

The Indigenous Curriculum Development Cooperative Center is Up and Running

(Courtesy of Dai, Zheng Guang at Division for Indigenous People and Special Education)



The Indigenous Curriculum Development Cooperative Center established at National Taichung University of Education (NTCU) was officially put into operation on August, 21, 2017. The K-12 Administration, Ministry of Education, aims to put into practice the Education Act for Indigenous Peoples, through developing a course development linkage between the local and central levels, thereby enhancing indigenous education as well as remedial education to achieve the expected curricular goals declared by President Tsai Ying-Wen: developing and pursuing the theories and policy research for indigenous fundamental education that are necessary for the development of indigenous education and supporting all the promotion work for indigenous education at all stages.”

Today's opening ceremony was kicked off with the traditional indigenous dancing and singing by P'uma Elementary School in Taichung City, Taiwan's first experimental indigenous primary school, followed by an unveiling ceremony joined by Chiu, Chien Kuo, Director-General of the K-12 Education Administration, Wang, Ru Jer, President of NTCU, and other distinguished guests. Mr. Qiu says: “In order to accentuate the education access of the indigenous people, we must put a great deal of emphasis on the educational and cultural diversity;” therefore, we

have to establish a model for the indigenous curriculum development and develop relevant curriculum modules to offer indigenous experimental schools and main indigenous schools a curriculum centered on indigenous peoples' cultures. In the meantime, passing on each indigenous tribe's culture is regarded as an urgent task. In addition to the establishment of the Indigenous Curriculum Development Cooperative Center at the National Taichung University of Education, the K-12 Education Administration has also set up an indigenous curriculum regional center at National Dong Hwa University (NDHU), National Taitung University, and National Pingtung University (NPTU), respectively, to offer immediate help to those experimental indigenous schools, key indigenous schools, and indigenous-based schools. The Indigenous Curriculum Development Cooperative Center will focus on compiling various indigenous teaching practices and serving the platform for the regional centers, with the ultimate goal to construct and improve the indigenous curriculum development and remedial education systems. To accommodate the wishes of the indigenous peoples in the front line, the center will coordinate the work of the various regional centers to help develop teaching materials for the indigenous peoples from the 16 indigenous tribes in Taiwan.