

## The K-12 Education Administration Joins Hands with NGOs to Promote Reading in Rural Communities

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In order to cultivate a reading culture in junior high and elementary schools, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education has been cooperating with NGOs to launch various reading activities. In 2021, a total of 21 NGOs were granted NT\$15 million to promote reading in rural communities. Even under the COVID-19 pandemic, these NGOs strived to build a reading culture in every corner of Taiwan to create a holistic learning environment for students.

In 2021, for example, Sinsiang Inter Community Association in Hualien provided mobile library services with selected books to remote schools and held various reading activities. Volunteers told stories with picture books, planned activities for social and emotional learning, and designed a variety of worksheets that encouraged students to draw and write freely, which received great responses.

Penghu Reading Association brought marine knowledge to students through marine teaching materials. For instance, an essay on whales can be used to introduce different species and habits

of whales; with further exercises on association, summary, and asking questions, students can benefit a lot from the reading. In New Taipei City, The Association for Reading Promotion incorporated ecological issues through reading; the association led students to explore creatures on campus and guided them in searching and organizing information with stories.

The K-12 Education Administration explained that long-term cooperation with NGOs can increase students' sensitivity to the environment and problems around them through diverse reading, which not only develops their reading habits but also accompanies their growth. Thanks to the volunteers that spread the passion for reading, which turns reading into a multifaceted and interesting activity for students, and continues to warm people's hearts with stories under the pandemic.