



Welcome to Taipei
International Club

台北市迎新會



February 2024

To Foster Friendship through Understanding and Understanding through Friendship

A Message from the President



It is truly a great honor for me to serve as the President of WTIC, a successful and prominent women's NGO that serves as an important platform for international friendship. I would not have had the confidence to take up the task without the mentorship from Madam Charlene Yang a decade ago on working with the board and committee members as a team. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to Madam Julie Chien, our WTIC Honorary President, for granting me the special opportunity to explore leadership from a broader perspective and to continue with our long-term mission to foster international understanding and friendship.

On behalf of WTIC board members, I would like to extend our appreciation to the following individuals: H.E. Ambassador George Fraser of Australia; former Executive Director Mr. Twekiat Janprajak and Madam Achara Janprajak of Thailand; Representative Mr. Adel Fahad A. Althaidi and Madam Huda Abdullah M. Alhussain of Saudi Arabia; Director Mr. Vu Tien Dung and Madam Bach To Chinh of Vietnam; Chairman Mr. Peter and Mrs. Cindy Lo of Johnson Health Technology Company; and the Taipower Company Department of Renewable Energy. Thank you for your generosity to offer cultural programs that allowed WTIC members

to further understand some characteristics of each other's cultures and to foster stronger international friendship ties.

WTIC is an affiliate member of both WCI and FAWA. Our affiliation allows us to foster stronger international friendship with other sister clubs. I would like to congratulate WTIC former President Vivienne Shen on being elected as WCI 2023-2025 President. I am also excited to share that the WCI Biennial Conference will be held in Taiwan in April 2024 and the 25th FAWA Convention will be held in Taiwan in 2025.

I would like to extend my gratitude to WTIC board members, working committees and interest group chairpersons for their contributions to our 2023 programs. I also want to recognize all our members ~ your enthusiastic participation was vital to the success of our events and activities. The Christmas Luncheon showcased outstanding and inspirational performances by WTIC interest groups and the Mixed Disabled Arts Group; exhibits by the Chinese brush painting and knotting interest groups. In addition, Madam Jeannie Tien and the first Vice President Lily Chiu took extra effort to organize and sponsor a graceful Fan Dance performance by our honorary members.

I treasure each of you who contributed photos and articles to this newsletter and to the publication team Olivia Jen and Judy Chow. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of newsletter and find it memorable. Best wishes to you in the coming Year of the Dragon!

Joan Fuh, President

Welcome to Taipei International Club



2023 WTIC Activity Calendar

2023

- 02/07 Welcome Clubs International Online Event–Regional Perspectives:
Asia ~ “Aging Gracefully”
- 02/10 2023 Annual Registration Luncheon & The 1st Board Meeting
- 02/15 Gourmet Group – Zum Fass German Cuisine
- 03/01 Opening Ceremony of Belize Culture Month and Women’s Month Exhibit
- 03/07 Art & Culture – Lost Army Story House in Taoyuan City
- 03/07 Welcome Clubs International Online Event: CSW67 Forum Parallel Event
- 03/15 Exploration Group – FuWan Chocolate Factory
- 03/21 The 2nd Board Meeting (via Google Meet)
- 03/23 Gourmet Group – Hunan Cuisine (巷子龍)
- 04/12 Exploration Group – Nangang Tea Mountain
- 05/01 International Cooking Demonstration-An Indulgence in Thai Experience
- 05/12 Saudi Arabian Coffee – A Symbol of Generosity
- 05/15 Welcome Clubs International Board of Directors Meeting – via Zoom
- 05/23 The 3rd Board Meeting (via Google Meet)
- 06/06 Art & Culture – “East Wind Goes West” Exhibit at the Beitou Museum
- 06/08 Celina Hoyos Painting Exhibition: “My Second Home”
- 06/13 Annual Lecture Webinar – Memories of the Micronesian Pacific 2007-2020
- 07/06 Harsha Dass Chinese Painting Exhibition at National Central Library
- 08/23 Exploration Group – Historic Yangmingshuwu
- 09/05 The 4th Board Meeting
- 09/15-18 The 24th FAWA Convention in Tokyo, Japan
- 09/21 Gourmet Group — Yuxi Restaurant (玉喜飯店)
- 09/27 Exploration Group – Chi Po-Lin Foundation and Museum
- 10/03 Art & Culture – 2023 Hakka Expo
- 10/24 Autumn Excursion — “Stroll in Nature and Health – Excursion to Taichung”
- 11/14 The 5th Board Meeting (via Google Meet)
- 11/17 Gourmet Group – Taiwanese-style Banquet (Pantoh Academy 辦桌學院)
- 11/21 International Cooking Demonstration – Vietnamese Culture and Cuisine
- 11/29 Exploration Group – Herbal Alley in Wan Hua
- 12/12 Christmas Luncheon
- 12/16 National Council of Women of Taiwan, ROC ~ 2023 General Assembly
- 12/21 Art & Culture – Visit to Wu Dengyi Art Museum

2024

- 01/16 The 6th Board Meeting (via Google Meet)



Annual Registration Luncheon



I am truly honored to be a member of this wonderful "Welcome to Taipei International Club- WTIC". First and foremost, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to every one of you for welcoming me with open arms and making me feel like a part of this amazing family. I remember the first invitation was a gathering in a Taiwanese restaurant. Mrs. Jeannie Tien introduced me to everyone then I realized that the Taiwanese generosity was not just a compliment from foreigners but it was a real thing that I experienced by myself. Everyone was exceptionally gracious and very respectful.

I was thoroughly impressed by the variety of activities at WTIC. One of my favorite events was the "Afternoon Tea," which provided me with a wonderful opportunity to sample the famous Taiwanese teas. And my most memorable experience was the Christmas luncheon, where I participated in a fashion show and dancing. It was my first time ever participating in such an event, and I had a lot of fun showcasing the official Saudi women's dresses known as "Abaya."

Before the Christmas luncheon, Mrs. Jeannie Tien kindly hosted a practice session at her elegant and lovely home, where all the wives of the ambassadors and representatives



participating in the ceremony gathered to rehearse the dance steps. Each one of us brought a traditional food from our respective countries to share, which was an incredible way to learn about each other's cultures. I also took the opportunity to explain some Islamic customs and traditions during these gatherings, and we all had a great time.

As a naturally shy person, I've always found it difficult to dance in front of others, especially on stage. However, Mrs. Jeannie Tien's gracious and supportive approach completely changed me. Her warm and positive encouragement made me feel comfortable and confident enough to break out of my shell on stage. I cannot emphasize enough how big of a deal this was for me. Good job Jeannie! Attending events is always an exciting experience for me because it gives me the opportunity to meet new people from different countries and immerse myself in new

cultures. Making new friends is a crucial part of my life, and I cherish every opportunity to do so.

Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Jeannie Tien for organizing these fantastic activities but also to welcome our new President Joan Fuh and look forward to the exciting events that she will bring to us. I believe that friendships are one of the most valuable things we can have in life. We can learn, grow, and create meaningful memories that last a lifetime through these precious connections.

*By Huda Abdullah M. Alhussain
Spouse of the Representative
Saudi Arabian Trade Office in Taiwan*

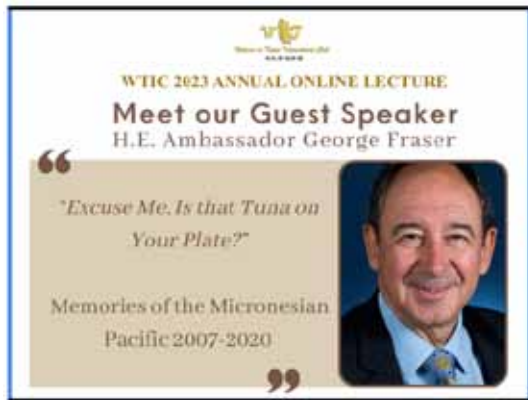




Annual Lecture Webinar

Speaker: H.E. Ambassador George Fraser

Topic: Memories of the Micronesia Pacific 2007-2020



Ambassador George Fraser delivered a highly anticipated online lecture titled "Memories of Micronesia Pacific 2007-2020." The presentation began with an intriguing question, "Excuse me, is that tuna on your plate?" and sparked curiosity and excitement among the audience. As everyone logged into their computers, we embarked on a captivating virtual journey through the enchanting islands of Micronesia with Ambassador George Fraser.

Ambassador Fraser's extensive professional background as the head of Australia's diplomatic mission in each of the five Micronesia countries made the presentation so personal and unique. He held esteemed positions such as High Commissioner to Nauru, High Commissioner to Kiribati, and Ambassador to the Federated States

of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Over his 13 years in Micronesia, Ambassador Fraser had the opportunity to explore places and experience extraordinary moments that most travelers and tourists could only dream of. The region's remote geographical location in the vast Pacific Ocean presented challenges, making it incredibly difficult for regular travelers to reach some of the hidden gems introduced by Ambassador Fraser. Throughout the lecture, he used his personal photos, videos and stories to share his profound knowledge, passion and enthusiasm and genuine admiration for Micronesia culture.

