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Inside Front Cover Photo
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Cover Photo

Sunshine all over the Hui-Sun Forest Station

Experimental Forest Station, National Chung Hsing University

Title Photos

Ascension

Experimental Forest Station, National Chung Hsing University Research

Experimental Forest Station, National Chung Hsing University Illustrations in "Collaboration" sketched and colored by Ching-Yang Siang (Ava), Office of International Affairs, NCHU

Herculean

NCHU Basketball Court |Mr. JiaJie Jhuang (Photography)

Preface

Discover the Fifth Issue of NCHU ARCH Magazine

he inspiration for establishing the ARCH magazine has been to introduce the quality, ethos, and beauty of National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) to the international community by showcasing academic creativity in the promotion of international education goals.

NCHU ARCH is a semi-annual magazine and features a selection of projects from across the university that delivers on this commitment through the four aspects of Ascension, Research, Collaboration, and Herculean, This publication's "arch" principle aims to extract the essence and structure in explorations of academic research and its operational challenges.

In the first unit Ascension we introduce the most precious natural resource assets of NCHU—four of our forest stations. Experimental forests represent the history of forest education in Taiwan and show achievements of internships in forest industry technology research, ecological conservation, and new forest industry technology.

The Research unit introduces Dr. Chia-Feng Juang from the Department of Electrical Engineering at NCHU, whose advanced computational intelligence techniques won an Outstanding Research Award from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan.

The Collaboration unit highlights NCHU's dedication to Mandarin Chinese promotion and Taiwanese cultural preservation. The Chinese Language Center (CLC) offers customized summer programs for students from NCHU partner universities and holds immersive summer programs overseas that engage local school children.

Herculean illustrates physical education in NCHU, which goes beyond teaching us how to exercise or play sports. It also develops our resilience, courage, and tactical thinking, which can enrich our lives in numerous ways.

In our final unit, we present NCHU Art Gallery's collection, guiding you to enjoy the beauty and elegance of National Chung Hsing University as illustrated in the calligraphy presented by Hsiao Shih-Chiung and Liang Yung-Fei. The exhibition

transcends the classic aesthetic perspective and displays powerful uniqueness through artifacts.

This University was established in 1919 and has maintained the highest reputation for academic endeavors in central Taiwan. An unbroken succession of outstanding leadership at NCHU over the years has successfully pursued a balance of specialized disciplines which have expanded from its outstanding history in agricultural science to a modern research-oriented comprehensive university with eight colleges.

Dr. Fuh-Sheng Shieu was appointed as the 15th President of NCHU in 2015 and has strongly supported establishing NCHU as a multi-faceted institution. Emphasis is placed on the contemporary value of teaching and research to promote a humanities-oriented academic development, and to strengthen the environment in the fields of chemical engineering, agricultural biotechnology, human and social sciences, arts, and life education. It positions National Chung Hsing University as one of the leading national universities in Taiwan.

Looking forward to the future, NCHU will actively seek to consolidate regional resources, align with international trends in tertiary education development, and plan for the medium and long-term development of the university. Major new developments include establishment of a medical school last year and extension of the new Nantou Campus. Progress towards these future areas of expertise by our existing departments will continue to be reported in subsequent issues of the NCHU ARCH magazine for the interest of our supporters and colleagues in Taiwan and overseas. I would like to express my gratitude to Siuo-Ling Cheng (Julia), Yu-Ying Chen (Jennifer), Yu-Chun Liao (Claire) and Ching-Yang Shiang (Ava) who have contributed significant efforts over an extended period in helping to develop the fifth issue of NCHU ARCH magazine.

Stay

Chia-Lin Chang Vice -President for International Affairs National Chung Hsing University

Major Events From June to December 2022

June

- NCHU built the first virtual power plant for animal husbandry in Taiwan and promoted net zero carbon emissions through the industry-government-university project.
- The first Japanese monograph on the sub-cultural research of the cooperation between Taiwan and Japan, Interlaced Postwar Sub-cultural History of Japan and Taiwan, was published by Hokkaido University (Japan).
- The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Eswatini visited NCHU on June 24 and laid the foundation for the cooperation between NCHU and African countries.
- The Summer Campus Workshop, "The Changing World: How to Achieve Sustainability in the Pandemic Era", was sponsored by the Advanced Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences and co-sponsored by the College of Law and Politics and the College of Liberal Arts.

