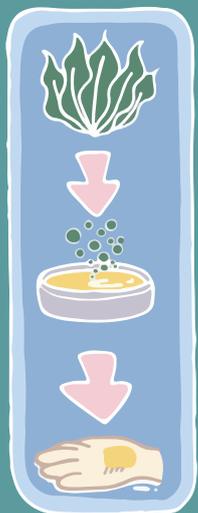
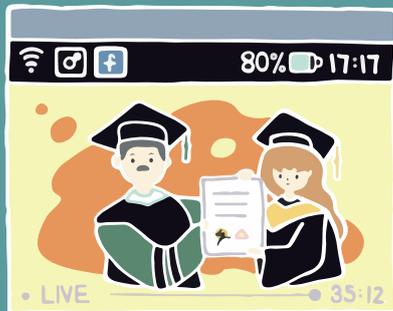


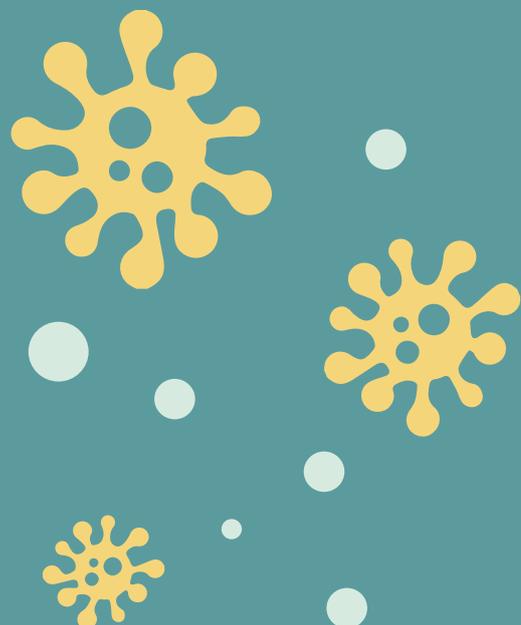
COVID-19

NPUST's challenges and countermeasures

2020
NPUST



COVID-19



Showing Care to Care Workers

Summer Camp Seeks New Blood for Vaccine Technology

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Showing Care to Care Workers

Aquaculture Professor Saou-Lien Wong is an expert in the physiology, ecology and cultivation of algae. And so, unlike with everybody else, when Wong thinks about “seaweed”, he thinks “cell protection and anti-inflammation”. In fact, Wong and his research teams have spent many years finding ways to apply the natural properties of Taiwan’s native seaweeds to products that could be used for those very purposes—and recently, a decision was made to share those results with some of the people who could benefit from them the most.

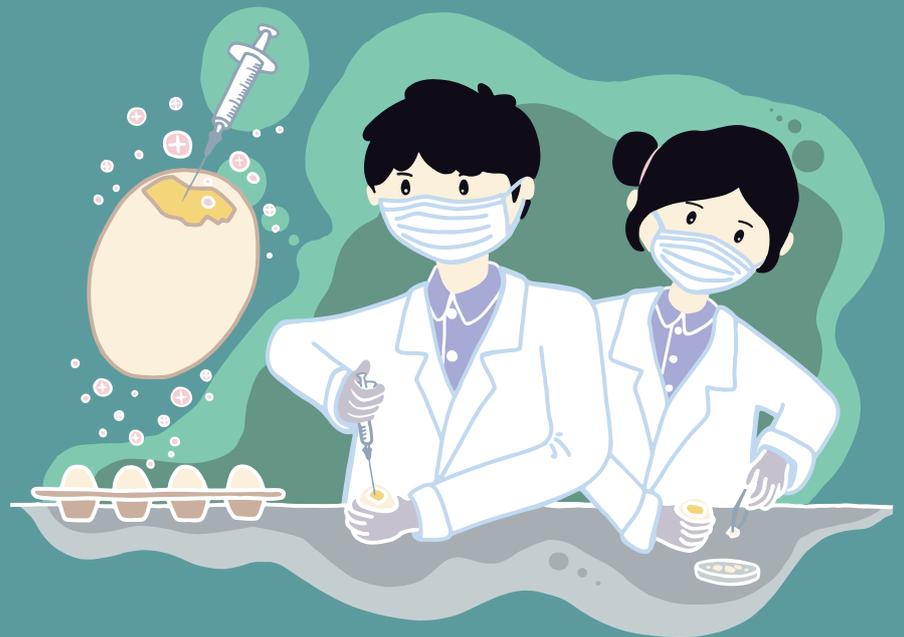


In a token of gratitude to front-line medical workers, on April 14th representatives from NPUST presented Pingtung Hospital staff with seaweed-based protective cream as an expression of thanks for their dedication; and, as NPUST President Chang-Hsien Tai remarked at the ceremony: “for their efforts in caring for the health of the people”. Professor Wong explained that “medical workers are continuously washing and disinfecting— and this can cause skin damage; so, we hope the products can help health workers protect their skin. We also thank them for their hard work, and pay tribute them”.

Summer Camp Seeks New Blood for Vaccine Technology

At NPUST, which operates the only vaccine R&D training institution in Taiwan, vaccines are always getting serious attention. But in times of epidemics, vaccines take on a whole new kind of gravity—which is why, on August 29-30 the university prudently held an experiential camp with the aim of bringing “new blood” into its immunization technology programs and giving students a vision for the kind of contributions they could be making.

