



The Alliance Cultural Foundation's Tenth Year Reflection

Huatung is believed to be the last remaining untouched land of Taiwan. Its rich indigenous culture sets it apart from the rest of the island, its natural environment can be the best teacher for city dwellers to learn to coexist with nature; however, even with its abundance of resources, its lack of opportunities drive youths away from their homes to find work in the city. Ten years ago, The Alliance Cultural Foundation (ACF) set the mission to develop an economically sustainable future for the region, and for the youths to have the choice to move back to their homes and sustain a living for themselves and their families. This feature shares the story of ACF's journey in achieving its mission and its vision for the future. [Read more.](#)



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: Huatung Reading Program

The Huatung Reading Program introduces the online Reading A-Z program to schools and after-school shelters in the Huatung region. The initiative aims to encourage students in the first to ninth grade to listen and read English through e-books as well as nurture their self-learning habit and ability; the program also monitors every student's learning progress. Introducing the program is in effort to help change the lack of English teaching resources in the rural regions of Taiwan.

18th to 20th December, Huatung Reading Program initiator Debra Lin and 15 volunteers visited the Si Pao Primary School, Renewal Foundation, Yi Le Le Shelter, Taibalang Elementary School, Gangkou Elementary School, Chenggong Church, and Changbin Junior High School; together they guided 114 students to use the Reading A-Z program. Additionally, ACF will co-organize activities throughout the school year and summer holidays to help nurture students to self-learn English, and will expand the initiative to more schools in the Huatung region in the program's future. We hope that through oral reading exercises, students who once were hesitant to speak English will demonstrate more confidence in their speaking ability.



Junyi School of Innovation: MOE Representatives joins the Winter Spiral Festival

This year, Junyi's Winter Spiral Festival lies on the same day as its annual appreciation dinner on the winter solstice. Guests include donors, volunteers as well as the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Fan Sun-Lu and Directors of various ministries and commissions of the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education.

Guests had the opportunity to observe the classrooms of Junyi's focus programs such as science, the outdoor education program, and the combined studies program. They also enjoyed a play produced and performed by Junyi high schoolers. When the sun set, each guest walked the Waldorf advent spiral which symbolizes reflection and resolution. At dinner, they experienced the confidence and hospitality training of Junyi high schoolers witnessing their service attitude and etiquette. The guests left with deep impressions that education can be different when it focuses on the discovery of talents and nurtures each of them.



2019 Sharestart Asia Conference: Grassroots Development

7th December marks the fourth annual Sharestart Asia Conference. Held at the National Chiayi University's Teacher Training Center and The Hugo Foundation of Culture and Education.

Sharestart founder Benson Chang and 17 Sharestart lead teachers led participants to co-learn and practice the Sharestart method considering the 2019 Master Framework for the 12-year Basic Education Curriculum Guidelines. The conference provided participants the opportunity to explore the Sharestart method on a deeper level.

Throughout 2019, Sharestart's lead teacher team coached practicing Sharestart teachers in effort to support their learning progress. They designed practicing curriculum for beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Sharestart's current focus is spreading the method in the Yunlin, Chiayi and Tainan areas. This year, a total of 420 participants attended the conference, among them 44% of the teachers are from the Yunlin and Chiayi areas.



Taiwan Connection: Promoting Classical Music School-wide Initiative

11th December, at the Sihwei Elementary School in Taichung, Taiwan Connection's Artich String Quartet performed Haydn's String Quartet in C major, Op.76 No.3, Hob.III.77 "Emperor". Violinist Lin Yi-Hsin described the first movement as a banquet party, setting an image in each of the student's minds. Students were encouraged to imagine different scenes when listening to the piece and to share their stories. The rare opportunity to have musicians perform on campus broadened the horizons of many.



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: AEM Program Reflection

A program sponsored by the Brigham Young University-Hawaii and ACF, 2019 was when the sixth Asian Executive Management program candidate Chen Chi-Ti completed her first semester of courses. Besides improving her English ability, Chen pursued International Culture and Communication Studies, and had the opportunity to culturally exchange with peers of diverse backgrounds, learn different lifestyles and life experiences. The exchanges gave her new perspectives and opened her horizons. While she searched for an internship, she found it to be a challenging experience, but with each rejection, she understood that every success comes with many failures.