Ruth Miller, associate director of the Office of International Services (OIS) at IU Bloomington, was honored this past summer with an invitation from the Ministry of Education of Taiwan to participate in a one-week educational tour of Taiwan. She was one of 10 North American foreign student advisors and administrators in this year’s delegation, which the ministry has been hosting since 1967.

The group, including two Canadians and eight Americans, was led by Marlene Johnson, executive director of NAFSA: The Association of International Educators. The aim of these visits is to give participants a firsthand introduction to the system of higher education in Taiwan, and to inform them of the ministry’s goals for reform, globalization of the curriculum, technological initiatives in continuing education and distance learning, and mutual exchange programs. University-wide, IU currently has over a half dozen linkages with Taiwan.

At the prestigious National Taiwan University, the delegation was able to view two premier collections of ancient Oriental and Western documents, carefully preserved but made available for scholarly research. They also visited the Language Training and Testing Center, where around 2,800 students and others study six different languages and some 55,000 people yearly undergo language testing.

Other campuses they visited were National Chiao Tung University with its emphasis on engineering, transportation, and telecommunications; Tunhai University, a private college that has academic agreements with 48 universities worldwide; and National Cheng Kung University, originally a small engineering college that has grown to encompass six campuses and to be considered one of the four top research universities in Taiwan.

At each site, the 10-member delegation presented descriptions of their own universities and answered numerous questions about studying in North America. Taiwan actively encourages and facilitates exchanges abroad by providing government scholarships for overseas study and giving incentive leaves to faculty to continue their education overseas during their sabbatical year. The ministry is committed to the free flow of information and ideas concerning education, and they maintain a national Web site to help students apply to and get information from universities abroad.

The highlight of the tour for Ruth Miller (center right) was a visit to the world-renowned National Museum of Taiwan in Yang Ming Shan National Park, Taipei.

Please consult the IU International Resource Center’s Web Site for a current calendar of IU international events on all IU campuses:

http://www.indiana.edu/~iuirc/intl_events.html

To have your events listed on the IUIRC calendar, submit information with date, time, location, and relevant description to: iuirc@indiana.edu