

Self-financing Post-Secondary Scholarship Scheme  
Reaching Out Award

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# Report of Taiwan Study Tour



It is my pleasure to be selected by the committee of Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund and to become the award winner this year. Under the assistant of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund, students were given the chance to participate in international exchange activities that are precious opportunities to broaden our horizons. Once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the committee for selecting me as one of the award winners this year. I used the scholarship and joined the Taiwan exchange program which was co-organized by the Student Union of Hong Kong Shue Yan University and the National Taiwan University Student Union. I was able to acquaint myself with the history and culture of Taiwan as well as the development in information technology.

### **Boost the interaction academically and culturally**

National Taiwan University occupies to nearly 1 % of the total area of Taiwan. Under decisive developments together with comprehensive and rich resources used for teaching and researches, NTU has become a breeding ground for top scholars such as Dr. Yuan Tseh Lee, the first Taiwanese Nobel Prize laureate, and numerous leaders of states and enterprises. NTU has been considered as the most influential university in Taiwan.

In the seven-day exchange tour, we lived in the Lu-Ming Guest House next to the Lu-Ming Square where the NTU Theater is. Originally, this hall of residence was for university staff and students only. It was a rare chance for us guests living in this place. All other residents were those who either work or study at the university. It was a golden



opportunity to experience local 'hall' culture and interact with Taiwanese students. They were so kind and courteous that they introduced as much as they know about Taiwan to us. Lu-Ming Square, however, is considered as a 'dangerous building' due to its deterioration. NTU decides to knock down Lu-Ming Guest House together with Lu-Ming Square in September. As a result, we were upset to be the last group of visitors.



The most memorable day should be the day spent with the members of the Student Union of NTU. We all had a luncheon with them, and what surprised me was that there were students from Hong Kong who are currently studying in NTU. They shared about their university

life, let alone their daily lives in Taiwan. Moreover, they talked about the difference of the education system between Hong Kong and Taiwan. One of the students thought that the academic atmosphere in this university is more relaxing than those in Hong Kong's universities. When it comes to the major difference, there were plenty more subjects and areas of studies in Taiwan, ranging from technology, to government systems, farming and literature. Though the luncheon was short, the students then brought us to visit different spots in the university, including the famous "Twelve scenic spots of NTU".

The "Twelve scenic spots of NTU" originated from student votes in 2005. The New Main Library is one of them. We learnt from the students that there are 10 departments in the university and each department has its own library. We were impressed by the academic resources that the university has put in. "Fu Bell" is one of the symbols of the school badge, in which it means to encourage students to have a healthy and meaningful life. What's more, some words from the former principal, Mr. Fu Szu-nien, were carved on the stele next to the school badge, saying "there are 21 hours a day, and the other 3 are used for contemplation". These words gave me a reflection that in university, I have spent most of the time in schoolwork, extra-curricular activities, entertainment and family. Yet, having a tight schedule in daily life does not mean I have learnt many things. Actually, contemplation can help us rethink what we have done and hence find our true self.



The most impressive attraction of the tour is visiting the NTU Farm, including ecological houses or ecological ponds, etc. in the main campus of NTU. The members of the Student Union explained that agricultural development was the most important economic base of the country, during the Japanese colonial era or after the Kuomintang government relocation to Taiwan and therefore, the agricultural college had a considerable position in NTU.

Agriculture is being neglected under the flourishing industrial and commercial development, and mechanical and electrical development are now the hot topics of researches. However, we still cannot underestimate the accumulated results from past researches.

I have different feelings after the trip. Taiwan is marvelous in providing sufficient land and funds as well as abundant resources to NTU for agricultural research purposes. With these superiority, teaching can be directly benefited in the agricultural college. Secondly, different disciplines can be opened in a famous university and possessing extraordinary achievements reflects the economic and cultural diversity of the society.

