“Learn to Succeed,” a General Education Course, Helps Students Turn Their Lives Around

NCKU Press Center

How would you define “success”? People may have various answers based on their personal experiences. Some may equate success with wealth; however, success may also be viewed as a perspective related to self-management and self-fulfillment. Learn to Succeed, a course run by Bruce Cheng, Professor of the Institute of Physical Education, Health & Leisure Studies at the College of Management, is aimed toward guiding students who feel uncertain about the future to reach their full potential by achieving things they previously considered impossible and realizing the value of something he refers to as “givers gain.”

Lectured in English by Prof. Cheng, one-fifth of the students in this class are non-Taiwanese. Since the final project in the course involves teamwork, this course is intended to help students develop interpersonal communication, to appreciate different cultures/ backgrounds, and to embody a more international perspective at the end of the semester.

The students are encouraged to be creative in the final project. Topics can include not only the practice of goal-reaching but also a process requiring spiritual training and growth. For example, one group decided to care for the homeless as their project because through completing the project, they realized a broader definition of success as creating value for other people in the process of reaching their own goals. Juliette, an international student from France, mentioned that she did not know how to show her concern for the homeless before. This project provided her the opportunity to interact with the homeless, and now she can even greet them with “Happy New Year” in Chinese.

Two groups in the course decided to invest money as their final project topic. To encourage the students to take action, Prof. Cheng provided each team with more than four thousand U.S. dollars to invest in the stock market and
promised that the students could share any profit evenly and that he would bear any loss himself. With both groups profiting in the end, one group even decided to donate their earnings along with Prof. Cheng to a charity organization.

Another group of students aimed at waking up early every morning by 7 a.m. without setting the alarm clock for 14 consecutive days. Students who used to be pressed for time started to realize the importance of pre-planning and transforming ideas into action by recording daily goal attainment. In addition, some of them realized that due to this routine lifestyle, their own biological clock would wake them up or discovered that they had extra hours to read, exercise, and do housework. By developing this lifestyle, some of the students even gradually optimized their pace both literally and figuratively by training for long-distance running every evening.
NCKU COVID-19 diagnostic system translated into 6 languages

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The National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) Hospital self-developed diagnostic system, which was previously available only in Chinese, enables patients to fill in data on their travel, occupational, contact and virus cluster history electronically before being seen by a doctor. Now the NCKU Hospital added 6 languages to the system, which will help reduce the burden of the medical staff.

To improve accessibility, the hospital added versions of the service in English, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Japanese and Korean, which then automatically translates the patient data for hospital staff.

An audio Taiwanese-language version of the system is also being developed.

According to Dr. Liu Ping-yen, the director of the NCKU Department of Intensive Care, the hospital initially only planned to add an English version, but later expanded it to better reflect the diversity of foreign languages spoken in Taiwan.
With help from the university's Office of International Affairs, the hospital recruited volunteers to translate the system into six languages.

Korean graduate student Tsui Wen-yu finished the system's Korean translations in a single day, saying that seeing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in his own country motivated him to help the hospital's staff “get through this challenge together.”
First Taiwanese Researcher to Receive OIE Meritorious Award: NCKU Professor Chu-Fang Lo Wins for the Global Shrimp Industry

NCKU Press Center

For decades, NCKU chair professor Dr. Grace Chu-Fang Lo has been studying the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV), which causes an extremely lethal disease in shrimp. In recent years, she has also been researching acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND). She has thus had a profound impact on global research and practices involving shrimp farming. In recognition of her lifetime contributions, the World Organisation for Animal Health (originally the Office International des Epizooties, OIE) is presenting her with the 2020 Meritorious Award, thereby making Prof. Lo the first researcher in Taiwan to receive this honor.
designated as an OIE Reference Laboratory for WSSV. Admirably, she transferred the WSSV diagnostic technologies that she worked so hard to develop to civilian commercial companies under very generous terms.

Several years ago, a new shrimp disease emerged: AHPND. Prof. Lo’s laboratory was again designated as an OIE Reference Laboratory for AHPND, and it is currently the only one in the world. In 2013, Prof. Lo accepted an invitation in Thailand to collaborate on AHPND research. In less than three months, she found an the AHPND-causing Vibrio parahaemolyticus with which harbored a plasmid that expressed the lethal toxin genes and confirmed the pathogenic mechanisms. A testing reagent was further developed to help shrimp farmers determine whether their shrimp fry were healthy.

Prof. Lo transferred from National Taiwan University to NCKU seven years ago. Based on the foundation she laid down in shrimp research, she began research on breeding specific pathogen resistant (SPR) shrimp and specific pathogen free (SPF) shrimp and founded the prospective International Center for the Scientific Development of Shrimp Aquaculture. She built scientifically designed shrimp farms with the goal of promoting global innovations in shrimp farming industry management.

Prof. Lo retired in February, 2020, but her enthusiasm for shrimp research has not diminished. She is currently building the first standardized shrimp farm with smart facilities for aquaculture in Taiwan, where she will continue to contribute dedicate her life’s work in shrimp research to society and improve Taiwan’s shrimp farming industry.

