

Hsinchu and Tainan Vocational High Schools Engage the World Through Distinctive Tech and Cultural Education Programs

(Image/Original Text: Lin Yun-Chen, Division of Special Education for Indigenous Peoples)



To promote cross-border exchanges through curriculum development, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education has been advancing the Medium-Term Plan for International Education in Primary and Secondary Schools. The plan aims to build students' global perspective and cross-cultural communication skills, enabling them to engage the world with greater confidence in a globalized era. As part of this effort, vocational high schools are developing diverse international education programs that feature their expertise, empowering students with professional skills and insights into global trends and issues.

Under the theme "TNCVS Goes Global, and the World Meets Us Here," National Tainan Commercial Vocational Senior High School (TNCVS) has combined subjects such as applied English, tourism, international trade, and Chinese to create a multidisciplinary curriculum. The school offers a cross-cultural tour-guiding course that guides students to introduce local culture in foreign languages and communicate with international visitors. The school also provides a cross-disciplinary reading course that enhances students' understanding of global affairs through reading international news articles. Furthermore, through the sustainability in action course, students work together with international partners to explore responsible consumption and production, one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), helping them gain

a deeper understanding of our interconnected world. By producing news reports, video presentations, and action plans, students turn knowledge into action to highlight how young people can drive meaningful change on social and global issues.

Meanwhile, National Hsinchu Industrial High School has introduced "Winds of Hsinchu: Exploring Global Sustainable Industry and Culture," a program centered around the idea of "Think Global, Act Local." Focusing on Hsinchu's well-known semiconductor industry, the program guides students in analyzing how technological development impacts societies and the environment around the world. By adopting an issue-based learning model with international exchange activities, the program helps students gain technical skills while improving their language proficiency and digital literacy. Through this program, students not only develop the ability to analyze global issues but also gain a deeper appreciation of their own cultural identity. Interactions with foreign students also help them build international communication skills and foster a stronger sense of responsibility as global citizens.

The K-12 Education Administration noted that school-based international education programs in vocational high schools combine professional training with industry trends. They encourage students to act locally while expanding their global horizons, fostering the global competitiveness and proactive drive needed for tomorrow. Examples of these outstanding programs are now available on the Curriculum Toolkit Platform on the Ministry of Education's Website for International Education in Primary and Secondary Schools (<https://www.ietw2.edu.tw/toolkit/search/type/0801>). We welcome all educators to explore these online resources and join us in promoting international education to broaden our students' horizons and global mobility.