

Distinguished “Students” from Central and South America

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In spring of last year, TKU began offering a new and unique type of course: the Online Executive Master’s Program. The purpose of the program is to train on-the-job professionals from Latin American and Caribbean countries (that have diplomatic relations with the ROC) and thereby enable these professionals to carry out in-depth research on Asia or take part in international affairs. This is the first executive master’s program in Taiwan to adopt an online long-distance learning format and accept students from other countries.

Because the course breaks down geographical barriers, it has become very popular among high-level dignitaries from Central and South America. In its second year since commencing, it has attracted an “all star” line-up of students, including Mr. Estuardo Roldán, (Guatemala’s Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr. Juan Manuel de Jesus Flores (Representative in the recumbent FMLN Party, El Salvador), and Mr. José Antonio Ovelar Núñez (from the Senate of Paraguay).

To officially welcome the 17 new learners and 15 continuing learners from last year, on the morning of March 4th, TKU held a special welcome luncheon. In the coming week, the learners will attend in-class lessons and orientation before returning to their respective countries to continue the learning process online.

One of the Master’s students who has been in the program since its outset last year, Juan Federico La Mont Campos, is the Vice President of the Radio Host Association in Mexico. Federico noted that through undertaking the Executive Master’s program, he has been able to explore the relationship between Latin American and Asian cultures. This, in turn, has influenced his future ambitions. He now hopes to use “soft diplomacy” to bring the two regions even closer.