

Gambian president looks forward to increased exchange with TNUA



The president of the Republic of The Gambia, Dr. Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh, accompanied by ROC Foreign Minister Francisco Ou, led a delegation of his country to pay a visit to TNUA on April 22.

Extending a warm welcome to the guests, TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-ching noted that TNUA is the

best university of the arts in Taiwan. It boasts a campus of art with no walls, providing a spacious and unique field pregnant with the sense of art.

Prof. Ju said he hoped the guests could better understand the arts and culture in Taiwan and TNUA students' achievements through a series of activities the host had arranged for them.

The activities designed for the Gambian delegation included Pak-kuan and Lam-kuan performances by students from the Department of Traditional Music, as a display of warm welcome to the visitors, who were also entertained by students' other music and dance performances.

The guests were then guided through the campus to see an outdoor exhibition of works by sculptor Lee Tsai-chien. They also visited the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts to see the "Life Illusion of Bodies 2009: A Solo Show by Lee Kuang-Yu," and "About The Orientation of 21 Century Artists: Powershows 4." They were impressed by the

performances and the exhibitions.

Dr. Jammeh brought TNUA three gifts of painting and sculptural work. One of them, a wood carving work of a hunter, signifies the long-lasting friendship between Gambia and Taiwan, because, according to the guest, hunting is one of the oldest activities in human history which is still practiced in the modern age of technology.

The Gambian president expressed the hope that his country can have the chance of sending its students and artists to TNUA for study and exchange. He also donated US\$10,000 for a scholarship for the exchange between young artists of the two countries. Prof. Ju in return presented the guest with a print by a TNUA alumnus, Huang Chun-yuan.

Gambia maintains formal diplomatic ties with the ROC. It was Dr. Jammeh's eighth visit to Taiwan as president of the West African nation. The latest visit was chiefly aimed at boosting agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

TNUA teachers, students at Odin Week

A group of theatre teachers and students from TNUA has attended a nine-day workshop at Odin Teatret, meeting the legendary founder and director Mr. Eugenio Barba and other veteran members of the troupe.

Sponsored by the Education Ministry's Academic Excellence Program, 10 undergraduate and graduate students, led by two teachers, departed for Northern Europe at the end of March on a trip to understand Odin's Theatre Anthropology.

The Odin Week international workshop allowed the participants to experience the "Odin Tradition," as well as various other activities, including body training, studying methods of representation, watching performances, taking care of chores, and daily conversation with Mr. Barba.

The Odin Tradition refers to veteran members' sharing of their years of experience, and the varieties of experience show that the tradition is not a set of immovable rules, but a combination of years of different experience from individual members. As Veteran actress Ms. Roberta Carreri describes it, Odin has grown into such a well-balanced and healthy big tree because of the differences between its members.

The workshop participants also were arranged to see rehearsals by Odin members on two plays that the troupe had never staged before: Shakespeare's Othello and Ibsen's A Doll's House. Making use of simple props, the actors and actresses rehearsed in front of the participants and at the same time explained to them the development

of the rehearsals. They provided participants with insights into how Odin actors and actress would develop their characters. The most inspiring moment every day was the conversation with Mr. Barba in the evening. In the course of nine days, Mr. Barba gave a lively account of Odin's history, recalling how at one point they considered disbanding the group, and how they experienced problems of keeping and finding talented members.

In its first 10 successful years, some of its members were intoxicated by success and fame, and their work attitude soured, according to the Mr. Barba. Once an actor or actress becomes proud, it spells the end for them, he said.

Mr. Barba said Odin then felt it was time for a change: for two years its members trained hard without staging any public performances. It was hard for theatre people yearning for recognition and applause. But those who have remained have been hard-working and selfless. One of the most important jobs for Odin members is to take care of the daily chores. Ms. Carreri said Odin has never hired outside help to clean its premises.

Ms. Carreri, the creator of the Odin Week workshop, joined the troupe in 1974. Apart from acting, teaching and conducting workshops, Ms. Carreri has written memorable plays, such as Traces in the Snow and Judith.

