

Collaboration with the National Taiwan University (NTU)
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Dr. Yu-Fai Leung was on academic assignments overseas during the 2007-08 academic year, serving as a visiting associate professor in the School of Forestry and Resource Conservation at National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan, an island of 13,822 sq. miles and with a population of 23 million. This position was supported by the National Science Council of Taiwan ROC Government. The primary goal was to strengthen collaborative relationships with NTU and Taiwanese colleagues, with a key focus on sustainable recreation and tourism in protected areas. A variety of scholarly exchange activities were carried out in connection to this goal. While at NTU, Dr. Leung taught two senior/graduate classes on the subjects of environmental issues and planning of outdoor recreation and ecotourism. He advised several senior and graduate students on their project or thesis research about monitoring evaluation, management effectiveness and geotourism. Dr. Leung gave seminars at other academic institutions throughout Taiwan Island, including National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, National Dong Hua University in Hualien, Feng Chia University in Taichung and Aletheia University in Tainan.

On the research front, Dr. Leung developed collaboration NTU and other Taiwanese colleagues on several research projects. One such project involved the construction and testing of trail monitoring protocol for a community-based monitoring program in Jiaoxi Village, Yilan County. This project was part of a larger community forestry initiative led by Prof. Dau-Jye Lu at NTU Forestry. If the monitoring protocol is implemented successfully it would serve as a model for other villages and rural communities in Taiwan where nature-based tourism or ecotourism is being developed.

Dr. Leung also collaborated with colleagues from National Dong Hua University in developing a research project that addresses visitor capacity issues in Yu Shan National Park, where the island's the most biodiverse ecosystem can be found and the tallest peak of East Asia, Mount Jade ("Yu Shan") (12,966 ft), is situated. The park received over 1.3 million visitors in 2006. This project provides technical assistance to park officials in developing a sustainable visitor use plan by adapting an indicator-based management framework that has been implemented in U.S. national parks since the 1990s. During his stay Dr. Leung also took the opportunity to discuss research priorities and management challenges with colleagues in protected area agencies and academic institutions. These projects are expected to result in useful outcomes for Taiwan's communities and agencies, More importantly, the collaborative relationships built will hopefully lead to future opportunities for NCSU faculty and students interested in this area of inquiry on Taiwan Island.

Photos on next page.

