

## Advanced Training for New Immigrant Language Education Supporters

(Courtesy of Chang, Hao-Yi from the Division for Indigenous People and Special Education)



With new immigrants' cultures included in the new 12-year national curriculum guidelines, K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has trained 874 support educators with qualifications for new immigrants' languages. To strengthen the support educators' teaching techniques and enhance their practical experiences, K-12 Education Administration held a 36-hour advanced training for support educators of new immigrant languages over the course of five days from March 20 to March 24, 2017, at National Nantou Commercial High School.

Chen, Jia-Bi, who participated in the advanced training, has managed to be a hair stylist alongside her mother-in-law since she came to Taiwan from Vietnam; meanwhile, she also worked as a teacher to teach her mother tongue in new immigrants' language classes at primary and junior high schools. She cherished such an opportunity to participate in the five-day training that included lesson plan design, teaching prop making, computer and information applications as well as practical teaching. Chen was happy to find these sessions very useful, for example, she didn't know there was a huge amount of information she could access via a computer before.

Being able to make teaching props with items that one could access in the daily life, she was pretty confident of her education journey down the road.

Out of excitement, Ding, Shi-Qiu-He said “I really appreciate the opportunity Taiwan gave me. I feel that my dream is coming true.” Aspiring to be a teacher, she missed out the opportunity to become one earlier because her parents were against her going to a teachers’ school. To her surprise, decades after, she had the opportunity to realize her dream right here in Taiwan. After the 36-hour advanced training, she was going to teach children in the neighborhood on weekends to enhance her practical experiences, and she has determined to become an outstanding support educator to teach her mother tongue.

K-12 Education Administration has completed the review of the first stage training for support educators across Taiwan. Starting in April, training sessions will be held gradually; the information on the sessions and relevant information are announced on the website of New Residents Language Education Resource Center. Meanwhile, the information about the support teaching personnel is also compiled on the website, with which schools and local governments are able to recruit support teachers more easily and the new immigrants’ language programs will be implemented more smoothly.