

When Art Meets History

Political Deputy Minister of Education Attends Taiwan History Drama Camp Presentation and Seminar

Courtesy of Li-Guan Wu at the Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool
Education)



On January 26, 2019, Sun-Lu Fan, Political Deputy Minister of Education, was invited to attend the "Taiwan History Drama Camp Presentation and Seminar." After watching the dramas presented by the students from the ATB Foundation in the Sanchong District, New Taipei City, the Piyaway community in Taoyuan, the Adiri community in Pingtung, and the Dongyuan Village in Pingtung, Ms. Fan said that she was very surprised that the students could have such wonderful and confident performances after only two days of practice in the drama camp and expressed her high recognition for the student performers and the teachers who provided guidance.

The Taiwan History Drama Camp was organized by the Chunghwa Telecom Foundation to introduce arts and cultural activities into remote and disadvantaged areas. In cooperation with arts and cultural troupes, students from remote and disadvantaged areas participated in the three-day-and-two-night drama camp, which combined "drama performance" and "history education." After two days of camp activities, the result presentation and seminar were held on the third day.

After children's performances, a seminar was held where Ms. Fan, Mi-Cha Wu, President of Academia Historica, Da-Chuan Sun, Vice President of the Control Yuan of R.O.C., Hua-Yuan Xue, Professor at the National Chengchi University, Yu-Feng Wang, Deputy Director of the Kaohsiung Museum of History, Pei-Xian Xu at the National Taiwan Normal University, as well as other scholars and experts were invited for relevant discussions. At the seminar, in addition to providing their feedback after the performances, they exchanged views on history education. Ms. Fan believed that through the combination of performance of dramas and historical connotations, the 400-hundred history of the development of Taiwan's diverse ethnic groups have been deeply imprinted in the hearts and minds of the students, and that the whole nation would surely move toward a more united society. Many parents and teachers present all expressed their hope that such an event could be held in other areas to allow more children to participate and learn.

Ms. Fan also said that the new curriculum guidelines that were about to be launched in the academic year of 2019 emphasized core competencies; through a theme-based and project-based approach, students would start learning from the community where they resided and reach to the outside world step by step; the learning method would emphasize more on the linkages with daily life. She hoped that students could learn by incorporating drama and interdisciplinary knowledge into the social studies domain, and that with the advancement of technology,

students' learning outcomes could be demonstrated through new technologies. She believed that such an approach would benefit students' learning profoundly.

Ms. Fan expressed her gratitude toward the Chunghwa Telecom Foundation for providing such an opportunity to the students to expand their learning channels. She also said that other government departments and private organizations had taken many innovative actions for local education and Taiwan history education, and that in the future, the linkage between the public and private resources would serve as the best support for teaching and learning.