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- All Things VR



Eco Voyage

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FEATURES



Prof. Da-Ming Wang, Secretary-General: **Embracing the Next Century of Excellence**

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GLOBAL OUTLOOK



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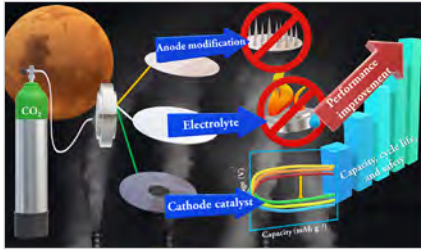


Expanding into Indonesia: Int'l High School Alliance

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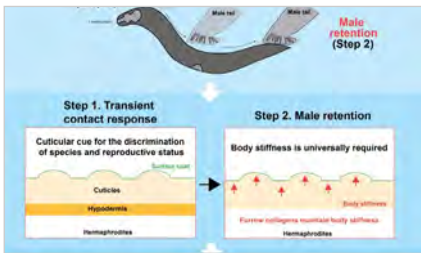
ACHIEVEMENTS



Advancing Battery Technology: The Promise and Challenges of Rechargeable Metal CO₂ Batteries

In recent years, the development of rechargeable metal CO₂ batteries has attracted considerable attention in the development of sustainable energy solutions and environmental preservation. These innovative batteries, particularly Lithium and Sodium-ion batteries, offer a promising way to mitigate CO₂ emissions while ...

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Unlocking the Secrets of Animal Mating Behavior

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TEACHING & LEARNING



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D-School TBD Program, NTU Plus Organize Welcome Day

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Freshmen Orientation Camp: Unveiling the Magic

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2023 Freshmen Cherish Their First Day at NTU

"The First Day at NTU," the opening ceremony for the 2023 academic year, began with a tutorial on the NTU school anthem by the FlyingNotes A Cappella Club. Next was the ...



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Fostering Unity and Wellness on Campus

National Taiwan University is the most highly-respected educational institution in Taiwan, and its vast campus is home to a dedicated community of over 11,000 faculty and staff members. Despite its ...

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| Features

Prof. Da-Ming Wang, Secretary-General: Embracing the Next Century of Excellence

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| Intro video about NTU Secretary-General, Prof. Da-Ming Wang.

The core mission of the Secretariat is “bringing people together.” A great campus can have many voices, and the Secretariat is dedicated to finding common ground, opening up communication, and fostering collaboration among different groups. National Taiwan University will celebrate its centennial in 2028, and at this crossroad of transition, we aim to showcase our rich and diverse traditions on the international stage.

For the centennial celebrations, we will select the “Top 100 Contributions” made by NTU during its history and showcase relevant collections and materials in the newly-built Centennial Museum. These contributions span the domains of technology and culture. Starting in 2024, twenty such contributions will be unveiled each year, reaching precisely 100 by 2028. The Secretariat has set up a dedicated committee to solicit personnel recommendations from each unit, department, and college. The following step is for each college to propose achievements made in their respective fields worthy of this honor. Then, the Secretariat will compile the achievement proposals for review and final decision by the committee.



Prof. Da-Ming Wang is the Secretary-General and a professor of the College of Engineering, specialized in membrane separation technology, molecular simulation, and tissue engineering.

Along the path of internationalization, an inter-departmental effort is needed to make the campus environment more friendly to cross-border exchanges and learning. The Secretariat strives to make more webpages bilingual; meanwhile, the Office of International Affairs coordinates with colleges and departments to expand the number and range of English taught courses, and the Office of Student Affairs is revising scholarship award guidelines and internship regulations to make studies and transition to employment more accessible for international students. As the core mediator, the Secretariat stands ready to coordinate and implement solutions that are flexible and conducive to integration.

The Secretariat's various tasks require a structured system and coordinated resource integration. The Media Relations & Communications Center and Alumni Center under the Secretariat both provide critical functions in this regard. In the past, the NTU anniversary was mostly about inviting alumni back to the school for the ceremony, but now opportunities have been created for the President to engage each alumni association and branch in person and share his vision for NTU. The Alumni Center also seeks ways for the President to strengthen ties with overseas alumni through in-person visits and online meetings. When alumni feel more connected to the university and have more opportunities for involvement, they are more inclined to give back to their alma mater.



Prof. Wang thinks the core mission of the Secretariat is bringing people together. He expects the Secretariat to coordinate and implement solutions that are flexible and conducive to integration.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Nobel Laureate Hiroshi Amano Leads off the NTU Royal Palm Lecture Series

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The NTU Royal Palm Lecture Series invites distinguished figures with outstanding achievements or international influence to present lectures on campus. For the inaugural lecture, the series featured Professor Amano Hiroshi, the 2014 Nobel Laureate in Physics.

