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各位親愛的讀者您們好^^：

後學在參與訪客中心的運作期間，很幸運地累積了不少導覽外國訪賓的經驗。由於文化背景不盡相同，外國訪賓常常對臺大的校園生活提出一些有趣的問題與見解；若這些有趣的對談只留在後學腦袋中未免可惜，因此醞釀了將這些對談紀錄下来的想法。

編寫這份稿件之目標有二，第一，這份稿之內容以對話方式編排，希望可以提供各位一個更口語的架構來介紹這所校園。第二，考量到大部分校園導覽其實是提供外賓一個心情放鬆的場合，同時，以活潑的方式介紹這所校園亦是訪客中心的設立初衷，故這份稿的內容盡量觸及校園生活範圍，而非流於校園重要地標的介紹。

最後，後學要向訪客中心幹事楊松翰先生以及圖書館的林琦小姐致上最深的謝意，因為松翰先生的支持與林琦小姐義務幫忙編排稿件，我才能在無後顧之憂的情形下完成這項工作，並且，對於後學反覆修訂內容，兩位也未曾加以苛責。另外，臺大外文所劉威辰同學、海洋大學教授Jane E. Lewis、臺大資工所博士班林欣穀同學、臺大外文所吳子文同學、臺灣法律系林俊廷同學、臺灣森林系吳秤蓮同學、臺灣外文系蔣文心同學、臺灣經濟系粘卉慈同學以及臺灣人人類系盧冠中同學於百忙之中抽空給予意見與訂正，後學的感激無法言喻，只能在此處向各位表達最誠摯的感謝。

後學雖有熱忱，然終究非語言專長出身，故內容方面難免有所疏漏，尚請各位不吝賜教。若該份稿件能對各位有些許裨益，將會是後學最大之榮幸。

祝福各位都有愉快的校園之旅。

陳鵬帆  謹上
20/04/2009
On a bright, cloudless day, Professor Doraemon and his family plan to enjoy a tour of NTU campus led by a volunteer student, Hamtaro. They will meet at the school’s historic Main Gate and are scheduled to finish at the Side Gate 2 hours later.

Once a university tour is booked, the NTU Visitor Center send the visitors’ profiles to the guides responsible to lead the tour.

Here is Professor Doraemon’s Profile

(This example is only for our amusement. Still, always remember to check the visitors’ profiles before meeting them. This will help to ease your anxiety when meeting them.)

Professor Doraemon

Education
Ph. D., Ding Dong University, Utopia, 1996.

Experience

Research interests
Analysis of the nutritional value of adzuki bean cake.

Publications

Hamtaro always reads such visitor profile information first, so he is well-prepared to greet his guests every time!
SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

Hamtaro: Good morning, Professor Doraemon, nice to meet you. I am your volunteer campus tour guide, Hamtaro. I will be leading this tour of our university today.

Prof Doraemon: Nice to meet you. I am Professor Doraemon. Are you an NTU student?

Hamtaro: Yes, I am an undergraduate (a graduate) student majoring in____ (please check http://www.ntu.edu.tw/english/academics/academics.html)

Prof Doraemon: That’s very interesting!

Hamtaro: I’d like to begin our tour today by presenting a brief history of NTU! As you may know, Taiwan was under Japanese rule for about 50 years, from 1895 until 1945. So, National Taiwan University was originally established as Taihoku Imperial University in 1928 by the Japanese. “Taihoku” is Japanese for Taipei, and it was established as one of nine Japanese imperial universities. Japanese colonial rule ended after World War II. The university administration was then handed over to the Nationalist Chinese, and the university was renamed National Taiwan University. In November of his year, 2010, we will celebrate NTU’s 82nd anniversary.

Prof Doraemon: I see. How many students attend this university currently?

Hamtaro: As a matter of fact, NTU has over 33,000 students! Can you imagine, this university started with only 2 divisions, but now has expanded to 11 colleges and 54 departments. Also, it has 103 graduate programs and 83 Ph.D. programs—the most of any university in Taiwan.
**Prof Doraemon:** That is impressive! What, may I ask, is the ratio of graduate to undergraduate students?

