International Academic Exchange
at National Tsing Hua University

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ABSTRACT

To achieve academic excellence and broaden educational spectra, international academic exchange is one of the main focuses on which almost every university has put on a lot of efforts. At Tsing Hua University in Hsinchu, Taiwan, the international academic exchange program has been the major task of the Division of International and Continuing Education, which is under the Office of Academic Affairs. In this presentation the missions and strategies of this international program will be described and the current status be reported. Issues and challenges in promoting and pursuing international academic exchange will be also addressed.
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Outlines

- Missions
- Statistics of international students
- Statistics of exchange students
- Strategies
- Future goals
- Issues and suggestions

Missions

- Achieve academic excellence recognized internationally
- Train outstanding students with global view
- Encourage students to study abroad
- Recruit more international students
- Enhance teaching and research excellence

Statistics of International Students

2004-2006 Profile of International Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bachelor</th>
<th>Master</th>
<th>Doctoral</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Students of NTHU</th>
<th>Ratio of International Students at NTHU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>10265</td>
<td>1.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>10640</td>
<td>1.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>11014</td>
<td>1.41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Goal: Increase 50 international students per year and reach 3% ratio in 2010
Statistics of International Students

- **2005**
  - International Exchange Students: 34
  - Exchange Students from China: 62

- **2006**
  - International Exchange Students: 50
  - Exchange Students from China: 96
  - Students in summer sessions are included

Strategies

- Develop dual degree programs
- Scholarships for studying abroad
- Scholarships for studying in China
- Scholarships for international students
- On-line application system for international students
- Offer programs specifically for international students
- Encourage faculties to teach courses in English
- Tuition waive for exchange students
- Establish offices for international affairs

Strategy: Develop Dual Degree Programs

Department / Institute

- National Tsing Hua University
  - Physics
  - Materials Science and Engineering
  - College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Linkoping University (Linkoping Institute of Technology)

- Master’s Program in System-on-Chip for Communication and Media (SOCWARE)
- Master’s Program in Materials Physics and Nanotechnology
**Strategy: Develop Dual Degree Programs**

**Degree Plan and Requirements**
- Study Abroad: First semester of senior year
- Study Period: 2 years
- Degree Requirements:
  - Complete undergraduate courses in NTHU
  - Take graduate level courses and thesis in Linkoping University
- Degree Awarded: Bachelor of National Tsing Hua University, Master of Linkoping University

**Strategy: Scholarship for Studying Aboard**

**NTHU Scholarship for International Exchanges**
- Objective: students gain global view and international experiences
- Qualification: sophomores
- Quota: 8 students per year
- Study period: one year

**MOE Taiwan Merit Scholarship**
- Objectives: students enhance research experiences, skills, and/or knowledges
- Qualification: undergraduate and graduate students
- Study period: 3 months to 1 year
- Visit labs and/or take non-degree courses

**Strategy: Scholarship for Studying Aboard**

- Objective: academic exchanges between Taiwan and China
- Qualification: sophomores or juniors
- Quota: 60~70
- Study period: 6 weeks in summer session
- NTHU establishes the exchange program of undergraduate research with the following 10 universities in China:
  1. Peking University
  2. Tsinghua University
  3. Fudan University
  4. Lanzhou University
  5. Soochow University
  6. Zhe-Jiang University
  7. Harbin University
  8. Xian Jiaotong University
  10. Shandong University
Strategy: Scholarship for Studying Aboard

- Taiwan Scholarship
  2006 Recipients: 37
- Scholarship of International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF)
  2006 Recipients: 23
- Scholarship of Taiwan International Graduate Program (TIGP)
  2006 Recipients: 19
- Tsing Hua International Student Scholarship
  2006 Recipients: 59

89% of international students receive one of the scholarships.

Strategy: On-Line Application System for International Students

Strategy: International Programs

NTHU cooperates with ICDF and Academia Sinica to establish programs in English

ICDF
NTHU
Academia Sinica
(TIGP)

International MBA in Technology Management (IMBA) (funded in 2003)
International Master Program in Information Systems and Applications (Computer Science) (IMPCS & IMPISA) (funded in 2004)
Chemical Biology and Molecular Biophysics
Molecular Science and Technology
Nano Science and Technology
Computational Linguistics and Chinese Language Processing

Strategy: International Programs

Number of Students in ICDF’s Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>IMBA</th>
<th>IMPCS</th>
<th>IMPISA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>IMPICS is renamed as IMPISA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategy: Courses Offered in English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Courses Offered in English</th>
<th>Number of Courses Offered (Professional Courses)</th>
<th>Ratio of Courses Offered in English (Professional Courses)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006 Spring Semester</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>1363</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Fall Semester</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>1385</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incentive for offering courses in English (one of three):
- Financial support for TA’s
- Financial support on teaching materials
- 50% more course credits

Strategy: Tuition Waive and Scholarship for Exchange Students

- Application deadline: six weeks prior to the study
- Study period: fall semester, spring semester, and/or summer session
- Students from sister universities can waive tuition and credit fees
- Exchange student scholarship

Strategy: Offices for International Affairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of Research and Development Division of Academic Cooperation</td>
<td>* MOU and agreements with sister universities and research institutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Academic Affairs Division of International and Continuing Education</td>
<td>* Admissions for international students and exchange students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Student Affairs Division of Overseas and Foreign Student Affair</td>
<td>* Scholarships for studying abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Center on International Affairs for the coordination of international affairs</td>
<td>* Provide assistance in living, international student activities, and etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UCIA
University Center of International Affairs
Goals

- Number of International Students Reaching 3%
- 15% of Courses Taught in English

Achieve Academic Excellence Recognized Internationally

Issues and Suggestions (1/6)

- Not many people are familiar with NTHU, which limits the number of international applications.
  - Aggressively attend education fairs and visit foreign universities to recruit international students.

- Tuition and living expenses in NTHU might be expensive for international students from developing countries.
  - Provide scholarships and part-time jobs for international students.

Issues and Suggestions (2/6)

- Students from some countries are difficult to obtain Taiwan visa.
  - Ministry of Education should help international students to resolve any visa problem.

- Only 10% of all courses are offered in English.
  - Provide more incentives for professors to offer courses in English and also more learning tools for local students to get used to English.

Issues and Suggestions (3/6)

- Mathematics and science backgrounds of some admitted international freshmen are not comparable with the backgrounds of local students.
  - Design mathematics and science evaluation sheets for international applicants to answer voluntarily.

- Courses in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Chinese language for international students are needed.
  - Establish more such courses to help international students to fit in Taiwan culture and the campus life.
Issues and Suggestions (4/6)

- The required General Education courses such as History, Constitution, and Sociology are very difficult for some international students.
  - Revise course requirements such that international students can take Chinese language courses instead of the General Education courses.
- Dormitories do not have sufficient facilities to accommodate different cultures and living habits of international students.
  - Build or remodel dormitories in the consideration of international students.

Issues and Suggestions (5/6)

- Most documents and University regulations do not print in English.
  - Require all documents and regulations to have English versions.
- Few living and travel information such as food menu and directions are created specifically for international students.
  - Encourage local students to collect materials and establish web sites that provide information for foreigners.

Issues and Suggestions (6/6)

- Tuitions of foreign universities may not be affordable for our students.
  - Establish more sister universities with MOU that offers tuition waive for our exchange students.
- Our students do not have strong motivation to study aboard.
  - Encourage students to study aboard by providing more scholarships, English learning courses, and international fairs.

Thank you