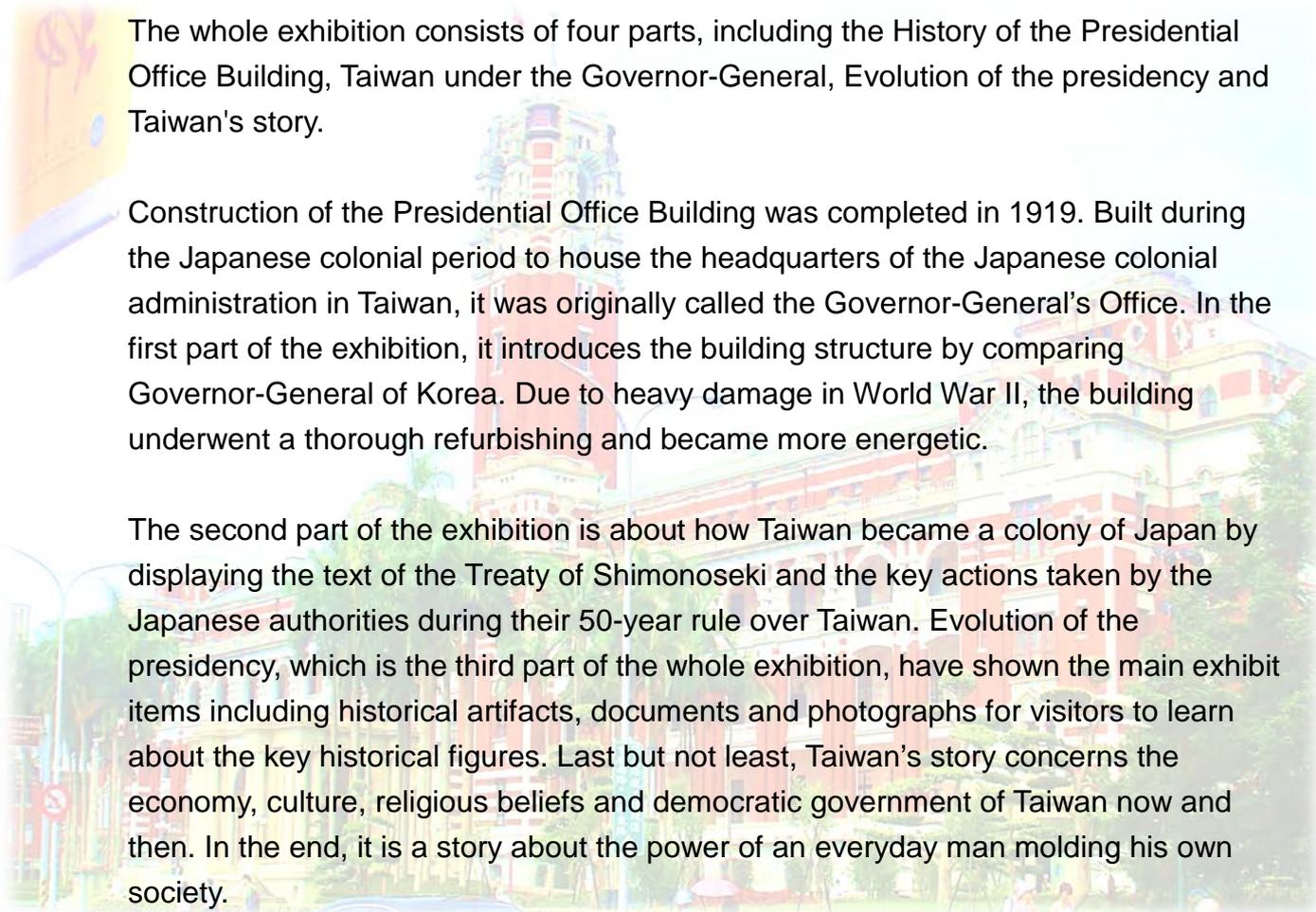
We can see the world trend and social needs from the universities disciplines. For instance, the rise of logistics technology makes the programs becoming popular among the universities all over the world. In a place where most of the people rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, agricultural development or genetic engineering tends to be more vigorous.

The situation reminds me of Hong Kong, transited from a small fishing port to an international financial center with outstanding economic development. Young people joining the business world after graduation may be the result of rapid developments or the splendid business prospects of Hong Kong. I would like to know if Hong Kong can only accommodate the creation of business industry. Hong Kong is being called a 'cultural district' while cultural studies are being ignored in our society. Only if a community with more diverse talents can create a more diversified and comprehensive society. In this regard, we can draw the lesson from Taiwan on the diversity issue.