The lecture highlighted several Micronesia countries, including Nauru, Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau, and the Marshall Islands. He showcased the unique features, landscapes, and cultural heritage of each place.

Nauru, the world's smallest island nation, revealed the remnants of war and the environmental impact of phosphate mining. Kiribati, with its coral atolls, impressed with its





traditional meeting houses, community decision-making, immaculate housing areas cared by each proud home owners. FSM showcased stunning sunset views, the last remaining forest of Ka trees, and the enigmatic Nan Madol ruins. Palau's natural beauty and diverse ecosystems made it a popular destination, with the unique experience of swimming among jellyfish. The Marshallese women are skilled in weaving and creating intricate art crafts from pandanus leaves, a versatile and abundant natural resource found in the region.

Through engaging with local communities, George built a personal connection, enabling him to learn about their traditions, stories, and way of life at a very personal level. His knowledge, passion, and fascination for the Micronesian culture were extraordinary from which we learned that beyond the commonalities, there are always significant differences and contrasts across the vast Pacific, in terms of culture, traditions, languages and people.

George also emphasized the need to appreciate and preserve their vulnerability, also a focus on the ethical consumption of tuna and

the importance of supporting sustainable fishing practices.

Ambassador George Fraser's lecture on "Memories of Micronesia Pacific 2007-2020" was insightful, inspirational, and educational. It highlighted the beauty, diversity, and vulnerability of Micronesian cultures and emphasized the need for mindful consumption and environmental conservation. George's personal connection to the region and his passion for sharing its stories and observations made the lecture a valuable experience for all.

By Mayumi Izuno Hu



Saudi Arabian Coffee

~ A Symbol of Generosity ~



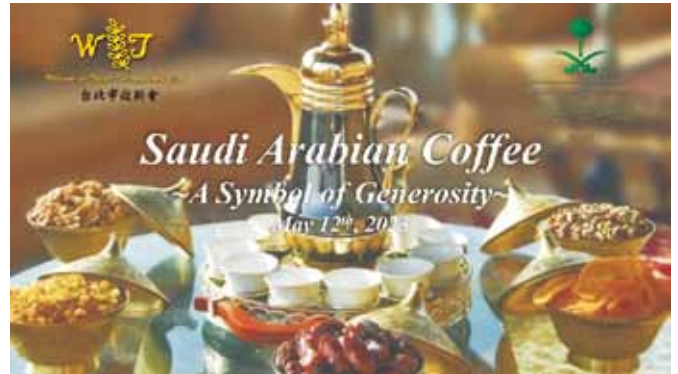
On May 12th, 2023, the members of WTIC gathered at the Grand Mayfull Hotel to celebrate the Saudi Arabian Coffee - A Symbol of Generosity, sponsored by our honorary member, Madam Huda Abdullah M. Alhussain, spouse of the Representative of the Saudi Arabian Trade Office in Taiwan. The event was graced by the presence of Representative Mr. Adel Fahad A. Althaidi.

The Event:

The Saudi Arabian Coffee Party was a remarkable gathering that allowed us to experience the rich traditions and culture of Saudi Arabia. As we entered the event, we were welcomed by the captivating aroma of Arabian Coffee, accompanied by palm dates, setting the tone for an extraordinary afternoon.

The atmosphere at the Grand Mayfull Hotel was nothing short of enchanting, with traditional Arabian music filling the air. This soothing music provided the perfect backdrop for members to engage in pleasant conversations and establish new connections.

Ms. Joan Fuh, the President of WTIC, began



the event by extending a warm welcome to all the guests. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to our honorary members for their presence, with special recognition for Representative Mr. Althaidi and Madam Huda Abdullah M. Alhussain from the Saudi Arabian Trade Office.

Mr. Althaidi shared his enthusiasm for being part of the event and conveyed his appreciation for the warm reception. He emphasized the pivotal role that women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia play, noting that they are the source and force behind everything that is positive. He highlighted the changing dynamics in the Kingdom, where women are receiving due recognition for their contributions.

As a delightful representation of Saudi Arabian culture, the event featured a fashion show



that showcased traditional Saudi Arabian clothing worn by women. This display was met with admiration and applause from the audience.

Madam Huda Abdullah M. Alhussain demonstrated the special art of brewing Saudi Arabian Coffee. The guests were not only intrigued by the process but were also treated to the exquisite taste of this unique coffee, which left a lasting impression on their palates.

The event continued with informative videos that shed light on the ongoing changes and developments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These videos were well-received and provided valuable insights into the progress happening in the region.

Culinary Experience:

The event culminated with a delicious spread of traditional Saudi Arabian cuisine, courtesy of Madam Huda Abdullah M. Alhussain. The menu was a testament to the flavors and culinary traditions of the Kingdom, and guests thoroughly enjoyed the delectable offerings.

The Saudi Arabian Coffee Party at the Grand Mayfull Hotel was a memorable occasion filled with cultural enrichment, delightful experiences, and warm interactions. We express our sincere

gratitude to the Trade Office of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially Mr. Althaidi and Madam Huda Abdullah M. Alhussain, for making this event possible. It was truly a time well spent, and we look forward to more such enriching gatherings in the future.



*By Mrs. Brenda Phanis-Lewis
Spouse of Ambassador
Embassy of Saint Lucia*





WTIC 2023 Annual Autumn Excursion

~ “Stroll in Nature and Health – Excursion to Taichung” ~

On Tuesday, October 24th, the Welcome to Taipei International Club (WTIC) embarked on an exhilarating journey to Taichung. Our itinerary was carefully prepared to explore fascinating facets of this city, from renewable energy to cutting-edge fitness technology.

Our first stop was the Wind Turbine Boulevard, where we stood at the intersection of innovation and environmental consciousness. From this outlook, we gazed upon the Guomei Wetland ecology and the vast expanse of the ocean. Experts from Taipower Department of Renewable Energy enlightened us about the critical role of wind turbines in combating climate change. They harness the power of nature, providing green energy while emitting zero greenhouse gases. Today there are around 361 turbines in operation in Taiwan. The Government's goal for 2030 is to increase this number by 450 onshore and 600 offshore windmills to lower fossil-fuel dependency and contribute to world to be more sustainable for future generations.

Lunchtime arrived and we gathered at New Place Restaurant in Wuqi. Here we indulged in Taiwanese delicacies, savoring flavors that echoed

centuries of culinary heritage. Doubtless the best fish restaurant in town.

After lunch we made a brief detour to Mitsui Outlet Park Taichung. As we strolled through its vibrant corridors we contemplated the intersection of commerce and conscience. Could shopping be more than mere consumerism?

The visit to Johnson Health Tech Company's training facilities was a big surprise for many, who had gone to the gym for years and used the machines without reflecting on their origin or history.

Upon arrival we were met by the founder and his family. He showed a film on the interesting history on how the company started and grew into one of the biggest suppliers in the world. The story of the family felt like the story of Taiwan. The company started in the backyard with two hands making simple tools. The business developed during from the same time span as Taiwan went from being a struggling emerging country to one of the most successful and strongest economies in



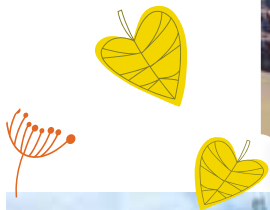
the world. After the presentation, we all had our own workout at the exposition area. Some tried out the machines while others tried out the massage chairs. There was something for everyone. It was a most memorable visit. To meet the owner, his wife, and their family, all engaged in the company, was simply special.

Our President, Joan Fuh put it well in her letter “WTIC Excursion to Taichung was more than just a trip; it was an experience that strengthened the bonds within our members, reminding us of the importance of good company, shared adventures, and the power of simple yet heartwarming surprises, that truly reflected the bond and appreciation we all shared for being part of this fantastic club”.

As my first year in Taiwan is coming to an end, I must warmly thank each and everyone in this club for every smile, tip, handshake, wink and presence. Such thoughtfulness makes a huge difference for us who arrive as guests to Taiwan, and maybe initially might feel a little lost and confused. Thanks to WTIC we managed to find our way here, and get the opportunity to fill our days with fun and meaningful activities and adventures. Thank you!

*By Boel Wollter
Spouse of the Representative
The Swedish Trade & Invest Council*





Christmas Luncheon

A Christmas celebration in Taiwan? What would it be like? This was my initial thought when I first heard about the WTIC Christmas Luncheon. This would be my first proper chance to celebrate Christmas with my fellow WTIC members, so I was looking forward to finding out.

Luckily, I wouldn't just be part of the audience - I was fortunate to take part in one of the performances and as our practice continued, with hard work supplemented by laughter and fun, I felt I was able to bond with other members even more closely, which in itself felt like a very special gift that this Luncheon gave me.

