



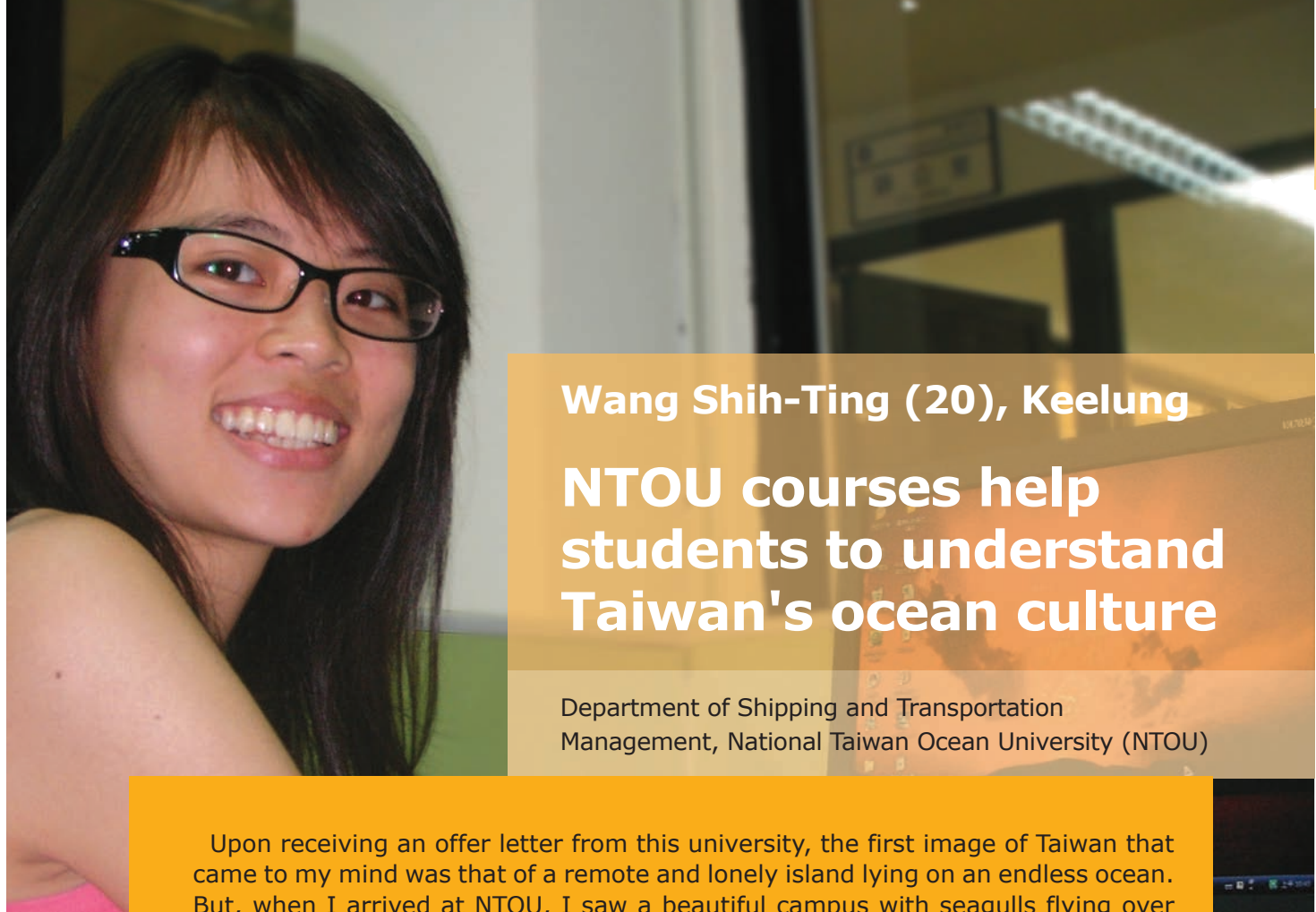
The MOE has launched a series of education reforms that have led to an increase in the number of higher education institutions and their students. Moreover, in order to maintain and improve the quality of higher education, some professional institutions, such as the Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan, evaluate the school's administrative affairs, management and academic research. The quality of higher education can thus be ensured. To survive in this age of globalisation, a small country like Taiwan needs international competitiveness drawn from its educational system and research capabilities.



