

The Amazing Cultural Night on NDHU



National Dong Hwa University annually holds International Cultural Night, where the international students at NDHU perform cultural activities such as dancing, singing, or anything cultural performance on stage. In my first year at NDHU, which is 2022, I was informed by my friend to train Indonesian students to perform on a cultural night that will take place on 16 November 2022. I am excited because this is one of the major events I attend at NDHU. Besides, I am keenly interested in seeing other performances from other countries. NDHU has many international students from different countries from East Asia, South Asia, Africa nation, and Pacific and Central America.

So, it's the 16 November 2022 evening, and it is already packed in the Student Activities Center building. Everyone looks excited. Interestingly, there are also elementary student groups that attend the event. Some people dress in traditional clothes, which look pleasant in the evening. So, I entered the building at 7 pm, luckily, I still got the seat in the middle row. Because 15 minutes after I arrived, the building was so crowded that some people could not enter and could only stand to see the performance. The event then started. After the opening speech by NDHU officials, the first performance began.

The performance began with an Indian student's powerful dance, followed by other international students from Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Eswatini, Grenada, Solomon Island, Tuvalu, and Kyrgyzstan. But what surprise me is the last performance from Taiwan, specifically from the Indigenous Department of NDHU.



The Taiwan student performance is mesmerizing. Combining the vocal singing of indigenous people in Hualien and dance movement. The dance movement is unique; everyone gathers horizontally, holds each other lines, and then moves back and forth but in a motion that resembles an ocean wave, mimicking the life of Hualien as a coastal place in Eastern Taiwan. It was such an experience that I surprisingly got. I expected to see international students' performances, but then I witnessed the Taiwanese performance, which was beautiful.

At the end of the performance, every participant gathers around on the stage, singing together. I felt a sense of unity even though many people on the podium come from different cultures, religions, and languages. But they stand together, in unison, held together by something that sounds cliché but is true: humanity. The world is not all rainbow, smile and laugh. Yes, we know that the world is full of conflict and not everything is happiness, but at least on this night, in that moment, everyone is united, and that's all that matters.