Immersion in a multifaceted city

Wanting to know how Hong Kong evolved from a fishing village to its current position as a world city, our exchange students first explored the Hong Kong Museum of History followed by a visit to the Avenue of Stars with handprints of movie celebrities. The tour ended with a ride on the Star Ferry and the rich variety of performances such as an Indian dance, a Mandarin pavilion and the traditional snacks prepared by students from around the world.

The Venice of Hong Kong

Take a look at rare examples of Chinese stilt houses. Try making traditional dried duck egg rolls. Check out the locally produced shrimp paste and salted fish at the market. Go on a dolphin-watching cruise. All these activities made up Hong Kong’s last fishing villages.

Fun at Lantern Legend

In celebration of the Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival, the Lantern Legend fun fair took place on campus. International students gained a taste of Chinese tradition by visiting booths for Fai Chun writing (red couplets with lucky messages) and lantern riddle guessing. Adding to the enjoyment were cultural performances by our students featuring a Lion Dance and Xiangjiang dance.

The great outdoors!

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Exchange Students Meet President for Morning Tea

At the invitation of Lingnan President, Professor Yuk-Shue Chan, four exchange students gathered for morning tea at the University Club on 17 June. Mark Greens from Trinity University, Logy Ko from Jeju National University, and JessicaAbramsen and Carl Hebert from Roger Williams University thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

Professor Chan generously discussed his own experience with the students and gave them valuable advice on how to prepare for future careers in Hong Kong and mainland China. The group also had a very friendly discussion about Hong Kong, ranging from food and people to culture.

Food

The morning tea provided the exchange students with an opportunity to taste must-try Hong Kong snacks. Mark proved to be the bravest, enjoying the soft texture and the special flavour of banana rolls. He also expressed delight in other Hong Kong specialties. Recalling the first time he saw a chicken served the Hong Kong way, Mark reflected, “I am used to having deep fried chicken in pieces but Hong Kong people have never seen a chicken’s head on the plate. And the skin of the chicken looks so fresh!”

Professor Chan, who studied and worked for fifteen years in Hong Kong, noted that “food is just one of the many differences that you will experience in another culture. Sometimes, you have to be a little bit more adventurous and adjust your norms and beliefs to make your life easier. Staying abroad is a good process for opening your mind to your own possibilities!”

Career Aspirations

Fascinated by the mix of Western and Eastern cultures, both Carl and Jessica want to live and work in Hong Kong after graduation. Jessica said that “there are so many things to explore here. I spoke to people from the American Chamber of Commerce and learned about the differences between doing business in the US and China. I would very much like to extend my stay in Lingnan from spring to summer!”

Culture

Hong Kong’s Chinese heritage and 150 years of British administration to 1997 have forged a city with a unique and fascinating East-West lifestyle. Combined with a large ex-patriot population, this special mix of history and cultures makes Hong Kong an accessible and very friendly platform for first encounters with China and the rest of Asia. Carl said that “surprisingly, there has not been much culture shock since I came here. Hong Kong is such a friendly place with rich cultural diversity. I would very much like to come back some time in the near future”.

Challenges

The biggest challenge for most people is to experience the food. Professor Chan gave invaluable advice to the students on how to open a plate of ice cream. “First of all, language is very important if you wish to be successful in this part of the world. English is widely spoken in Hong Kong but I will certainly be better if you can master a certain level of Chinese.” Professor Chan also emphasized that communication and a sincere approach were important when working with people from different cultural backgrounds and disciplines. “You have to understand how people do things in Hong Kong and mainland China and be prepared to adapt to the different culture.”

People

Discussing his most memorable experience in Hong Kong, Logy told us that he was inspired by the kindness of locals. “One day, I went out shopping with my Korean classmate and we were lost. We asked for directions from a local walking by. He was so kind that he walked with us for ten minutes to the place where we wanted to go!” Logy said that “it also made a lot of friends here at Lingnan.”

Goodbye to our friends!

Time flew and it was hard to say goodbye to our exchange students from the spring term. At the farewell reception, the students showed heart-warming videos as recaps of their wonderful memories from Lingnan. As the reception concluded the students presented special gifts of the world “Gratitude” written in Chinese calligraphy to our President, Professor Yuk-Shue Chan, and our Associate Vice-President (Academic Affairs), Professor William Lee.

Dear friends, goodbye and take care. One day our paths will cross again!

A great day out on Cheung Chau

Blessed by other weather, more than 20 exchange students and their buddies had a great day out on Cheung Chau. They visited the Po Tung Temple that was built in 1783 near a famous local restaurant. After lunch, they went horseback riding in a lagoon and met the local people, who showed them the beautiful views from the hilltops. They visited the pagoda and the rich variety of snacks and desserts of traditional food style.

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Experince in another culture

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Mark of Academic Excellence

Lingnan University has earned business accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest-serving global accreditation body for schools that offer degree programmes in business and accounting. Only about 600 business schools, or less than 5% worldwide, have attained this distinguished hallmark in management education.

This international recognition not only demonstrates the dedicated efforts from the Faculty of Business in the continuous improvement of academic quality, but it will also offer tremendous benefits to local and exchange students. The accreditation assures students that the business courses they undertake will be delivered at an elite standard of quality. In the long term, attending an accredited institution is often an advantage for employment and could be beneficial if students wish to pursue graduate studies.

