

The MOE Praised Outstanding Junior High and Elementary School Teaching and Counseling Groups of the School Year of 103

(Texts were provided by Chen Pei-ling from the Division of Junior High School, Elementary School and Preschool Education)

The MOE has been hosting the Outstanding Municipal/County/City Compulsory Education Counseling Groups Project since the school year of 102, the K-12 Education Administration. Its ultimate goal is to encourage the devotion and contribution of counseling groups at junior high school and elementary school. On August 21st, during the National Education Department Commissioners Meeting, the MOE publicly honored Group of Excellence, Group of Advancement, and Group with Spirit of Courage for the school year 103. These groups were honored because they improved teachers' teaching skills and students' learning with effective strategies based on the local conditions of each municipality, county, and city. Those winning teams shared their experiences and served as good examples for others to look up to.

These groups were evaluated based on seven learning areas: Chinese Language, English, Local Language, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Technology, Arts and Humanities, Health and Sports, Life Lesson, and Integrative Activities, which were complemented by topics like human rights education and gender equality. The evaluation panel looked into teams' performance on policy coordination, professional support, effectiveness assessment, and cooperation with junior high schools and elementary schools. The evaluation followed a two-stage process: first, municipal/county/city governments conducted the preliminary evaluation process based on evaluation items; the materials submitted by local governments were then reviewed by the review committee, which was recruited by the K-12 Education Administration. The review committee conducted the final evaluation after on-site visits. Based on the results of the final evaluation, the winning groups were selected as follows.

1. Group of Excellence: four winning teams including Taipei City's Mathematics Group, New Taipei City's Arts and Humanities Group, Tainan City's Chinese Language Group, and Kaohsiung City's Science Group (listed from north to south).

2. Group of Advancement: 13 winning teams including Taipei City's Science Group, New Taipei City's Chinese Language Group, Taoyuan County's Social Studies Group and Mathematics Group, Xinzhu City's Chinese Language Group, Xinzhu County's Life Lesson Group, Miaoli County's Human Rights and Mathematics Groups, Taichung City's Life Lesson Group, Changhua County's Gender Equality Group, Tainan City's Health and Sports Group, and Kaohsiung City's Mathematics and Integrative Activities Groups (listed from north to south).

3. Group with Potential: 13 winning teams including Keelung City's Arts and Humanities Group, Taoyuan County's Arts and Humanities Group and Chinese Language Group, Xinzhu City's Social Studies Group and Arts and Humanities Group, Xinzhu County's Chinese Language Group, Taichung City's Chinese Language Group, Changhua County's Science Group, Yunlin County's Chinese Language Group, Jiayi County's Social Studies Group, Tainan City's Science Group, Kaohsiung City's Arts and Humanities Group, and Penghu County's Science Group (listed from north to south).

4. Group with Spirit of Courage: seven winning teams including Xinzhu County's Human Rights Group, Miaoli County's English Group, Taichung City's Human Rights Group, Changhua County's Local Language Group, Yunlin County's Integrative Activities Group, Tainan City's Gender Equality Group, and Hualien County's Human Rights Group (listed from north to south).

Among those teams, Taipei City's Mathematics Group established math workshops that aimed to enhance students' reading comprehension and teachers' competence on setting exams; the workshops so far have generated amazing results. New Taipei City's Arts and Humanities Group integrated teaching resources and consolidated teaching and counseling tasks backed by holistic strategy. Its stress on new horizon in arts education has contributed to more effective teaching and counseling. Many arts and humanities activities were integrated into the curriculum, such as the hosting of Art Season activities, to enrich students' holiday life. Tainan City's Chinese Language Group developed an online calligraphy course and calligraphy teaching certificate, which were rooted in its unique expertise in calligraphy teaching. Kaohsiung City's Science and Technology Group developed teaching materials that reflected local identities, established a teaching material platform, offered QR code to field trip teaching

materials, displayed teaching videos that showed core concepts, and provided students with online autonomous learning access like Dr. Go Autonomous Learning Website; all were highly praised by the review committees.

The K-12 Education Administration granted NT\$100,000, NT\$30,000, and NT\$10,000 respectively to the winners of Group of Excellence, Group of Advancement, and Group with Spirit of Courage as funds for developing teaching materials. With these funds, those winning teams would be able to share their achievements via material consolidation and public presentation. The project team from National Taiwan Normal University, which undertook the duty of disseminating these model teaching materials, will soon upload the winners' accomplishments to the website of Taiwan Elementary and Secondary Educator Community to set up good exemplifier. Winners of Group with Potential also were given a Certificate of Merit as a reward.

The fifteen counties/cities (Keelung City, Taipei City, New Taipei City, Taoyuan County, Xinzhu County, Xinzhu City, Miaoli County, Taichung City, Changhua County, Yunlin County, Jiayi County, Tainan City, Kaohsiung City, Hualien County, and Penghu County) that those 30 winning groups came from were each given a Certificate of Merit as a recognition of their excellent performance, and were encouraged to exercise the crucial power of "supporting teachers' expertise and enhancing learning effectiveness" in the development of 12-year compulsory education.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, Compulsory Education Counseling Groups play an important role for the municipality/county/city in enhancing curriculum and teaching quality and providing professional support, research development, and policy transformation. It is hoped that such public recognition will inspire the winning groups, such that they keep exercising their professional support and power. K-12 education policy is expected to be implemented in classrooms, and the goal of enhancing teaching quality and learning effectiveness should thereby be achieved. Meanwhile, we are happy to see that all Compulsory Education Counseling Groups are becoming more and more professional year after year. We expect Compulsory Education Counseling Groups to act as pioneers in educational reform in the future and inspire teachers in junior high and elementary schools to uphold the philosophy and realize vision of 12-year compulsory education.