**Hamtaro:** NTU is a research-oriented university, so the ratio is nearly one to one.

**Prof Doraemon:** That’s surprising! And, how large is the campus?

**Hamtaro:** Here, the Main Campus, covers about 277 acres in area; but if we take all the school’s campuses into consideration, then the total land occupied amounts to nearly 1 percent of Taiwan, that is about 345 square kilometers or about 85 thousand acres.

**Prof Doraemon:** Wow! That is truly amazing!

**Hamtaro:** The secret is that the NTU’s Forestry Department holds and manages vast tracts of forest land, especially in central Taiwan.

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Reference 6, 18
Hamtaro: Here is Fu Ssu-nien Memorial Garden. This place was originally called Tropical Botanical Garden during the Taihoku Imperial University period. Japanese botanists brought various species of exotic vegetation from Southeast Asia here for research purposes. In 1950, president Fu Ssu-nien, the fourth president of NTU, passed away. In view of his outstanding efforts to make NTU a citadel of modern learning and free thought, university administrators proposed laying him to rest in a monument on campus. With his family’s permission, he was interred in this garden, which was subsequently renamed Fu Ssu-nien Memorial Garden. With the passing of time, some gossip began to spread. It was said that if you skipped class and fooled around in this garden, you would flunk and be kicked out of the school. If lovers dated in this garden, they would break up unexpectedly. All joking aside, this garden remains an important spot for ecological education as well as botanical research.

Prof Doraemon: Wow, some couples are having their wedding pictures taken here now.

Hamtaro: Amusingly, this garden is one of the most popular wedding photo spots in Taipei. Probably, President Fu only focuses on the truant students. The wedding couples are safe.

Note: Don’t stay too long; there are many mosquitoes here.
Hamtaro: Alright, now we are on Palm Boulevard. It’s the main artery of the Main Campus and commonly perceived as the heart of NTU. The boulevard was built with several brilliant ideas in mind. First, the boulevard extends toward the east. As you may know, the state symbol of Japan is the rising sun, so in the old days facing the rising sun implied venerating the Japanese Empire. Also, here we can see a hill behind the Main Library. The hill’s name is Mountain Thumb. Thumb indicates excellence in Japanese culture. Accordingly, walking toward Mountain Thumb is like making progress, and isn’t that the ultimate goal of learning!

Prof Doraemon: Wow! That’s amazing! How long is the boulevard?
Hamtaro: It’s about 600 meters long. And, there are 201 palm trees along the way. Please take a look back. Do you notice anything unusual about the boulevard?

Prof Doraemon: Well…..there is a curve.
Hamtaro: Exactly, the boulevard isn’t perfectly straight, Japanese architects designed a curve near the Main Gate; we don’t know the exact reason, but there are some guesses. A canal used to run along the front of NTU, so perhaps the boulevard was curved to run alongside the canal. Also, in terms of fengshui, a curve near a gate is said to “gather good fortune,” so for the school, this would mean “gathering genius.”
Hamtarō: Third, if we compared this university to a quarry, the curve would function like a vestibule blocking the view from outside. Thus, true knowledge is attainable only if you’re willing to really enter and approach it. Finally, the curve could symbolize modesty, telling students not to be too “direct” and proud; instead, they should be adaptable and humble. Isn’t this the learner’s ethic? Just from the example of this curve in the boulevard, you can see how rich our campus is in symbolism!

Prof Doraemon: Fascinating!

Reference 2

Note Fengshui: a belief that the position or the location of the house, furniture and ancestral grave will affect the fortune of a family or descendents.
Prof Doraemon: Look! The truck is hauling many bikes away.

Hamtaro: Oh, those are illegally parked bikes. The bikes will be sold off if their owners do not retrieve them within 4 months.

Prof Doraemon: Really? How much do these secondhand bikes cost?

Hamtaro: About 15 US dollars each.

Prof Doraemon: Amazing! That’s very cheap! You know, the price of a second-hand bike won’t be nearly that buyer-friendly in my country.

Hamtaro: Well, no matter whether cheap or expensive, everyone must lock their bike here– or it will likely vanish in a twinkling!

Prof Doraemon: Oh my goodness. That is outrageous.

Hamtaro: Do students at your school ride bikes on campus?

