International Student Volunteers – a first for PingTech!

PingTech organized an international volunteer team for the first time. Dr. Hua-Cheng Ho, an associate professor from the Department of Social Work, led ten students to the Bodhicitta Mandala Foundation of Indonesia in Medan to engage in a two-week (August 4-18, 2011) voluntary service activity. Dr. Yuan-Kuang Guu, the president of PingTech, hosted the flag presenting ceremony at the Administration Building on the morning of June 28th, 2011. President Guu encouraged students by reminding them to have compassion, to be kind, to work as a team and to look after their own safety. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the Ministry of Education, the National Youth Commission, Executive Yuan, the Taiwan Grateful Foundation, and other members of the community who sponsored to this event. This activity allowed the students from PingTech to have an unforgettable summer and give back to the international community.

MOU Signing Ceremony

On Thursday June 16th the President of PingTech, Dr. Yuan-Kuang Guu, hosted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony with the University of The Gambia. This memorable occasion was celebrated in the first conference room of PingTech’s administration building. Distinguished guests at the ceremony included the Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, Hon. Dr. Mariama Sarr-Ceesay; the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, Dr. Pap Sey; the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Office of the President, Mr. Alieu Njie; the Ambassador of the Embassy of The Republic of The Gambia in Taiwan, H.E. Alhagie Ebrima Ebrima N. H. Jarjou. They were joined by high-level Taiwanese diplomats, Mr. Shih-Liang Chen, the Director-General of the Department of African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Yu-Hsin Chen, a fellow officer at the Department of African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
The Honorary Doctorate to Mr. Kung-Wen Li

Mr. Kung-Wen Lee, the Chairman and Director of O-TA Precision Industry Co. LTD, was awarded an honorary doctorate for his excellent contribution to society, industry and PingTech. Mr. Lee is committed to the establishment of the O-TA laboratory on campus and has contributed greatly to the long-term support of industry-university cooperation with PingTech. Such collaboration includes the development of a series of products related to golf and applied research. In addition, Mr. Li also contributes to the long-term support of artistic and cultural activities. Mr. Li was conferred the honorary doctorate by Dr. Yuan-Kuang Guu, the President of PingTech, at the June commencement ceremony.

Designing a Safe, Stable and Fuel Efficient Bus

Many domestic bus body manufacturers import chassis made of steel from overseas. However, there are risks associated with driving at high speed with such chassis structure. The bus is prone to rollover, which can have deadly consequences. Therefore, the team led by Dr. Hui-wen Hu, a professor of the Department of Vehicle Engineering, has taken on a project, sponsored by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, on bus body security. The project developed a light, safe (meeting the European Union rollover crash test standards, EC-EER6 Code) and fuel-efficient bus body using aluminum alloy with composite materials. To promote this achievement to the industry, the Department of Vehicle Engineering held a symposium on the Lightweight Bus Body on the 21st of May, 2011. More than thirty companies, including Chong-Ying Vehicle and Kwang Yang Motor Co., Ltd. (KYMCO), participated in the event and showed great interest in the achievements of the team.

Nutritious, Healthy and Safe Aqua Feed Factory

The low-temperature processing Aqua Feed Practice Factory under the Department of Aquaculture began operation officially on the 21st of April, 2011. Due to increasing pressure on natural resources and growing demands for aquatic feeds, nutritional, healthy and safety requirements of aquatic feed formulation and production have become key to reducing farming and environmental pollution. The low-temperature processing Aqua Feed Practice Factory was established to meet this need, which involves innovative processing and biotechnology. The factory was set up not only for technicians training, but also to promote university-industry cooperation with the aquacultural industry.
The 2011 International Symposium on Natural Products for Alternative Therapy

The 2011 International Symposium on Natural Products for Alternative Therapy was held by the Agriculture and Health Biotechnological Industry Joint Research and Development Center at the Pingtung Agricultural Biotechnology Park (PABP) Conference Hall on June 22nd, 2011. The theme of the symposium is to strengthen the link between industry and international markets, to promote the health benefits of active natural products, and to promote R & D.

Several international and local scholars were invited to present on the current research and development of active natural products, as well as their applications as alternative therapies. In addition, during the symposium the Agriculture and Health Biotechnological Industry Joint Research and Development Center exhibited various research achievements and products in the hope of promoting their use in industry.

Non-Human Primates: Models and Training of Experts

The 2011 International Conference of Non-Human Primate Animal Models and Achievement Presentation of Non-Human Primate Training Project were held at the International Conference Hall at PingTech on April 28, 2011. PingTech Rescue Center for Endangered Wild Animals has twenty years of experience in dealing with primate animal breeding technology. The goals of this international conference were to share research results and breakthroughs in Primate Animal Models regarding the newest developments in world trends. Additional goals included improving the quality of the Non-Human Primate Models in Taiwan, and the effective use and enhancement of existing equipment in the related field.

