

Southward Education Policy Pays Off

(Courtesy of Hong Hui-Zhen at Division of Division for Indigenous People and Special Education)

To respond to the central government's new southward policy, Chung Shan Industrial and Commercial School (CSIC) introduced a specialized program for overseas ethnic Chinese students in 1996 to recruit the overseas ethnic Chinese students, mainly in Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Myanmar. Today, there are 529 students currently enrolled in this program, and about 900 have graduated so far. Mr. Lin Zhao-Yi, Principal of CSIC, stressed that this school has 21 years of experience in educating these overseas students. Either staying in Taiwan or returning to their home countries after graduation for further studies or employment, these overseas students all witness outstanding achievements. Thanks to word of mouth, a stream of ethnic Chinese students from these five countries are coming to Taiwan. In particular, 100 12-graders in the electronic class of this program have secured over 300 level C certificates in the field of industrial electronics and computer hardware fabrication in total, and 87 of them even secured the level B certificates in the same categories. Additionally, seven, among them, secured the level C certificate in the field of beauty as their secondary skill, and among them, four even secured 4 certificates individually. This will only open up more academic and career opportunities for them.

CSIC is the cradle for developing and training overseas ethnic Chinese students from southeast Asian countries. Apart from the certificate in industrial electronics obtained by the students in the electronic class, four of the seven students who secured the level C certificate in beauty are Vietnamese and obtained four certificates individually. CSIC presented awards to them for their outstanding performance in the hope that they could strive to do what they were good at in the place where they resided as the best spokespeople for the new southward policy.

Mr. Lin points out that the students' outstanding performance has attracted the public attention. The school presented awards to the seven students with the beauty certificate at an overseas Chinese student seminar. The four students who collected four certificates are Mo Yu-Jiao, Huang Guang-Ping, Chen Jin-Feng, and He Yu-Shou, all from Vietnam. They have secured the level C certificates in industrial electronics and beauty, and the level B and C certificates in computer hardware fabrication. Among them, He Yu-Shou studied in Taiwan with her twin sister,

and she wants to develop as many skills as possible in the beauty field that she has a strong passion for and plans work in a related area after returning home.

Living in an environment where the language and lifestyles are distinctive from theirs, these overseas ethnic Chinese students clenched their teeth and completed their education by working part-time. Particularly, CSIC's program offers language proficiency-based courses to allow these students to develop their second skills in a friendly learning environment. So far, this endeavor has witnessed great achievement. With the introduction of the new southward policy by the government, more and more overseas ethnic Chinese students come to study in Taiwan. Meanwhile, Taiwan's Overseas Credit Guarantee Fund offers loans to these students to make sure they pursue their studies in Taiwan without any underlying financial worries. At the Double-Tenth Day this year, a meeting with these students' parents will be held to allow them to know more about how their children are doing in Taiwan. Hopefully, after these students return to the countries where they reside, they can put what they learn into practice and do what they are best capable of as the best spokespeople for the new southward policy.