# Higher Education

**Tug-of-War in Feng Chia University**





**Wang Shih-Ting (20), Keelung**

## **NTOU courses help students to understand Taiwan's ocean culture**

Department of Shipping and Transportation Management, National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU)

Upon receiving an offer letter from this university, the first image of Taiwan that came to my mind was that of a remote and lonely island lying on an endless ocean. But, when I arrived at NTOU, I saw a beautiful campus with seagulls flying over the nearby harbour on the Pacific Ocean.

NTOU is an excellent place to learn about the ocean. Its curriculum includes ocean sciences, literature and ocean economics. But this school is not just about the ocean. School authorities had a mountain pathway built, leading to an area considered home to fireflies. Thousands of tourists take this pathway during the summer, the mating season for fireflies. I also took some courses on the habits of fireflies.

Among NTOU's many programmes, the most fascinating for me was the internship with Taiwanese shipping companies such as Evergreen Line and Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp. Some of my classmates and I spent the whole summer break staying on board a cargo ship. It was a great opportunity to learn the practical side of shipping.

**The MOE issued a White Paper on the Marine Education Policy in March 2007, supporting the establishment of marine education databases and platforms for information exchange provided by the government, academia, industry and NGOs.**

**Marine culture courses have also been added into the curriculum at all levels of education and increased academia-industry cooperation has helped students to develop a greater interest in the marine industry.**





## 1. College & University Entrance Exams

Since 2000, the MOE has permitted multiple admission channels for entering colleges and universities. These include school recommendation, individual application, and examination and placement. School recommendation entails high schools making a list of students whom they would recommend to college or university departments. Individual application means that high school students can apply to a maximum of five departments in colleges or universities, in order to take an exam. Examination and placement involves high school students taking an entrance exam set by The College/University Entrance Examination Centre; based on their grades, they can then apply for admission into colleges and universities.

## 2. Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. Degrees

Students are awarded a bachelor's degree upon completion of their undergraduate study; they will

obtain a master's degree upon completion of their postgraduate study. Universities of technology also offer both degrees. However, the curriculum at most universities focuses on academic studies and research, while universities of technology focus on practical and specific skills training. Bachelor's programmes at both types of higher education institution require four years to complete; master's programmes usually require two years; and a doctorate (PhD) needs at least three years. Depending upon the requirements of each school, students with a distinguished academic performance could apply for promotion to a higher level.







**Chen Ying-Tzu ,  
Taichung**

## **Diversified curriculum helps personality development**

Department of Accounting, Feng Chia University

I have been studying at Feng Chia University in Taichung City in central Taiwan. This university won the "Excellence in Teaching and Learning" award from the MOE in 2006 and 2007. I believe this university's diversified curriculum has helped me to absorb knowledge from different professions.

Feng Chia is a digitised campus and students enjoy wireless Internet connectivity and a digital library. This allows us to attend relevant courses from other domestic and international universities.

This school also assists students experiencing difficulties in their academic work and organises student exchange activities that allow us to understand different cultures and improve our foreign language abilities.

**The MOE launched the three-year Excellence in Teaching and Learning Project, aimed at enhancing the quality of higher education, in SY 2006, and 58 public and private higher education institutions received subsidies totalling NT\$ 3.5 billion. In SY 2007, subsidies were granted to 60 higher education institutions.**



# Quality Assurance in Higher Education



## 1. College & University Evaluation

With the number of colleges and universities having risen over the past decade, the MOE has focused on maintaining education quality by encouraging schools to establish self-evaluation systems. The MOE has also established an institution to evaluate schools professionally on their administrative and management systems, academic performance, and hardware and software resources. These steps will lead to objective quality standards, ensuring the quality of higher education.

The Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), established by the MOE in 2005, trains professional evaluators who will eventually establish objective standards of education quality. In the future, the MOE will hold evaluations of higher education on a regular basis.

There are two important policies that are designed to enhance higher education. One of them seeks to allocate more educational resources to universities that perform better. In SY 2005, for instance, the MOE set aside a total of NT\$50 billion for twelve

universities. Another policy encourages increased cooperation between colleges and universities and industry.

