



## École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts becomes sister school

The prestigious École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts has become TNUA's 36th sister school after both sides signed an MOU in Taipei on Nov. 23 to promote mutual exchange and cooperation.

Prof. Henry-Claude Cousseau, director of the Paris, France-based school, received a warm welcome as he arrived at TNUA to sign the MOU with his counterpart, Prof. Ju Tzong-Ching.

The TNUA president noted that the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts represents the pinnacle of arts institutions in France, and is also one of the most prestigious arts schools in the world.

The highly respected Prof. Cousseau managed many museums before becoming director of the school in 2000, and he has devoted much effort to the development of contemporary art, Prof. Ju pointed out.

Prof. Ju said he hopes the signing of the MOU will open up multiple channels for collaboration between the two sides in both academic affairs and exhibitions in the future.

Prof. Cousseau remarked that it was his fourth visit

to Taiwan, but the first to TNUA. He said he was glad to see both sides become sister schools and looked forward to further interaction between them. He said future exchanges may cover students, teachers and joint curation of exhibitions.

Prof. Cousseau also was given a guided tour of the TNUA campus, visiting the Center for Art and Technology, the Concert Hall, and the KDMoFA. He said he was impressed by the campus and its professional facilities.

A music lover, Prof. Cousseau was excited by the sight of the pipe organ at the Concert Hall, and played a beautiful piece on it with marvelous skills to delight the hosts.

Prof. Cousseau later gave a talk to introduce the history of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts and its latest developments.

The École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts was founded by King Louis XIV of France in the 17th century, and has since nurtured numerous artists. ◆

Caption: Prof. Henry-Claude Cousseau, director of the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, third from left, TNUA President Prof. Ju Tzong-Ching, third from right, and other TNUA administrators pose for a picture after the two sides signed an MOU to establish sister ties in November.

## Violinist Poulet lectures at TNUA



French violinist Prof. Gerard Poulet guest lectured at TNUA for two weeks in October, giving Maestro Talks, working with students in one-on-one sessions, and delighting audiences with two concerts.

Prof. Poulet stressed that hard work must be invested in honing basic skills, but attitude is also very important. He said there is no shortcut to learning to play the violin,

and success and achievements all depend on hard work, willingness to change and determination.

For each piece of music to be performed, Prof. Poulet said it will take at least half a year of practice and preparation. He said a performer must first understand the work and what messages the composer wants to convey. The performer then digests it using his or her own experience and wisdom, and interprets it through the instrument, which is the way of real performance, he said.

The 72-year-old maestro shows devotion to teaching students. During his two-week stay, he arranged one-on-one sessions with four to six string students for four hours each night. Those students also presented what they had learnt from Prof. Poulet by holding a concert on Oct. 28. He lauded TNUA's music students for their overall quality, and he asked students to bravely accept challenges and keep working hard.

Prof. Poulet, as a guest of honor to the Kuandu Arts Festival, also offered two concerts on Oct. 29 and 30 together with the TNUA Orchestra, as well as pianist Ms. Yori Kawashima. They charmed the full houses with works by Grieg, Beethoven, Schumann, Rachmaninov, Ravel, Dvorak, and Richard Strauss.

Caption: French violinist Prof. Gerard Poulet teaches TNUA students during his two-week stay in October.

## TNUA and AIT to co-organize concert in memory of Paul Robeson

Mr. Scott Robinson, director of the American Cultural Center (ACC) under the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), paid a visit to TNUA President Prof. Ju Tzong-Ching on Nov. 8, inviting the School of Music to jointly hold a concert next year in memory of the American bass-baritone singer, actor, writer and human rights activist Paul Robeson.

The concert, "The Journey of Paul Robeson," which is slated for early April, will feature American bass singer Kevin Maynor and pianist Eric Olsen, as well as the TNUA School of Music chorus.

Mr. Robinson said apart from Mr. Maynor's renditions of over 20 classic Robeson songs, including "Joe Hill" and "Curly Headed Baby," there will be poetry recitation to let the audience understand his yearnings for life, freedom, democracy and dignity, as well as the American history and culture in general.

Prof. Ju thanked AIT for offering TNUA students the opportunity to take part in the concert, where they will learn much from Mr. Maynor and Mr. Olsen. Prof. Liu Hwei-jin, dean of the School of Music, said Mr. Maynor will also hold a workshop at TNUA.