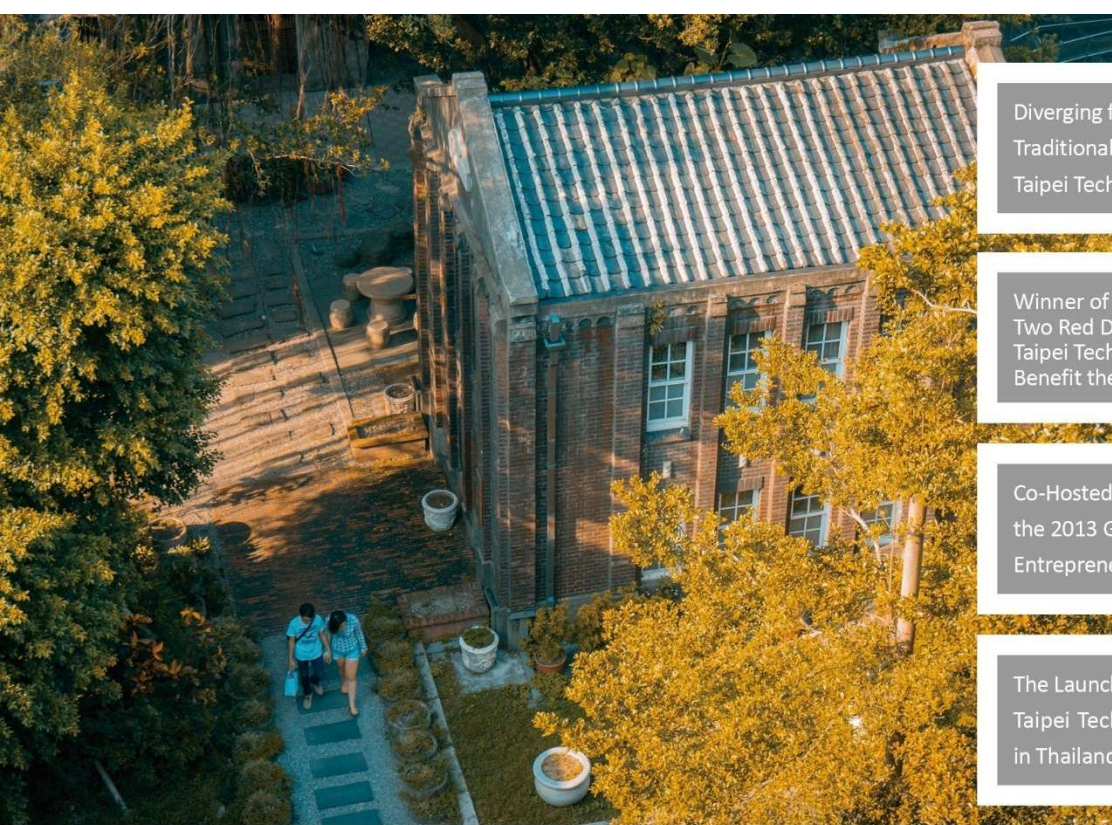




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Traditional Lectured Learning,
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Benefit the Society



Co-Hosted by Taipei Tech,
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Entrepreneurs of the Future



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in Thailand



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f TaipeiTech Ntut

t NTUT1

Email : oia@ntut.edu.tw

Editor in Chief

Sheng-Tung Huang
(Dean of OIA)

Editorial Team

Jenny Chen
Michael Tanangkingsing
Helen Yang
Sally Chang
Winson Cheng
Kimberly Lee



EVERLIGHT
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Diverging From Traditional Lectured Learning, Taipei Tech Introduces PBL

Sally Chang



Taipei Tech students attending the Rescue Robots Contest at Kobe, Japan.

The MOU signed with the Osaka Institute of Technology (OIT) was one of the most anticipated collaborations as it would introduce Problem Based Learning (PBL) to Taipei Tech students. The methodology of PBL was carried out through case studies; by analyzing similar cases, the students could observe the importance and relevance of real situations. Along with the necessary resources and instructions, the students could learn professional knowledge and relevant problem solving skills. In the summer of 2013, Taipei Tech's Departments of Electronic, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering cooperated with the Electronics, Information and Communication Engineering from OIT

PBL to Taipei Tech students. Through a series of laboratory internships, with robot development as the main topic, the two universities began their rewarding exchange activities.

