

## **2025 Global Outstanding Overseas Compatriot Alumni 【Overseas Community Service Award】**

### **Mr. Hwang Tong Yee**

Hwang Tong Yee was born in 1965, due to the anti-Chinese purge following the military coup in Myanmar, benefited from the Republic of China's overseas student policy and came to study at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU). Since then, he has devoted 60 years to bridging a path from overseas Chinese schools to his motherland, from overseas Chinese communities to public welfare. Though not a diplomat, he has continuously extended the connection between Taiwan and Myanmar. With the professionalism of an educator and a spirit of selfless dedication, he has strengthened the bonds between Taiwan, Myanmar, and the people of northern Thailand, helping to carry forward Chinese culture overseas. Throughout his life, he has been proud to identify as an “overseas student.”

Hwang Tong Yee was born on the border of Tengchong County, Yunnan. His childhood was difficult-losing his mother at six during political turmoil, and his father fled to Myanmar after being accused of counter-revolutionary activities. At 15, amid famine in his hometown, he walked over the China-Myanmar border mountains to attend Myitkyina Yu Cheng Chinese Elementary School in Myanmar. Despite financial hardships causing intermittent schooling, he was diligent and completed his secondary education. In 1965, through the Overseas Community Affairs Council's overseas student program, he came to Taiwan to study chemistry at NTNU. During his studies, he worked hard academically and actively participated in overseas student affairs and the Myanmar alumni association in Taiwan, standing out in both areas. After graduating and completing his military service, he entered education, initially teaching at Zhongxiao Junior High School in Taipei. Within a year, he also served as equipment manager and was later appointed as a chemistry counselor for junior high schools by the Taipei City Department of Education for three years. During this period, he guided students to win top

prizes at science exhibitions and helped with successful school relocation. Later, he was hired by Taipei First Girls High School as a teacher and department head, where he worked for 25 years. Under his guidance, students repeatedly won championships at Taipei City, national, and international science fairs. He also led the school's publication, which won first place multiple times. In 1992, he accompanied Principal Ya-Wen Ting and 263 members of the school's marching band on their first goodwill visit to mainland China aboard a China Airlines flight, earning wide acclaim. Hwang Tong Yee participated in revising the "Teachers' Act" and established the first Teachers' Association chapter at Taipei First Girls High School, serving as its inaugural secretary-general. He was also elected convener of the high school and vocational school teachers' groups for Taipei City and nationwide. He held various leadership roles in associations including the Chinese Association of Gifted Education, Calligraphy Education Association(書法教育學會), Association of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language, Federation of Taiwan Alumni of Myanmar, and the World Federation of Taiwan Alumni Associations.

In 1999, after 30 years of teaching, at age 56, he received awards from five Taipei mayors, four premiers, and a first-class service medal. Upon retirement, he represented Taiwan at the 12th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness (APCG). That same year, he was appointed principal of Myitkyina Yu Cheng Chinese School in Myanmar, serving four years to establish systems, improve education quality, upgrade facilities, and beautify the campus, contributing greatly to his alma mater. He also collaborated with other overseas Chinese schools to promote Taiwan's unified joint examination system, helping overseas schools unify their allegiance to the Republic of China. In 2003, he transferred to Huadong Taiwan Businessman's School in Jiangsu, China, expanding the high school division and dedicating himself to providing quality Taiwanese education for the children of hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese businessmen in mainland China. He organized teaching demonstrations inviting mainland principals to observe and promoted Taiwanese education at CCTV in Beijing. In 2007, he became principal of

Jianhua Comprehensive High School in northern Thailand (泰北建華綜合高中), serving seven years. He recruited passionate volunteer teachers from Taiwan and secured subsidies from the Overseas Community Affairs Council and the International Cooperation and Development Fund to cover living expenses and travel between Taiwan and Thailand. He worked tirelessly to improve teaching in normal education, business, IT, and Chinese language subjects. He also helped nearly a hundred Chinese schools in northern Thailand establish teachers' unions, raising emergency and retirement funds for teachers. He set up committees to recommend and review outstanding teachers annually, cooperating with the OCAC's Overseas Teacher Award to encourage excellence in teaching. Every year, he organized the "Chinese Character Festival" cultural competitions to involve students and teachers from all Chinese schools in northern Thailand, raising Chinese language proficiency. He also held Chinese language proficiency tests, awarding certificates allowing fluent students to study directly in Taiwan. Additionally, he organized computer skills certification to help graduates with employment. He retired from teaching at age 72 and returned to Taiwan.

In 1968, Hwang Tong Yee married Mei-Hsien Tai, his classmate from Myanmar. Mei-Hsien Tai graduated from the Department of Adult and Continuing Education at NTNU and was assigned to teach at Jinhua Junior High School in Taipei, where she worked until retirement. She accompanied Hwang overseas to volunteer as both a teacher and his secretary, caring for Principal Hwang's daily life without receiving a salary, because Hwang donated all the living subsidies he received from the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) back to the school. The couple has been married for over fifty years, raising four highly educated sons - two university and high school teachers, and two in the technology industry. They have seven grandchildren, two of whom have master's degrees. The family lives happily and harmoniously.

Hwang credits the OCAC and Ministry of Education's excellent overseas student policies for changing his fate through education. Carrying a lifelong spirit of gratitude and giving back, in his advanced years and during the pandemic, he was invited by former OCAC chairman Shih-Kuei Chen and other officials to author two books, "Chinese Education in Thailand and Northern Thailand(泰國與泰北華文教育)" and "Chinese Education in Myanmar(緬甸華文教育)," preserving a century of overseas Chinese education history in these countries and leaving a personal legacy.