## Discovering history of Taiwan

On the second day of the trip, we had an exploring tour in the Office of the President, Republic of China (Taiwan). After passing through countless soldiers and a baggage checked area, we started our visiting via Entrance No.3. Thanks to that day it was not a public holiday, we could only follow the weekday tour route in 1/F and missed the chance to go to the President's Hall.



The whole exhibition consists of four parts, including the History of the Presidential Office Building, Taiwan under the Governor-General, Evolution of the presidency and Taiwan's story.

Construction of the Presidential Office Building was completed in 1919. Built during the Japanese colonial period to house the headquarters of the Japanese colonial administration in Taiwan, it was originally called the Governor-General's Office. In the first part of the exhibition, it introduces the building structure by comparing Governor-General of Korea. Due to heavy damage in World War II, the building underwent a thorough refurbishing and became more energetic.

The second part of the exhibition is about how Taiwan became a colony of Japan by displaying the text of the Treaty of Shimonoseki and the key actions taken by the Japanese authorities during their 50-year rule over Taiwan. Evolution of the presidency, which is the third part of the whole exhibition, have shown the main exhibit items including historical artifacts, documents and photographs for visitors to learn about the key historical figures. Last but not least, Taiwan's story concerns the economy, culture, religious beliefs and democratic government of Taiwan now and then. In the end, it is a story about the power of an everyday man molding his own society.

Increasing knowledge of Taiwan history is one of the advantages of this visit. The economy and political development is very important to a country. Because of being a colony of Japan, the destruction of ethnic groups' culture was serious. The guide explained that ethnic groups were not allowed to speak their languages and write their words, only by replacing Japanese to 'brain-wash' all the citizens. Therefore, the younger citizens had less loyalty, caring and love to Taiwan after World War II. In my opinion, if a citizen concerns the history and influence of his own race and country, he does show his responsibility and caring for his country. By studying world history and establishing his own point of view, he will be able to understand and foresee more about the world development.

## Experience the technology development of local media



I took a course named 'Media, Technology and Society' from the department of communication and journalism during my first year. I can still remember my professor mentioned about the close relation between modern technology and media. Telstar plays an important role here, so that the news can be broadcasted everywhere we want. Also, the dissemination of the media and the news spread needs technology support to maintain, and both media and technology will affect the society as a whole. Consequently, we can see media, society and technology are slightly related. All these concepts were coming back when we visited the production team of CTS news. I can completely realize the relationship from the practical work among Journalism, broadcasting and technology in Taiwan.

Chinese Television System (CTS) is a traditional television media based new media business. They take advocating the public values as their mission. There are total of 13 studios in CTS. They are well equipped with the most perfect digital virtual facilities. During our visit, one of the staff in CTS mentioned they are using the digital virtual synthesizer to create various animation backgrounds, like forest or Halloween. It can help as coordination to the news reporters to present the news, and also as a visual stimulation to the audience.

As a matter of fact, we can understand that news reporting has changed to focus on visual effects and entertainment, unlike the content oriented from the past anymore. The staff mentioned that despite the pronunciation, adaptability and the sensitivity to camera, the news reporters need to have training based on the sense of direction. So, they can react naturally to those virtual synthesizers.

Technology has indeed changed the way we live. We live more convenient than before. When it comes to the press media, it breaks the boundary of time and spaces. Messages can be sent out to everyone easily, people can send back the news to the broadcasting platform through their electronic devices such as their smartphones and computer. Everyone can become a reporter. After visiting CTS, I learn more about the news production and their production trend in the future, also the influences of the news spread.

Not only could have sufficient time to communicate with the students and staff in National Taiwan University and acquaintance with the education policy in Hong Kong and Taiwan, but also understand the changes of economy bases in Taiwan now and then as well as the prosperous circumstance in entertainment industry. I am glad that I had the opportunity to join this trip and admire this beautiful place in other aspects.

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