

Another Visit of Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) That Seeks to Deepen Bilateral Cooperation



Amid the wave of globalization, two major issues arise: how to develop an English learning environment and broaden international perspectives. The Ministry of Education proposed "Global Mobility," a new program to promote transnational cooperation, in 2015. This program aimed to equip Taiwanese students with great adaptability and communication skills that will eventually help students in their schooling, traveling, and working overseas.

K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, signed a memorandum of understanding with Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in April of 2014 for cooperation in curriculum, teaching materials, teacher and student exchanges, and school level exchanges. It aimed to foster exchanges and mutual visits between primary and junior high school teachers and administrators so that they can share ideas and thoughts on information, knowledge and education of mutual concerns. This is their second visit of Taiwan for Washington State Education Trade and Culture Delegation. They visited primary and junior high schools in Nantou County, Changhua County, Taipei City, New Taipei City, and Kaohsiung City, thereby gained further understanding toward the education system and English related courses in Taiwan. They also visited K-12 Education Administration on April 1st to exchange thoughts and feedback on this visit.

The State Superintendent of Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction was impressed by the schools that they visited this time. He noticed that Taiwanese students were able to talk about their high school life in fluent English and teachers were also very willing to discuss effective strategies of differentiated instruction with visiting professors and prin-

cipals. To improve students' ability to learn and to adapt in an all English environment, the schools went great lengths to arrange an event in which students listened to American scholars sharing their thoughts about the economic issues, with topics ranging from the global food crisis, energy efficiency, to environmental protection. The efforts made by Taiwanese primary, junior, and high schools to push forward environmental education have left a deep impression on the State Superintendent of Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. He is optimistic that Taiwanese students can be cultivated into active global citizens with international perspectives.

The Superintendent of K-12 Education Administration said he looked forward to more exchanges as well as strengthened educational cooperation between the Washington State and Taiwan since Taiwan and the U.S. differed in their education system and culture. He firmly believed that there is high degree of feasibility for the bilateral exchanges in education, culture, and professional training. The existing ties between Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and K-12 Education Administration of Taiwan could thereby be extended and lead to new forms of cooperation, which will ultimately benefit students, teachers, other educators and administrators involved.

After K-12 Education Administration talked about their plan to recruit foreign teachers to Taiwan, our visiting guest suggested that this will be a great opportunity to create more exchanges and cooperation between the both sides and they would like to bring this message back to the US.