



Summer Study Program for our Chinese Sister Universities C.Y. Hu

Issue: China will play significant role in world affairs in coming years. Their development will impact the rest of world in all aspects of our lives. As China's higher education continues to expand, the needs for international experience for their students is growing. Therefore, it is critical for us to play a role in help shaping their education system, and training of their future leaders. If University of Hawaii at Manoa wants to serve as a destination for Chinese students, we will need to increase our interactions with Chinese institutions of higher education. As China continues to grow economically, they will import and export more goods, and tourist traffic to Hawaii will increase significantly. The potential treat of invasive species will also increase. It is critical for our faculty to develop a closer working relationship with their counterparts in China so that we have direct collaborations and communications in finding solutions dealing with invasive species. Increased collaborations between laboratories will allow their graduate students participation in these projects, and thus, creating a pipeline to bring in top-notch PhD students into our programs.

What has been done: In the last two years I have established contacts with the China Agricultural University, South China Agricultural University, Shandong Agricultural University, Zhejiang University, Hainan University and Zhongkai University, and subsequently, Memorandum of Understanding for Exchange and Collaboration between these universities and the University of Hawaii at Manoa were established. Deans and presidents from several sister universities have visited us in Hawaii, and several faculty members have arrived to conduct short-term research or sabbatical leaves. A four-week summer study program was implemented this past summer. Twenty undergraduate students and two faculty members from the South China Agricultural University (Guangzhou, China) participated in this program. I am in the process of re-designing the program for next summer, and will open this program to other sister universities in China and Taiwan.

Impacts:

- Thirty CTAHR faculty members participated in the summer program. Most of them had no previous experience interacting with international undergraduate students in classroom. They have expressed interests in participating future programs, and work with their counterparts in South China Agricultural University.
- Three participants have decided to apply to attend graduate school at UHM next year, and are in communication with our faculty members.
- UHM central administration has a better appreciation and understanding of the potential benefits in conducting revenue-generating summer programs.
- Other UHM colleges have established contacts with their counterparts through our relationship.
- Generated incomes to support university housing and catering service. Provided business for local companies.

Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors etc.: Participants paid fees to attend the summer program.

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