

New President Getting Ready for Centennial

NTU, Minerva U Partners for Innovation
Emergent Leaders for Smart Medicine
The Beauty of Kun Opera

Economist Focuses on Building Trust





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Professor Yiting Li of NTU's Department of Economics was elected as an Academician of Academia Sinica in July, 2022. Looking back at her academic career, she found to her surprise that "the word I use the most is 'fortunate.'" She once read an article that mentioned life is a U-bend, and the "happiness curve" of life hits rock bottom at around the age of 46. "After that, the only way to go is up." She always says the value of ...

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Passing the Baton: Presidential Handover

National Taiwan University held the 13th Presidential Handover Ceremony on January 7 with the Ministry of Education (MOE)'s Political Deputy Minister of Education ...

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Then Vice President for Academic Affairs Professor Shih-Torng Ding, Vice President for International Affairs Professor Hsiao-Wei Yuan, ...

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Partnering with the World's Most Innovative University

Based in the United States, Minerva University is known as one of the most innovative institutions of higher education in the world. The vision began with fundraising for the Minerva Project in 2012, and the ...

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Strengthening the Ties: Visits of the Czech Delegation and the Ministry of National Education of Poland

Last Autumn, a delegation of 14 academics and officials led by Senator Jiří Drahoš, ...

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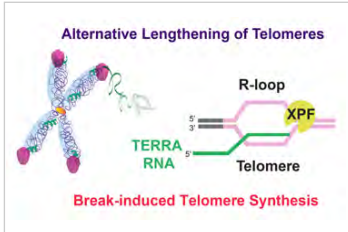


Industry-Academia Collaboration on Carbon Sequestration with Japan

To accelerate reaching Taiwan's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, NTU researchers are actively studying ...

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ACHIEVEMENTS



Breaks before Synthesis - New Insights into ALT Cancer Therapy

Maintenance of telomere length is closely related to processes of cancers and aging. How do telomeres extend in length? It is well-known that the telomerase enzyme can lengthen telomeres. However, some cancers do not depend on telomerase activity to lengthen their telomeres. Instead, they utilize "Alternative lengthening of ...

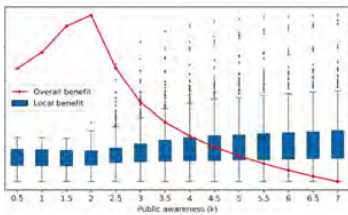
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New Treatment Strategy for Sepsis

Sepsis is the body's life-threatening response to infection. It occurs when the body overreacts in a toxic manner, leading to internal tissue and organ damage and even death. One's immune system usually serves to fight invaders, such as bacteria and viruses; sometimes, however, the immune system turns on itself instead of ...

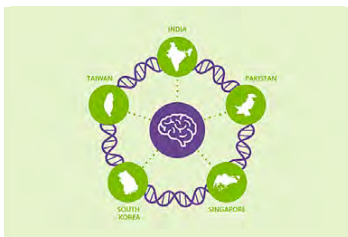
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A Spatial Epidemic Simulation Approach for Combating COVID-19

For early detection of invisible or early disease spreaders, it is crucial to persuade the public to participate in voluntary testing. The effect of this measure, however, may vary and be undermined depending on the public's awareness of the pandemic and compliance with the quarantine and health guidelines. Prof. Tzai-Hung Wen ...

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A Large-scale International Genetic Study of Bipolar Disorder in Asian Populations

Bipolar disorder (BP) is a severe multifactorial neuropsychiatric disorder that leads to intense shifts in mood, energy levels, and behavior. BP occurs in 1-2 percent of the general population, yet its genetic architecture remains a mystery. Although the Asian population accounts for nearly 60 percent of the world population, most participants of BP genetic studies are Europeans, only 10 percent of them are Asian. To fill in the missing ...

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TEACHING & LEARNING



Developing Emerging Leaders in Smart Medicine and Health Informatics

The Master's Program in Smart Medicine and Health Informatics (Smart MHI) was launched by the International College of NTU in 2021. ...

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University Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." In response to the in-depth discussions on issues related to human ...

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Passing on the Passion for a Half Century: Men's Tennis Team

"I finally defeated my inner demon in my thirteenth challenge. In the match deciding our advance from the quarter-finals to the semifinals, I scored nearly 20 Deuce and survived at least 10 break points. At that moment, I heard the final obstacle inside me being released. The voice in my head ...

[... more](#)



Vilnius, A Glimpse into Eastern Europe and Russia

The Koo Chen-Fu Memorial Library of the College of Social Sciences held a series of events as part of the book fair *Vilnius, a Glimpse into Eastern Europe and Russia* at the end of 2022. During the COVID-19 outbreak in Taiwan in 2021, Lithuania donated vaccine to Taiwan and then set up ...

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A Night of Discovering the Beauty of Kun Opera

Co-organized by the Office of Student Affairs and the Chien Kuo Foundation for the Arts and Culture, an on-campus Kun Opera performance by the Kun Art ...

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In Memory of the Father of Public Health with Keio University

The NTU College of Public Health and the Dr. KP Chen Foundation for Preventive Medicine held the "2022 ...

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| FEATURES

Facing the World with Humility and Confidence: An Interview with Academician Yiting Li

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Professor Yiting Li of NTU's Department of Economics was elected as an Academician of Academia Sinica in July, 2022. Looking back at her academic career, she found to her surprise that "the word I use the most is 'fortunate.'" She once read an article that mentioned life is a U-bend, and the "happiness curve" of life hits rock bottom at around the age of 46. "After that, the only way to go is up." She always says the value of money is based on the "self-fulfilling prophecy," so she is welcoming the moment of her self-fulfillment with gratitude, grace, and ease.

Things economics taught me

Yiting Li studied in the undergraduate program of International Business for the simple reason that it was ranked number one choice. During her college years, she found herself deeply inspired by the concept of caring for society and human well-being while participating in a club activity with senior schoolmates. This led her to start taking courses offered by other colleges and departments. During a classroom lecture, she felt deeply touched by the thoughts of a leading economist and

decided to apply for the Graduate Program in Economics.

Li focused her master's thesis on how the hyperinflation in Taiwan ended after World War II. Looking back now, she said that such a beginning seems to have predicted her current research interests: "My research has been focused on such questions as why does money have value and why do people trust the central banks that issue currencies?"

When the value of money is depreciated, inflation occurs. The concept is based on the so-called "self-fulfilling prophecy;" that is, if people think money will not be valued in the future, they will naturally not make an effort to work hard in exchange for money, which results in the lack of value in money. If that is the case, how can people believe in the value of money? As the value of money is determined by the public's "belief" in the future value of the banknote, this "belief" is affected by many factors, the most important one being the willingness and commitment of the issuer to maintain the purchasing power of the money.



Prof. Yiting Li of the NTU Department of Economics was elected as an Academician of Academia Sinica in last July. Prof. Li looks back at her life's work with gratitude. She thinks everything in life is an experience co-created with many others around you, and "at the end of the day, there is no bad experience."

Transparency appeal: the hope for a central bank that builds trust

While speaking of policy issues, Li's eyes and tone visibly lit up. She pointed out that the trust mechanism of money is based on the independence, transparency, and accountability of the central bank. For example, 43 countries around the world have released historical data on their central banks' foreign exchange interventions, but the Central Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan) (CBC) has not yet promised to disclose such information. "Many scholars want to study whether CBC's exchange rate policy can be characterized as 'CBC tamped down on NTD's appreciation, while it took a let-it-go policy on NTD's depreciation.' Without data on foreign exchange interventions, researchers have to rely on coarse proxies, e.g., changes in the stock of central bank's reserves." However, Li is of the opinion that allowing the public to examine a central bank's policy is needed to build trust in money and to achieve price stability.

