



## National Chung Hsing University:

# New all-English Degree Programs in International Agriculture Prepares Students for a Bright Future

The **International Master Program of Agriculture (IMPA)** of NCHU has been preparing students for the international arena for three years now with courses taught entirely in English. **The Ministry of Education of Taiwan has recently bestowed its highest rank of “Highly Recommended” on the Program, and has also praised IMPA “Overall this is an excellent program that could be a model for programs elsewhere.”** Ministry of Education has also allocated a special grant funding to IMPA as encouragement.

As Dr. Israel Bau-Jen Jiang (姜保真) of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources points out, achieving the highest ranking clearly illustrates the high caliber of IMPA. August 2011 marks the establishment by NCHU of the undergraduate program, the **International Bachelor’s Program of Agribusiness (IBPA)**, which in like manner is also a comprehensive English program. IBPA officially began admitting students in 2011, and has already accepted fifteen local Taiwan students and three international students.

What makes the International Master Program of Agriculture special is how it provides an integrated agricultural education by teaching students how to meet the needs of society on both a local and global scale; the all-English program instills students with both an awareness of global affairs and an ability to engage the international community.

IMPA, established for 3 years, by so far is NCHU’s only master’s program taught entirely in English. The Program boasts that their professors are fully capable of using English to teach lectures, guide thesis writing, and lead research efforts. The Program also encourages students to explore international issues and taking foreign subjects for their thesis topics. Students are able to select courses and advisor professors within 15 separate departments of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Miss Gina Yu-Chun Yen (顏仔君), a graduate student in IMPA, mentions that compared to most master’s programs, NCHU greatly increases the flexibility of this program by providing students with a choice of courses and advisor professors that spans 15 departments, including the Agronomy, Animal Science, Forestry, and Plant Pathology Departments. This provides students with a freedom not commonly found in other master’s programs, giving students a far more richly rewarding and hands on experience.

IBPA excels in preparing students to succeed in a global society by teaching all 128 graduation credits in English with the exception of 4 credits required for Chinese Language. In addition, the IBPA program strongly encourages students to travel abroad for research and study. Miss Ming-kun Hsu (徐明琨), a new freshman student to the IBPA program admits that “A program taught entirely in English is of course a big challenge to us new freshmen, but I look forward to making it through this challenge to increase my professional knowledge and English ability.” Ming-kun Hsu knows that after the next challenging four years, her strong English ability and global perspective will allow her to shine as she applies her new skills in future international work environment.



## 中興大學培育國際農學人才 辦學高評價

國立中興大學的「國際農學碩士學位學程」(International Master Program of Agriculture 簡稱國農學程~IMPA)是一個全英語授課的學位學程，創立於三年前；日前接受教育部委託財團法人高教評鑑中心進行「100年度全英語學位學制班別訪視」，獲得「極力推薦」的最高等級評價，並給予「堪稱大學國際化的楷模」的評語。



興大農資院的堅韌學術秘書姜保真老師表示，訪視結果分為極力推薦、推薦、不推薦三種，獲最高等的評價證明 IMPA 學程的辦學績效得到肯定。100 年度各大學院校共有 92 班全英語學位學程接受高教評鑑中心訪視考核，其中有 18 校共 28 班獲選為第一等的「極力推薦」，占全部的 30%。但也有 7 班「未獲推薦」，其餘的就是第二等的「推薦」(共 57 班)。**在全台灣各大學的農業院系中，目前僅有中興大學的 IMPA 是列在前百分之卅「極力推薦」的 28 班之中；也是台灣各大學農業院系中，唯一獲得「極力推薦」的單位。**

興大以農立校，校內的農業暨自然資源學院是校內師生人數最多、系所建置最為多元完備的學院，也是學校外籍學生人數最多的學院。興大除了國農碩士學位學程外，民國 100 年八月新成立的大學部四年制全英語學程「國際農企業學士學位學程」(International Bachelor Program of Agribusiness 簡稱國際農企學程~IBPA)正式招生，共招收 15 位本地生，以及 3 位來自史瓦濟蘭、布吉納法索、宏都拉斯的外籍生。**興大為獲得教育部頂尖大學預算的 12 所大學中，唯一設有農學類科全英語授課學士班 (IBPA) 與碩士班 (IMPA) 的大學。**

國際農學碩士學位學程(IMPA)成立至今三年，是興大校內唯一的全英語碩士學位學程，具有全英語授課、英語撰寫論文、英語專業研討三項教學特色，並鼓勵學生以外國議題作為論文題目，學生能在農資學院內 15 個系所跨領域選課、選擇論文指導教授。

