

Cultural Cities Reunite: Tamkang and Trier University Strengthen Academic Exchange

On April 1, Prof. Dr. Eva Martha Eckkrammer, President of the University of Trier in Germany, led a delegation to visit Tamkang University's College of Foreign Languages and Literatures. The visit focused on discussions regarding future academic exchange, student mobility, and collaborative programs. Dean Yi-Ti Lin, Department of German Chair Assoc. Prof. Yu-Hsien Lin, Department of French Chair Prof. Boileau Gilles, German Professor Wan-Bau Wu, Associate Professor Holger Steidele, and Japanese Professor Chiu-Kuei Tseng warmly received the delegation. Both sides engaged in-depth discussions on academic cooperation, faculty and student exchange, and research development. The delegation was deeply impressed by the College's hospitality and Tamkang's commitment to educational excellence. They will continue visiting the National Taiwan University, National Cheng Kung University, and the Ministry of Education to further explore Taiwan-Germany higher education cooperation opportunities.

The visiting delegation included Prof. Dr. Andreas Regelsberger, Dean of the Faculty of Linguistics, Literature, and Media; Prof. Dr. Christian Soffel, Chair of Sinology; and Ms. Birgit Roser, Director of the International Office. The meeting began with Prof. Dr. Eckkrammer introducing Trier University's academic strengths spanning languages, humanities, law, and sciences. She emphasized the university's transnational academic alliance with institutions in Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and Saarland University, providing international students with rich learning resources. She also shared the cultural background of Trier, a UNESCO World Heritage City, expressing hope that more Tamkang students will study abroad there and that diversified, practical collaboration channels will further academic exchanges between the two universities.

Dean Yi-Ti Lin gave a detailed overview of Tamkang University's globalization and the distinctive features of the College of Foreign Languages. She expressed strong interest in establishing a long-term partnership through cooperation agreements, mutual faculty visits, student exchanges, and interdisciplinary research. Prof. Boileau Gilles and Prof. Dr. Christian Soffel exchanged views on Chinese language teaching. Prof. Soffel praised TKU's excellence in traditional Chinese instruction and recognition as a certified Safe Campus, which aligns well with their standards for a secure and effective learning environment. He noted plans to send students to Tamkang for study and teaching experience. He welcomed TKU master's students with Chinese teaching certification to study at the University of Trier under the MOE Chinese Teaching Assistantship Scholarship Program. Ms. Birgit Roser wanted to expand student exchange quotas and deepen academic and student collaboration between the institutions.

Prof. Wan-Bau Wu shared that the collaboration with the University of Trier began during his studies in Germany when he lived in Trier and developed a deep connection to the city. He has visited the university many times, laying the foundation for academic exchange. During his tenure as college dean, he actively promoted a summer cultural camp at Trier, which helped pave the way for the formal sister school partnership. Prof. Chiu-Kuei Tseng, Director of the Center for Murakamiharuki Studies at Tamkang University, held a scholarly exchange in Japanese with Prof. Dr. Andreas Regelsberger, who is well-versed in Japanese language and literature. She also extended a heartfelt invitation for him to join an upcoming international conference at Tamkang in May, further promoting intercultural academic collaboration.

Founded in 1473, the University of Trier is in Trier, Germany's oldest city, famous for its Roman ruins and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Nestled

in the scenic Moselle Valley, the university offers a beautiful campus that blends rich historical heritage with a modern academic atmosphere, attracting scholars and students worldwide to explore knowledge and broaden their horizons. Though closed in the 18th century, it was re-established in 1970 and has since developed rapidly into a modern comprehensive university with strengths in humanities and social sciences. It offers various disciplines, including languages, literature, history, law, economics, social sciences, data science, and environmental studies. Its cross-border alliance with institutions in Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and Saarland University enhances its international cooperation and exchange programs. Notably, the University of Trier is home to one of Germany's most important centers for Sinology and has long played a key role in fostering Taiwan-Germany academic exchanges, serving as a vital global platform for Chinese language learning and research.

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The President of Trier University, Prof. Dr. Eva Martha Eckkrammer (4th from right), led a delegation to visit the College of Foreign Languages and Literatures, where they were received by TKU Dean Yi-Ti Lin (5th from right).

The two universities discussed the possibilities of collaboration through various channels.



Prof. Dr. Eva Martha Eckkrammer (left) presented Dean Yi-Ti Lin with a bottle of wine specially brewed by Trier University.