

2015 Council of Principals of Special Education Schools, Senior High and Vocational High Schools (with Special Education Class)

(Article by Zeng Fan-ji, Division for Indigenous People and Special Education)

The 2015 Council of Principals of Special Education Schools, Senior High and Vocational High Schools (with Special Education Class) was set to be held on the 4th and 5th of August, 2015, at National Keelung Special Education School. Director-General of K-12 EA of MOE chaired the council and stated its opening. In Taiwan, the major task for special education has turned away from the pursuing of prevalence toward the search of excellence, with refinement and innovation serving as key indicators. The theme of this council is Innovation & Implementation that aims to boost diversity and vigor in education, exploring student's potential, and offering special education students all-round services. The ultimate aim is guiding students toward success, thereby realizing the educational goal: no partiality toward any student, while differentiated teachings are provided to address individual needs.

To enhance professional services in special education, and safeguarding the right to education and welfares of senior high and vocational high school special education students, MOE separated the council theme into three issues and discussed them in the form of forums: (1) New Special Education Curriculum: New Mindset, New Challenges; (2) Integration of Multi-Students, Aptitude-Oriented Learning; (3) Innovative Teaching, Aptitude-Oriented Development of Potential.

As a result of the development and growth of integrated education, a higher percentage of special education students has now enrolled in general schools. Therefore, one of MOE's primary concerns is how to make those students learn effectively in such an educational setting. Through the gather of scholars and principals in this event, a proper method could surge—a method that can continuously enhance the expertise and service of special education, meet the needs and expectations of both special education and general students, facilitate the mental and physical health and potential development of the students with disabilities—so that each school can properly resolve the challenges brought about by 12 year compulsory education program, thereby helping each student succeed.

In the future, special education will continue to take its root downward, and meanwhile, bear fruit upward. Besides continuously offering career guidance to special education students, MOE will institutionalize life-long learning, thereby materializing the educational ideals of equal opportunity and right man for the right job. During the discussion session, participants shared their experiences and the scholars brought up their perspectives, all aiming to reaching a resolution, helping thereby facilitating the promotion of school affairs, as well as fulfilling the shared visions and goals of special education.