NTU proudly introduces the NTU Royal Palm Lecture Series, a dynamic academic initiative to invite highly-accomplished individuals from academia and business circles, overseas as well as local, to present lectures on our campus. This initiative is aimed to broaden the horizons of our students and faculty alike.

The Royal Palm Series commenced with a lecture by Prof. Hiroshi Amano-- a distinguished engineer and recipient of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics. He is renowned for his expertise in the fields of light-emitting diodes (LEDs), high-power/high-frequency transistors, semiconductor physics, crystal growth, and nanoscale structures. Held on Sept, 1, Prof. Amano's lecture, "Why Did GaN-based Blue LED Emerge from a Poor University," drew an enthusiastic audience of students and faculty, eager to learn from his expertise.

Prof. Amano, a distinguished professor at Nagoya University in Japan, received the Nobel Prize in Physics together with fellow researchers Prof. Isamu Akasaki and



Amano Hiroshi, the Nobel laureate in Physics in 2014 and currently a Distinguished Professor at Nagoya University in Japan, presented a lecture at the NTU Royal Palm Lecture Series on September 1. The lecture sparked lively discussion.

Prof. Shuji Nakamura in 2014 for their groundbreaking work on the development of high-brightness blue LEDs. This innovation paved the way for energy-efficient, bright white light sources by enabling LEDs to emit the three primary colors of light.

In his lecture, Prof. Amano shared how Nagoya University, despite its limited resources, played a pivotal role in the development of gallium nitride (GaN)-based blue LEDs. This technology revolutionized lighting by offering a highly efficient, bright white light source. Prof. Amano emphasized the importance of persistence and enthusiasm in conducting research, recalling his journey from being uninterested in physics in high school to becoming a passionate advocate for its potential to benefit humanity.

Reflecting on his remarkable path, Prof. Amano underscored the importance of possessing such qualities as a "vision for the future," "enthusiasm," and "persistence" for scientific researchers. He encouraged budding scholars to recognize their unique talents and pursue their research endeavors with unwavering commitment.

The NTU Royal Palm Lecture Series, an integral part of NTU's ongoing effort to promote academic excellence and global perspectives, invites a diversity of distinguished speakers, including academic scholars, technical experts, NTU distinguished professors, highly-accomplished alumni, recipients of honorary doctorates, and influential entrepreneurs. These eminent speakers address pressing global issues and emerging technological frontiers, providing our students and faculty with precious, timely knowledge and insights. Prof. Amano's lecture commenced this stimulating series, which is planned to host six such events annually, with the expectation that the rich experiences and wisdom of the distinguished guests will provide inspiration as well as insights to every attendee.



President Wen-Chang Chen (right) expressed his delight in hosting Prof. Amano (left), praising the professor's unwavering spirit despite limited resources. President Chen stressed that such qualities offered valuable lessons for NTU students and faculty.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Raymond Soong Commits NT\$200 Million over the Next 10 Years to Sponsor Nobel Laureates

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NTU will establish the "Asian Institute for Advanced Studies" to appoint world-class scholars as chair professors.

A momentous occasion occurred on NTU campus this past August when NTU President Wen-Chang Chen and Raymond Soong, the founder of Lite-On Technology, met to announce the establishment of the "Raymond Soong Top Research Seminar." Soong has committed NT\$20 million annually for the next decade-- an impressive NT\$200 million in total. These funds are earmarked to support the Seminar's central mission: appoint Nobel Prize laureates as chair professors to collaborate with NTU faculty. These collaborations will include both short-term and long-term visits, aimed at enriching NTU's academic exchanges and research capabilities. Representing NTU, a group of faculty and staff were on hand to extend their heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Soong for his exceptional generosity.

The primary objective of the Seminar is to expand the horizons and expertise of NTU faculty and students. The Seminar is expected to feature renowned experts in the fields of advanced technology, including semiconductors, data science,



The donation ceremony for the "Raymond Soong Top Research Seminar," held in August.

sustainable energy, precision medicine, quantum technology, as well as sinology and law. Notably, all invitees must be either Nobel laureates or outstanding experts, internationally recognized in their fields. By hosting collaborations with these distinguished individuals, NTU aspires to bolster its global influence, foster international academic collaborations, and augment the university's competitiveness and visibility on the world stage.

