

Industry Partners Provide Boost for Maritime Education

(Photo/text: Chang Yu-Chi, Division of Academic Senior High Education)



As an island nation, Taiwan imports and exports most of the resources and goods it needs via maritime channels due to cost considerations. In this vein, the training of maritime professionals is paramount for the country's survival. The maritime education publicity efforts of the Ministry of Education in recent years have enabled students to gain a deeper understanding of working and living at sea. Besides clearing up myths about maritime careers, these efforts also educated the public on the manpower needs of maritime corporations. The training and recruitment of maritime professionals have not only helped said professionals answer their calling, but also bolstered the workforce in the maritime industry.

K12EA pointed out that core literacies lie at the heart of Taiwan's 12-Year Basic Education Curriculum, which is shown by its emphasis on inculcating the ability in students to apply textbook knowledge in real-world situations. The twin objectives of maritime education are to meet the future needs of the maritime industry and to ensure that present-day maritime knowledge and skills can be passed down to future generations. National Tung Kang Maritime and Fishery Vocational High School, which is a Maritime and Fishery Center for Study

Area, is an exemplar of a school that is working in that direction. With its focus on the real-world applications of knowledge and skills, students were able to understand life at sea, have conventional myths about maritime life dispelled, and make suitable career choices for themselves based on their own personality and aptitude.

When it comes to the training of maritime professionals, there are only five maritime vocational high schools located around Taiwan in Keelung, Su'ao, Tainan, Donggang, and Penghu Island respectively. In line with their emphasis on the real-world application of skills and engaging youths who are interested in a maritime career, maritime vocational high schools have been working closely with industry partners to expose their students to companies in the marine science and technology industry, so as to help the students understand their career opportunities. For instance, schools have invited Evergreen Marine Corporation to conduct recruitment drives on campus, as well as organized workplace experience programs that allow students to visit these companies. The first-hand experience that students gained from these activities would allow them to have a preliminary understanding of a maritime career, and subsequently decide on a path that suits their own talents and strengths.

K12EA shared that, in recent years, pursuing a career in the maritime industry is being seen as a laudable choice, thanks to the hard work put in by maritime vocational high schools in the promotion of their programs, as well as the high demand from the maritime industry.

Furthermore, the high pay and good working conditions have also contributed to the prestige of the industry in the public eye. The Ministry of Education will continue to act as the bridge between schools and the industry so as to provide even more opportunities to students interested in a maritime career, so that these budding professionals can be employed shortly after graduation.