PBL is a student-centered pedagogy in which students learn through the experience of problem solving. Unlike the traditional classroom teaching, which is mostly lecture-based, PBL emphasizes understanding on a personal level, the ability to do research, and comprehend what have been learned in order to put them into practice. In this case, the role of the professors is to guide and monitor students' learning process. This kind of learning aims to help students develop flexible knowledge, problem solving skills, self-directed learning, and more importantly, motivation for learning. That is, to learn actively.

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At the initial stage, nine Taipei Tech students were chosen from both the College of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering and the College of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science. The selected Taipei Tech students headed to OIT to conduct research in the laboratory. Before they returned to Taiwan, they had to fulfill 320 course-hours of lab work assigned specifically by the OIT.

In the second stage, four PBL supervising teachers from OIT came to Taipei Tech along with 15 Japanese students. Together with 15 more students from Taipei Tech, the Japanese students began their weeklong PBL workshops. The 30 Taiwanese and Japanese students were divided into five groups to design self-propelled wheeled wagons to go around a specially designed U-shape track. The evaluation criteria included each group's analytical skills and the final wagon competition. All of their works had to pass through the specially-designed U shaped track, facing the uneven, highly-challenging situation to evaluate stability and endurance. The climax of this activity was at the end, where the 5 teams'



Group discussion between Japanese students (on left) and Taipei Tech Mechanical Engineering students (on right).



Groups of students, from both Taipei Tech and Japan, test out their self-propelled wagons and exchange opinions with each other.

wagons raced against each other. Without any kind of manpower assistance, the steadiest and the fastest one reaching the finish line was the winner.

In the third stage, 10 students from OIT came to Taipei Tech for two weeks and visited various Taipei Tech laboratories. The Japanese students were assigned to different laboratories based on their field of study, where they began their laboratory internships. At the end of the 2 weeks, the Japanese students presented their results. All participants also attended the final results presentation; the collaboration ended with a big success.

This exchange program which lasted for two months satisfactorily ended after the achievement publication. In this exchange program, the exchange students from Taipei Tech got the opportunity to live in Japan. "What I had learned cannot be directly applied here. However, what I had experienced truly inspired me in the development of mechanical field, and can be extend to learning in general," said Jian You-Cheng (簡佑丞), a student at the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Taipei Tech. This program is just the beginning of collaboration between the two universities, and both sides will keep on collaborating to provide students with more chances for international learning.

Winner of Two Red Dot Awards, Taipei Tech Designs to Benefit the Society

Winson Cheng

To create better lives for the elderly in Taiwan's aging society, students at Taipei Tech are making contributions. Two groups of students from Taipei Tech won the Red Dot Design Award this year. One of the design was the "Unbent" trolley, which also won the Red Dot "Best of the Best" prize, and the other is the "Easy Button."

By combining the jack mechanism with the traditional grocery trolley, the "Unbent" makes it easier to retrieve groceries that are at the bottom of the trolley. In Taiwan, wheeled-based grocery basket trolleys are commonly seen in the traditional market places. The designers noticed that elderly people have a hard time retrieving their purchases from the bottom of the traditional grocery trolleys, so they came up with a solution. Users could simply pump a pedal to elevate the base of the trolley, and press a button to lower it back down. Therefore, the "Unbent" doesn't require people to bend over in order to place or retrieve grocery items, this leads to less frequent bending and injuries of one's vertebra, making shopping in markets no longer energy-consuming, and creating better lives for the elderly.

The "Unbent" is designed by Wu Yun-Chi (吳筠綺) and Lin Chi-Hung (林季弘), and supervised by their design coach Ms. Zhu Li-Qiao. Both of these students are sophomores at the Department of Industrial Design at Taipei Tech. Wu said that her initial intention was to gain experience through entering this international design competition. This was Wu's first time entering the Red Dot competition, and to her surprise, she became Taiwan's youngest ever to win Red Dot's Best of the Best Prize for her design of the "Unbent".



