

Taiwan exchange programs & opportunities

by Dr. Ray Diez

It is with great pleasure to announce that the agreement for the student/faculty exchange program with National Kaohsiung Normal University is entering the final phases of completion. Dr. Yaoming Chu informed me that the appropriate committees at NKNU have approved the agreement. What remains is final formal approval by the administrations of the two Universities. Dr. Chu and the students in my online class hosted me for an evening of dinner and conversation while I was in Taiwan.

A second exchange program opportunity exists for faculty with National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST). Dr. Shi Jer Lou has been working with me to develop a primary agreement where faculty could be exchanged between UND and NPUST. A secondary part of that agreement would be to develop an exchange agreement for undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Lou was a gracious host and travel guide during my recent trip to Taiwan and the Kinmen Islands.

A third exchange opportunity exists for students with Chung Yuan Christian University (CYCU) in Chung Li, Taiwan. It is an institution of nearly 14,000 students in seven colleges. The opportunities at CYCU include semester or annual student exchanges, summer workshops for which travel and tuition scholarships are available, and possible faculty exchanges in a variety of timeframes are available. A former UND-IT professor, Dr. Wan Lee Cheng, heads CYCU. Dr. Cheng was the Graphic Communication professor at UND until 1985. Drs. Cheng and Bender were instrumental in initiating the NKNU/UND exchange program in the 1980s and the two of them visited about the possibility of this program in February of 2008. Wan Lee and his wife Vicki graciously hosted me on my recent trip to Taiwan and CYCU.