

## **The 2012 Expatriate Youth Taiwan Study Tour**

On Jan 3, 119 students from Central and South America arrived in Taiwan. The students are of Chinese background but have grown up overseas, in countries such as Brazil, Panama, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and New Zealand. They are here on a Youth Study Tour, a 21 day travel program organized by the Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission and Tamkang University' s Division of Continuing Education.

During the 21 day program, students will visit famous destinations around Taiwan and truly experience the local Taiwanese culture. They will take tours of the Office of the President and the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall; see the bustling night views from Taipei 101 and Ximending; head to Taichung and Taoyuan to experience local Hokkien and Hakka cultures; view cultural relics in the old Taiwanese capital, Tainan; experience the lifestyle at traditional Taiwanese fishing villages; See the dazzling lights at Kaohsiung' s Ai River, Southern Taiwan; then head Northeast, to view the rural beauty of Taiwan' s East Coast. Finally, students will return to Tamsui, to see why it has become a popular international tourist destination.

For many of the participants, this will be their first time taking part in Chinese New Year and witnessing the myriad of boisterous processions that accompany a major election. The first thing that the visitors noticed upon arriving was the friendly, helpful attitude of the volunteering Tamkang tour guides.

The Director of the TKU Division of Continuing Education, Chou Hsiang-hua, noted that Tamkang volunteers went through a process of screening and then

over one month of intensive training to prepare for their task of welcoming and looking after the visiting students. The carefully organized itinerary and stringent training of local volunteers was part of a planned preparation phase that will ensure the visiting students see the true beauty of Formosa.

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