

Minister of Education Visits Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School to Send Care to New Immigrant Students and overseas ethnic Chinese students

(Courtesy of Hui-Zhen Hong at the Division for Indigenous People and Special Education)



Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, visited the Daliao International Academy and Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School in Kaohsiung City on January 29, 2019 (Tues.) to see how new immigrant students and overseas ethnic Chinese students were doing in school. In December 2017, Minister Pan had visited the Daliao International Academy and presided over the opening ceremony of the "Annual Sharing Session on New Immigrant Student Educational Achievements." Minister Pan received warm welcome from Gui-Qing Chen, Chairman of Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School, Zhao-Yi Lin, Principal of the Daliao International Academy, as well as teachers and students when he visited the Daliao International Academy this time.

There are about 3,600 overseas ethnic Chinese students nationwide and 665 of them attend the Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School, accounting for about one-fifths of the national

total. Since 1996, Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School has offered cooperation education programs to overseas ethnic Chinese students, in accordance with the country's overseas ethnic Chinese affairs policy, thereby assisting the Ministry of Education in promoting cooperation with Southeast Asian countries in vocational education and providing economically disadvantaged overseas ethnic Chinese students to study in Taiwan. In addition to overseas ethnic Chinese students, the number of new immigrant children at the Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School is as high as 782. In recent years, the school has also actively responded to the K-12 Education Administration's New Immigrant Children Five-Year Mid-Term Program and launched a variety of events and activities for new immigrant children, including counseling services, corporate visits, parenting education, multicultural education, new immigrant language learning camps, while holding international cultural visits and an achievement sharing session on service learning and cultural visits in Northern Thailand.

Minister Pan noted that the school provided cooperation education for overseas ethnic Chinese students to allow the students the opportunity to learn skills in a more deepened and broadened manner, and that after they learned professional skills, they would have a brighter future when returning to the country where they resided. He then pointed out that with the growth of the second generation of new immigrants, there were about 270,000 new immigrant students at all educational levels, of which there were about 140,000 from the seven countries in Southeast Asia in senior high schools and below. In order to implement new immigrant students' education, new immigrant languages are included in the "Language" curriculum of the 12-Year Basic Education Curriculum Guidelines. To enhance new immigrant students' potential language advantages and develop their international mobility, the K-12 Education Administration Department assisted new immigrant students in experiencing overseas workplace in Southeast Asia during the summer vacation. Furthermore, root-tracking activities were held for new immigrant students (including their parents and teachers) to visit their father's (mother's) hometown of origin during the summer vacation for cultural experience and language

learning. Moreover, the International Empowerment Industry-University Program was launched to cultivate a talent pool to satisfy Taiwanese business people's needs for talents in Southeast Asia, while enabling new immigrant students to develop multilingual abilities and professional competencies, so that our new immigrant students will serve as an important bridge between Taiwan and the seven countries in Southeast Asia, and thus shine on the international stage.

At the event, Minister Pan gave red envelopes to the overseas ethnic Chinese students who could not return home for the Lunar New Year, and the students also gave their hand-made cards to Minister Pan in return. One student also mentioned the international exchanges held by the K-12 Education Administration last year and gave special thanks to the K-12 Education Administration for giving her the opportunity to visit her mother's hometown in Indonesia for cultural experience, from which she learned about exotic cultures and had better understanding of the differences between Taiwan and Indonesia. In the end, Minister Pan expressed his high recognition for the thoughtful and careful arrangements for the overseas ethnic Chinese students during the Lunar Year by the school, and that he wished the teachers and students all the best in the Year of the Pig.