

PRESIDENT LEE FLIES TO BRAZIL TO ATTRACT BRAZILIAN STUDENTS

In early May, President Si-chen Lee led a delegation of high-level NTU administrators on a whirlwind three-day visit to Brazil's higher education institutions. This official visit was made primarily in response to an invitation extended by Luiz Cláudio Costa, head of Brazil's Anísio Teixeira National Institute of Studies and Educational Research (INEP). Besides paying visits to prestigious universities and the INEP, President Lee's delegation met with Under Secretary for Higher Education, Amaro Lins, of the Brazilian Ministry of Education to discuss the possibility of NTU participating in Brazil's Science Without Borders initiative, a Brazilian government plan to help 100,000 Brazilian university students study abroad.

Upon arrival at the airport of the Brazilian capital, Brasilia, on the evening of May 9, President Lee's delegation was received by the director and employees of Taiwan's representative office in Brazil as well as the only NTU alumnus in Brasilia, Deputy Chairperson of the Chinese Association Chung Chin-chiang (Department of Agricultural Engineering, Class of 1961). During the ten-minute drive to the representative office, the director introduced the history and current situation of Brasilia to the delegation. At the office, he briefed them on the office's work, and later he hosted a banquet for President Lee and the delegation at his private residence.

University of Brasilia (UnB) Vice Rector João Batista de Souza led Director of the UnB International Relations Office Ana Flávia and a group of UnB professors to attend the banquet. As President Lee was in Brasilia for less than one day, the administrators of the two universities discussed establishing partner university relations over dinner.



They reached a basic consensus, leaving the details to be worked out later.

The following day, the delegation first visited the INEP where the two sides presented briefings and continued discussing how to implement international cooperation and NTU's participation in the Science Without Borders program. NTU would like Brazil to send students and researchers to universities in Taiwan, especially to NTU. The delegation then went to the Ministry of Education to meet Under Secretary Amaro Lins to discuss talent development, student exchanges and faculty matters.

While in Brazil, the delegation also signed partner university agreements with the University of São Paulo, University of Campinas and Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, and discussed signing a partner university agreement with UnB.

The delegation departed for Taiwan on May 11. Despite the brevity of President Lee's visit to Brazil, the delegation managed to hold numerous face-to-face talks on a variety of important issues, which made President Lee feel optimistic about participating in Brazil's Science Without Borders initiative.

