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Cover Story x Nine Articles

Cover story: How the Learn-Think-Express model is transforming classrooms

The Alliance Cultural Foundation (ACF) believes that education should and can be different. Learn-Think-Express is an immersive and active teaching method; it triggers the process of digesting knowledge and returns the learning initiative back to the student. The traditional unilateral, force-feeding style of teaching limits the student's joy, speed, and ability to learn. When all that is taught is meant for testing purposes only, students lose their motivation for learning quickly. Students can read three times faster than teachers can speak. By changing the classroom focus to learning, thinking, and expressing good grades come naturally. Learn-Think-Express was first initiated in 2013 by Taipei Municipal Zhongshan Girls High School (ZGHS) teacher Hui-Cheng Zhang; Zhang was the first in Taiwan to introduce the 'always open classrooms'. Learn-Think-Express is a path to ever-learning for both the teachers and the students, and has been adopted in classrooms across Asia... [Read more](#)

Junyi Centre for Teaching & Learning (JCTL)

Social Emotional Learning: EQ Workshop

Co-organized with Taitung County Family Education Center (TCFEC), the EQ Workshop emphasizes on inspiring teachers the skills needed for emotional counseling and leading emotional management exercises for students. In concluding of the workshop, TCFEC Director Wang Zhaolan urges teachers to bring social emotional learning into not only the classroom but the school, offering full support. EQ Workshop was conducted on June 25-26 by retired volunteer teacher, Gao Baozhu, using lessons developed by licensed psychologist and founder of Happiness Village, Yang Lirong.

Social emotional learning is valued as a key pillar of child development at JCTL ([more](#)).



Hour of Code

First school-focused events in Taitung

After organizing several family-focused Hour of Code events, ACF volunteers were confident to take on classrooms introducing the basic knowledge of coding to seventh and eighth graders from Taitung's Hsinkang Junior High School, Cheng Kung Elementary School, and Bin Mao Junior High School throughout June. The events even induced teacher and parent participation, and concluded with an in-depth introduction to code.org where coding curriculum can be accessed.

Hour of Code is a global movement aimed to raise awareness on coding education. ACF aims to reach 200,000 persons in Taiwan by 2016 ([more](#)).

Vocational: Ecotourism Program

Teacher appreciation event

An appreciation event was held June 8. It was an opportunity for the 19 graduates to reflect on the year and give thanks to their coaches. Special guests include graduates from the previous year; one, now interning at Crazy Horse Travel Agency shares about internship experiences – from planning and organizing cultural-cycling tours for BenQ and Qisda’s company trips (200 persons) to personally leading and guiding tours. June 2016 marks the program’s third complete year of running.

The vocational Ecotourism Program offered at National Taitung University Affiliated Physical Education High School was developed in effort to nurture an alternative career for its graduating students in which only 3-5% lead a career in their main field of study in athletics [\(more\)](#).



3rd annual 2016 Huatung Choir Camp

July 5-16

June 12 marks the final volunteer student training. Lead volunteer teacher Howard coaches and strengthens vocal skills and reiterates the camp’s core values – to inspire confidence in every child, to inspire belief in the camp motto “I am lovable and capable”, to give children courage to face challenges ahead. July 15 concludes the camp with a performance at Taitung Performing Art Center with campers singing and acting excerpts from Disney’s Aladdin.

Huatung Choir Camp’s key goals are for campers to develop talent, confidence, self-value; positive character, attitude, and a deeper interest for choir singing; for volunteers (university students) to find self-value through volunteering and lead a successful project [\(more\)](#).

Junyi Experimental High School

End-of-year challenge: Jiaming Lake

Junyi's end-of-year challenge differs from grade-to-grade. For the ninth graders, the challenge is hiking and camping out to the high-mountain lake – Jiaming Lake. June 6-8, teacher Katu, together with 15 teachers and volunteers led 40 students on the three-day, two-night venture. Students, who have trained throughout their Grade 9 year, completed the challenge with success and pride.

The end-of-year challenge is a tradition at Junyi, it pushes students to face their fears and tackle mental and physical challenges with bravery and courage; challenges differ from year-to-year [\(more\)](#).



Junyi Experimental High School

Music: Student-teacher concert at Tiehua Music Village

Junyi and Kung Tung Technical Senior High School's very own School of Rock, coached by ACF volunteer and renowned rock guitarist Masa, performs at Tiehua Music Village. The performance stands as a final report from the afterschool program and received an abundance of support from friends, relatives – with parents traveling hour-long distances from as far as Hualien's deep mountains in Ruisui. Students learned to overcome pre-concert nerves and performed with confidence and control.

Tiehua Music Village is a venue for Taitung's emerging artists and musicians to come together to perform music, vend handicrafts and more [\(more\)](#).



1st Learn-Think-Express Asia Conference

Preliminary phase – planning

June 21 marks the second meeting to the planning of the conference. The event, dated December 10-11, will be Taiwan's first Asia-wide conference to introducing innovative education. Learn-Think-Express method, initiated in 2013, has been adopted in 625 classrooms with the support of 16,000 teachers across Asia. Meeting members included initiator of the Learn-Think-Express teaching method and Taipei Municipal Zhongshan Girls High School teacher Hui-Cheng Zhang, ACF consultant and former 3M Taiwan Chief Strategist Wu Hanming as well as teachers joining in from Changhua, Kaohsiung, Taipei.

The first annual 2016 Learn-Think-Express Asia Conference is being organized by ACF [\(more\)](#).



Hour of Code

First company-focused event

June 4, ACF organized its first company-focused Hour of Code event – 40 staff members from Kindom Yu San Education Foundation, one of ACF's 31 partners in promoting Hour of Code companywide. In one hour, participants learned the basic model behind coding; and will initiate the movement in their companywide 2016 annual sports day.

Hour of Code is a global movement aimed to raise awareness on coding education. ACF aims to reach 200,000 persons in Taiwan by 2016; to further expand the movement, ACF works with corporations to reach staff, families, clients, suppliers [\(more\)](#).



Ci-Xin Waldorf School

Waldorf education's growing recognition

In an article featured in One Millimeter, founder of Ci-Xin Waldorf School Su Chang shared on how since the founding of Taiwan's pioneer Waldorf school 15 years ago, people are now, more than ever, recognizing the value in Waldorf education and its anthroposophy values.

Waldorf education is a humanistic approach to education. Junyi Experimental High School adopts Waldorf education from grades one to six, and supports Waldorf education ([more](#)).



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