Another policy she has been advocating strongly to CBC is something young people can resonate with, namely, to follow the European Central Bank's (ECB) example and include owner-occupied housing prices in the price index. She explained the reason in detail: rising housing prices lead to an increase in living costs, which will also be passed along to renters, causing the prices to go up, further burdening low-income households and creating an impact on financial stability. The subprime mortgage crisis is not far behind, and housing prices have become the key to financial stability. ECB's consideration in constructing a new price index also reflects the logic that both from the perspective of price and financial stability, a central bank must keep updated on housing prices.

Achieving academic partnerships by being true to the original intention and going with the flow

Back in the office, Li is still her reserved self. She said, "I don't really have any big ambitions." She kept repeating that she was just "doing her duty as a researcher," leaving everything else to chance. "When I attend research conferences, I try my best to share research work and exchange ideas with scholars."

Considering herself not a "sociable" person, Li somehow managed to gradually forge good relationships at international academic events with sincerity, an open-minded attitude, and friendliness. Three years ago, a scholar with a Ph.D. came to teach at the Department of Economics precisely because her advisor got to know Yiting Li well through some seminars. Therefore, Li encourages young colleagues to participate in more international conferences, "the more specialized (the seminar), the better!" The contacts and partnerships cultivated through academic exchanges can also enhance the development of the department.

Q&A

Q: What animal do you think you are like?

A: A cow that chews on grass and enjoys the sun leisurely.

Q: What is your impression of NTU?

A: The biggest treasure of NTU is the people. They are amazingly diverse, and they all stand out.

Q: What has inspired you lately?

A: The abundance of life is made up of seemingly insignificant bits and pieces.

Q: What experiments do you do in daily life?

A: Making tea and coffee as a display of creativity.

Q: How is the importance of currency reflected?

A: When you are used to a certain country's currency, you are integrated into the local culture. Therefore, the importance of currency cannot be underestimated.

Grasping every tiny sign to discover your true interest

Yiting Li found that some students do not know which field of economics they are interested in. She believes that interest is not necessarily aligned with one's capabilities but hidden in tiny signs under the surface. When you realize you have been thinking about certain questions and trying to find the answers, you should ask yourself why you are curious. This is a good way to be true to yourself and understand your interests.

As a woman, Li keeps reminding and supporting herself with what Professor Cass at the University of Pennsylvania (U Penn) told her prior to obtaining her degree, "I have doubts about you adapting to the culture in Asia that does not encourage women to express themselves bravely." Fortunately, now she can see that regardless of gender, her colleagues are trying to create a friendlier work environment. At the end of the day, the more important thing is how female researchers can be confident and humble when defending their research and finding the balance without going overboard.

When it comes to life, a book about meditation tells her that no matter what state she goes into during meditation, she should just tell herself “not yet (enlightened),” without overthinking or worrying. Life is nothing more than an experience co-created

with many others, so whether it is good or bad, there will be gratitude at the end. Everyone is born with different personalities. The important thing is to understand and reach your full potential. If you keep an open attitude, you will understand that



BIO

Yiting Li

33rd Academician of Academia Sinica

Yiting Li is a Distinguished Professor in National Taiwan University. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1995, and was with National Tsing Hua University before joining National Taiwan University in 2002. Her research interest includes monetary theory, banking and financial markets, and macroeconomics. She is in the advisory board of *Taiwan Economic review*, and serves as an associate editor of *Academia Economic Papers*, *Journal of Macroeconomics*, and *Taipei Economic Review*. Yiting Li received Beth Hayes Prize for Graduate Research Accomplishment in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania. She also received the Best Teacher Award from NTHU and NTU, three times Excellent Research Award by National Science and Technology Council, Academic Award and National Professorship Award by the Ministry of Education, and NTU chair professorship. She is elected as an Academician of Academia Sinica in 2022.

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FEATURES

Passing the Baton: Presidential Handover

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Prof. Wen-Chang Chen, the 13th NTU President, received his PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Rochester. He is Chair Prof. of NTU and Distinguished Prof. of NTU's Department of Chemical Engineering. His past positions include Dean of NTU's College of Engineering, President of the Federation of Asian Polymer Societies (FAPS), President of the Polymer Society (Taipei), and Polymer Program Coordinator of the National Science and Technology Council. He has been awarded an honorary PhD by the Université Grenoble Alpes, National Chair Professorship by the Ministry of Education, Academician of the Asia Pacific Academy of Materials (APAM) and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC).

National Taiwan University held the 13th Presidential Handover Ceremony on January 7 with the Ministry of Education (MOE)'s Political Deputy Minister of Education Mon-Chi Lio presenting the letter of appointment to Professor Wen-Chang Chen, the new President and the outgoing President Chung-Ming Kuan handing over the presidential seal. With enthusiastic guests from all walks of life filling the hall, the historic yet heartwarming ceremony was punctuated with frequent bursts of applause and laughter.

On receiving the baton, President Wen-Chang Chen declared that he was in the relay race, a race in which every President makes strides to maintain NTU's position as the nation's leading university. He promised, therefore, to do his best to oversee every aspect of university operations. He also expressed his gratitude to the members of the Presidential Search Committee, students as well as faculty, for giving him this opportunity to serve the University. He will surely seize this opportunity to press forward, in step with every NTUer.

President Chen's vision for NTU is to "build a world-class university and show its centennial glory." During his tenure as president, he expects NTU to complete four missions:



Political Deputy Minister of Education Mon-Chi Lio (left) presenting the letter of appointment to Prof. Wen-Chang Chen, the new President (right).



Prof. Chung-Ming Kuan, the outgoing President (left), handing over the seal to Prof. Wen-Chang Chen, the new President, at NTU's 13th Presidential Handover Ceremony.

1. Uphold academic freedom, pursue truth, and shape the philosophy that is respected by the international community;
2. Cultivate future leaders with creativity, leadership, execution and altruism in various professions;
3. Encourage faculty members and students to accept challenges by keeping committed to solving important issues related to sustainable development and leading the development of the world;
4. Actively contribute to national development, guide the trend of thought in society, and act as the vital think tank for future development.

As the new President of NTU, President Chen declared that he will focus on campus autonomy, academic freedom, and educating the future generation of leaders. Further, he will make every effort to realize the vision and development strategies to maintain the NTU's high standing in global academia, including building a smart and sustainable campus, trailblazing in key research areas, enhancing international competitiveness, encouraging research and independent learning, completing planning for NTU's centennial celebration, fostering connections with alumni, and replenishing financial resources, to mention just a few. He hopes realizing this mission will be a joint effort with every NTUer. In the meantime, he hopes NTU will continue to play a leading role in improving society by proposing higher education reform strategies and fulfilling its social responsibilities.



From left to right: current NTU President Wen-Chang Chen, former Presidents Pan-Chyr Yang, Wei-Jao Chen, Zhen Sun, and outgoing President Chung-Ming Kuan.

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GLOBAL OUTLOOK

European Tour: Recruiting Semiconductor Talents and Promoting Partnerships

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Vice President for International Affairs Professor Yuan, Associate Vice President for International Affairs Professor Lee, and then Vice President for Academic Affairs Professor Ding visit the Senate of the Czech Republic and are greeted by Vice President of the Senate Sen. Jiří Drahoš.

Then Vice President for Academic Affairs Professor Shih-Torng Ding, Vice President for International Affairs Professor Hsiao-Wei Yuan, and Associate Vice President for International Affairs Professor Jiun-Haw Lee led representatives from National Cheng Kung University, National Tsing Hua University, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, and National Sun Yat-sen University to promote the MOFA Taiwan Semiconductor Scholarship Program, recruit semiconductor talents, and advance partnerships in Central and Eastern Europe last winter.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) implemented the Taiwan Semiconductor Scholarship Program to attract talented international students in strategic fields, including semiconductor research, smart manufacturing and artificial intelligence. The scholarship program offers graduate students in these fields funding for one round-trip ticket to Taiwan, a tuition waiver of NT\$80,000 per year, as well as a monthly stipend of NT\$25,000 (for up to two years) for master students and NT\$40,000 (for up to four years) for doctorate students.



