

China cultural delegation in TNUA



A 14-member delegation from the China Friendship Association of Cultural Circles (CFACC) visited TNUA on September 3 to discuss the possibility of exchanges between the two sides.

The delegation from China, headed by the association's honorary chairman Cai Wu, received a warm welcome from TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching, and other school officials.

Prof. Ju said with the frequency of cultural exchanges across the Taiwan Strait rising in recent years, TNUA has established sister ties with several arts institution in China, such as Beijing Film Academy and Shanghai Theatre Academy, and has worked closely with them in various performances and academic affairs.

He showed the guests around the TNUA campus and its facilities, including the Concert Hall, the exhibition rooms of the Center for Art and Technology and the KD Arts Gallery Store.

Mr. Cai was impressed by the beauty of the campus, the state-of-the-art facilities and various pieces of unique works of art by TNUA students and teachers. The guest of honor said TNUA is a university filled with the ambience of art, and he hopes both sides can increase their

exchange activities in the future to enable mutual understanding and learning.

He noted that Chinese culture is rich, but apart from preserving its essence, efforts should also be made to get it grow in line with the times. It is an inevitable trend that arts, technology and others have to be enlisted to further enrich Chinese culture, and the creative works being showcased at TNUA's center for Art and Technology is an excellent example of such a trend, said Mr. Cai, who is also the incumbent culture minister of China.

Arts and cultural activities in both Taiwan and China have been vibrant, and many students are enrolling in arts schools. In Taiwan, the overall university admission rate is high at over 90%, but it is extremely difficult to get into TNUA, which admits only 8% of the applicants. It is also highly competitive to enroll in China's famous arts institutions.

They concluded that it should be the common goal of arts educators to seize this opportunity to let arts take root and grow. ◆

Top: Mr. Cai Wu, (front row, third from left) honorary chairman of the China Friendship Association of Cultural Circles, and other members of his delegation receive a warm welcome from TNUA.

TNUA and CMPC to jointly set up R&D center for film industry



TNUA and Central Motion Picture Corporation (CMPC) have signed an agreement to enhance collaboration between the academic world and industry by jointly setting up a R&D center.

TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching and CMPC Chairman Guo Tai-chiang signed the agreement on August 23 for establishing the center, which will allocate NT\$50 million in the next five years for various film and related projects.

Both sides will join forces in producing and making feature films, devising theatre plans, training management personnel, conducting research and development projects, running educational training courses, and others.

The unprecedented collaboration has turned a new page in Taiwan's film history, and injected a strong momentum in the local film industry.

Prof. Ju noted that a healthy and stable film industry must be maintained in order to support and realize the dream of making films that can touch and inspire audiences.

This film industry must be sustainable and continue to grow, with strong backing from a sufficient source of talent, the TNUA president said.

Prof. Ju revealed that both sides will jointly produce at least two feature films each year. TNUA will provide personnel and academic resources to assist CMPC in such areas as filmmaking ideas, styles, and development of equipment and technology.

CMPC will provide R&D funding, equipment and sufficient opportunities for TNUA students to fully practice and learn, Prof. Ju said.

He said it is an unprecedented occasion for both Taiwan's educational and filmmaking sectors, allowing a close partnership between the academic circle and industry to create a win-win situation where resources and fruits can be shared through a regular collaboration mechanism.

Mr. Guo said the major aim of the cooperation with TNUA is to lay a firm foundation for Taiwan's film industry by offering fundamental training to talented students, allowing these young people to better develop their creativity.

For Taiwan's film industry to grow and prosper, private enterprises' investments and participation will be essential, Mr. Guo said. The five-year plan is just the beginning; there will be more five-year plans coming in the future, and there will be more cooperation between academic institutions and industrial sectors of a similar nature, the CMPC chairman added.

Prof. Wang Tung, chairman of the Department of Film-making, who will oversee the project, said that with the strictest requirements he will lead this team of new blood to create a better future for Taiwan's film industry.

The agreement signing ceremony was also witnessed by a number of government officials and famous director Lee Hsing, among other guests of honor. ◆

Top: TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching (right) and CMPC Chairman Guo Tai-chiang (left) witness a historical moment at the agreement signing ceremony.