Taipei Tech Industrial Design students, Wu Yun-Chi (middle) and Lin Chi-Hung (right), won the 2013 Red Dot Design Award Best of the Best. They are the youngest winners for the Best of the Best prize. (On the left is their design coach, Ms. Zhu)

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Taipei Tech design virtuals, the “Unbent” (on left) and the “Easy Button” (on right)

Another Taipei Tech design, the “Easy Button”, was designed to make buttoning a shirt more convenient. Children and the elderly do not have the dexterity to do such detailed movements such as buttoning shirts. Therefore to make their lives easier, the “Easy Button” is concavely shaped so it is very easy for users to push the button through the buttonhole. It is also ergonomically shaped, so users can pick up the button with ease. The “Easy Button” is not limited to the younger and older people, it benefits every generation that needs to button up a shirt.

The design team for the “Easy Button” consists of Taipei Tech students Tang Wei-Xiang (唐偉翔), Tsai Bo-An (蔡博安) and Han Zhi-Shu (韓智淑), supervised by Huang Zi-Kun from the Graduate Institute of Innovation and Design. Before they designed the button, the design team researched on the difficulties of the current buttons. Normally it takes 48 seconds to do 6 buttons, but because of insensible fingertips or poor eyesight, such a simple act may cause pain to an elderly's neck and back. With well thought inventions, such as the “Unbent” and “Easy Button”, the future lives of seniors will be much more convenient.

Co-Hosted by Taipei Tech, the 2013 GlobalTiC Grooms Entrepreneurs of the Future

Kimberly Lee



Honorable guests attending the 2013 GlobalTiC at Taipei Tech. From left, Sang Wuoh Wong, Nanyang Technological University Technopreneurship Center Deputy Director; Siao-Tai He, Taipei Angels Investment Company Founding Partner; President Jhen-yuan Chen, Kaohsiung First University of Science and Technology; President Leehter Yao, Taipei Tech; Roy Thomasson, Chairman of Young Americas Business Trust; Vice-Chancellor Neng-shu Yang, National Yunlin University of Science and Technology.

According to a survey conducted by Global Views Monthly, more than 40 percent of young Taiwanese people have thought about being an entrepreneur. However, only about half of that 40 percent put their thoughts into action. The survey reveals the fact that currently in Taiwan, there is a serious lack of motivation for entrepreneurship. Even though Taiwan's innovative inventions are constantly bringing international attention and praise, domestic entrepreneurship

seem dull and constrained by the limited scale, and the lack of global views and information technology.

At the 2013 Global Talentpreneur Innovation & Collaboration (GlobalTiC) Seminar, distinguished speakers including entrepreneurs, business leaders and experts on the implementation of business incubator were invited to share their practical experiences as well as views on the challenges faced under varied entrepreneurship conditions. Among the speakers, Sting Tao, Associate General Manager of LINE Taiwan, shared LINE's case of success. Tao indicated that after Japan's 311 earthquake, LINE's innovation team became conscious of the public need for instant communication and the raising importance of its convenience, time-effectiveness and independence. When emergency occurs, LINE can save lives by immediately delivering SOS messages from disaster areas to rescue teams. That is exactly why LINE can accumulate a number of more than two hundred million loyal users in such a short time.

Taipei Tech is one of the first universities in Taiwan to establish the *Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program*. President Leehter Yao of Taipei Tech indicated that the Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Program has already kicked off to a good start; the curriculum is currently designed with the collaboration between Taipei Tech, National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, and National Kaohsiung First University of Science and Technology. GlobalTiC's valuable experiences holding various entrepreneurship competitions, and the practical innovation skills of Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) are intended to be included in the courses as well. Moreover, practical skills as well as business operational techniques will be heavily emphasized in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program in the future.

