

Dear friends:

We all know that NCKU, or 成功大學 is not because of "success" or 成功. It is because of the National hero at the interface between Qing and Ming dynasties Cheng Cheng-Kung (Zheng Cheng-Gong) or 鄭成功.

As the only university in the world named after Cheng Cheng-Kung, the university has a serious shortcoming, and that is throughout the entire campus, one cannot find a statue of Cheng. In fact, if my survey is not completely wrong, I could not find any obvious public display of Cheng anywhere on campus either.

This is either an oversight or a lack of appreciation of history, or both. For that reason, ever since I came to Taiwan, I was looking for a statue which, as one would say, "touched my heart!" Although I found some in Tainan and the surrounding areas, none I found moved me emotionally.

Finally, three weeks ago, when I visited Xiamen (Amoy) University, I saw the statue of Cheng, standing around 50 feet tall on a massive boulder on the island of Gulangyu 鼓浪嶼. The proud looking Cheng statue is there as if it is directing the traffic of the Amoy Harbor. It was so impressive, that I took a photo of it and superimpose on it the name of NCKU.

It is now sitting in my office. I now can say that at least there is ONE SPOT on campus where Cheng's photo is present!

I like to share it with you.

Da Hsuan