Ms. Carreri has never taken part in productions outside Odin despite her talent and fame. She explains simply and firmly that she needs Odin.

Renowned pianist Slenczynska offers 8-week course

Renowned pianist Ms. Ruth Slenczynska arrived at TNUA last month to offer an eight-week training course for students, as well as lectures and a concert.

Her third time at TNUA, the 84-year-old American pianist is giving music students one-on-one piano lessons on works by Haydn and Brahms. She visited TNUA twice in 2007, and won the love and respect of students and teachers.

Praising the students for their professional training, she said a professional performer needs to practice eight to nine hours a day – and that is the basic training.

She won standing ovation for her charming performance at the end of her concert at the TNUA Concert Hall.

Heralded as the first child prodigy since Mozart, Ms. Slenczynska gave her first concert at the age of four. She made her debut in Berlin at six, and then in Paris with a full orchestra at eleven. She became an instant sensation in Europe.

Ms. Slenczynska remains active today, giving dozens of concerts every year. She is also a popular music critic and teacher who is known for her ability to pinpoint problems with piano performances. She currently writes for Keyboard magazine.



Prof. Lee Kuang-yu's 'Life Illusion'

"Life Illusion of Bodies 2009: A Solo Show by Lee Kuang-Yu," which runs till June 14 at the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, presents the sculptor's works from 2004 to 2007.

The world of sculpture embodies Prof. Lee's insightful and deep understanding of life. The concrete-yet-abstract forms of his sculptures offer a glimpse into the intricate relations between religion and life. Prof. Lee's constant contemplation on the differences and similarities between the West and the East is elevated to the metaphysical world of religion, which is in turn reflected in his works.

Born in 1945 in Kaohsiung, Prof. Lee completed his professional training in Taiwan before heading to Spain in 1978 to study in the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts and then in the University of Madrid. He returned to Taiwan in 1983 and has since then been teaching at TNUA.

Performance schedule May 12-June 11

Music Tel: 02-2893-8245		F Free \$ Ticket
May 15 7:30 p.m.	Enrico Elisi Piano Recital Piano/ Enrico Elisi	\$ 100 TNUA Concert Hall
May 25 1:10 p.m.	Yossi Arnheim Flute Recital	F Department of Music M2601
* For further information, please visit: http://music.tnua.edu.tw/music/m1-1.html		
Theatre Tel: 02-2893-8772, 02-2893-8822		
May 14, 15, 16, 17 8:00 p.m.	"Gluttony" Sun Son Theatre / 39, Lane 88, Sec. 2, Zhongzheng Rd., Zhuwei, Danshui, Taipei County	\$ 350
May 22, 23, 29, 30 7:30 p.m. May 23, 24, 30, 31 2:30 p.m.	"05161973: Wislawa Szymborska" TNUA Experimental Theatre	\$ 450
Dance Tel: 02-2893-8778		
May 28-30 7:30 p.m. May 30-31 2:30 p.m.	Department of Dance Early Summer Production Chen Hui-ju "Chinese Dance" Chiang chiou-o "Modern Ballet" Martha Graham "Steps in the Street" (Director: Sheu Fang-yi) Cheng Tsung-lung "White Adhesives" Ping Heng "Harvest Festival of Kiwit Village, Ami Tribe"	\$ 350 TNUA Dance Theatre
KdMoFA Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am-5 pm (closed on Monday) Tel : 02-2896-1000 ext. 2444 F		
Now till June 14	"Life Illusion of Bodies 2009: A Solo Show by Lee Kuang-Yu"	Rooms 101, 102, 103, 104
"AIR (Artist-In-Residency)" KdMoFA Artist in Residency		
Now till June 21	Maruyama Junko	
June 5-21	Maruyama Junko exhibition of Artist-in-Residency work	
*For further details, please visit: http://kdmofa.tnua.edu.tw/		