

Unleashing Vocation Students' Creativity: the Launching of the Preliminary Rounds of 18th National Vocational School Team Skills Creativity Competition

(Courtesy of I-Le Cheng the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



To promote vocational education activities, the Saylin Wen Shiren Cultural and Educational Foundation and the Department of Mechatronic Engineering, National Taiwan Normal University, jointly organized the 18th National Vocational School Team Skills Creativity Competition, under the guidance of the Department of Technological and Vocational Education, Ministry of Education (MOE), the K-12 Education Administration, MOE, and the Department of Education of the six special municipalities. On April 24, 2021, the preliminary rounds were organized in northern, central, and southern Taiwan, as well as outlying islands simultaneously, attracting a total of 178 participating teams from across Taiwan. The participating teachers and students have created a new diagram in vocational education through their brand-new, creative ideas.

The 18th National Vocational School Team Skills Creativity Competition has entered its 18th year. With four students from the same vocational high school forming a team and with the registration fees waived, as long as a team passes the preliminary rounds and participates in

training seminars and the finals, each team will be awarded a subsidy of NT\$10,000 for transportation and material expenses. In addition, school teams from remote areas and outlying islands are subsidized for transportation expenses for the participation in the preliminary rounds. Two of the winning teams in the finals will be selected based on the performance to participate in the International Invention and Design Expo. The expo is one of the few events recognized by the MOE that award applicants with additional points during the admissions process by recommendation and screening. The winners at this competition can have their total scores increase by 15% to 20% in the admissions process that take technical excellence into consideration in each admission categories. For each admission sub-category, the winners can still have their original total scores increase by 10% to 15%, targeting toward students enrolling in vocational subjects and specialized programs.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the preliminary rounds mainly focus on the four dimensions, namely novelty of the conception (innovation, new features, etc.), practicality of the conception (in line with needs, user-friendliness, and feasibility), sophistication of the conception (detailed illustration and textual expression and the easy-to-understand feature), as well as product promotion and marketing aspects, which all correspond to the core competency of "Communication and Interaction" as set out in the 2019 the new curriculum guidelines, including “the use of symbols as well as communication and expression”, “technology, information, and media literacy”, as well as “artistic and aesthetic literacy”.

The finals will be held at the National Taiwan Normal University on July 24 and 25 with a focus on five major aspects: creativity, functionality, material processing, work interpretation, as well as learning effectiveness and learning attitude of a team so as to seek excellent works that are both creative and practical.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that it hopes to use this event to inspire students' creativity, develop future high-tech and creative talents, and cultivate vocational high school students' ability to integrate theory and vocational practice, to think creatively, and to solve

technical problems while enhancing the team leadership and teamwork during training seminars. It is hoped that the 18th National Vocational School Team Skills Creativity Competition this year can enable every participating teacher and student to come up with brand-new, creative ideas, either to convey the spirit of the new curriculum guidelines, new technology applications, or new values, so as to create a new landscape in Taiwan's vocational education.