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## Dr. Tsai An-Pang Conferred Honorary Doctorate Degree at Taipei Tech 107th Anniversary Celebration

Dr. Tsai An-Pang, a Taipei Tech alumnus elected as an Academia Sinica academician this year, was conferred an honorary doctorate degree at Taipei Tech's 107th anniversary celebration. Tsai is internationally renowned for his work in quasicrystal research and is the first Taipei Tech alumnus elected as an Academia Sinica academician.

Tsai is currently a distinguished professor at Tohoku University in Japan; he also lectures at Taipei Tech occasionally. He graduated from the Department of Mining Engineering at Taipei Institute of Technology (Taipei Tech's former name) in 1979 and then entered Sanyang Motors, where he worked closely with the company's Japanese partners. He later went on to study in Japan and received degrees at Akita University and Tohoku University, where he currently heads the Environmental Inorganic Materials Chemistry Lab. Tsai is a pioneer in the field of quasicrystals and was the first

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## Honorary Doctor's Remark



to reproduce Dr. Dan Shechtman's then newly-discovered quasicrystal. Shechtman's discovery of the quasicrystal won him the 2011 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and he presented images of what Tsai was able to reproduce in his Nobel lecture. Tsai also received the Medal of Honour (Purple Ribbon) from the Japanese government in 2014 in recognition of his contribution to chemistry.

Tsai noted that he puts equal emphasis on thinking and taking action in his study and research, and he learned this approach to research during his time studying at Taipei Tech. Unlike most people who graduate from the vocational education system, he chose a career in academia and dedicated his life to quasicrystal research. But Tsai believes that industry and academia complement each other: for instance, his research is bringing about breakthroughs in the field of thermoelectric material. Tsai also encouraged Taipei Tech students to find their goal during their study at Taipei Tech and to learn the necessary skills to realize their goal.

In his acceptance speech, Tsai further mentioned that his attainments should also be attributed to his wife. Especially when he studied as a full-time student in Japan, she supported him financially. Tsai also remarked that it was especially special for him personally to receive the honorary doctorate

degree from President Wang Sea-Fue, who was his classmate at Taipei Tech forty years ago.

Among the honorable guests invited to the celebration were Minister of Education Yeh Jiunn-Rong, Minister of Economic Affairs Shen Jong-Chin, and many alumni now working in Taiwan and abroad.

"Taipei Tech is the cornerstone that has been supporting the industries in Taiwan by nurturing countless outstanding students to contribute their knowledge and talents to the society," stated Minister Yeh in his remark.

Minister Shen, also an alumna of Taipei Tech, encouraged the students to study hard in school, to stay curious, to broaden their horizons among different disciplines, to cherish every moment, and to devote themselves to their respective professional fields.

"The people of Taipei Tech are the most valuable treasure of this hundred-year-old school," stated Wang Sea-Fue, president of Taipei Tech in his speech, "and thanks to the one hundred and thirty thousand alumni around the world, and all of our faculty and students, we are empowering the society in every aspect." Wang also wished for the continual success and growth of Taipei Tech.

## Mt. Jade Gifted to Taipei Tech for Its 107th Anniversary

In celebration of Taipei Tech's 107th anniversary, the Wang family presented a lacquer painting named Mt. Jade to Taipei Tech. This presentation opened the family's lacquer painting exhibition hosted at the Taipei Tech Arts & Cultural Center. The Wang family is famous for its lacquer painting that infuses Chinese painting with Japanese maki-e technique. Mt. Jade was especially made to celebrate the 107th anniversary of Taipei Tech.

Wang Ching Shuang, the first generation of the Wang family artists, was influenced by the Japanese artists Wada Sanzou, Hano Tenzou, and Kuroiwa Tansai and their traditional techniques of Japanese maki-e (sprinkled picture). Wang draws inspiration from his surroundings and life experiences for his paintings. According to him, arts are the steady accumulation of daily experiences, and a creator needs to embrace the







copiousness of life and ponder upon the details of life.

Inheriting their father's creative philosophy, Wang Hsien Chih and Wang Hsien Min, the second generation of artists in the Wang family, have incorporated a variety of natural materials in their works, including seashells and eggshells.

They further popularized and promoted lacquer arts through exhibitions and a series of lacquer painting workshops in order to acquaint more people with the beauty and the techniques of lacquer arts.

Mt. Jade was the major exhibition piece at the lacquer painting exhibition, which ran from November 1st through 14th. The painting portrays plum blossoms, clouds, and Mt. Jade, the highest mountain in Taiwan. The Wang family expressed their wishes that, with this painting, Taipei Tech may reach another peak.

