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Cover Story x 9 Articles



2016 Sharestart Asia Conference:

Changing Education in Chinese-speaking regions

On 10-11 December, more than 600 teachers and partners from Taiwan and abroad participated in the inaugural Sharestart Asia Conference, jointly organized by the Sharestart community, National Taiwan University's Center for Teacher Education, Wen Ye Education Foundation, The Alliance Cultural Foundation (ACF) and Junyi Academy. The Sharestart teaching method breaks through the traditional spoon-fed education, and the congregation of educators from Southeast Asia based on their shared experience of an innovative pedagogy from Taiwan aims to create a more efficient pedagogy for new advances in the education arena of the Chinese-speaking world. [Read more](#)

Sharestart model inspires overseas educators

Expanding transnational influence

The 2016 Sharestart Asia Conference attracted more than seventy overseas education partners from Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Brunei, including a team of online mathematics education experts from China, promoting transnational exchange of capacity building. Presently, the Chung Cheng High Main School in Singapore is using the first Sharestart model for Chinese teaching school-wide. China's Little Oxford Shenzhen is looking to adopt the method and become the world's first specialized Sharestart school. Over eighty teachers from Malaysia and Hong Kong attended the conference, including educators from Pin Hwa High School of Klang, Chung Hua Middle School of Port Dickson and Yu Chai Primary School of Perak's Kuala Kurau. Participating schools from Hong Kong included the United Christian College, The Jockey Club Eduyoung College, ECF Saint Too Canaan College and the Fanling Rhenish Church Secondary School.



[Sharestart Platform](#)



From Theatre Games to Performing Picture Books

Junyi Centre for Teaching & Learning (JCTL)

Associate Professor Wang You-hui of the Graduate Institute of Children's Literature at National Taitung University was invited to plan the "From Theatre Games to Performing Picture Books" workshop at JCTL. On 4 December, educators from preschool to senior high school levels participated in the workshop, covering subjects such as language, arts and humanities, physical education and information technology, aimed at making learning come alive. Associate Professor Wang emphasized that teachers can make use of interactive teaching methods to inspire the interest of students. In the practical workshop, the teachers began with stretching exercises and vocal warm-up before performing expressions. The finale assessment included putting up a short play with self-selected lines from picture books, inspiring the teachers to bring these methods back to their classrooms.

[Junyi Experimental High School](#)

Cultural Exchange with College of the Atlantic

Junyi Experimental High School

Ten students from the College of the Atlantic (COA) visited Junyi Experimental High School with their teachers on 23 December and interacted with 50 senior high school students of Junyi. Vice Principal of Junyi Anthony Cluver ensured that students teamed up to form questions in English during the interaction. The COA students had diverse backgrounds from USA, France, Holland, Japan, Thailand, Salvador, Colombia and Israel, hence they carried out a discussion of various countries' education, religion, ethnicity, politics, culture, marriage equality and other topics with the Junyi students. The interaction allowed Junyi students to gain a first-hand understanding of the diversity in US schools, motivating them in preparation to further their education overseas.



[Junyi Experimental High School](#)



Sports Day

Junyi Experimental High School

Despite the venue limitation for Junyi's Sports Day this year due to construction works on-campus, the Physical Education department teachers planned the day creatively, using the shuttle run method at the parade ground to replace the 100m race. More than 300 parents and alumni came to show their support. In the tug-of-war segment, elementary school teachers and students were invited to participate for the first time. To overcome the age gap, there were more fifth and sixth-graders in the elementary team. The students displayed great sportsmanship. Principle Huang Jing-yu shared that the Junyi landscape is one of vibrancy for students to display their talents and also embrace links to the local indigenous cultures. At the Sports Day, he witnessed that the students welcome challenges and are full of passion.