July

- For deep cultivation of medical talents in Central Taiwan, NCHU and Kuang Tien General Hospital (Shalu District, Taichung City) signed an academic exchange and technical cooperation agreement to invest in the cultivation of medical talents in rural areas.
- The rare specimens were first displayed in the opening ceremony of the Natural History Museum of NCHU.
- NCHU, Kasetsart University (Thailand), and Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) jointly held the "2022 Taiwan-Thailand Bilateral Workshop on Smart, Sustainable Energy, Manufacturing and Materials."
- The video about the international students' real-life stories captured by the Office of International Affairs of NCHU was released. (link to the full film: https://youtu.be/GVUalhLF9Ds)

August

- NCHU launched a two-week sterilization activity in Guam. It was the first case of TNVR cooperation between Taiwan and the United States, a transnational and cross-school promotion for stray animal welfare.
- The joint training of the teaching faculty by NCHU and Cambridge University (UK) ranked first in Taiwan for the faculty acceptance rate.
- Tsai Ming-Yen, former director of the Graduate Institute of International Politics of NCHU and representative to the European Union, was appointed Political Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan on August 26.
- National University System of Taiwan (NUST) International Circulation Loop Integrated local and international students to explore Taiwan's agricultural culture.

September

 NCHU and Tungs' Taichung MetroHarbor Hospital (Wuqi District, Taichung City) worked together to create a new era of big-data medicine. President, National Chung Hsing University Fuh-Sheng Shieu

September

- NCHU selected and sent two students from the Department of Applied Economics to study for a 3+X master's degree at the University of California, Davis (USA).
- NCHU successfully screened the native entomogenous fungus strains against the black rice bug (Scotinophara lurida).
- The fourth issue of NCHU ARCH, an English magazine of NCHU, was officially published.



October

- NCHU invited experts to explore the net zero emission of organic agriculture to create new value for organic agriculture.
- Six teams from NCHU won the 2022 FutureTech Awards, ranked fifth in Taiwan.
- NCHU established the sister school relationship with the University of Belize (Belize) to deepen international exchanges and foster academic cooperation.
- NCHU established the sister school relationship with Western Sydney University (Australia).