A New Hope for Rural Areas

Cross-Strait Soil and Water Conservation experts gathered at PingTech on June 20, 2011, to discuss prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and new plans for rural areas. Mr. Ming-Yao Huang, Director General of the Soil and Water Conservation Bureau, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan, was invited to give the keynote speech on new hope for rural areas. The symposium offered an occasion for cross-strait soil and water conservation academic exchange. It also attracted the experts from different fields, such as civil engineering and irrigation. This will facilitate the development of better policies and innovative technology.

A Canadian Anthropologist from University of Ottawa

Dr. Scott Simon, a Professor from University of Ottawa, Canada, was invited to give lectures at College of Humanities & Social Science and the Institute of Wildlife Conservation from May 9 to 27, 2011. Dr. Simon was also invited by the Institute of Ethnology at Academia Sinica, and National Dong Hua University to give seminars in which his activity was sponsored by Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange. Dr. Simon provided inspiration and refreshing ideas, and had close interactions with PingTech’s faculty and students. It was a great opportunity for the College to play a part in this international academic exchange. His visit also encouraged researchers to be more involved in community capacity building through the study of anthropology and human rights.
Happy 10th Birthday: Hotel and Restaurant Management

The Department of Hotel and Restaurant Management held its 10th anniversary celebration on the morning of May 17th, 2011 at their building on campus. The celebration demonstrated students’ learning outcomes and it also acknowledged students with outstanding performance in the 41st National Skills Competition - Southern Division Skills Competition on May 13th, 2011. Freshmen from the Department, Che-Wei Chung and Wun-Ling Huang, were led by assistant professor Wen-Tung Chen, and won first and second place in the Chinese Cooking Competition. Yu-Ting Chen, also a freshman, guided by Associate Professor Dr. Pei-Chun Lai, and Assistant Professor Chen-Ying Zhong, won fourth place in the Food Services Competition. It was an enjoyable celebration honoring teachers and students who had performed well.

2011 Education Worldwide India Fairs (EWWI)

In pursuit of expanding academic exchanges between Taiwan and India, and establishing platforms for dialogue, Dr. Ching-Ji Wu, the Minister of the Ministry of Education, along with the universities’ Presidents visited India and participated in the Education Worldwide India Fairs (EWWI) in April, 2011. The main goals of this visit were to publicize Taiwan’s higher education development achievements, to attract Indian students to Taiwan’s universities, and to encourage Indian higher educational institutes to sign scholarly research exchange cooperation memoranda with PingTech. There will be 1000 Indian university faculty coming to Taiwan to pursue higher degree studies in the next five years. PingTech signed an MOU with Amity University during this visit.

Good Morning Vietnam: A Visit to Can Tho and Thai Nguyen Universities

Under the leadership of president Guu, PingTech has placed great importance on international communication and exchange. Accordingly, when a sister university, Cantho University, Vietnam, held its 45th anniversary celebration, PingTech representatives attended. Dr. Henry Chen, the Dean of the Office of International Affairs, and Dr. Ting-Chien Chen, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, attended the anniversary ceremony on March 30, 2011. This was an ice-breaking trip which led the two universities to closer cooperation. Cantho University has selected two students with the Mekong 1000 scholarship to pursue master’s degrees at PingTech in fall semester begun in September, 2011.

After the visit in Cantho, Pingtech’s representatives flew on to Thai Nguyen University, North Vietnam, to discuss future cooperation. Thai Nguyen University has coordinated with PingTech to offer an overseas master’s program in Business Administration and Environmental Science and Engineering.

A Pioneering Double Degree Program for Outstanding Students from Indonesia

Dr. Wen-Chi Huang, Department of Agribusiness Management, initially accepted two exchange students from University of Brawijaya (UB), Indonesia, to study under her guidance. This is the first ever Dual Degree Program executed in PingTech. When the students graduate they will be conferred degrees from both universities. UB and PingTech signed a Dual Degree Agreement in 2011, which allowed outstanding students from the home university to spend half time of their original program studying at the host university and get a diploma upon their fulfillment of the graduation requirements.
Salvadorian Student Wins Top 10 Best Paper Award in Germany

Angel Amed Duron Benitez, a Salvadorian Ph.D. student at the Department of Tropical Agriculture and International Cooperation (DTAIC), PingTech, won the top 10 Best Paper Award in an International Essay Competition. He participated in the International Food & Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) competition under the guidance of Dr. Wen-Chi Huang. His award winning essay stood out from 250 others and was published in Frankfurt, Germany on June 20. PingTech hopes to see more students devoted to their academic research and able to contribute their findings and knowledge to society.

