

Important Teaching Experience Passed on in the Keelung and Taipei Session of the Nth Power of Dreams—Teachers' Professional Growth Workshop

(Courtesy of Jia-Xin Li at the Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool



Education)

The Nth Power of Dreams—Teachers' Professional Growth Workshop has been initiated by grass roots teachers and held by local governments that commissioned by the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education. The sixth workshop was held in New Taipei City on November 9, 2019, attracting over one thousand educational personnel to participate. In addition to lecturers of various courses, teachers who had participated in relevant seminars were invited to share their practical experience in the classroom.

Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, attended the event in person to pay tribute to and offer encouragement to the participating teachers. Minister Pan stated that the key to implementing the new curriculum guidelines lay in the efforts of the teachers. He added that “the Nth Power of Dreams” was a mechanism, through which teachers tapped into fellow teachers’ strengths and continued to improve themselves and make progress. He stressed that passionate teachers would observe students’ learning situation to enable them to make more progress and that the Ministry

of Education would spare no effort to support all grass roots teachers so that they would enjoy opportunities to grow professionally and their passion for teaching would continue to hold on through each activity and event of “the Nth Power of Dreams”.

The Keelung and Taipei session of the Nth Power of Dreams—Teachers' Professional Growth Workshop in 2019 was held at the New Taipei Municipal Jui-Fang Industrial High School on November 9 and 10; teachers and principals from Taipei City, New Taipei City, Keelung City, Taoyuan City, and outlying islands all participated actively as they spent their weekend on teaching empowerment, which demonstrated a high degree of enthusiasm for education.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the curriculum guidelines of 12-Year Basic Education has been officially implemented, and the Ministry of Education continues to provide guidance and support various preparations at the teaching sites, aiming to assist teachers in their professional growth. Since 2015, the Ministry of Education has collaborated with Zheng-Zhong Wang, a director at the Nantou Shuang Wen Junior High School, and the teachers he has called on to join his initiative to commission various local governments to organize the Nth Power of Dreams—Teachers' Professional Growth Workshop and arrange a wealth of courses to enhance the teaching professionalism for teachers. As of today, this event has entered its fifth year; a cumulative number of 20,000 teachers have participated. There is still one session to be held in Yilan in November and one in Nantou in December. It is estimated that there will be over 8,000 teachers participating in a total of eight sessions throughout this year.

The new curriculum guidelines put emphasis on teaching and learning based on core competencies, with students placed at the center, but the most critical key to guiding students still lies in teachers. According to the K-12 Education Administration, "the Nth Power of Dreams" serves as the best platform for teachers' professional empowerment. Each participating teacher will become a "classroom practitioner" after returning to the teaching site. One hundred and forty-three classroom practitioners were also invited to share their experiences in today's Keelung and Taipei session of the workshop, including instructional design, guiding strategies,

co-preparation by teachers, and students' learning feedback, which were among the most important teaching experiences passed on to other fellow teachers.

The K-12 Education Administration said that the Ministry of Education has simultaneously strengthened the guidance regarding the preparation at the teaching sites during the process of promoting the curriculum guidelines of 12-Year Basic Education. Since 2015, the Pilot School Collaborative Program has been implemented on a trial basis to review the problems that schools may face and to guide pilot schools to develop their own courses (flexible learning courses), so as to provide students with diverse and adaptive learning opportunities. Originally, 46 schools participated as pilot schools, and the number has increased to 709 by 2019. More than a sixth of the schools country-wide have experiences in promoting the new curriculum guidelines; and they are in a position to share resources with and assist other schools in close proximity in implementing this initiative. In addition, the K-12 Education Administration has implemented the "Program on Liberalization of Curriculum and Teaching" since 2016 to support teachers in forming communities on their own; such communities have increased from 9 to 53 in 2019.

The teaching empowerment platforms, such as "the Nth Power of Dreams", have helped teachers gain a great deal of inspiration in education to get more creative for innovative teaching. It has been great to witness that teachers are building linkages with each other on their own to continue to develop their own local communities, accompany each other on this journey, and seek better instructional objectives collectively. The Ministry of Education will continue to invest resources to assist teachers in improving their professional capabilities for innovate instruction.