Besides his support for academia, Soong also expresses a heartfelt desire to leverage this seminar as a catalyst for advancing higher education across the nation. He recognizes the pivotal role played by a strong university education in nurturing talent and acknowledges NTU's preeminence in this regard. He expresses his profound gratitude for NTU's invaluable contributions to Taiwanese society. By inviting esteemed international scholars to NTU, the Seminar will serve as a platform for cross-regional and interdisciplinary exchanges. He hopes that this initiative will not only expand NTU students' horizons but also inspire NTU scholars and researchers to engage in in-depth global dialogues to cultivate the top-tier talent that Taiwan needs to thrive on the global stage.



Mr. Song expressing his belief that exchanges with esteemed international scholars will improve NTU's global standing and Taiwan's higher education. He is thus offering donations to fund relevant initiatives.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Unleashing Innovation & Entrepreneurship: NTU Leaders Visit US Partners

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Vice President Ding's delegation visits Cornell Tech, the innovation hub of NTU's sister school, Cornell University.

President Wen-Chang Chen and his executive team embarked on a trip to the United States with the objectives of furthering collaborations between NTU and its sister schools in the US and observing several outstanding innovation and entrepreneurship hubs. President Chen's first stop was the University of Rochester, where he signed a collaborative agreement and his team held discussions on joint research endeavors and student exchange programs. Meanwhile, Vice President Shih-Torng Ding led another team to New York to visit Cornell Tech, the innovation hub of Cornell University. Their focus was to learn their innovative methods for nurturing entrepreneurship. Afterwards, they visited Columbia University to explore collaboration opportunities for NTU's College of Engineering and College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.



President Chen (right) and Timothy Killeen (left), President of the University of Illinois system, sign a cooperative research funding agreement.

The delegation next visited Northwestern University near Chicago, where they held discussions on faculty research collaborations and the planning of Northwestern University's upcoming visit to Taiwan. Afterwards, the delegation

visited the University of Illinois Chicago, forging collaborations in such fields as smart healthcare and signing an agreement on joint seed projects.

After their sojourn in Chicago, the delegation traveled to Seattle to visit the University of Washington to hold discussions on establishing student exchange programs and degree initiatives while also visiting the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) hub.

The delegation's final destination was California, where they discussed student exchanges and dual-degree programs with the University of California, Berkeley. Afterwards, the delegation visited the Taiwan Science and Technology Hub, founded by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) of Stanford University, to explore opportunities in scientific research and talent cultivation with the US.

The visit to the United States was a great success. President Chen and his delegation achieved their intended goals of furthering collaborations, drawing inspiration from successful models, and strengthening connections with overseas alumni.



NTU delegation visits the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) hub at the University of Washington.



NTU delegation visits the University of California, Berkeley to gain insights on the Bakar BioEnginuity Hub (BBH).

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Expanding into Indonesia: Int'l High School Alliance

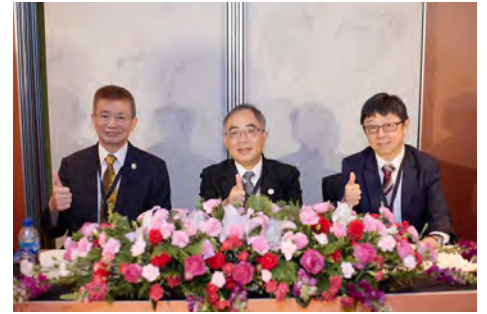
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Following the “NTUS International High School Alliance” Signing Ceremony in Malaysia in May, the National Taiwan University System (NTUS) signed agreements with eight more Indonesian high schools, namely SMA Kristen 1 PENABUR Jakarta, SMA Kristen 5 PENABUR Jakarta, Sekolah Terpadu Pahoa, SMA Katolik St. Louis 1, SMA Darma Yudha, SMA Sutomo 1 Medan, Jakarta Taipei School, and Surabaya Taipei School this past August in Jakarta, Indonesia. President Wen-Chang Chen, Executive Vice President Shih-Torng Ding, and Vice President for International Affairs Hsiao-Wei Yuan attended the signing ceremony on behalf of NTU.

Representative John C. Chen of the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Jakarta called Indonesia an important education partner for Taiwan. Currently, more than 16,000 Indonesian students are studying in Taiwan, representing the second-largest group of overseas students. Mr. Chen further remarked that the Taiwanese government had loosened relevant regulations, making it easier for overseas students to remain in Taiwan after graduation. He hoped this would encourage more Indonesian students to study in Taiwan.

Also serving as the Chairman of NTUS, President Chen affirmed that the goal of the International High School Alliance was to encourage local students to apply for and attend NTUS schools. Notably, NTU has made additional scholarship spots available for outstanding Indonesian students. Students who qualify and are recommended by their principals will have access to prioritized admission and full tuition scholarships, in addition to NTD\$8,000 of stipend each month.