A Great Achievement in Software Creation

The 2010 school year National College and University Open Software Creation Competition and the Network Communication Software and Creativity Application Competition award ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011. 238 teams took part in the Open Software Creation Competition and 242 teams participated in the Network Communications Software & Creativity Application Competition. After more than five months of intense competition, the results finally came out on April 27th. The students of PingTech’s Department of Management Information Systems, guided by professor Sheau-Ru Tong, were awarded the Great Achievement prize in the Network Communications Software & Creativity Application competition.

Go, Go, PingTech Power Rangers!

The “2011 National Creative and Applied Fuel Cell Contest” was held on May 25 with 15 teams from 8 colleges and universities participating. A team from the Department of Materials Engineering took home the second place prize for their “Earthquake Warning System.” The successful power rangers, students Wei-Yuan Guo, Sheng Long Su and Ping-Wen Hshie, designed the system and dedicated it to the 72,000 people who died from earthquakes between 2000 and 2011.

Just Young: Cutting-edge Designs from Pingtung Graduates

Just Young, Pingtung Cutting-edge Graduate Exhibition, sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs, Pingtung County, was held at Pingtung County Museum of Art from April 21st to 26th. Students from the Department of Fashion Design and Management and the Department of Wood Science and Design participated in the performance together. This activity not only presented a creative dynamic fashion show with fantastic acoustic and visual effects, it also exhibited static creative works. The exhibition was divided into five categories including experimental design, product design, spatial design, crafts and graphic design.

Tasty Treats: 41st National Cooking Skill Contest

- Mr. Che-Wei Chang - 1st place in Chinese-style cooking
- Mr. Wen-Ling Huang - 2nd place in Chinese-style cooking
- Mr. Yu-Ting Chen – 4th place in food and beverage-service contest

These winners are students from the Department of Hotel and Restaurant Management at PingTech.

The national skill contest was divided into three regions, the Northern, Central and Southern Taiwan. A total of 2,824 people took part in the 41st National Skill Contest, 830 from the Northern region, 1032 from the Central, and 942 from the Southern. The Southern regional contest ran from May 13th to 15th. During the vigorous competition, the students of PingTech performed superbly and did their school proud!
University of Saint Thomas, Republic of Mozambique

The President and a delegation from the University of Saint Thomas, Republic of Mozambique paid PingTech a visit on May 13, 2011. The guests had a meeting with President Guu. Further cooperation was also discussed.

Nottingham Trent University, UK

Dr. Eunice Simmons, the Dean of the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences at Nottingham Trent University, visited PingTech on May 3, 2011. Dr. Simmons visited the Department of Animal Science, Innovation and Practical Training Center and the Pingtung Rescue Center for Endangered Wild Animals. Besides, Dr. Simmons had a meeting with OIA to discuss student exchange programs for both universities in the future.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, The Republic of Guatemala

Ing. Juan Alfonso De León García, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food for the Republic of Guatemala paid a visit to PingTech on April 27, 2011. After meeting with President Guu, Minister León García visited the Food Pilot Plant and Aqua Feed Practice Factory.

The Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Nicaragua

Mr. Orlando S. Solorzano Delgadillo visited PingTech on June 23, 2011. The Minister met with President Guu and students from Nicaragua and discussed future agricultural cooperation between PingTech and Nicaragua. After meeting he visited the Department of Hotel and Restaurant Management and Innovation Training Center.

The Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia

A delegation from the Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry and Malaysian Chinese Association visited PingTech on May 19th, 2011. The guests were hosted by Dr. Chang-Hsien Tai, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and PingTech’s academic orientation and research achievements were discussed along with further cooperation for the Malaysian farmers training program at PingTech.

Thai-Taiwan (BDI) Technology School, Thailand

The President of Thai-Taiwan (BDI) Technology School, Ms. Belinda Changkajonsakdi, paid a visit to PingTech with the MOE Secretary of Thailand, Miss Tina Ou, on April 14, 2011. The guests visited the College of Engineering, Vehicle Practical Factory and Pingtung Rescue Center for Endangered Wild Animals to find out more about life research and education achievements.

Quality Learning Foundation (QLF), Thailand

On June 22, 2011, in the 2nd meeting room of the Administration Building, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Chang-Shan Tai, and PingTech representatives welcomed a delegation from QLF. The delegation included Dr. Kissanapong Kirtikara, Second Vice Chairman of QLF Governing Board, Mr. Sombat Suwanpitak, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and other QLF members. After discussions they proposed a university-wide agreement for further collaboration between PingTech and QLF.