Vice President for International Affairs Professor Yuan and then Vice President for Academic Affairs Professor Ding at Vilnius University for the signing ceremony of the Erasmus+ Agreement.

The team organized a total of five recruitment events, visiting Masaryk University and Charles University in the Czech Republic, University of Warsaw in Poland, Kaunas University of Technology, and Vilnius University in Lithuania, and the Slovak University of Technology in Slovakia. Students and university representatives from the four countries showed great interest in the scholarship program.

During the tour, Professors Ding, Yuan, and Lee reconnected with NTU's partner institutions in Central and Eastern Europe, including Charles University, the Czech Academy of Sciences, the University of Warsaw, and Vilnius University. They discussed ways to enhance both the international mobility of participating students and faculty members and the potential for dual degrees and joint courses.

Professors Ding and Yuan also held bilateral meetings with Kaunas University of Technology's Vice-Rector Čėponis as well as Vilnius University's Vice-Rector Sužiedėlienė and Pro-Rector Vasiliauskas respectively. Furthermore, Professor Yuan signed the Erasmus+ agreement with Vilnius University on behalf of NTU, facilitating increased student mobility between the two universities.



Participants at session on the MOFA Taiwan Semiconductor Scholarship Program, held at the Kaunas University of Technology to recruit talents in the field of semiconductors.



Click or Scan the QR code to find out more about the MOFA Taiwan Semiconductor Scholarship Program.

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| GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Partnering with the World's Most Innovative University

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Teri Cannon (second left), Founding President of Minerva University and Fangyun Hsu (first left), City Director of Taipei, visit NTU to meet with then President Dr. Chung Ming Kuan (center) and Prof. Hsiao Wei Yuan (second right), Vice President for International Affairs.

Based in the United States, Minerva University is known as one of the most innovative institutions of higher education in the world. The vision began with fundraising for the Minerva Project in 2012, and the university welcomed its first class of students in 2014. Subverting the accepted norms and standards of higher education, Minerva aims to cultivate wise thinkers who can make critical decisions for the world. Minerva has been a high-profile university since its inception, and was named the world's most innovative university by the 2022 World's University with Real Impact (WURI) report.

Instead of having a main campus, Minerva adopts a hybrid learning model that sends students to seven different cities around the world, including Taipei, during their four years of study. They engage in academic and cultural exchange with their peers at host universities to develop and hone their globalized perspectives.

The collaboration between NTU and Minerva commence in 2019 when NTU became a host university for Minerva students during their sojourn in Taipei. A group of Minerva students comes to NTU every year from January to April. During



Students from Minerva University learn about tai chi in the "Become Your Own Master" course.

that time, students from both universities participate in the NTU-Minerva Academic and Cultural Exchange Program. For this program, OIA invites professors from various faculties to lead interdisciplinary courses and workshops. The diverse range of courses covers a variety of fields from nature and science to music and culture, with topics including forest rehabilitation, community building, and Taiwanese tea culture. Additionally, Minerva students join the International Companion Learning Project, partnering with NTU students to introduce foreign cultures to secondary schools throughout Taiwan.

The program's inaugural class in 2020 consisted of 85 students from Minerva and 80 students from NTU, who bonded during this shared learning experience. After a COVID-19 induced pause, the number of students increased when the program resumed in the 2022 academic year with 146 students from Minerva and 150 from NTU. NTU expects to receive about 120 Minerva students in January 2023. The program offers visionary experiences for the students, with lessons that will benefit them for life, signifying the success and promise of the program.

NTU introduced the Future University plan in 2019, hoping to provide students with individualized learning programs through specialized expertise training and exploratory learning. Tackling the challenge of future talent cultivation, the vision of Future University has much in common with Minerva University's principles of modern education. Both universities are looking forward to expanding the exchange to faculty and administration. We are planning to co-host a higher education innovation forum in April 2023 to share ideas about teaching and learning under different systems.



The "Taiwanese Tea – From Land to Cup" course takes the students to a mountain tea plantation to harvest and make tea.



Students try their hand at indigo dyeing in Sanxia as part of the "Taipei Highlights" course.

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| GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Strengthening the Ties: Visits of the Czech Delegation and the Ministry of National Education of Poland

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NTU officials and delegates from University of Ostrava, Masaryk University, Czech Technical University in Prague, and Charles University discussing collaboration in social studies, information, technology and medicine, to strengthen bilateral ties.

Last Autumn, a delegation of 14 academics and officials led by Senator Jiří Drahoš, Chairperson of the Czech Senate's Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions, visited NTU to explore cooperation opportunities and deepen bilateral ties. The delegation includes leaders in education, science, and culture, including Eva Zažímalová, President of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Radka Wildová, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Jana Havlikova, Deputy Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, and Michal Lukeš, Director of the National Museum.

In particular, the visit was aimed to enhance cooperation with Taiwan in education, culture, cybersecurity, epidemiology, and semiconductor technology through the signing of memorandums and exchange programs. Roman Hvězda, Director of ELI Beamlines, visited Leung Center for Cosmology and Particle Astrophysics (LeCo-SPA) at NTU and Academia Sinica to observe some of the most advanced research work in Taiwan at present.



Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Radka Wildova (first on the left) and President of the Czech Academy of Sciences Eva Zažímalová (center) attending a meeting with NTU representatives concerning future collaboration goals to promote student exchange and academic cooperation.

After the general meetings, Eva Zažímalová and Rastislav Maďar, Czech's top epidemiologist and adviser to former Czech minister, Jan Kyncl, Head of Department of Infectious Diseases Epidemiology of National Institute of Public Health Charles University in Prague, and Pavel Ševčík, Head of University of Ostrava's Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, visited NTU Hospital after the campus tour to discuss how both parties can expand exchanges and share resources.

Tomasz Rzymkowski, Poland's Deputy Minister of Education and Science, visited NTU with Grzegorz Kazimierz Górski, President of Jagiellonian College and head consultant to the Deputy Minister of Education and Science, as well as Remigiusz Kopoczek, Vice President of the Łukasiewicz Research Network. They were joined by Professor Chia-Pei Chou, then Executive Vice President, Adrian Rauchfleisch, Associate Dean of International Affairs of the NTU College of Social Sciences and Deputy Director-General of European Union Centre in Taiwan, as well as Professor Tzi-Dar Chiueh, Dean of the Graduate School of Advanced Technology.

Professor Chou took this opportunity to plan the direction for collaborations between Taiwan and Poland in semi-conductor research with Tomasz Rzymkowski. Taiwan and Poland signed a memorandum of understanding this year to establish the Taiwanese-Polish working group on semiconductors. Afterwards, NTU promoted the Taiwan Semiconductor Scholarship Program for Eastern Europe in Poland with hopes of educating talents in the field. To deepen understanding of this cooperation, Dean Tzi-Dar Chiueh introduced the Graduate School of Advanced Technology to the Polish delegation. Tomasz Rzymkowski also proposed plans for offering the semiconductor scholarships in Poland, hoping to further facilitate the exchange and collaboration between the two countries.



NTU's then Executive Vice President Professor Chou (center) introducing NTU and potential collaboration projects to Tomasz Rzymkowski (left), Poland's Deputy Minister of Education and Science.



From right to left, group photo of Adrian Rauchfleisch, Deputy Director-General of European Union Centre in Taiwan, Professor Tzi-Dar Chiueh, Dean of the Graduate School of Advanced Technology, Professor Chou, NTU's then Executive Vice President, Tomasz Rzymkowski, Poland's Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Grzegorz Kazimierz Górski, President of Jagiellonian College and Remigiusz Kopoczek, and Vice President of the Łukasiewicz Research Network.

