

425 Overseas Chinese Volunteers English Teachers Attended The Commencement Ceremony of Junior High and Elementary Schools Summer Camp Seminar

(Photo and texts were provided by Wang Hao-ran from the Division of Junior High School, Elementary School and Preschool Education)



The K-12 Education Administration of MOE and the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) have been hosting Overseas Chinese English Teaching Volunteer Camps for years to assist junior high school and elementary school students from remote areas in their English learning. The opening ceremony of the training seminar was held at Chien-tan Overseas Youth Activity Center of China Youth Corps at 10AM on July 7th. In his opening remarks, Director-general Wu Qing-shan stressed the benefits of this program to students in remote areas and areas which lacks teaching resources. The program creates English learning environment with an aim to enhance student interests in English learning. Furthermore, through such English teaching experience, those overseas Chinese youth will enjoy the happiness of helping others, understand more about Taiwan, identify with Taiwan, and appreciate the beauty of Taiwanese culture and customs.

The program has been held annually over the past nine years since 2006. Each year, lots of overseas Chinese volunteers returned to Taiwan to participate in English teaching at junior high school and elementary school summer camps. This year (2014), due to the efforts of co-hosts, such as the Hakka Affairs Council and others, the number of participant schools increased from 50 to 60 and the number of volunteers increased from 350 to 425, which was unprecedented in its scale. Those overseas Chinese young volunteers will be assigned to sixty remote schools governed under twenty local governments, teaching at the summer camps for two weeks. A baseline estimate suggested that at least 3,000 disadvantaged students will benefit from such program.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, these enthusiastic overseas Chinese young volunteers come from the USA, Canada, the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, etc. They are all professionally qualified for English teaching. The K-12 Education Administration and the OCAC arranged a one-week English teaching seminar at Chien-tan Overseas Youth Activity Center from July 6th to 11th, 2014. They delegated Yunlin County Government to organize a “Curriculum Design and Implementation Panel,” which assigned lecturers to introduce various topics, such as Taiwan’s current English teaching situations in remote areas, English teaching experiences in Taiwan, camp experiences, the design of English hands-on activities and other teaching activities, the instruction of creativity and extension activities, as well as classroom management, to equip these volunteer teachers with necessary background knowledge.

Those overseas Chinese youth volunteers who successfully completed their training from this seminar will start teaching English on July 12th for two weeks at schools in areas with limited teaching resource (including aboriginal areas, remote areas, and schools with a higher percentage of disadvantaged students). The OCAC will arrange a one-week around-the-island field trip, starting on July 26th, to enhance the youth’s knowledge of Taiwan and identification with Taiwanese culture.

According to The K-12 Education Administration, these overseas Chinese youth will also design interactive and interesting courses to assist disadvantaged students at junior high schools and elementary schools in their English learning. The practice activities of English listening,

speaking, reading, and writing will enhance their English proficiency. The camp will also allow students in remote areas to experience a diversified English learning environment.