COMMITTED TO BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

UNESCO and IFT launched Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training and Certification Programme for UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Plus:
- DELTA Scholarship to IFT DRD students in 2005/06
- IFT at World Heritage conference by Ironbridge Institute in Birmingham, UK
- Photo-Taking Competition 2006
Macao will enter a more strategic phase of development in 2007 and 2008 when a few major large-scale casino hotel establishments start operations. The hardware will no doubt be of international standard, if not above, as promised by the developers. The serious challenge remains matching astronomical amounts of investment and effort injected into these projects with world class operations run by qualified individuals. To address the manpower needs of the market, both the private and public sectors have stepped up efforts to offer an array of education and training programmes in tourism and hospitality.

The Institute has remained strong in its commitment to develop local human resources for the bourgeoning tourism sector. Recently, we have successfully secured additional training funds from the Macao Foundation for expanding a series of training programmes for local residents, in partnership with trade associations. Our industry partners include the Macau Hotel Association, Macau Hoteliers and Innkeepers Association, Association of Macau Restaurant Merchants, Uni o Geral das Associa es dos Moradores de Macau, among others. Besides these partnerships, the Macao Tourism and Casino Career Centre, jointly established and managed by the Macao Polytechnic Institute and the Institute For Tourism Studies, is doubling its training facilities in Taipa to cover a further 100,000 sq. feet of space. This will enable the long-term development of more varied and flexible training programmes. It is hoped that all Macao residents can engage in life-long learning and equip themselves with new skills and knowledge not only to partake of the fruit of development, but to lead the change.

In 2003, IFT was invited by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to be a founding member of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management (AAHM). This consortium networks institutes of higher learning throughout the Asia Pacific region that are engaged in the research and teaching of heritage conservation and cultural institution management. In response to sustainable tourism calls for a new breed of responsible and informed tourists concerns, the UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy for Heritage Management launched the Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Programme in 2005. This rigorous, practical and internationally-recognised training and certification programme is being implemented through active partnerships between members of the Asian Academy, training institutions from the UNESCAP Asia Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (APETIT) network and National Tourism Organizations (NTOs), with IFT serving as the focal point and UNESCO providing technical advisory.

As part of the broader Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training and Certification Programme for UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a South Asian Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Training-the-Trainers Workshop was conducted in the Bhutanese Town of Paro from 6-11 May 2006. The workshop was organised by the Royal Government of Bhutan, in conjunction with UNESCO, under the framework of an Asian Development Bank-supported human resource component of the SASEC Tourism Development Plan.

This SASEC workshop built upon the efforts of the successful pilot workshop pioneered at IFT last November. Being the regional focal point of this UNESCO initiative, IFT continues to take charge of the curriculum development and to provide
trainers. The IFT team (Michelle Kane, Zoe Wong and Ong Chin Ee), led by Prof. Don Dioko, has spent the last three months fine-tuning the core module training manual, producing the instructor’s manual and coordinating the production of the manual for the Living Buddhism Thematic Module.

Between 6-11 May, two members of the IFT team — Michelle Kane and Ong Chin Ee — represented IFT at the SASEC workshop as instructors for the Training-the-Trainers and the Core Module respectively. Instructors, speakers and resource persons for this workshop were also drawn from academics and industry leaders from The University of Hong Kong, Penang Heritage Trust (Malaysia), Namgyal Institute for Tibetology (India), the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (Bhutan), the Department of Tourism (Bhutan), the United Nations Development Programme (Bhutan), Royal University of Bhutan, The Asian Development Bank and UNESCO.

The format of the workshop included numerous site visits, an out-of-the-classroom heritage interpretation practicum, and classroom lectures, discussions and presentations. In the mornings, classroom lectures, discussions and presentations focused on imparting key World Heritage Site guiding principles, concepts and issues such as Understanding and Protecting World Heritage Sites, Heritage Interpretation and Influencing Visitor Behaviour and Experience. Site visits and the practicum in the afternoons complemented the lectures by adding a real and physical context to the concepts learnt. They also served as testing grounds for evaluating trainees’ mastery of heritage guiding and interpretation. Evening lectures on Living Buddhism helped to thematically connect the key heritage sites in the SASEC region (eg. Druyag Dzong, the Sacred City of Kandy, the Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur and Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi).

