

**2025 Global Outstanding Overseas Compatriot Alumni
【Overseas Community Service Award】
Ms. Chou, Hung O**

She is the first female leader in South America to establish an alumni association for Taiwanese overseas students - and a driving force in Paraguay's Chinese community. From cultural diplomacy to disaster relief, advocating for Taiwan's participation in international organizations to nurturing young scholars, Chou Hung O has made "Taiwan" a respected and trusted name in a foreign land with warmth and action.

Born in 1953 in South Korea, Chou Hung O came to Taiwan as an overseas student during her youth. With determination and a passion for languages, she enrolled in the Department of Chinese Literature at National Chengchi University. As a newcomer adapting to a different environment, she worked hard through the preparatory program, building a strong foundation in language that culminated in earning her university degree - marking a crucial turning point in her intellectual and cultural development.

During her studies in Taiwan, Chou Hung O not only remained dedicated to her academics but also actively took part in both on- and off-campus activities. Through these experiences, she came to deeply appreciate the warmth, openness, and diversity of Taiwanese society, and developed a strong cultural affinity with Chinese heritage. This period of study abroad laid a solid foundation for her future life path and civic engagement, instilling in her a lasting pride in Taiwan's educational achievements and democratic values - principles she would carry with her while fostering overseas community work in a foreign land.

Living in Paraguay for many years, she worked in the silk trading and import-export sectors for over 30 years. Beyond her business success, she became a key figure in the local Chinese community, serving as president (6th and 7th terms) of the Federación De Empresarios Chinos Del Paraguay, as well as president and honorary president of the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, Paraguay chapter. She has supported numerous

embassy-led events - national day receptions, cultural festivals, and international disaster relief fundraising - earning praise from government officials and ambassadors.

Her most pioneering achievement came in 2020, when she founded the Asociación de Exalumnos Taiwanese en Paraguay - the first alumni association for Taiwanese-educated students in South America. The group brings together multiple generations of Taiwan alumni, hosting regular talks, Taiwan study briefings, mentorship programs, online Q&As, and in-person exchanges. She also personally funds scholarships for Paraguayan students to study in Taiwan, enhancing their global competitiveness.

Moreover, she has led women's groups in international initiatives: advocating for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly, raising funds for pediatric cancer hospitals, donating disaster relief supplies and wheelchairs, and representing the Taiwanese community in charity events like the First Lady's "Cradle Home" project - gaining recognition from Paraguayan authorities and social welfare organizations.

In the face of a rapidly changing global landscape, Chou, Hung O firmly believes that the mission of the overseas Taiwanese community goes beyond cultural preservation - it must also take proactive steps to engage with the world. She sees herself as a bridge between Taiwan and Paraguay, committed to supporting the government in advancing citizen diplomacy and strengthening substantive ties between the two countries. At the same time, she is deeply invested in youth development, working to expand the influence of the alumni association and make studying in Taiwan the top academic choice for young people of Chinese descent in Paraguay. Looking ahead, she plans to build more collaborative frameworks in social welfare, channeling resources from the overseas community into grassroots charitable initiatives - carrying forward a cycle of goodwill and service.

She deeply appreciates Taiwan's educational system and Taiwan's Overseas Community Affairs Council for their longstanding support, and is thankful for the trust and collaboration of Paraguay's Chinese community. This honor fuels her resolve to continue promoting Taiwan's culture, education, and civic engagement on the international stage - so that overseas alumni shine as a testament to Taiwan's values.