IU-Kokomo Implements Its First Formal International Exchange

In September, Chancellor Emita B. Hill of IU-Kokomo signed a formal exchange agreement with the president of Taiwan's National Pingtung Teachers College, Dr. Fred Fwu-tyan Ho. According to Chancellor Hill, this new program aimed at facilitating the exchange of education faculty and students between the two institutions, constitutes an important expansion to the international perspective of the Kokomo campus. “In a global society where events that happen across the world affect us the next day,” Dr. Hill said, “it is very important as part of our education to introduce students and faculty alike to other cultures and perspectives. I am delighted to welcome this first formal exchange for IU-Kokomo and hope it is the first of many.” Throughout her academic career, Dr. Hill has been actively involved in international exchange programs, both as a student and faculty participant, as well as in the development of other exchange programs, most notably with Japan and Mainland China.

The initiative for IU-K's educational exchange with Taiwan developed through the efforts of IU-Kokomo professor Lian-Hwang Chiu, a faculty member of IU-K's Division of Education since 1967. A native of Taiwan, Dr. Chiu has spent three sabbaticals in his home country teaching, attending conferences, and conducting workshops and research at various teachers' colleges. In Taiwan, Dr. Chiu observes, education teachers are highly regarded. “Taiwan has nine government-sponsored schools dedicated to training students to become elementary education teachers and three universities focusing on secondary education training.”

During his visits to Taiwan, Dr. Chiu was invited to participate in several workshops held at National Pingtung Teachers College and in 1992 returned to the Pingtung campus as a visiting professor. During this stay, Dr. Chiu began exploring the possibility of a formal exchange agreement between NPTC and IU-Kokomo with NPTC President Dr. Fred Ho, a former student of Professor Chiu. Following Dr. Chiu’s return to Kokomo, the implementation of such an exchange program was pursued by IU-K’s Chancellor Hill and President Ho through a series of discussions and international visits.

In April 1993, as one of four public university presidents or chancellors selected by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to visit Taiwan to consult with university administrators and government officials concerning exchange program development, Dr. Hill was able to visit the Pingtung campus. For the September signing of the official exchange agreement between the two institutions, NPTC President and Mrs. Ho and Vice Chancellor Shean-Huie Lin paid the first official visit to their new sister campus.

Taiwan’s National Pingtung Training College, which prepares students for careers in pre-school and elementary education, possesses a student body of approximately 3,800 students, with two-thirds undergraduates and one-third in-service teachers who have returned for additional training. According to Dr. Chiu, NPTC possesses almost 120 education faculty members, with 60 specifically in elementary education. At IU-Kokomo, there are six education faculty, all specialists in elementary education. Due to the size difference between the IU-K and NPTC education faculty, only one faculty member at a time will be exchanged between the institutions. The first faculty exchange will take place in Spring 1994, with IU-K professor of education Dr. Michael Tulley travelling to Taiwan to teach Pingtung College graduate and undergraduate students. In Fall 1994, a faculty member from the National Pingtung Teachers College is scheduled to be in residence on the Kokomo campus.

Gyorgy Sebok Honored

In December Gyorgy Sebok, renowned pianist and Distinguished Professor of Music at Indiana University, was honored by the Hungarian government with the Cross of the Second Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary. The presentation was made in Bloomington by the Ambassador of Hungary, Mr. Pál Tar, at the home of Denis Sinor, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Uralic and Altaic Studies.