For example, way back in 1986, a foot-and-mouth outbreak devastated Taiwan’s pork industry to the tune of 170 billion NTD. Around 20 years of hard work and dedicated research were required to rectify the situation and begin exporting pork products again. The Graduate Institute of Animal Vaccine Technology was established at NPUST in 2005 to carry on this type of work, and, with 16 patents, 24 technology transfers (worth around 26 million NTD), and more than 100 products related to vaccines, adjuvants, feed additives, diagnostic reagents and more, it has already seen much success. Germanely speaking, there are many opportunities for young and bright talent who might be interested in pursuing careers in the field. The camp, of course, looked to highlight this reality for its participants through a variety of experiential activities. Observing chicken embryos used for medical applications, testing the effectiveness of hand sanitizer, witnessing how blood cells safeguard the body, and learning how emulsification is used to ‘combine the incompatible’ for vaccine production—these were the kinds of activities that filled much of their time. And in addition to the classroom experiences, the students toured some of the universities state-of-the-art facilities and enjoyed a night-time eco-expedition to get feel for some of NPUST’s more unique attributes.



Face Time with Recruits



As some have noticed, 2020 has not really been following the regular pattern of development. Unlike with past years, for instance, this year, international recruitment activities would have to be conducted without international travel. As new as this was, NPUST, nevertheless, pulled it off very well using live video conference calls.

Intermittently throughout the year, OIA staff and NPUST faculty members enjoyed “face time” with students and teachers in such countries as Mongolia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Macau and Indonesia. Young prospective recruits from around the world learned about some of the great academic opportunities that waited for them on NPUST’s lovely campus in Southern Taiwan. During Q&A, the students inquired about English instructed programs and scholarship opportunities; they also learned about transportation in and around the university campus, and were introduced to the student dormitory environment— ultimately, the students were given a good impression of what life at NPUST is all about, and the university looks forward to seeing some of their faces again, on campus, in the years ahead.



Sticking around for ‘Hunt Taiwan’

A storm of uncertainty swept around the world as the summer months approached. With travel restrictions, cancellations, and quarantines—what were the international students to do? As cliché as it sounds, ‘when life gives you lemons’...well, you know the rest. The NPUST Office of International Affairs made the most of the situation. Encouraging students to “stay in Taiwan”, OIA staff put together a summer-long, eight-part activity to give students a fun and memorable time while they spent their break away from home and family. The event, dubbed “Hunt Taiwan”, ran from July 10 to August 27, and included sports competitions, cultural experiences, thematic tours and a variety of sight-seeing activities. As OIA dean Pomin Li explained, “coordinating with government’s epidemic prevention recommendations, the activities were designed to give students a chance to bond with one another and have an enjoyable summer in Taiwan”—and indeed they did.



A Memorable Graduation

Graduation—that ever-so-memorable milestone—culminates with a ceremony that brings its graduating class together, adorned in regalia, to witness the solemn moment when each successful student is called forward by the university president to receive the diploma and the honor of the degree that he or she worked hard to earn. The graduation ceremony for the 2019 Academic Year (think “June, 2020”) will, perhaps, be even more memorable—certainly it was unlike any other the university has held before. Careful planning was involved, with live video broadcasts in place for the many parents who would not be able to be there for the occasion. For those who could, contact information was recorded and temperatures monitored in the interest

of health. With venue occupancy limited to no more than 100 people, turns were taken to make the rounds. For those on the outside the entire process was continuously broadcasted on the university website so that everyone could look on at the very touching scene, with mixed emotions—tears and smiles, quiet reflection and chipper excitement, and always remember that very special Graduation Day.

GreenMetric Universities get Online to get Green

In 2012, NPUST first signed up for the Universitas Indonesia (UI) GreenMetric World University Ranking, and in 2014 it started a major winning streak, coming first in Taiwan every following year. For those who are committed to the Green University project, international workshops—like the one that NPUST President Chang-Hsien Tai attended in Ireland last year—have afforded opportunity to learn new things about Green performance and protocol. And this year (despite all the other exceptions), was no exception. With international travel bans in place, the GreenMetric seminars found their place online, with three back-to-back virtual meetings. The first was held on April 21 under the theme of “Shaping Global Higher Education and Research in Sustainability”. NPUST’s President Chang-Hsien Tai, General Affairs Chief Chin-Lung Chang, OIA Dean Pomin Li and International College Dean J.C. Leong participated in the conference. On May 9th, the second conference (“Webinar Series 1”) was held with the aim of discussing global food supplies. For this, representatives of 100 GreenMetric Universities from around the world were audience to eight presentations on the theme of “Sustainable Universities and Food Sustainability during the Pandemic”.

NPUST OIA Vice-Dean Herlin Chien and Chief of New Southbound Project Office, Pearl Pei-Chun Chang, represented NPUST at the conference, with Vice-Dean Chien reporting on NPUST’s epidemic prevention and food policy. The third conference was held on June 9 to discuss “Teaching, Learning and Working at Sustainable Universities during the Pandemic”. Representatives from member universities in Indonesia, Turkey, Ecuador, Chile, Latvia, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Denmark were called to give reports. Over 100 members attended the very engaging discussions, which explored the challenges of the virtual classroom arrangements, including implementation, course quality, and prevention of student cheating.