[Junyi Experimental High School Facebook Page](#)

Winter Celebration

Reviewing the Past and Envisioning the Future

The elementary section of Junyi held a Winter Celebration during the Winter Solstice. Teachers guided children at the Waldorf Winter Spiral Walk to reflect on memorable events in the past year, encouraging them to be grateful for the past year and setting new goals and challenges for themselves in the new year. Students wrote their wishes on a card note each to be hung on a tree to remind themselves of their goals. Teachers and students from the sixth grade performed The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. The entire performance was a culmination of effort from the sixth graders, from props making, background music, lighting control and all other aspects done by the students themselves, wowing more than a hundred audience members including parents, who gave the students their loudest applause.



[Junyi Experimental High School](#)



"The Farm of Tomorrow" Book Launch

Anthroposophy Education Foundation

The Anthroposophy Education Foundation has prepared to publish the Chinese version of "The Farm of Tomorrow" for almost a year. The translation team is a group of ladies who hoped to share this "Community-Supported Agriculture" (CSA) classic to Taiwan readers. Although the book was written two decades ago, the value of reading it has not lessened. The book provides an introduction of Bio-Dynamic Agriculture (BD Agriculture), the operational philosophy of CSA, an understanding of natural rhythms, the wisdom of taking care of the earth in our daily lives, and other ideals such as liberty, equality, fraternity in human interaction, which we are still far away from. The book launch will be held on 11 February in Yilan, before going to Taichung, Tainan, Hualien, spreading the seeds of CSA throughout Taiwan.

Huatung English Camp 'To the Fore' Visit

Taitung, Taiwan

Following the end of the 2016 Huatung English Camp, ACF gathered volunteers of the camp to form an alliance for the Huatung 'To the Fore' Visit. On 24-26 November, the team of volunteers visited the 19 participants of the camp and two long-term partnering organizations, namely the Kids' Bookhouse and the Renewal Foundation. The volunteers followed the footsteps of the children to the local schools they attend, remedial classes and villages and listened to the teachers' sharing of the children's transformation after the camp. Although the short period of the camp is not sufficient to help the children improve their English by leaps and bounds, the camp has succeeded in helping the children conquer their doubts about learning English. The words and actions of the volunteers will be imprinted in the children's minds for future inspiration. Visiting these sites to see the results of the camp also helps the team of volunteers to start preparing for next year's lesson planning and gain experience for future visits.



Studio A launches coding education program

Following Computer Science Education Week, Asia's largest Apple distributor, Studio A, launched the SA Coding Education Plan on 9 December, as a response to ACF and Junyi Academy's promotion of the Hour of Code™ in Taiwan movement. Studio A also announced that it will begin advanced courses named "Everyone Can Code". It will also with the only Apple authorized regional center in Taiwan for talent development in this field. Through such a series of educational programs, it wishes to allow students to use the iPad to learning coding to become more competitive globally. Studio A will also hold Asia's only iOS mobile application design competition in Taiwan for college and polytechnic students. The top three winners will join the Hour of Code™ final competition in Beijing hosted by Apple's CEO Tim Cook, giving Taiwan students a chance to shine brightly on the international stage!

[Hour of Code™ in Taiwan](#)

Aletheia University's Hour of Code™

Tamsui, Taiwan

Aletheia University's Associate Professor Tzong-Heng Chi, linked the school's departments of Tourism Digital Knowledge, Financial Actuarial Science, Business Management and Resource Management, as well as the Tamsui International Education Area's six primary schools to participate in Hour of Code™ in Taiwan. From 24 October to 22 November, the 693 students from the four departments in Aletheia University acted as volunteer teachers for the 3000 elementary school students to experience the Hour of Code™. On 17 December, a sharing session at the end of the semester was held. Hsu Yang, the Head of Department for the Center for Advancement of Education opened the session and invited ACF CEO Angela Tsai to give a speech and distribute certificates of acknowledgement to the school and teachers. 39 mini-camera drones were prepared as gifts of encouragement to the students to encourage their active learning.



[Hour of Code™ Facebook Page](#)



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