

| PEOPLE

Campus Comes Alive at Club Fair

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| NTU President and university administrators posing for a group photo with the Malaysian Student Association.

Each spring, as brightly colored azaleas bloom all around the National Taiwan University campus, something else comes into full view: the collective energy of student life.

This year's Azalea Festival, themed "As Steam Flows with Ancient Water, Youthful Dreams Dance with Azalea Flowers," opened in early March, sparking a familiar sense of anticipation. For many students, it is more than an annual event—it is a shared memory in the making. For visiting high school students, it often serves as their first glimpse into what life at the university might become.

The heart of the festival was the Student Club Fair, a sprawling, open-air exhibition of campus culture. A total of 152 booths lined the grounds, representing not only administrative units—such as the university press, health center, and campus safety office—but also a broad spectrum of student organizations in eight main categories.

This year, the event organizers took a further step toward inclusivity by adding English names to all the booth signage, making it easier for international students



| President Chen and Secretary-General visiting members of the Floral Design Club.

and visitors to navigate the event. The result was a more accessible, more globally attuned ambiance—one that reflected the increasingly international character of the campus.

A Marketplace of Ideas—and Identities

Under clear skies, crowds moved steadily through the fairgrounds. High school students, local families, and NTU undergraduates congregated at booths where club members, lively and eager, introduced their club's activities and shared their personal experiences.

What emerged was less a recruitment event than a vivid tableau vivant of student life.

Visitors encountered everything from campus publications and creative merchandise to orientation programs, international exchange opportunities, and cultural performances. More importantly, they were invited to join in conversations—about interests, values, and the many ways students shape their university experience beyond the classroom.

For prospective students, the fair offered something difficult to capture in brochures: a sense of belonging, of possibility, of the diverse paths that could unfold in student lives within the same institution.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

President Wen-Chang Chen and Dean of Student Affairs Shi-Wei Chu visited the booths, offering encouragement and acknowledging the role of student organizations in campus life.

Their presence underscored a broader message—one echoed increasingly by employers.

In recent years, industry leaders have pointed to student club experience as a critical training ground for leadership. Skills learned and developed outside formal coursework—teamwork, event planning, communication, and coordination—often prove essential in the workplace.

The university, in turn, has encouraged students to engage deeply in these activities, even to take on leadership roles, not simply as extracurricular pursuits, but as integral components of personal and professional development.

A First Step Into the Future

By the end of the day, the fair had accomplished much more than showcase student organizations.

It had created a space where curiosity met opportunity—where high school visitors could imagine their future college life, and current students could rediscover the richness of their present.



University leaders interacting with students from the Juggling Club.



Veterinary Cultural Exchange Club.



Water Service Team.



NTU Press booth.

In that sense, the Club Fair is not just an event. It is an invitation: to explore, to participate, and to begin shaping a path that extends far beyond the university gates.



Crowds visit diverse booths along Palm Avenue during the event.