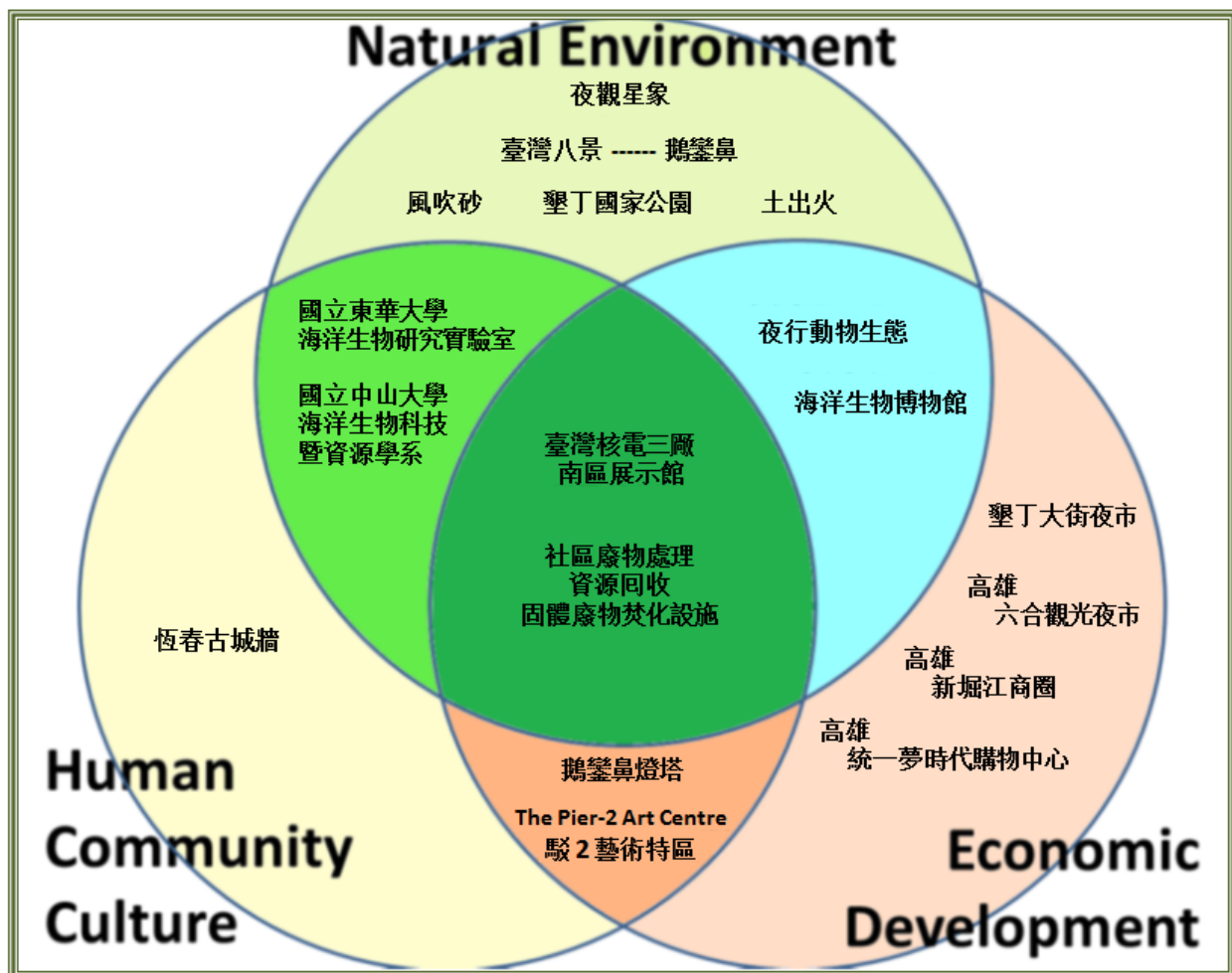


## Environmental Management and Conservation Study Tour to Southern Taiwan - 2017

As part of the curriculum, students of Environmental Studies in Community College of City University (CCCU) have visited various conservation and environmental protection works and facilities in Hong Kong. Supported by the CCCU Quality Campus Life Fund, a group of 29 students participated in an environmental management and conservation study tour to Southern Taiwan from 5 to 9 of June, 2017.

The itinerary of the study tour had been carefully designed so that the three pillars of sustainable development of human community --- namely natural environment, socially desirable living, and economic viability --- and also their interdependencies and mutual reinforcements were equally emphasized.