The workshop was a great success and the only downside to the intensive and rich programme was the lack of time allocated for retail therapy and touristy consumption. This, however, was compensated by the rich and unique vernacular architecture and culture we saw (shingle roofs and walls with painted phalluses) and experienced (very friendly people, and a country denoted by the novel concept of Gross National Happiness, and governed by a very handsome and benevolent king) enroute to or around the field sites.

Ong Chin Ee

The World Heritage Site at Paro, a Bhutanese town

DELTA Scholarship to IFT DRD students in 2005/06

The relationship between IFT and the NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences dates back to 2001 when a protocol was signed. Since then, there has been an active exchange of staff and student activities. In order to foster a stronger tie between the two institutions, they signed an addendum in 2003. The Dual Recognition Degree (DRD) Programme allows students to pursue their last year of studies in the partner institution; the DRD has been implemented since the academic year 2003/04. Upon successful completion of the programme, two certificates will be awarded — one by the home institution and the other by the receiving institution.

Six IFT students have been under the DRD arrangement in 2005/06 and three of them were awarded the DELTA (Dutch Education: Learning at Top level Abroad) Scholarship in May. Congratulations to them and special thanks to NHTV for availing this scholarship opportunity to IFT students.

Louisa Lam

學院於2003年應「聯合國教科文組織」及「國際文化財產保護及修復研究中心」的邀請加盟成為「亞洲文化遺產管理學會」的創會會員。要可持續發展旅遊，需要培養出新一代的負責及具有民間性的遊客。因此，亞洲文化遺產管理學會於2006年推出了「文化遺產專業導遊培訓課程」，這既嚴格又實務的國際認可培訓及認證計劃的實行是通過幾方面的積極合作，包括「亞洲文化遺產管理學會」的會員、聯合國亞太經濟及社會事務委員會亞太旅遊教育及培訓院校網絡和國家旅遊部門；這計劃是為旅遊學院為活動中心及得到聯合國教科文組織提供技術性建議。

為配合聯合國教科文組織所舉辦之文化遺產專業導遊培訓證書課程，旅遊學院兩名教員於5月6-11日遠赴不丹帕羅市舉行的南亞區域經貿合作(SASEC)世界文化遺產專業導遊培訓工作坊擔任講師。此工作坊是由不丹皇家政府及聯合國教科文組織聯合舉辦。

學院與荷蘭布列達應用大學(前為荷蘭布列達專業教育大學)於2001年簽訂協議，繼而於2003年簽訂「雙認證學士學位」之補充文件，讓學生能在彼校完成第四年課程。2005/06學年學院有6名學生參與此計劃，當中3名學生更獲頒DELTA奬學金。
The Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (APETIT) was promoted and established by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in September 1997, with the Institute For Tourism Studies (IFT) as one of the co-founders and President of the Network during 1999-2001.

The purpose of the Network is to strengthen the institutional capabilities of countries’ tourism training, education and research institutes; to encourage cooperation amongst them; and, to overcome the quantitative and qualitative shortages of human resources in the tourism industry. IFT has been an Executive Member since APETIT’s establishment and has been honoured again by appointment for the period 2006-2009.

During the 13th Executive Committee Meeting, a whole day was dedicated to The Seminar on Tourism and MICE Education and Training in Asia and the Pacific. Renowned scholars and top tourism officials presented papers and exchanged views with the participants.

To mobilise student exchanges among APETIT members, IFT initiated the Marco Polo Programme in February 2005. After much discussion focusing on this, it was finally agreed that a few pioneering institutions be appointed. This is an initiative whereby APETIT member institutions send students within the network for a one-semester exchange programme. Upon completion, apart from the credits being recognised by both home and receiving institutions, a certificate will be awarded by UNESCAP.