When the day came, I was amazed to see the large banquet hall of the Far Eastern Shangri-La hotel so beautifully decorated with an eye-catching Christmas theme, though I got a bit nervous when I saw the big stage in the centre and huge screens!

Our guest performers, the Mixed Disabled Arts Group did a brilliant job of warming the big stage with their even bigger performances

and various interest groups' performances followed - I was really impressed by each of the performances, which were so well choreographed and beautifully presented - they were truly amazing performances which managed to fill the big stage! Beyond the stage, the intricate works of art exhibited by fellow members were a feast for our eyes too. All in all, what a lovely occasion to showcase and mark the brilliance of all the activities throughout the year by every single interest group – and to celebrate and praise each other's efforts and talents in style.

The venue was filled with cheers and laughter, happy chatter between friends reuniting and future friends meeting for the first time. Positive energy was all around throughout.

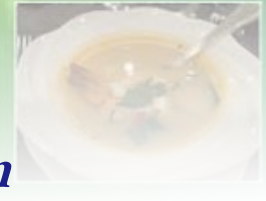
So, a Christmas celebration in Taiwan? I can confidently say that you celebrate it in real style!

*By Yumiko Burn
Spouse of Deputy Representative
British Office*









International Cooking Demonstration

~ From Bangkok to Taipei: an Indulgence in Thai Experience ~

An email reached me one day from the International Cooking Demonstration Interest Group of WTIC inviting me to co-host a cooking demonstration luncheon in the spring of 2023. Discussing this with my husband, we both agreed that it was a delightful honor as well as an incredible opportunity to showcase the best of Thailand to the eyes of my fellow WTIC friends and guests, and so, with a happy heart, I accepted the invitation.

We started planning the event with our colleagues in the Thailand Trade and Economic Office before taking the conversations further to the Tourism Authority of Thailand Taipei office. As a result, the luncheon was set to happen in coordinated scheduling with the Thai festival week when shows and talents were to be specially flown in, with hopes to bring the attendees an extraordinary experience and atmosphere as if they were traveling to and spending their time in Thailand itself.

Cuisine

Thai food is globally known for its all-around taste and flavor. Whether it is a stir-fried menu like pork or chicken with basil, a tom yum soup, a Laab Thai-style spicy salad, etc., the sour, sweet, savory, spicy, and even bitter tastes, along with the herbal ingredients in some of the dishes, all contribute to the delectable cuisine that is flavorsome, unique and healthy.

Carefully selected and put together was the full-course menu for our special guests; beginning with an assorted starter which consisted of 'Larb-Gai' or minced chicken with roasted glutinous rice E-sarn dressing, 'Ma-hor' or pineapple topped with caramelized peanuts and pickled radish, 'Kra-thong Tong' Minced shrimp and chicken seasoned with curry powder in a crispy tartlet, and 'Po-phia' or rice paper rolls with shrimp and Asian herbs. Following was tom yum soup with king prawns before the serving of the main course—a set of jasmine rice served with braised Wagyu beef in Mussamun curry, deep-fried soft-shell crab in coconut bean curd dip,

and deep-fried seabass with green mango and sweet fermented fish sauce. To top it off was the coconut ice cream with seasonal fruits.

Of course, this special gathering would not be complete without some cooking in action. The demonstration of Laab chicken salad got the audience on their feet and up on the stage and I could not be more thrilled to see how the guests enjoyed the process as well as the final product which was later served as part of the banquet. I just hope that everyone would go back and try to cook the dish in their own kitchen with our provision of the printed recipe.

Culture

The luncheon was designed not only to cater to the palate but also to stir the senses of the guests in the most way possible. Starting off as the welcoming act was a Thai human puppet Khon dance, an





applied form of Thai performing art featuring elaborately synchronized movements along the melodious traditional music. I got friends coming to me throughout the afternoon saying the show was exceptionally spectacular and exciting.

The show continued with the fashion extravaganza of Thai fabric collection by Khwanta Handicraft from the Northeastern province of Nong Bua Lumphu and a music performance by a brass quintet of Thai students from the Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music, Thailand.

We also made sure to keep the ladies entertained and busy out in the entrance foyer where they could try on some traditional costumes for photos with the exquisite Thainess display that included traditional royal-theater puppets and ‘Benjarong’ five-colored porcelain wares. The raffle prizes from the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles and 100 goody bags were prepared deliberately to serve as keepsakes of our cultural memories together.

Personally, I had fun and joy, as well as a tiny mix of pressure, organizing this event with the kind-hearted and wonderful team from WTIC. As my husband, Tweekiat, said in his remarks that “Taiwan is always close to our hearts and we share many similarities ranging from our name to our culture of

hospitality and our love for food”, I simply know that this gathering of friendship is going to be one of the moments that I will continue to cherish for a long, long time.

First of all, I would like to thank the chairperson of WTIC’s international cooking demo interest group, Madam Lily Chiu, who proposed this valuable event, Madam Joan Fuh, WTIC President, and Madam Jeannie Tien, the former President. I would also like to thank my dear husband, Representative Tweekiat Janprajak. Heartfelt thanks to Olivia, Angela, Sandy; my dedicated colleagues from the Thailand Trade and Economic Office especially Mrs. Watchara, Mrs. Ladda, and Mr. Phonlakrit; our team from the Tourism Authority of Thailand Taipei Office—of which the director, Ms. Duangjai Kanteeranon, was also present as our luncheon guest; and, last but not least, our esteemed guests and friends who supported this event.

ขอบคุณค่ะ (Kob-Khun-Ka)

Thank you

*By Achara Janprajak,
Spouse of the Executive Director
Thailand Trade and Economic Office*







~ Vietnamese Culture & Cuisine ~

On a beautiful autumn day, I received a phone call from Madam Jeannie Tien. She invited our office, on behalf of WTIC, to co-organize a Vietnamese culinary and cultural activity. While talking with Jeannie about this, my heart was filled with joy mixed with anxiety: happy because Vietnamese culture would be sublimated, worried because this was the first time we held such an event. At the end of the phone call, I only remember one thing: Jeannie always encouraged, 'Don't worry; our WTIC team is always by your side to bring success to the event.' So from that day on, all my thoughts were devoted to thinking about the event.

A Working Group was formed to come up with ideas about culture and cuisine, with the enthusiastic direction of Madam Lily Chiu and members Jeannie Tien, Angela Tan, Sandy Sha and a few women from our office.

Regarding cuisine, the Vietnamese chef named Kim Cuong was invited to teach how to prepare dipping sauce and how to make shrimp spring rolls-a popular Vietnamese dish that everyone knows and enjoys.

About the culture, Ao Dai is a typical cultural symbol of Vietnam. I really want the event to make an impression with an Ao Dai performance performed by guests. This idea was enthusiastically supported by the members. We hurriedly encouraged and invited individual members to participate in this special performance. I was so happy when everyone happily accepted. The performance was emotional, meaningful, and an unforgettable memory for everyone attending.





In addition, during the luncheon, we had a Dance Group, a Flute Playing Group of Vietnamese brides, and Vietnamese workers living and working in Taiwan performing special performances, and demonstrating aspects of the Vietnamese culture. The event has had such great success. We once again thank Madam Lily Chiu, Madam Jeannie Tien, Angela, Sandy, and other members for always being by our side and supporting us. Thank you, WTIC, for giving our office this opportunity to shine. Wishing everyone all the best!



*By Bach To Chinh
Spouse of Director
Vietnam Economic and
Cultural Office in Taipei*





Art & Culture

~The “Lost Army Story House” Museum in Longgang, Taoyuan~

The WTIC Art and Culture Interest Group, chaired by Ms. Susan Wang and Ms. Jessica Liu, always offers the most interesting excursions. As usual, today’s trip greatly exceeded my expectations. On March 7, 2023, we all boarded a tour bus to visit the “Lost Army Story House” Museum in Longgang, Taoyuan. It tells the story of the soldiers who fought along the Yunnan-Burma (now Myanmar) border against the Chinese communist army in the 1950s.

We were warmly welcomed from the moment we exited the bus. First, we noticed the thoughtful gesture that the flags of all nationalities represented in our group were raised on the main square. We were then greeted by the Taoyuan City Government’s Chief Secretary of the Department of Tourism, Ms Lu Hsiu-chin, and by the founder of the museum President Wang Ken-Shen. We all presented with a beautiful handmade bag, very suitable to hold a

phone and other small items.

President Wang led the Chinese-speaking tour, and our English-speaking tour was guided by the very enthusiastic Ms Xiong. I am sure I speak for all of us if I say that the tour was impressive: so much information, so many artifacts beautifully displayed and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, at least for me: I never held a gun before!