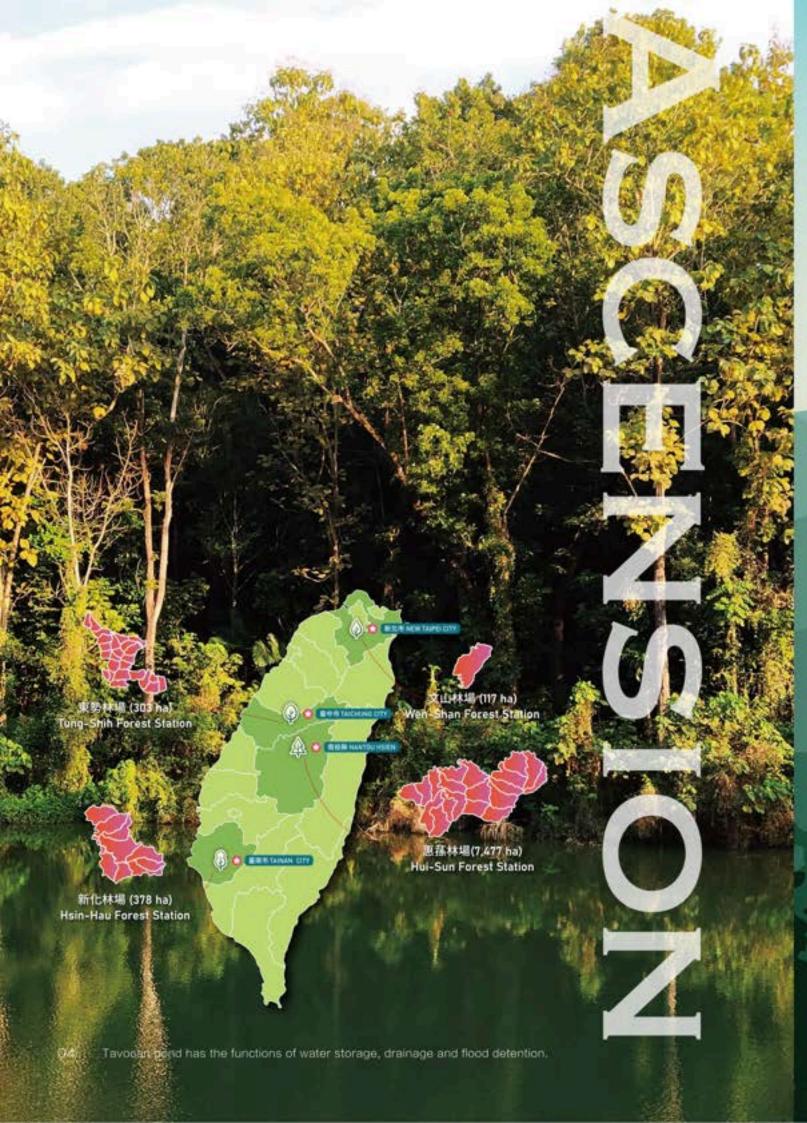
November

- "NUST Project of Circulation: Companion Dog Program" concluded successfully on October 30.
- Fifty-eight scholars from NCHU were included in the world's top 2% scientists list, ranking sixth in Taiwan.
- NCHU and Maejo University (Thailand) renewed MOU to expand international exchanges and cooperation.
- The Office of International Affairs (NCHU) held a feast of American Indian music to help audiences learn about Andean and expand their global outlook.
- NCHU was honored with the Platinum Award for Sustainability Report and the Taiwan Sustainability Award, which is presented by Taiwan Corporate Sustainability Awards.

December

- NCHU established the sister school relationship with VNUHCM-University of Science to deepen academic exchanges and talent cultivation between Taiwan and Vietnam.
- The "2022 LastPETing Exhibition", an immersive exhibition of pet hospice and international volunteer achievements was hold by the Office of International Affairs.
- NCHU signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia to strengthen international exchanges and cooperation between industry and university and promoted agricultural professional technology and patent applications.
- NCHU and Utah State University (USA) signed an agreement on the dual Ph.D. program in engineering on December 13.





Introduction of the 100-year-old Forest Stations of National Chung Hsing University

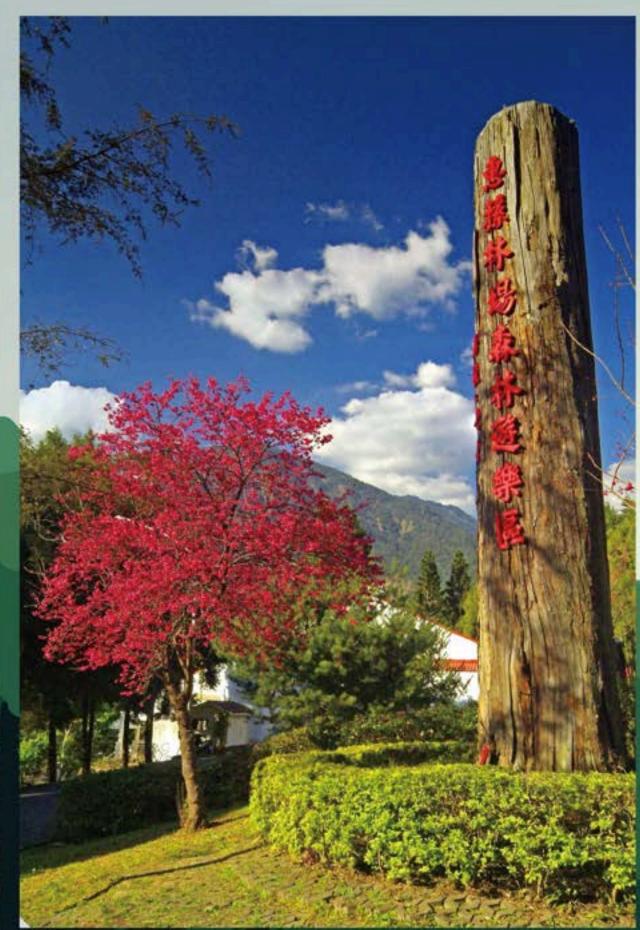
Source Dr. Kun-Tsung LU (Director, Experimental Forest Management Office, NCHU) Shih-Ting Wu (Associate Technical Specialist, Experimental Forest Management Office, NCHU)

ational Chung Hsing University has Huisun Forest Station, Xinhua Forest Station, V Dongshi Forest Station, Wenshan Forest Station, with a total area of 8275 hectares. Four forest stations are managed by the Experimental Forest Management Office, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Chung Hsing University.

