

DR WANG YEN HUANG:

Good afternoon, everyone. I am afraid you might fall asleep so I have to find something to provide the necessary stimulus. I am grateful for the arrangement that I come after the Singaporean school and before the Hong Kong school, and my name suggests it's Sin Gang Singapore, Hong Kong or Sun Gung. Have you ever been to my school? Have you ever heard the name? Have you ever been to Sin Gang, in Taiwan?

We are just 100 days old, most Taiwanese don't know about our existence so you know about it earlier than most of my compatriots. My gratitude to the organiser.

We don't have a long history, just 100 days. Tsinghua might have a history of 100 years. I don't know really what you tell me. If you want me to tell you success stories of my students I can't tell that because we have just started for 100 days. I was told that I should be telling stories of my students, but I think that I can just tell you the histories when they were in primary schools or in junior high schools.

What I think is that the establishment of our school itself is creativity. Why is it creativity? Because in Taiwan we have a lot of pressure, a lot of examinations before getting into universities. So, when it comes to the choice of schools, people have to go after famous names, or if you are failure in high schools, then you have nowhere to go.

Taiwan is a country or a place with great pressure in terms of education. So we have come up with this alternative idea. We have adopted the UK model, but in the UK they have these special kinds of schools where they only take in wealthy students, or blue blood students. But we also want to have an alternative school in Taiwan, we want to open our arms, we don't want to just take in people from a certain class, and we have a lot of people who have helped us. We have Mr Lee Huai Min, a famous choreographer, we have a famous architect,

psychologist, they have all offered helping hands.

We also have a mix from different art institutes, so a lot of people are very concerned about us. We have a lot of public officers helping us. We have masters in all fields helping us. People ask whether we are a high school or a tertiary institution or are we even a university? They don't believe that it's just an ordinary high school, that it would have such a high quality committee comprised of academics and VIPs from all fields.

So, when I was doing all the preparation work for this school people queried, people thought I was such a kid. How come I was chosen to become headmaster? I was too young to lead the school. They really queried how come I was chosen. Because there are a lot of masters, a lot of professors and government officials in the school committee. We want to meet the needs of the parents, we also want to live up to the expectations of these academics and government officials. There are really a lot of difficulties. Our school itself is a sort of creativity, an alternative school.

I can't tell you success stories of our students, like Prof Gao said just now, we are not like the school in Singapore, so I can't tell you all these stories. So, I can just tell you how we are pursuing creativity in our traditional environment.

A lot of schools are asking: okay, what sort of things should we be teaching our students? They have to learn science and arts and music and everything and so they are under a lot of pressure. We started thinking: can we do away with some of these subjects? Later I will be telling you more about this. What can we do away with. If we can do away with some subjects, students can have room for creativity, for imagination. "We come from Sin Gang. My name is Wang, you can see Seh Wang." Where is my school? On this map -- it was drawn 200 or 300 years ago --the Dutch made a lot of contribution to Taiwan

at that time. I may have some Dutch blood myself, I am not sure. Where is Taiwan? You can see it here.

Okay, I'm sure you are not asleep now because you have been laughing. Where is our school? Have you have heard of Alishan? Mount Ali. Our school is just next to it, it's in Jiayee. There is a very famous temple there called Fung Chian Temple and we worship there. She is the Goddess of the sea, a very famous God in Taiwan.

What do we have? What resources do we have and what kind of schools do we want? Taiwan is an island. We have multi-cultural environments. As I said just now, Spain, Holland, Japan, all these countries have occupied Taiwan for not a short period and then we have people coming from the mainland, from all provinces in China. So, in Taiwan you can taste a lot of delicacies, Malay food, Italian food, Japanese food. So Taiwan is a rich place with a rich culture.

Sin Gang is a rural area. Earlier you could you could find women from mainland, from Burma, from all sorts of places, so we are a very multi-cultural environment and we also have a lot of artists in Sin Gang, as I said just now. We have dancers in Sin Gang, we have sculptors, we have artists. Later I will show you some pictures, so as to wake you up further.

On the upper left-hand side you can Ma Jiu, the Goddess of the sea, that is the centre of our local religion. I will later tell you about our operation. You can see the activity and temple here, you can see a temple here, civic activity and relations activities.

These are the handicrafts and the most famous craftsman was born in Sin Gang. And the ancestors of our craftsmen came from the coastal area of China. Some of these handicrafts were exported but at the customs they were stopped because the customs officer thought they were too artistic to be exported.

This is Chin Chin Boh, one of our famous painters. This is a painting by him called "Jia Yee Park". At Jia Yee we had the February 28th incident there. Also, the baseball team from Jia Yee is also very famous. This Jia Yee Park was painted by him about 50 years ago and this is the Peak You, which is the highest peak in Taiwan and we can see the activities in that area.

In the past, when we graduated from university, we had to climb up to the peak which has a height of 3,900 metres to get our graduation certificate.

This is a painting called Shanghai by the same painter I mentioned just now. The person that had the greatest influence on us is Mr Lee Huai Min, he is a very famous choreographer in Taiwan, he has created a lot of works and if you are concerned about us he is famous for his creations. He is famous in Taiwan and his remarks are very important in our place. This is our gold sculpture. The themes are inspired by nature, so we have learned a lot from our past and present artists.

We are inspired by them, and in this picture you can see our middle range, in Taiwan, and these are the indigenous people of Taiwan. We have more than 10 tribes of indigenous people. We have a lot of ethnic culture. For example, La Luan, Tai Luge, all these indigenous places, you can see a lot of rich culture there, like dances and weaving and later I will tell you more about what we have learnt from this ethnic culture.

All this is incorporated into our curriculum. We have all these artists inspiring us, rich heritage, so how are we going to build our school. What do we do? First we must build a school, the structures and now we have to develop a unique curriculum which fits into the Taiwanese society and then we would have to come up with a new system of instruction first.

First, the buildings on our campus are still under construction and in middle of next year things will be completed. As Danny said just now, we are just a new school, so we have just started schooling this year for 100 days, and the whole campus will be finished next year.

So, you will be witnessing the birth of this new school. This is our design centre. I told you just now we had a Fung Tai temple as the centre of our religion. Each year in February or March we had a parade of the Goddess of the sea statue. With this parade we would be protected by the Goddess of the sea. And you can see in this picture that, in front, pen pointing to the diagram, I can tell you that in front actually you can see traditional buildings.

We have some historical buildings in Sin Gang. A lot of people say that these historical buildings are not that special, one does not live in there, or is not designed by a famous architect so we had better tear it down in order to give us more space. So, as people used to say that, but we thought no, we have to keep this old building so that our children will know more about our history. So, this is another design, so what are we thinking? We want to change Taiwan's educational system with art and we want our youngsters to learn more about art and we want to be inspired by art. We want to have more new ideas and the most important thing is that I think Taiwan has to take to creativity in the future.

We hope when we design our curriculum we can come up with more creative courses. This is an international community for us, we have invited Korea, the US, Philippines and Malaysia, to take part in this festival. We have invited them to come to our school and our community to take part in activities by us. Our students have been performing, the students have also built a candy house which resembled a temple and also a parade was staged by our students.

You can see this very lovely gentleman here, that is

me. You can see our overseas friends, they are in their traditional costumes. Because of the time constraints, I cannot show you the video, but I can tell you that we have put in all our effort and when we design our curriculum we will try our best to incorporate our heritage, and our multi-cultural elements into them so that our students can be more creative in the future, thank you.