Other honorable guests at the signing ceremony included Overseas Community Affairs Council’s Deputy Minister Joshua J.S. Ruan, Indonesia Federation of Taiwan Alumni Associations’ Honorary Chairwoman Rini Lestari and Chairman Ijoh Du Long, National Taiwan University Indonesian Alumni Association’s Chairman Agus Soesanto, as well as prominent members of the Taiwan-Indonesia education sphere. They all expressed enthusiasm about the partnership between NTUS and local Indonesian high schools.



NTU President and Chairman of NTUS Wen-Chang Chen (center) at the signing ceremony.



NTUS celebrated the MOU signing with 8 Indonesian high schools in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Advancing Battery Technology: The Promise and Challenges of Rechargeable Metal CO₂ Batteries

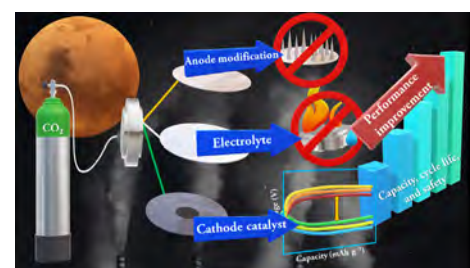
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In recent years, the development of rechargeable metal CO₂ batteries has attracted considerable attention in the development of sustainable energy solutions and environmental preservation. These innovative batteries, particularly Lithium and Sodium-ion batteries, offer a promising way to mitigate CO₂ emissions while powering the electric vehicle industry with their high energy density. Beyond their terrestrial applications, they may also support space exploration, powering rovers on Mars and Venus space missions, and even deployed beneath the sea in submarines. Despite their immense potential, these batteries face some thorny issues, such as a limited life cycle and safety concerns, prompting ongoing research to enhance their performance.

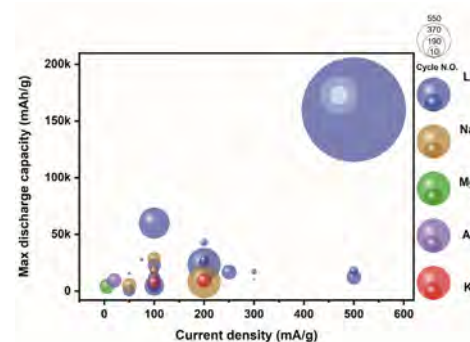
A collaborative research effort involving Prof. Ru-Shi Liu of NTU's Department of Chemistry and Advanced Research Center for Green Materials Science and Technology, Prof. Chung Ren-Jei of National Taipei University of Technology, and Prof. Shu-Fen Hu of National Taiwan Normal University has produced valuable insights into this technology. Their work, published in *Chemical Reviews*, delves into the recent advancements in rechargeable metal-CO₂ batteries (MCBs), with a particular emphasis on Lithium, Sodium, Potassium, Magnesium, and Aluminum-based variants using nonaqueous electrolytes. The review comprehensively examines the interactions and effects of electrolytes, anodes, and gases on these specific types of MCBs.

While rechargeable MCBs offer a highly promising, cost-effective energy storage solution, it must be born in mind that these batteries are still in the early stages of development. Substantial research efforts are needed to address the challenges, such as excessive charging–discharging overpotential and limited cyclability, arising from incomplete decomposition and accumulation of insulating and chemically stable compounds. The team's review article provides a comprehensive overview of recent studies, shedding light on key factors influencing the performance of secondary MCBs.

As the world grapples with the pressing need for sustainable energy solutions, the research conducted by these esteemed professors contributes significantly to our understanding of rechargeable metal CO₂ batteries. While there remains much work to be done, these findings light the way for the future of energy storage, offering hope for a more environmentally conscious and energy-efficient world.



The latest development of rechargeable MCBs with nonaqueous electrolytes.



A graph showing the current density versus the maximum discharge capacity of different MCBs.



Click or Scan the QR code to read the journal article in *Chemical Reviews*

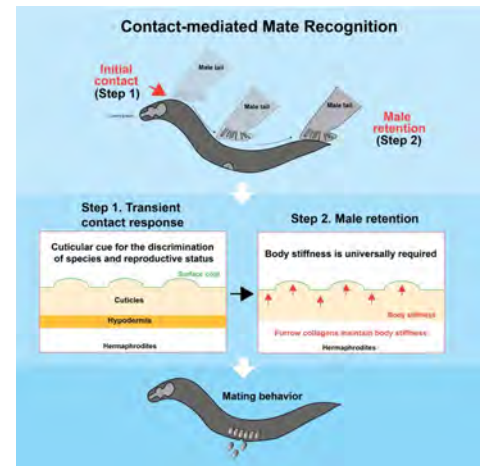
ACHIEVEMENTS

Unlocking the Secrets of Animal Mating Behavior

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Physical contact is prevalent in the animal kingdom to recognize suitable mates by decoding information about sex, species, and maturity. For animals, the reproductive success of their offspring hinges on the careful selection of mates, a process governed by a variety of social behaviors. While chemical cues play a pivotal role in long-range communication, animals often switch to mechanical cues when in close proximity to potential mates. These sensory signals enable animals to pinpoint their ideal partners. While extensive research has shed light on the significance of chemical cues in mate recognition, the role of mechanical cues has remained elusive.