The highlights of the study tour were the visits to the sustainability constructions and implementations such as Taiwan Power Company Southern Exhibition Centre (臺灣核電三廠南區展示館) and the Environmental Protection Bureau of Kaohsiung City Government (高雄市政府環境保護局), and the visits to the marine life research centres of two universities namely National Dong Hwa University (國立東華大學) and National Sun-Yat-Sen University (國立中山大學).

Solid waste management is one of the most pressing environmental issues in Hong Kong. Facing the unbearable growing volume, the public environmental policy has determined that “burning” would be a promising alternative to alleviate the pressure on landfills. The necessary budget has also been appropriated in Legislative Council. On completion of the project, it will be a state-of-the-art solid waste incinerator together with an electricity power generation facility. By visiting the Southern District Waste Management Plant of the Environmental Protection Bureau of Kaohsiung City Government (高雄市政府環境保護局南區資源回收廠), our students had the chance to see such a



“live-working” prototype which has already been operating for 18



years. There, we were elucidated the Kaohsiung government policy on municipal solid waste management and resource recycling. We were then toured round the incinerator building (固體廢物焚化設施), where we saw directly the logistics and operations of a solid waste incinerator. Not only does it manage the municipal solid waste, the incinerator also supplies its own electrical power as well as feeds the surplus electricity, so generated by burning the disposals, to the city power grid serving tens of thousands families in Kaohsiung City sustainably in terms of both energy supply and disposal management.



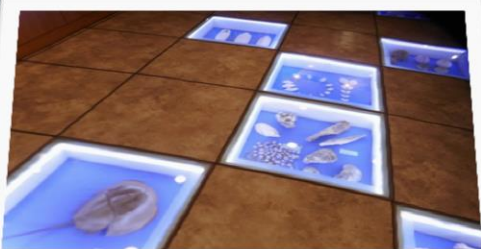
Like many other advanced areas, Taiwan explores all possible means of supplying power to meet the high electricity demands. Along





with the persisting efforts in developing renewable energy applications, Taiwan also makes use of nuclear energy to supply power. At the Taiwan Power Company Southern Exhibition Centre (臺灣核電三廠南區展示館), we were introduced the features and specifications of the nuclear power plant in terms of its power generation, safety measures as well as environmental protection implementations. We learned about the role played by, and the importance of, the application of

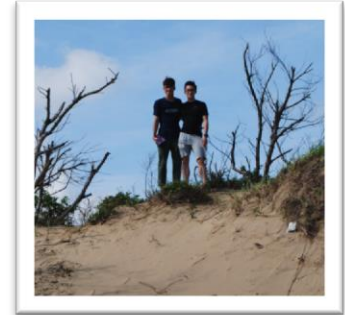
nuclear power technology in meeting the energy requirements of the city. With adequate environmental protection policy and strict operation discipline, it showcases the feasibility of co-existence of nuclear power plants and renewable energy facilities, sustainably supporting socially desirable living and economic activities while neither damaging nor exerting noticeably pressure on the natural environment. Moreover, it also demonstrates an environmental policy based on mutual benefit, coupling with a comprehensive and agreeable compensation and relocation scheme, would greatly enhance the efficiency of implementing sustainability facilities in a densely populated city.





Being located in cities along the sea coast, universities in Kaohsiung (高雄) and Kenting (墾丁) are renowned in their academic work on marine lives. Taking the opportunity of this study tour to these two cities, we paid visits to National Dong Hwa University – Marine Biology Laboratory (國立東華大學 - 海洋生物研究實驗室) and National Sun-Yat-Sen University – Department of Oceanography (國立中山大學 - 海洋生物科技暨資源學系), where we learned about the contemporary researches on the science and conservation of marine lives, the wisdom of which contributes to the bearable interdependency between the natural environmental conservation and human community cultivation.

Kenting (墾丁) is at the south tip of Taiwan island. Because of its geographical location, in Kenting National Park (墾丁國家公園), we observed the coast cliffs and some unique geological characteristics of the rock and sand in that location --- Fengchueisha (風吹砂), which are formed by thousands of years of sea winds blowing from both Pacific Ocean and South China Sea. The Henchun Chuhuo (Eternal Flame) Special Scenic (出火特別景觀) is another natural scene of geology in Kenting (墾丁). The geological structure of the mudstone under the soil contains many fissures through which, natural gas from deep earth seeps up to the surface slowly but uninterruptedly. Once ignited, the fire flares continuously on this piece of otherwise deadly rough sand ground.