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GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Industry-Academia Collaboration on Carbon Sequestration with Japan

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Group photo of the NTU delegation and hosts at Japan CCS Co., Ltd.

To accelerate reaching Taiwan’s goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, NTU researchers are actively studying carbon negative solutions and striving to harness their findings in the development of industrial technologies—and realize University Social Responsibility (USR). Professor Chung-Ming Kuan, the then President of NTU, led a delegation to Japan in December 2022. As representatives of the newly established Science and Technology Research Institute of DE-Carbonization (STRIDE-C), the NTU Department of Geosciences, the NTU Institute of Oceanography, and National Dong Hwa University, the seven delegates visited Japan CCS Co., Ltd. (JCCS), Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), and Kochi University (KU).

The delegation visited several of Japan’s top-tier, world class organizations in related fields. Notably, the Kochi Core Center (KCC) is one of the three global marine core repositories co-managed by the Center for Advanced Marine Core Research (CMCR) of Kochi University and JAMSTEC. Besides its refrigerated storage space with constant humidity able to accommodate up to 250-kilometer ocean core, KCC possesses a variety of advanced equipment for analyzing the non-destructive physical, chemical, and structural characteristics of the cores. KCC will be an important template for developing core storage and analysis facilities and equipment at NTU.

Professor Kuan affirmed that not only is sustainable development a common challenge for human survival, but it is an important driving force for maintaining



Group photo of the NTU delegation and hosts at Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology.



Group photo of the NTU delegation and hosts from Kochi University and Center for Advanced Marine Core Research.

Taiwan's economic and social development and stability. The adoption of proactive decarbonization technology of geologic sequestration and the extraction of geothermal energy as part of the green energy transformation will be the key to reducing carbon emissions in Taiwan. Whether or not this process can be implemented will depend on in-depth knowledge of underground geology. NTU and KU have sufficient research and development capabilities as well as the talents required for developing the field. Through the establishment of STRIDE-C, NTU is building upon its solid foundation in knowledge and technologies in order to accelerate Taiwan's sustainable development down the road to net zero emissions while acting as the leader in innovation and society.

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| ACHIEVEMENTS

Breaks before Synthesis - New Insights into ALT Cancer Therapy

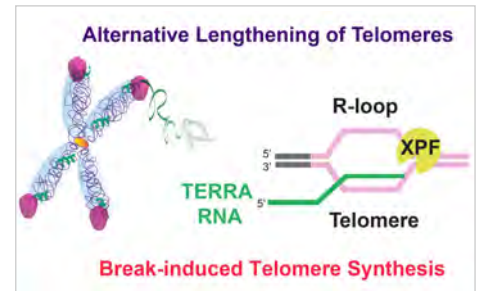
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Maintenance of telomere length is closely related to processes of cancers and aging. How do telomeres extend in length? It is well-known that the telomerase enzyme can lengthen telomeres. However, some cancers do not depend on telomerase activity to lengthen their telomeres. Instead, they utilize “Alternative lengthening of Telomeres (ALT),” a mechanism that includes a break-induced replication to extend telomeres and is highly conserved in many eukaryotes. Patients with ALT cancers have a higher mortality rate than those with non-ALT cancers.

How do cells initiate the breaks of telomeres? Dr. Hsueh-Ping (Catherine) Chu’s research team at NTU’s Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology discovered that TERRA R-loops and XPF are the drivers. TERRA is a long non-coding RNA, which contains telomeric repeat sequences and forms DNA:RNA hybrids at telomeres. The DNA:RNA hybrid and a displaced single-stranded DNA form an R-loop structure. The enrichment of TERRA R-loops was observed in cancer cells utilizing the ALT mechanism. The research team also disclosed that TERRA R-loops trigger telomere clustering and activate DNA damage response by recruiting XPF. Such DNA damage response at telomeres is required for inducing homologous recombination and telomere synthesis in ALT cancer cells.

Ph.D. student Hong-Jhih Shen developed an RCas9 system to deplete TERRA RNA without editing telomeric DNA in ALT cells, finding that TERRA depletion shortens telomere length in ALT cancer cells. Ph.D. student Chia-Yu Guh identified TERRA interacting proteins in ALT cells, revealing that TERRA interacts with a large subset of proteins involved in the DNA repair pathway. Interestingly, TERRA interacts with several nucleotide excision repair factors, including XPF, an enzyme that cuts DNA. Postdoctoral Research Fellow Liv Weichien Chen and graduate student Pei-Chen Chiu showed that TERRA R-loops recruit XPF to telomeres, leading to DNA double-strand breaks to activate break-induced telomere synthesis.

Targeting XPF by small interference RNAs inhibits cell growth in ALT cancer cells and reduces telomere lengthening. These findings provide new insights into ALT cancer therapy.



TERRA is a non-coding RNA which is transcribed from the ends of chromosomes and forms an R-loop with telomeric DNA. TERRA R-loops recruit XPF, an enzyme that cuts DNA to induce DNA synthesis to extend telomeres and drive Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres.



Click or Scan the QR code to read the journal article in *Nature Communications*.

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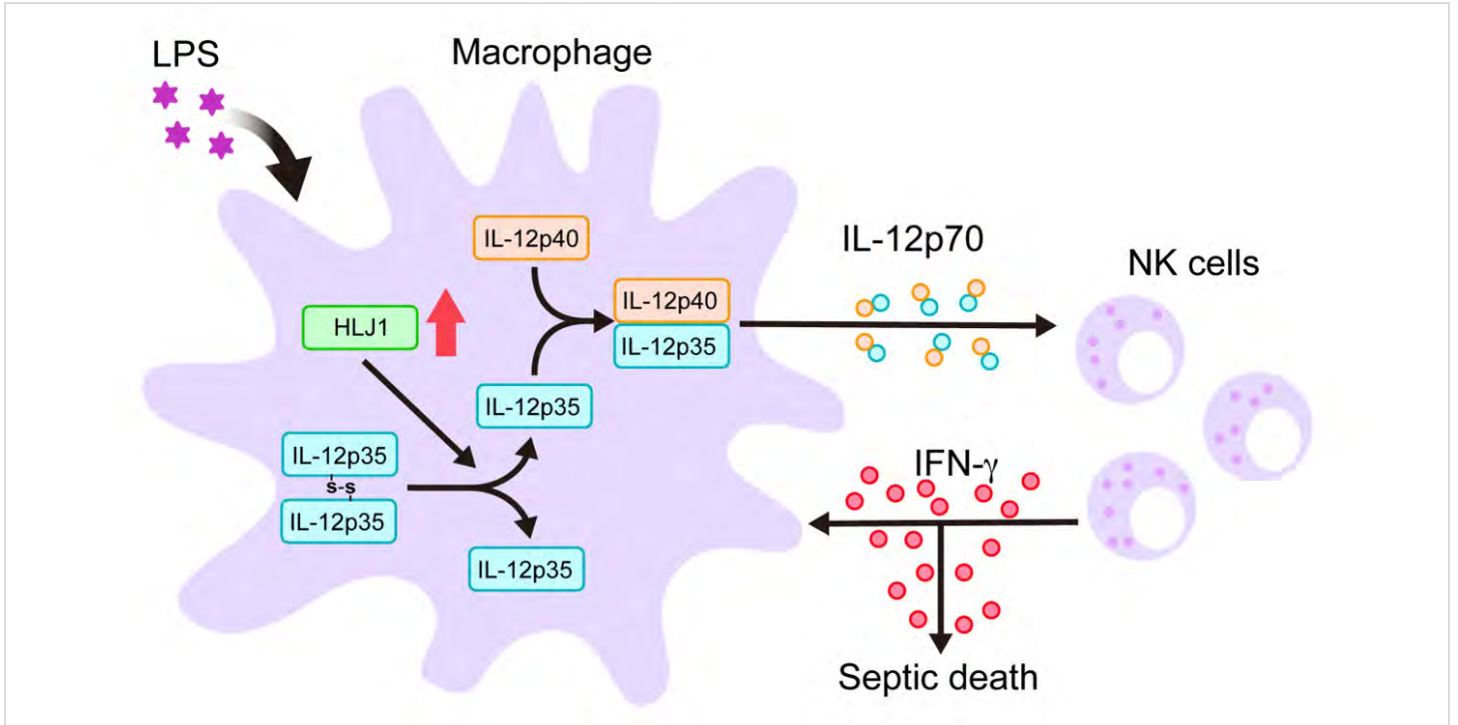