Led by Assistant Professor Chen Chun-hao of the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology, a dedicated research team has uncovered a fascinating two-step recognition mechanism in *C. elegans* males for recognizing conspecific and reproductive mates. The first step involves the perception of an unidentified cuticular cue found on adult hermaphrodites, triggering a transient contact response in males. Next, the mates maintain an optimal body stiffness that serves to attract their counterparts and facilitate the completion of the mate recognition behavior, ultimately enhancing their chances of successful reproduction. Through manipulations of body stiffness via physical interventions, chemical treatments, and 3D-printed bionic worms, the team proved that body stiffness is an integral mechanical property for mate recognition and increases mating efficiency. The team's discovery extends the repertoire of sensory cues of mate recognition in *C. elegans* and provides a paradigm for studying the important roles of mechanosensory cues in social behaviors.



The contact-mediated mate recognition of *C. elegans* can be broken into two steps. First the cuticular cue on the surface coat will create a transient contact response. Next, its body will stiffen up to increase male retention and complete the mating behavior.



Click or Scan the QR code to read the journal article in *Current Biology*.

TEACHING & LEARNING

EcoVoyage: International Expedition for Biodiversity Insights

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A group photo of The International Joint Field Course 2023 at Thailand's Mu Ko Phetra National Park.

Offered by the College of Life Science since 2010, the International Joint Field Course has a rich history of international collaboration. Over the years, the College of Life Science has established collaborative partnerships with esteemed institutions such as the University of the Ryukyus in Japan, Bogor Agricultural University in Indonesia, Prince of Songkla University in Thailand, Academia Sinica, and Tunghai University.

Field courses are an effective, foundational approach to the study of the relationship between living organisms and the environment. These courses are designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge required to comprehend different aspects of ecology, including the study of flora and fauna, biodiversity, and climate patterns. Through hands-on field observations and practical work, students can immerse themselves in the environment and gain hands-on experience regarding their academic subjects. The highlight of these courses is the group presentations, where the students share their discoveries and insights. By engaging



Students using a fishnet to catch fish during a field experiment on fish diversity at Mu Ko Phetra National Park.

in rigorous fieldwork and follow-up analysis, students can apply the knowledge they have acquired and cultivate valuable experiences through overcoming various challenges.

This summer, in collaboration with Prince of Songkla University (PSU) and Tunghai University (THU), NTU's College of Life Science organized the International Joint Field Course, themed "Land and Sea Expedition - Ecology and Diversity Field Practicum." The course kicked off with coastal and marine activities at Mu Ko Phetra National Park in Thailand. These activities included field experiments on fish diversity, surveys of seaweed and seagrass, the collection and classification of zooplankton, and observations of intertidal ecosystems. Additionally, terrestrial activities were a core component of the course, featuring nocturnal insect and bat trapping, bird-watching expeditions, reptile capture, and analysis of plant diversity.

Next year, the College of Life Science will once again host this remarkable course in its homeland, Taiwan, to provide students with more inspiring ecological courses and experiments. Looking ahead, the college will implement more such events to foster stronger international partnerships with collaborating institutions.



Using microscopes to observe and classify collected coastal plankton.



Identifying plant species based on their characteristics and appearance during plant diversity analysis in Ton Nga Chang Wildlife Sanctuary.



Nocturnal insect trapping experiment.



Click or Scan the QR code to visit the webpage of the Center for International Academic Exchanges, College of Life Science to learn more about the program.

| TEACHING & LEARNING

One-Stop Solution for All Things VR

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| VR immersive experience.

To promote immersive learning in virtual reality (VR), NTU Digital Learning Center, Office of Academic Affairs (DLC), invited Prof. Chia-Pin Yu, the head of the DLC's Division of University Courses, to introduce the resources provided by the Center. He also discussed cases of both faculty and students who had utilized VR teaching aids in their respective fields.

