheng-Hsing Campus. The company RC will be handling the construction of the building. The building’s total floor area will amount to 8,200 ping. The construction is projected to be completed by October 2021. As for the floor plan, the first and second floors will be designated for classrooms. From the third floor up, the space will be used for research rooms and laboratories. On the fourth floor, a sky way will connect the Second Research Building to the existing College of Medicine Building. After construction is completed, the existing College of Medicine Building and the Second Research Building will operate in tandem and complement each other with the former serving the needs of the College of Medicine and the latter providing medical and inpatient services. The union of the two buildings will establish seamless connectivity between medical research and applications of that research in treatments and services.

In NCKU President Huey-jen Jenny Su’s opening remarks at the ceremony, she touched on her own experiences serving as a faculty member in the College of Medicine: “I can personally attest to the valiant efforts of three
university presidents and many College of Medicine deans towards realizing this project. I also appreciate the financial support from Premier William Ching-te Lai and many others from various fields. The journey getting to this point, to the groundbreaking of the Second Research Building, has not been an easy one. But we’re finally here, and I am moved beyond words.” Dr. Su illumined the considerable efforts that went into the 20 years of planning and fundraising where many faculty members, including herself, donated out-of-pocket to the project as a gesture of support and goodwill. During space allocation planning for the new building, faculty and staff at the College of Medicine reached a consensus to keep the working spaces small and suitable for lab work. The amenities and the quality of the facilities will serve as a model in Taiwan. Dr. Su ended her remarks on a high note: “NCKU’s College of Medicine will surely not disappoint all of its supporters. As a center for medical practice and research, the college will continue its high performance in providing services to the public, for the benefit of the people and to the hope of Taiwan.”

In Dr. Jang-Yang Chang’s remarks, he announced plans to add a seventh department—the Department of Dentistry—to the College of Medicine in the 2019 academic year, which would expand the scope of the College’s curriculum to all major areas in the field of medicine. Moreover, in light of the construction of the smart geriatric hospital set to break ground next year, the future of NCKU’s College of Medicine has never looked brighter and more promising.

More importantly, the College of Medicine is ready to deal with the challenges ahead. Taiwan has the most rapidly ageing population in the world, and the College of Medicine is faced with major challenges stemming from this issue, including treating geriatric diseases and illnesses, developing preventative strategies, customizing medical treatments, and planning in-home care programs. The Second Research Building has two main objectives. The first being geriatric research, which includes translational research, clinical research, geriatric care, development of geriatric medical technology, academic theories for policies on caring for the aging population, and elderly-related welfare research. The second objective is to advance the development and clinical applications of pharmaceutical science and technology, including research on pharmacokinetics, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and pharmaceutical care.

The dean of the College of Medicine Dr. Jang-Yang Chang said that the Second Research Building would help alleviate the College’s issue of crowdedness which comes from having to accommodate over 400 staff members in limited space, simultaneously conducting medical R&D. Dr. Chang hopes that the new building will be able to meet the developmental demands of the next couple decades. He also jokingly remarked that after the building is completed there will no more passing the buck for any failed or unsatisfactory research results going forward.

NCKU’s College of Medicine Building was constructed in August 1983, and is one of 14 major national architectures that was built in the early years of Taiwan’s government. In that same year, the College inaugurated its first class of 50 students into the program, and has gone on to matriculate many more classes since then. The current Premier William Ching-te Lai is an alumnus of the College, having graduated with the Class of 1991. The 35-year-old College of Medicine has since expanded from its initial singular department of medicine into six specializations, which are general medicine, pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and medical laboratory science and biotechnology. Coming soon in 2019, the brand new Department of Dentistry will take its place as the seventh department in the College. The construction of the Second Research Building is the first major construction project since the establishment of the National Cheng Kung University Hospital in 1988.
Department of Electrical Engineering presents Edison-Hopkinson dynamo to public

Department Chair Hong-Tzer Yang indicated that the Edison-Hopkinson dynamo is a significant element in the development of modern electricity. The dynamo was produced between 1883 and 1885 and given to NCKU (originally the Tainan Technical College) by the Taiwan Power Company (known as Taiwan Power Co., Ltd. during the Japanese Colonial Era) in 1933 for educational and experimental purposes and stored in the Electrical Division Dynamo Lab. In 1997 a new building was constructed for the Department on the Tzu-Chang Campus and thus the 1.1-ton dynamo was then moved to the basement of the new building and has remained there ever since due to its heavy weight.

