

Expanding Students' Global Outlook: Hsinchu American School Offers Online AP Class to Local High Schools

(By Pei-Cheng Chen, Division of Academic Senior High Education)



Since the 2022-23 school year, the K-12 Education Administration has been promoting local senior high schools to offer credits through international schools in order to expand the academic capacity of international schools, promote the dual degrees system, and carry out exchanges among international schools. It has also taken the lead in commissioning Hsinchu American School to create a digital course for AP Environmental Science, which is offered online at high schools including Taipei Municipal Zhong Zheng Senior High School, National Chiayi Senior High School, Keelung Senior High School, and National Hsinchu Girls' Senior High School, allowing students to experience all-English coursework in environmental science.

AP (Advanced Placement) classes are college-level classes for high school students. At Hsinchu American school, an international school, AP classes are taught by certified teachers through a full English immersion method. AP Environmental Science is designed to teach students to apply scientific principles, concepts, and methods to understand the interrelationship between humans and the natural world, identify and analyze natural and man-made environmental

problems and risks, and examine solutions or preventive measures for them. The academic level of the class is the same as that of a first-year university course. Students will receive a certificate from Hsinchu American School upon completion of the course and can receive prerequisite college credit after an examination, which not only enriches their academic background, but also helps students to successfully transition to foreign universities in the future.

Hsinchu American School principal Darin Murphy said he was very pleased to be able to offer AP Environmental Science, taught by teacher Alexander Kloppers, for Taiwan high school students to take online, especially since the Earth is being affected by climate change. It is also an exceptional opportunity for Taiwanese students to experience the curriculum of an international school, said Murphy. Hui-Chen Chiang, principal of Taipei Municipal Zhong Zheng Senior High School, one of the participating schools, said that in 2018, the school began to promote a dual degrees system with local American high schools and started to offer AP classes. Last summer, the school introduced AP Environmental Science through the K-12 Education Administration's program, much to students' benefit.

The K-12 Education Administration hopes to invite more international schools to participate in the program by way of exchange and cooperation between local high schools and international schools and by conducting informational meetings. It will provide yearly guidance and encourage participation in the program, as well as continue to invest resources to expand the capacity for cooperation between local high schools and international schools to elevate students' English language skills and enhance international competitiveness.