## 2. The Increase in Higher Education Institutions

The number of higher education institutes, encompassing junior colleges, colleges and universities, has increased in the past decade under Taiwan's education policy. There was also a rapid increase in the number of private colleges owing to the upgrade of junior colleges to colleges. Today, each city and county has at least one college or university.

In SY 1997, there were 78 colleges and universities in Taiwan. By SY 2007, the number had gone up to 149, including 100 universities and 49 colleges; the number of students had increased to 1,192,139, soaring by more than 2.5 times. Furthermore, there were 3,118 affiliated graduate programme institutes, which admitted 204,225 graduate students in SY 2007.



# Fostering a Global Vision



## 1. "Understanding Taiwan" Curriculum

Twenty years ago, there was hardly any educational material about Taiwan. In 1990, the MOE started encouraging colleges and universities to introduce courses at each education level that would enable students to increase their knowledge of Taiwan. Those courses were based on the educational principles of local culture and self-awareness. Because of Taiwan's geographical features, some courses dealt with an ocean culture drawn from the fact that this island is surrounded by water and that most people's daily activities and livelihoods were related to the ocean. Some universities now teach courses such as oceanic science and culture, ocean literature and deep-sea diving.

## 2. English-Taught Courses

With the increase in foreign students studying in colleges and universities, the MOE has encouraged both public and private colleges and universities, including National Taiwan University, National Chengchi University and Yuan Ze University, to offer English-taught courses in order to build an on-campus bilingual environment. Many schools have also established a foreign student affairs section that assists foreign students with visa applications and extensions, as well as dealing with

most matters relating to daily life. This year, up to 61.73% of foreign students are from other Asian countries such as Malaysia and Thailand; 11.99% of them study in technology-related fields.

## 3. Internationalisation

The MOE has four important policies that seek to internationalise Taiwan's higher education:

### a. International Competitiveness

In 2002, the MOE launched the "Enhancing Global Competitiveness Plan", aimed at fostering international exchange activities, improving students' English capacity and encouraging more international students to study in Taiwan.

### b. Increasing the Number of Foreign Students

Having more international students studying in Taiwan has been on the priority list of the MOE since August 2003. To achieve this objective, higher education institutions offer scholarships and English-taught courses in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

### c. Encourage Taiwanese Students to Study Abroad

Full government financial aid has been awarded for training in all kinds of domains every year. In addition, the MOE established the "Study Abroad Loan Programme" in 2004 to encourage Taiwanese students to study abroad. In 2007, the number of students applying to study abroad had increased to 4,200.

### d. Taiwan Culture Research Programme

In 2000, the Cultural Division of the Taipei Representative Office in the U.K. founded the Taiwan Culture Research Programme, previously known as the London Taiwan Seminar, at the London School of Economics and Political Science. In 2007, the programme was expanded in scale and content. By cooperating with the leading foreign academic institutes, the MOE believes that "Taiwan Research" will attract attention on the academic stage in the U.K. and assert its scholarly resources.



## Celebrities from Technological Education



Wang Chien-Ming, left, and Ang Lee, right, have gained global fame and brought honour to Taiwan.

Many people with a technological and vocational education have become successful in business, athletics or other professions. Wang Chien-Ming, a pitcher for the New York Yankees, was a student of Taipei Physical Education College before joining the major league team.

Tsao Chin-Hui, another player in American major league baseball (MLB), attended Kao Yuan Junior College of Technology (which the MOE upgraded to Kao Yuan University in 2005). During his three years at Kao Yuan, Tsao gained international recognition for his baseball talent and was awarded a US\$ 4 million contract by the Colorado Rockies in 2008.

Ang Lee, the Best Director winner at the 78th Oscar award ceremony, studied at the National Junior College of Arts (upgraded to National Taiwan University of Arts in 2001) after completing senior high school at National Tainan First Senior High School (considered to be the best high school in Tainan City). Ang's parents were surprised at his decision not to pursue an undergraduate degree but to choose film studies instead.

These celebrities have become models for students considering developing a professional skill through the TAV education. The MOE has earmarked further funds and resources to assist vocational schools in upgrading their facilities and teaching content.