Being a training-the-trainer centre in the Asia-Pacific region, IFT welcomes APETIT members to join:

- The Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training and Certification programme for UNESCO World Heritage Sites which UNESCAP supports.
- An Executive Development Programme on The Strategic Management of Technology and Innovation in the Hospitality, Gaming and Travel Industries from 27-28 July 2006. Details can be found at www.ift.edu.mo.

Louisa Lam

Mainland recruitment activities for academic year 2006/07

While still working on the selection of local applicants for the 2006/07 academic year, we have commenced our recruitment activities in the mainland. The National Education Department authorised IFT to recruit mainland high school graduates from 20 provinces or cities for the new academic year. Through the arrangement of the Tertiary Education Office, IFT joined other local higher education institutions on a promotional trip to Shandong, Shanghai, Yunnan and Guizhou. During the trip we also visited Provincial or Municipal Admission Offices to discuss how to smooth the application procedures.

Besides this trip, IFT also participated in two Education Expos (in Zhuhai and Guangzhou) in May so as to have face-to-face contact with prospective candidates. Many applicants came to collect pamphlets, and made enquiries.

Louisa Lam

國家教育部批准學院於內地20個省市招生，為此學院與本地其他高校到內地進行宣傳活動，同時拜訪當地招生辦公室。此外，學院於5月份亦參與了珠海和廣州之大型教育博覽及諮詢會。
WORLD HERITAGE: GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL SOLUTIONS, a conference hosted by Ironbridge Institute and Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, in co-operation with English Heritage and ICOMOS-UK, 4 — 7 May 2006

The conference was conducted in brilliant spring weather at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum World Heritage Site (WHS) conference venue near Birmingham, UK. It brought together heritage experts from around the world to drive forward research and management agendas relating to World Heritage Sites in the face of global challenges, such as development and climate change, without losing focus on how World Heritage Status affects local communities.

A keynote address was given by Sir Neil Cossons OBE, Chair of English Heritage, on World Heritage Sites and the conservation of industrial heritage around the world. The conference included papers on how the burden falls on local communities aided by government, non-government organisations and academics, along with some solutions to resolve these issues. There were two papers from Asia: one by archaeologist Dr. Tracey Lu (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) on Anhui WHS villages and tourism development, and one by IFT's Prof. Hilary du Cros and Frances Kong on congestion management issues in Macao (based on recent IFT research for the government).

Other papers covered global and local issues for World Heritage Site management in Canada, New Zealand, Bermuda, Hungary, France, the USA and the UK. The conference allowed delegates the opportunity to visit the group of museums, and to view items that form the WHS for Ironbridge, on a series of fieldtrips. This has inspired IFT delegate Hilary du Cros to get busy setting up a research project into industrial heritage sites in Macao related to the firecracker industry. A number of other delegates expressed an interest in a joint study.

Hilary du Cros

Let’s congratulate them on their great achievement in the last semester.

Louisa Lam

Dean’s List of Fall Semester of 2005/06

The objectives of the Dean’s list are to:
- Recognise excellence in academic achievement among students;
- Be a motivating mechanism for students to excel; and
- Impart in students a sense of pride and connection to IFT in the long run.

The five students for the Dean’s list are:
1. Chou Mei Wai, Daisy (Hotel Management Year 1)
2. Fong Pui Wa, Flora (Hotel Management Year 1)
3. Chan U Ian, Sophia (Hotel Management Year 1)
4. Si Tou Lam Lai, Jennifer (Hotel Management Year 4)
5. Wong Iok In, Joyce (Hotel Management Year 4)

Let’s congratulate them on their great achievement in the last semester.

Louisa Lam

五名學生登上系主任榮譽榜：
1. 酒店管理一年級學生曹美慧
2. 酒店管理一年級學生方佩鏗
3. 酒店管理－年級學生陳如欣
4. 酒店管理四年級學生司徒琳麗
5. 酒店管理四年級學生黃玉燕

Let’s congratulate them on their great achievement in the last semester.

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With Great Thanks!

Having concluded the academic year 2005/06 2nd semester, let us salute to our visiting professors and guest speakers who shared their tourism and hospitality expertise and experiences with us at IFT. Great thanks for their continuous support!

