

# Cultural Cities Reunite: Tamkang and Trier University Strengthen Academic Exchange



The President of Trier University, Prof. Dr. Eva Martha Eckkrammer (4th from right), led a delegation to visit the College of Foreign Languages and Literatures, where they were received by TKU Dean Yi-Ti Lin (5th from right).

On April 1, Prof. Dr. Eva Martha Eckkrammer, President of the University of Trier in Germany, led a delegation to visit Tamkang University's College of Foreign Languages and Literatures. The visit focused on discussions regarding future academic exchange, student mobility, and collaborative programs. Dean Yi-Ti Lin, Department of German Chair Assoc. Prof. Yu-Hsien Lin, Department of French Chair Prof. Boileau Gilles, German Professor Wan-Bau Wu, Associate Professor Holger Steidele, and Japanese Professor Chiu-Kuei Tseng warmly received the delegation. Both sides engaged in-depth discussions on academic cooperation, faculty and student exchange, and research development. The delegation was deeply impressed by the College's hospitality and Tamkang's commitment to educational excellence. The visiting delegation included Prof. Dr. Andreas Regelsberger, Dean of the Faculty of Linguistics,

Literature, and Media; Prof. Dr. Christian Soffel, Chair of Sinology; and Ms. Birgit Roser, Director of the International Office. The meeting began with Prof. Dr. Eckkrammer introducing Trier University's academic strengths spanning languages, humanities, law, and sciences. She emphasized the university's transnational academic alliance with institutions in Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and Saarland University, providing international students with rich learning resources. She also shared the cultural background of Trier, a UNESCO World Heritage City, expressing hope that more Tamkang students will study abroad there and that diversified, practical collaboration channels will further academic exchanges between the two universities. Dean Yi-Ti Lin gave a detailed overview of Tamkang University's globalization and the distinctive features of the College of Foreign Languages. She expressed strong interest in establishing a long-term partnership through cooperation agreements, mutual faculty visits, student exchanges, and interdisciplinary research.

# AIT Official Visits Tamkang to Meet Mandarin Program Students, Praises University's High-Quality Learning Environment

Anne Foss, Cultural Affairs Officer at the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), along with Program Managers Wanda Yang and Stella Chiu, visited Tamkang University's Tamsui Campus on April 21. They met with the American high school students studying Mandarin at the Chinese Language Center under the Office of Continuing Education and engaged in exchange activities with the university. The AIT officials strongly recognized, praised, and supported Tamkang's efforts to promote Taiwan-U.S. youth language and cultural exchange programs. The AIT delegation specially arranged a luncheon with students participating in

the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Anne Foss warmly inquired about the students' experiences learning and living in Taiwan during the luncheon. The students enthusiastically shared their experiences studying at Tamkang University and their interactions with their host families. The lively and warm atmosphere of the exchange fully reflected the sincerity and vitality of cross-cultural interaction. Anne Foss remarked that through the students' stories, she deeply sensed how their time in Taiwan improved their language proficiency and provided valuable

experiences in cultural understanding and personal growth. She especially thanked Tamkang University for offering an excellent learning environment and attentive daily care, which made the students' exchange journey even more meaningful and enriching. Wanda Yang and Stella Chiu also noted that the students spoke highly of the program, with many

expressing a strong desire to return to Taiwan to continue learning Mandarin and exploring Taiwanese culture.



Officials from the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) took a group photo with Mandarin program students at Lantern Lane.

# Former French Parliament Member Michel Hunault Dialogues with Students from the Department of French

On April 21, Michel Hunault, Honorary Member of the French Parliament, visited Tamkang University, accompanied by former Ambassador to France and Tamkang alumnus Michel Ching-Long Lu. Hunault met with Vice President for International Affairs Prof. Hsiao-Chuan Chen and engaged in a dialogue with students from the Department of French, sharing insights on the democratic systems, values, and experiences of international cooperation in France and Europe. Hunault encouraged Taiwanese youth to speak up and actively participate in international affairs. He also promised to offer outstanding students the opportunity to visit the French Parliament. He emphasized that Taiwan and France share common ideals in democracy and human rights, expressing hope for deeper exchanges and cooperation between the two in the future. When asked whether learning French benefits those pursuing careers in politics or public affairs,

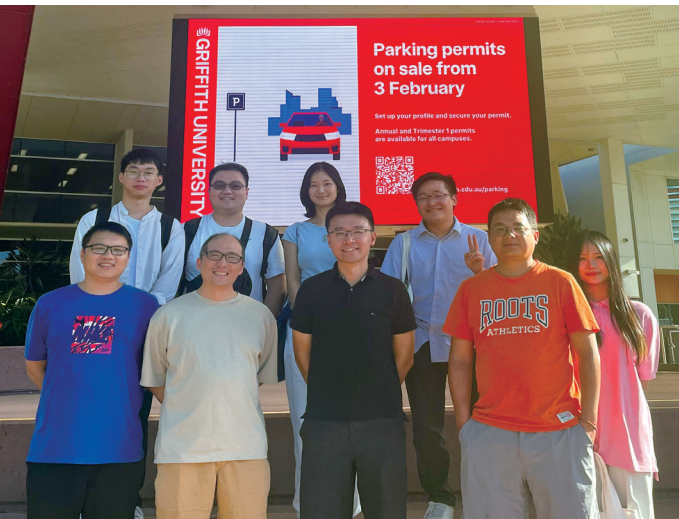
Hunault responded that while English and Chinese are dominant languages globally, learning French provides access to the cultural



Former French Parliament Member Michel Hunault (left) dialogues with students from the Department of French.

heritage of the Francophone world. He explained that understanding French culture is key to grasping how France has historically brought together diverse global elements to inspire new ideas and ways of thinking. He encouraged young people to study French to deepen their understanding of French culture and values. Hunault further noted that under pressure from mainland China, Taiwan's perseverance in upholding democracy and human rights mirrors France's commitment to these principles, positioning both as beacons of democratic values worldwide. He emphasized that France's core values—"Liberty, Equality, Fraternity"—are the nation's guiding spirit and serve as a model for the international community. He pointed out that French and Taiwanese societies are experiencing intense social divisions and diverse voices, with social media amplifying the influence of minority opinions. In such an environment, democratic politics must remain constantly vigilant.

# Prof. Cheng-Hao Chuang, Asst. Prof. Hsiao-Tsu Wang Lead 4 Students to Australia for Experimental Learning



During the winter break, Department of Physics Chair Prof. Cheng-Hao Chuang and Assistant Professor Hsiao-Tsu Wang led 4 students for a 5-week international internship and research visit at the Centre for Catalysis and Clean Energy (CCCE), Griffith University (GU). Prof. Chuang noted that the students received funding from the Ministry of Education's Subsidy Project for Encouraging Domestic Colleges and Universities to Send Students Abroad for Study or Professional Internships. This exchange enhanced students' research perspectives, experimental skills, English communication, and international collaboration experience, laying the groundwork for future Taiwan-Australia research

cooperation in clean energy development. Prof. Chuang noted that TKU's visiting group focused on short-term research and academic learning in renewable energy and electrocatalysis. Students engaged in hands-on practice in new energy material synthesis, performance testing, structural analysis, and participated in academic seminars while networking with local graduate students to gain insights into cutting-edge energy technologies and the Australian academic environment. CCCE Deputy Director Associate Professor Porun Liu offered the students practical methods that helped them address challenges in their electrochemical experiments, further strengthening the academic collaboration between the two institutions.