



JUAN, Ta-Nien

Ta-nien Juan was one of the few past NCTU presidents to not have been an NCTU alumni. His contributions to the development of the NCTU during his 5-year term (1987 ~ 1992) are legends.

Juan dedicated his career to education and has a wealth of experience in education administration including the president of National Chung Yuan University and Deputy Minister of Education. After serving in the Ministry of Education, Juan realized that while it can be used to set the right education policy and guidelines for the entire nation, the campus environment fostered direct interaction and helped the ideals of education take root over the long term. This was what motivated Juan to return to the university campus.

Coming from an engineering background himself, he decided to choose NCTU because it had history, a faculty strong in engineering and science, and he agreed with its educational philosophy. In his opinion, NCTU should be more balanced in its development. While NCTU was known for its excellence in science, industrial and management, he felt that NCTU graduates seemed to be lacking in tolerance and flexibility because of a failure to properly balance science and engineering with the humanities. Juan's solution was to actively promote the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. By establishing the CHSS, he hoped to gradually change the atmosphere at NCTU to produce graduates who were more open thinkers.

In developing CHSS, Juan hoped that music, art and literature would help provide NCTU students with a more holistic environment for development. The establishment of CHSS proved to be just the finishing touch needed in the development of NCTU. After several years of effort, his ideals have gradually bore fruit and demonstrated that Juan's educational philosophy was indeed the right approach.

When it came to student activities at NCTU, Juan thought the Plum and Bamboo Competition was a unique activity that helped to enliven the often rustic NCTU atmosphere. It was not the winning or losing that matter. As long as everyone gave their best, there was no need to put extra pressure on the athletes as this detracted from the goal of fostering exchanges between the two school's teachers and students. President Yuan hoped that the spirit and tradition of the Plum and Bamboo Competition would continue to live on and

become a part of people's lives in Hsinchu. Such a development will no doubt be welcome to both NTCU and NTHU as well as Hsinchu as a whole.

(By Yen Kuo-I)

