

# Onomichi High School Study Group from Japan Visits Tamkang University, Fostering Cross-Cultural Exchange with Local Student Partners

Chairman Haruhiko Kato, Principal Takasuke Yamamoto, 3 teachers and 23 students from Onomichi High School in Japan, visited Tamkang University for a short-term study program. The opening ceremony was in the lobby on the 10th floor of the Ching-Sheng Building, Vice President for International Affairs Hsiao-Chuan Chen, Dean of International Affairs Chien-Mu Yeh, and Director of the Chinese Language Center Hsiang-Hua Chou were also in attendance.

In her remarks, Hsiao-Chuan Chen noted that Tamkang has established sister-school and strategic alliance partnerships with institutions worldwide, also highlighted the university's more than 200 student clubs, spanning cultural, athletic, and musical interests, offering students rich learning and campus life experiences. She concluded by encouraging students to make the most of this program, gain valuable

learning experiences, consider Tamkang for future studies, and experience the cultural charm of Taiwan.

Haruhiko Kato expressed sincere gratitude for the five-day program arranged by Tamkang University. He explained that students would collaborate with Tamkang students in classes to set learning themes, participate in discussions, and present their outcomes through final presentations. He remarked that such practical courses are both a challenge and an opportunity for growth for high school students, emphasizing that "studying abroad is not only about language learning or tourism, but also about engaging with different values, clearly expressing one's own ideas, and respectfully discussing diverse perspectives." Through exchange and interaction, students can gain knowledge, build friendships, broaden their horizons, and enhance their confidence. He also expressed

hope that this program would mark the beginning of deeper collaboration between the two schools and develop into a long-term and fruitful partnership.



Group photo of teachers and students from Onomichi High School in Japan.

# From Specialized Learning to Homestays: U.S. State Department Officials Visit Tamkang to Review Chinese Language Education Results

The Chinese Language Center under Tamkang University's Office of Continuing Education administers the U.S. Department of State's NSLI-Y (National Security Language Initiative for Youth) Chinese Language Scholarship Program for high



NSLI-Y Program Chinese Language Class Session

school students. On March 19, the University welcomed officials from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State and the American Councils for International Education for an on-site visit. Through class observations, discussions, and cultural activities, the delegation gained insight into the academic and daily life experiences of them studying in Taiwan.

Distinguished guests included Elizabeth Latham, Chief of the Youth

Programs Division at ECA; Dr. Brian Gibson, Vice President of Language Programs at the American Councils for International Education; and Anna Stewart, Senior Program Manager of NSLI-Y. They were received by Vice President for International Affairs Hsiao-Chuan Chen, Dean of Continuing Education Yi-Nan Lin, and Director of the Chinese Language Center Hsiang-Hua Chou.

The visit began with classroom observations, allowing the delegation to experience firsthand the teaching interactions and learning environment. This was followed by meetings with students and instructors to understand curriculum design and learning outcomes further. In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Tamsui Cultural Park for an indigo dyeing experience, showcasing

the integration of language learning with local culture.

Beyond classroom instruction, the homestay program stands out as a core feature of Tamkang University's implementation of NSLI-Y. During the week of the visit, the Chinese Language Center hosted a "Taiwan-U.S. Cultural Exploration Party for Host Families" on March 15. American students designed cultural challenge stations and participated in interactive activities with their host families, demonstrating their learning results and cross-cultural engagement. The event attracted around 80 participants and created a lively atmosphere, allowing U.S. officials to further observe the interaction between students and host families.

# Alumna's Fluent Japanese Featured in Japanese Media, TKU Japanese Department Invites Prospective Students to Follow TSMC into Japan

Chen-Yen Chang, an alumna of Tamkang University's Department of Japanese and currently a reporter and anchor at NEXT TV News, recently gained attention in Japanese media after conducting an interview in fluent Japanese with Shohei Ohtani of "Samurai Japan" at a press conference at the Tokyo Dome. Her performance highlighted the strengths of language majors. Department Chair Pei-Ching Tsai remarked, "Now is the perfect time to study Japanese and become a professional talent that AI cannot replace."

Chang shared with the media that she has been a fan of Ohtani since high school and chose to study Japanese because of him. After enrolling in Tamkang's Department of Japanese, she studied abroad at Hosei University in 2019 for one year. Upon graduation, she successfully became a journalist and ultimately realized her dream of interviewing her idol. Her journey can be seen as a dream

fulfilled through her studies at Tamkang.



NEXT TV News reporter and anchor Chen-Yen Chang interviewed Shohei Ohtani in fluent Japanese, drawing attention from Japanese media.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Department of Japanese, whose alumni are spread across the globe. Faculty and students will join alumni to "open a new chapter through cross-disciplinary sustainability." Tsai noted that with the increasingly close Taiwan-Japan relations and the establishment of TSMC's plant in Kumamoto, job opportunities in Japan have surged, making Japanese-language graduates highly sought after. Business associations from the Kumamoto region have visited Tamkang multiple times to discuss internship and recruitment opportunities, making it a "current reality" for students of the department to advance into Japan alongside TSMC. She also offered a counter perspective in the age of AI. Mastering fluent Japanese not only helps enthusiasts realize their dreams but also enables them to become professionals, that "AI cannot replace."

# Tamkang - Keio Student Leadership Forum Fosters Global Collaboration Skills

The Department of Chemistry recently hosted the "Keio University-Tamkang University Student Leadership Forum," jointly organized by Professor Hsiu-Fu Hsu of Tamkang University and Professor Kazuo Yamashita of the Faculty of Science and Technology at Keio University. A total of 17 faculty members and students from Keio visited Tamkang for the exchange. Through keynote speeches, group discussions, and final presentations, the forum promoted academic and cultural interaction and collaboration between students from both institutions.

The event began with ice-breaking

activities, followed by student group presentations and discussions. The keynote speech was delivered by Associate Professor Tadahiro Yamashita from Keio University, who shared his research journey and insights, outlining academic development pathways and practical experiences to help students better understand research directions in science and technology. In the afternoon, discussions centered on the annual theme, "Future Technologies for Human Well-being," with topic briefings and cross-university group discussions designed to foster cross-cultural communication and teamwork. Students were organized into mixed

groups and conducted discussions in English, producing group presentations on topics such as applications of psychological memory, hardware technologies, smart pet food certification systems, and technologies for health and longevity. Faculty members commended the students for completing collaborative international projects within a short time and noted that many projects demonstrated both technical feasibility and social impact, reflecting an integration of

engineering and humanistic thinking.



At the Keio - Tamkang Student Leadership Forum, student groups delivered presentations on stage.