Under the Japanese rule period, experimental forests show achievements of internships in forest industry technology research, ecological conservation, and new technology of the forest industry, which represent the history of forest education in Taiwan. In recent years, Huisun Forest Station and Hsinhua Forest Station have provided more forest recreation services and indigenous culture products to visitors.



Hsinhua Forest Station is located in the township of Hsinhua, Tainan County, and lies in a catchment area on the east side of Hu Tou Pei. This forest mainly comprises endless rolling hills; the highest elevation is only 154m. It takes only 25 minutes to get to Tainan downtown area. With a total area of 378 hectares, it preserves the diversity of the ecosystem. Since it was an experimental land to plant tropical trees in the past, which you may see everywhere. The facilities of the trails are well-rounded, and the station is the best place for people to hike because it's essentially a suburban city forest. In addition, it has been collaborating with the Soil and Water Conservation Bureau, Council of Agriculture, and Executive Yuan, combining soil and water conservation and countryside regeneration ideas, reviving ponds, landscapes, and fixing trails. It has been turned into a place that strikes a balance between the biophysical environment and educational area, attracting many people to visit here, and received many awards as well.



The Taiwan Cherry blooming in the Huisun Forest Station.

Huisun Forest Station is located in Renal Township of Nantou County with a total area of 7,477 hectares. The landscape here with high mountains and gorges make it astonishing. With a spread of almost 2000m in elevation, this forest crosses three weather zones (mild, warm, and subtropical) of vegetation. While most areas remain in their original state, the ecosystem showcases a rich diversity.

There are a lot of trails, including Song-Fong Mountain Trail, Azalea Trail, Frog Rock Trail, Misty Trail, Viewing Deck Trail, and Tang Mountain Trail. Each has its



Tarwan's Endemic Species of Birds - Taiwan Blue Magpie (Urocissa Caerulea) - Huisun Forest Station Photographer | Dr. Shy-Hwa Cheng Department of Applied Economics, NCHU

own characteristics. The levels of trails are for all ages not only to enjoy but also to challenge. For safety and convenience, all trails are settled tour systems along the way to provide a better tourist experience. Besides, spots like Japanese Cottage, Coffee Shop, Souvenir Shop, Tea Trial, Alpinia Lane, Cinnamon and Persimmon Family, and Herb Garden are also suitable for walk or ecology observation.





Huisun coffee was first planted in 1936 as part of experimental efforts, and it has since become renowned for its exceptional quality. The coffee has even been awarded a silver medal.

Tungshih Forest Station is located in Tungshih District, Taichung City, with a total area of 303 hectares. It had been through illegal logging activities thrice during the Japanese colonial period, the Taiwan restoration period, and 1960 - 1962. It does not have a main natural forest area, and most of it is leased forestland. Leaseholders manage it as an orchard. We kept reclaiming and recovering the forest lands in order to maintain biodiversity.

