

The curriculum design of English teachers at elementary and junior high schools is enhanced to improve the effectiveness of English education

(Photo/Text by Li, Wen-Ni at the Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



To provide English teachers at elementary and junior high schools with advanced knowledge and skills of English teaching, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, hosted the First 2022 Professional Empowerment Workshop for Elementary and Junior High School English Teachers in northern, central, and southern Taiwan during the 2022 summer vacation with about 330 participants. The entire process proceeded in English. Through the five-day intensive training in the workshop, the participating teachers' English speaking, teaching and evaluation skills were improved.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, this year's Professional Empowerment Workshop for Elementary and Junior High School English Teachers included a teaching knowledge and skill development workshop and a teaching evaluation design workshop. The elementary school teacher training sessions were developed in collaboration with the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange and the Language Training and Testing Center, while the junior high school teacher training sessions were designed in conjunction with British Council

Taiwan and the Language Training and Testing Center. The contents of the systematic and practical training sessions were set out to strengthen the teachers' English speaking teaching strategies and skills in English classes on the basis of the teachers' teaching professionalism.

The K-12 Education Administration worked with British Council Taiwan this year for the first time to organize a practical classroom observation and discussion workshop for junior high school English teachers. The workshop included the principles for classroom observation, how to improve teaching effectiveness through classroom observation, and how to use classroom observation tools. It took place in two stages: the first stage went from August 15 through August 17; teachers needed to submit a lesson plan and a 20-minute teaching video within one month after the completion of the stage-1 training. International experts and scholars will provide a complete lesson observation report to each participating teacher and observe, discuss, and exchange views of the classroom at the second stage from November 12 through November 13. We aim to enhance English teachers' professional knowledge and skills through the workshop, thereby improving their teaching quality and guiding students to learn more effectively.

Furthermore, the participating teachers believed that this workshop was practical and useful and could be directly applied to teaching in class. They also had more time to interact with the instructors and obtain instant feedback. Meanwhile, they could share their teaching experiences and teaching skills with other teachers from different cities or counties, which are of significant help to increase their teaching experience and knowledge.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the English teachers provided feedback enthusiastically and their professional knowledge and skills all improved after participating in the workshop. As such, they can get more prepared for English teaching and adopt the strategies and skills learned to improve the effectiveness of their English teaching, while guiding students to speak English in class through an effective teaching activity design, thereby enabling students

to find their passion and gain confidence in English learning and, ultimately, revolutionizing English learning in the classroom.