

Senior high school teachers are selected for an overseas short-term training program to enhance their expertise and professional skills in bilingual teaching

(Courtesy of Lin, Ya-Han at the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



To improve local teachers' English and bilingual teaching skills in Taiwan, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has worked with the National Taiwan Normal University and universities in Australia and Singapore to select 300 Taiwanese senior high school teachers for overseas short-term training during the summer vacation to enhance their bilingual teaching knowledge and skills and strengthen their bilingual teaching strategies and skills.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the trainers this time included the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, the Queensland University of Technology, the Language and Communication Centre of the Nanyang Technological University, and the Regional Language Centre of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization. A total of 300 participants, 100 English teachers and 200 subject teachers (100 in natural sciences and 100 in humanities and arts), were selected for this year's short-term training program. Training courses included English language proficiency, various subjects, teaching observations, and final presentation, all

of which were conducted in English. In addition to enhancing participants' skills in conducting task-oriented teaching activities through the immersive learning courses, they visited local cultural institutions to expand their international horizons.

The participants stated that this well-designed overseas short-term training program enabled them to acquire new teaching skills that are effective in enhancing students' English learning, prompted them to contemplate and explore teaching approaches, and expedited their class preparation process, thereby serving to improve their teaching expertise, hone their skills and build up confidence in bilingual teaching.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, the overseas short-term training not only provides teachers on the ground with opportunities to hone their skills but allows them to support and cheer up each other on their bilingual teaching journey. It is hoped that participants' bilingual teaching skills, expertise, and professional skills will be enhanced through this program such that they can apply the new teaching knowledge they have learned in the training to classroom teaching after returning to the country, thus making students' learning more diverse.