“I have been very impressed by the liberal arts education Lingnan University offers. The AACSB accreditation reamins the excellence of faculty teaching and research, the broad and relevant business studies curriculum and its high student quality. Notably, a high proportion of students at Lingnan gain international exposure by enrolling in overseas exchange programmes, which further enhances their comprehension of the global economy”, said Mr Alber Ip, Executive Fellow in Asia of Washington University in St Louis, Council Member of Cornell University and Council and Court Member of Lingnan University.

Development

Lingnan University’s achievement was officially awarded in April 2011 at the AACSB International Conference and Annual Meeting in New York.

Expanded network with like-minded partners

Following the development of student exchange programmes since 1999, this year marks another boom year for the OMIP. In the first half of 2011 alone, 12 more overseas partners have established student exchange agreements with Lingnan, bringing the total number of exchange partners to 95. In good news for Lingnan and inbound exchange students, 10 of these 12 newly signed partnerships are full exchange agreements, meaning that on-campus dormitories are guaranteed and students only have to pay their home school’s hostel fees.

“As a liberal arts institution, Lingnan attaches great importance to campus life, especially hostel education. We strongly believe that the hostel activities not only provide an environment that is conducive to self-learning but also enhance students’ social awareness and social skills”, said Professor William Lee, Associate Vice-President (Academic Affairs). “We hope our students can immerse themselves in other cultures by actively participating in hostel activities when they study abroad, which is same for our inbound students. That’s why we believe full exchange agreements are of benefit to both schools.”

Currently, 80% of our exchange partners have full exchange agreements with us. We are keen to explore more collaboration opportunities with potential partners who share similar thoughts.

Get-together in Hong Kong

Spring was a busy travelling season for OMIP representatives. In addition to participating in international events such as the AFNE 2011 Conference and Exhibition in Taipei, we paid several visits to new and existing partners in China, Canada, South Korea and the United States to strengthen ties and explore further collaboration. We deeply appreciated the hospitality from our partner schools, and also extended a welcoming hand to visiting partners representatives from around the globe.

Over the last few months we hosted more than 200 delegates from potential and existing partners, including Belmont University, Fetters University of Applied Sciences, Ipag Business School and Ulster College, to name but a few. During March, five delegates from one of our strategic partners, Carroll University in the United States, spent five days with us. During their visit, we arranged a campus tour, class observations and meetings with various departments to discuss collaboration opportunities. We also visited the stock exchange and listened to a presentation by a senior partner at Touche Tohmatsu. On the cultural side, our student buddies took the guests to Tai O, a mask-making place on exchange.

“This through us, build stronger bonds and gained a deeper understanding of each other. Some colleagues learned more about what student life in Lingnan really is. We will be able to better inform students who are interested in coming to Lingnan for exchange. We are most delighted to have our partners visiting us in Hong Kong”, said Ms Joanne Lai, Head of the OMIP.

One Campus, Many Faces

We have already received more than 140 exchange applications for Fall 2011, a record number for the whole 2011-12 academic year, we are expecting more than 275 exchange students. “We are glad to see the growing interest in Lingnan from students of our partner schools. Their presence helps create an international classroom, which in turn enhances teaching and learning”, said Professor William Lee, Associate Vice-President (Academic Affairs).

Last Fall, we piloted a videoconference information session so that our partners could talk to our students directly and introduce their schools in an interactive way. Inbound and outbound exchange students are invited to discuss their experiences. This year, we will be engaging our exchange students even more by organizing the Student Exchange Fair. All inbound exchange students will be invited to join a photo exhibition and introduce their home universities at self-decorated booths. In this way, Lingnan students will be able to gain first-hand information in an informal environment.

We hope to see your students at the Student Exchange Fair 2011! For more details, please email the OMIP at exchange@LNU.edu.hk.

Making the difference of a lifetime

More than 20 Lingnan students attended study abroad programmes in China, South Korea and the United States last summer. Ten of them attended the 2011 Summer Science Programme at Whittier College in a new programme designated for Lingnan students. During their four weeks of study, they had interesting science subjects related to daily life, including The Biology of Aging, Nanotechnology and Society, Numb3rs in W4r and Espion4ge, Medicine and Culture, and Global Health: Problems of the Modern World. Tour news is the opportunity to travel around beautiful Southern California.

Other students headed north to attend the cultural exchange programme with a theme of “Bridges and Culture” organised by Zhejiang University. Students from various universities in Hong Kong and Zhejiang University got together in Hangzhou and

Qingyuan to visit the sites of ancient bridges, attend lectures on their architectural features and historical background, and held discussions with the local governor about cultural and heritage conservation. Tearing up with Zhejiang counterparts, our students won the grand prize in a chopstick bridge design competition. Through this eye-opening experience, they gained a greater appreciation of Chinese culture and a better understanding of Chinese history.

Another two groups of students went on a one-week study tour organised by Fudan University to learn about the development plan of the Yangtze River Delta and a new campus on the outskirts of Shanghai. Meanwhile, 20 exchange students also spent five weeks with us in Hong Kong during the Summer Term.