Study Tour to Taiwan from 30 May to 5 June 2013

The Annual Study Tour organized by The Department of Building Services Engineering (BSE) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) was held from 30 May to 5 June 2013 in Taiwan. A group of PolyU BSE undergraduate students, led by 12 BSE academic staff members, participated in the tour.

PolyU-BSE students and staff visit at National Taipei University of Technology (NTUT)

After arriving in Taipei on 30 May 2013, PolyU BSE students and staff visited to The National Taipei University of Technology (NTUT). It is located in the Daan District of Taipei City, Taiwan. The origin of NTUT could be traced back to the establishment of the School of Industrial Instruction in 1912. NTUT is one of the leading universities in Taiwan and is ranked one of the top 100 universities in Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2013.

Warm welcome and University introduction by NTUT staff
Immediately after landing, PolyU BSE representatives were warmly welcomed by NTUT staff and students. After that, the Head of BSE Professor W.K. CHOW, Associate Head Professor Simon DENG, BSE staff Professor T.M. CHUNG, Professor DU Yaping, Professor MAK Check Ming, Dr. CHEN Mingli and Dr. Gigi LUI, gave a presentation about departmental research areas to the NTUT staff and students.

BSE representatives then visited the College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and had deep interactions with the Department of Energy and Refrigerating Air-Conditioning Engineering (ERACE) at NTUT. ERACE was the first academic department in Taiwan to offer an education programme in air-conditioning and refrigerating. For more than 30 years, ERACE has been playing an important role in the industrial development of Taiwan. ERACE currently offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral degree courses to foster well-equipped students to meet the needs of the industry. BSE and ERACE staff exchanged views on academic issues and they are ready for closer ties between each other.

PolyU-BSE staff visited the College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering
On Day 2, BSE representatives participated in a guided site visit at Taipei 101. Taipei 101 is a landmark skyscraper in Taiwan and had been the tallest building in the world from 2004 to 2010. Taipei 101 comprises 101 floors above ground and 5 floors underground. "101" also symbolizes high ideals by going one better on 100, which is a traditional number of perfection. BSE representatives were given a very good opportunity to visit Taipei 101's Waste Handling Centre, Air-ventilation Systems and Control Panel. Through the visit to Taipei 101, BSE students understood more about how building services engineering techniques and theories were applied in the real world. BSE staff were happy to see that students were very interested in the site visit.
To strengthen the relationship between BSE and NTUT and to cultivate friendship among the students, there was an entertainment session with BSE students singing songs on stage and NTUT students dancing. Students from both sides had a good chance to exchange ideas and appreciate the cultural difference between Hong Kong and Taiwan. The student-activity session was full of joy and laughter.

Taiwan's traditional folk dance performances

On-stage performance by PolyU-BSE students

Students from PolyU-BSE and NTUT

In the next day afternoon, BSE representatives joined a guided ERACE laboratory tour at NTUT. NTUT staff had an experimental demonstration to BSE staff and they shared research and teaching experience with each other.

ERACE laboratory tour

Experimental demonstration to PolyU-BSE staff
The Annual Study Tour ended on 5 June 2013 and was a great success. Every participant enjoyed the trip very much. BSE would like to thank NTUT for its support and arrangement. BSE is looking forward to more future collaboration opportunities with NTUT.

All PolyU-BSE staff and students enjoyed the trip in Taiwan