Prof Doraemon: Yeah, so parking our bikes also can be troublesome for us.

Reference 14
Hamtaro: This is the former Main Library of NTU. It's one of the oldest buildings on campus. Over yonder, you can see a large new building at the end of the boulevard. That's the new Main Library. In many ways, the new library was designed along the lines of the old library, so the two buildings have similar architectural embellishments, such as gables, high arched windows and arched doors. You may also notice a circular window in the gable. This is called a bull’s eye window or, as the French say, an “œil-de-boeuf” window, another classical architectural embellishment to allow more natural light. All of these architectural elements were introduced by the Japanese architects. Thus, you will notice that the buildings along the boulevard share many features in common. At present, the reading room of the former Main Library is an exhibition room to highlight the university’s history and achievements. Soon, the artifacts held by the Anthropology Department will be displayed here. Given the intimate relation between development of Taiwan and Taiwan University, this Gallery is like a window on Taiwan as well as on this university. I recommend that your stroll through the Gallery when you have some leisure time.

Prof Doraemon: Sounds fascinating! Do I have to book a tour of the Gallery or can I view it on my own?

Hamtaro: You can learn more about NTU by joining a tour. You make book your own tour, but the Gallery offers a daily guided tour at 2:00 p.m.

Prof Doraemon: Fabulous. Thanks for this helpful information.
Hamtaro: Now, I’d like to introduce a most glorious chapter of NTU’s history. This exhibition room used to be a physics laboratory. The story of this laboratory begins in 1932. In April of that year, Cockroft and Walton at the Cavendish Lab in Cambridge, England, built an atomic accelerator, and discovered the neutron. This was the first time that human beings split the atom. Professor Arasaku, the director of this lab, decided to verify their result. Within two years, he led a group of enthusiastic young physics students in building an accelerator like the Cockroft-Walton one, and successfully repeated their experiment. This breakthrough shocked the world at the time, because Taihoku Imperial University was just a fledgling school.

Prof Doraemon: That’s incredible!

Hamtaro: This lab continued to host cutting-edge physics research during the following decades. However, local interest in nuclear physics faded gradually in the 1980s. Sadly, the accelerator eventually had to be disassembled to make room for newer equipment. Years passed by. Finally, in 2004 the Physics Department decided to reconstruct the accelerator and in the process that unearthed this remarkable piece of history. At present, that actual research is no longer the Department’s concern. Rather, it wishes to cultivate people’s interest in science.

Prof Doraemon: That’s really wonderful! At the same time, studies in the history of science often provide new insights into issues in contemporary science.
There are various strains of azaleas planted all over the campus, hence the campus is fully ablaze in blossoms every March and attracts legions of flower-lovers. Owing to these omnipresent multi-colored blossoms, National Taiwan University is popularly known as “Azalea Town.”

Wow, the campus must be especially beautiful in March!

NTU calls March the “Azalea Season” when it holds the annual “Azalea Festival.” The festival aims to showcase this university’s progress to the public, especially to prospective students. During March, the university hosts several arts activities offered by various offices and departments. Many troupes are invited to stage plays here, as well. March is like a carnival season at the university. The joyful atmosphere is really infectious.

That’s really nice!

Also, there’s a heartwarming tradition related to azaleas. Some students express their love in azalea petals. For example, they arrange the petals in words and images on the lawn to convey their love messages. March is said to be the most romantic season on campus!

How sweet it is!
SECTION 8
THE SHUTTLE BUS

Hamtaro: That's our school bus (pointing to the shuttle bus). Faculty members and students can take the shuttle bus to other campuses, such as the NTU College of Medicine, and to Academia Sinica for free. Since NTU and Academia Sinica have many collaborations, the convenient shuttle bus service really facilitates our joint academic activities.

Prof Doraemon: That really helps your research and academic efforts!

