

Promoting Bilingual Education: Bilingual Lesson Plan Design Competition

(Photo/Original Text: I-Hsiu Liu, Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



To implement the Bilingual 2030 Policy, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education (MOE) commissioned the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) and National Taipei University of Education (NTUE) to carry out the "Implementation Project of Bilingual Instruction in Some Domains of Primary and Junior High School Education". The project aims to help primary and junior high school teachers implement bilingual education in different subjects, create a good bilingual environment in schools, and build a professional community for teachers. In addition, NTNU and NTUE held the "Bilingual Lesson Plan Design Competition" to encourage teachers to offer bilingual courses in multiple subjects. In 2022, a total of 319 submissions were received from primary and junior high schools. Among all, six lesson plans in the primary school group and two lesson plans in the junior high school group received the Excellence Award; five lesson plans in the primary school group and five lesson plans in the junior high school group received the Honorable Mention Award, totaling 18 winning lesson plans. The awarded lesson plans were announced on the website of "Localizing Bilingual Education Models in Primary and Secondary Schools" and "Curriculum & Instruction Resources

Network (CIRN)".

NTNU professor Tzu-Bin Lin said that bilingual education in primary and junior high schools should focus on building a bilingual environment and creating an environment that allows students to experience bilingual communication. Moreover, when promoting bilingual education, the primary priority shall be acquiring subject knowledge; building a language-rich environment and using the language shall serve as a secondary priority. Teachers can promote bilingual education flexibly according to students' English proficiency and carry out bilingual education based on the principle of "teachable for teachers, understandable for students". NTUE professor Chin-Fen Chen added that bilingual education differs from all-English education and can increase students' familiarity with language use. Teachers can gradually promote bilingual courses by preparing lessons together through the professional community for teachers.

Schools can build a bilingual environment by establishing bilingual broadcasting systems, creating bilingual signs on campus, and setting up English reading corners. Furthermore, foreign English teachers can help build a language learning environment where students are encouraged to speak English. The 18 awarded lesson plans were submitted by in-service teachers and trainee teachers, allowing in-service teachers to showcase their implemented lesson plans and encouraging trainee teachers to join bilingual education.

In addition, the lesson plan design considers the learning speed in different stages, students' responses and needs in class, learning outcomes, and physical and mental development, allowing teachers in various fields to plan curricula that cater to students' needs. The topics of the lesson plans are relatively new; for example, the lesson plans of the junior high school group include "Interesting Stories of Auction" in Visual Arts, "Her Youth File" in Health Education, and "Transport Systems in Plants" in Biology; the lesson plans of the primary school group include "Movie Theme Songs" in Music and "I have a dream" in Integrative Activities.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that it will continue to hold the competition to

encourage outstanding bilingual teachers in schools. In addition, winners will be invited to make teaching videos as demonstrations of bilingual education to provide references for teachers and help expand bilingual education. Through teachers' learning experience, the K-12 Education Administration hopes to present good teaching practices in class, which will help teachers improve their professional knowledge and diverse abilities, create more possibilities for children, and encourage more teachers to promote bilingual education.