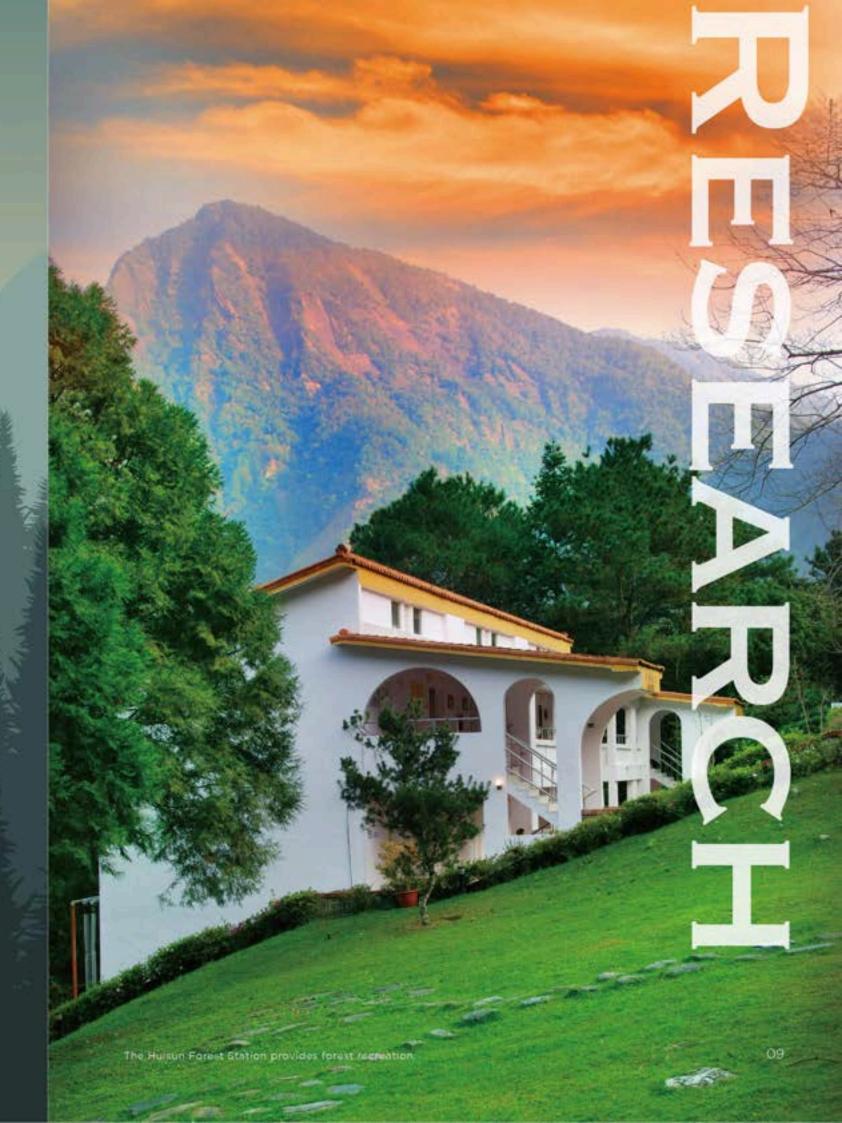
Wenshan Forest Station is located upstream of the Xindian River, with a total area of 117 hectares. It is a low-altitude mountain area. The native broadleaf trees form is the forest's central part and is close to the Feitsui Reservoir, making it an important water protection area. Keep rainwater and reduce soil erosion via forest vegetation's covering. It takes the effects of solid consolidation and water conservation to fully deploy purposes of forest welfare.



After the Experimental Forestry Management Office recovered the forest, they facilitated natural reguneration to minimize human intervention and promote forest restoration.



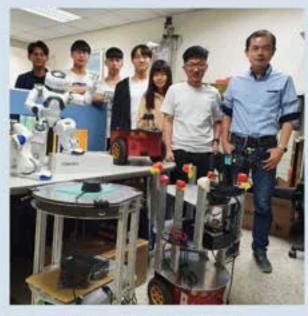
Venshan Forest Station is an important water irotection area.



Prof. Juang's Research Achievements on Advancing Computational Intelligence Techniques towards Explainable Al

Source Dr. Chia-Feng Juang (Distinguished Professor of Department of Electrical Engineering, National Chung Hsing University)

has become a popular research topic in recent years and has shown great success in different applications. However, most AI models function as black boxes, and it is hard to explain the inference process of a suggestion made by these models. In this context, explainable AI (XAI) has attracted the attention of many researchers. Fuzzy systems (FSs) that show the advantage of interpretability in their inference fuzzy rules may provide a possible solution to XAI. Prof. Chia-Feng Juang, the distinguished professor from the Department of Electrical Engineering at NCHU, has devoted himself to advancing computational intelligence techniques, especially data-driven interpretable FSs.