Prof. Yu noted that while many NTU professors are eager to adopt VR immersive teaching in their courses, they do not know exactly how to transform their existing curriculums into VR content. A common impression is that VR technology is highly technical and presents a high barrier of entry. To address this misapprehension and promote immersive teaching, DLC has taken the initiative to identify suitable software and hardware for VR curriculums as well as organizing and hosting VR curriculum design workshops. These workshops cover everything from hardware operation, script design, material creation, to software instruction; by following such direct guidance, anyone can learn to create VR curriculums from scratch. Additionally, DLC offers VR equipment rental services for those interested in experimenting.



| Prof. Chia-Pin Yu, Associate Director of the DLC Division of University Courses, discussing VR promotion.

Through a VR workshop, Prof. Hsiao-Ling Yang, NTU School of Nursing, learned to record medical procedures in VR, which created an immersive experience through which her students learned how to react in real-life situations. Prof. Hsiao-Han Chao of the Athletic Department created VR tennis videos to familiarize students with ball control techniques from a first-person perspective-- as if they were playing on the court. Students marveled at the level of immersion this teaching format achieved, which was not possible through traditional lectures or 2D videos.

To further disseminate VR teaching on campus, DLC is planning to go beyond faculty training. The focus of the next phase will be students. By recruiting and training a team of seed students, more students will gain practical instruction in VR curriculum creation and applications.



| VR curriculum workshop.



| Applying VR technology to a tennis course.

TEACHING & LEARNING

D-School TBD Program, NTU Plus Organize Welcome Day

Share:     



Participating students and faculty on TBD Welcome Day.

NTU established its D-School in 2015 and introduced the Trans-disciplinary Bachelor Degree Program (TBD) in 2021. During the 8 years since its establishment, NTU's D-School has offered over 300 courses to its 7,000 students and faculty, involving diverse industries and communities to create and sustain a learner-centered open university.

This summer, TBD faculty members and student union collaborated with NTU Plus and its venue partners in Daxi District to organize TBD Welcome Day. Assistant Professor Dr. Shu-Wei Huang explained that the TBD curriculum structure is aimed to cultivate the students' three core abilities: problem-solving, innovative practice, and global connection. Associate Dean Shenglin Chang shared the origin story of D-School and the evolution of its strategies and visions. She advised students to let their passion and interest be their guide and learn with their partners with trust and an open heart.

During the reality puzzle-solving section, the organizers adopted the "River Age" reality game, designed by field partners of NTU Plus. The game encouraged the students to explore Daxi and fully experience the region through their five senses. Welcome Day was not only about getting to know each other but also



Associate Dean Shenglin Chang (second left) interacts with students.



Students participate in the reality game in Daxi District.

demonstrating that at D-School, any field can be a classroom full of real-life learning opportunities. Associate Professor Shany-Yun Huang mentioned that TBD is a brand-new program that encourages students to learn with an open attitude and a sense of purpose; through deliberate thinking, each student can shape and define their learning process. While hardships and setbacks are inevitable, the experience is worthwhile-- because “this is new and this could be fun.”



Associate Professor Shany-Yun Huang shares his great sense of humor during a feedback session.



Click or Scan the QR code to visit the Facebook page of TBD Program to learn more.

| People

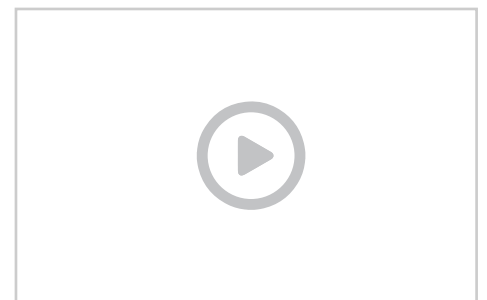
Club Expo: Sparkling Talents Shine on Campus

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Every autumn, NTU hosts the Club Expo, a lively event brimming with surprises. The 2023 Club Expo started in the morning with the clubs assembling to present a potpourri of performances that expressed the boundless creativity of campus life. The Club Expo has always attracted the students' attention, and this year was even more enticing. After all, this was the first time post-pandemic that students could plan, rehearse, and engage in performances and set up displays without any health restrictions.

Clubs fully utilized this opportunity to showcase their talents and hard work on stage, offering unforgettable visual and auditory spectacles for the audiences. Besides the stage performances, the clubs also curated exhibition booths with fascinating exhibits, creations, and displays of their club activities. These captivating performances and intriguing booth displays were all owing to the diligent efforts of the participating clubs.



| Footage from the Club Expo.

