



2019 Indigenous Youth Overseas Study Tour

July 2019, the National UNITY Conference welcomed over 2,300 indigenous youths from across the United States to Orlando, Florida for a five-day conference. With the theme, “You belong: Home is here”, the conference held talks and workshops focusing on skills, leadership development as well as varied topics from fundraising to college preparation. The 2019 keynote speakers include John Herrington, the first Native American to travel to space and Kahara Hodges, a professional model and vocalist. Gala dinner, sports competition and beauty contest were also part of the agenda creating a youthful, relaxed yet inspiring ambience. [Read more.](#)



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: Changbin-Fengbin Media FAM Trip

12-14 November, ACF, East Coast National Scenic Area Administration and Vigor co-organized a media FAM trip to the Changbin and Fengbin townships. Besides visiting local shops, sites and experiencing the region's rich indigenous culture, they were introduced to Athletic Performance Coaching. In their Athletic Performance Coaching sessions, the group practiced muscle training and learnt correct postures for exercise in the vicinity of nature; they learned to focus on their mind, body and soul while coexisting with the environment. As one journalist says, “Huatung is not made for tourism, but rather, it is a place for living.”

The project was initiated in hopes to create a sustainable future for the people of the region.



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: 10th Year Anniversary Reflections – Youth Camps

Since ACF's founding in December 2009, each year it hosts summer and winter camps. After ten years, ACF has accumulated 2,300 campers and 800 high school and university volunteers. The aim of the camps are for both volunteers and campers to mutually discover oneself, to find joy in learning and to build self-confidence. Each volunteer undergoes structured pre-camp training as an effort to nurture the leaders of tomorrow who will be able to implement their experiences into real life.



Taiwan Connection: Introducing Classical Music to Xingren Elementary

26th November, as part of Taiwan Connection's (TC) initiative to introduce and promote classical music to schools in the remote areas of Taiwan, a group of TC musicians visited the Xingren Elementary School in Tamsui. For the entire 100-minute performance and talk, students not only stayed focused, but were enthused and expressive in their afterthoughts. The TC musicians shared that as a conductorless orchestra, every member of the orchestra plays an important role and each has a responsibility; when performances begin, different instruments take turns to lead. TC's efforts is in hopes to plant a seed in the students' hearts, whether it is to inspire their learning or to enjoy leisurely.



Junyi School of Innovation: Sustainable Green Architecture Class

The topic of discussion at Junyi's 11th grade Sustainable Green Architecture class was 'space' and 'environment'. Students were encouraged to consider how human beings and the environment can best coexist to establish sustainable living. In one project, students were tasked to build a structure. They learned to identify the pros and the cons of the environment, followed by gathering building materials; they gathered from nearby neighbourhoods, repurposed garbage, found secondhand goods, and finally, if there was an item they could not find, they will purchase it new; in the process, students also learnt budgeting. In refraining from using new material and repurposing garbage, students saw that they were able to play a role in cleaning up the environment which is a valuable takeaway from the class.



Sharestart: Classroom Observations

21st November, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Sun-Lu Fan, Dean of National Academy for Educational Research, Tian-Ming Sheu, and Directors of various ministries and commissions of the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education went to Guangfu Elementary School to observe Teacher Caixia Huang's classes. Teacher Huang is the school's lead Sharestart teacher. The Sharestart group at the Guangfu Elementary has been established for five years; one-third of teachers have joined the group; they practice implementing the Sharestart method and come together to co-design Sharestart curriculum. Since adopting the method into classrooms, besides the change in teachers, the learning ability of students improved and the student-teacher relationship is stronger. Coaching students to use the Sharestart method to self-learn is an ability much needed in the information era. Fan, Sheu and Directors will continue on to observe classrooms that has adopted the method in middle and high schools to see real-classroom situations in hopes to better understand and share with more educators of Taiwan.