

K-12 Education Administration develops a diversified English learning environment and Students' English proficiency is much improved

(Courtesy of Chiang, Yu-Hsuan, Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



The K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has collaborated with International Community Radio Taipei (ICRT) and Overseas Radio & Television Inc. (Studio Classroom) to launch the English Broadcasting Interactive Learning Program and the National Junior High and Elementary School English Speaking Teacher Program, respectively, to develop a diversified English learning environment. As such, students can learn English in daily-life scenarios to enhance their English listening and speaking skills.

The English Broadcasting Interactive Learning Program, which was jointly planned by the K-12 Education Administration and ICRT, launched the News LunchBox, a radio program broadcast during the lunch hours of junior high and elementary schools, and the audio files and transcripts are placed in an exclusive online learning area set up on ICRT's official website and app for teachers and students to access at any time. Since the program was broadcast in the school year of 2019, more than 1,400 episodes have been produced, and the episodes have been accessed with a total of 9,565,348 clicks for listening practice as of the end of January 2023.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, to facilitate bilateral learning and communication, the "Listen to What You Say" activity was launched in News LunchBox. The anchor will introduce the topic of the week every Friday related to the latest hot topics, and students are invited to make a 30-second audio recording of their personal views in English and submit it to ICRT. So far, up to 1,852 students across Taiwan have participated. In addition, ICRT's anchor group held 34 News LunchBox production and broadcasting demos at schools in 19 townships and cities, which have been well received by teachers and students.

Meanwhile, to strengthen junior high and elementary school students' English listening and speaking skills, the K-12 Education Administration commissioned Overseas Radio & Television Inc. (Studio Classroom) to produce English speaking teaching videos and animation in alignment with the students' grade and English proficiency levels, with the bilingual subtitles, lesson plans, and teaching materials uploaded to the Cool English platform, enabling teachers to prepare for class and give a lesson at any time. They can adopt the interesting teaching materials on the platform to lead students to participate in interactive games and help them practice English speaking.

Furthermore, Studio Classroom held teacher training workshops entitled "Give Me 10!" in northern and central Taiwan. Studio Classroom's team of native English teachers demonstrated to junior high and elementary school teachers how to teach English through games in an interesting and effective manner, while sparking students' learning and classroom participation using games on-site. The team also encouraged teachers to guide students to speak English for ten minutes every week or every day, to help students develop a habit of speaking English. Hsiao, Su-Chuan, an English teacher at Taipei Municipal Mingchuan Elementary School, who participated in such a workshop, stated that she was very happy that she learned many skills that could be effective for children's English learning.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, it has striven to establish an adequate English

learning environment and promote new perspective on teaching and evaluation methods through the implementation of the English Broadcasting Interactive Learning Program and the National Junior High and Elementary School English Speaking Teacher Program, allowing students to not only learn English but use English as a tool to explore the world, develop an international perspective, and open the door to the world.