

International Education and Cultural Exchange: Opening New Horizons for Students

(Courtesy of Chien, Jen-Shen, Division of Education for Indigenous Peoples and Special Education)



The K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education launched the "Medium-term Development Plan for International Education in Primary and Secondary Schools" to promote curriculum for international students, as well as cooperation in international exchange, thereby expanding the international perspectives of high school students. For example, Ms. Chiu, Yi-Hsien, an English teacher at National Pingtung Senior High School, led the freshmen of the bilingual experimental class to collaborate with Gotemba Minami High School in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan, to hold a cross-border online cultural exchange. The students discussed the differences in marketing strategies and business models between convenience stores in Taiwan and Japan, and further explored issues such as responsible consumption and production. Tainan Municipal Yong-Ren High School signed a memorandum of cooperation with Chung Hua Middle School No.1, 3, and 4 in Kuching, Malaysia, and launched online international courses to cultivate students' international perspectives and competitiveness.

The K-12 Education Administration explains that cross-border international exchange activities

provide students with opportunities to build confidence in speaking English and understanding foreign cultures. In areas like Pingtung, students have fewer opportunities to experience foreign culture. Therefore, their teacher led the bilingual experimental class students to conduct cross-border online exchanges with Japanese high schools to experience cultural differences. Ms. Chiu, Yi-Hsien, a teacher at National Pingtung Senior High School, expressed hope for continued international education exchanges in the future to provide students in rural areas with opportunities to go abroad for learning. Through online exchanges with Japanese schools, students' motivation for language learning is stimulated. Current education trends, cultural differences between the two countries, SDGs, and related topics are incorporated to encourage students to engage in in-depth discussions. Students are then guided to think and express themselves in English in a step-by-step manner, helping them integrate foreign languages into their daily lives.

Additionally, Tainan Municipal Yong-Ren High School conducts online and in-person exchanges with schools in Malaysia. Recent in-person activities include the "Eternal Sound" musical performance planned by the student council, as well as the "Akita, Japan Exhibition" and the "Mexican Day of the Dead Exhibition" at the library. The students personally guided the Malaysian guests, demonstrating their confidence and communication skills. They also shared their collaboration with the National Education Radio to establish an "Internship Broadcasting Studio," and how such collaboration serves to integrate special courses with the radio station and utilize external resources.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that it will continue to provide training courses for international education exchanges through subsidies to the International Education Centers in each county and city, and to plan SOPs for school-to-school exchanges with foreign schools, so that the quality of international education exchanges in senior high schools, junior high schools, and elementary schools can all be improved.