Professor John Stanbury
He is from the George Mason University of Fairfax, USA who has more than 20 years of teaching experience at university level. He visited us on 6—18 March and taught our Hotel Management Year-4 students a course on Service Quality Management.

Mr. Shawn G Baxter
As we have an increasing number of students who wish to perform their internship or to study in the USA, we invited Mr. Shawn G. Baxter, Vice Consul of the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, to come to IFT and deliver a talk about the necessary procedures to be taken to apply for work or study visas to the USA. He also introduced the exciting lifestyles of the Pacific Northwest to us, including Washington and his home state, Oregon.

Ms. Bernadette Dennis
Our Invited Professor in Management, Ruhi Yaman, invited Ms. Bernadette Dennis (Vice President - Asia Pacific of Marriott Hotels) to deliver a talk on The Challenges of Marketing a Multi-Property International Chain in the Asia Pacific Region to his Hotel Year-3 (Hotel Operations) class on 28 April.

Dr. Howard Adler
An Associate Professor from Purdue University, he is not only an expert scholar but also a great traveller. He has traveled to more than 70 countries in the world! Our Hotel Management Year-4 students had no doubt spent many happy moments with him during his classes from 8 — 23 May on Special Topics in Human Resources Management.

Mr. Grant Bowie
Thanks again to Ruhi who organised this talk! Mr. Grant Bowie, the President and General Manager of Wynn Resorts Macau has been so kind as to spare his precious time to deliver a very interesting talk to us on Leadership & Organizational Culture on 9 May.

Mr. Magiel Venema
He is a retired lecturer from the NHTV Breda University of Professional Education in the Netherlands - our old acquaintance who has kept on visiting us since May 2000. This time, he taught Tourism Product Management to our Hotel Management Year-4 students from 27 March — 8 April, and he returned again on 15—26 May to teach Travel Services Management to our Tourism Business Management Year-2 students.

Dr. Rich Harrill & Dr. Peter Cardon
They were invited guest speakers from the University of South Carolina in the USA, who presented two topics to us on 18 May: The Fundamentals of Destination Management by Dr. Rich Harrill, and Resident Attitudes Toward Tourism Development in China by Dr. Peter Cardon.
The driving demand of the industry and the rapidly evolving interests of students brought forth an enormous array of new courses and modules by the Professional And Continuing Education School (PACES). Hospitality and catering courses were among the favourites; cooking side-by-side with master chefs of the industry, students were able to experience the delicacies of different cuisines through demonstrations and hands-on training sessions that included Chinese cuisine, Chinese dim sum, Sichuan food, Macanese cuisine, and a French Cognac seminar. Moreover, Chinese cuisine and Chinese dim sum were newly included in the Macao Occupational skills Recognition System (MORS) Assessment, with the main objective to upgrade human resources in the industry.

An especially exciting new course, Junior Flairtending, attracted participants to adeptly juggle three bottles at the same time, along with the accompanied technique of using the pourer for spirit pouring.

PACES New Courses at a glance!

To generate more profound and constructive application of Introduction to Travel Agency, the course was sub-divided into itinerary planning, Abacus training and Amadeus training, for participants to explore the nature of a travel agency. With upcoming tourism and MICE development in Macao, Event Management and Professional Retail Sales have been subsequently opened to the general public, contributing to the diverse areas of professionalism in the modules, as led by industry-experienced instructors.

Dr. Paul Barron is a Senior Lecturer in Hospitality Management, and Executive Editor of the Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management from the University of Queensland in Australia. He visited IFT on 12 June and delivered a talk to our graduating students on furthering studies at the University of Queensland.

Tamami Ogata

2005/06學年順利完成，學院對各位客席教授及嘉賓的支持深表謝意！他/她們分別是：
- 英國喬治梅森大學的 John Stanbury 教授
- 澳門美高梅金殿的人力資源總監黃麗萍小姐
- 美國駐香港總領事館的副領事柏思德先生
- 萬豪酒店國際總部的亞太區副總裁 Bernadette Dennis 小姐
- 美國普渡大學的 Howard Adler 博士
- 澳門永利渡假村的總裁及總經理蘭博賢先生
- 荷蘭布列達專業教育大學講師 Magiel Venema 先生
- 美國南卡羅萊納大學的李琦海勵博士及彼得卡頓博士
- 澳門永利渡假村的餐飲經理白啟東先生
- 澳洲昆士蘭大學的 Paul Barron 博士

Joyce Wong

Mr. Grant Baird

Our Executive Assistant Manager, David Wong, invited Mr. Grant Baird (Food and Beverage Manager of Wynn Resorts Macao) to deliver a talk on The Art of Food and Beverage to his Hotel Year-2 (Food & Beverage Management) class on 19 May.

