



Chapter 17

Intercity Exchanges

Cities are becoming the keystone in international relations during the globalization process. In recent years, Taipei City has actively participated in – and hosted – a wide variety of international events to strengthen exchanges on culture, education, health, technology, and trade with other prominent cities in the world. In so doing, Taipei City amasses her energies, refines her image, and improves the living quality for her residents. While her unique vitality prevails, her brand value as a world-class metropolis is gradually and more clearly defined.

Chapter 17

In the face of the surging Chinese cultural and economic strengths, Taipei is finding her own voice as well. The city has accumulated many experiences in deftly showcasing her soft power – a power that sets Taipei apart from other Chinese cities. The Taipei City Government is actively expanding her international visibility through exchange and cooperation opportunities, promoting her creativity, opening up overseas markets, and finding inspiration from other countries' experiences. While expanding her international horizons, the Taipei City Government also seeks to highlight her local character and incorporate other cultures.

Part 1 City Diplomacy

1. Visits Between Senior Officials

In addition to strengthening the friendship between cities, senior officials' overseas visits provide an excellent opportunity to study the municipal infrastructures of other metropolises and to find inspiration in administrative efficiency. These visits also improve municipal collaboration and exchange, court potential investors and facilitate city marketing.

Between February 20 and 24, 2011, Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin led a delegation to Hong Kong and Singapore to learn from the success of their public construction projects, such as “public residences and urban renewal assignments.” During their stay, Hau and the delegation listened to experts' briefings, and visited the sites. The visits were very rewarding and the officials in attendance benefited tremendously from the municipal philosophies and experiences. The visits were broadcasted on news channels in the visited cities and in Taipei as well, which were helpful for promoting the concept of public housing.

From March 1 through 13, the Mayor visited Washington D.C with a delegation for the Sister Cities International (SCI), and stopped by the Stimson Center to participate in a key symposium. During the visit, Hau met with the chairman of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus; he also spoke to Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R – FL) in Florida, and Washington D.C.



Mayor Hau participates in Sister Cities International.

Mayor Vincent C. Gray, and City Councilman Kwame Rashaan Brown, to exchange opinions on city administration; afterwards, Hau traveled to Managua, capital of Nicaragua, and Panama City, capital of Panama. During his stay, Hau visited Managua Mayor Daysi Ivette Torres Bosques, and Nicaragua Vice President Jaime Morales Carazo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Samuel Santos Lopez and Panama City Mayor Bosco Vallarino. These visits strengthened friendships and encouraged many constructive exchanges of ideas.

To promote traveling and tourism in Taipei, Mayor Hau Lung-bin visited Osaka Prefecture between August 31 and September 1, 2011 for the “Executive Yuan's Global Investors Forum – Japan's Investment and Trade Delegation” sponsored by the Council for Economic Planning and Development. During the Investors' Forum, Hau gave a keynote speech on Taipei City's investment climate and environment, encouraging



National Taiwan College of Performing Arts performs at the Seoul Friendship Fair 2011.



A snapshot of the Moslem Fast-breaking Festival.

international companies to set up operations and investment outposts in Taipei City. On the following day, Hau met with the governor of Osaka Prefecture, T ru Hashimoto, to learn about the Prefecture's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and how it was used to promote prefecture-run housing. From September 10 through 19, Hau flew to Rome, Italy with a delegation to attend the 43 Annual Members Conference sponsored by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD), and give a briefing on Taipei City's success story of organizing the Deaflympics. Hau and his team were warmly received by participating members. Hau also donated the surplus earnings from the 2009 Taipei International Deaflympics to the committee. Following the ICSD Conference in Rome was a trip to Amsterdam in the Netherlands and Vienna in Austria to check out public housing projects and urban renewal measures. The experience will serve as a reference for Taipei City's urban renewal initiatives.



Mayor Hau and Eindhoven Mayor sign an MOU.

A number of senior officials from Taipei's sister cities and other prominent international metropolises also visited Taipei in 2011. On September 23, 2011, Eindhoven Mayor Rob van Gijzel led a delegation to visit the capital, and on the day of his visit, he signed an MOU with Mayor Hau; Gijzel also signed a letter supporting Taipei's bid for the 2016 World Design Capital. From September 22 to 24, Mr. Alfredo Lim from Manila, also Taipei's sister city, visited Taipei and met with Mayor Hau. Between October 7 and 11, Panama City Mayor Bosco Vallarino led a group to visit Taiwan, and in addition to visiting Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin, Mr. Vallarino also toured the Taipei World Design Expo. In the latter half of October, Ms. Patricia de Lille, Mayor of Cape Town, South Africa came to Taiwan with her team of representatives. Other than meeting with Mayor Hau, she also participated in the 2011 International Design Alliance Congress Taipei.



