



## 2022-2 「 EXPLORING AND IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL ISSUES 」 Topic 8 Cross Cultural Field Trip: Visiting the HV Plaza

Time : 2023-05-07

Location: HV Plaza/ B1., No. 120, Sec. 3, Heping W. Rd., Wanhua Dist., Taipei City

Led by Professor Kim Yung Keng from the Department of Global Politics and Economics, along with Ms. Tran Ngoc Thuy as the tour guide and speaker, this cross-cultural field trip, which is part of the Exploring and Implementing Social Issues Course, took students on a trip to the HV Plaza, located in the basement of Longshan Shopping Mall near Longshan Temple MRT Station. The Plaza, which was originally the Longshan underground street mall, was transformed in order to fulfill the Taipei City Government's wishes of setting up a place of gathering and a leisure spot for Vietnamese immigrants and migrant workers to go to on their days off. The entrance to the Plaza was designed as a cultural corridor, adorned with photos of Vietnamese attractions such as Ha Long Bay and traditional costumes. After sampling some Vietnamese cuisine, students were also given the chance to explore the Vietnamese supermarket. Since its establishment, it has become the largest Vietnamese marketplace in Taiwan, earning the nickname "Little Vietnam in Taipei." Through this activity, students had the opportunity to experience the exotic charm of Vietnam firsthand.

Ms. Tran Ngoc Thuy, a Vietnamese immigrant, came to Taiwan to study in 2010. Taiwan is also where she got married and had children, and she now considers Taiwan to be her home. Because she missed the cuisine of her home country, she fulfilled her dream by opening her own restaurant. Her handmade dishes even attracted President Tsai Ing-wen to visit and taste them. On the field trip, she also brought her Vietnamese pastries for students to sample, showcasing her sincere hospitality and providing students with a fulfilling experience.

A number of four students participated in the activity, and the overall satisfaction rating was a 6 out of 6.

Benefits of the activity: Students expressed their satisfaction with the field trip to the HV Plaza, where they not only learned about Vietnamese cuisine and culture but also gained practical knowledge about Vietnamese religious beliefs and the current currency exchange channels. Overall, they found the experience to be highly rewarding.



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The entrance to the HV Plaza is linked to Exit 2 of Longshan Temple MRT Station.





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Ms. Tran Ngoc Thuy explaining the religious beliefs of Vietnamese immigrants to the students.



Immigrants from Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, and other countries can order their hometown snacks from their hometown through mail at this location.



Ms. Tran Ngoc Thuy brought her homemade Vietnamese pastries for the students to taste.