Dr. Paul Barron

Mr. Grant Baird is a Food and Beverage Manager who contributed to our event management module by delivering a talk on his experience in the industry.

Dr. Paul Barron is a Senior Lecturer in Hospitality Management, and Executive Editor of the Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management from the University of Queensland in Australia. He visited IFT on 12 June and delivered a talk to our graduating students on furthering studies at the University of Queensland.
Admission Talk on PACES Programmes

Organised by Event and Tourism Management students, the admission talk was held on 27 and 30 May. It was a very lively session!

The talk involves a range of information sessions and campus tours that provide visual orientation of hotel operations, event organisation, and hospitality and catering. Many delightful moments allowed participants to fully indulge into the following activities:

- Listen to a precise presentation about IFT;
- Find out full descriptions on courses offered by PACES;
- Talk to current students about their experience(s) on campus;
- Experience being an IFT student through practical demonstrations and hands-on training;
- Receive immediate feedback from academic staff members to queries about specifics of particular courses.

Further information about the programmes can be reached through http://www.ift.edu.mo/eng/programmes/diploma.htm

Welcome aboard!

The new member who joined IFT in the period from April — June 2006

April
Josephine, Pun Un Fan, as Front Office Supervisor of PMH.

Photo-Taking Competition 2006

The Photo-Taking Competition 2006, which was organised by the Information Technology Society (ITS) of the Student Union, co-organised by the Photographic Society of Macao (PSM), and sponsored by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Fundo Henry Fok, Jardine OneSolution (Macau) Ltd. and MACAUPLUS, was held in early May.

We received a total of nearly 80 entries this year, more in quantity and higher in quality than the years before. At the same time, the gifts were also more valuable than in previous years. This year’s gifts included: an iPod nano, Woofer, 512Mb flash disk, multifunctional webcams, restaurant dining coupons (with total value of $600) and IFT Tourism Cue Card Box sets. Super thanks to IFT!

The Prize Awards Ceremony was held on 26 May in the evening at the IFT Auditorium. Our president, Dr. Fanny Vong, the president of PSM and the manager of MACAUPLUS also joined our function.

Here are the award results:
Champion: David Chan
First Runner-up: Antonio Lei
Second Runner-up: Sonia Choi
The Most Creative Award: Terry Sou
My Most Favourite Prize: Alvin Au

Please keep supporting us next year, and all years following!

Information Technology Society

由旅遊學院學生會資訊科技社主辦：澳門攝影學會協辦的旅遊學院攝影比賽 2006 於 5 月舉行。是次比賽獲得澳門教育暨青年局、澳門霍英東基金會、怡和科技(澳門)有限公司及 MACAUPLUS 的支持與資助。主辦單位共收得近 80 個作品，參賽者比往年多，作品水準亦有所提高。

得獎名單如下：
冠軍：陳洪華
亞軍：李俊陞
季軍：蔡汝儀
最佳創意獎：蘇子能
最受歡迎獎：葛浩嵐
First Runner-up, by Antonio Lei

Second Runner-up, by Sonia Choi

My Most Favourite Prize, by Alvin Au

The Most Creative Award, by Terry Soi

Champion, by David Chan
My Dual Recognition Degree Programme at NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

Looking back on my eight-month journey in The Netherlands - it just happened in the blink of the eye. However, I am so happy to say that it was fruitful. Learning to survive on the other side of the globe, with such a different atmosphere and rules, could be the most valuable experience that I had. Also, after having a quick glance at a number of countries in Europe, I can say that The Netherlands is quite an interesting and beautiful place. It is unique in terms of culture, buildings and freedom (truly reflected in her legalisation of gaming, prostitution and drugs, and of course, in her citizens as well). In general, Dutch people are nice and enjoy a relaxing lifestyle; they never hesitate to heat up a discussion, and have wild thoughts during lessons or anytime. That is quite impressive, and proved to be a good kind of exposure.

