

**Mimura Shingo, Governor of Aomori Prefecture, Japan, visited Taiwan again, and the Ministry of Education presented a certificate of appreciation, a highlight of Taiwan-Japan educational exchange history**

(Division of Education for Indigenous Peoples and Special Education)



To expand students' global horizons and international exchanges and motivate international students to come to Taiwan for educational travel and experience Taiwan's multicultural characteristics, the Ministry of Education instructed senior high schools of various types to establish the Senior High and Vocational School Alliance for International Educational Travel in 2002 and the Senior High and Vocational School Alliance for International Educational Travel 2.0, with the aim of strengthening and enhancing international educational travel and exchange. The Ministry of Education held an event on December 7, 2022 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges and invited Japanese long term Japanese collaborators to receive a certificate of appreciation at this event. Mimura Shingo, Governor of Aomori Prefecture, Japan, is among the seven Japanese who had substantial contributions. He has enhanced the cultural exchanges between students from Taiwan and Japan and helped Taiwanese students expand their international horizons through his influence. However, as he could not make it on that day, the Ministry of Education arranged for Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, to present a certificate of appreciation to him today (December 13, 2022), to express

our gratitude toward him for his endeavors, contributions, and assistance to Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges.

According to the Ministry of Education, Governor Mimura Shingo has proactively assisted in facilitating bilateral exchanges between Aomori Prefecture and Taipei City. Since 2017, the K-12 Education Administration has selected and sent roughly 20 vocational school teachers and students to Aomori Prefecture for agricultural skills and vocational education exchanges per year. In 2019, Aomori Prefecture sent a delegation of more than 200 teachers and students to visit Taiwan for educational and study travel. In December of the same year, Governor Mimura Shingo led officers from the prefecture government and 14 university presidents, totaling 28 people, to visit Taiwan. Governor Mimura Shingo has gone all out to facilitate the bilateral exchanges between Taiwan and Japan. He also visited Taichung and Tainan in 2015 and 2019, respectively. In addition to his dedication to educational exchanges, he has made a significant contribution to the partnerships and exchanges in culture, economy, trade, tourism, among and other fields between Taiwan and Japan.

Minister Pan stated that Governor Mimura Shingo's endeavors and frequent visits to Taiwan have facilitated the formation of a deep friendship between Taiwan and Japan. In the future, under the framework of a memorandum of understanding signed between both sides, Taiwan and Japan will continue to support the educational travel program and relevant seminars, briefings, mutual visits, schooling, joint research, sports, culture and art, among other youth and teacher exchange activities, thereby responding to International Education 2.0.

The Ministry of Education stated that it will continue to extend the subsidies for international educational travel from senior high schools to schools below senior high school, to motivate the development of diverse international educational travel programs, and to deepen and extend the international educational exchange experience for the new generation in Taiwan.