



15 schools take part in APB drama festival

The 2012 Asia Pacific Bureau Drama Schools Festival brought together more than 100 teachers and students from 15 schools from 11 countries in a one-week theatre event at TNUA from August 31 to September 6.

The festival – first introduced in 2009 – featured 11 theatre performances, 12 workshops and two forums this year. At the same time, the annual conference of theatre school directors from the Asia Pacific region also took place.

The event, which has been promoted by UNESCO Chair ITI Asia Pacific Bureau, has now become an important platform for theatre and academic exchange between schools in the region.

It all started with the first conference of drama school directors from in 2008, during which the Asia Pacific Bureau accepted as members 16 theatre art institutions from Taiwan, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

In 2009, Shanghai Theatre Academy and the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts jointly organized the first-ever festival, and India's National School of Drama hosted the second one.

This year, the host was TNUA. Apart from members of the Asia Pacific Bureau, some other schools from Brunei, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand were also invited.

Prof. Yang Chyi-Wen, dean of TNUA's School of Theatre Arts who was in charge of planning for this year's event, said the festival is an opportunity for teachers and students to inspire one another's creativity.

Anurardha Kapur, chair of the Asia-Pacific Administration Board of the UNESCO Chair-ITI, noted in his keynote speech that this event can help narrow the gap and promote understanding between different cultures through theatre performances and workshops.

Caption: Australian theatre director Aubrey Mellor discusses with participants during a session at the Asia Pacific Bureau Drama Schools Festival.



Kite-making masters mark TNUA 30th anniversary

The Center for Traditional Arts kicked off a kite-making workshop on June 25, inviting six kite-making masters to demonstrate their art in the one-week event.

The masters were: Yoshizo Sakuraba from Japan; Muhammad Farid Bin Husain from Malaysia; Orlando Ongkingco from the Philippines; I Wayan Sadera from Bali, Indonesia; Kin Kan Hsieh and Amin Balangatu, both from Taiwan.

The six masters not only showed some 20 TNUA teachers and students how to make kites during the workshop, but also created a total of seven large traditional kites – from one to three meters – of their own and presented them to the school as gifts marking its 30th anniversary.

The art of kite-making blends the characteristics of the traditional arts of bamboo craft, paper making, painting, design and musical instrument making with modern creativity to present an eclectic style combining the local with the global.

The making and flying of kites often is intricately linked to local religious rites – through the thin line people pray for good harvests or express thoughts about their lives and environments.

The workshop saw a fruitful interaction between the masters' traditional arts and craft and the young students' creativity, which gave a new look to the traditional art of kite-making.

As it was a rare event gathering so many masters of the traditional art, many local kite-making enthusiasts also paid visits to the workshop.

The kites made during the workshop will be displayed at the Arts Forum when TNUA holds the opening ceremony for its 30th anniversary celebrations in October, as well as at the TNUA Library in an exhibition running from October 9 to 28.

Caption: Kite-making masters and students share the fun of making traditional kites during a workshop to mark TNUA's 30th anniversary.