

Press Conference on the Launching of Senior High School Skills Competition Month for the School Year of 2019 : Vocational Achievements and Employment Competitiveness are Being Demonstrated

(Courtesy of Jia-Xuan Lu at the Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



The Ministry of Education continues to improve the competitiveness of vocational education. In addition to counselling schools to strengthen their teaching and motivating them to participate in relevant domestic and overseas vocational competitions, it has striven to promote talent matchmaking between the industry and academia, enabling vocational competitors to obtain employment opportunities provided by the industry. On October 29, 2019, the Ministry of Education held a press conference on the launching of senior high school skills competitions month for the school year of 2019, and student representatives from the five major categories of skills competitions, namely marine fishery, home economics, agriculture, commerce, and industry, were invited to witness and join the event together. They also announced that the

competitions would officially begin on November 5, 2019 and welcomed everyone to cheer for the participating students together.

To demonstrate the achievements of senior high school skills competitions as well as show the practical application of vocational education policies and the benefits of building linkages with the industry, the Ministry of Education held a press conference on the launching of senior high school skills competitions month for the school year of 2019 in the Joint Central Government Office Building on October 29, 2019. In addition to exhibiting relevant skills and works, the Ministry of Education announced that the annual national senior high school student skills competition has being officially kicked off.

In addition, the institutions in the industry that provided early recruitment and talent-matchmaking opportunities were invited to the press conference, as well as the faculty and students of the schools hosting the five major categories of the competition, namely marine fishery, home economics, agriculture, commerce, and industry, as well as the competitors of the 45th WorldSkills who participated in the National Senior High School Skills Competition during recent school year are also invited to witness the event. Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, said that the Ministry of Education has actively promoted vocational competitions of senior high schools to enhance students' motivation to learn skills and upgrade their skills level, while promoting inter-school exchanges and learning, so that the overall skills level and the depth of learning would improve constantly. Moreover, to train national skilled talents for relevant industries, guide students to undertake cross-domain integrated learning, and connect excellent students from various schools with the industry, the schools hosting the five major categories of the competition this year will continue to promote industry-academia talent matchmaking for skills competitors, and the skills competitors will further their professional studies overseas. He would like to express his gratitude toward the schools for their endeavor and the companies for their active participation.

In his speech, Minister Pan said that to enhance the award-winning competitors' international perspectives to facilitate their future career development, the Ministry of Education has

subsidized the top competitor in each category for their relevant training in companies overseas since the school year of 2015. To enable other excellent competitors of various competitions to enhance their skills through overseas professional training, the second-prize winner in each category is also qualified for this subsidy program this school year; a total of additional 130 students will benefit. The Ministry of Education will continue to implement this program to benefit more students.

According to the Ministry of Education, to implement the mechanism for continuing skill learning and training, the K-12 Education Administration has proactively and continuously counseled various competitions to make good use of industrial resources, in the hope of highlighting the purpose and functions of skills competitions, and cultivating outstanding skilled human resources for industries both at home and abroad. Therefore, the K-12 Education Administration has completed building the "industry-academia talent matching function module" on the platform of National High School Skills Competition Information (<http://sci.me.ntnu.edu.tw/>) and facilitated the industry participation through the coordination of host schools. The well-known participating businesses from various industries this year include Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation, Yinsh Precision Industrial Co., Ltd., TBI Motion Technology Co., Ltd., Yeong Chin Machinery Industries Co., Ltd., Magnate Technology Co., Ltd., Chih Kang Material Company Ltd., Jia Wei CPAs, Mitsui Food & Beverage Enterprise Group, Tasa Meng Group, Chuanhong Precision Tool MFG Co., Ltd., Known-You Seed Co., Ltd., SGS Taiwan Limited, Wan Hai Lines Ltd., Bowei Marine Engineering Co., Ltd., Hi-Q Marine Biotech International Ltd., air Hair Salon, Puppet & Its Double Theater, and Prospect Hospitality Co., Ltd. (McDonald's developmental licensee), serving to build linkages between various skills competitions and industry practices. Moreover, the information regarding industry-academia matchmaking is being provided to the competitors in the five major categories, including scholarships, salaries, and other benefits, so as to establish a positive industry-academia interaction mechanism, thereby building linkages between both sides, and supplying outstanding talents for the industry.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, to assist excellent competitors in various competitions in continuing to hone their skills, more excellent competitors can be sent overseas for professional training, so not only the first-prize but second-prize winners in all categories of various skills competitions would be qualified for the training program, to deepen their international perspectives and expand the fields of the skills, while developing more future stars for Taiwan's vocational industries.