NOTE
Academia Sinica is the most advanced research institute in Taiwan.
SECTION 9
At the Fu Bell

Hamtaro: This bell was erected to commemorate NTU president Fu, who I mentioned before. During his tenure as NTU president, Taiwan was under dictatorial rule and martial law. Many NTU professors and students were wrongfully arrested, prosecuted; some even were wrongfully executed by the government. This sad page of history is called the “White Terror Era.” During that period, this university was under great political pressure, but president Fu still made every effort to shelter the students and maintain academic freedom. That’s one reason why president Fu is so highly respected at NTU to this very day. In addition, this bell rings 21 times to mark the beginning and end of our classes. The number 21 corresponds to the President’s famous saying: there’re actually 21 hours in a day because the remaining three hours should be left for contemplation. When the bell rings, it’s like president Fu reminding students about the importance of thinking.

Prof Doraemon: Wow, that’s impressive, indeed!

Hamtaro: Since the bell is the centerpiece of the university emblem, I recommend that you take a group picture in front of the bell.

Prof Doraemon: Sure, could you take the picture for us?

Hamtaro: It’s my pleasure (takes the camera)! OK, 1, 2, 3. Cheese! Nice!
Alright, one more shot! Say cheese!
Would you mind having a picture taken with me?

Prof Doraemon: No problem!
Hamtaro: On your right side is the Administration Building, and directly across from it is the College of Liberal Arts. They were built in 1919 and 1928 respectively.

Prof Doraemon: Hey, you said this university was founded in 1928, so how is it that the Administration Building was built in 1919?

Hamtaro: That’s a good question! The Administration Building was originally built for Taihoku Senior School of Agriculture and Forestry. The school was then incorporated into Taihoku Imperial University in 1928.

Prof Doraemon: Okay, I see.

Hamtaro: Have you noticed any difference between the two buildings?

Prof Doraemon: Well...do you mean in their color?

Hamtaro: Exactly! As you may know, the Japanese had prepared for World War II for quite a long time. When the College of Liberal Art was built, the Japanese came up with some sophisticated designs to make this building less visible from the sky. First, the Japanese architects camouflaged this building by using brown tiles which are similar in color to the ground. Second, they tried to obstruct the pilots’ view by using a special-shaped tile named “13-groove” tile. This corrugated-shaped tile could scatter light in different directions, thus making the building less visible to pilots.

Prof Doraemon: Wow, that's amazing!
Hamitaro: Here you can see bullet holes in the wall. During World War II, this university was an important research center for the Japanese military. This might explain why the campus suffered an aerial attack during the war. Some other buildings on campus bear similar scars.

Prof Doraemon: It seems like the wall was hit by machine gun fire from fighters, right?

Hamitaro: Yeah, but fortunately no casualties were reported during the air-raid. Historically, the scars are meaningful reminders of the cruel war.

Prof Doraemon: Yes, I couldn’t agree more.
Hamtaro: Do you see the chimney over there (points to the chimney)?
Prof Doraemon: Yeah.

Hamtaro: There used to be an alcohol factory there, and the chimney was part of it. The Japanese Empire faced an oil shortage during World War II, and the allied blockade interfered with Japan’s fuel imports. This energy crisis forced the Japanese military to seek alternative energy sources. Since sugarcane was the main agricultural product of Taiwan at that time, so making alcohol from sugarcane residues as the makeshift was a reasonable option. After a series of experiments, Professor Baba isolated certain microbes that could transfer the residues into alcohol efficiently, so some of the Japanese aircraft actually burned this kind of alcohol instead of oil. This effort alleviated the fuel shortage of the empire, while at the same time it signified that the Japanese military could no longer keep its edge in the aerial war. Wow, so you mean Japanese used the bio-fuel in the Second World War. That’s surprising! What was the formula for making this fuel?

Prof Doraemon: Well, in fact, I have no idea. It’s a mystery.

Prof Doraemon: Oh, what a pity.
**SECTION 13**

**The Church**

**Hamtaro:** Taiwan received American aid from 1950 to 1965, and this area used to be a US military base. The US government built a lovely church here to comfort their soldiers. After the aid was terminated, this church remained abandoned for decades. Now it has been transformed into a center for the promotion of arts.

**Prof Doraemon:** That's nice!
Hamtarō: The university has several Experimental Farms for research and education; this shop sells their products, such as bread, ice cream sandwiches, milk, yogurt, sausages, and so on. Those products are so popular that they often sell out very quickly. Wow, it’s packed with visitors!