In his opening remarks to 2023 Club Expo, President Wen-Chang Chen encouraged the students to explore their passion and get to know others with similar interests. Such friendships may spark the spirit of collaborative learning and mutual support, traits that would enhance any student's academic journey and future career path. He hoped that every student would enjoy a fulfilling university life, seize their opportunities on campus, and create unforgettable memories.

A total of 187 clubs, varsity teams, and administrative units contributed to the resounding success of 2023 Club Expo. The event also featured a second-hand book exchange booth and a social service section, with the intent of imbuing sustainability concepts and an altruistic spirit among the visitors. The booths remained bustling well into the afternoon until the Expo's stirring conclusion. We can't wait to see you at next year's Club Expo on Royal Palm Boulevard.



Fire Dance Club showcasing exquisite skills.



Group photo of NTU Racing, President Chen (center) and Shi-Wei Chu, Vice President for Student Affairs (first right).



Group photo of Railway and Train Club, President Chen (center) and Shi-Wei Chu, Vice President for Student Affairs (first left).

| People

Freshmen Orientation Camp: Unveiling the Magic

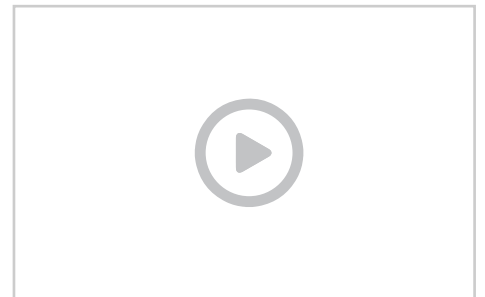
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| International students learn about NTU campus life by playing board games.

For over a decade, the Orientation Camp (OC) has been an essential campus rite of passage, introducing the vibrant world of NTU to the wide-eyed freshmen. This year, the organizers of OC 16 drew inspiration from Tarot cards in innovating an array of amusing activities-- puzzle-solving, break-out games, newcomer orientation, a mesmerizing club bazaar, and a thrilling music festival. By participating in these activities, the newcomers received helpful tips on selecting courses, getting around campus, finding a place to stay, and generally making the most of campus life.

The OC kicked off with the puzzle-solving adventure Real Escape and the breakout game First-Year Student's Guide. On the Real Escape adventure, the participants played team-based Monopoly games and quiz games on topics like course selection to acquaint them with the ins and outs of campus life. By exploring the First Year Student's Guide, the newcomers became acquainted important campus issues, such as gender equality, campus mobility, and respect for indigenous peoples and cultures. Over 2,200 incoming students joined this quest to explore NTU's numerous mysteries.



| Candid video of the Orientation Camp.



| Symposium for international freshmen.

Several inspiring speakers led the next activity, Newcomer Orientation. Associate Vice President for International Affairs, Prof. Kuo-Hsin Yang; Recipient of the NTU Outstanding Teaching Award, Prof. Ling-Chieh Kung; Information Visualization expert and writer, Chi-Chieh Peng; and Lecturer Jennifer Li-Yin Lin of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, all shared their perspectives and insights about the treasure-trove of resources NTU has to offer as well as their own memorable experiences at NTU. As for the club bazaar, representatives of over 56 student clubs diligently curated enticing booths on site, offering food, music, games, and other interactive activities. An impressive 1,600 incoming students sampled the vibrant activities served at the club bazaar and tasted the joy of club life.

The grand finale was the OC Music Festival, featuring Crispy, a renowned music band formed by several NTU graduates. As their music electrified the air, 18 administrative units set up booths, unveiling vivid tapestries of NTU's academic and administrative resources. The warmth and spirit of the band's riffs and crescendos filled the hearts of everyone present, charming the 1,500-plus students with their rich harmonies in celebration of these newcomers to the NTU family. This OC, much like a Tarot reading, unveiled the magical journey that awaits NTU's newest members.



Newcomers explore NTU by playing board games.



NTU Balloon Club greets new students at the Club Bazaar.



The Music Festival is the grand finale of this year's Orientation Camp.

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2023 Freshmen Cherish Their First Day at NTU

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"The First Day at NTU," the opening ceremony for the 2023 academic year, began with a tutorial on the NTU school anthem by the FlyingNotes A Cappella Club. Next was the amusing, interactive Q&A session between faculty and students. Adding to the excitement, the NTU Magic Club and the NTU Wind Band thrilled the audience with spellbinding performances. These vibrant, engaging programs were intended to greet the new students with a friendly, welcoming vibe. Feeling enchanted and excited, the freshmen left the ceremony with an indelible positive memory of their first day at NTU.

In his opening remarks, President Wen-Chang Chen extended his heartfelt welcome to the incoming students. Drawing on his own student life at NTU, he emphasized four pillars for a successful college life: building a robust academic foundation, expanding your knowledge horizon, cultivating a global perspective, and applying your knowledge in real-life situations. President Chen added that these four pillars also provide a solid foundation for future leaders to learn and think independently.



