

The Department of Education of Ho Chi Minh City Paid Second Visit to Taiwan to Enhance Educational Exchanges

(Courtesy of Hui-Zhen Hong at the Division for Indigenous People and Special Education)



At the end of 2018, 20 senior high school principals and vice-principals, as well as journalists from Vietnam, led by Mr. Thái Xuân Vinh, Officer of the Department of Education of Ho Chi Minh City, visited Taiwan for 7-day/6-night educational exchanges. On the last day before returning to Vietnam (December 28, 2018), Ms. Sun-Lu Fan, Political Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, attended the farewell dinner and cast a successful note to the educational exchanges between Taiwan and Vietnam. The delegation of this visit is composed of Chen Hai Yan, Vice President of the Institute of Educational Managers Ho Chi Minh City (IEMH), Li Yu Shi, Director of International Affairs of IEMH, which is responsible for the training of educational leaders for secondary schools and below in 32 provinces in central and southern Vietnam, and Fan Yu Qing, Principal of THPT Việt Nhật and former Deputy Director-General of the Department of Education of the Ho Chi Minh City. When Ms. Fan led a Kaohsiung City

education delegation to visit the Department of Education of the Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam in 2016, Principal Fan Yu Qing received Ms. Fan on behalf of the Vietnamese side, making the gathering in Taiwan this time more cordial.

In addition to the memorandums of understanding signed by 10 universities in Southern Taiwan and 20 senior high schools and vocational schools during the exchange, experts, scholars, and senior high school principals were also invited to share the experience of school management in terms of educational theories and practices; experience activities and visits were arranged to allow the principals from Vietnam to understand the development of higher education and the features of senior high schools and vocational schools in Taiwan. In Vietnam, the Ho Chi Minh City is an important base for Taiwanese businesses; thus, Vietnamese students who study in Taiwan may be important talent for Taiwanese business people in the future, making the close educational exchanges between Taiwan and Vietnam even more important. In the summer of 2018, Mr. Chien-Kuo Chiu, the former Director-General of the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education, and Shu-Fen Tai, Deputy Director-General of the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education led two student delegations composed of a total of 72 Vietnamese new immigrant students, respectively, to participate in the workplace experience, which serves to enhance their understanding of the Vietnamese industries and their competitiveness to pave the way for them to return to Vietnam to work.

On the December 29, 2018, in the breakfast meeting with the Vietnamese delegation prior to their departure, Ms. Fan once again stressed that Taiwan's vocational education was diverse and outstanding, and that the performance in the international arena was obvious to everyone. She hoped that through this exchange, Vietnamese schools would gain a better understanding of Taiwan's education; particularly, the development of Taiwan's vocational education was well in line with Vietnam's current social and economic development needs. Mr. Thái Xuân Vinh, the

head of the delegation, suggested that the Ministry of Education of the ROC prepare the introduction of universities and the enrollment information in Chinese, English, and Vietnamese in a manual early next year and provide it to the teachers who are responsible for the career guidance for Vietnamese secondary school students during the admissions counseling sessions in Vietnam every June to encourage students to study in Taiwan. As Taiwanese schools are friendly and take good care of Vietnamese students, she hoped that Vietnamese principals would be able to visit universities, junior colleges, and secondary schools in Taiwan during the winter and summer vacations for closer exchanges.

This year, the Overseas Talent Recruitment Act was just passed, which would allow overseas Chinese and foreign students who study in Taiwan to have the opportunity for employment in Taiwan after a certain degree of evaluation. In addition, some scholarships and Chinese language scholarships in Taiwan will help attract Vietnamese students to pursue academic studies in Taiwan. The principals also witnessed the great development and outstanding performance of the second generation of the Vietnamese new immigrants in Taiwan during this visit, as many Vietnamese students who studied in Taiwan served as translators. Their successful mastering of the Chinese and Vietnamese languages have showcased the results of their studies and hard work. Finally, Ms. Fan noted that many of the visitors to Taiwan this time were from leading senior high schools in the Ho Chi Minh City; after gaining a better mutual understanding, she hoped there will be more mutual substantive exchanges in the future to achieve a win-win outcome through building sister-school relationships.

In addition, Mr. Fan expressed particular gratitude toward the National Penghu Marine and Fishery Vocational High School for the hard work of hosting this event and for organizing a visit to Vietnam with the aim of preparing this event successfully; she also expressed gratitude toward the senior high schools, vocational schools, and colleges and universities that

participated in this event. Through the warm reception during this visit, it is believed that the Vietnamese senior high school principals would better understand Taiwan's education, which would motivate them to recommend students to study in Taiwan after returning home. These Vietnamese principals were also highly satisfied with the arrangements during this visit and said that they would recommend Taiwan's quality higher education schools to their students after returning home, making Taiwan's tertiary education an important option for Vietnamese senior high school students when they planned to study abroad.