The tour was followed by a Papaya Salad DIY, where it once again became clear that I am far too impatient to be a good cook! Fortunately, we got some help and the result was a delicious appetizer. With our taste buds activated, we headed across the street to “8POPO” restaurant for authentic Yunnan rice noodle soup: delicious and filling, leaving hardly enough room for a PoSu flaky bun.



We were not done yet: those of us who were brave enough could try on the ethnic costumes from the Yunnan-Burma border region. The ornamental hats were very heavy and it is amazing that people could wear that in the hot climate of the Golden Triangle.

And, again, there was more food: this time coffee/tea and cheesecake or church pudding with a delicate golden sugar dome. And another present was handed out: a box of light and fluffy cake for each of us to take home.

A big thanks to the organizers of this wonderful day. It allowed us to discover yet another of Taiwan's wonderful lesser-known stories and places!

By Marijke Stijne



~“East Wind Goes West - 18th Century Qing Dynasty Export Porcelain” Exhibit at the Beitou Museum ~

The historic Beitou Museum was the perfect setting for our June WTIC Art and Culture Group's tour of the museum's special exhibition on “East Wind Goes West – 18th Century Qing Dynasty Export Porcelain”.

The Beitou Museum was originally constructed in 1921 and first known as the Kazan Hotel, a luxurious Japanese mountainside hot springs hotel. Each of the hotel's guest rooms had its own wooden furo used for private hot

spring bathing. On the first floor was a spacious hot spring bathing pool. In 1987, the name was changed to “Beitou Museum”, with its collection of 5000 historic and cultural items.

Mr. Hung Kan, Director of the Beitou Museum and Lisette Lou, WTIC member and former Senior Executive Officer from the National Palace Museum warmly greeted us upon our arrival at the museum. We were thrilled to find out that Director Kan, a specialist in East Asian arts, has had a long association with the Beitou Museum and is also one of the main curators of this exhibition.

Director Kan and Lisette Lou skillfully guided our Chinese and English groups through the Museum's first floor. We were shown over





one hundred export porcelain items from the Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong periods of the Qing, all of which were tastefully displayed.

Our guides' stories about the blue and white, Chinese Imari, wucan, and Kangxi style famille rose porcelain ware exhibits added special meaning to our "East Wind Goes West" tour.

We learned how Qing dynasty Chinese artists and artisans were in great demand especially during the height of the 18th Century by Europe's royal families, aristocracy and wealthy members of the upper class. Chinese artists responded, by adapting and conscientiously following predesigned drawings given to them by European merchants. These drawings enabled them to copy the Western designs and motifs onto their commissioned orders for porcelain

ware. Little did these Chinese artists know that they were creating a fascinating blend of Eastern and Western cultures resulting in significant contributions to the history of export porcelain in Europe.

Blue and white porcelain ware, which comprised a significant proportion of the export porcelain trade became known as kraak porcelain a term given by the Dutch. Chinese Imari blue, red and gold porcelain ware with traditional Chinese motifs of landscapes, flowers, plants, birds and mythical creatures have become sought after collector's items.

Our tours may have ended but our conversations continued over a delicious traditional kaiseki lunch followed by a garden tour and photo opportunities. It was truly a very special day to remember.

By Sue Babcock



~ Visit to 2023 Hakka Expo – World Pavilion & Taiwan Pavilion ~

There are always a handful of interesting exhibitions going on in Taiwan, but none of them are as heavy-weight as the 2023 Hakka Expo. The two-month long event is thoughtfully curated and lavishly showcased in two main pavilions in Taoyuan, along with many smaller exhibition areas in the northern Taiwan municipality. It is reported that the tally of visitors reached around eight million.

The word “Hakka” means “guest families”, and Taoyuan City is home to the largest Hakka population –with nearly one million people. The theme of the expo is “Travel to Tomorrow”. In Taiwan Pavilion, it is divided into 12 areas with a total of 14 cities and counties displaying their distinguishing features in implementing local Hakka heritage through art, education, history and agricultural economy. As for the World

Pavilion on the ground floor, the exhibition documents the struggling stories of the Hakka diaspora of past generations across 20 countries scattered around the world. On the second floor, an array of Hakka Hall of Fame, it displays relevant literature, as well as images narrating the process of Hakka people taking root overseas.

We are so grateful that the typhoon forecast didn't hinder our plan. We arrived punctually and smoothly on Lion Travel luxury coach bus, and was greeted by tour guide Leader Ms. Chen and two other colleagues. While I was planning this visit, Ms. Chen strongly recommended us to begin with Hakka TV Studio “Live Broadcast Experience” and a photoshoot of holding the genuine Golden Bell statuette in our hands—she said these are the best-selling gangbusters activities. Well, it proved that she was right!!!



We spent a huge amount of time taking turns to have our shoot. But, it was FUN! I believe lots of ladies went home with some photos or news clips to show off to her friends and families. We only had time left to see the Taiwan Pavilion, before hopping back on bus to the Cozzi Blu Hotel for buffet lunch and the following activities.

This is the third time we visited Taoyuan in recent years- including the Hengshan Calligraphy Art Center in 2021, and the Lost Army Story House in March this year, I am truly thankful to some good friends for providing me with

information of where we should go for a visit. We will soon be flipping the page of the year 2023, and we hope our dear members will continue to give us advice and support to the Three Musketeers.

By Jessica Liu Chia



~ Visit to the Wu Dengyi Art Museum ~



On the 21st of December, WTIC Art & Culture Group ladies gathered to visit the newly renovated Wu Dengyi Art Museum in Tamsui. The museum was established earlier in 2020 at the iconic Taipei 101, but later moved to its current address at the historical 'Missionary House' built by George Leslie Mackay in 1875. Nicknamed 'Little White House', the building is of Spanish Mission style, with an ivory-colored exterior, romantic arched corridors,

and natural rock facings. It had accommodated many historical figures throughout its 150-year history, serving as home to notable missionaries, a charity school for women, and residence to the president of Tamsui Oxford College (now



Aletheia University), before being chosen as the new location for Wu Dengyi museum.

In contrast to its rich past, the building's interior is modern and spacious, displaying Wu's works on brightly-lit walls. The museum staff welcomed the group warmly and gave a tour of Wu Dengyi's latest exhibition, 'The Essence of Shanshui'. Wu is a classically trained, Taiwanese contemporary color ink painter, who has gained both domestic and international recognition. Wu is well known for integrating both western and eastern techniques to his Chinese ink paintings. Landscapes were the main focus of this exhibit, where he utilizes both loose and detailed brushstrokes to depict stony cliffs, misty valleys, and winding rivers. He also likes to add miniature but meticulously drawn temples and people on mountains, to create a sense of perspective. The paintings themselves almost possess a rhythmic quality, directing the viewers across its majestic landscapes and into the fuzzy background. It is also highly emotive, with balanced colors,

textures, and shades cascading onto each other. The ladies enjoyed a morning feast for the eyes.

After the tour, the group was guided to a separate hall and served with hot tea and cakes. Here they were greeted by Mr. Xiwen Yang, Art Director of the museum, who gave a lecture on the latest trends in the global art market. With much enthusiasm, Yang introduced the most expensive paintings ever sold. He also detailed several factors that determine a piece's value. As an expert on the subject, he presented interesting examples covering the works of Chang Dai-Chien and San Yu. Finally, he thanked the ladies for visiting, and highlighted the museum's goal to showcase both contemporary color ink art and Taiwanese art.

Albeit the cold and rain, it was a delightful opportunity to be introduced to a new museum and be immersed in Art & Culture. We thank the team for organizing the memorable trip and look forward to many more!

By Jessica Hsu





Bridge Group



Bridge is a complex and strategic card game that requires players to think critically, make decisions based on incomplete information, and anticipate their opponents' moves. The intellectual challenge of the game keeps members engaged and foster a sense of accomplishment when mastering new tactics and strategies.

It was in 2011 before I moved to Vancouver that I had the luck of meeting with the founder of the Bridge Group, Madam Fang, and she graciously encouraged me to learn to play bridge. With her encouragement, I started my bridge lessons and really enjoyed the game but did not have the opportunity to play since leaving Vancouver in 2014. Needless to say, lots of refresh and home-study was needed when I joined the Bridge Group this year.

Very soon I noticed some of the members are playing like pros! And the Bridge Group also serves as a platform for experienced players to mentor newcomers. The exchange of knowledge and skill not only fosters a sense of community but also ensures the passing down of bridge expertise to the less experienced members.

As we gather every Wednesday afternoon around the bridge table, there's plenty of room for laughter. Other than moments of

suspense, surprise, and even amusement, it also provides ample opportunities for social interaction and bonding. The appreciation of diversity and partnership that develop among members create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere. Members from different backgrounds and achievements bring their unique perspectives and strategies to the game; each player's etiquette, attention to detail, and strategic decision-making reflect a refined approach to the game that enrich every member's experience.