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ACHIEVEMENTS

New Treatment Strategy for Sepsis

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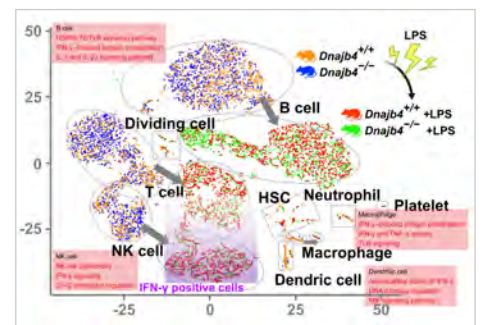


HLJ1 protein, which can be induced when macrophages are stimulated with lipopolysaccharide (LPS), helps the conversion of high-molecular-weight (HMW) misfolded IL-12p35 homodimers to IL-12p35 monomers. Bioactive IL-12p70 heterodimers, composed of IL-12p35 and IL-12p40 subunits, are released into the circulation by macrophages and thereby stimulate natural killer (NK) cells. Eventually, activated NK cells in the liver and spleen release IFN- γ in sufficient quantities to lead to organ damage and even death during sepsis.

Sepsis is the body’s life-threatening response to infection. It occurs when the body overreacts in a toxic manner, leading to internal tissue and organ damage and even death. One’s immune system usually serves to fight invaders, such as bacteria and viruses; sometimes, however, the immune system turns on itself instead of fighting the “invaders,” inducing a sepsis state. In intensive care patients, sepsis is the single most usual cause of death, despite timely delivery of hemodynamic, metabolic, ventilatory, and renal support.

Although new therapies have been developed and tested, such as direct anti-cytokines therapy, patients often still do not survive the ordeal. To lower the mortality rate of this disease, Dr. Kang-Yi Su and his team from NTU’s Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Medical Biotechnology believe that they must first understand the reason for the immune regulation imbalance—the principal cause of organ failure and septic shock. Although the complexity of immune modulation posed great challenges to their research effort, Su and his team discovered an innovative method for tackling the disease, and their study and findings were published in *eLife*, a prestigious biomedical and life sciences journal.

In their research, Su and his team identified a heat shock protein 40, HLJ1, which emerged as a key factor in both innate and adaptive immunity. During lipopolysac-



Single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) reveals activated IFN- γ -mediated signaling pathways in macrophages and dendritic cells.



Dr. Kang-Yi Su and his research team from the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Medical Biotechnology.

charide (LPS)-induced endotoxic shock, HLJ1 deficient mice showed reduced organ injury and IFN- γ (interferon- γ) dependent mortality. Leveraging single-cell RNA sequencing technology, Dr. Su characterized liver nonparenchymal cell populations under LPS stimulation and recorded that HLJ1 deficiency affected IFN- γ -related gene signatures in distinct immune cell clusters. HLJ1 deficiency also leads to reduced serum levels of IL-12 in LPS-treated mice, contributing to dampened production of IFN- γ in natural killer cells (NK) and not CD4+ or CD8+ T cells; as a result, improving the survival rate.

Adoptive transfer of HLJ1-deleted macrophages into LPS-treated mice resulted in reduced IL-12 and IFN- γ levels, which protects the mice from IFN- γ -dependent mortality. In the context of molecular mechanisms, HLJ1 is an LPS-inducible protein in macrophages and converts misfolded IL-12p35 homodimers to monomers, maintaining bioactive IL-12p70 heterodimerization and secretion, followed by massive IFN- γ production in NK cells.

Dr. Wei-Jia Luo, the first author of this study, remarked, “Our study showed that HLJ1 may serve as a molecular target for the development of novel antisepsis or immunomodulatory therapies.” Currently, there is no existing development of antibodies or small molecules that inhibit HLJ1 expression. To deliver more effective medications and treatment, Dr. Su and his team will continue to identify novel potential drugs for HLJ1 modulation.



The cover of *eLife*.



Click or Scan the QR code
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ACHIEVEMENTS

A Spatial Epidemic Simulation Approach for Combating COVID-19

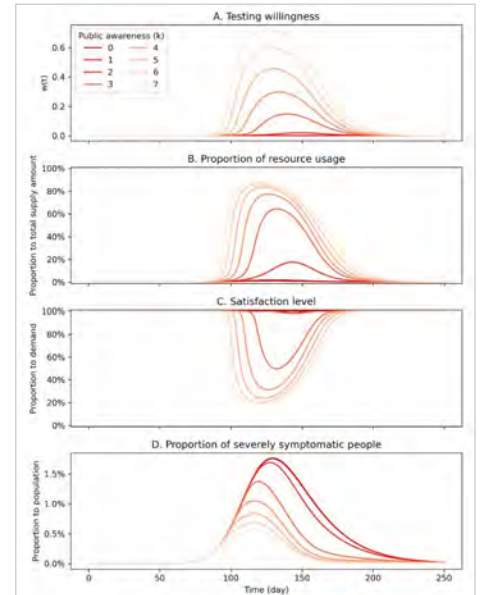
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For early detection of invisible or early disease spreaders, it is crucial to persuade the public to participate in voluntary testing. The effect of this measure, however, may vary and be undermined depending on the public's awareness of the pandemic and compliance with the quarantine and health guidelines. Prof. Tzai-Hung Wen and Dr. Fei-Ying Kuo of NTU's Department of Geography conducted geospatial modeling research on the pandemic to assess how the spatial demand for testing kits during different periods of the epidemic could have affected the effectiveness of voluntary COVID-19 screening.

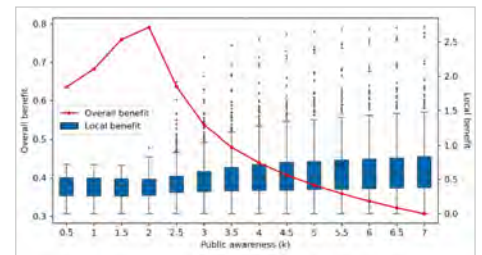
Since spatial demand can be triggered by various geographical factors, such as spatial proximity to resources and human mobility, Wen's research team implemented spatial epidemic simulation models that integrated testing resource accessibility, public awareness, and epidemic spatiotemporal dynamics. The research aimed to determine how the spatial proximity of testing kits and the appeal of human mobility for COVID-19 screening are affected by different levels of public awareness.

The simulation results indicated that, during the peak period of COVID-19, the public's high awareness of the risks and willingness to participate in testing led to a sharp demand for testing kits. Despite the insufficient number of testing kits in the market to meet the high demand, the shortage was temporary and did not lead to a significant increase in the prevalence of the disease. The team's findings also indicated that different strategies for testing resource allocation should be adopted in consideration of different levels of public awareness. When public awareness is low, concentrating on unattractive areas (such as residential or urban fringe areas) can encourage testing and lead to greater benefits. But when there is high public awareness, the distance to the testing station is key. Allocating additional testing resources in areas distant from stations could promote the number of those who participate in voluntary testing.

