

K-12 Education Administration Holds NPDL and New Curriculum Guidelines Workshop to Assist Senior High Schools with Interdisciplinary Transition and Deep Learning

(Courtesy of Chih-Ching Kuo at the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



The New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (NPDL), established by the Canadian education community, committed itself to the promoting of collaboration toward the development of knowledge and practical strategies for new pedagogies, which has received attentions from the international community. Our country has implemented the new curriculum guidelines since the school year of 2019. In order to learn from international experiences, to deepen the new curriculum guidelines, and to broaden the breadth of teaching in each school, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, organized clusters of schools to join the NPDL this year and held a new curriculum guidelines workshop in Miaoli on November 17, 2020, during which NPDL lecturers were invited to share their education philosophy online and conducted practical exchanges with teachers from many schools.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, "core competencies" has been adopted as the main pillar of the school curriculum development and coherence in the 2020 new curriculum guidelines, with the aim of assisting every child in achieving their goals. While the schools are actively implementing the curriculum guidelines, they face certain challenges in curriculum development and teaching. In response to this, the Ministry of Education continues to invest in relevant educational resources to support innovative development and implement the spirit embodied in the new curriculum guidelines.

In 2012, a group of educational reformists in Toronto, Canada, including educational leaders Michael Fullan, Greg Butler, and Joanne Quinn, collaborating with multinational companies and organizations to set up NPDL to establish knowledge and practical strategies for new pedagogies, jointly develop pedagogies for deep learning, in order to support the transition of the overall system. Their efforts have received great attentions from all sides of society. In order to introduce this trend into Taiwan, the K-12 Education Administration has organized alliance among three clusters of high schools, namely, national senior high schools, senior high schools in Taipei City, and senior high schools in New Taipei City (a total of 22 schools) to join NPDL. It is hoped that Taiwan will, thus, learn from the development of the NPDL organization and excellent competency-oriented courses to deepen of the new curriculum guidelines and broaden the breadth of teaching while expanding this model to other schools in the country.

In the NPDL and New Curriculum Guidelines Workshop held on November 17, 2020, the K-12 Education Administration invited the NPDL lecturers Max Drummy and Joanne Quinn to deliver keynote speeches online to share their NPDL philosophy and exchange ideas with the teachers in Taiwan. Shu-Fen Tai, Deputy Director-General, K-12 Education Administration, said that she was very moved to see the schools actively participate in the workshop; both NPDL and the new curriculum guidelines echoed the changes in current global education trends. She added that NPDL not only enhanced the sense of community of school teachers but created a better learning culture, so that teachers could be reminded to put learners at the center, better

positioned to understand each student's strength, thereby guiding them to fully realize their learning potential so as to jointly create greater educational value.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that through this workshop, schools could review and plan the countermeasures for implementing the competency-based courses under the 2019 curriculum guidelines in the future with references to the spirit and principles and relevant materials of the NPDL organization; meanwhile, schools could work together to develop various courses with a view to strengthening inter-school collaboration and promoting the sharing of resources among schools.