Xiaogan University, China

On June 23, 2011, at the 2nd meeting room of the Administration Building, PingTech President Guu welcomed the delegation of Xiaogan University, China. After signing an MOU, the delegation visited the Department of Biological Science and Technology, the Department of Vehicle Engineering and had a campus tour.
Penang Alumni Association of Taiwan Universities and Colleges (PAAT), Malaysia

A delegation from the Penang Alumni Association of Taiwan Universities and Colleges (PAAT) comprising PAAT members, Ministry of Education representatives, middle schools principals and Malaysian media paid a visit to PingTech on Apr. 18, 2011. This event provided the delegation with a greater understanding of PingTech. Hopefully this will help increase the number of Malaysian students studying in PingTech in the near future.

A Delegation from the Parent-Teacher Association, Hong Kong

A Delegation from the Hong Kong Parent-Teacher Association visited PingTech on June 27, 2011. The guests observed the learning environment and teaching practices on campus. After a briefing, the guests toured the campus and visited student dorms and the Animal Hospital.

The Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools, Hong Kong

Members from the Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools visited PingTech on June 19th. The delegates visited the Pingtung Rescue Center for Endangered Wild Animals and the Animal Hospital of the Department of Veterinary Medicine. During the trip they learned more about the learning environment, teaching practices and student life at PingTech.

Kasetsart University at Kamphaengsaen, Thailand

The Dean and a delegation of faculty members from the Engineering Department at Kamphaengsaen, Kasetsart University (KU) paid a visit to PingTech from June 8-10, 2011. The delegation met with President Guu and discussed sending students to study at PingTech. The delegation also visited several departments, including Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Soil and Water Conservation, Biomechatronics Engineering, Vehicle Engineering and Food Science and the Center of Agriculture and Aquaculture Product Inspection and Certification. Before this visit, five professors and nineteen master’s students from KU visited PingTech on April 25. The main purpose of the visit was for them to seek possible collaboration and exchange program between PingTech and KU at Kamphaengsaen campus.

Exchange Students from Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and China

In addition to the nineteen master’s students from KU who visited PingTech on April 25th, five students from the University of Science and Technology Beijing, thirteen students from KMITL Thailand, two students from Indonesia and one from Japan visited PingTech for laboratory training in the fields of Food Science, Animal Science, Horticulture, Aquaculture and Plant Industry. They not only learned laboratory training but also about each others’ cultures and made new friends.
Songkran Festival in PingTech

The 2nd Thai Songkran Festival in PingTech was held in front of the Department of Tropical Agriculture and International Cooperation on April 11. The agenda of the festival included praying for teachers, a traditional Thai dance performance, a Thai Martial Arts performance and an International Miss Songkran Beauty Contest. This event marks the beginning of summer, and both teachers and students who participated in this event all had a great time. For those who can’t make it to Thailand for the festival, remember to participate in a “mini Songkran Festival” in PingTech.

Dragon Boat Racing

The Pingtung County Dragon Boat Race was held at Dapeng Bay on June 5th and 6th. A total of 37 teams and 1100 contestants participated in the race. People in Donggang town were enthusiastic about the competition, as this event was hosted in conjunction with the Bluefin Tuna Cultural Festival and the Dapeng Bay International Regatta. 22 students from the water-sports club at PingTech participated in this competition. After a series of spirited rounds, the PingTech students came in second in the final race.

My life in PingTech by Miss Mitsuko Sugano

I think that Pingtung is a good place with fabulous mountains, water and friends. I made a lot of friends in Pingtung, especially among my classmates in the laboratory and my director, Prof. Zeng-Yei Hseu. I am very grateful to my friends for looking after me during those three months. If it wasn’t for the care my friends gave me, I’m sure my stay in Taiwan would not have been so colorful. Moreover, I am also thankful to the teachers and employees of the Office of International Affairs, because they helped me learn at PingTech. I hope that the school can offer more Chinese courses in the future. This will help students to learn more about Chinese. Everyone is welcome to visit Meiji University in Japan. We will meet again someday!

2011 Graduation Ceremony

PingTech’s 2011 Graduation Ceremony was held on June 17th at Shu-Yun Hall. The Minister of Education, Dr. Ching-Ji Wu, joined the ceremony, too. This year there were about 3,000 graduates from Bachelor, Master’s and Doctoral programs. Among them were 19 foreign doctorate graduates and 15 master’s degree graduates. Many foreign graduates have gone back to their own countries to be ministers, ambassadors and even the representatives at the United Nations. They are all deserving of the highest respect. One Thai graduate, Mr. Korawit Chaisu, and one Swazi graduate, Mr. Celimphilo Shakes Mavuso, have earned International Cooperation and Development Foundation (ICDF) scholarships to allow them to continue their educations at PingTech at the doctorate level.