These findings reflect the significance of geographic factors on the marginal benefits of voluntary testing and offer insight into how the arrangement of testing resources in different areas and periods can affect pandemic prevention. Wen and Kuo's findings offer health authorities valuable information on the allocation of testing resources during disease outbreaks and the importance of public awareness.



The temporal trends of the four aspects observed during the COVID-19 pandemic: testing willingness, proportion of resource usage, satisfaction level, and proportion of severely symptomatic people, with different levels of public awareness.



The changes of both overall and local benefits of voluntary testing among different levels of public awareness.



Click or Scan the QR code to read the journal article in *Applied Geography*.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

A Large-scale International Genetic Study of Bipolar Disorder in Asian Populations

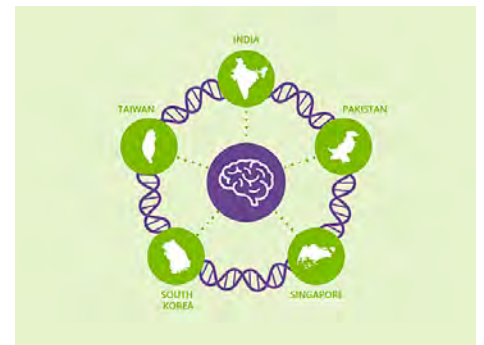
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Bipolar disorder (BP) is a severe multifactorial neuropsychiatric disorder that leads to intense shifts in mood, energy levels, and behavior. BP occurs in 1-2 percent of the general population, yet its genetic architecture remains a mystery. Although the Asian population accounts for nearly 60 percent of the world population, most participants of BP genetic studies are Europeans, only 10 percent of them are Asian. To fill in the missing genetic datasets and learn how genomic variation affects the biological basis of mental disorders, NTU researchers joined A-BIG-NET project to uncover the biological causes and mechanisms of BP among Asians. Their findings may reveal the genetic roots of the disorder and offer insights into the cause and treatment of BP.



Group photo of the international research team.

A-BIG-NET project is the first large-scale BP genetic study conducted on the Asian population, supported by a five-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. The project is a collaboration between Prof. Hailiang Huang of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Prof. Po-Hsiu Kuo of NTU, Prof. Kenneth Kendler of Virginia Commonwealth University, and Prof. Peter Zandi of Johns Hopkins University. Research teams from India, Singapore, Korea, and Pakistan also joined the project to help recruit participants, sequence the genomes, and analyze and share data.



An imagery representing A-BIG-NET project's international collaboration.

“Taiwan is often excluded from many major international organizations and actions. We are honored to be part of the global diversity initiative. It’s great to work with so many countries to conduct research on severe psychiatric disorders and help reduce health inequity in the long run,” remarked the project’s co-leader, Po-Hsiu Kuo, Associate Dean of NTU’s College of Public Health and Professor at the NTU Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. The Taiwan team, co-led by Dr. Hsi-Chung Chen of the NTU Hospital Department of Psychiatry and Prof. Wei J. Chen, Director of the Center for Neuropsychiatric Research at National Health Research Institutes, will help gather patients and controls across Taiwan.



Po-Hsiu Kuo, Associate Dean of NTU’s College of Public Health, Professor at the Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, and co-leader of A-BIG-NET project.

A-BIG-NET is set to collect and analyze DNA from 27,500 BP patients and 15,000 controls with the latest sequencing technology. Researchers will also collect clinical information and a range of environmental risk factors to study how genes and the environment jointly affect BP development. These data will benefit cross-populations and disorder studies, allowing researchers to analyze how Asian populations differ from European, African, and Latino populations.



Click or Scan the QR code to learn more about A-BIG-NET project.

| TEACHING & LEARNING

Developing Emerging Leaders in Smart Medicine and Health Informatics

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The Master's Program in Smart Medicine and Health Informatics (Smart MHI) was launched by the International College of NTU in 2021. Smart MHI is the third English-instructed interdisciplinary program at NTU. Drawing on NTU's resources and faculty in Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and healthcare, Taiwan's two major industrial advantages, Smart MHI is aimed to cultivate outstanding talents proficient in core technologies of smart medicine.

The 24-credit program is designed to train students in three focal areas—“Personalized and Smart Medicine,” “Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning,” and “Biomedical Signals and Processing”—to offer them robust training in smart medicine theories and hands-on practice. The program faculty includes leading experts from various fields who introduce students to quantitative analysis training, foundational physiological knowledge, and problem-solving skills that will empower them to tackle the world's present medical problems and needs.

The program welcomes students from all academic backgrounds and is open to international and domestic students alike, with the goals of helping Taiwan cultivate more professional and interdisciplinary talents and elevating the international academic and industrial status of NTU in artificial intelligence and health informatics. To support the students' future career development, the program collaborates with industries from home and abroad to provide students with meaningful internship programs. During summer and winter internships, students can apply the theories they had learned in class, build connections, and gain a better understanding of the business and industry. These opportunities can help students integrate knowledge and practice and prepare them for their future careers. Students who graduate from the program will be equipped with sufficient knowledge and experience to become leaders in the field of smart medicine and make great strides in artificial intelligence technology and health informatics.

Smart MHI's first class of students enrolled last September. To help students explore the campus and understand course regulations, NTU hosted two online orientations before the semester and an onsite welcome party at the start of the semester. All students interested in navigating smart medicine are welcome to join the program.



The online session for the Master's Program in Smart Medicine and Health Informatics.



Faculty and students holding a discussion.



Click or Scan the QR code to visit Smart MHI's website and learn more about the program.

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TEACHING & LEARNING

University Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development

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NTU launches the “Taiwan University Alliance for Sustainable Governance” with eight other public universities from around Taiwan to share information on sustainable governance and shoulder the university social responsibility for sustainable development together.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” In response to the in-depth discussions on issues related to human survival at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), the higher education community in Taiwan is brainstorming how to work cooperatively to advance sustainable development. To this end, a total of 9 public universities, including National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Normal University, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, National Central University, National Chung Hsing University, National Sun Yat-sen University, National Taiwan Ocean University, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, and National Dong Hwa University established the “Taiwan University Alliance for Sustainable Governance” in late 2022 to actively shoulder the university social responsibility for sustainable development together.

The Taiwan University Alliance for Sustainable Governance has nine major missions:

1. Establish a network for the exchange of ideas on sustainable governance;
2. Set up a dedicated unit for sustainable development;
3. Inventory and solve existing problems in campus governance;
4. Set goals for low carbon transformation, climate resilience and adaptation;
5. Facilitate inter-university collaboration in teaching;
6. Facilitate inter-university collaboration in research;



Leaders of nine national universities support building university social responsibility for sustainable development. From left to right: President Chin-Lung Chang of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Senior Vice President Chih-Wen Kuo of National Sun Yat-sen University, Director Chun-Liang Lin of Office of University Social Responsibility, National Chung Hsing University, President Jing-Yang Jou of National Central University, Then President Chung-Ming Kuan of NTU, President Cheng-Chih Wu of National Taiwan Normal University, Vice President J.C. Liu of National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, President Tai-Wen Hsu of National Taiwan Ocean University and President Han-Chieh Chao of National Dong Hwa University.

7. Encourage interactions among universities and local organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;
8. Encourage faculty and students to launch initiatives and develop innovative solutions for sustainability;
9. Broaden the horizon on international sustainability issues.

Professor Chung-Ming Kuan, then NTU President, affirmed that universities are places where talents gather to maximize R&D capacity. Therefore, universities should take the initiative to undertake sustainable development and assume the role of transforming, changing, and leading the society. Besides promoting sustainable campus governance and optimizing campus resource management, universities should expand their social influence based on their teaching, research, and service capabilities.