Prof. Chia-Feng Juang (right) and his research team members

The three main pillars of computational intelligence are FSs, neural networks, and evolutionary computation. Based on the integration of these techniques, Prof. Juang has proposed two learning approaches for data-driven interpretable FSs. The first approach is the "neural fuzzy system," which brings the learning ability of neural networks into FSs to build interpretable fuzzy rules. Medically, he has applied the "neural fuzzy system" to fast diagnosis and treatment of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) syndrome. OSA is a common disorder with a prevalence of 2% to 4% of the adult population. Overnight polysomnography (PSG) is the gold standard to determine OSA severity. However, this method suffers from a long waiting list. In collaboration with the Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan, Prof. Juang has

Meural Fatty Bookunton System

Role 5: If EARI is small and SSS is Very Small and CMF_5 is user Then AND is 6.8

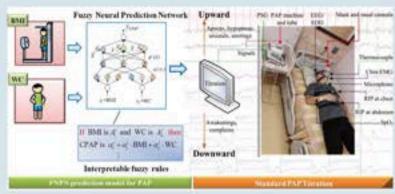
Bulle 6: If EARI is Very large and ESS is Large and CMF_5 is Positive Small Than AND is SE.8

OSA Severity

ESS

Ost Severity

proposed a neural fuzzy evaluation system for fast estimation of the severity of OSA using three readily available physiological variables so that OSA treatment can be performed as soon as possible. Regarding the treatment of OSA, manual titration of positive airway pressure (PAP) is a gold standard for providing optimal pressure. Since manual titration is costly and time-consuming, Prof. Juang has proposed a fuzzy neural prediction network using only two readily available physiological variables for rapid prediction of an optimal PAP in the treatment of OSA.



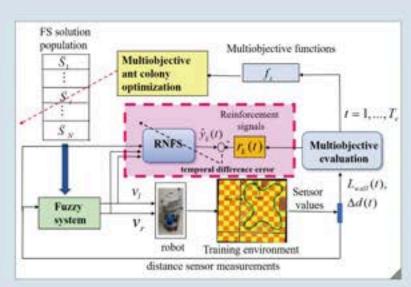
A fuzzy neural prediction network with readily available physiological variables for rapid prediction of an optimal PAP in the treatment of OSA (IEEE JBHI 2022, Doi: 10.1109/JBHI.2021.3120662)

The second learning approach is multiobjective evolutionary FS, which learns a set of non-dominated FSs through evolutionary computation algorithms for handling multiobjective reinforcement/supervised learning problems. The approach has been applied to self-learning robots, which aims to endow a robot with the ability to develop its own skills automatically via reinforcement signals from environments. "Typical AI models consider only the control performance of a robot; the evolutionary FS model we proposed considers both control performance and model interpretability as well as their trade-off," says Prof. Juang. He has applied the multiobjective evolutionary FSs to wall-following learning control of a wheeled/hexapod robot. "For training AI models in robots and other control applications, learning efficiency is an important issue," says Prof. Juang. To boost the learning efficiency of multiobjective evolutionary FSs, he has also proposed the technique of reinforcement neural fuzzy surrogate (RNFS)-assisted learning for robot locomotion control. The learned wall-following behavior has been applied to navigate a single robot and multiple cooperative robots

which helps control a robot to pass through narrow passages to shorten a navigation path.

in unknown environments,

After his hard work, effort, and commitment to computational intelligence techniques through the years, Prof. Juang has won the "Outstanding Research Award" from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan. Internationally, he is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and a Distinguished Lecture of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (CIS).



Learning configuration of reinforcement neural fuzzy surrogate-assisted multiobjective evolutionary fuzzy systems for robot wall-following control (IEEE TFS 2020, Doi: 10.1109/TFUZZ.2019.2907513)



Promoting Mandarin Learning and Celebrating Taiwanese Heritage

Source

Dr. Yi-Ming Shih (Director of Chinese Language Center, National Chung Hsing University) Ms. Adriana Jiang (Chinese Language Center, National Chung Hsing University)

andarin Chinese, with over 1 billion native speakers, is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. To support students who are interested in learning Mandarin as a second or foreign language, National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) founded the Chinese Language Center (CLC) in 2006 with the mission to promote high-quality Mandarin instruction. Currently, the center is one of the largest Mandarin learning institutions in Taiwan. The CLC sits in the Wan Nien Building on the Taichung campus of NCHU. Every year the programs from CLC attract more than 300 international students from all over the world to enroll in the CLC. Learning Mandarin in a friendly and warm environment with cultural resources helps students improve their language skills and develop an understanding of Taiwanese heritage within a short time.

