

Director-General of K-12 Education Administration Visited Two Senior High Schools in Chiayi, Praising Their Vigorous Academic Atmosphere and Outstanding Talents

(Texts were provided by Liu Yu-long from the Director-General Office, photos by Zhang Shu-lin from the Secretariat Office.)



▲Director-general Wu visited National Chiayi Senior High School and had a group photo taken with the teachers and the students.

Wu Ching-shan, the Director-general of K-12 Education Administration, visited National Chiayi Senior High School (CYSH) and National Singang Senior High School of Arts (SGASH) on March 20th in the afternoon. His first stop was CYSH; President Huang Yi-shun showed him around the campus, the teaching facilities and the environment. As they walked through the courtyard, Director-general Wu saw three hundred-year old lush rain trees and felt a sense of warmth and love associated with the Chinese saying regarding education—“It takes 10 years to grow a tree, while a sound education program takes 10 times longer before it takes root.” He then had a group photo taken with the teachers and students in front of the rain tree as a souvenir.

President Huang revealed to those present that Director-general Wu was admitted to study

at CYSH, the top school in Yunlin and Chiayi, but he did not enroll. “I finally entered this school. It was my dream school 43 years ago,” said Director-general Wu. He said he decided to go to National Bei-gang Senior High School for two reasons: the scholarship it offered and its proximity to his home; the latter in fact conforms to the current promotion of studying at schools in one’s community. With 90 years of history since its foundation, CYSH has had 60,000 alumni and has cultivated numerous talents in all walks of life. Those outstanding alumni have contributed to society and the country, such as former Vice President Vincent Siew, Mayor of Taipei Hao Long-bin, singer Wu-bai, producer Wang Wei-zhong, and former president of National Changhua University of Education Zhang Hui-bo. This year, 16 students from CYSH scored a perfect 75 points on the General Scholastic Ability Test. Cai Jia-ling, the first student to score a perfect 75 points at CYSH, set record of passing the recruitment and selection phase in six medical schools.

Director-general Wu had a conversation with the students at CYSH, asking questions such as how their studies and school club participation were going, whether they had seen the movie “Kano,” who their favorite teacher was, and which field they wanted to study after graduation. He encouraged the students to be determined with their goals by saying “Choose your dream schools, work hard, and expect a bright future.” The students expressed what they thought. For example, Cai Yao-chen hoped that old facilities in the school should be replaced, and Su Ting-wu pointed out that the joined wooden desk with chair was too heavy, making it difficult to clean thoroughly.

SGASH is the first senior high school of art in Taiwan with its official enrollment starting from 2006. The school has new and original facilities, boasting its one-of-a-kind “elevated colorful track.” President Liao Lian-xi and the PTA president Lin Zhi-da picked up Director-general Wu at CYSH in person. President Liao prepared detailed information in his briefing “Schools, Where We Find Hopes,” sharing SGASH’s goal to be a quality senior high school of art, and presenting its current operation and challenges. PTA president Lin expressed his special thanks to Director-general Wu for his visit and great inspiration to the teachers and the students.

Students of SGASH also expressed their opinions with Director-general Wu during the conversation. Zhan Ya-ning, who has been recruited by the Department of Computer Science &

Information Engineering of National Taiwan University through the Star Program's recommendation, hoped that the New Age Student Leadership Camp can continue to be held and suggested that the school should not host fewer activities due to limited budgets. Lin Shi-shan, who has been recruited by Taipei Medical University, showed a big heart when she said she plans to do voluntary work in Africa. A second-year student Cai Jia-shuang hoped that the campus can be opened till 6 PM and that broken facilities need to be fixed.

Regarding both schools' operation needs, Xu Sheng-jie from the Division of Senior High School and Vocational High School Education replied that subsidies are prioritized to enhance urgent engineering projects. For schools that require a larger amount of subsidy, they can apply for it by submitting evaluation documents and proposals to the K-12 Education Administration; in principle, the budget is approved year by year. Recently, a solar energy company sought cooperation with schools; roofs of school building were equipped with devices to generate electricity, which was favorable to school funds. The Division of Indigenous Peoples and Minority Groups and Special Education of K-12 Education Administration also offers subsidies of facilities for people with disabilities twice a year; schools have to apply for it according to proper procedures. Director-general Wu reminded CYSH students that the roof of the School Club Office was not safe and this issue needed to be addressed immediately. Besides, students' needs should be schools' top priority in terms of using subsidies to improve the facilities and the environment. Director-general Wu thanked the efforts of the presidents and the administrative staff. He hoped to hear more of students' opinions and suggestions and see more cooperation between high schools and neighboring universities for continuous advancement. When presidents inspire teachers to strive for school operation and school-based characteristics, students will also develop skills that can benefit them for their whole life.



▲ Director-general Wu visited National Singang Senior High School of Arts and had a group photo taken with the teachers and the students.



▲ Director-general Wu had a conversation with students of Chiayi Senior High School.