The Bridge Group offers a blend of fun and sophistication. It brings together members who are passionate about bridge, creating an environment where we can form amicable friendship, and enjoy the beauty of a game that combines mind-activity, social interaction, and cultural diversity. I look forward to my Wednesday Bridge every week! Thank you Madam Fang!



By Josephine Tseng



Chi Gong Group



Chi gong is appropriate for everyone regardless of age or physical ability. As one of the foundation elements for Chinese martial arts, medicine and philosophy, chi gong is a practice or exercise that involves slow body movements and postures in coordination with breathing and meditation. Chi is translated as “energy” and it represents one’s vital energy. Chi gong promotes the flow of energy as we are breathing in and breathing out, which can help to improve one’s vitality and health.

Our teacher Li-Tsui Sun has taught the Chi Gong Group at

WTIC for over 19 years. She has practiced Chi Gong and Tai Chi since childhood. The class meets every Friday morning from 10:30 to noon.

In order to promote a healthier life style, Teacher Sun places heavy emphasis on the daily practice of chi gong. This way chi or our vital life energy can constantly and smoothly flow within one’s body.

By Carol Sun



Chinese Brush Painting Group

I was invited to join the WITC by Mrs. Jeannie Tien a few months after my arrival to Taiwan. I was surprised to see the variety of activities WTIC offered to its members. I was overjoyed when I sighted traditional cultural activities such as Chinese brush painting, traditional Chinese knotting, and Chi Gong.

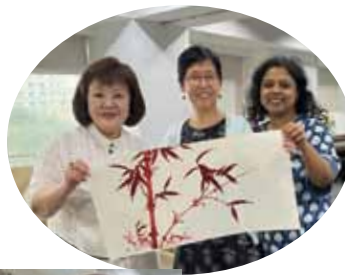
I had not had much Chinese brush painting practice before, but I did go through an elementary level Chinese culture training course when I was teaching in Hong Kong. Well, this time I have a professional Chinese brush painting teacher, Mrs. Wang Jyn-Tzy. Mrs. Wang is a famous Chinese brush painting artist. I have happily absorbed as much knowledge and technique as I could from Mrs. Wang.

Time flies, but the progress of my Chinese brush painting study sometimes seemed to be not going very far, I thought. But on the

other hand, I thought it was important that I was learning, so most of the time I was relatively happy. I said 'relatively' because sometimes I did feel a bit sad, especially when I understood what the teacher said but then I could not see the expected result appearing in my painting, even though I practiced for hours and days, even skipping some planned 'fun' activities.

Fortunately, now that I have finished the traditional four parts of Chinese painting training, e.g. basic skills, and I am moving to another level. The teacher confirmed it today and I feel fantastic! By the time I say goodbye to Taiwan, I know I will have had a wonderful time learning Chinese culture through brush painting.

*By Theresa Lo Pearson
Spouse of Director
New Zealand Commerce and
Industry Office*



Chinese Knotting Group



The year 2023 commenced with the anticipation and excitement of reuniting with fellow classmates at the Chinese Knotting Group. As we reconvened, the joy and camaraderie amongst us were palpable. The return of Teacher Alice Lin was met with enthusiasm and gratitude.

The first class commenced with Teacher Alice Lin initiating the instruction for crafting Zongzi using the Cross knot. Despite the challenge, we enthusiastically embraced the task and persevered to complete it. Moving on, the Pan Chang knot, demanded meticulous attention to detail. Accompanied by the Clove Hitch Knot, we crafted firecrackers, triumphing over the complexity of the task.

Further, the Slide button knot technique was employed to craft grapes, presenting a joyful yet challenging endeavor. Teacher Alice's guidance and the camaraderie amongst classmates helped navigate obstacles, fostering a supportive learning environment. Exploring emotional expression through knot tying, we learned to fashion roses using the Double coin knot and Button knot, symbolizing love and care.

Before the summer break, a shopping activity guided by Teacher Alice allowed us to acquire materials for individual projects. Jill's presence added to the delightful afternoon as she resumed her role as the class photographer, amplifying the sense of enjoyment and togetherness.

Upon returning from the summer holidays, the class welcomed new members, Tina and Daniella. The group embarked on new challenges, starting with crafting snowmen using the Lark's head knot, emphasizing the need for focus and attention to detail throughout the process.

The class culminated the year by creating Christmas trees employing Balanced and Unbalanced knots, requiring dedication and perseverance to achieve successful results. The collective effort of the group led to a sense of accomplishment and pride in our achievements.

As the year concludes, heartfelt gratitude extends to Teacher Alice Lin for her unwavering dedication, patience, and exceptional teaching. Her commitment to serving each student's needs reflects her excellence as an educator.

To my fellow classmates, I extend appreciation for the love, kindness, and support shared throughout the year. Your presence fostered a nurturing and inclusive environment at the Chinese Knotting Class. Congratulations to everyone for their dedication and achievements! Your efforts have been truly appreciated.



*By Brenda Phanis-Lewis
Spouse of Ambassador
Embassy of Saint Lucia*



Exploration Group

Taipei is a city full of contrasts, the new and modern exist side by side with the traditional and historical. Modern transportation makes moving from one part of this vast city to another quick and convenient, enabling us to explore and enjoy all Taipei has to offer. In the midst of modern Taipei, we are close to mountains with tea plantations, hikes and flowers to enjoy, as well as historical harbor towns and monuments of Taipei's past.

By Alison Davis

~ FuWan Chocolate Factory ~

This past year, our first trip was the farthest we have traveled on an Exploration Group trip, as we traveled by high speed train to the southern county of Pingtung. Pingtung is home to the Fu Wan Chocolate company and our trip was to learn how chocolate is being produced in Taiwan. The trip gave us insights into the production of chocolate, and the development of the cacao bean as a crop in Taiwan. Of course, the highlight was tasting and enjoying the different kinds of Fu Wan chocolate, hot chocolate and chocolate ice cream.



~ Nangang Tea Mountain ~

Closer to home, we visited the Nangang Tea Company, one of the original tea production facilities in Taiwan. The museum and tea fields showed us how tea is harvested, dried and made into delicious home grown tea. We enjoyed an opportunity to make our own tea sachets at the Sisters Restaurant, where some young entrepreneurs are attempting to revitalize the Nangang Tea industry. We learned making tea is a complicated process, and delicious tea needs attention and hard work.



~ Historic Yangmingshuwu ~

On a warm September day, we went to the cooler temperatures of Yangming Mountain to visit the historic Yangmingshuwu. This residence was built by Chiang Kai Shek to entertain visiting dignitaries, and showcase the beautiful views of Taipei. Lunch was at the Grass Mountain Chateau, built in the Japanese era to entertain Japanese Imperial Dignitaries. The trip was a wonderful way to see friends after the summer holidays.



~ Chi Po-Lin Foundation and Museum ~

Chi Po-Lin was a remarkable pioneer in Taiwan's efforts to combat the destruction of the mountains, rivers, and plains of this country. He spent years photographing Taiwan from above, leaving a lasting photographic legacy of the beauty of this country but also the tragic pollution, deforestation and over construction of pristine land. His landmark and award winning movie, Taiwan from Above, showed we need to work hard to preserve the beauty of Formosa for future generations. Our Exploration Group visited the museum which is dedicated to preserving and teaching the mission of Chi Po-Lin.



~ Herbal Alley in Wan Hua ~



Wan Hua is the original heart of Taipei and the Long Shan Temple has long been the center of life in Wan Hua. Our guide Bryan, took us on a journey to learn the historical significance of Long Shan in its devotees' efforts to stay healthy. Believers would pray for guidance, hoping the Gods would share which herbal remedies they should take to rid themselves of illness. Herbal Alley, next door to the temple, was there to provide herbs of all varieties. Today, Bryan produces teas at his Herb Bar to keep us healthy, ensuring the ancient Chinese use of herbs will continue to keep us feeling our best.

We hope you have enjoyed exploring Taipei with us, we look forward to finding new adventures for us to explore together in the new year.



Golf Group

The WTIC Golf Group meets once a month for a game at the Taipei Golf Club, to enjoy friendship, fresh air, sunshine, and laughter. Spouses are welcomed so that members may enjoy the game together as a couple. We usually tee-off around 9 in the morning, with an energizing breakfast, thanks to members Margaret Huang and Tse-Yuen Shen Lin, who pamper all of us with Taipei's most delicious rice balls and homemade soft gold-centered eggs. To encourage improvement in our game, our chairperson, Madam Charlene Yang, also arranges prizes for those who achieve birdies and one-shot-on-greens. While they are token prizes in dollar amounts, they are significant recognitions of a good golf game. During the

summer months the group took a short recess to avoid the steamy weather, and to accommodate the busy travel schedule of our international friends who usually take vacations as well as return to their home countries. Once a year, the WTIC Golf Group joins up with the Veteran Diplomats Golf team to celebrate Mother's Day and enjoy the link course atmosphere of the Gold Coast Golf Country Club. The WTIC Golf Group welcomes golfers whether beginners or seasoned players to join us. Let us enjoy a pleasant day on the beautiful golf course while getting good exercise for our bodies and enjoying a good time with friends.