The CLC offers a wide variety of non-credit programs to accommodate individual learner needs. Key features of the Center include:

- Well-Qualified Teachers: The instructors of the CLC are experienced in Mandarin teaching. All of them are awarded the Certification of Proficiency in Teaching Chinese as a Second-Foreign Lan guage issued by the Ministry of Education of Taiwan.
- Small Class Size: Students are taught in small classes, which ensures that learners have ample opportunities to interact with their peers and instructors.
- Diversified Courses: The CLC provides different types of Mandarin courses to students, including
- Intensive courses, online courses, summer courses, customized courses, etc. The intensive courses are divided into eight levels. The estimated study time to complete each level is 180 hours, allowing students to make progress steadily and form a strong foundation in Mandarin.
- Free One-on-one Tutoring: The CLC provides free one-on-one Mandarin tutoring services for students to help them solve learning problems. During the tutoring process, professional advice and guidance will be given to help them learn better or prepare for Mandarin proficiency tests more effectively.
- Hands-on Cultural Activities: The cultural learning activities CLC offers every quarter are
 extremely popular among students. These activities are designed based on the different
 seasons of the Lunar Calendar and traditional Taiwanese cultures; in the past years, various
 activities such as spring couplet writing, lantern riddle guessing, fragrant sachet making,
 Chinese knotting, Chinese painting, pottery, Mahjong playing, etc. were held for students to
 learn about traditional culture and to experience it firsthand.



Students practice speaking skills with peers.



Students proudly presented their works of Chinese calligraphy.



After-class chatting in Mandarin,



An online Mandarin learning session with students of Utah State University, USA.

Customized Courses

The CLC is also dedicated to promoting Mandarin learning through summer courses, which are offered to students from our partner universities around the world. During weekdays, students attending summer courses join the intensive classes in the morning; in the afternoon, they participate in cultural learning activities or field trips organized by the CLC to experience traditional Taiwanese culture.

Collaborations with Partner Universities Overseas

In addition to the regular courses, the CLC provided two short-term online courses for students from Utah State University in 2022. These courses covered essential Mandarin skills such as Pin-Yin and pronunciation. Within two weeks of study, students could carry out basic

conversations in simple Mandarin Chinese.
With the support of experienced instructors and a wealth of online resources, the students had a wonderful time working with them and quickly gained proficiency in Mandarin Chinese.

From 2023 onwards, the CLC is expanding its operations by recruiting outstanding language teachers and teaching assistants to teach Mandarin at our partner universities. It is hoped that through this new form of collaboration, students will have the opportunities to receive solid training in Mandarin and gain a deeper understanding of our culture. Additionally, to ensure the teachers' readiness for teaching in a new environment, the CLC gives them comprehensive training in the areas of language teaching methodology and cross-cultural communication before their departure. The CLC is excited to promote cross-cultural exchanges and strengthen international partnerships through this collaboration.



Paying a visit to USU Extension in Salt Lake County, Utah, From left to right:

Ms. Andree Walker,

USU Director of County Operations

Dr. Katie Wagner,

USU Extension Associate Professor of Horticulture

Ms. Dora Brunson,

USU Chinese Language Instructor

Dr. I-Ming Shih,

Director of NCHU Chinese Language Center





Physical Education: Beyond Education, Enriching Life

Source | Dr. Hsien-Chung Huang (Director of NCHU Office of Physical education and sports)

Mr. Chia-Chun Chan (NCHU Office of Physical education and sports)

nder Taiwan's previous education system, physical education tended to be classified as an unimportant discipline. However, National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) clearly recognizes physical education is not just about sports. Sportsmanship enables individuals of all backgrounds and abilities to gain valuable learning experiences through physical education, which comprises critical elements of future success, such as thinking, resilience, and the courage to face challenges. The Office of Physical Education and Sports of NCHU combines teaching and research, competition activities, and venue equipment to manage sports-related affairs. In recent years, we have been striving for breakthroughs in teaching content, sports activities, and sports facilities, intending to build a diversified sports curriculum and sports activities, providing a friendly sports environment, and realizing the goal of "Sports Is Life".

