

A First in Taiwan: The Office of Global Affairs of National Tsing Hua University

國立清華大學全球事務處



Within the administrative structure of 170 universities in the Republic of China (Taiwan,) there is inevitably an Office of International Affairs (OIA 國際事務處.) More recently, due to explosive activities with Mainland China, some of the offices took on a longer name, namely Office of International and Mainland Affairs (國際大陸事務處.)

Due to explosive activities, wishing to present the feeling of “inclusiveness” and not “exclusiveness,” and the fact that we all live in the “Global Village,” the administration of National Tsing Hua University made the decision to rename the OIA as the Office of Global Affairs (OGA 全球事務處.)

One interesting “unintended consequence” of this transformation is what to call the director of this Office, Professor W. C. Wang (王偉中.) In English, it is not a problem. He simply is known as Vice President of Global Affairs. In Chinese, it becomes an issue. Instead of the former 國際長, it will now be 全球長, or in short, 球長 has the same sound as 酋長 (head of the emirate)!