Mayor Hau visits Nicaragua Vice-President Jaime Morales.

2. Enriching Relations with Sister Cities, Partner Cities and Friendship Cities

Both Taipei City and George Town – located in Penang, Malaysia – boast colorful, rich cultures and lavish tourism resources; the two cities also share a lot of similarities in their active involvement in international events. The two cities signed an MOU on March 28, 2011, establishing a friendship-city relation to intensify exchanges in culture, education and tourism.



Taipei City and Gorge Town become friendship cities.

Taipei City has now 46 sister cities, two partner cities and three friendship cities. Nearly half of Taipei's sister cities are located in developing countries, so the focus of exchange activities with these cities is on humanitarian relief, municipal construction-related tech support, donations and replacement of commodity goods. Additionally, the City Government continued her “Arts-in-Residence Taipei,” “the International Dragon Boat Festival” and the “Chinese Learning Scholarship Program,” encouraging and supporting sister cities, partner and friendship cities to form teams for participation.

3. Active Participation in International City Organizations and Events

Taipei is now a member of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the United Cities and Local Governments-Asia Pacific Region, (UCLG-ASPAC), the Asian Network of Major Cities 21, ANMC21, Sister Cities International

(SCI), the Asia Pacific Cities Summit, APCS, and the Regional Network of Local Authorities for Human Settlements, (CITYNET). Taipei has a seat both in the Council and Executive Council. The management structure of the UCLG-ASPAC also consists of a Council and an Executive Bureau, and Taipei also serves as a council member and an Executive Bureau member. Taipei's active participation in the meetings and events of these organizations and her consistent presence are beneficial in raising her international profile.

In 2011, the Taipei City Government sent delegates to attend the following international conventions and events: between April 11 and 26, the Taipei City Government International Affairs Committee Deputy Executive Secretary Hsiu-Mei Shirley Lin visited Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, India, for the executive committee meeting of the United Cities and Local Governments-Asia Pacific Region. From May 28 to 29, Taipei City Government Secretary-General Chen Yeong-ren traveled to Shanghai to attend a contract signing ceremony and a press conference for the exhibition of “Moving Along the River During the Qingming Festival” in Taiwan. From May 31 to June 5, Taipei Deputy Mayor Chen Wei-Zen visited Venice, Italy for the opening of the Taiwan Pavilion at the 54 Venice Biennale. From July 4 to 9, Secretary-General Chen Yeong-ren flew to Brisbane, Australia, for the Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS).

From August 26 to 30, Committee Deputy Executive Secretary Hsiu-Mei Shirley Lin visited Daegu, Taipei's sister city in Korea for the 2011 World Championships in Athletics; from September 7 to 11, Deputy Secretary-General Ni Shih-Piao accompanied the Education Commission of the Taipei City Council's Education Committee to Xi'an City in China to inspect its education, cultural industry and construction progress. From September 25 to 27, Deputy Secretary-General Huang Rong-Feng flew to Yangzhou, China for “the Inaugural General Assembly of the Global Design Cities Organization Congress” and the Global Design

Cities Summit 2011. Between September 28 and October 2, Taipei Deputy Mayor Tim T.Y. Ting traveled to Brussels, Belgium to present an application dossier to the International University Sports Federation.

From October 1 to 6, Committee Deputy Secretary-General Hsiu-Mei Shirley Lin visited Melbourne, Australia for the council- and executive board meetings held by the United Cities and Local Governments-Asia Pacific Region (UCLG-ASPAC); from October 9 to 12, Taipei Deputy Mayor Chen Wei-Zen was present in Seoul, Korea, for the 10th Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC21) Congress; from October 29 to November 1, Taipei Deputy Mayor Tim T.Y. Ting visited Shanghai to discuss the results and follow-up affairs of the 2011 Two Cities Forum. From November 21 to 30, Taipei Deputy Mayor Chen Wei-Zen flew to Porto Alegre in Brazil for the 10th International Congress of the World Association of Major Metropolises.

4. Intercity Exchanges

Both Taipei City and Shanghai are both widely considered two of the most representative cities in Asia. The cities successfully established and deepened a cooperation model through a series of city forums in recent years. From July 24 to 27, 2011, Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin led a delegation of city council representatives and department officials to Shanghai for the Taipei-Shanghai City Forum and municipal administration visits. Hau and his delegation toured Jin Jiang Tour

Ltd in Shanghai, China SSBC in Shanghai, the Shanghai Emergency Joint Dispatch Center, and Sinan Hall. Through onsite inspections and seminars, Hau and his representatives better understood Shanghai's municipal administration experiences in tourism, greening, technological parks, health and emergency relief, Binjiang development and the overall traffic infrastructure planning. During the forum, the two cities signed an MOU to reinforce further exchanges and learn from each other's experiences on tourism, education and health, and improve one's own competitiveness to ensure better living for the citizens of both cities.

