

COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF SMEA VISITED TKU

Three committee members of the Small and Medium Enterprise Administration (SMEA) under the Ministry of Economics Affairs (MOEA) visited Champion Incubator Center at Tamsui Campus on October 1. They spoke to the enterprises incubated or assisted by TKU and were impressed by the Center's achievement in the past one year. They also recommended TKU to encourage its students to develop entrepreneurship and increase the involvement of faculty in various projects.

The three members visited Tamkang were Chen Der-hwa, the Head of the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education; Du Zi-jun, the Head of the Department of Commerce of MOEA and Huang Rong-ji, a Business Administration professor from the Northern Taiwan Institute of Science and Technology. TKU's Kao Po-yuan, the Vice President of Administrative Affairs, Lin Kuang-nan, the Director of the Office of Research & Development, and Kao Huey-chuen, the Director of the Champion Incubator Center were there to receive them. Chen Der Hwa told TKU representatives: "Tamkang has always been very realistic in its management and operations so that with some more coherence in policy, it can maximize the power of Incubation Center by combining the University's vast resources". He sincerely hopes that the University will indeed use its unique advantage in R&D to promote entrepreneurship among students in order to tighten the links between academic world and enterprises.

Similarly, the other two members, Du and Huang, suggested the University to push more students to start up businesses and encourage the involvement of faculty members. Du went further to emphasize the urgency of organizing more seminars on start-up businesses for seniors and graduate students. Furthermore, faculty members need to think beyond the Ivory Tower, finding ways connecting with the business world to foster a constructive

relationship.

More specifically, Du believes that when the Incubator Center is formally merged into the University administration system, there will be more coherence and incentives for the members, who will be on the University payroll, to stay on. In this way, there will be less manpower fluctuation and more tangible results can be delivered.

Professor Huang added that as the Center had excellent records in helping small businesses apply for SBIR research projects, the Center should help them expand their sources of funding, too. For instance, application to institutions such as National Science Council or Industrial Development Bureau, and other awards and prizes for funding should be strongly recommended. Furthermore, the Center needs to be more selective in the businesses it intends to incubate or assist so that companies with real potential can benefit.

In return, Kao Po-yuan, the Vice President of AF was grateful to their recommendations and vowed to launch some aggressive campaigns to raise awareness among students and teachers, combine the vast resources from both the Colleges of Business and Management and strengthen assistance to businesses. Finally, he pointed out a possibility of setting a special 'window' at the Taipei Campus, dealing with the business world for better communication.

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