

Press Release from National Tsing Hua University

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National Tsing Hua University, Kyoto University and University of California - Berkeley signed an Agreement to set up a “Consortium for Sinology and Material Culture Studies” (漢學與物質文化研究聯盟)



Hsinchu, May 13, 2012. On May 12, 2012, on the occasion of an international conference on “**Neo-Sinology**” (新漢學) held in the historical Clock Tower Centennial Hall (時計台記念館) of Kyoto University, three universities from both shores of the Pacific Ocean, Kyoto University (Kyoda,) University of California – Berkeley (UCB) and National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) signed an agreement to set up a **Consortium for Sinology and Material Culture Studies** (漢學與物質文化研究聯盟.)



Kyoda's historical Clock Tower Centennial Hall

The signee representing Kyoda is Dr. Akihiro Michisaka, Professor of Human and Environmental Studies (道坂昭廣.) representing NTHU is Professor Jun Chen (陳珏,) and representing UCB is Michael Nylan, Professor of History (戴梅可.) Serving as observers to the signing of this ground breaking document are Kyoda's Dr. Akihiko Akamatsu, Executive Vice-President for Student Affairs (赤松彦明副校長) and NTHU's Dr. Wei-Chung Wang Vice President for Global Affairs (王偉中全球長.)

As one of the major architects behind this effort, Professor of Chinese Literature Jun Chen (陳珏) of NTHU said that *“the genesis of the creation of this Consortium came from the joint research project of cross-shores Tsinghua/Tsing Hua universities (兩岸清華) entitled **“the Paradigm Shift of Sinology** (漢學的典範轉移.)” At the end of 2011, we organized a “Neo Sinology” conference in Taipei. During that conference, there was an underlying understanding that an urgency existed to often bring together the best Global Sinologists to discuss and cross-pollinate this very important issue for Asia Pacific, especially when the region is undergoing profound cultural, economic and political transformation in the 21st century.”*

Reacting to Consortium's set up, Dr. Da Hsuan Feng (馮達旋,) Senior Vice President of NTHU excitingly exclaimed that *“this Consortium came at a most timely and critical moment in the development of research universities in Asia Pacific.”*

Feng went on to say that *“Sinology, probably without exaggeration, is the cultural underpinning of many regions of Asia Pacific. As is well known, Kyoda and NTHU are both Sinology research proactive members of the Association of East Asia Research Universities (AEARU.) The former and current chairperson of AEARU are President Hiroshi Matsumoto of Kyoda (松本紘) and President Lih J. Chen of NTHU (陳力俊.) Both presidents have been enthusiastic in promoting Sinology within the seventeen outstanding research universities of AEARU.”*

“By having UCB a world class university on the opposite shore of the Pacific Ocean with deep Sinology strength participating actively in the Consortium can and will have a profound impact on understanding and permeating the importance of Sinology, not just for rear view, but for forward view as well,” concluded Feng.

About National Tsing Hua University (NTHU)

National Tsing Hua University is a research university with a long and proud tradition. Since the re-establishment in Hsinchu in 1956, the university has been known for her excellent academic programs as well as her spacious verdant campus. NTHU initially began in Taiwan with nuclear sciences studies, and gradually expanded to include general sciences and engineering; in the past twenty years, the social sciences and humanities, life sciences, information sciences, and management sciences were added. Over the last fifty-five years, NTHU has transformed herself into a comprehensive university and is recognized globally in many disciplines. There are thirteen Academia Sinica Academicians on the faculty, and sixteen professors awarded with various National Chair Professorships. Among the fifty thousand alumni, there is one Nobel Laureate Yuan Tseh Lee and twelve Academicians. The university development, with active participation from all staff members, has been built on a transparent and progressive platform, and the campus life is visibly permeated with vitality and enthusiasm, with the eight colleges complementing each other in scholastic endeavors.

