



Hawaii 2018 Cultural Sustainability Educational Tour

The third annual Hawaii 2018 Cultural Sustainability Educational Tour, dated 7-16 October, brought together individuals from across the private, public and non-profit sectors to embark on a journey of co-learning through exploration. From government policy makers, policepersons, cultural workers, tribal workers to teachers, the sixteen participants were grouped to be the driving force of sustainable change and growth in the Huatung region. They visited native Hawaiian villages – the Kahana Valley and Kalapana Town, Brigham Young University-Hawaii (BYUH), Polynesian Cultural Center (PCC), the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Pearl Harbour to name a few. On the 17th October, the team shared their findings and fresh perspectives. [Read more.](#)



ACF: Huatung English Camp volunteers visit past campers

9th to 12th November, Debra Lin, Advisor of the Huatung English Camp led six of its volunteers to visit partner schools and afterschool programs where several previous campers attend to examine the impact the camp has had on them. The volunteers wanted to understand whether the camp served its purpose of inspiring interest towards the English language as well as the campers' English learning progress. They discovered that in the short three months following the camp, many campers had improved their English significantly; some even taught the camp dance to peers signifying the positive energy and experiences of the camp being carried forward.

For some of the volunteers, it was their first visit to the rural communities; in noticing the lack of resources, they recognized the further value in the camp and their role as a mentor, big sister and brother.



Junyi School of Innovation: 6th graders camping expedition

Junyi's elementary school values the subjects of Geology and Astronomy. Its 6th graders embarked on a three-day, two-night camping expedition along the Alangyi Historic Trail. It is the only trail in Taiwan that ventures from Taiwan's west to its east. They climbed a total of 8.5km through trails made of driftwood while passing by cliffs, and gazing a sky full of stars. The trail runs through several Paiwan villages, and students had the opportunity to learn about its tribal culture. This was most students' first camping experience and to work together as an entire class where they learned to coexist, cook, and build tents as a team.



Ci-Xin Waldorf School: Beach cleanup

10th November, 200 of Ci-Xin Waldorf School's 9th to 12th grade students and teachers journeyed to Yilan's Su'ao Township to clean up its beaches. An abundance of plastic bottles, bags, disposable tableware, the most common rubbish found near the beaches of Taiwan, were collected. The beach cleanup allowed students the opportunity to witness firsthand the damage plastic waste has caused the environment, and to reflect on how to be more mindful in terms of reducing plastic and waste as well as setting an example for others to follow.



Sci-Flipper: Implementing Design Thinking

25th November marks the 23rd Sci-Flipper (SF) Workshop. The agenda was to discuss the underlying issues faced by Taiwan's migrant workers using Design Thinking's (DT) [five steps](#) – *to empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test*. 139 teachers were led by National Taiwan University's Dr. Huang Zhongqing, a researcher of DT, to tackle topics of discrimination, second generation culture and language gap, and more. DT is a human-centered process, mindset and approach to solving complex matters addressing the core needs of those who experience the problem. It gives opportunity to explore problems as well as solutions, and engages participants to speak without fear of failure.



Sharestart: 3rd annual Sharestart Asia Conference

8th to 9th December was the 3rd annual Sharestart Asia Conference. Themed Connect & Extend, the 2018 conference aimed to *connect* people and organizations of different specialties as well as *extend* the Sharestart method to peers worldwide. This year, the conference welcomed overseas educators from Mainland China, Singapore and Malaysia. A panel discussion featuring ACF Chair Stanley Yen and Chengzhi Education Foundation Chair Fang Shinjou was held on its opening day discussing world trends and industry change. Taiwan's Director of Ministry of Education gave an opening speech the following day. The conference had a total of 20 workshops covering different subjects and academic levels as well as wide-ranging topics from how teachers can be facilitators in the classroom, how teachers can nurture students of tomorrow in the era of artificial intelligence to how to become a Sharestart trainer and leader of a Sharestart online-offline study group.

Sharestart Founder Chang Huicheng began promoting the method in 2013. In 2016, 30 educators adopted the method into their classrooms. In 2018, teachers across borders can lead online-offline discussion groups, even cross-subjects. The annual conference is a like-minded teacher's annual gathering. Sharestart hopes teachers will continue to go forward together for the better of education for generations to come.



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