Lee Chih, Lin





Gourmet Group

人間有味是清歡

Delicious cuisine and warm friendships are the most important elements in the Gourmet Food Interest Group's activities.

At the beginning of the year of golden Rabbit, the Gourmet Group members met up in a cozy "Alphütte" restaurant "Zum Fass" to try traditional, homemade German Swiss food. The food and atmosphere were so great that no one wanted to leave. Later, in March, the members explored Xiangzilong's Home Cooking Cuisine. The restaurant follows the home-cooked route, mainly specialized in Hunan cuisine, and freshness is the main feature of this restaurant.

After a long and hot summer, the Gourmet Group members decided that it's the right moment to eat at one of the most reputable Cantonese restaurants in Taipei, Yuxi. The meal started with a variety of delicious Cantonese dim sum. In addition, their famous banquet "Kung Fu dishes" are also highly recommended. What a wonderful experience that left a lingering fragrance in our mouths.

"Pantoh" is a traditional Taiwanese-Style Banquet typically held at the roadside for special

occasions. Eating the Pantoh feast is one of the most memorable growing-up common experience for us in Taiwan. In November the members gathered at the newly established Pantoh Academy which was founded by WTIC member Chris Chen. The Pantoh Academy presents the chef's profound culinary skills to a new level: "purchase and cook" the fresh ingredients the same day and create each cuisine's mellow taste as a seamless pair. The meal was a legendary banquet which left us with endless and memorable aftertaste.

The Gourmet Group will continue to look for the familiar good taste that soothes the soul, and decorate the gatherings of our group in 2024.

*By Sophia Chiang
Spouse of Representative
Taipei Mission in Sweden*



Sewing Group



We, primarily spouses of ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff, embarked on this journey 14 years ago. Fueled by a shared passion for fashion design and personalized garment making, we dove into the intricate world of sewing with no prior experience. Under the tutelage of teachers, we immersed ourselves in the minutiae of measurement, pattern making, fabric cutting, sewing machine operation, and more.

Over time, our dedication and perseverance led us to evolve from novices in basic stitching to adept practitioners of more complex techniques. Guided by the expertise of our teacher Mei-Ling Xiao 蕭美玲老師, we now possess the skills to bring almost any dress of our dreams to life. The joy derived from creating tangible, beautiful

pieces with our own hands became the driving force that propelled us through the challenges encountered along the way.

Today, we proudly showcase our talents through the exhibition of finished products, all crafted from fabrics generously donated by a friend of our esteemed teacher Mei-Ling Xiao 蕭美玲老師. The materials employed in our creations are curated based on the innovative concept of herbaceous plants tie-dyeing with indigo grass, as explained by the textile designer. Utilizing cotton fabric, the designer skillfully incorporates tie-dye patterns, presenting a modern, technological, market-oriented,





and mass-produced interpretation of natural patterns. Each garment serves as a testament to our collective journey, passion and newfound expertise in the art of sewing.

By Belinda Cheng



Table Tennis Group

I have a soft spot in my heart for table tennis and it has become a regular routine for me, no matter the weather or time of day. It's an activity that can be enjoyed by everyone, creating an inclusive space where players can forge connections and share in the thrill of the game.

Our group gets together every Friday at Ren-Ai Table Tennis Classroom. There are nine tables and everything you need to play, including an automatic ball serving machine for members to practice alone.

In January 2023 we bid farewell to our chairperson Patcharee (from Denmark), and in the summer, Ryuko (from Japan) who accompanied her husband to a new post overseas. Later in October, the wife of the representative of Japan, Masako (泉正子),



and in November, the wife of the representative of Mongolia, Ariunaa, also accompanied their husbands to new posts abroad. It was truly a pleasure to be able to connect through table tennis during their stay in Taipei. We miss them dearly and will treasure the friendship we formed.

Our table tennis group is a welcoming community that encourages regular practice and mutual support. Let's build connections through a shared enthusiasm, cheering each other on and growing together. Hope to see you at the Ren-Ai Table Tennis Classroom

By Tse -Yuan Shen Lin



Taichichuan Group

What is the Ice Cup doing in TaiChiChuan?

It is always exciting when we start a new semester in our class. We all look forward to finding out what we will learn next.

"This year we will be presenting a TaiChiFan (太極扇 tàijí shàn) performance," our honored teacher Alison Lin announced after spring break.

"Aha," I thought as I looked at our two energetic teachers Alison and our co-teacher Mei-Ting, "that looks easy and smooth!" But opening and closing the fan with pinpoint accuracy also takes a lot of practice.

After many dry practices, the wonderful music started and suddenly I could feel the vibrations of the music all the way to the fan. It is especially helpful that each movement has a special name that we students can easily

remember. And we like to call out, wā bīngqílín (挖冰淇淋) when it looks like we are scraping the scoop of ice cream from the bowl!

If you also enjoy learning such a specific, but also internationally known art of movement to achieve better inner stability and maintain health, we warmly welcome to our training.

We look forward to seeing you - every Thursday from 12:40 to 14:00.

By Christiane Blohm





Zumba Group

~ Fitness, Fun and Friendship ~

After moving to Taipei early this year, I thought I would be super lonely. Luckily, that soon changed after I met Katie our Zumba instructor who introduced me to WTIC .

Joining WTIC has been an exciting new chapter in my life. Besides Zumba, I play bridge and table tennis. I have developed new friendships with common interests.

The highlight for me was our Zumba Christmas performance. We looked like Yayoi Kusama's colorful dancing dots!

I look forward to all the WTIC classes and activities with anticipation and a smile!

By Tazeen Ahmed



WCI 16th Biennial International Conference 2024

April 14-18, 2024
Taipei, Taiwan ROC

Bridging International Friendship & Empowering Women Globally

INVITATION

Dear sister clubs members,

As the President of Welcome Clubs International, I hereby announce that the Welcome to Taipei International Club will host the 16th WCI Biennial Conference on April 14-18, 2024 in Taipei, Taiwan, ROC. WTIC President Joan Fuh and I cordially invite all members of the WCI affiliated clubs and their guests to come to Taipei to rejoice in friendships, and learn from one another. It was last in 2002 that WTIC had the privilege to host the Biennial Conference, so we are truly thrilled to have the honor to welcome you all again after two decades.

During the WCI Board of Directors & the Executive Committee meetings, and the plenary sessions; it's just the perfect time for all our sister clubs to showcase their achievements and experiences in enhancing our WCI common goal of building cross-cultural friendships and understanding, and empowering women around the world through education. To share our experiences from each sister club is definitely rewarding and valuable to us all.

We have booked a block of rooms at the heritage Howard Plaza Hotel Taipei at the most favorable room rate - the hotel is located at the very heart of the city, accessible by stations on two metro lines within a few minutes' walk. Taipei is a super convenient city with free Wi-Fi everywhere – equipped with a hotel tourist map, your travel companion will have a lot to do while you are in meetings.

Beyond the meetings, discussions and keynote speech, we have planned many cultural and interesting trips and programs for you. As for the Farewell Dinner, we invite our sister clubs to contribute a few performing numbers to add some spice and bring the conference to a perfect closure. Lastly, we highly recommend you to register ASAP for the top-notch Lion Travel Agency's 3-day Scenic East Coast Package. Details regarding the conference programs, trip itinerary and optional Post Conference Travel to East Coast, etc., will be all available at www.wciclubs.org.



Dear friends, we look forward to seeing you.

