

2025 Global Outstanding Overseas Compatriot Alumni 【Public Welfare Contribution Award】

Ms. Farina Hartanto

She was a young Chinese Indonesian who traveled from Indonesia to Taiwan to pursue her studies - today, she is a model of leadership across education, business, and philanthropy. A graduate of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at National Taiwan University (NTU), Farina Hartanto has since taken root in Malaysia, where she has built a career and a legacy over more than 40 years. From founding a business and teaching to supporting Chinese education and empowering women, she has never ceased giving back. Through a life of service, she has written a long, ongoing ode to the Taiwanese overseas student spirit.

Born in 1948 in North Sumatra, Indonesia, Farina Hartanto grew up in a family that valued reading and open democratic dialogue. These formative influences cultivated her strong language skills and sense of empathy. She completed her primary education at S.J.K.[C] Naam Kheung Jalan Cheras K.L Primary School and secondary education at Nan An High School(南安中學), where she developed a strong interest in languages and commerce. After graduating from high school, she left for Taiwan alone and was admitted to the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at NTU - taking the first step into a cross-cultural life.

While studying at NTU, Farina not only deepened her knowledge of English literature but also studied Spanish, broadening her linguistic horizons. Those four years shaped both her academic foundation and her resilient, forward-facing character. After graduation, she and her husband returned to Malaysia together and began their journey of entrepreneurship and public service.

In 1984, Farina and her husband co-founded “Lunar Shipping,” a company specializing in maritime transport and marine engineering. Through multiple financial crises and the COVID-19 pandemic, they kept the company on solid footing. In 2018,

the company received the “Sin Chew Business Excellence Award.” Beyond business, Farina has long dedicated herself to public welfare and women’s organizations, demonstrating exceptional cross-sector leadership:

“Champion of Chinese Education”

She has been actively involved in the Chinese education movement in Malaysia, sponsoring Chung Hua Independent High School and participating in fundraising activities. She also serves on the board of directors of Chung Hua Independent High School in Klang, where she advocates for curriculum diversification and school development.

“Promoter of Women’s Welfare and Civic Engagement”

As president of both the Persatuan Alumni Wanita Formosa Malaysia and the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, Farina has led members in deep community engagement - visiting elderly individuals living alone, organizing charity dinners, and raising education and welfare funds. She champions confidence, compassionate leadership, and civic responsibility among women, leading by example and inspiring more women to enter public life.

Youth and Cultural Advocate

Farina actively encourages young people to pursue education in Taiwan and supports youth volunteer groups involved in charity and cultural initiatives. She has helped organize impactful events such as “Let My Heart Soar(讓我心飛翔),” the “3-in-1 Love Volunteer Team(三合一愛心義工隊),” and “Plum Blossom Arts & Charity Night(梅花文藝慈善之夜),” all blending the spirits of education, culture, and public service - and earning praise from diverse sectors of society.

Looking ahead, Farina hopes to unite Malaysia’s Taiwan alumni, Chinese community resources, and public service platforms to amplify social impact. She plans to launch women’s entrepreneurship and education funds to help underprivileged women develop secondary skill sets. At the same time, she aims

to leverage alumni associations and women's organizations to foster Taiwan-Malaysia cultural exchange and elevate Taiwan's positive image locally-further extending the spirit of overseas Taiwanese students and their dedication to both their homeland and humanity.

This honor belongs not only to her, but to all women who support public good, value education, and care deeply for their communities. Farina sincerely credits NTU for laying the foundation of her life and is grateful to Malaysian society for giving her such a vast stage. She hopes to continue giving back through action - so more people can be inspired and helped by the legacy of "Taiwan's overseas students."