The Edison-Hopkinson dynamo was an improvement from its predecessor, the Edison dynamo. Edison received a patent for his dynamo in 1879 and in 1882 set up the first U.S. residential electric grid on Pearl Street in New York. In 1883 Edison granted the patent rights to the Mather & Platt Company in Manchester, England. Dr. John Hopkinson further improved it and revealed the Edison-Hopkinson dynamo in 1885.

The exhibition was unveiled by Vice-President Cheng-Hung Huang, College Dean Wei-Chou Hsu, Department Chair Hong-Tzer Yang, and President & CEO of Compal Electronics, Inc. Ray Chen. Vice-President Cheng-Hung Huang pointed out that the invention of the dynamo played a decisive role in the development of human civilization by taking people into the age of electricity. He thanked the Department of Electrical Engineering for preserving this historical artifact.

The Edison-Hopkinson dynamo stayed hidden from the public until the Department of Electrical Engineering and NCKU Museum’s continued efforts plus alumnus Ray Chen’s donation made this exhibition possible. To understand the history of electricity and electrical engineering in Taiwan, one must visit NCKU, the Department Chair stated. During the Japan Colonial Era, students and faculty members practiced electrical technology and contributed to the development of electricity, connecting power lines from the mountains to the sea. The display of the dynamo shines a light on its hidden past to the public.
Raise the Torch for a sustainable future – Dr. Brundtland received an honorary doctorate from NCKU President Dr. Su

NCKU Press Center

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland received an honorary doctorate degree of Medicine of from the National Cheng Kung University President Dr. Huey-Jen Jenny Su (蘇慧貞) at the closing ceremony of the third Gro Brundtland Week of Women in Sustainable Development on April 3rd. The lecture was attended with NCKU faculty and students from Tainan First Senior High School and Tainan Sheng Kung High schools. On the same day, Dr. Brundtland presented a plenary lecture on “Sustainable Development Goals, a Thirty Year Story of International Collaboration” and attended the 2018 Brundtland Week closing ceremony.

“We are privileged to present the honorary doctorate of Medicine to Dr. Brundtland,” said Dr. Su. “Dr. Brundtland’s path-taking endeavors have profoundly inspired hundreds and thousands of public health practitioners, environmental scientists, and to some extent the politicians around the world to believe that there can always be a great calling and higher aim regardless of the disciplines if we bring passion and vision into each and every one of our profession.”

At the commencement of the lecture, Dr. Brundtland gave her word of appreciation to Tang Prize Foundation for the grant, with which NCKU has successfully assembled the Brundtland Week of Women in sustainable development for three years. Dr. Brundtland started to share her thirty year journey in sustainable development with a phenomenal global event back in 2015, when The United Nations approves the Sustainable Development Goals. “It brings the global countries and leaders together for a common future. This is my life story of 30 years, to engage for sustainable development and our common future.”

“When there is a hope, push for a change.”

“I want to change the society and the attitude,” said Dr. Brundtland. “A doctor is who wanted to heal and who wanted to change. Not least to change the causes of suffering and injustice. There is a very close connection between being a doctor and a politician. The doctor
tries to prevent illness, the tries to treat it if it comes. That’s exactly the same as what you try to do as a politician, but regard to society.”

Gro Harlem Brundtland, A medical doctor and Master of Public Health (MPH), spent 10 years as a physician and scientist in the Norwegian public health system, before she was nominated as Norwegian Environmental Minister in 1974, and the first female Prime Minister of Norway in 1981. With her domestic political career, Dr Brundtland has developed a growing concern for issues of global significance. In 1983, she chaired the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, and published the 1987 Brundtland Report, “Our Common Future”, which introduced sustainable development into global agenda at the Earth Summit in 1992 and Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

Dr. Brundtland continues to tackle on the global challenges of public health and climate change. Elected as the Director-General of the World Health Organization in 1998, she set the tone to “be combating disease and ill-health - promoting sustainable and equitable health systems in all countries” in her acceptance speech for the World Health Assembly. Among her accomplishments were negotiating a major multilateral treaty on tobacco, as well as the rapid response to the SARS epidemic, for which she was named Policy Leader of the Year by Scientific American Magazine.