Warmest Regards,

Vivienne Shen

WCI President

Joan Fuh

WTIC President

1. Registration Google Form link: <https://forms.gle/6TYXNPUCaAR8xY8H7>

2. Howard Plaza Hotel Booking Link:

<https://onlinebooking.howard-hotels.com.tw//Event?activityNo=92&hotel=TP&lang=2>





(Promo Code: 2024WCI)



WCI 16th Biennial International Conference

April 14 - 18, 2024 - Taipei, Taiwan ROC

Program

			
<p>16:00-18:00 Registration & Reception</p> <p>18:00-21:00 Opening & Welcome Banquet</p> <p>*Performance of Taiwanese Suite by pianist Yi-Chih Lu (盧易之)</p> <p>*Welcome Address by -WCI President Vivienne Shen -WTIC President Joan Fuh</p> <p>*VIP(s) Remarks</p> <p>*Presentation of the WCI Marian Adair Award</p> <p>*Performance by Yu-Sen Chu (朱育陞) & Chainmaker Ensemble (成美室內樂)</p> <p>*Saxophone Performance by Mu-Yue Saxophone Group of Zonta Taoyuan (崇她桃園社沐樂薩克斯風團)</p>	<p>09:30-10:30 Executive Committee Meeting</p> <p>10:30-11:00 Coffee Break</p> <p>11:00-12:00 Board Meeting</p> <p>12:00-13:30 Light Lunch at the hotel</p> <p>13:30-14:00 Coffee Break</p> <p>14:00-15:00 Plenary Meeting *Opening Remark – by WCI President Vivienne Shen *Keynote Speech – by Dr. Jungsook Kim, President of Welcome to Korea International Club: Bridging International Friendship and Empowering Women Globally as President of International Council of Women</p> <p>15:00-15:20 Coffee Break</p> <p>15:20-17:00 Sister Club Reports</p> <p>18:00-20:00 Dinner at the hotel</p>	<p>09:30-10:00 Depart Howard Plaza Hotel</p> <p>10:00-11:30 Visit Ching-Kuo Chi-Hai Cultural Park</p> <p>11:30-11:45 Depart Ching-Kuo Chi-Hai Cultural Park</p> <p>11:45-13:30 Lunch at the Grand Hotel Taipei</p> <p>13:30-14:00 Depart Grand Hotel Taipei</p> <p>14:00-15:30 Visit National Palace Museum</p> <p>15:30-16:30 Shop for Souvenirs</p> <p>16:30-17:00 Depart National Palace Museum</p> <p>17:00-18:00 View Taipei City from the 89th floor Observatory at Taipei 101</p> <p>18:00-19:00 Dinner at Din Tai Fung Restaurant</p> <p>19:00-19:30 Leave Taipei 101 for Howard Plaza Hotel</p>	<p>10:00-11:30 Round Table Discussion - WCI & ECOSOC</p> <p>11:30-11:50 Adopt Resolution on Climate Change</p> <p>12:00-13:00 Light Lunch at the Hotel</p> <p>13:00-16:00 Free Time</p> <p>18:00-20:00 Closing & Farewell Party –</p> <p>*Closing Remarks by -WCI President Vivienne Shen -WTIC President Joan Fuh -WCI Founder's Representative Caroline Adair Dimmers</p> <p>*Program Performance -Sister Clubs Performance</p> <p>*Farewell Dinner</p> <p>*Presentation of "Welcome to Jakarta" by Women's International Club Jakarta</p>

conference schedule subject to slight changes

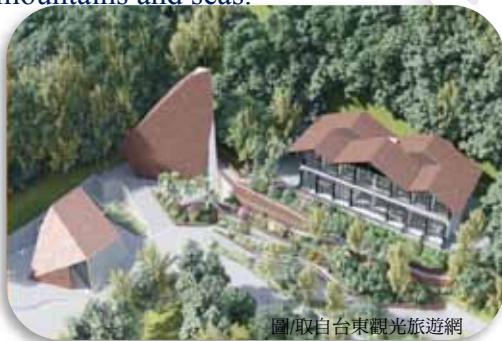
POST CONFERENCE TRIP-- Taiwan East Coast National Scenic Area by The Future Express, April 18-20, 2024

The Future Express won Japan “Good Design Award” in 2020 & the German “IF Gold Award” & “Service Experience Design Award” in 2023



The train trail overlooks the coast and Guishan (Turtle) Island, Traveling across TAROKO National Park and Yanzikou Gorge

See the most beautiful buildings and art works in Taiwan at Paul Chiang Art Center, surrounded by mountains and seas.



Amis Folklore Center with fabulous Kakeng Performance
Visit Taitung Tourist Night Market & Tiehua Music Village

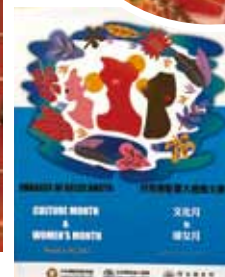


Tune in to the history of Japanese and Fujian Architecture at GUOBEN FARM. The building is a snapshot of life during the Japanese colonial period.

Experience the historical space of Taitung’s local culture; Meditate and taste Taitung’s hand-brewed tea.

conference program and post conference trip photos and information are prepared by WCI 2024 conference organizing committee members Jye Lee and Teresa Zhang

Opening Ceremony of Belize Culture Month and Women's Month Exhibit



On March 2, WTIC Honorary Member Ambassador Candice Pitts of Belize inaugurated the Belize Culture Month and Women's Month exhibit at the National Central Library. In celebration of 2023 International Women's Day, the month-long exhibition recognizes and highlights contribution by women to Belizean culture, history and development. The exhibition includes artwork by Belizean women artists, woven tapestry by Belizean Indigenous Mayan women, and sculptures that celebrate the beauty of Belizean women.

International Women's Day honors the cultural, economic, historical and political accomplishments of women all over the world. The 2023 Women's Day theme embraces equity for women. Ambassador Pitts, herself, is an accomplished diplomat, politician and educator. She was among a very small number of women elected to public office in Belize. She was and remains a strong advocate on women empowerment and children welfare programs. During the opening ceremony, Ambassador Pitts, along with our WTIC immediate past-President Jeannie Tien, Honorary Member Ambassador Andrea Bowman, and several other women in the foreign

service community received a Mayan table runner recognizing their valuable contributions to society and the world.

By Judy Chow



The 24th Federation of Asia-Pacific Women's Association (FAWA) Convention in Tokyo 2023

Women as the Key Force - For Change in the Asia Pacific Region

The 24th FAWA Convention was held in Tokyo, Japan from September 15 to 18, 2023. There were more than 315 attendees from Philippines, Guam, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, ROC Taiwan and Japan. The convention programs included: opening and closing ceremonies; keynote and guest speeches addressed to advocate the equality of women's

status; country report by each attending country in regard to each country's current situation of women's status; election of the 2023-2025 member-at-large and executive board members and the installation of 2023-2025 executive board; workshop and passing of convention resolutions.

*By Joan Fuh
President of WTIC*



2023 General Assembly at National Council of Women, ROC

On December 16th, 2023, Welcome to Taipei International Club (WTIC) actively participated in the 2023 General Assembly of the National Council of Women Taiwan, ROC (NCW). Ten dedicated members from WTIC were present at both the meeting and the subsequent post-meeting luncheon.

WTIC had the distinct honor of having its President, Joan Fuh, Supervisor Vivienne Shen (representing Zonta International District 31),

and Director Melody Yang elected as the next directors of the NCW. This achievement reflects WTIC's commitment to contributing to national and international platforms.

During the assembly, I had the privilege of representing WTIC to deliver a comprehensive and purposeful report on our 2023 work priorities. The focus was on promoting cultural exchanges and fostering international friendship, aligning with WTIC's core values. We look

forward to continued collaboration and growth in the coming year.

By Olivia Jen



Special Events

“My Second Home”

Solo and Collective Exhibitions by Celina Hoyos

On 18 August 2020 I was attending a WTIC Annual Lecture and Tea Party on the topic “Taiwan Bar, Universe,” by Ms. Jia Jia Chang. At the Tea Party, Teresa Zhang provided me with the WTIC Membership Directory, and I immediately started checking out the Interest Groups. My eyes brightened when I saw the Chinese Brush Painting Group! I had been trying to learn Chinese for a year, but I have never been good at learning languages. So, I figured, another way to fully apprehend local culture is art.

I asked Teresa about this painting class, and she told me that if I managed to gather five students, they would open the class. I was so excited, since I saw that as the key to learn more about Taiwan and its culture, history, and society!

I went to work and recruited six students, plus my son: eight students in total. As promised, Teresa Zhang opened the class, and we met our wonderful teacher, Wang Jyn-Tzy, while Teresa Li would perform as our chaperon and translator.

I started learning the basics of Chinese brush painting: how to hold the brush, how to do the strokes, how to correctly move the whole body while stamping the paint on the canvass. I got started through depicting bamboo leaves. It looked easy at first, but it was not! This culture is indeed beautiful, but not easy to grasp. Thus, I began to work every single day, practicing three to four hours per day. I



did thousands of bamboo leaves, but success still looked pretty far away. So, I kept practicing more and more.

I must confess that I do not feel able to portray images like master Wang. Yet, I try to do it as close as possible, although within the unavoidable influence and limits of my Latin style and upbringing.

As I was struggling to improve, I met an art lover and promoter from Kaohsiung, Emma Li. She invited me, towards the end of 2021, to participate at an

international exhibition. Quite honestly, I felt a bit belittled: How could I pretend to be placed next to a Taiwanese artist with my very basic Chinese painting? I was very scared and talking one day with my dear friend Teresa Li about this invitation, I shared my fears and insecurity with her. Among other words of encouragement, Teresa said to me: “Don’t be afraid, you have your own style, and you are a good student.” That is how I came to finally say yes to my first exhibition: “2021 Surging Wave International Contemporary Art Exchange Exhibiton”. After that, Emma Li invited me again to participate at a new collective exhibit, this time in Taoyuan, called “International Journey of Ink-Like Exhibition”.