Prof Doraemon: This shop gets even more crowded whenever China’s tainted milk scares spread globally. Some consumers even quarrel with the clerks because of the sales quantity regulations.

Hamtarō: That’s crazy!

Hamtarō: Would you like to try some dessert? Our ice cream sandwich is especially famous!

Prof Doraemon: Do you have chocolate ice cream sandwiches?

Hamtarō: Uh…. Well……we have only vanilla. But it’s a classic!

Prof Doraemon: Ok, I will give it a try.

Reference 11
In Taiwan, students must pass the College Entrance Examination to enter a good university. This building is the place where professors write the examination questions. To prevent leaks of the questions, this building is kept under heavy security during the exam season.

Prof Doraemon: Well, don’t you have a test bank?
Hamtaro: Yes, we do. However, only about 30 percent of the questions are drawn from the test bank.

Prof Doraemon: How many students take the exam each year?
Hamtaro: It depends. Before, there were commonly over 160,000 examinees, but in recent years the number has been dropping because of the declining birth rate.

Prof Doraemon: Yeah, declining birth rate is a worrisome problem in many countries. How many students are admitted by NTU every year?
Hamtaro: NTU accepts about 4 thousand students each year.
Hamtaro: Here is the NTU Experimental Farm. The Farm has 4 sections; this area is for agronomy. The management section faces the agronomy section. The other two sections are located near the Mountain Toad. The Experimental Farm offers not only materials for research but also some DIY programs for visitors.

Prof Doraemon: The view is so nice here!

Hamtaro: This pool, though small, is an important wildlife habitat in Taipei. It’s also one of the most popular tourist spots on campus. Many people seem to think this university isn’t an academic sanctuary; rather, they take it as a big park in the middle of this concrete jungle.

Prof Doraemon: I totally agree with their viewpoint.

Hamtaro: Do you see the white building there? That’s another renowned university in Taiwan. Its name is National Taiwan University of Science and Technology. Since our campus area extends to that foothill, that university is surrounded by our campuses!
**SECTION 17**

Stray Pets

Prof Doraemon: So far, I have seen many stray dogs on campus. I am curious about how you deal with those stray pets?

Hamtaro: Well, those animals’ living conditions are truly pathetic, but they are potentially dangerous to human beings. This issue has stirred up much dispute. Finally the administration and the students agreed on a solution. The stray dogs would undergo tooth extraction and sterilization surgery. Then, they could be adopted by kind people or stay on campus.

Prof Doraemon: So, you mean they are not taken away and killed?

Hamtaro: That’s right. The university community feels sorry for them and wants them to live.

Prof Doraemon: Good!
This is the new Main Library. Despite its “retro” appearance, it was actually completed in 1998. As of 2009, the library collection included more than 4 million volumes and 34 thousand periodicals. The library also holds over 50 thousand rare books in Chinese and other languages that are very important research resources for local as well as foreign scholars. The Learning Common is also one of the features of this library. The notion of Learning Common was adopted from Harvard University. As you may know, the Common was designed to facilitate learning by encouraging knowledge sharing between students; further, various kinds of free tutorials are offered by outstanding undergraduates here. If you’d like a detailed introduction about the library, the library tour is also available for visiting scholars.

Wow, I will think about it. This building is so amazing. The ambience really makes me want to study hard!

Well, how about taking another group picture with the library in the background?

Sure, thank you so much.

You’re welcome.
Hamtaro: Can you guess what this building is?

Prof Doraemon: Well... There is barbed wire fencing.

Hamtaro: And glass shards!

Prof Doraemon: It looks like a prison.

Hamtaro: Hamtaro: Yeah, it does. But actually, this building is one of the women's dormitories.

Prof Doraemon: Really? Ha-Ha, I think the girls must focus on their study. So, where is the men's dorm?

Hamtaro: Well, the men's dormitories are off campus. Some male students say it's unfair because they have to get up early and rush to classes (laughs).

Prof Doraemon: Well, when I came here 20 years ago, I saw that girls often sat in the arms of boys while they pedaled their bicycles, but nowadays I see most girls "standing" behind boys on bikes like "backseat drivers". I think it's a sign of social change. Taiwanese girls seem to be more independent.