Connie Lam Ling
Year-4 Student

Being IFT's first pioneer at Dong-A University in South Korea

2005 is a memorable year for me. I have been the first IFT exchange student to Dong-A University in South Korea. During the four-month exchange programme, I have learnt so many interesting things and gained knowledge which I could never have in Macao.

When the flight landed at Busan Kim Hae International Airport, my heart was almost jumping out. Not only was I having an excited reaction of the first time visiting Korea, but also I was worrying about the life in Korea. The most terrible problem was that I only knew how to say An-nyong ha-se-yo (Hello) in Korean at that time. Other than that, I knew nothing of the Korean language. Luckily Dong-A University arranged a buddy for me. My buddy helped me to solve the language problem with the school orientation procedure, accommodation, and other areas in the following four months.

Although I just spent four months in Busan, I was able to experience the richness of the Korean culture. At the beginning of the semester, the school usually does not have any student orientation days. But students in the same major have a gathering party, and all the professors and lecturers attend the party. I appreciated being invited to their party. The students were friendly and taught me some useful Korean - in English. Besides the major activities, the school also arranged many activities for exchange students to adopt Korean culture, such as city visits, Korean language classes for exchange students and individual student helpers.

I am glad to make so many new friends here, not only the local Korean people, but also other international students - Chinese, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, German and Russian. I am also excited to meet my old friends here — the previous IFT exchange students from Dong-A. They have helped me so much during these four months.

Even though, due to the exchange programme, I needed to extend half a year to complete with my bachelor degree, I can say that it has been well worth it. The delicious Kimchi and traditional Korean dishes, the interesting and hospitable new Korean friends and old friends and the attractive Korean culture will always be in my mind.

Jackson Cheong San Hou
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Even though, due to the exchange programme, I needed to extend half a year to complete with my bachelor degree, I can say that it has been well worth it. The delicious Kimchi and traditional Korean dishes, the interesting and hospitable new Korean friends and old friends and the attractive Korean culture will always be in my mind.

Jackson Cheong San Hou
Year-4 Student
Valuable and unforgettable experience

It is my pleasure to share my volunteer experience with all of you. Now I am the president of the Executive Committee in the General Association of Chinese Students of Macau (AECM); I joined AECM over six years ago. I have known many good friends and have learned new things at AECM; AECM is the place where I grew up.

AECM is one of the well-known non-profit student associations in Macao, organising many activities for Macao students, as well as offering many opportunities for students to practice their organisational ability. Every student uses his or her free time to come to AECM to contribute in organising activities - and does not get any money.

Although I needed to contribute much time and effort without getting money, I got intangible things worth more than money; these valuable things I had not thought about or expected before I joined the AECM. I have really enjoyed working with my friends here. Through organising activities, I improve various skills such as organisation skills, communication skills and interpersonal skills.

In addition, there have been many opportunities for me to join different exchange trips to Beijing, Sichuan, Harbin and Singapore. I understand more clearly the local student federation and union, make new friends during each trip and understand local culture of those destinations.

I can say that being a president is a very challenging job for me. I need to think and coordinate annual activities, plan with our different departments, follow and coordinate each activity, as well as attend social activities and meetings organised by us and other associations. Although these jobs are quite hard, it is a good chance for me to develop my various abilities and build up my self-confidence and sense of caring about society. So I strongly recommend that students take part more in volunteer jobs, besides focusing on their studies. You can get valuable experience that you may not have expected before. These things can better develop your future and career.

In addition, many thanks to AECM and to my friends and family. They have given me this valuable chance and have greatly supported me. Furthermore, I also thank IFT, for helping me to enjoy making friends with others.

