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Girls in Tech Taiwan:

Connecting Taiwan's tech talents to the world

Jane Shih founded Girls in Tech (GIT) Taiwan in November 2015 to encourage Taiwanese women to join science and technology, and also to provide opportunities and resources for developing international connections, creating a model of sustainable learning to cultivate female scientific and technological talents in Taiwan.

Established in 2007 by Adriana Gascoigne in San Francisco, Girls in Tech is an international nonprofit organization with 60 groups worldwide and over 50,000 members. When Shih returned to Taiwan from Silicon Valley in 2013, she noted the situation of the technology industry in Taiwan and the lack of international exposure and engagement. Many software talents lacks the opportunity to be seen by the world and the proportion of Taiwanese women in the field of science and technology remains low. She was motivated to make a series of improvements in Taiwan based on her past experiences. In 2014, she founded WeTogether.co, a platform for Taiwan's software talents to connect globally, and subsequently GIT Taiwan in 2015. [Read more...](#)

Kayak Building Workshop

Junyi Centre for Teaching & Learning (JCTL)

JCTL held a Kayak Building Workshop from 16 to 22 January, inviting schools in East Taiwan which are interested in boats and kayak building courses. The workshop was divided into two segments, namely technical and nautical. Kayak building expert Da Mu (Wen Zhi-rong) was invited to lead the workshop with Junyi Experimental High School teacher Huang Bo-rong. Eighteen Junyi tenth-graders and four students from other schools took part in the seven-day workshop, being split into groups to construct a kayak. In the process of modelling and making, the students learnt the importance of communication, responsibility for maintaining the materials and equipment and risk management. Six kayaks were built from scratch and the students and teachers look forward to seeing these kayaks in action this summer traversing the Kuroshio currents on Taiwan's East Coast.



Year-end Challenge at Junyi Experimental High School



Seven Habits of Highly Effective People Workshop

Curriculum Upgrade

Junyi Centre for Teaching & Learning (JCTL) along with the Paradigm Education Group made constant revisions to the Workshop on Seven Habits of Highly Effective People for Huatung teachers' training. Since the start of the winter vacation, 25 teachers from various counties took part in the workshop from 20 to 22 January. Paradigm Education Group Executive Director Patrick Ko fused the contents from old and new handbooks and videos to introduce the seven habits. Through group discussions and role-playing, the workshop guided participants to examine their own lives and write down mission statements with clear targets and action plans. One of the volunteers, Hsu Jing-si, a student from National Taitung Girls' Senior High, shared her belief that the seven habits would nurture participants to grow from strength to strength.

[Junyi Centre for Teaching & Learning](#)

More than 200 parents attend admissions talk

Junyi Experimental High School



On 22 January, over 200 parents attended the talk for Junyi's first round of admissions this year. Principal Huang Jing-yu first shared on the school's development blueprint and future direction. At the elementary level the school advocates the Waldorf model, which encourages children to learn and experience from making to gain life skills, motivating parents to join their children on this journey of self-discovery. In the high school and senior high school levels, students are nurtured to think independently and critically as young adults. The Alliance Cultural Foundation (ACF) and Junyi Chairman Stanley Yen then introduced the school's education philosophy and international education trends. He emphasized that the future of young adults is the future of Taiwan and that Junyi hopes to inculcate in every student courage to take on the world and self-independence in the face of adversities.

[Junyi Experimental High School](#)



Tenth-graders showcase their international learning

Junyi Experimental High School

Tenth-graders at the Junyi showcased the fruits of their international learning module on 13 January. They made presentations in English to teachers and seniors with a Q&A session. There are four aspects to this module, namely Economics-Sunk Cost, Introduction of Tourism Industry, Environmental Impacts and Honored of the Death. The four topics are discussed in relevance to local issues in Taitung. Junyi's English teachers assessed the students' performance and encouraged them to make use of the school's rich resources and practice speaking English more often to build their confidence and capabilities.

[Junyi Experimental High School](#)

Spring Paper-cutting Class

Ci-Xin Waldorf School

Teacher Huang Rui-cheng taught students in the Spring Paper-cutting Class for the Year of the Rooster. The students had to include the Rooster and Spring in their designs and learn how to use the scissors smoothly and turn the paper at the same time, to make intricate and complex design in the cuts. The finished paper cuts can be glued onto glass windows with glue, and the removal can be easily done with the application of water. Cutting two pieces at one go and stitching them with thread and needle results in a three-dimensional paper-cut spring display for the windows. You could make your own festive paper-cut too!



[Ci-Xin Waldorf School](#)



STEAM Experiential Education

The Alliance Cultural Foundation (ACF) is committed to introducing new educational resources to Taitung schools, including the cross-disciplinary STEAM education, which covers the fields of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. From 16 to 18 January, Dr. Lin Wei-fen and Wang Jun-yan were invited to engage students in the STEAM education experience. Participating schools included Binmao Junior High and Chenggong Elementary. The instructors used Strawbees educational materials to inspire students' creativity to make a model which protects the "egg" from not cracking despite free-falling. Students from Jieda Elementary fused the weaving and carving elements from the indigenous village into the model, to everyone's amazement! The foundation will continue amassing and channeling resources to support STEAM education program for the children in East Taiwan.

St. Joseph Technical High School thanks A woodcraft support

Principal Lan Zhen-Fang of Taitung's St. Joseph Technical High School led two alumni who had gained the opportunity to represent Taiwan in the International Woodwork Competition 2016 and level heads to visit Chairman Yen at the Junyi Experimental High School. He also presented woodcraft masterpieces by the two representatives to Chairman Yen, thanking him for introducing artistes and artisans and other social resources in assisting the St. Joseph Technical High School. The engagement of expert artistes and artisans allowed St. Joseph to improve on its traditional wood works by introducing artistic elements, enhancing the crafts through aesthetic design. This had allowed the school to reintroduce the woodwork course after a twelve year stop. The course sees full enrolment yearly and has produced numerous winners and national representatives in the field. Chairman Yen encouraged the two representatives to expose



themselves to international works at competitions in future to enriching their own creative potentials.



Finding Yourself on the World Map: Book Launch Talk

On 15 January, The Alliance Cultural Foundation (ACF) Chairman Stanley Yen held the first talk for the launch of his latest book, *Finding Oneself on the World Map* (在世界地圖上找到自己). More than 800 readers participated actively in the book launch talk, including Hiwin Technologies General Manager Tsai Hui-Qing, Chiao Thai Hsing Investment CEO Chiao Tai-Hsing, Aeon Fund Executive Director Huang Mei-Hui and other distinguished guests, partners and senior management of the ACF. Chairman Yen encouraged the audience that in spite of Taiwan's precarious situation, its culture, democracy, social security, liveability and price competitiveness are factors of advantage in becoming Asia's stronghold for transnational organizations. Citing the emergent Minerva Schools at KGI choice of Taipei as a venue for its students, Chairman Yen expressed optimism about Taiwan's repositioning and regaining of confidence in this period of transition.



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