

## The 20th anniversary of Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges celebrated! Educational exchanges have come to fruition

(Division of Education for Indigenous Peoples and Special Education)



The Ministry of Education established the Senior High and Vocational School Alliance for International Educational Travel in 2002. On the 20th anniversary of the alliance in 2022, a series of events and activities were held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges and showcase the 20-year achievements. A total of 50 Japanese educators were invited to participate in an international conference held in Taiwan.

This event was held on December 7, 2022 to review the past and look ahead to the future on the 20th anniversary of Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges at the Sheraton Grand Taipei Hotel. More than one hundred distinguished guests from Taiwan and Japan were invited to attend the conference. The Ministry of Education stated that cultivating global citizens and international talents has been an educational goal that Taiwan has striven to achieve and that celebration of the 20th anniversary aimed to not only demonstrate the remarkable achievements but also look ahead into a bright future.

Wen-Chung Pan, Minister of Education, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the International Forum, expressing appreciation to the governors and council members who have made outstanding contributions to Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges over the past 20 years, while stating his belief that Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges, with the collective efforts from both sides, will continue in the future with more extraordinary achievements.

The international conference consists of the three major events: International Forum, Contributor Award Ceremony, and Signing of the Declaration of Friendship between Taiwan and Japan in the New Era. Among them, the International Forum was to review the past and look ahead to the future. To review the past, Fan, Sun-Lu, Member of the Control Yuan, Hsueh, Kuang-Feng, Principal of Taichung City Municipal Taichung Second Senior High School, and Tanii Takao, representative of the delegation of Japanese officers, were invited to be the keynote speakers. Meanwhile, Tsai, Ching-Hua, Political Deputy Minister, Lin, Hsiang-Yin, Principal of Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Girls' Senior High School, Mimura Shingo, Governor of Aomori Prefecture, Kensaku Morita, Former Governor of Chiba Prefecture, and Ezaki Ryotaro, a consultant, were invited to be the keynote speakers to look ahead into the future. The Contributor Award Ceremony recognized the important Japanese people who have made an invaluable contribution to Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges over the past 20 years and led teams to participate in Taiwan-Japan educational exchange events multiple times. Taiwanese representatives presented certificates of appreciation to express our gratitude. At the Signing of the Declaration of Friendship between Taiwan and Japan in the New Era, 15 century-old sister schools from Taiwan and Japan signed the declaration of friendship, to further consolidate the partnerships between the century-old sister schools and declare sustainable exchanges and partnerships, thereby enhancing the international collaboration between the two countries.

Moreover, the Dynamic and Static Virtual Reality Exhibition was held from December 1 to December 14, 2022 in the boiler room, Huashan 1914 Creative Park. Japanese educators were invited to participate in the exhibition in Taiwan. Both parties reviewed the history of Taiwan-Japan educational exchanges and look into the future through a 720-degree panoramic video of

15 Taiwanese and Japanese century-old schools, an optical illusion wall, containing Taiwan-Japan cultural elements, and the Cardboard DIY interactive area, to create a new era of Taiwan-Japan educational travel hand in hand.

The Ministry of Education also published a book entitled *Moving Toward a New Era Hand in Hand - 20th Anniversary of Taiwan-Japan Educational Exchange*. Through interviews to review the history of the alliance and record the highlights of the Taiwan-Japan educational travel exchanges over the past 20 years. The ministry aims to extend such success to exchange programs with other countries and train students with international experience. By integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the curriculum, it will spare no effort to cultivate students to be equipped with international perspectives and motivate them to connect with the world step by step. Looking ahead to the next 20 years, we hope that Taiwanese students will fulfill their responsibilities as global citizens and shine on the global stage.