

# To be the NCKUer

Ondřej Dostál

It is appropriate to introduce myself. My name is 多思妥, Ondřej Dostál. I graduated from Masaryk University in Brno, the Czech Republic, where I earned my Ph.D. in the field of geology. Masaryk University is the 2nd largest in the country and is one of the most prestigious universities in Central Europe. In the years 2007-2019, I was holding the post of the director of Mendel Museum. And how did I get to NCKU? The year 2012 and the exhibition dedicated to G. Mendel opened thanks to the former management of the university museum began my cooperation with NCKU. Our cooperation culminated by the exhibition IC Taiwan in Prague and Brno which was created under the leadership of the museum director Dr. Chen Jeng-Horng, at that time.

In 2018, I received the Huayu Scholarship and I began to study Chinese at the NCKU Language Center, and at the same time, to work at the NCKU Museum which continued with the Fellowship supported by MOST. I had an incredible opportunity to be a part of NCKU for 15 months. I tried the life of a student, a teacher, and an academic. I got the chance to discover and to learn more about Taiwan thanks to my Taiwanese friends.

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And what could be said about NCKU? I am proud of having the opportunity to be a part of NCKU. I met great and educated academics with deep knowledge and overview of many fields. It was inspiring to lead debates on various topics. Debates among academics are a fundamental parameter of university development and understanding. The different socio-cultural frameworks of our societies are a limiting factor and only an open communication can develop our relationships, but above all, it allows us to understand phenomena and processes in individual scientific disciplines. As a student, I realized that studying is not easy and it is a privilege that needs to be deserved. However, I also experienced a number of surprises such as the fact that students are shy and do not have debates with their teachers. All I can say: "Don't be afraid of communication with your teachers, you'll just learn more and move on."

I returned to the Czech Republic more than a year ago, and in addition to missing Taiwan, I also miss the NCKU, the great NCKU Museum, its employees, and mainly my Taiwanese friends. I believe, I will come back soon and I will spend some time here again.

NCKU has simply touched my heart which is why I proudly call myself the NCKUer.