興大 IMPA 學程研究生顏仔君指出，與一般研究所相較，此學位學程的彈性較大，選課與指導教授不侷限於單一系所，包含農藝系、動物科學系、森林系、植物病理系等 15 個系所的課皆可選修，學習多樣化且整合性高，同時全英語授課，有助於提升外語溝通能力。在學期間，有機會至菲律賓海外研習，接待來自波蘭、美國等國家的學者與交換學生等等，都是很難得的國際化經驗。

成立 IBPA 的理念並非僅是以英語文授課而已，一個更重要的理由是希望重整目前過度細瑣、分裂的院系結構。台灣的大學院系劃分得相當細瑣，甚至在一個學系中再分為幾個組。這些系組均有各自的專業必修學科，與其他專業是壁壘分明。學生四年中所能學到的非本系專業知識，除了國文、英文、微積分等共同科目之外，就只剩下通識課程。這樣的教育方式是基於培養「I-型人才」的辦學理念，目的是培育單一領域的專精人才。但今天的社會職場多數需要的是「T-型人才」，就是說除了自己本行的專業領域要精深(I 字母的縱高)，還需要有橫向知識(T 字母的頂端那一橫)，也就是跨領域知識。

近年來教育部也嘗試推動第二專長訓練，鼓勵大學畢業生回流大學再學習兩年的第二專長。姜保真說這並

興大設置「國際農企業學士學位學程」(IBPA)，是基於先前運作「國際農學碩士學位學程」(IMPA)的三年經驗，它的特色同樣是強調「面向社會」、「面向世界」，以整合性農學教育作為課程內涵，同時強調關懷世界、面向國際，全部課程均以英語文講授，注重跨領域學習。



International Bachelor Program of Agriculture, NCHU, TAIWAN

非跨領域學習的真諦，仍然是基於培養「I-型人才」的理念，不過是從一個「I」轉換跑道到另一個「I」，學生學了兩個「I」。真正的跨領域學習是在校期間就要培育「T-型人才」，除了在知識與技能面橫跨多個相關領域的硬實力（「I」），也要重視學生的軟實力，包括：外語能力、演說與企劃能力、行銷與管理能力、溝通與談判能力等等。姜保真指出這是台灣學生極度缺乏的。他說一個美國大學部學生一學期中大概都會有四到五次正式上台演講的機會，四年下來累積的臨場演講經驗遠遠超國台灣的大學生。今天在任何一個職場工作，豈有不需要演講的呢？這就是 IBPA 強調「面向社會」的內涵。

IBPA 同樣強調「面向世界」：四年 128 個畢業學分中，除了國文 4 學分外，其餘 124 個學分全為英語授課，同時鼓勵學生至海外研習及選修區域研究，鼓勵學生集體或個人出國長短期參訪。IBPA 課程設計是在大約三年裡可以修畢所有畢業學分，剩下的一年可以出國做交換學生，或是留在學校選修輔系課程。由於是全英語授課，相信學生經過兩三年訓練，使用英語文作為溝通語言應該有很大自信，對於出國參訪也不會懼怕。



IBPA 第一屆新生暨家長歡迎會

IBPA 首屆新生徐明琨表示，全英語授課對大一新鮮人來說是很大的挑戰，但希望藉由這樣的學習方式有效地提升自己的專業知識與英語能力。她相信自己如能經過四年這樣的鍛鍊，無論在英語能力和國際觀上，一定都有不錯的表現。

中興大學的兩個國際性學程（IMPA、IBPA）都是強調注重「面向世界」，這是基於一個很多人不敢面對的嚴苛現實：台灣實在太小，不足以承載台灣青年的夢想。近年來在廣設高中大學的政策推動下，台灣已有 160 多所大學。如果沒有在「人才移動力」

下功夫，台灣的大學畢業生只能困守在這個島嶼上，哪裡有這麼多就業機會呢。外語能力就是人才是否能夠移動的檢視標準。IBPA 以全英語教學，也是對世界發出一個訊息：我們了解世界、有能力參與世界的工作機會，因為我們使用世界上最廣泛應用的語言-英語-作為教與學的語言。

