



Empowering Rural Communities: Helping Kids Succeed through Coding

Alvin Su, Professor of Computer Science and Information Engineering at National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) opens opportunities for change and growth in Taiwan's countryside through coding. Su's mission began in Chiayi, where he spent much of his time teaching coding to underprivileged students in a church after-school program. In 2016, in hopes to increase his reach island-wide, he founded the Program the World Association (PTWA) with partner Hung Hsu-Liang, a train the trainer initiative where they empower educators in the remote to teach basic coding. In conjunction with Junyi Wonderland Center for Teaching and Learning, Su will help promote Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics (STEAM) education in Taitung as part of the PTWA mission. [Read more.](#)



Education Tour

From 7-18 October, 16 representatives from Taitung communities, ranging from cultural workers across private, public and non-profit sectors embarked on the third annual Hawaii Cultural Sustainability Education Tour. The 2018 group consisted primarily of individuals who take on leadership roles in the indigenous community. Their extensive village knowledge, experiences and practices resulted in effective Q&A sessions and dialogues with the Hawaiian natives and cultural workers.

17th November, the group conducted a session at Junyi School of Innovation sharing their gained knowledge.



ACF: Hualien earthquake relief cooperation

3rd November, Hualien Seven Kilometers to Happiness, a mental health support organization established in response to Hualien's February earthquake, came together with Dwen An Social Welfare Foundation to brainstorm model and ideas to co-work in aim to train the victims of the disaster to become future mental health supporters of their communities. The former based in the remote, and the latter based in the city shared different views and methods of healing practices, and gained understanding of both perspectives. The meeting helped both parties understand better in terms of how to go forward in working together.



Junyi School of Innovation: Safe return *home* after the 2018 Yilan Train Derailment

21st October, 20 of Junyi's students and teachers were on board the Puyuma express train which derailed in Yilan while they were returning to the school after the holidays. Fortunately, all 20 of them are safe, enduring minor injuries. Sister school Ci-Xin Waldorf School in Yilan stepped in immediately to support, arranging transportation and overnight accommodation at the local bed and breakfast. Physical and mental wellness is of high importance to Junyi, and students are encouraged to seek help whether through parents, school counsellors or teachers. The group continued their journey to Junyi the following day and was welcomed *home* by their Junyi family.



Teacher Lan Weiyng' s education mission

Since the start of the 2018 academic school year, each of the 15 participating schools in Teacher Lan Weiyng's country-wide school coaching program have completed the first course. Each school faculty engaged in establishing, reflecting the school's vision and mission. Lan's online network of school coaches facilitate schools through bottom up discovery and discussion. Lan believes teachers are schools' greatest assets, and to include them in the reflection is key to the building of culture and lasting change.



Sharestart workshop

27th October, 53 teachers from 16 schools across Huatung attend the Sharestart workshop at Junyi School of Innovation. The workshop engaged educators hands-on in which teachers are able to immediately adopt and practice in their classrooms. In addition, teachers learned to set-up and lead Sharestart mentorship groups to support new teachers.

In the post-workshop survey, 20% of teachers would consider starting a Sharestart mentorship support group in their community. 15 of the 53 teachers would consider adopting the open classroom concept.