Dr. Brundtland was appointed as the UN Special Envoy for Climate Change in 2007 and a member of UN Secretary Generals’ “High Level Global Sustainability Panel” in 2010. With her effort, the approval of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and the Paris Agreement show that there is a global commitment now to acknowledging the problem and working together to solve it.

Recognized as “the mother of sustainable development, Dr. Brundtland travels and lectures extensively as a leading voice on climate change, an advocate for a healthier and better educated world, and a champion of sustainable development.

“Sustainable Development is s development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” – Our Common Future, 1987 the Brundtland Report

“Everything is linked to everything else. Environment and development are to be integrated,” said Dr. Brundtland on April 3rd. “We care for the quality of growth. We need to make the consequences transparent, to education the generations, to engage the private sectors, to take on global responsibility, to introduce innovation and change policies. We need to reduce the impact of global warming and climate change, for our common future.”

Brundtland Week of Women in Sustainable Development (2016-2018)

“The Brundtland Week of Women in Sustainable Development is a generous and visionary initiative from Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland,” said Dr. Su. “The Gro Brundtland Week of Women in Sustainable Development was made possible by her generosity aimed to enhance the involvement of younger women researchers from developing countries in the issues of sustainable development and public health, and to build a network and support system among female scientists from different countries.”

The Brundtland Week is a three-year project, from 2016 to 2018, granted with Dr. Brundtland’s Tang Prize in 2014. With Dr. Brundtland’s grant her 2014 Tang Prize award, the Brundtland Week awards fifteen outstanding female scientists to visit Taiwan. Tang Prize Foundation CEO Chern Jenn-Chuan (陳振川) said, “Tang Prize grant is used for a good cause. It is the partnership that matters.” With her 2014 Tang Prize money, Dr. Brundtland also grants the community hygiene programs in Tanzania.

The 2018 Brundtland Week award was given to Dr. Natisha Dukhi (South Africa), Dr. Barbara Burmen (Kenya), Dr. Neha Dahiya (India), Dr. Weena Gera (Philippines) and Dr. Sarva Mangala Praveena (Malaysia). They co-
presented on “Healthy Cities in Asia and Africa: Exploring Community Initiatives to Address Air Pollution in Complex urban system” to NCKU President Dr. Su and Dr. Brundtland, after the award ceremony.

Raise our torch for a sustainable future

At the closing of 2018 Brundtland Week, Dr. Su said, “I am also hopeful and motivated when we officially close to the weeklong activities as what you have presented which are comprised of diverse disciplines and carrying the ultimate spirit of sustainability…the network and capacity to facilitate sustainability development is seeded in another corner of the globe. Taiwan, as a country, and I myself as the professor, are proud to showcase you the next batch of capable cadets as we raise our torch for a sustainable future!”

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NCKU World Islam Campus Summit 2018

Tainan City, TW 5 June 2018: Imagine an international Summit that gathers the best experts from academic, literary, art and business aspects to share their expertise and experiences across many Islamic issues and put their heads together to create a better environment for the younger generations amid cross-cultural and multi-cultural learning contexts. That is what the 2018 NCKU World Islam Campus Summit is about: the first-ever of its kind in Taiwan that will bring prestigious scholars, Islamic experts, governmental and non-governmental organizations, faculty, staff, and students, altogether from home and abroad, to discuss on how and to what extent we could better promote and build an Islamic friendly environment in contemporary universities in Taiwan. The two-day Summit will take place between 6-7 June 2018 in various campuses in National Cheng Kung University (NCKU). Prior to this Summit, there is a series of Islamic Movies viewing and after-movie talks.