姜保真說他已經為 IBPA 第一屆大學部新生取好一個代表性的吉祥獸—小鯨魚，英文就是 *bottlehead*。姜老師的意思是希望這些學生能像鯨魚一樣遨遊大海。



IBPA 吉祥物：小鯨魚

台灣本地的我國籍高中畢業生報考「國際農企業學士學位學程」，可經由推薦申請、繁星計畫申請、指定學科考試等多元管道入學。以指定考試為例，採計科目是：「國文」(x1.0)、「英文」(x2.0)、「數學甲」(x1.25)、「生物」(x1.0)：學科能力測驗的「英文」須達均標以上。由於是以英語文授課，建議考生的英語成績應該更高，可能要到前標或頂標程度。

姜保真企盼高中同學以及他們的家長和高中老師都能看見：追逐競奪大學熱門院系是徒勞的；動輒以「做一位科學家」、「做一位名醫」為人生標的，也是不切實際的理想。歡迎有理想主義情懷的青年人報考中興大學農資學院的兩個國際性學程（IMPA、IBPA），為自己前途鋪路、為人類前景服務。這個理想雖然同樣遠大，卻是務實可行的。歡迎喜愛外語、外向性格、關心國際事務的同學報考。這是真正面向社會、面向世界的教育體系。

All-English degree programs in NCHU, TAIWAN

International Bachelor's Program of Agribusiness (IBPA)

國際農企業學士學位學程

A 4-year undergraduate degree program



### A New and Unique Educational Opportunity

Starting Fall Semester, 2011, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the National Chung Hsing University, the oldest higher educational institution on the island Taiwan, is offering an international bachelor degree program in Agribusiness, International Bachelor's Program of Agribusiness (IBPA). It is currently the only all-English international degree program for undergraduate students in Taiwan's major multi-universities.

For academic year 2011~12, the first class of IBPA has recruited 14 local Taiwan students and three international students. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, freshmen students and their parents came to the campus, to attend the orientation conference in lunch time; in the evening, there was a welcome dinner party held in a local restaurant for them. Since this is a new and unique approach in Taiwan's higher education, students and parents are excited and, meanwhile, concerned about future developments. In both meetings IBPA faculties and staff clearly briefed the vision and mission of the program to the audience, and answered many questions raised from the parents. For the parents, freshmen students, faculties and staff, they have enjoyed a fun-filled weekend.

IBPA is a four-year undergraduate degree program which offers all-English curriculum and emphasizes inter-disciplinary approach of teaching and learning. The program provides future agribusiness professionals with theoretical insights and practical training in agribusiness administration and financial management. It will prepare the students to understand and participate in today's and future opportunities and development issues of worldwide agriculture. The IBPA program sends a clear message to the world: we are facing the society (inter-disciplinary approach of education), and we are facing the world (English as the official communication language).

During the lunch meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup> parents also agreed to form a "Parents Association of IBPA". Local media also covered the news.

IBPA and its concurrent master-level program, IMPA, jointly play a very significant role in promoting and advancing the internationalization of the University. In the past, very few international students would consider TAIWAN, or NCHU, be more specific, as an option for their intended study-abroad trips because there are very few courses offered in English. Now the IBPA and IMPA offer all-English curriculum and thus welcome international students to join them as either short-term visiting/exchange students or long-term degree-seeking students. We believe IBPA would make our campus more diversified, which is definitely good to the students' education and learning.

## Passion and Concern

IBPA is not a common business-oriented degree program. Rather, IBPA recruits students who are interested in agriculture and prepare them with training to be able to do agribusiness in a global setting. Furthermore, IBPA does not only teach students about business skills and knowledge, but, also focus on humanity and service. We encourage students to contribute their wisdom and efforts by participating volunteer activities in Taiwan and foreign countries. In close cooperation with the International Master Program of Agriculture (IMPA ~ see [page 6](#)) we have advanced the progress of internationalization of higher education for our students, staff, and faculties.

中文簡介 CHINESE introduction

國際農企業學士學位學程（簡稱：「國農企學程」）

International Bachelor's Program of Agriculture (IBPA)



「國農企學程」是台灣的國立中興大學農資學院於 100 學年度（2011）新成立的大學部四年制全英語授課學位學程，它的主要教育目標是：農企業經營的實務技能、農產品國際貿易的全球導向、生態農業的宏觀視野。期盼畢業生能在全球職場謀職就業。這是一個真正面向社會、面向世界的教育機制。我們是台灣所有綜合大學中，唯一設有大學部四年制全英語授課的學位學程機制的學校。

「國農企學程」同時招收本地我國籍學生、僑生及外籍學生。也歡迎短期來訪的交換學生。



## International Master Program of Agriculture (IMPA)

國際農學碩士學位學程

A 2-year master degree program



### Missions

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) established a new graduate program, International Master Program of Agriculture (IMPA) in 2008, leading to Master of Science degree in agriculture. IMPA is a two-year master program that combines course work and thesis research, which is independent from all other department and institutes within the CANR. It includes three tracks for the students: Agricultural Production, Natural Resource Management and Conservation, and Social and Economic Aspects of Rural Development.

