

Experimental Education for Indigenous Students : One Big Step Forward

(Courtesy of Chang, Bi-Meng, Division for Indigenous People and Special Education)



The K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has pushed forward customized experimental education for indigenous people through home services. It began with a workshop for experimental education for indigenous people, held at Kaohsiung Oil Refinery Elementary School on April 14, 2017. That workshop was followed by a demonstration class and sharing event, hosted in the morning on April 15, 2017 at MinZu Daai Elementary School, Kaohsiung. All of the efforts aim to assist elementary schools and junior high schools that have the willingness to take on such an educational model with applications and curriculum planning.

Education for indigenous people is quite a different concept from the education system for ethnic Chinese. According to the Enforcement Act for School-Based Experimental Education, a curriculum, enrollment, performance measurement, and students' affairs as well as counseling have been developed with indigenous people at the core to cultivate indigenous people in an indigenous manner and accentuate educational equal opportunity in Taiwan.

Chiu, Chien-Kuo, Director-General of the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, stressed that they were pushing forward education for indigenous people with new concepts by taking into account indigenous learners' needs and cultures. Such education model at this stage can be planned step-by-step at certain schools and extended with comprehensive implementation to allow for smooth transition for indigenous students at different educational stages. The K-12 Education Administration will take action and formulate measures to directly support local education bureaus and schools whenever necessary. At first, experts in education for indigenous people, education practitioners, civic groups as well as policymakers were brought together last October to discuss related affairs. Furthermore, a demonstration seminar on the school model for indigenous people was held on January, 4, 2017 in Hsinchu, which was followed by a meeting to explicate the school model at a municipal level on February, 16, 2017. All of this intends to build a common ground between local governments and schools on this front as well as identify obstacles along the way of adopting this model; meanwhile, this also showcases the determination of the Ministry of Education in promoting the education for indigenous people.

This program aims to bring together schools that wish to promote the education directed at indigenous people. Hopefully, more schools will join the program to pass on the educational model for different indigenous tribes and preserve their cultures.