In April 2022, a young art entrepreneur from Guatemala, Alejandra Sánchez, wrote to me and introduced herself as a curator who was preparing a new exhibition within a project called “Time Raiser,” in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture, the



“Mono Collection,” and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. She mentioned that she was buying art pieces from artists living in Taiwan and asked me whether I had any pieces to sell. After we personally met, she picked one of my paintings and bought the first painting I ever sold: “*Landing at the Center of Diversity*.”

On 14 Mach 2023 Alejandra Sánchez wrote to me again and told me that she had two new projects in mind, both under the topic called “*My Second Home*”: the first, to set up a solo exhibition showcasing samples of artworks and artistic styles from various places where I had lived, starting, of course, with Taiwan. (This was inaugurated on 8 June 2023 at the Mexico Trade Services, Documentation and Cultural Office, and was held until the end of July). The second, a collective participating with other Latin American artists living in Taiwan, where a selection of my Chinese Brush Painting works would be displayed. This latter one was programmed for a one-week duration at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in September 2023.



Teresa Zhang, Professor Wang Chih-tzu, Teresa Li, and all my dear WTIC sisters, thank you for allowing me to steal a little bit of Taiwan’s soul, through the knowledge of its art.

I will continue cultivating this ancient and rich artistic expression for years to come. Chinese painting might be centuries old, but I believe it continues to blossom through the resilience and disciplined practice of motivated newcomers hoping to master its technique.

By Celina Hoyos

*Spouse of Head of Mexico Trade Services,
Documentation and Culture Office*



◀ 多久了？
How Long Has It Been?
紙本水墨 Ink on paper
68.5×34 cm 2022



▶ 生命流淌
As Life Flows
紙本水墨 Ink on paper
68.5×34 cm 2022



墨西哥 MEXICO
雪莉娜
CELINA HOYOS



▼ 當我想起你時
While I Think of You
紙本水墨 Ink on paper
34×68.5 cm 2022



Special Events

“From Strokes to Shapes: My Three-year Brush with Taiwan”

Exhibition of Hua Niao Paintings by Harsha Dass
July 7 – 14, 2023, 1F Gallery, National Central Library



We moved to Taiwan in July of 2020 and even before we were done with our mandatory quarantine, WTIC had emailed to our office the membership form with details about their various interest groups.

I joined the Chinese brush painting interest group. The first few classes were about making ink and using it to draw bamboo leaf and well as learning how to clean and organize the materials. I was eager, interested and enthusiastic.

Six months later, we were still doing bamboo leaves, now in clusters, and I was convinced I would leave Taiwan only with a bunch of bamboo leaves in ink. But soon we moved on to butterfly, sparrow and a wide variety of flowers. With extra hours of practice at home, the class seemed to be moving forward at a reasonable pace.

The annual Christmas lunch gave us an opportunity to exhibit our work and the first year I proudly displayed a solitary bamboo. By the second year, I was showing chrysanthemum with sparrow. The third and my last year, I showed rose, morning glory and lotus!

The best was however, yet to come. Our teacher Wang Laoshi noticed a sudden improvement in my work and she agreed to

teach some of the more difficult subjects. I was more than happy to put in the additional effort as it was not easy to find artists like her.

By God's grace, blessings and support from family and friends, I showed my paintings to the public at an exhibition in the Gallery at the National Central Library.

As I leave Taiwan, I know that this is just the beginning of my fascination with Chinese paintings. The more I learn, the more aware I become of how little I know. I look forward with a sense of anticipation, excitement and awareness of the challenges that lie ahead.

I am indebted to WTIC and wish them the very best.

Thank you WTIC

Thank you Taiwan



*By Harsha Dass
Spouse of Director General
India-Taipei Association*



See you again, my dear friends

Time flies when we are learning, sharing and exploring together. It's time to say goodbye to special members who left Taiwan in 2023. Thank you for joining the WTIC family and sharing your culture and friendship with all of us. Your contributions to WTIC are what makes our club special and strong. We hope memories of your WTIC sisters will always bring a smile to your face. You will remain in our hearts and our friendship remains strong.



Mairue, Mookda — Belgium

When I first arrived in Taiwan, I could not join any activity because of COVID. Taking part in the WTIC activities, I felt so warm and accepted. Everyone is so kind. Now, I don't want to go home, I wish I could stay longer! Thank you from my heart for your friendship.



Caspi, Galit — Isreal



Thank you very much to all my friends at WTIC. When we received the news of our posting I cried because I didn't know anything about Taiwan and didn't speak the language, not the people. But now, I'm crying again because I am leaving to go home. There will not be another place like Taiwan; the people, the traditions, the culture are so unique. We found a home in Taiwan. When we leave, a piece of my heart will remain in Taiwan!



Dass, Harsha — India

It was my honor to be a WTIC member during the past two years. Especially, I must thank former President Jeannie Tien and all the other delightful WTIC members for giving me the opportunity to see Taiwan from different & splendid aspects. I will treasure all the memories, and hope to see you all again in the near future.



Izumi, Masako — Japan

Thank you WTIC for your support to me during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your companionship made my stay in Taiwan not just safe but also incredibly enjoyable, whether it was engaging in bridge games, playing ping pong, exploring museums or new sights. Every moment spent with you was a treasure in itself. Your friendship means a lot to me, and I will cherish these memories forever. I look forward to the day when we can reunite and create more wonderful memories together. Thank you from my heart for your friendship.



Bold-Erdene, Ariunaa—Mongolia



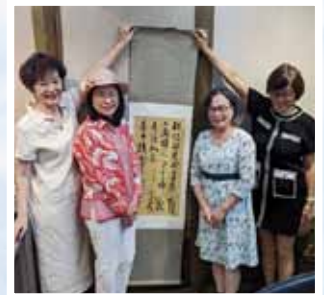
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Janprajak, Achara—Thailand



I have been grateful and very happy to get to know all WTIC members. As we have grown closer through shared activities, it is everyone's friendship, generosity and sincerity that touched me deeply and foremost. My time in Taiwan has been filled with wonderful experiences and memories and I will cherish them always. If you ever have a chance to go to Thailand, whether for pleasure or business, please do not hesitate to text me so we can meet again. Lastly, I would like to wish all my WTIC friends a happy and healthy life. Till we meet again.



Olaechea Schaefer, Maria Elena—Peru



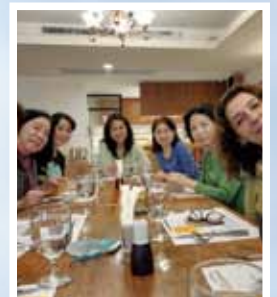
When I think about my time here, my heart is filled with happiness because everyone has been such a good friend to me. I take with me the most beautiful and amazing memories of Taiwan. It feels like my second home because every time I come back to Taiwan, I feel comfortable and safe. Thank you!



Marukami, Ryuko—Taiwan, ROC



It was my honor to be a WTIC member during the past two years. Especially, I must thank former President Jeannie Tien and all the other delightful WTIC members for giving me the opportunity to see Taiwan from different & splendid aspects. I will treasure all the memories, and hope to see you all again in the near future.





Welcome Clubs International Member Clubs



BRAZIL

International Women's Club
of Porto Alegre

GERMANY

- International Women's Club of
Hamburg e.V.
- Anglo-German
International Women's Association e. V

INDONESIA

Women's International Club Jakarta

ISRAEL

The International Women's Club- Israel

KOREA

Welcome to Korea International Club

REPUBLIC OF CHINA [Taiwan]

Welcome to Taipei International Club

TURKEY

Welcome to Turkish Cyprus Club

UNITED KINGDOM

- Welcome to London International Club
- FIWAL – Federation of International
Women's Associations in London

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA :

- Women's International Border Club
- Welcome to California International
Club

COLORADO :

Welcome to Colorado International Club

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA :

Welcome to Washington International Club

FLORIDA :

- Broward International Women's Club
Ft. Lauderdale
- Welcome to Florida International Club
Naples, Marco Island, Bonita Springs

MAINE :

International Women's Club of
New England

PENNSYLVANIA :

International Women's Club of
Philadelphia

GUAM :

Chinese Ladies' Association of Guam

We are women from different countries sharing
the same goal of promoting international friendship...



WTIC Board of Directors and Supervisors 2023-2025



Welcome to Taipei International Club

台北市迎新會

Bem-vindo

Bienvenido Üdvözöljük Fáilte

ยินดีต้อนรับ Laipni lūdzam Benvenuto

Selamat datang أهلا ب Hoş geldin

Welcome

Bienvenue

歡迎

어서 오십시오

Witamy

Välkommen

Vítejte Maligayang pagdating

Chào mừng Табтай морил

Benarrivata ברוך הבא

いらっしやいます

Willkommen

स्वागत



*Women from all over the world share the same interest,
wherever they may come from and wherever they may be.*