In terms of teaching and research, we offer 85 courses related to physical education every semester, such as basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, tennis, soccer, softball, golf, swimming, dancesport, modern dance, weight management, weight training, Pilates, frisbee, and canoe, to provide students with adaptive courses. In addition, the Office of Physical Education and Sports regularly cooperates with the Health and Consulting Center of the Office of Student Affairs to deliver health lectures on sports, providing more sports opportunities for our professors and staff workers, thus encouraging them to develop regular sports habits, improving the discomfort caused by long-term fixed posture through sports, and enhancing work efficiency and quality of life.



Intramural Competition: Tug of War Photography I Prof. Jiunn-Lin Wu, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, NCHU

Outdoor Sport - Field-Skating Rink

mouter and information Network Center of NCHI



Aquatic Sports Games Photo Source | NCHU Office of Physical Education and Sports

Canoe Course Photo Source | NCHU Office of Physical Education and Sports

Intramural Competition: High Jump Photography | Prof. Jiunn-Lin Wu, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, NCHU

With the maturity and wide applications of AI techniques, we have pioneered the development of the "AI PE Teacher" teaching system and established the "Smart Table Tennis Classroom" to introduce AI technology, provide students with the correction and guidance of their actions, improve teaching efficiency, make the learning more interesting for students, and enhance independent learning results. In the future, we will constantly develop the "AI PE Teacher" teaching system in different sports to improve teaching efficiency.



Revolutionary Pedagogy: At in Teaching Table Tennis Photo source | Dr. Ming-Hua Hsu from the Graduate Institute of Sports and Health Management

The sports activities aim to integrate sports into daily life, handle diversified sports activities yearly, and actively guide the faculty and students to participate in various sports events. Our activities include school athletic games, school aquatic sports games, interdepartmental cup student sports competitions, and creative cheerleading championships. During the events, we provide students with practical opportunities for event planning, registration, arrangement, event management, fund control, and judgment to cultivate sports professionals in addition to academic talents. In addition, we hold campus healthy running to invite residents of nearby communities to join us and create a good sports atmosphere.

Concerning venue equipment, the Office of Physical Education and Sports has continuously improved the facilities of sports venues in recent years to create a friendly and high-quality sports environment. We have the indoor a gymnasium, 12 badminton courts on the second floor, two basketball courts, and two table tennis rooms on the basement floor. As for outdoor venues, we have a national standard track and field stadium certified by the Chinese Taipei Athletics Association, 12 basketball courts, 7 volleyball courts, and a futsal field. In a nutshell, we have complete sports equipment and open campus sports facilities for faculty, students, and the public to jointly promote the social sports atmosphere and create a friendly sports campus.

中門養學大興中

The Art Center of National Chung Hsing University

The Aesthetics Through Times

nheritance is critical to Innova-I tion. Calligraphy presents the beauty of visual art and delivers the spirit of contemporary culture and the artist's literary accomplishments. This time, the Art Center of NCHU is going to introduce two Taiwan renown artists: Liang Yung-Fei and Hsiao Shih-Chiung, from the art exhibitions we staged in 2022. They were deeply influenced by the classical culture and then wandered in the experimentation and agitation of novel artistic concepts. Their works reproduced the status of artists' inspiration during creation and froze the moment they were experiencing, to display their own unique artistic idiom.



Artist / Hsino Shih-Chiung

The Great Stroke: Hsiao Shih-Chiung and Liang Yung-Fei's Exhibition



Artist / Hsiao Shih-Chiung

Calligraphy is composed of visual art such as images, lines, strokes, and layout; it should also contain readable literature qualities. Hsiao Shih-Chiung and Liang Yung-Fei's possess profound knowledge and skills in calligraphy. Jumping out of traditional frameworks, they seek to combine modern trends with ancient culture, thereby creating contemporary aesthetic air that incorporates "visual arts" and "elegant writings." The two masters' works are uniquely vivid, giving the words a dynamic energy of "presenting meaning by shapes" and enabling provide the words with them to express and communicate with each other. The elements of design that incorporate paintings and colors can also emphasize creative ideas and expressions in various aspects through different materials, thus expanding the artistic values of calligraphy and constructing different possibilities.



(Glimmering Through Darkness) Ceramist/ Chen Ming-Tang



Blue and White Porcelain: You Reap What You Sow



Artist / Liang Yung-Fei



Spring Wind Dancing with Full Moon



The Full Moon Day for Family Reunion



20

Frigid Jadeite Fume







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