

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

Mr. Huynh Khoan Nam

For over three decades, Huynh Khoan Nam has been a unifying force in the Taiwanese community in Australia - from Lunar New Year galas to fostering Taiwan-Australia diplomacy, his presence has been irreplaceable. Yet few know that his journey began in Cambodia, continued through his studies in Taiwan, led him to Belgium for further education, and eventually brought him to build a life and legacy in Australia. Spanning three continents and three languages, how did this overseas student's path become a quiet yet powerful asset in Taiwan's global outreach?

Born in 1955 in Cambodia, Huynh Khoan Nam grew up in a culturally diverse environment where he naturally developed a strong sensitivity to languages and cross-cultural understanding. During his youth, political instability swept through the region. In search of a more stable life and higher educational opportunities, he made the life-changing decision to leave his homeland for Taiwan - opening a brand-new chapter in his journey. At the age of 18, Huynh arrived in Taiwan as an overseas Chinese student and enrolled in the Department of Veterinary Medicine at National Chiayi Institute of Agriculture (now National Chiayi University). Resources were scarce at the time, but thanks to the support of his professors and the local overseas community, he was able to continue his studies steadily. These early struggles instilled in him a deep sense of gratitude and a lifelong commitment to one day give back to society.

During his time in Taiwan, Huynh Khoan Nam not only excelled in his academic studies but also became interested and deeply involved in student and campus affairs. He actively participated in overseas student organizations, helped incoming students adjust to their new environment, and often served as a bridge between faculty and fellow students. These experiences gave him a profound appreciation for Taiwan's warmth and inclusivity,

while also sowing the seeds of his later dedication to overseas community service. After graduating, he pursued further studies in Belgium, where he gained valuable cross-cultural experience and honed his expertise in organizational management. His educational path across Asia and Europe nurtured both global perspective and a deep understanding of the importance of cultural exchange and communications.

After returning to Australia, Huynh Khoan Nam upheld the belief of “supporting the overseas community through business, and supporting Taiwan through the community.” He founded Aujet Industry Limited, through which he dedicated himself to helping Taiwanese enterprises expand their overseas market reach. By building strong distribution channels and elevating the visibility of Taiwanese brands in Australia, he played a key role in fostering robust trade and economic exchange between the two regions.

Most notably, Huynh Khoan Nam has made enduring contributions to overseas Taiwanese affairs. Since 1995, he has served as the chief convener of the Sydney Taiwanese Community’s Lunar New Year Gala, organizing the event for 30 consecutive years. Now one of the largest Chinese cultural festivals in the region, the celebration draws widespread attention from Taiwanese expatriates, Australian federal MPs, city mayors, and mainstream media - successfully promoting Taiwanese culture in the public eye.

Beyond this flagship event, he has worked tirelessly to unite community groups and mobilize thousands in support of various initiatives, fostering a stronger sense of identity among Taiwanese Australians. He serves as a key advisor to both the World Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce and the World Federation of Taiwan Alumni Associations, and remains a central figure in the Taiwanese alumni community across Australia. Since 2009, he has also been appointed as a Commissioner of the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC), Republic of

China (Taiwan), helping bridge public- and private-sector efforts in supporting Taiwan's image and policies abroad.

Huynh Khoan Nam believes that the strength of the overseas community lies in unity, generational continuity, and active engagement. He is committed to inspiring younger generations of Taiwanese abroad to take part in public service and community building. Through the interconnected pillars of culture, education, and industry, he envisions deeper bonds between Taiwan and local societies. As part of this effort, he has focused on cultivating future leaders through alumni associations and fostering a sustainable framework for passing the torch.

From Cambodia to Taiwan, Belgium to Australia, Huynh Khoan Nam has crossed borders and cultures with perseverance and passion. His story is not only a personal testament to grit and gratitude, but also a shining reflection of the spirit shared by overseas Taiwanese students around the world - a lifelong journey rooted in conviction, service, and the desire to give back.