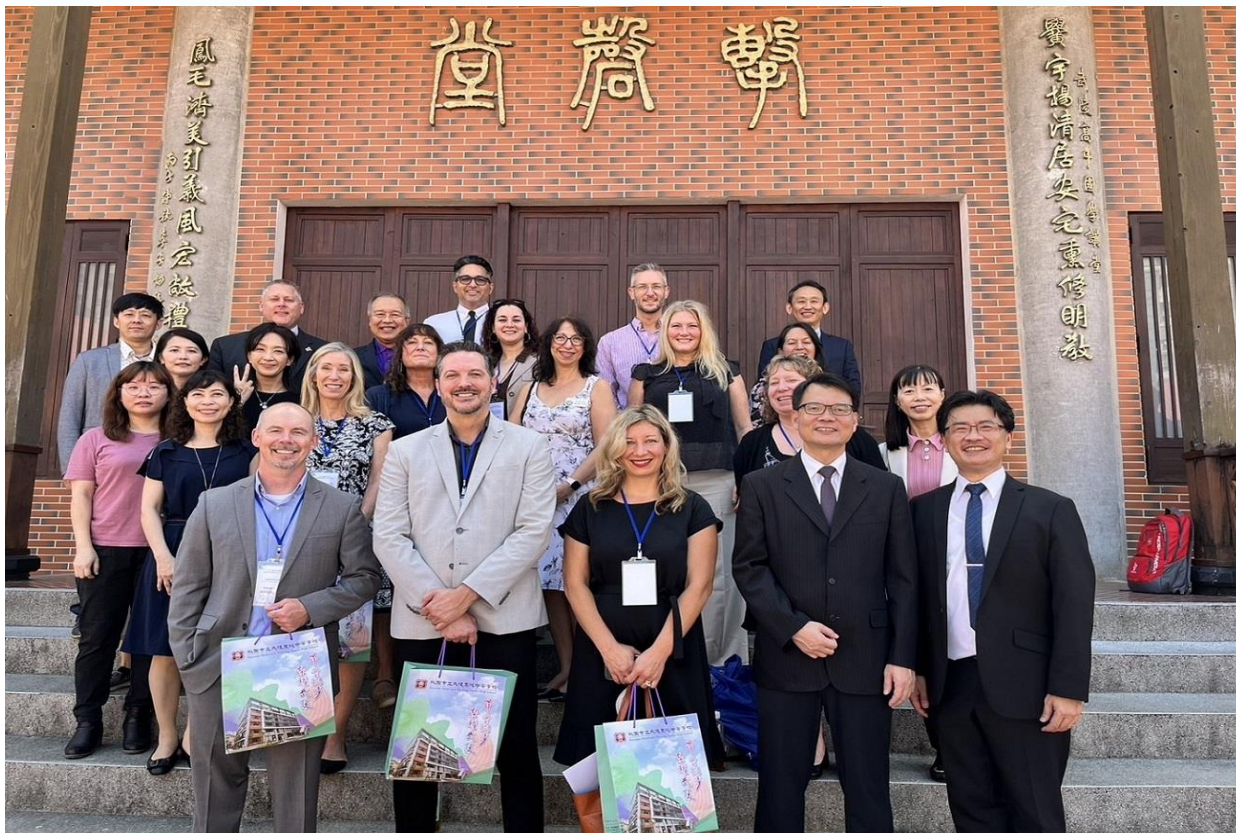


15 U.S. Department of Education Officials and High School Principals Visited Seven Unique Elementary and Junior High Schools in Taiwan

(Image/Original Text:Li Yu-Mei,Division of Education for Indigenous Peoples and Special Education)



To promote educational exchanges between Taiwan and the U.S., the Ministry of Education (MOE) invited 15 U.S. Department of Education officials and high school principals to visit seven unique elementary and junior high schools in Taiwan in November 2023. It is hoped that through these campus visits, the guests get to see our excellent educational practices and the brilliant performance of our teachers and students, bringing more international exchanges between Taiwan and U.S. elementary and junior high schools.

According to the MOE, the guests first visited Taoyuan Municipal Wu-Ling Senior High School, where the school's Chinese courtyard blew them away, jazz and Chinese classical music performances, as well as the school's effort in cultivating students' musical abilities and competence; and then they went to Dayuan International Senior High School to observe the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, second foreign language teaching, and martial arts performances, impressed by the school's international and diversified teaching.

Next, they went to Gien Shin Primary School in Hsinchu, which is full of indigenous features and rich history. Focusing on "Atayal aesthetics", the experimental elementary school creates an Atayal-themed curriculum and combines it with multi-disciplinary learning that introduces the in-depth cultural heritage to students. After the visit, the guests recognized our efforts to promote the education of indigenous cultures. Later, they visited Dongguang Elementary School in Kaohsiung and were introduced to their butterfly garden, butterfly ecology program, creative teaching, invention exhibition, natural science research expo, wind band, and handball team. They visited Kaohsiung Municipal Fushan Junior High School, where the students gave an English tour of the school and introduced the Lotus Pond and the Confucious Temple in Kaohsiung. The guests were highly interested in the school's diverse features and renowned attractions.

The guests also visited the New Taipei Municipal Shenkeng Junior High School, where they listened to students' presentation of the "four treasures of Shenkeng" (tofu, tea, Oldham bamboo shoot, and Berkshire pork), tasted the school lunch and observed the food-serving process, and visited the "Zhangfei Inn", a rescue station for injured birds, the stress-relieving and beautiful "Garden of Relief", and the multifunctional entrance hall awarded with the iF Design Award in Germany. Lastly, they went to the New Taipei Municipal Shiding High School and visited the tea art classroom awarded with the A'Design Award in Italy and listened to students' presentations of local tea culture, experienced tea art and tea tasting, and used paper to make tables or containers for fruits, demonstrating the achievements of diversified and transdisciplinary education.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, 103 U.S. elementary and junior high schools have established partnerships with 91 Taiwanese schools. It is hoped that the visit of U.S. education officials and teachers will help promote international education in elementary and junior high schools on both sides and broaden students' horizons.