

TNUA administrators in consensus camp



Over 100 members of the TNUA administrative and teaching staff participated in a consensus camp on January 9 to share their ideas for the development of the school in 2010.

The camp discussed four major themes: keeping abreast of international trends and attaining international standards; promoting cross-disciplinary integration and

academic-industry collaboration; creating a campus culture and willingness to serve and learn; and improving administrative efficiency and the use of e-resources.

TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching, said the school has seen brilliant achievements over the past few years thanks to the hard work of all of its staff and students. For four years in a row, TNUA has received funding from the

government's Excellence Project, and it is the only school of arts that has received recognition for its outstanding teaching work for four consecutive years, Prof. Ju noted.

For academic year 2009, TNUA has been awarded funding of NT\$114 million from the Excellence Project – the highest for all national universities.

The school has completed major construction projects, including a sewer system covering the entire campus, the Arts and Activity Complex and new dormitories. It has also expanded its international exchange ties and the body of its international students. It has signed agreements with a total of 27 internally renowned institutions, and has organized almost 500 forums and lectures by world-renowned scholars and artists.

TNUA has already laid a firm foundation, but it must be prepared to face the challenges ahead, the president said. He noted that lawmakers have already passed a law governing cultural and creative industries. As art is the inspiration for cultural and creative industries, TNUA must be more actively seeking innovations and breakthroughs.

Talking about some of the major goals for the next three years, Prof. Ju said TNUA is looking to accelerate its internationalization, consolidate all resources for the training of artists, and expand the size of its students.

Representatives of the student body were also invited to this year's consensus camp. The students said the participation let them understand more about the school and their own goal of learning.

AIM 2020: Minister stresses art of storytelling as core power pushing cultural and creative industries

Minister without Portfolio Dr. Ovid Tseng notes that the art of storytelling is the core power needed for the cultural and creative industries that the government is pushing.

Dr. Tseng made the remarks in December 2009 in a speech delivered at TNUA's "AIM 2020" cultural forum – the second talk in a series of activities organized by the school to collect opinions to help the government with the making of cultural policies.

The minister, described by TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching, as a chief architect pushing the cultural and creative industries, told the audience that the core power should be developed through basic education that helps people learn how to tell and write meaningful stories combining history and experiences. Storytelling skills help invigorate creativity.

Dr. Tzeng noted how many stories in Western and Eastern cultures start with "Once upon a time..." or "A long long time ago...", which he thinks is an indication that all cultural heritage is passed on through storytelling.

In Taiwan, there has been a lack of storytelling training in school, he said. But he said even scientists should learn the art of storytelling. Scientists who can tell good stories can present their research results in lively ways.

During his talk, Dr. Tzeng demonstrated his own capabilities of telling stories by citing historical examples, archaeological discoveries and modern architecture to illustrate his point that every individual, incident or thing can be turned into a touching story through good organization and presentation.

As for the government policy, the minister said



lawmakers are close to completing legislation to enable funding for the cultural and creative industries. He said the government is ready to invest NT\$20 billion into promoting the industries once the new law is adopted.

French and Taiwanese musicians in Maestro Lecture; Dutch artist talks about public art



Conductor François Boulanger and first violin Guillaume Plays, both from France's L'Orchestre de la Garde Républicaine, and pianist Li Fang-yi – the latest guests of honor of the Maestro Lecture – recently spent two weeks at TNUA giving lectures and concerts.

Meanwhile, Dutch artist Jerome Symons visited TNUA, giving a talk on his work and public art in the Netherlands.

The much decorated Boulanger gave one-on-one

conducting lessons to TNUA students. He also conducted a concert by the TNUA Orchestra.

The Taiwan-born pianist Li has presented her art in many famous concert halls around the world. She has also been invited to perform with L'Orchestre de la Garde Républicaine.

At TNUA, Li and Plays jointly gave a talk on chamber music. Besides taking part in the Boulanger-conducted concert, Li and Plays also joined some professors from the Department of Music to stage a chamber music performance.

Symons, accompanied by his wife, brought along many photos of works of public art from his native country, as well as Belgium, France and Austria, which he showed and explained the meanings of these works during his talk.

He said in the Netherlands, local governments are usually willing to lend support to artists for their public art projects.

'This Is Hong Kong'

"This Is Hong Kong" presents a selection of artists from Hong Kong that reflects on the idea of politics, history, architecture, postcolonial issues and daily life in this city.

The exhibition runs from January 15 to March 28 at the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts.



■ 《Record Light》 by Kingsley Ng