

National Teachers Federation of Japan Visits Taiwan for 38th Year

(Photo/Original Text: Ching-Feng Tung, Division of Special Education for Indigenous Peoples)



The National Teachers Federation of Japan (NTFJ) led a delegation to Taiwan headed by Mr. Maeda Haruo consisting of 10 primary and secondary school teachers from around Japan as part of the 38th Japanese Teachers' Visit to the Republic of China. In addition to attending the 38th Japan–Taiwan Education Review Forum and a science and technology education experience sharing session by the Hands Together Project, the delegation also visited the Ministry of Education on Jan. 6, 2023, and was received by Political Deputy Minister Ching-Hwa Tsai, who presented each member with a book entitled *20 Years of Taiwan-Japan Educational Exchange*. Deputy Minister Tsai also presented Japanese-language booklets on the International Exchange Window, a domestic and international school exchange platform, to the delegation to bring back to Japan and use for promotion. The K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education and the NTFJ exchanged views on science education, enhancing teaching aptitude, promoting learning packages, resource sharing, and related policies. The K-12 Education Administration also provided the delegation with information about the Ministry's Curriculum Guidelines of 12-year Basic Education, which focuses on the nature of education and the

learners themselves with "spontaneity, interactivity, and co-prosperity" as its core goals, as well as policy for providing tablets to all students.

The Ministry of Education illustrated that the NTFJ visited Taiwan for 35 consecutive years since the first delegation of the Japanese Teachers' Visit to the Republic of China was formed in 1986 until early 2020. The following two years, visits to Taiwan were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but when COVID subsided in Taiwan and the country's borders were opened, another delegation was formed to conduct educational exchanges. This year's visit was arranged by the Education Division of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan and the Taiwan Provincial Education Association. On Jan. 4, the delegation went to Gao Ping Elementary School in Chiayi City to hold the Japan–Taiwan Education Review Forum, the theme of which was "Growth and Prospects of Science and Technology Education in Elementary and Junior High Schools." On Jan. 5, they went to Tainan Municipal Yanshuei Junior High School for a science and technology experience sharing session by the Hands Together Project with participants from Nanhua University, National Hou-Bi Senior High School, Tainan Municipal Yanshuei Junior High School, and Yanshuei Elementary School. There, they observed a showcase from Yanshuei area elementary school students who took part in a teaching activity involving racetracks.

The NTFJ was founded in 1984 and is composed of public and private senior high school, junior high school, and elementary school staff from all over Japan, with a membership of about 20,000 people. It is the third largest teachers' organization in Japan and is very influential toward Japanese education and young educators. The K-12 Education Administration stated that the NTFJ is a close friend of Taiwan and has long promoted educational and academic exchanges between the two countries, especially by inviting teachers from Taiwan to participate in the Educational Research National Conference organized by the NTFJ every year. They have also taken the initiative to help arrange visits to schools of NTFJ members and encourage students to participate in international cultural and educational activities organized by Taiwan. This is an important channel for Taiwanese and Japanese primary and secondary schools to maintain close

relations and put even more energy into international education. Through frequent bilateral educational exchanges, Taiwan and Japan will have an everlasting friendship.