President Chen delivers his speech, accompanied by robotic dogs. He encourages the students to lead an active college life and embrace their NTU identity.

The highlight of the ceremony was the interactive segment titled "My First Day at NTU," where a variety of student clubs presented videos showcasing the rich diversity of campus life and inviting the newcomers to embark on voyages of discovery of their own. The amusing Q&A session, "I've got into NTU!" truly instilled a sense of belonging to NTU in these young students.

In closing remarks, Zhi-Cheng Zhuang, President of the NTU Student Association, advised the incoming students to set clear objectives and strive diligently to realize their dreams. Hong-En Chen, a student of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, shared his fascinating experience with NTU Racing, stressing that students can excel in their studies and academic pursuits and still lead a rich university life with their friends and in pursuit of other passions. The entire "First Day at NTU" ceremony offered a stream of motivational advice and well-wishes, inspiring the students to commence their NTU journey with enthusiasm and a solid sense of purpose.



Continuing the tradition of providing special NTU jerseys for the opening ceremony, this year's design features a sketch of the Main Library and the acronym "NTU," signaling the auspicious start of a fulfilling academic journey.



NTU welcomes 4,490 undergraduate students and 5,724 graduate and doctoral students at the Opening Ceremony 2023.

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Fostering Unity and Wellness on Campus

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National Taiwan University is the most highly-respected educational institution in Taiwan, and its vast campus is home to a dedicated community of over 11,000 faculty and staff members. Despite its impressive size, the university is still committed to ensuring that the faculty and staff are not treated merely as human resources-- workers and service people-- but also as individuals with unique needs and aspirations.

"As this is an enormous campus, many of our offices tend to focus on their specific domains, and it's disheartening that we might not know each other well enough," commented Yu-ping Su, CEO of NTU Life Education Center.

In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic, NTU Life Education Center introduced a holistic service model aimed at maintaining the health and fortitude of every member of the NTU family. This comprehensive approach includes the integration of resources across campus and a call to NTU staff to place greater emphasis on their physiological and psychological well-being and interpersonal relationships.

Enabling Self-Care for All

The pandemic necessitated a shift to online lectures, meetings, and operations, sharply diminishing the opportunities for face-to-face interaction among colleagues. Recognizing the adverse effects of such isolation, the NTU Administration tasked the Life Education Center to innovate a holistic care program in 2021 to combat the negative effects of social distancing and maintain the mental health of NTU faculty and staff members.

In developing this program, the Life Education Center collaborated with several key units, including the Personnel Office, the Athletic Department, the Center for the Arts, NTU Farm, the Library, and NTU Museums. The initial step involved compiling a list of courses and activities offered by these units. This streamlined approach allowed more faculty and staff to access existing resources and explore how to use this multitude of courses and activities to improve their personal wellness.

The next step was focused on engaging participants by offering free health check-ups. These check-ups raised the participants' awareness of their health conditions and guided them in making informed choices in their daily activities. The program further encouraged one-on-one health consultations with nutritionists, physicians,



Outdoor walking tours are one of the activities offered by the NTU holistic care program.



A participant shows his outdoor painting.



Participants learning to swing their tennis rackets in a tennis course.

nurses, and physical education instructors each month. This personalized approach facilitated the identification of specific needs, provided constructive advice, and aided in the selection of activities best aligned with individual needs.

Creating a Nurturing Campus Vibe

NTU Life Education Center diligently organized a wide range of workshops and courses tailored to the diverse needs of campus personnel. These offerings encompass a ten-week body training course that includes physical fitness exercises, cardio workouts, and ball sports. Moreover, "Pop-up sports activities" are held during lunch breaks offering participants the chance to explore newfound interests. Additionally, walking tours, sketching sessions, and craft workshops provide relaxing alternatives.

During the past three years, the center has organized over a hundred events, attracting over 16,000 participants. The remarkable response is evident in the high percentage of return participants, as well as the formation of friendships that extend beyond the classroom. Participants often choose to exercise together outside of scheduled courses.

Su expressed great satisfaction with the growing camaraderie among faculty members and reiterated the center's commitment to physical and mental well-being. The program's vision underscores the holistic development of individuals, encompassing not only skills and knowledge but also the cohesion of body and mind. "Whether it be promoting social harmony, helping others find meaning in their lives, goals to pursue, or values to realize, the goal is all the same: to create a happy campus where people live a happy life," concluded Su.



Faculty members learning how to produce edible rice through hands-on activities.