Professor Gen-Shuh Wang, the then Secretary-General, explained that NTU ranked 37th in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings in 2022 and 69th in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2023. These rankings are not only the best in Taiwan but also the third best in East Asia. These honors are a recognition of all the efforts of the NTU community members who have long dedicated themselves to the field of sustainable development. NTU is stepping up as the leader of these nine public universities all around Taiwan to harness their wealth of knowledge and expertise to exert social influence, in their cooperative effort to create a sustainable future in Taiwan.



The nine universities showcase the highlights and share their experience in promoting university social responsibility for sustainable governance.



uCup was adopted for the occasion, reducing carbon emission by 30 grams each time it is used. This service is created by NTU students. Reusable cups are delivered to the stores so that consumers can easily replace disposable cups. The cup can then be returned to any store in the uCup network.



Click or Scan the QR code to access the Facebook Page of uCup to learn more about this eco-friendly and sustainable service.

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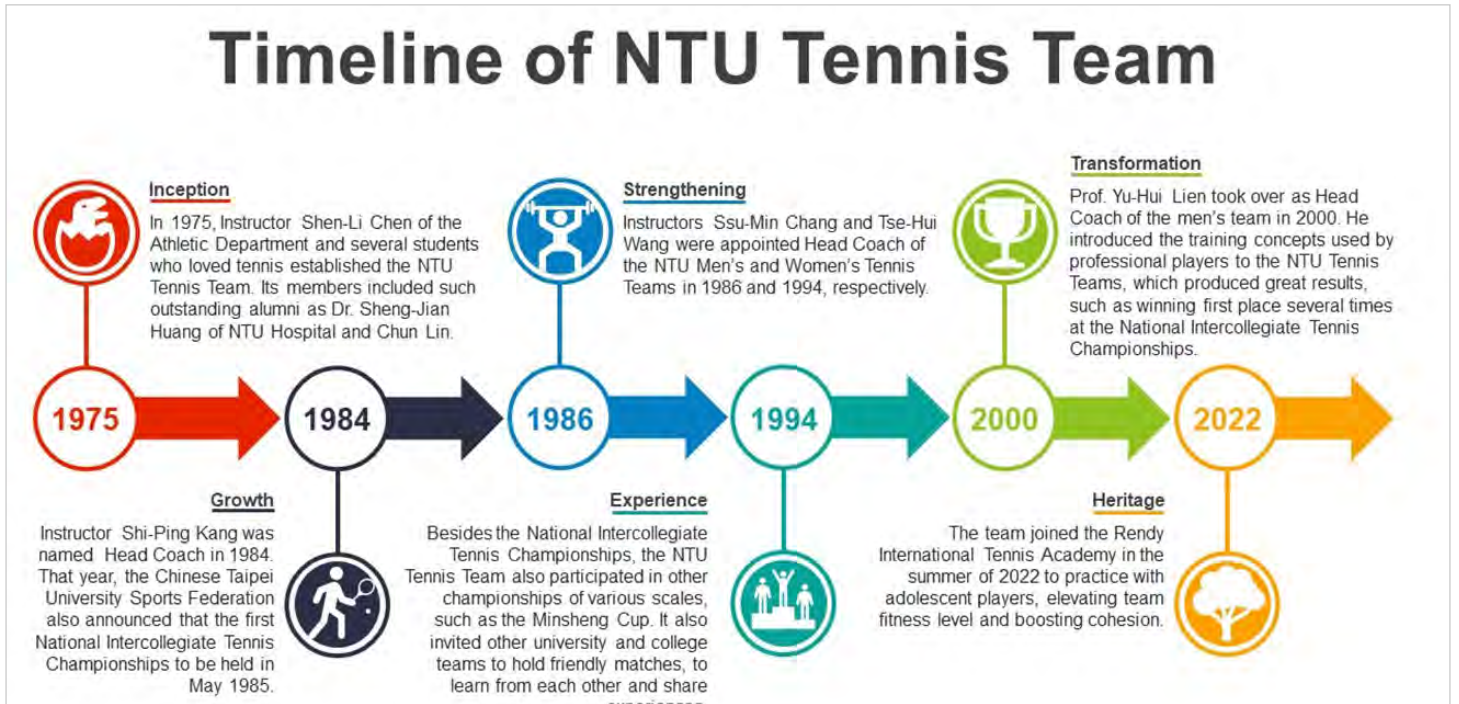
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PEOPLE

Passing on the Passion for a Half Century: Men's Tennis Team

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Timeline of the NTU Tennis Team.

"I finally defeated my inner demon in my thirteenth challenge. In the match deciding our advance from the quarter-finals to the semifinals, I scored nearly 20 Deuce and survived at least 10 break points. At that moment, I heard the final obstacle inside me being released. The voice in my head said, I made it," declared Cheng-Han Yang of the Graduate Institute of Interdisciplinary Legal Studies, now champion of the 2022 NTU Cup.

Every year, the NTU Men's Tennis Team recruits new members through the NTU Freshmen Cup and NTU Cup. Those aspiring to join the varsity team have at least eight opportunities to enter the team tryouts during their 4 years as university students and can possibly play more matches as graduate students at NTU. Some tennis players who have played tennis since childhood succeed in their first tryout, while others make the team only after several tries.

Founded in 1975, the NTU Men's Tennis Team has nearly 5 decades of history. After Associate Professor Yu-Hui Lien was named Head Coach in 2000, he introduced training concepts of physical fitness, tactics, and psychology used by professional players. From 2001 through 2009, the team won 8 gold medals and 1 bronze medal in Grade B of the National Intercollegiate Tennis Championships. In 2008 and 2009, the team ascended to the top 8 and entered Grade A. In 2022, the NTU Men's



Political Deputy Minister of Education Mon-Chi Lio (left) presenting the letter of appointment to Prof. Wen-Chang Chen, the new President (right).

Tennis Team joined the Rendy International Tennis Academy and recruited Ti Chen as the consultant for the tennis team of the College of Medicine. This innovation created many opportunities for young varsity players to practice with professional players. The high-intensity training not only reaffirmed the team members' passion for tennis but also prepared them to rack up record-breaking scores. Every team member has a love story with tennis. With their diverse backgrounds, techniques, and styles, the Men's Tennis Team is certainly one of the varsity teams at NTU that many students aspire to join.

At first, there were only two clay courts on NTU campus. In 2005, the Xinsheng tennis courts were opened with lighting, allowing the team to practice in evenings, thus avoiding peak class hours and regular lessons. Voluntary practice sessions and physical training are held in the team members' spare time. In 2022, the hardcourts were redone in the colors of the US Open, offering a superior training venue for every NTU student and the NTU Tennis Teams.

Besides their training and matches, the team gathers regularly for meals, off-site training, and trips combined with matches. The team has visited NTU's partner universities in Japan and Beijing. The Alumni Cup is hosted each year as part of the team's teambuilding effort. The NTU Tennis Team also recruits talented players recommended by the Ministry of Education and the Bachelor Program of International Sports Affairs. Through such efforts, NTU hopes to not only attract more talented players to join the team, but also train every team member to become a confident, resilient tennis player striving to make contributions to the University and society.



Cheng-Han Yang of the Graduate Institute of Interdisciplinary Legal Studies won third place at the 2022 Breakpoint Open.



Wen-An Hsu (left) of the Department of Dentistry was crowned the champion of the doubles event in Grade B of the 2022 National Pacific Tennis Open.

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PEOPLE

In Memory of the Father of Public Health with Keio University

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Group photo of all the participating faculty members of the College of Public Health and distinguished guests taken after the lecture, with Prof. Amagai and Dr. Ko-Ron Chen (on the screen). The distinguished guests in the first row, left to right: Prof. Tung-Liang Chiang, Prof. Yueh-Guey (Laura) Huang, Academician Chien-Jen Chen, Mr. Conrad K. Chen, Dean Shou-Hsia Cheng, Dean Yen-Hsuan Ni and Prof. Chia-Yu Chu.