IMPA recruits local Taiwan students, overseas-Chinese students, international students, and mainland-Chinese students. Besides degree-seeking students, IMPA also welcomes interested students who are currently studying in higher-educational institutions around the world, including mainland-China (PRC), to apply for a semester or an academic year of study as non-degree-seeking exchange students.

### Unique and Innovative Program

CANR is one of the seven faculties within the University. It has long history of international education, research, and services. Currently near 2/3 of the international student body of the University registered in the academic units of the College.

IMPA is a unique and innovative program in the College. We truly offer all-English curriculums; students have to take a few courses taught in English, listed as core courses of IMPA; attend weekly seminars in which English is the only communication language, and must write their final master thesis in English.

As the Canadian master of mass communication, Marshall McLuhan, once said, "The Medium is the Message." English language is the medium for internationalizing our local universities. It is also the message for IMPA to attract international students: "Yes! We dare to face the world because we do communicate in E-N-G-L-I-S-H."

IMPA is also a flexible and free educational program for the students. We emphasize inter-disciplinary approach of teaching and learning. IMPA Students' thesis subjects and advisers may come from any of the academic units within the College. We therefore are able to provide with broad topics for students to conduct research. Furthermore, we also encourage students, international or local, to pick up issues that are relevant to global or foreign concerns as their thesis subjects. This inter-disciplinary approach of IMPA sets us apart from many other competitors and affords our students an unparalleled depth and breadth of knowledge, enabling them to work thoughtfully across boundaries to address the pressing, highly complex issues of food and environment found around the world.

## Diversity

The student admission committee of IMPA considers all aspects of the applicant's academic records and personal experience. The admission review process tries to balance different educational systems in different countries/areas. In general, we prefer to admit applicants who are outward-looking and interested in embracing the diversity of culture, language, and human experience of international societies.

We strongly believe that education (teaching and learning) can be enhanced by the interaction among people with different experiences and backgrounds. The IMPA program is designed to offer cultural and ethnic diversified learning opportunities for both students and faculties. It implies that we strongly encourage applicants from diverse nations, languages, and cultures. We do therefore value ethnic and gender diversity and promote mutual respect and interaction among all individuals within our IMPA community. Students should have opportunities to engage in a variety of experiences that help to make what they have learned come alive.

## Honor and Recognition

In a recent (2011) official review conducted by the **Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation of Taiwan**, entrusted by the **Ministry of Education**, ROC, our IMPA program obtained the highest ranking of *“highly recommended”* and praise,

***“Overall it is an excellent program that could be a model for programs elsewhere.”***

It is a clear sign that our educational philosophy and efforts in past years have received recognition and praise. In year 2011 the College also opened a new international degree program, International Bachelor's Program of Agribusiness (IBPA ~ see [page 4](#)). IBPA, like IMPA, offer all-English curriculum on undergraduate level. With the concurrent bachelor/master's degree programs in agribusiness and agriculture, students should have more options of choices to explore their own interests and potentials.

中文簡介 CHINESE introduction

國際農學碩士學位學程（簡稱：「國農學程」）

International Master Program of Agriculture (IMPA)



「國農學程」是中興大學農業暨自然資源學院的研究所碩士班二年制全英語授課學位學程，成立於 97 學年度(2008)。本學程的研究生需選修若干門以英語授課的核心課程、參加每周以英語進行的專題討論、以英文撰寫碩士論文並以英語進行論文口試答辯。研究生可在下列三大領域中選擇研究題材及指導教授：農業生產、自然資源經營與保育、鄉村社會發展。「國農學程」鼓勵學生以外國題材或是國際議題作為論文研究材料，期盼給予學生對農業有整合性的宏觀視野，並在生態農業的大原則下探討農業的前景。本學程於 2011 年接受教育部委託高等教育評鑑中心派員實地訪視考核全英語學位學程運作情形，評鑑結果獲得最高等級的「極力推薦」評價，是台灣所有農業類院校中唯一獲此等級評價的，並且因此獲得教育部專案獎勵補助款。

「國農學程」同時招收本地我國籍學生、僑生、外籍學生及大陸籍學生。也歡迎短期來訪的交換學生。本地我國籍學生報考時須繳驗英語文能力測驗成績單。

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