



## Recovering the Amis Culture through Canoe and Pottery

Amis artist Lafin Sawmah envisioned a beautiful plan. It was to recover the Amis maritime culture by building and reconnecting with the canoe. Though not adept in canoeing, he practiced unceasingly for three months and was invited to join Taiwan's first outrigger canoe team, the "Taitung Austronesian," together with other Taiwan indigenous peoples from different tribes to participate in the Singapore Ocean Cup "Race Without Waste" competition. "I want to inherit my ancestors' maritime expertise and their fearless and daring spirit," he said.

While he built a canoe, the significance of the project goes beyond the canoe. "Many of the South Pacific indigenous tribes have a tradition of canoe-building, including the Amis tribe. I want to use art to rediscover the Amis culture, to pass down our traditions, and to connect with more Austronesian peoples," he said. [Read more.](#)



## **The Alliance Cultural Foundation: Changbin-Fengbin Cultural Sustainability Forum**

The “Changbin-Fengbin Cultural Sustainability Forum” has been established for half a year, connecting independently-owned shops in the Changbin and Fengbin Townships. Through regular gatherings and sharing of experiences, entrepreneurs from different sectors support each other, and promote sustainable development locally.

In March, the “Changbin-Fengbin Cultural Sustainability Forum” was held with the theme of connecting with B&B partners and promoting sustainable tourism. Participating shop owners avoided single-use items and used local ingredients to cook for travelers. These shops, as advocates of green travel, were happy to promote a sustainable lifestyle, linking together in the unique townships to consolidate their consensus on sustainable living.

The “Changbin-Fengbin Cultural Sustainability Forum” regularly promotes experiential tourism itineraries. For more information, please refer to the “Changbin-Fengbin Cultural Sustainability” [website](#).



## **Junyi School of Innovation: Huatung English Arts Camp**

The "Huatung English Arts Camp," a new stayaway camp, is a collaboration between Taipei American School's Heart to Heart International Service Group (H2H) and Junyi School of Innovation. Through thematic English and arts games with sensory learning and a harmonious dormitory environment, the camp aims to guide participants to learn through experience and be willing to share and express themselves. Priority will be given to fifth and sixth graders from Huatung elementary schools from The Alliance Cultural Foundation and Junyi School networks, as well as indigenous and economically disadvantaged students.

The camp is not only a new project but also the first time that 30 Junyi School graduates have been invited to participate in the planning process, with a volunteer team consisting of current Junyi School students and H2H students working together to design the camp curriculum and activities. During the first team-building meeting which took place between March 18-19, in addition to ice-breaking activities, basic training was provided for volunteer mindset, behavior, and attitude. A three-month volunteer training program will be conducted before the summer camp begins.



## **Junyi School of Innovation: 12th Grade Graduation Project Presentations**

46 prospective graduates of Junyi School of Innovation presented their graduation projects over four days on March 4, 5, 18, and 19. The themes this year included photography, astronomy, architecture, programming languages, smart homes, makeup, psychology, and sports. Each student had only 20 minutes to fully demonstrate the topics they had focused on and explored during their three years in high school, making it an important milestone in their learning journey. Not only did students from the first and second years come to observe and learn, but parents and guests from various places also came to cheer on and applaud their children.

Junyi School regards "self-directed learning" as a skill for students. From the first year of high school, teachers guide students to get to know themselves, gradually deepening their curiosity and understanding of things, and gain knowledge, experience, feelings, and inspiration from the process. In their presentations, they achieved individual success with confidence and steady delivery and solid content in their reports.



## **Junyi School of Innovation: “Never Try. Never Know” Lecture by Amis Artist Yosifu**

On March 22nd, Yosifu, an Amis artist was invited to Junyi School of Innovation to share his inspiring story with students and faculty. He talked about his struggles as a singer and how he found himself through his art while living in Edinburgh, UK. After returning to his hometown in 2009, he reclaimed his tribal name "Yosifu" and became more involved in his cultural heritage. His life story is full of twists and turns.

Yosifu told the students, "Opportunities won't come to you; you have to go knock on its door." He encouraged them to be brave and follow their dreams, and to have confidence in themselves. He said, "Europeans envy our bronze skin color. Only the wealthy can afford to go to the beach to get our skin tone." Yosifu's sincere and humorous sharing brought positive energy to everyone in the audience.

*Articles translated from Chinese to English by Chat GPT.*