

Elementary and Junior High International Education Resource Centers Promote Communication, Increase Competitiveness

(Image/Text: Lin Chuan-Hua, Division of Education for Indigenous Peoples and Special Education)



To continue promoting international education in elementary and junior high schools, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education (MOE) has tasked select schools with serving as International Education Resource Centers (IERCs) in accordance with the International Education 2.0 for Primary and Secondary Schools Policy. IERCs assist in arranging international exchange opportunities for elementary and junior high schools, developing strategic alliance programs, operating showcases, and conducting community training for international exchange. In line with MOE international exchange policy, IERCs, city and county departments of education, and elementary and junior high schools also conduct experience sharing to help promote internationalization of education.

For example, in December 2022, New Taipei City IERC Zhonghe Senior High School welcomed a South Korean delegation led by Incheon East Asia Global Education Institute President Yoo Chung-Yeol, accompanied by Director of Affairs Kim Cheol-Hwan, Division

Leader Roh Yoon-Oh, and Section Chief Kim Joon-Moh. During the visit, representatives from Taiwan and South Korea held a seminar as well as discussed the promotion of student exchanges between the two countries. Those in attendance from Taiwan included New Taipei Municipal Sanmin High School Principal Peng Sheng-Tso, Bei Da Senior High School Principal Shih Ya-Hui, Ji-Sui Junior High School Principal Chang Kuo-Chen, and Xi Kun Junior High School Principal Hsu Shu-Min. After the seminar, President Yoo was invited to interact with students in an art course.

Also in December 2022, a Taipei City IERC held a visit for Japanese travel agency JTB Corporation, who were invited by the Tourism Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to Taiwan to tour Da'an Vocational High School. School Principal Yang I-Chiang expressed that seminars between Taiwan and Japan would help to promote international exchange and prepare for Taiwan-Japan education trips in 2023.

Taiwan International Education Trips Association 2.0 President, Lin Hsiang-Yin, stated that IERCs from several cities and counties have conducted pilot trips to locations including Taichung, Miaoli, Tainan, and Taitung in the 2022-23 academic year to prepare local elementary and junior high schools to receive teachers and students from abroad. They have also planned an international education host family handbook, conducted mentoring workshops, and invited schools with excellent curriculum design to share their experiences so that schools can communicate and learn from each other.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that through the IERC schools in each county and city, it will vigorously promote international exchange activities for elementary and junior high schools in Taiwan, combining central and regional educational resources to assist local schools in developing their unique qualities and enhancing Taiwan's competitiveness in international educational exchange.