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TU Darmstadt Asia Office @ NCKU Celebrates 1st Anniversary

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National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), Taiwan and the Technische Universität Darmstadt (TUDa), Germany jointly hosted a 1-Year–Celebration of the TU Darmstadt Asia Office @ NCKU through a two-day event. On May 7th, the NCKU-TUDA-Bosch Joint Workshop mapped out a study program combining exchange at the partner university and an internship at Bosch in Taipei, all made possible by a scholarship program; and on the other hand stimulated scientific cooperation and its applications in advanced industry. On May 8th, NCKU, TUDa and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) together explored possibilities and funding for faculty’s research plans and students’ overseas study. Exchange students from TUDA to NCKU also shared their learning and living experiences in Tainan by poster presentations and answered many questions by NCKU students who are interested in an exchange semester at TUDA. The 1-Year–Celebration not only overviewed the long-term exchange over 30-plus years between the two universities, but also solidly advanced future projects, reflecting NCKU’s pragmatic methodology toward international education and cooperation.

NCKU President Huey-Jen Jenny Su noted that NCKU has signed 41 agreements with 14 German universities. The inauguration of TU Darmstadt Asia Office @ NCKU is the first time a German university deploying an office in Taiwan, which densifies bilateral interaction and contributes to multilateral partnership. For example, the NCKU-TUDA-Bosch framework allows students to do an internship and participate in business projects in a world-class company. When adding more colors to the students’ learning journey and solidifying their strength for future career, this program acts as a cornerstone for the two nations’ talent and leadership cultivation. On the other hand, the two schools’ professors specializing in mechanical engineering, chemical engineering and material science will devote their scientific research and development energy and chain with industrial pulse and needs through this trilateral academia-industry cooperation.
To nurture students’ capability of international mobilization and adaptation, as well as to apply academic research results in people’s true needs and lift the overall development of human society, are the core values upheld in NCKU’s international education, President Su pointed out. She added that because all NCKU members share these same values, the school has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for many years; resulting to NCKU’s high ranking and extraordinary achievement, 2nd in Asia and 38th in the world, in the Impact Rankings 2020 released by the Times Higher Education (THE) magazine on April 22. In this regard, TU Darmstadt is not only an important old friend but also a like-minded partner of NCKU. As the two schools embrace the same values, harmonious sparkles are always found during planning or implementing projects. President Su expects to greet more anniversary celebrations for many years and to make joint dedication to the two nations’ future.

The two schools have conducted multifaceted collaborations, Prof. Hsiao-Wen Wang, NCKU’s Vice President for International Affairs, said. The German Language & Culture Intensive Lecture Program, merging language lessons with knowledge about German workplace, education and cultural differences, aims to build up the language ability and international adaptability of students and faculty members. The deployment of a member from TU Darmstadt’s International Relations and Mobility unit in NCKU campus can provide direct and accessible individual consultation for overseas study and research in Germany, and enhance general career education and language course design. A short-term course was opened by TU Darmstadt faculty in the area of material science. In addition to bilateral exchanges, multilateral projects are also promoted. The two schools are currently cooperating with Bosch and DAAD respectively, and are planning future projects in NCKU’s Overseas Research Centers in Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand. Meanwhile, as NCKU’s learning environment and Taiwan’s epidemic prevention achievements receives high recognition from TU Darmstadt, during this difficult time, TU Darmstadt still chose NCKU and sent five German exchange students here.

Claudia Finner, Director of the TU Darmstadt Asia Offices who had previously served in academic institutions in Singapore, Japan and other countries, praised NCKU about its exceptional research foundation, outstanding pragmatic spirit and unchanging dedication to issues of tomorrow. Elvira Khamenok, an exchange student from TU Darmstadt to NCKU’s Mechanical Engineering Department shared about her pleasant stay here and passionately described it with friendly people, interesting culture, delicious food and astonishing landscape. Jens Grünwald, another exchange student from TU Darmstadt, appreciated NCKU for the prompt assistance and kind acceptance when he encountered changes caused by the epidemic. He also thanked all the kind Taiwanese people who had reached out warm hands to him and praised that the beautiful sceneries in Taiwan are truly worth exploring. NCKU
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will certainly receive his positive recommendation as a study or exchange destination, he said.

NCKU and TU Darmstadt signed their first academic cooperation agreement in 1987 and have since then promoted faculty mobility and student exchange and bridged between the Taiwan Comprehensive University System (TCUS) and the TU9 German Institutes of Technology. Over 30 years of mutual understanding and co-work, the two schools successfully earned recognition of EU’s Erasmus Program in 2017. TU Darmstadt further opened its Asia Office in NCKU in May 2019. NCKU has signed 41 agreements with 14 German universities, facilitating overseas student exchange, short-term research and internship, academic visits and dual-degree programs. As the strength of Germany and NCKU in engineering are both well-known, many joint research projects are developed in energy and material science fields.

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