



Vice President for International Affairs

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A new semester is underway and quite a few fresh faces have arrived on campus. Whether you plan to be at NTU for a semester, a year, or even four years, I earnestly recommend that you set aside any biases or burdensome baggage you might have and let yourself go. Then, you may give free reign to your boundless sense of curiosity and experience firsthand the extraordinary relationship between NTU and Taiwan.

Looking around the world, we see that top universities play a clear role in leading the cultivation of domestic talent. In Japan, for instance, the University of Tokyo strives to produce future Japanese leaders, while Kyoto University tends to focus on the development of scientists. Taiwan is different, however, and here at NTU we endeavor to both cultivate the future leaders of Taiwan as well as provide a high-quality research environment, making NTU a comprehensive educational institution.

In addition, our open, liberal academic atmosphere has made NTU a bellwether for public opinion in Taiwan. NTU not only routinely offers policy recommendations for the nation, the university also serves as a place of experimentation for implementing new policies. Many domestic universities look to NTU as the standard for higher education in Taiwan. Once NTU began to promote campus internationalization, other universities followed suit. When we recognized teaching assistants' eligibility for labor and national health insurance, many other universities also introduced these benefits for their TAs. NTU enjoys an exceptional significance and status in Taiwan.

However, NTU will never rest on its laurels. We pursue a range of approaches aimed at making the university even better. At the Office of International Affairs where I work, my team and I have been aggressive in promoting campus internationalization. Each year, NTU sends more than 1,000 local students abroad for overseas studies, while the university welcomes nearly 5,000 international students to the NTU campus. Yet, it is insufficient to simply encourage local students to study abroad and international students to come to NTU. We have organized our Mixer Program, which invites NTU's local and international students to participate together in orientation events and student clubs in order to make international experiences a regular part of daily campus life.

Although NTU's international family members come from different backgrounds, we believe that even in areas in which there are differences, such as daily routines, lifestyle, recreation, and professional development, all of us will find it possible to engage in life in Taiwan in ways similar to those of our own country. By seeking mutual understanding and learning from each other's strengths, the world becomes our personal database and we come to discover a more expansive world view and broader potential for living.

Regardless of where you hail from, we welcome you to become a part of NTU. By joining the NTU community, you not only make NTU a more fulfilling and diverse institution, but reap the rewards of your own wonderful journey.