

Academia Sinica to hold Open House on November 1 “Sixty Years of Memories”



Academia Sinica will throw its doors open to the public on November 1 for its annual “open house” day. Academia Sinica moved to the Nankang District of Taipei in 1954 and this year marks the 60th Anniversary of the move. The theme of this year’s open house is “Sixty Years of Memories” and showcases the deep affection and connection between the natural environment, the people of Nankang, and Academia Sinica. This year, the Academy facilities will host 232 activities suitable for all ages including a range of popular science lectures, visits to core research facilities, hands-on do-it-yourself activities and film presentations. The general public is cordially invited to join in the Academy’s celebrations.

A photography exhibition entitled “Sixty Years of Memories” will be held at the square next to the Institution of Statistical Science from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Festivities in the square around the fountain in front of the Center for Academic Activities will kick off at 9:30 am with an opening ceremony addressed by President Chi-Huey Wong, dancing by the children of the Kindergarten of Academia Sinica, and a Taiko Drum performance by the Fude Elementary School.

Among the day’s activities, of particular note, Academician Fu-Chan Wei, Distinguished Chair Professor at the College of Medicine at Chang Gung University will give a special popular science lecture entitled “Recent Advance in Microsurgical Reconstruction of Traumatic and Cancer Ablation Defects” at the Center of Academic Activities. Dr. Wei has been the subject of two documentary films made by the Discovery Network Asia-Pacific and National Geographic channels. The two films will be screened before and after his lecture. In the afternoon, two German pianists will present a new fun interpretation of classical music entitled “Piano Battle: Andreas Kern vs. Paul Cibis”.

Thirty-five popular science lectures will be held around the campus during the day. Titles include “A Fantasy Journey in the Asia-Pacific Area”, “Mathematics in Twisty Puzzles”, “Astronomy in Our Daily Life”, “Dark Matter and Dark Energy”, “Exploring the Western Philippine Sea by OR5”, “How to Rear Black-winged Subterranean Termite”, “How Can You Mend a Broken Heart? - Stem Cells, Nanotechnology and Beyond!”, “Our Gene and Our Health”, “Who is to Blame for Obesity? Gene or Environment? Yourself or

the Society?”, “An Easy Talk on History”, “Wage Stagnation? Fact Disclosure and Cross-Country Comparison”, “Is There a Duty to Obey the Law?”, “Modern Poetry in Modern Music”, and many, many more.

Academia Sinica facilities will be open for visits including many advanced core research facilities, such as the Accelerator Laboratory, the Nanobioscience Lab, Solar Panels, the X-ray Diffractometer, and Ultra High Throughput Screening. Visitors can also share knowledge of Academia Sinica’s latest research outcomes including a Live Demo of the IAA Telescope Operation (real-time link to Hawaii and Lu-Lin), Biomedical Sensing Chips, Wearable Biosensor for Water Monitoring, Dominant Patterns Finder for Chinese Syntax, Taipei Restaurant Search System, Déjà vu Input Method (an easier input method with abbreviated Chinese words or phrases), and Chinese Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart (CAPTCHA).

There will be scheduled guide tours with narrators and a limited number of gifts available for visitors in the Walking Area of Ecological Pond, The Ecological Research Park, Institute of Physics, the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Museum of the Institute of History and Philology, Taiwan Archaeological Studies Building, Fu Ssu-nien Library, Lingnan Fine Arts Museum, and Academia Sinica Digital Center.

This year is the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of Plant and Microbial Biology. In addition to welcoming alumni home for a celebration, the institute has also organized popular science lectures, a historical pictures display, and open laboratories. Visitors will have a chance to receive limited natural handmade gifts including small plants, *Lonicera japonica* (honeysuckle) massage oils, insect repellent, and dry wash.

(Visitors to Academia Sinica Open Day are reminded to take public transportation systems whenever possible, to avoid traffic congestion.)

Detailed information about activities is available in Chinese and English at the Open House website: <http://www.sinica.edu.tw/openhouse/2014/>