The NTU College of Public Health and the Dr. KP Chen Foundation for Preventive Medicine held the “2022 KP Chen Memorial Lecture” last November. The guest speaker, Prof. Masayuki Amagai, Vice President of Keio University, delivered a lecture titled “In memory of Dr. KP Chen: Connecting the past with the future of his alma mater, Keio University.”

Vice President of Keio University, Professor and Chair of the Department of Dermatology, Prof. Amagai has also served as the Dean of the School of Medicine. He was invited to describe Keio University’s influence on Prof. KP Chen as well as its current educational philosophy and prospects. He took the opportunity to demonstrate the solid friendship between Taiwan and Japan, between NTU and Keio University in particular.

Prof. KP Chen (1917-1978) has been praised as the founding father of Taiwan’s public health education. His dedication and enthusiasm is widely recognized and still inspires new generations of researchers. In this lecture, Prof. Amagai described how Prof. Chen spent his time at Keio University by showing many historically significant photos and shared the core philosophy of this university that Prof. Chen so



Dean Shou-Hsia Cheng (left) awarding a plaque to Prof. Masayuki Amagai (right).



Left to Right: Dean Cheng, Dr. Ko-Ron Chen, Prof. Amagai, and Academician Chien-Jen Chen.

admired. After Prof. Amagai's lecture, Academician of Academia Sinica, Prof. Chien-Jen Chen, reviewed Prof. KP Chen's contribution to the field of public health in Taiwan, most notably ending the Blackfoot disease and preventing groundwater from being polluted by arsenic.

Dr. Ko-Ron Chen, the second son of Prof. KP Chen, was among the invited guests. He also received his medical education at Keio University and is currently the Director of Tokyo Meguro Chen Dermatology Clinic. Dr. Chen talked about his father's dedicated teaching and research in public health from the perspective of his family. He also mentioned his mother's tireless support for his father, allowing him to devote himself fully to his work.

The lecture was followed by an in-depth exchange of opinions among the speakers and panelists on the educational philosophy of the Keio University School of Medicine, the significance of Prof. KP Chen's contributions, and the future development of public health.

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| PEOPLE

In Memory of the Father of Public Health with Keio University

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Co-organized by the Office of Student Affairs and the Chien Kuo Foundation for the Arts and Culture, an on-campus Kun Opera performance by the Kun Art Platform delivered a wonderful afternoon and evening to every attendee, at the end of 2022. The event featured two excerpts from Kun operas plus in-depth explanations by Dr. Shih-Pe Wang, then Vice President for Student Affairs and the actors, allowing the NTU faculty members and students in attendance to appreciate the special charm and features of Kun opera.

In the first excerpt, “The Oil Vendor and the Courtesan,” Han-Ru Yang played the oil vendor Chin Chong. He portrayed how a simple man treats people with sincerity, the wonder of seeing West Lake, and deep affection for the love of his life. Yuan-Hong Chen of the GuoGuang Opera Company played the bartender who is a little greedy but funny, trying to get the most out of life without taking it too seriously. The second excerpt was “The Peony Pavilion,” a classic gem. Ting-Yu Lin of the GuoGuang Opera Company presented the desire and struggle of Du Liniang who suffers from lovesickness, complementing the nimble movement of water sleeves with her clear singing voice. Liu Mengmei, the main male character played by Han-Ru Yang, successfully portrayed the charm of a learned man as well as the



“The Peony Pavilion” with Ting-Yu Lin playing Du Liniang (left) and Han-Ru Yang playing Liu Mengmei (right).

tender loving care he has for Liniang. Prof. Shih-Pe Wang warmly shared background information about the two excerpts and spotlighted details for the audience to notice and better relate to the characters.

To deepen the audience's appreciation of Kun opera, two musical instruments often used in Kun opera were also introduced: the Chinese bamboo flute and the Chinese single-skin drum. The actors demonstrated how to play these instruments. To the audience's delight, Yuan-Hong Chen also demonstrated how to play Chou (the comic role) by showing the basic movements and exaggerated mannerisms. Han-Ru Yang discussed the characters Liu Mengmei, a Jin Sheng (an elegant scholar), and Chin Chung, a combination of Jin Sheng and Poor Sheng (an unsuccessful intellectual). Yang also read the well-known lines of Liu Mengmei in the style of Chin Chung to show the differences between the two characters. Ting-Yu Lin demonstrated the posture of Dan (female role), showing the audience how to read the famous "So sleepy" line in "The Peony Pavilion" while using the hands-rubbing gestures to show how Dan takes a nap elegantly in the opera performance. Last but not least, Yuan-Hong Chen reminded newcomers to Kun opera to clap and applaud generously. He immediately improvised a series of eye-opening postures, making the audience shout "Bravo!" in unison.

Kun opera combines the beauty of literature, music, dance, and the fine arts. After centuries of dedicated efforts by countless talents, it has at last become a highly exquisite performing art. This meaningful campus event gave faculty members and students a wonderful chance to discover this beautiful performing art form. NTU looks forward to hosting similar events that present traditional arts on campus.



"The Oil Vendor and the Courtesan" with Yuan-Hong Chen (right) playing Shih Ada and Han-Ru Yang (left) playing Chin Chung.



Yuan-Hong Chen of GuoGuang Opera giving a humorous introduction to Chou as well as a lively demonstration.



Click or Scan the QR code to the Facebook page "Kun Art Platform" to learn more about Kun Opera.

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Vilnius, A Glimpse into Eastern Europe and Russia

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The colorful Vilnius, *A Glimpse into Eastern Europe and Russia* book fair with displays in bright yellow, green, and red based on the Lithuanian flag, embellished with the national flags and insignias of other Eastern European countries. Besides spotlighting these distant countries, the bright colors changed people's impressions of the difficulties faced by some people in the region and attracted more visitors to the book fair.

The Koo Chen-Fu Memorial Library of the College of Social Sciences held a series of events as part of the book fair *Vilnius, a Glimpse into Eastern Europe and Russia* at the end of 2022. During the COVID-19 outbreak in Taiwan in 2021, Lithuania donated vaccine to Taiwan and then set up the Lithuanian Trade Representative Office in September 2022. The Russo-Ukrainian War which broke out in the beginning of 2022 has attracted global attention. The book fair offered the opportunity for people here to discover the largely unfamiliar region of Eastern Europe from the perspective of Vilnius, the historical capital of Lithuania, a country that has belonged to different countries due to political and military circumstances over the years. Visitors at the book fair were encouraged to explore Lithuania and its neighboring countries, such as Estonia, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.

Over 170 titles were on display covering Eastern European politics, economy, culture, history, and literature, in both Mandarin and foreign languages. Among them, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* and *Dispatches from Dystopia: Histories of Places Not Yet Forgotten* were winners of the Best Translated Work Award at the 2022 Openbook Awards.



Photo albums and videos on display. A total of over 170 books about Eastern European politics, economy, culture, history, and literature were on display, in Mandarin as well as foreign languages.

The book fair also included a film festival *A Glimpse into Eastern Europe through Films* featuring four films from Eastern Europe: *Tangerines*, *Katyn*, *Mr. Jones*, and *The Fencer* from Estonia, Poland, and Ukraine gave visitors a glimpse of the history and people's life in Eastern Europe.

The *Explore Eastern European Countries Quiz Game* was also arranged to attract more visitors to the book fair. The questions concerned the geography, history, and cultures of Eastern European countries to advance the participants' interest and knowledge of the region. Visitors often stopped to peruse the books, take photos, or participate in the quiz game, in hopes of winning exotic prizes with Eastern European flair, at the book fair.



Prizes of the *Quiz Game* included fruit bars and bread crisps from Lithuania, potato chips from Estonia, Russian doll key rings and magnets, which were very popular among students.

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