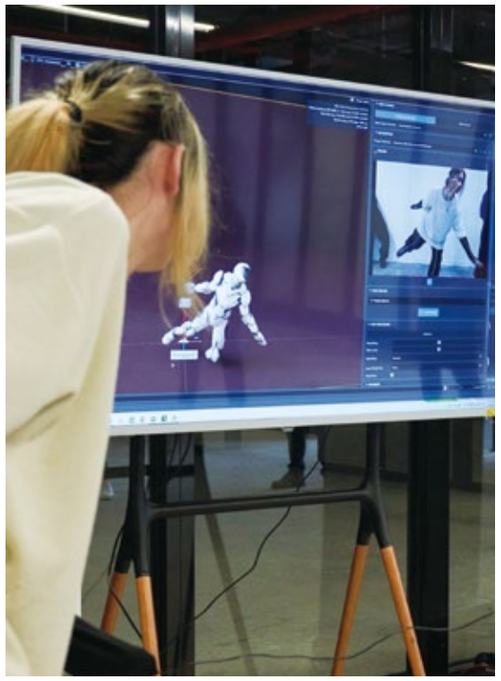
purpose is to make high school education more relevant to university enrollment.

6 Enhancing hardware and software infrastructure, fulfilling social responsibility, and facing international competition: The MOE has secured funding for public construction projects to subsidize the construction of seven new medical institutions, cultivating outstanding talents for innovative research, incorporating industrial resources to promote holistic healthcare, improving medical environments in rural areas, and enhancing the capacity and quality of emergency and critical care in local communities. To adapt to the digital era, the MOE is promoting the digitization and verification of academic credentials. This initiative will facilitate students' pursuit of overseas studies and employment, aiding diplomatic missions in their promotional efforts amidst competitive environments.

## D Future Prospects

In the spirit of "connecting with local and global communities and creating a better future," the MOE strives to fulfill the following objectives: innovation in teaching methods, enhanced connectivity with the public, enhanced industry-academia collaboration, and social responsibility. Higher education institutions are encouraged to develop their own strengths and innovative teaching methods so as to follow the latest social trends and meet industrial needs. The methods emphasize the spirit of learning by doing, cultivating students' abilities in problem-solving, systemic thinking, and collaboration, while ensuring that the allocation of higher education funds more broadly addresses the learning



needs of each student, creating value in higher education, and fostering innovation. It is the responsibility of a university to manifest its own value and to create an innovative dynamic for the society. To help students acquire the core abilities needed in the future, educators must design diversified subjects and innovative research and take the needs of cross-generational cultures into consideration. Universities must set up mechanisms to have flexible governance and create a campus where a new generation of talent will be nurtured—talent that will become the mainstay of national development in the face of global competition. ■

Taiwan Higher Education



# Taiwan universities building team synergy to grow future talent pool

Interviewee: **Wu Chung-chih**
Vice President for Research and Development, National Taiwan University

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is remaking the global economy, reshaping the job market, and redefining the notions of excellence among universities in Taiwan.

This is at a time when the country stands as the epicenter of global semiconductor manufacturing, producing over 60% of the world's semiconductors and over 90% of the most advanced ones, which are crucial for AI-related devices.

Demand for expertise in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) has spiked as a result, as shown in a survey in January 2024 that over 70% of employers in Taiwan report a talent shortage. In 2023, local universities began addressing this challenge by teaming up to leverage each other's strengths in order to attract the brightest students from overseas to study in Taiwan and to boost exchanges with research units at partner schools around the world.

Student exchange programs of this kind have been offered by universities for a long time, but it is limited to a small number. It is about time to collaborate with other local universities as a team to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

Most universities nowadays offer multiple international exchange programs, with recognized benefits such as increasing student