



Student advisors give KHU students a virtual tour around Taiwan.

Food and Culture: 2021 KHU-NTU SDGs Program

NTU's Office of International Affairs organized a short-term Tailor Made online course for Kyung Hee University (KHU) in South Korea, held this past May 10-21. Professor Chau-Ti Ting of the Department of Life Science was enlisted to develop two weeks of interesting course content based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and Taiwanese food culture.

KHU has collaborated many times with NTU in developing courses on East Asian societies and cultures. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the course was held online this year. However, the course was as just action-packed as were its predecessors, but this time the different format inspired some new forms of interaction.

In order to integrate elements of sustainable development with Taiwanese food and culture,

Professor Jer-Ming Hu of NTU's Institute of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology teamed up with Associate Professor Yih-Ren Lin of the Graduate Institute of Humanities in Medicine, Taipei Medical University, in telling stories about the nature-respecting aborigines of Taiwan. Associate Professor Shun-Chern Tsaur discussed the rice culture present in Taiwan since the dawn of time and the food crisis the world will face in the future. Assistant Professor Shu-Wei Huang of the D-School explained the wheat fermentation process used to produce local wheat beer. Associate Professor Po-Yi Hung of the Department of Geography introduced Taiwan's tea products, the recent crisis faced by Taiwanese tea farmers, and the business opportunities associated with Bubble Tea.

The program's courses were both pre-recorded and

live-streamed. A virtual tour around Taiwan took the students around the island to Yilan, Taitung, Tainan, Yunlin, and Chiayi, to acquaint them with the historical backgrounds and environmental settings in which local delicacies were created. Many interesting missions were also integrated in the program, which won the praises of every participant.

Students from both universities also interacted on social media, to discuss the Gua-Bao shops, Korean snacks, and so on. Even though the pandemic changed the format of the program, every effort was made to reduce the sense of distance and foster closer connections between the participating faculty and students of the two universities. The experience has opened new possibilities for offering short-term online courses.