"Taipei Tech has been an institute that focuses on a holistic education that places equal emphasis on technical education and artistic cultivation," said Taipei Tech Vice President Jen Yi-Jun. "The engagement with artistic workshops and exhibitions will cultivate students so that they can be distinguished technologists with a well-nurtured sense of aesthetics."



## Students Gained Direct Access to Companies at the 2018 Taipei Tech Internship Fair

In order to close the gap between learning knowledge and applying it, Taipei Tech hosted its first internship fair this year. Approximately fifty employers attended; they provided more than three hundred intern jobs. At the internship fair, students were able to consider which company they would like to intern for in the upcoming winter vacation.

To equip students with more hands-on experience, Taipei Tech has made internships mandatory for all undergraduate students. The 2018 Taipei Tech Internship Fair, held on November 20, gave the 1,200 students in search of internship opportunities direct access to potential employers. Most of the employers will cover labor insurance for the interns, and

more than half of the companies will recognize the internship time as official employment time.

The companies that attended include LITE-ON Technology, Compal Electronics, Advantech, Tung Ho Steel, Pu Yung Construction, Bank SinoPac, and many others from various industries.

The fair utilized an online platform to allow students to submit résumés easily to companies. The platform was designed and programmed by students of the Department of Information and Finance Management, making it a perfect example of learning by doing. Utilizing this platform, both the students and company recruiters saved the trouble of processing paper résumés, making it easier for both parties to find candidates.

"Each department used to run its own internship program," said President Wang Sea-Fue of Taipei Tech, "which made it rather inefficient. So, we integrated school resources and hosted this internship fair, making it easier for both companies and our students."



# Absorbed into Fantasies at Taipei Tech International Literature Conference

by Marysa Demoor, Nov 2018 Taipei



Taipei Tech has been making great strides in developing the arts and humanities, and one of the university's major events is its biennial international literature conference. This year's conference, Literary Fantasy and Its Discontents, hosted by the Taipei Tech Department of English on November 23–24, explored the hazy boundaries between fantasy and reality in literary texts, films, and purported non-fiction.



Delegates were intrigued by the theme, and over 50 scholars from 34 universities in 15 countries presented papers. Delegates and attendees came from Belgium, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, France, Japan, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Macau, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, the UK, and the U.S. In fact, three-fourths of the conference presenters traveled to the conference from abroad, and the paper sessions were enriched, not

only by presenters' excellent scholarship, but also by their various life experiences and ways of approaching texts. The conference organizers were particularly pleased to have interdisciplinary discussions on a wide variety of national and regional literatures and films, including American, Chinese, French, English, German, Greek, Hong Kong, Irish, Indian, Japanese, Russian, Scottish, and Taiwanese works.

Friday's keynote speaker, Professor Marysa Demoor (Ghent University), gave a literary talk, "From Hellish Fantasy to British Discontent: Analyzing the Construction of Nationalism in the Nineteenth-century Fantastic." Saturday's keynote speaker, Professor Ackbar Abbas (University of California, Irvine) focused on film studies, discussing "Documentary As Fantasy; or, Documentary in the Era of Its

Impossibility." Taipei Tech's own Thomas Carl Wall discussed philosophy in his featured talk, "No One Ought to be Born: Morality, Fantasy, and Pessimism in the Thinking of David Benatar." Together, these talks represent the wealth that humanities study has to offer; they provided diverse and fascinating fodder for discussion.

Taipei Tech students benefited from participating in the conference events: many joined the audience for sessions by Taiwanese and international scholars. Many also were able to professionalize by participating in the conference as tour guides, interpreters, and key personnel. The day before the conference, several international scholars participated in associated cultural events that were chosen for their relation to conference theme subtopics such as fantasy and identity, fantasy and nationalism, and fantasy and politics. Taipei Tech students ably assisted groups of scholars and our keynote speakers in tours of The National Palace Museum, Chungshan Hall, Puji Temple, Thermal Valley, the Beitou Hot Springs Museum, the Jing-Mei Human Rights Memorial and Cultural Park, and the Puppetry Art Center of Taipei. Scholars found the conference both educational and enjoyable, with one commenting that it was "like a fantasy!"

Taipei Tech continually strives for technological and scientific progress, but it also puts equivalent emphasis on cultural studies, critical thinking, logic, and the arts, all of which are key to for students' individual development and position as well-rounded members of society.

For those who missed the conference, it is still possible to read some of the scholarship that came out of it. Taipei Tech's Dr. Pingta Ku and Dr. Sharin Schroeder will be guest-editing a special issue of selected, revised essays on the conference theme in partnership with National Taiwan University's journal, *Ex-position*; the issue will be published in December 2019.