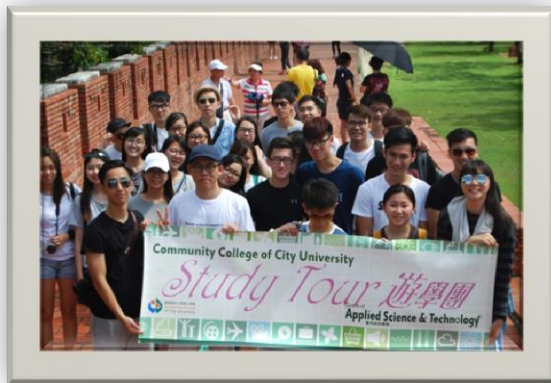


Biodiversity is believed to be an indispensable aspect of the nature of the earth world, conservation of which is to let the nature's "invisible hand" to adjust its pivoting position. This study tour served also an ecological appreciation of biodiversity in southern Taiwan. Terrestrial biodiversity in wildlife was observed after sunset when we went to Sheding Natural Park (社頂自然公園) which is a biodiversity protection zone. There, we saw that many reptiles and insects are preferably active in dark environment (夜行動物生態) while hiding up themselves during the day in order to avoid exposing to predators.

Marine life biodiversity was observed in the National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium (國立海洋生物博物館) (NMMBA).



As a matter of fact, NMMBA operates beyond merely an aquarium. It is, in effect, an all rounded “live-institute” of general education on marine life to the general public. Moreover, both Sheding Natural Park (社頂自然公園) and National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium (國立海洋生物博物館) are major tourist attractions in Kenting (墾丁), supporting the eco-tourism of Kenting (墾丁) to realize the viability of mutual reinforcement between natural conservation and economic development.



While natural conservation was the main concern, cultural conservation had been equally emphasized by visiting to the cultural heritages, both ancient and recent, at there. Walking up the Hengchun Town-wall (恒春古城牆), we felt a “mind travel” back to the ancient history of the southern part of Taiwan. Arriving at the foot of the Eluenbi Lighthouse (鵝鑾鼻燈塔), we learned about the modern history of Taiwan.

Standing high in Eluenbi Park (鵝鑾鼻公園) on Cape Eluanbi (鵝鑾鼻), Eluenbi Lighthouse (鵝鑾鼻燈塔) has been the major source of warning signals for near-coast voyages, safeguarding the sailing of vessels travelling across the southern tip of Taiwan island ever since its first day of operation in 1883, and today it is still shining every night. On the one hand, it is a historical monument of a human



cultural heritage. And on the other hand, being honoured "The Light of East Asia" because its intensity is the most powerful among Taiwan lighthouses, Eluenbi Lighthouse (鵝鑾鼻燈塔) is also a demonstration of the technological wisdom of our ancestors.



We also witnessed the vitalization of modern human cultural works to become commercially viable items at the Pier-2 Art Centre (駁 2 藝術特區). Cultural conservation does not necessarily mean old and obsolete. Both Eluenbi Lighthouse (鵝鑾鼻燈塔) and Pier-2 Art Centre (駁 2 藝術特區) materialize equitable fusion of human community culture and economic activities.



Economic development is one of the three pillars of sustainable development of human communities. We tasted local “street side-dishes (街頭小食)” in night markets such as Kenting Night Market (墾丁大街夜市), Kaohsiung Liouhe Tourist Night Market (高雄六合觀光夜市), and Shinkuchan Shopping Street (高雄新堀江商圈), and also shopped in “landmark” malls such as Kaohsiung Dream Mall (高雄統一夢時代購物中心).



While we were enjoying the fun of tasting at street stalls and consuming in shopping centres, we understood that adequate economic activities contribute equitably the mutual reinforcement between advancement and social well-being on the one hand; while we were gazing-stars (觀星) in Sheding Natural Park (社頂自然公園) and watching sea-waves at Kenting Dawan Beach (墾丁大灣沙灘), we appreciated that “sustainability-sensible-and-caring” economic activities also corroborate viable interdependency between environmental conservation and product/wealth creation on the other hand.



The activities of this study tour allowed our students to compare and evaluate various conservation strategies in different areas. By putting the feet on the soil, and via direct communication with both academic and industrial environmental professionals abroad, students learned about how conservation, education and environmental protection works are done in a global perspective. In fact, the first-hand encounter and exchange with personnel in the industries of the environmental field, particularly in another major city in Asia as provided in this tour, demonstrates an effective learning means for the development of our environmental studies (ES) students.



Inspired by the study tour, the participating students appreciate that to achieve the sustainability of a country is to strive for a balance among the three principles which refers to the "interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars" of sustainable development of human community, inter alia, equitable social commitments supported by viable economic growths while maintaining bearable environmental protection and conservation.

