

Nobel Prize Winner Dr. Dan Shechtman Visits Taiwan to Exchange Views on Preschool Education

(Courtesy of Zhi-Ying Guo at the Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool
Education)



The 2011 Nobel Prize winner Israeli scientist Dr. Dan Shechtman met with the Ministry of Education on November 16, 2018, and was received by Jiunn-Rong Yeh, Minister of Education, and Sun-Lu Fan, Political Deputy Minister. The both parties exchanged experience of implementing pre-school science education between the two countries. Marn-Ling Shing, Professor at the University of Taipei and General Convener of the Curricular Guidelines on Taiwanese Kindergarten Educare Activities, and Hsien-Sheng Hsiao, Professor at the National Taiwan Normal University, also joined the meeting, presenting "Introduction of Taiwan's Early Childhood Science Education based on the Curricular Guidelines on Taiwanese Kindergarten Educare Activities" and sharing STEAM teaching activities.

Dr. Shechtman said that he treated children as adults in his teaching and taught them relevant scientific knowledge of the universe, Earth, physics, and human body in a language that

they could understand. This is the way he has taught his four children and grandchildren since they were little, which has led to good outcomes. He is currently undertaking this innovative teaching approach in science education in several kindergartens in the Haifa City and hopes to collaborate with Taiwan in this regard in the future.

During the talks, Mr. Yeh said that Dr. Shechtman's approach, in which young children were treated as adults, and knowledge and dialogue were emphasized without providing young children with hands-on opportunities, is different from Taiwan's approach of incorporating science education into the integrated curriculum. Therefore, through this meeting, a profound discussion was conducted about how best to cultivate young children's scientific literacy and abilities, and, hopefully, there will be an opportunity for an in-depth understanding in the future.

This visit helps to promote mutual understanding across the national borders and cultures, which forms an important link for promoting international friendship. The Ministry of Education also plans to visit Israel to understand the characteristics of the preschool education development in Israel.