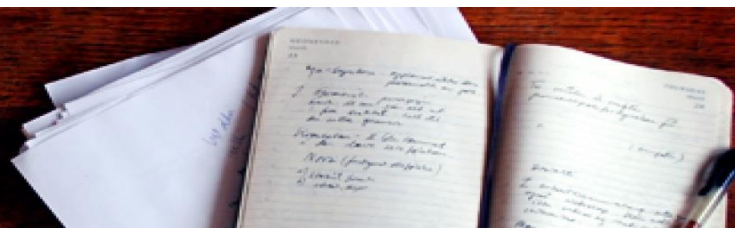


# Research Notes



## Canadian Young Leaders Delegation Trip to Taiwan

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From November 13 – 19th, I travelled throughout Taipei, Hsinchu, and Kinmen, Taiwan as a member of a Canadian Young Leaders Delegation. 12 Canadians, ranging in age from 22 to 40, were invited by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada, Taiwan's official government representative in the country, to participate in this weeklong program. Delegates came from across Canada, including Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver, and three delegates from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. My colleagues were teachers, government employees, and businesspeople. We all met in Vancouver where we took a redeye flight to Taipei, hitting the ground running with meetings in the afternoon of our very first day.

Throughout the week, we travelled by bus, high-speed train, subway, and plane to visit a wide-range of people. We met with the Mainland Affairs Council, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, the Rapid Transit Corporation, the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (Canada's official government representative in Taiwan), the Ministry of Culture, National Taiwan University, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology, Indigenous Peoples Cultural Foundation, Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research (Taiwan's most prestigious think tank), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (our official hosts and sponsors), students from...



Alethia University and Tamkang High School, the Hsinchu Science Park Bureau, Industrial Technology Research Institute, and the National Development Council.

We also travelled to Kinmen Island, where we stayed in a traditional guesthouse that was over 300 years old. Mainland China is clearly visible from the beaches of Kinmen, which makes for quite the experience. While on Kinmen, we visited the Gunningtou Battle Museum, Houpu Old Street, Juguang Tower, the Civil Defense tunnels, Jhaishan Tunnel, Deyue Tower, Jinshui Elementary School, Shueitou Village, the Maestro Wu knife factory, and the Koaliang Liquor factory. We finished our trip with a visit to the National Palace Museum, the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial, and visits to both day and night markets, where I tried the famous Stinky Tofu (it tasted good but smelled awful). We also made sure to visit Taipei 101, one of the tallest buildings in the world.

It was a fast-paced trip, designed to provide delegates with a broad exposure to all Taiwan has to offer, both cultural, business, and academic. I found the people I met warm and inviting, eager to share their culture and experiences with us, and extremely hospitable. The food was delicious, and we drank more tea than I thought possible.

It was a unique experience and opportunity to visit Taiwan. While I wish we had the opportunity to explore more of the country, our generous hosts ensured we were able to get a diverse snapshot of a dynamic country eager for more international support and engagement.