“Data as of the end of December [2017] shows that 688,700 people were displaced internally – 60 per cent more than just a year ago,” Adrian Edwards, UNHCR spokesperson told reporters at Jan. 23, 2018 on a regular press briefing in Geneva. “For a country whose population is estimated at around 4.6 million, these two figures combined represent an astonishing level of suffering and people in need,” he added. As the surging conflicts often happens in highly Muslim populated countries, a large percentage of Muslims has moved and migrated across the globe for the sake of security and livelihood. As in the case of Taiwan, by 2016, there have been more than 230,000 Muslims in this island, mostly migrant workers, maids, and students. Yet, media reports have from time to time covered that Muslim worker are unfairly treated at work for various reasons. This Summit has therefore drawn attention to the public the urgent needs to understand and respect Muslims, and be inclusive to all works of life as they are effectively part of our multi-cultural and globalized society. It is of particular importance on university campus across Taiwan.

President Huey-jen Jenny Su deliver a welcoming Speech for NCKU World Islam Campus Summit 2018,” The history of National Cheng Kung University dates back to 1931 when the Japanese started this university from an engineering college. As a prestigious and leading research university in Taiwan, the NCKU has also put great emphasis on better caring for those underprivileged students and has devoted ourselves into creating an international friendly campus associated with emerging dynamic multi-cultures. Currently, there are some two thousand international students registered in this university across the globe. Meanwhile, we have about two hundred Muslim students studying on campuses. For their religious needs, we have kindly built several prayer
rooms at different campuses for their daily and timely uses.”

She said, Along with this NCKU World Muslim Campus Summit, we would continue to pursue and promote friendly campus amid the globalized higher institutions. This Summit organized by NCKU Office of Student Affairs effectively marks the prelude of the Trilogy. Following this Summit, we shall have our Trilogy II on Taiwan’s indigenous people with the comparative experiences with other Austronesian peoples in 2019, and trilogy III on our new inhabitant in 2020. As a result, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to come to NCKU in the future.

The acting mayor of Tainan City, Mr. Men-yen Li said, “Tainan aims to announce English as the second official language, as part of Tainan city internationalization program. Our next step is to work with all the local restaurants and night market vendors, to produce bilingual menu, signboards and production information with English and Chinese. For international visitors to Tainan traditional temples, it would be good to have English instructions for the fortunate telling devices and English-speaking staff.”

Mr. Lin said, For international Hala tourists, Tainan retailers and restaurants who apply for Hala certification will receive allowance from Tainan city government. More Muslim pray rooms and Muslim graveyards will be available. We aim to make Tainan a Muslim friendly city with service from birth to death. The Tainan National Cheng Kung University, with more than 2,000 Muslim students, is the first university to offer Muslim prayer room and other services. We look forward to seeing more cultural exchange between NCKU and Muslim countries.

During this Summit, the Former Director of American Institute in Taiwan-Taiphi Main Office and now the Professor of National Taiwan University, Prof. William Anthony Stanton (司徒文), is to kick off the Summit by delivering his keynote speech on the Long Journey to Islam: Its People, Civilization and Implications for Contemporary University Education. The NCKU President Huey-jen Jenny Su, together with Prof. Ir Gunawan Budiyanto, Rector of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta in Indonesia, and Prof. Oussouby Sacko, President of Kyoto Seika University in Japan will be discussing and sharing their experiences in governing respective universities in areas of Building A University Campus with Multicultural Understanding, Respect, and Inclusiveness in the 21st Century in Asia. There are several other sessions that address significant issues of Muslim Migration and Integration across Asia, Islamic Cultural and Political Developments across Asia, Islamic Literature and Arts across Asia, Multiculturalism in Asian Perspectives, Islam Religion and Cuisine, and Traveling to Islamic World.

Undoubtedly, NCKU is moving steadily toward building a more welcoming, respectful, and inclusive multicultural study atmosphere for our young and talented students. This Summit organized by NCKU Office of Student Affairs effectively marks the prelude to the Trilogy of international friendly campus initiatives. Following this Summit, we shall have our Trilogy II on Taiwan’s indigenous people with the comparative experiences with other Austronesian peoples in 2019, and trilogy III on our new inhabitant in 2020. As a result, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to come to NCKU in the future.

For more information, please visit our web site at: http://osa.ncku.edu.tw/files/90-1013-2.php?Lang=en