Inaugural University Sustainability Awards: Tamkang University Wins 3 Major Honors, Including Outstanding University

The inaugural "Taiwan University Sustainability Awards," organized by the Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy (TAISE), announced its list of winners on November 10, 2024. Tamkang University won 3 prestigious awards: the "Top 10 Outstanding Universities Award," the "Sustainability Report Gold Award," and the "Sustainability Performance: Environmental Leadership Award." Academic Vice President and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development and Social Innovation (SDSI), Professor Hui-Huang Hsu, along with Resilient Governance Planning Section Chief of the Center, Assoc. Prof. Hsiao-Wen Hung, and Energy Conservation and Space Section Chief of the General Affairs Office, Chin-Tung Huang, attended the award ceremony held at the Grand Hotel on November 20 at 2:00 PM. Vice President Hsu represented our university in accepting the awards, presented by former Minister of Education Wen-Chung Pan.

Prof. Hsu expressed his gratitude, stating that winning the Sustainability Outstanding University Award reflects recognition of Tamkang University's efforts in sustainability. He thanked faculty, staff, students, and all departments for their collaboration in advancing a sustainable campus. Hsu emphasized the importance of continuing these efforts, noting, "The Center will keep developing relevant policies to highlight the university's distinctive strengths. I hope everyone will continue supporting these initiatives as we move towards becoming a model university."

Receiving the Environmental Leadership Award for sustainability performance, Prof. Hsu highlighted Tamkang University's active promotion of the "AI+SDGs=∞" initiative in recent years, achieving remarkable results in digital transformation and net-zero advancements. Key projects include the solar photovoltaic system, the library's high-efficiency magnetic levitation centrifugal chiller, the Foreign Language Building's multi-split variable refrigerant flow air-conditioning system, the energy

monitoring management system, and the AI electricity demand prediction system. Additionally, the installation of a cloud communication server system and the "Sustainability Cloud" has delivered exceptional outcomes, well-deserving of recognition. Hsu further noted that Tamkang University has conducted preliminary carbon inventory assessments over the past 2 years and plans to formulate actionable goals based on the results. Initiatives such as low-carbon green living, the Sustainable Living Lab, and the Sustainable Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition will continue to drive progress toward net-zero goals.

Tamkang University's sustainability report has once again been recognized with a Gold Award. Prof. Hsu credited this achievement to the efforts of sustainability officers from various units and the student teams. Through extensive surveys and interviews, they identified and disclosed the issues of concern to the university's 10 major stakeholders. The report documents the university's value creation process in its sustainable development blueprint, which includes talent cultivation, teaching innovation, administrative reform, campus sustainability, resource sharing, regional revitalization, think tank recommendations, alliances for mutual benefit, social impact, and value communication. Hsu specifically highlighted that the report was compiled with contributions from sustainability managers across the university, who provided content for the sustainability report. Student teams were then guided to collaboratively produce the report in accordance with international standards. He emphasized that the content of the report serves as a meaningful reference for relevant units in promoting their initiatives. Looking ahead, the same approach will be applied to the preparation of future sustainability reports, with the hope that the collective efforts of the university's faculty, staff, and students will lead to continued excellence.