

BI-WEEKLY NEWS



June 21, 2023 ~ July 8, 2023

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Project SEED

Project SEED (Research on Social Justice, Education Equity and Diversity through the Lens of Taiwan's National Civic Literacy and Efficacy Initiative) is a multicultural collaborative effort focused on generating knowledge on the development of civic knowledge/skills, attitude toward civic literacy and efficacy in Taiwan for research and development of civic engagement in language, social science and science learning.



Jialulan



Amis Folk Center



Water Running Upward

Cultural Tour (Taitung)

On June 22nd, we visited places along the eastern coastline of Taiwan, where Amis tribe predominately lived. Our first stop was the Jialulan Recreation Area, where it was known as the spot where Amis came and wash their hair. After lunch, we stopped at Amis Folk Center, where we learned about some of the musical instruments that Amis played. Two notable instruments were the nose flute and the kakeng (percussion instrument comprised of 7 varying heights of bamboo rods that are held together with cotton rope). We then stopped at Water Running Upward, where water appeared to run upward. This spot was located by the foot of the Doulan Mountain (where the Doulan Amis lived and farmed in the 1870s); it was a waterway used by them to irrigate farmland.

Panel Discussion at National Ren-ai Agricultural Vocational Senior High School: 'Roots and Routes: A Curriculum Journey through Indigenous Tribal Traditions, Geographical Exploration, and Sustainable Agriculture'

On June 29th, we participated in panel discussion sessions with 5 teachers, 3 directors, and principal from National Ren-ai Agricultural Vocational Senior High School in Nantou. Despite being located in a somewhat remote area, their curriculum still follows the mandatory regulations of the new Taiwan curriculum. Interestingly, the principal mentioned that this school had already been implementing similar curriculum



Panel Discussion at Ren-ai Vocational HS

even before the new mandated curriculum.

A couple of the teachers mentioned that the greatest challenges that some teacher face while implementing this new curriculum is gap in content knowledge (e.g., if they lack knowledge in English language, but have to teach their subjects in

English). One of the teachers mentioned that the most important factor for students' lifelong learning is students' interest in that subject; as long as the student has interest, they will be willing to learn.



Visit at and around Qingjing Farm

Cultural Tour (Qingjing Farm in Nantou)

From June 29th to July 1st, we visited Qingjing Farm. Established in 1961, it was intended to be a place for retired military personnel (who served in the Yunnan-Burma border areas) to settle, engage in farming, and develop mountain resources. Livestock (e.g., cattle, turkey, sheep) were introduced from U.S. and Australia. It was not until about 1980s that the focus of this area shifted from agriculture to tourism (most notably, with sheep).

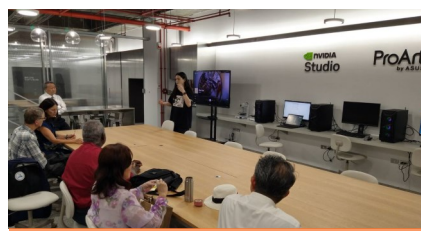
School Visit (Taipei: Shih Chien University)

On July 4th, we visited Shih Chien University in Taipei and the National Defense Dazhi Non-Profit Preschool. This preschool runs with operational support from Shih Chien University; was opened in 2020 by the Ministry of National Defense (MND) for children of military servicemembers. At this preschool, we learned about the school's learning environment and curriculum.



Visit to National Defense Dazhi Non-Profit Preschool

After visiting the preschool, we returned to the university and attended a presentation by the Director of AI Media Production Center, on AI-based media development. This center is funded by Nvidia and Asus.



Pres. on AI-based Media Development



English Summer Camp

School Visit (Miaoli: Chujen Elementary School)

On July 5th, we visited Chujen Elementary School in Miaoli and learned from the principal and directors about how their school based curriculum reflects mandates of the new curriculum. The Director of Academic Affairs gave an examples of how their curriculum integrated bilingual teaching, such as through interaction with foreign English teacher in P.E. class or classes



Summer Class



One of the Students' Summer Clubs



Presenting Principal Yeh a Certificate of Appreciation

Panel Discussion at Xin-Gang Elementary and Junior High School: 'Solar Seas and Cultural Breezes: A Curriculum Melding Green Energy, Marine Conservation, and the Diversity of Hakka, Tribal, and Immigrant Heritage'

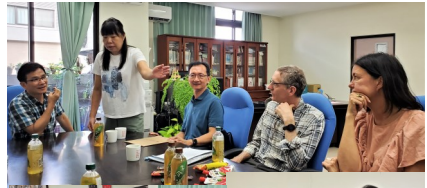
On July 6th, we participated in panel discussions with 4 directors, 4 teachers, and 4 parents from Xin-Gang Elementary and Junior High School in Miaoli. In order to develop students' lifelong learning, teachers in elementary and junior high school stressed the importance of having students understand for themselves (through



With Discussants at Cafe

On July 7th, we participated in panel discussions with the principal, 2 directors, and 4 teachers. On lifelong learning and diversity (of learners), the directors the directors and some of the teachers shared similar perspectives that were shared by Xin-Gang's teachers. They mentioned the importance of students' attitude toward self-learning and that teachers should direct students who struggle and/or have trouble setting goals. With the new curriculum, in addressing the diversity of learners, the

that allow students to talk about culture. The Director of Student Affairs mentioned that the goal of the bilingual clubs, through monthly activities, is to create a positive and supportive environment for students, while bringing students' awareness to issues such as environmentalism, gender equality, character integrity. We also observed and participated in three of their classes that reflected aspects of what the directors mentioned in the school overview.



Discussions at Xin-Gang Elem. & Jr. High

doing and teachers' scaffold) when solving problems. One of the parents (who is also a junior high teacher) shared a frustration that other parents have shared with him, which is that the government helps unmotivated/low performing students get into schools.

Panel Discussion with National Chutung Senior High School: 'Technology Integrated Curriculum: Bridging Chip Complexes, STEM Robotics, and Bilingual International Exchange'

teachers believed that to improve students' learning performance, teachers could provide scaffolding, ensure students' learn basic skills, and incorporate multiple ways of evaluation (e.g., reports, videos, experiments, presentations).

Cultural Tour (Hakka Cultural Museum)

In the afternoon of July 7th, we visited the Hakka Cultural Museum. We learned about the formation of “Hakka”, their origins, society (e.g., legal system of Hakka people), and civic life.

After visiting the exhibit, we went downstairs to do DIY activities that contained Hakka cultural aspects. The activities that we chose were making pickled vegetables, but with simplified steps, creating a keychain that showcased Hakka life (e.g., clothing), and creating a plush in the shape of food that is commonly found in Hakka culture.



Inside the Hakka Museum



Hakka DIY Center



Outside the Museum



Sanyi Wood Sculpture Museum



Hakka Face Painting Center

Cultural Tour (Sanyi Wood Sculpture Museum & Hakka Face Painting Center)

On July 8th, we visited Sanyi Wood Sculpture Museum. In Sanyi, woodcarving industry began during Japanese colonial period in the 1920s. The woodcarvings that we saw used motifs such as religious, animals, plants, landscapes, and portraits. In the afternoon, we visited a center for Hakka face painting on wooden pieces. We selected from pre-cut and/or outlined wood pieces and painted them. Face painting or mask paintings are not unique to Hakka culture; they have existed in different cultures in the world for a long time (e.g., for camouflage during hunting, rituals, funerals).