Tracy Ao Hio Ieng
Year-4 Student

Study Excursions to Kaiping and Shangchuan Island

Several IFT faculty members took part in a two-day (22-23 April) study excursion organised by the Macau Inter-University Institute to Shangchuan Island and Kaiping, China. This historical and cultural excursion explored two of the significant heritage sites in Guangdong Province; over 20 interested parties participated in this activity.

Places visited included the chapel built - (on the death place) in memory of one of the original seven members of the Jesus Society, Saint Francis Xavier (1506 — 1552) - on Shangchuan Island, and the Diaolou (fortified watchtowers) in Kaiping - Protected Cultural Relics proposed for World Heritage Classification.

Shangchuan Island is 14 km off the southern coast of China in the South China Sea, and is the largest island in Guangdong Province. The Island is famous for being the death place of Saint Francis Xavier. This trip was partly organised to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of the devoted Christian missionary.

Kaiping is a well-known hometown of overseas Chinese and is famous for its Diaolou, which date back to the late Ming dynasty. Diaolou thrived with the growth of the overseas Chinese culture in the early 20th Century; there are 1,833 of them remaining in the area. These unique towers are multiple-storey castle-like houses that were built as fortified dwellings, bearing the characteristics of both Chinese and Western architectural art.

Catarina Nunes

Happy faces in front of the statue of Saint Francis Xavier
A High Flyer

With his natural smile, Yannick (second left) is telling us how much he enjoys his career and his life.

We re flying high, and watching the world pass us by. Never want to come down, never want to put my feet back down on the ground.

- Depeche Mode

These few lines of lyrics always linger in my mind whenever I think of Yannick, who is flying high, literally and figuratively. Being a flight attendant, he is high in the sky - if not all, most of the time.

Although he has been living in Europe (first in Breda, the Netherlands, now in London) for almost 4 years, Yannick, a Macao-born Chinese and former student of IFT, is not a stranger to Macao. Whenever he flies to Hong Kong, he comes back to Macao to see family and friends. In late February, he came back to IFT, met with some Year-2 students and shared with them his experiences studying overseas, looking for a job overseas and working overseas. Here are some of the questions from students (Ss) and answers from Yannick (Y):

Ss: What did you have to consider when you decided to study abroad?
Y: Follow your heart. Be daring. Money can be a problem but not a big one. I got a loan from a bank. Where there is a will there is a way.

Ss: How did you improve your English?
Y: Well, you simply have to keep using it. Talk to people. Don t worry about making mistakes. Language is a tool. It s useless watching how other people use it. You can only learn it by practicing it.

Ss: What do you think is the most important thing in preparing for a job interview?
Y: Proper grooming, a confident look, thorough study of the company background and sincerity. It is indeed important to give a good first impression. But of course, a good knowledge of the company tells the interviewer your sincerity in seeking a position with them.

Ss: Why do you choose to be a flight attendant?
Y: It s been my dream. I said so when I came for the IFT interview. I enjoy meeting people. I am in fact a people person. I like to be with people. Being a flight attendant, I can meet people from different walks of life. It is really enjoyable to see satisfied and appreciative smiles on the passengers faces.

Ss: But have you met any troublesome passengers?
Y: Always. There are many nice people, but unavoidably there are also arrogant people. However, we have to stay professional. No matter how rude some guests may be, we have to serve with our best manners. It s fine that we may whine after work, but never in front of the guests.

Ss: Having been to several different countries, have you encountered anyone who did not like you because you are Chinese?
Y: Racism exists everywhere. Some people will dislike you even without knowing you, simply because of your race. What we can do is to ignore them because we have not done anything wrong being ourselves. We should not need to do anything special.

Ss: How did you overcome the feeling of loneliness?
Y: Show your feelings. Be brave. Share your feelings with other people.

So this is Yannick Lam Chin Hong, a truly genuine person. Never hides his true colours and everybody likes him for being him.

Having worked for Cathay Pacific for more than a year, flying the London-Hong Kong route, Yannick recently joined Virgin Atlantic, flying to a wider range of destinations. He may not come back to Macao so often, but for sure he is flying higher, and higher, and higher, and higher.

All the best, Yannick!

Doris Ip