

## Schools Nationwide Organize Workshops on Host Family Programs to Promote International Educational Exchanges

(Image/Original Text: Nien Chia-Shan, Division of Special Education for Indigenous Peoples)



To promote the host family program, National Tainan Chia-Chi Senior High School and Taichung Municipal Hui-Wen High School from the International Education Exchanges of Primary and Secondary Schools Alliance organized the Host Family Workshop. International education officials from local governments and teachers from the Alliance were invited to join the workshop, which is designed to train teachers to organize host family activities and workshops and ensure future collaboration between the Alliance and each county and city.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, Director Wu Yen-Ching of the Division of International Relations at Hui-Wen High School was invited to talk about international exchanges and host families from a cross-cultural perspective, including cross-cultural adaptation theory and other professional knowledge. Moreover, Professor Shen Yu-Chuan from National Chung Hsing University shared theories and experiences in multiculturalism and host families. He first discussed the importance of cross-cultural inclusiveness and understanding, explained concepts

such as stereotypes and implicit discrimination, introduced some relevant knowledge while organizing the host family program, and provided teachers with cross-cultural course modules and curriculum designs for future reference. At the end of the lecture, a game was used to assess and strengthen the teachers' impression of everything they learned at the workshop. Finally, teachers were invited to share their host family programs and gave feedback on the workshop. A teacher from New Taipei Municipal Zhonghe Senior High School the opinion that the workshop provided more much-needed theoretical knowledge, which would greatly help organize related activities in the future.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that the host family training workshop allowed teachers to know more about concepts of the host family, helped them cultivate cross-cultural understanding and awareness, and encouraged them to develop host family training and workshops. It is hoped that all teachers could benefit from this workshop, thus broadening children's international perspectives.