

## **“2018 Sharing Workshop on Indigenous Experimental Education”– Passing down the Heritage and Promoting Diverse Education**

(Courtesy of Wei Ling Lin at Division for Indigenous People and Special Education)



To implement indigenous experimental education and develop the curriculum and school education in line with indigenous groups’ cultures, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has planned to hold the “2018 Sharing Workshop on Indigenous Experimental Education” on May 7-8, 2018 and invite all senior high schools across the country to participate.

A total of 13 elementary schools, two junior high schools, and one senior high school have implemented school-based indigenous experimental education in accordance with the "Implementation for School-based Experimental Education Act". Senior high schools can also introduce an indigenous experimental education program based on the “Experimental Education Act for Senior High Schools”, which allows for continuation of the indigenous experimental education of the national 12-year Basic Education; as of now, five senior high schools have signed up for the indigenous experimental education program. Hopefully, with the indigenous experimental education curriculum, the indigenous heritage will be passed down to the next generations and indigenous students’ potential will be unleashed.

National Pingbei Senior High School and Laiyi Senior High School that have implemented indigenous experimental education have been invited for the sharing workshop. Of them, the mini Hsinhua indigenous program launched by National Pingbei Senior High School, after the raging of Typhoon Morakot, has placed all the donations from the public and the funds provided by the K-12 Education Administration toward the development of its curriculum, with the cooperation from National Tsinghua University, implemented indigenous experimental education, and offered indigenous culture and ecological conservation courses, field trips, as well as internships that meet the indigenous students' needs. Additionally, workshops, hometown returning services in summer, and after-school skills development clubs have been created; furthermore, excellent volunteer teachers are called on to join to tutor students in every aspect, so as to achieve the educational goal "offering what is the best to the most needed".

In addition, the Laiyi Senior High School Experimental Education Program consists of five major parts: the indigenous experimental science curriculum, the indigenous humanities and arts curriculum, the tribal ecological curriculum, the tribal-based experience curriculum, and the tribal internationalization curriculum, which are aligned with the school's four major indicators: basic learning ability, competitiveness, cultural inheritance, and internationalization, to create an indigenous-featured schoolyard.

To help promote indigenous experimental education and develop the curriculum and teaching materials, the K-12 Education Administration has established an indigenous experimental curriculum development cooperative center at National Taichung University of Education (Western Center), National Dong Hwa University (Yi-Hua Center), National Taitung University (Taitung Center), and National Pingtung University (Southern Center), respectively. At the same time, the principal investigators of all these centers are also invited to this workshop to provide partner schools with their feedbacks and suggestions regarding curriculum development, and also help the experimental schools to develop the most suitable indigenous curriculum module in accordance with their respective features, to realize the indigenous education goals, and to pass down different tribal cultures. Deputy Professor Tunkan Tansikian,

principal investigator at the Yi-Hua Center, notes that: based on the needs for talent cultivation for indigenous groups, it is better for the education field to adjust its pace and try to implement the experimental education regulations to cultivate a new generation of outstanding indigenous talents, who are familiar with both the modern knowledge and the traditional tribal cultures, for the indigenous community.

Indigenous experimental education is a core educational idea that aims to strike a balance between general education and tribal education for indigenous peoples; as such, ideal indigenous experimental education will be shaped, and the educational equal opportunity for indigenous peoples will be realized.