

Dong Hwa Campus –Literary Verses of Nature in My Soul

The most obvious benefit since I became a student of the Ph.D. program in Asia Pacific Regional Studies (APRS) is to get to study at one of the most beautiful and largest campuses in Taiwan – National Dong Hwa University. Literarily speaking, the Dong Hwa campus is portrayed as a large garden amongst Taiwan's nature. Because It is surrounded by ranges of mountains, small forests and the Papaya River Delta. Every day, I get to immerse myself in the gorgeous natural landscapes and attractive European-American-Chinese architecture on the campus.

Dong Hwa Campus's literary verses.

Many natural corners of the campus have exhibited in front of my eyes as literary verses of nature.

In winter, around the campus, the leaves of Taiwan golden-rain trees turn red and yellow like giant bouquets under the cold sky. On the small path from the Sports Center to the Student Activities Center, the falling leaves sound was heard in light warm sunlight.

On rainy days, from the window of the Lakeside cafeteria, looking out to the Classical Administration Building, the rain was falling across the phoenix tree's dry branches, rain falling down to the lake, rain soaking the green grassland like a nature curtain covering the distant ranges of mountains.

On sunny afternoons, flocks of doves were hovering under the utterly blue sky above the College of Science and Engineering like schools of fish swimming across coral reefs on the bottom of the clear blue sea.

In the sunny mornings, flocks of white storks flew and walked childishly, chasing the sound of a lawnmower. Sometimes, the pheasants ran leisurely on the grassland and birds sang in bushes of forest trees. It seems that the lives in the ecosystem have been continuing on the campus.

On a full moon day, above the Dong Hwa Stadium, the yellow full moon rising behind rows of trees is a masterpiece of sunset in Shougfeng township.

From the APRS Base's Door.

It is wonderful as the APRS office and study rooms are based in the College of Humanities and Social Science – building 1 - which is one of the most beautiful architectures on the Campus. The architecture is a combination of traditional Chinese architecture and Western university style. Standing in front of the study room's door, I get to enjoy the calm and Chinese-style schoolyard with the Chinese arched gate, the red pillars and wooden bars, the bookstore like a Chinese house and the beautiful shade of an old tree.

Every March, on the Northwest corner of the college, one red silk cotton tree brilliantly bloomed, painting over the sky a red piece. The sound of its red flowers falling made a light noise for the college on quiet days. Rows of Madagascar almonds between Human Building 1 and Human Building 2 are sprouting after the leaf-falling season in the cold long winter that vividly portrays the beauty of seasonal change, from winter to spring, from old dryness to new freshness. Rows of Madagascar almond is interesting to me because Vietnamese people call that kind of tree Taiwanese almond.

In winter, Taiwanese maple red leaves are romantically dyed red on the road in front of the building which is one of the most breathtaking moments of the Dong Hwa campus.

As I was walking in the college was as enjoyable as when I was reading a beautiful literary verse on a cosy day.

Tran Minh Hop (Vietnam, the student of Fall Semester, 2020)



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The College of Humanities and Social Science – which is one of the most beautiful architectures on the Campus



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