

International Exchange Window Helps Schools Build Bridges of Friendship Around the World

(Division of Education for Indigenous Peoples and Special Education)



In addition to curriculum integration, professional training for teachers and administrators, and school internationalization, face-to-face interactions with the international community are essential in the Ministry of Education's "A White Paper on International Education for Primary and Secondary Schools." Therefore, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education has commissioned the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology to build International Exchange Window (IEW), helping primary and secondary schools to make friends with schools from all over the world through an online matching platform. All they need to do is to register and key in their school information. Then the system will provide the matching schools or allow them to select suitable schools and invite them to start educational exchanges.

The K-12 Education Administration explained that the IEW platform successfully facilitated the online exchanges between St. Thomas High School in Houston, USA, and Taoyuan Municipal Yung-Feng High School in April, where students introduced Taiwanese food culture and human geography. In addition, the platform created opportunities for online exchanges between

Pingtung Municipal Wandan Junior High School and Hanyoung Middle School, as well as Sanbon Middle School in Korea in June. After reading *A Long Walk to Water*, students in Taiwan and Korea exchanged their views, broadening their horizons beyond the classroom.

The IEW platform is more than just a matching website. Our diplomats worldwide invited handpicked schools in their host countries to register on the IEW platform, facilitating international exchanges with primary and secondary schools in Taiwan. Moreover, the K-12 Education Administration has commissioned the Taiwan International Education Trips Association and the International Education Resource Centers in different cities and counties to find the most suitable schools based on the needs of the member schools. A special section also provides information about educational trips between high schools in Taiwan, Japan, and Korea over the past 20 years, which offers exchange forms in Japanese and Korean.

The K-12 Education Administration will continue to facilitate the international exchanges of primary and secondary schools to inspire students' passion for language learning and international exchanges so that they can learn English through real-life interactions and create an international teaching environment.