

Strengthening International Education Cooperation: The Primary and Secondary School International Educational Exchange Alliance Visits Fukushima Prefecture, Japan

(Image/Original Text: Lai Han-Ting, Division of Special Education for Indigenous Peoples)



To deepen international educational exchange between Taiwan and Japan and expand students' opportunities for diverse learning and cross-cultural experiences, the Primary and Secondary School International Educational Exchange Alliance recently led a delegation to Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, at the invitation of the Fukushima Prefecture Tourism and Local Products Association. The delegation was led by Mr. Chen Rui-Zhou, Director of the Alliance's District 9 and Principal of National Chia-Yi Industrial Vocational High School, and was joined by faculty members from New Taipei Municipal Linkou Senior High School, Taichung Municipal Chungming Senior High School, the Affiliated Senior High School of National University of Tainan, and Taipei Municipal Daan Vocational High School. Through on-site exchanges and interactions, the delegation gained deeper insight into Fukushima Prefecture's efforts and accomplishments in advancing international education.

According to the K–12 Education Administration, the visit focused on strengthening Taiwan–Japan international education cooperation. Through school visits and experience sharing, participants explored how Japanese senior high schools promote cross-cultural learning, self-

directed learning, and inquiry and practical learning. These insights will serve as a reference for future Taiwan–Japan student exchange programs.

The delegation's first stop was Fukushima Prefectural Asaka High School in Koriyama city, a school designated by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as a Super Science High School (SSH). The school has a long-standing commitment to scientific inquiry and interdisciplinary learning while actively cultivating students' global perspectives. Later, the delegation visited Kitakata High School, where they learned how local resources are combined into student-centered project inquiry and practical learning, demonstrating the principle of "learning by doing, doing by learning." These practices are highly consistent with Taiwan's Curriculum Guidelines of 12-Year Basic Education, which highlight inquiry and practical learning as well as interdisciplinary learning.

As part of its focus on cultural and public issues, the delegation visited the Nisshinkan in Aizuwakamatsu City, where historical and cultural contexts are used to cultivate students' sense of responsibility and civic awareness. They also visited the remains of Ukedo Elementary School in Fukushima and the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum, gaining insight into how Japan incorporates major public issues into international education and learning activities through life education and disaster prevention education. The K–12 Education Administration noted that it will continue to strengthen Taiwan–Japan cooperation through the Primary and Secondary School International Educational Exchange Alliance, creating more diverse and meaningful international learning opportunities for teachers and students alike.