

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

Campus focus

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.

The Chinese Language Center subsequently held two professional meetings with AIT officials and accompanying teacher Ariana. Led by Director Hsiang-Hua Chou, the discussions focused on the practical aspects of program

implementation, with particular attention to the challenges, outcomes, and future innovations in host family recruitment and matching. The AIT team expressed their continued interest and support for these efforts, aiming to ensure students have a well-rounded learning and living experience in Taiwan.

The Chinese Language Center organized a tour along the Tamsui River to conclude the visit. Accompanied by Director Chou and Chinese language instructors, the AIT guests were introduced to the local history and cultural landmarks of Tamsui, strolling along the riverside and enjoying the natural scenery while deepening their understanding of the region's cultural heritage. The Chinese Language Center noted that the visit from AIT officials strongly endorsed Tamkang University's implementation of the NSLI-Y program. It also highlighted the potential for future collaboration in youth education, language learning, and cross-cultural exchange. Tamkang University remains committed to nurturing a new generation of Chinese language learners with a global vision and cultural literacy.







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