Outstanding Contributions to Education Award, Light for Education

(Written by Mr. Liu, Yu-Long; Photo by Mr. Chang, Shu-Lin)



During his term as the director of the Department of Education, Taipei City

Government, Director-General Wu hosted the Taipei Outstanding Contributions to Education Award when he served as Head of Department of Education, Taipei City Government. Upon taking the post as the Director-General, he decided to revive the annual selection of outstanding contributors to education, which had been suspended for 13 years. He took it even one step further: to establish the Outstanding Contributions to Education Award. Together with the conferring of this Award, a compilation of the selected contributors' good deeds will be published each year, and an award ceremony will be held to honor educators for their long lasting contributions. The purpose of this Award is to raise the dignity of educators and motivate these guardians of education, while its ultimate aim is to ascertain the long-term goal of education, i.e. providing decent education to each and every student.

On June 20th, the Outstanding Contributions to Education Award ceremony was held in Chung Hsing Hall in Chung Hsing New Village. On behalf of Director-General Wu, who had to attend the press conference at the Ministry of Education on that day, Deputy Director-General Huang hosted the ceremony and invited Governor Lin, Junq-tzer of Taiwan Provincial Government to present the awards. Out of the 129 people recommended by Departments of Education, County/City Governments, high schools and vocational schools, 74 won this year after four rounds of deliberation by the selection committees. Please see the list of the winners as attached.

The theme of this year's ceremony is "Celebrating Educators" and "Declaring Love for Education." At the ceremony, Aboriginal Music Club from National Chung Hsin Senior High School (NCHSHS) performed Taiwanese aboriginal songs and Taiko to welcome the arrival of guests. Jhang-Sing Elementary School Chinese Orchestra played five elegant Chinese traditional songs for the audience to warm up the atmosphere. This had

been followed by the karate performance by Nantou Shiuhkuang Senior High School and Shui-Sha-Lian dancing performance by Xinan Elementary School, both added much to the joy and exuberance.

In his speech, Deputy Director-General Huang said that the Director-General was at the press conference in Taipei for matters of the Comprehensive Assessment Program but would try to make it to the ceremony to congratulate the winners in person. Principal Wang of NCHSHS, the organizer of the ceremony, pointed out the underlying purpose and legacy for the establishment of this Award. Back in the days when the Department of Education under the Taiwan Provincial Government was still active, being selected as an outstanding contributor to education of the year was regarded as a great honor by educators. Thus, the revival of this Award was planned under these due considerations. The year 2014 will be a new start for honoring the unsung contributors to education. As their outstanding legacy passes on, so will the education force that stabilizes this country. Lin, Junq-tzer, Minister without Portfolio and concurrently Governor of Taiwan Province, thanked the winners for their hard work on nurturing future talents for the country and commended Director-General Wu and his team for their thoughtful innovation in honoring educators.

The award ceremony went on smoothly according to the timetable. Winners of this year (including principals, teachers, school nurses, staff members, or groups and organizations) took a group photo outside the Hall after the ceremony. They then had lunch at the activity center at NCHSHS, with Architect Mr. Wu, Lu Guang and his band as the performing artists.

Director-General Wu arrived at 12:50, p.m. He congratulated the winners and their family and thanked them for spreading love at schools. It is their dedication to education that spread the seeds of love and knowledge to students, and their passion for understanding that gives students hope and sheds light on their future.