This year, twenty remarkable teams, from twelve different countries gathered at Taipei Tech for the 2013 GlobalTiC's Innovative Entrepreneurship Competition. Each team presented their business proposals, most of which focused mainly on green energy and cloud computing technology. Since this competition is targeted for young entrepreneurs, the average age of the participants was between 28-30 years old. One notable team, *Memofun*, from Taiwan, has already aroused favorable affirmation from investors, and has successfully established itself as an official entity that already begun initial operations. *Memofun* launched an

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online platform entitled "Offer More", which invites famous chain restaurants and shops to share special discount information online. The platform shortly became very successful and even addictive to users as it creates a win-win situation that satisfies both the retailers and customers. The more friends one shares the discount information with,

the more discount one will get. And likewise, the more restaurants and stores are willing to shell out offers, the more exposure and business opportunity they will get.

With the collaboration between school and industry, a demonstrative platform for youths in Taiwan is established for the exchange of valuable and practical knowledge which will train and produce young entrepreneurs. Undeniably,

GlobalTiC generated positive competition and innovation, and are continuing to encourage young talents with great visions to not just create ideas but to take action. The hidden message that Taipei Tech is trying to convey through cooperating with GlobalTiC is to urge young Taipei Tech entrepreneurs to take their ideas to the international level and reach out to the world for greater success.

The Launching of Taipei Tech's Overseas EMBA in Thailand

Kimberly Lee

Taipei Tech's Overseas EMBA in Thailand commenced its first semester this summer, and attracted over thirty local entrepreneurs and senior management personnel to enroll. Leehter Yao, President of Taipei Tech, hopes that Taipei Tech Overseas EMBA program will be able to benefit more Thailand based Taiwanese businessmen, and to cater to their educational needs with its sustainable operation plans for the future.

Taiwanese businessmen located in Thailand had expressed their need to advance their business training and education. Upon their request, Taipei Tech actively planned and searched for suitable universities in Thailand to cooperate with. With substantial evaluation, Taipei Tech's sister school, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), was the best choice with whom to establish the Thailand Overseas EMBA program.

At the grand commencement ceremony, where President Leehter Yao of Taipei Tech and Vice President Bundit Thipakorn of KMUTT were all in attendance, Mr. Hung-Sheng Laing, the Deputy Representative of R.O.C. in Thailand, praised the strong relationship and cooperation between two of the best technological universities in both countries. The thirty successful businessmen, now students, embodied the distinguished Taiwanese hard working



Leehter Yao, Taipei Tech President (middle standing) kicked off Taipei Tech's first Overseas EMBA class in Thailand.

spirit, that is, regardless of their busy work schedule, they earnestly strive for knowledge, and to advance themselves professionally to sharpen their skills.

President Yao further explains that the foremost objective of the Overseas EMBA is to provide Taiwanese businessmen in Thailand an opportunity to further advance their business management education. More importantly, the program itself serves as a platform for the students, who are already successful and influential Thailand based businessmen, to exchange valuable experiences and useful tactics.

The course designed for the overseas EMBA in Thailand largely focuses on case studies. A large proportion of the faculty in this program consists of Taipei Tech professors with a few from KMUTT. Courses will be taught in both English and

Mandarin. Taiwanese experts in finance and management will also be invited to present guest lectures.

Several well-known Thailand based Taiwanese businessmen have already voiced their welcome and support for the Overseas Thailand EMBA program, and are excited to start the first semester. Mr. Kun-Ho Chang, President of Taiwanese Businessmen Association in Thailand, is mindful that his knowledge and management methods are gradually lagging behind as it has been more than twenty years since he started doing business in Thailand. The

launching of Taipei Tech's Overseas EMBA program came just in time to meet his need for personal improvement. Thus, President Chang immediately enrolled without hesitation.

Launching the Overseas EMBA creates a new channel for student enrollment outside of Taipei Tech's campus. It is also a chance to push further campus globalization, enhance university reputation and build the Taipei Tech brand to neighboring countries. Undoubtedly, there is a prosperous future lying ahead of both universities of excellence, Taipei Tech and KMUTT, with the Overseas EMBA program offering practical knowledge and fruitful exchanges for many future knowledge thirsty business people to come.

Wish you have a great day ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wenlung Li". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President

TAIPEI TECH

Tel:(+886)(2)27712171#1000

Fax:(+886)(2)27518845

No.1 Chung-Hsiao E. Rd. sec.3

Taipei, Taiwan 10608