Hamtaro: Yeah, I agree with your view! Feminism has been on the rise in recent decades in Taiwan. In fact, nowadays many girls are more ambitious than boys in their academic research and career development.

Prof Doraemon: To a certain degree, I think it's a worldwide phenomenon.
There are 2 canteens on the Main Campus. They are named as “Siao Fu” and “Siao-Siao Fu” respectively. “Siao” means “little,” “Fu” means “canteen,” so you can also call them little canteen and double-little canteen. Ironically, Siao-Siao Fu is bigger than Siao Fu. It confuses foreign students when they make appointments to meet friends there.

**Prof Doraemon:** Ha-ha, that’s very funny! But, why don’t you change the names?

**Hamtaro:** Well, that’s because Siao Fu was established first, and now we all have got used to it.

**Prof Doraemon:** OK, I see!

**Reference 2**
Most of this campus was rice paddies in the old days. Though Taipei is no longer a rural area, some irrigation canals are still preserved around Da-an district. Drunken Moon Lake, though it is now a pond, was once an important reservoir in the old days.

Why do you call it drunken moon lake?

Interestingly, nobody knows the origin of the name. That’s another mystery!

What is the story surrounding the pavilion in the lake?

Well, people say there used to be a bridge to the pavilion, but it was torn down after a tragedy. It’s said that there was a couple that planned to break up at the pavilion. However, the boy didn’t show up. The girl was so sad that she jumped into the lake and drowned. Ever since, if a boy hangs around the lake alone at midnight, a girl in white will approach him and ask, “What time is it?” To prevent further accidents, the administration decided to tear down the bridge and left the pavilion inaccessible.

I think it’s an urban legend. All ghost stories have the similar elements!

Yes, you guessed right! In fact, the bridge never existed! The pond used to be small and shallow. People could walk to the pavilion directly. Later the pond was deepened and landscaped; but no bridge to the pavilion ever was built. Now boats are the only passage to the pavilion.
Prof Doraemon: Or swimming!

Hamtaro: Yeah, some students do that for fun, but several people have drowned pulling that prank.

Prof Doraemon: Hey look, many people are feeding the fish.

Hamtaro: They shouldn’t feed them. It makes the water turn eutrophic, an annoying problem for the school. Soon this area will be landscaped again. Hopefully, the public will learn not to feed the fish.

Reference 5
Hamtaro: How do students at your university celebrate New Year’s Day?

Prof Doraemon: Well, they often go downtown to do the “countdown” thing. How about the students here?

Hamtaro: Well, the school rugby team had once held a special contest for New Year’s Day. The players, no matter whether they were alumni or current students, played rugby buck naked on New Year’ Eve. The game is something like a fraternity prank. Maybe such nakedness just helps some students relieve their exam stress.

Prof Doraemon: Ha-ha, students must be crazy about it!

Hamtaro: Yeah, exactly!
Prof Doraemon: So far I have already seen evidence of NTU’s excellence; how can international students apply to study here? Do you provide courses taught in English?

Hamtaro: At present, over 260 institutions in over 40 countries and territories have established formal academic relationships with NTU, and the university offers nearly 700 courses taught in English.

Prof Doraemon: How about scholarships and tuition fees?

Hamtaro: NTU offers 3 different types of scholarship to international degree students. Additionally, individual colleges and departments/institutes may offer other scholarships to their international students. The tuition fee is up to the college, but it usually ranges from US$750 to 970 per semester. As for living expenses, normally US$8000 per year is enough.

Prof Doraemon: Inexpensive! How about learning Chinese? Do you provide Chinese learning programs?

Hamtaro: Sure! There are two language centers at NTU for students who wish to learn or improve their Chinese. For novices, the Chinese Learning Division offers programs for all levels. Students can contact the Office of International Affairs for further Information.

Reference 7,8,9.
Hamtarō: I sincerely hope you enjoy your stay in Taiwan-- and feel the warmth of Taiwanese people.

Prof Doraemon: I am truly having an excellent time here. I am really impressed by your beautiful campus and glorious history. I also appreciate your kindness for giving us such a wonderful tour. Thank you so much!
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THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!