

K12EA Promotes International Career Experiences for Children of New Immigrants in Senior High School

(Image/Text:Hung Hui-Chen,Division of Education for Indigenous Peoples and Special Education)



To cultivate multicultural learning and competitiveness in the international job market for children of immigrants to Taiwan, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education is promoting the "International Career Experience and Language Enrichment Program for Children of New Immigrants." Through language enrichment courses, students can better understand the cultural heritage of their parents' country of origin, deepen their language skills, and increase their international mobility. Program participants are also encouraged to visit and experience workplaces in their parents' countries of origin so as to develop international perspectives and employment competitiveness as part of the New Southbound Policy.

The K-12 Education Administration explained that the International Career Experience and Language Enrichment Program for Children of New Immigrants has been implemented since 2016. The program provides subsidies during summer vacation for children of new immigrants in senior high school to visit workplaces in Southeast Asian countries, encouraging them to experience work environments in their parents' countries of origin. Through the program,

students can use their abilities as multilingualists, enhance their knowledge and skills in international workplaces, and raise their competitiveness in the global job market after graduation. In addition, the program also provides opportunities for students to learn more about Southeast Asian cultures. It is not only a way for students to gain new knowledge and skills but also a way for them to get motivated to study their parents' native languages, experience cultural diversity firsthand, gain a deeper cultural understanding and respect for cultural differences, enhance their sense of identity, broaden their international perspectives, and increase opportunities for growth in their community.

Unfortunately, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past three years, overseas career experiences offered through the program have been suspended. However, the program has organized contingency activities in their place, inviting Taiwanese enterprises with branches and factories in both Taiwan and Southeast Asia to assist in organizing job shadowing activities domestically, all while considering workplace safety and labor conditions. For instance, Solen Electric Co., Ltd. and Astro Tech Co., Ltd. were invited to help students gain experience onsite in the industrial field. The companies also held lectures on topics including "Workplace Environments in Vietnam," "Understanding Labor Conditions in Vietnam," and "Labor Rights Protection," helping students grasp the current industrial and employment situation in Vietnam.

The K-12 Education Administration also stated that through the International Career Experience Program for Children of New Immigrants, students will develop confidence and international perspectives and recognize the growth of the Southeast Asian market. The program is expected to facilitate future employment demand for children of new immigrants, promote multicultural learning experiences, build cross-cultural confidence, and strengthen students' sense of identity. Through international career experiences, today's students will be able to meet the needs of regional industries and build essential bridges between Taiwan and Southeast Asian countries in the future.