The Urban Redevelopment Office under the Department of Urban Development was invited by the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) from March 20 to 24, 2011 to London and toured the redevelopment initiatives for the 2012 Summer Olympics venues. London's Olympics planning, development system, urban gentrification, local economy revival measures and environmental sustainability concerns offer a great deal to learn from. Great Britain is an expert in devising sustainability measures along river and waterfront spaces, cultural preservation systems and innovation. All these initiatives have been adopted for building the athletes' village of the 2012 Summer Olympics, to facilitate urban space improvement and encourage international tourism, thereby effectively utilizing and conserving its public spaces. These experiences provide inspiration for Taipei's urban renewal policies.



Mayor Hau attends the Taipei-Shanghai City Forum.

PART 2 Cultural Exchange

1. Cultural Exchange

(1) The International Horticultural Exposition 2011 Xi'an – the Taipei Culture Celebration

To intensify cultural exchange activities between Taipei and Xi'an, the Taipei City Government and the International Horticultural Exposition 2011 Xi'an signed the "the Cross-Strait Relay – the Taipei Flora Expo and the Int'l Horticultural Expo 2011 Xi'an MOU" to inaugurate a golden opportunity that promises mutual benefits, constructive cooperation and exchange for both cities. To continue the legacy of the 2010 Taipei International Flora Exposition, a Taipei Garden was set up in the venue of the Exposition 2011 Xi'an; Taipei also presented a series of remarkable performance activities between June 5 to 10 during the Taipei Culture Celebration there, casting an international spotlight on Taipei!

During the Taipei Culture Celebration at the International Horticultural Exposition 2011 Xi'an, 3 troupes, totaling nearly 50 performers, were selected for the opening ceremony on June 5, 2011. Wild Fire Music and the Diabolo Dance Theatre set the tone at the opening ceremony with their number on the Butterfly and Flower Arena by the Guangyun Lake at the venue. Other than the said two groups, Dance Works also joined the repertoire to deliver three impressive performances daily. Visitors to the fair could experience first-hand the "Taipei-Flair" performance art.

Wild Fire Music was the first group that graced



Wild Fire Music performs at the International Horticultural Exposition 2011 Xi'an venue.

the stage and wowed the audience onsite: Wild Fire Music, a critically acclaimed, award-winning troupe, is committed to promoting aboriginal "World Music," and the group dazzled the visitors with its unique, aboriginal sounds and extraordinary music with "Folk Song of a Beautiful Heart" – a number that consisted of eight songs, including traditional tribal songs from the Amis and the Puyuma tribes. The group also gave a new spin on folk songs and adapted melodies from other countries; their performances incorporated elements from the aborigines' worship rites and multimedia images captured on Taiwan's enchanting east coast. The audience was deeply bewitched by the amazing creativity of Taiwan's aboriginal culture – defined by the Austronesian chants.

Diabolo Dance Theatre has toured around the world with its performances. The performers made their "Heart of the Oceans" the centerpiece on the stage, putting a creative twist on the art of diabolo in Xi'an, an ancient city that has seen the rise and fall of 13 dynasties. "Heart of the Oceans" featured the artistic interactions between tech-empowered anime images and the dancers. They created a series of stunning arcs of light and shadows through the presentation of totems and colors, dances, diabolos, lines and space. The performances were complemented by fashion-forward costumes and LED-inspired diabolo, and they combined drama, dance and music to dissolve the audience's stereotypes of diabolos. The show was a treat to the senses, and lured



Diabolo Dance Theatre dazzles the audience with their diabolo performance.

the audience into the musical haven of joy and emotional thrills.

Dance Works' tap dancing performance, "Leaps and Pounds" also combined pulsating rhythms and the Eastern elements that broke the stereotype of tap dances. Their delivery was a beautiful cocktail of the traditional big drums, the water-sleeve dances and martial arts, topped by the emotionally overwhelming tap dances to put a new spin on the Eastern dynamics and aesthetics. Tourists were treated to a different side of this traditional art.

On the premier of the Taipei Culture Celebration on June 5, 2011, the Taipei Chinese Orchestra at the Xi'an Concert Hall – the Mecca of western China's music industry. In the first half, the orchestra performed with the "Chang'an School" percussionist An Zhishun and delivered several classic numbers. In the latter half, the Taipei Chinese Orchestra featured "Huxuan Dance," a piece by Chong Yiu-kwong, the director. Percadu, a percussion music duo from Israel performed "King Qin Conquered the Procession" that featured a Chinese and Western percussion composition. For the finale, the orchestra performed the Taiwanese classic, "Drop the Coin" and "the Crossing of Peach Blossoms," treating the audience to the charm that defines Taiwan.

These Taiwan-centric performances attracted throngs of tourists from the country and overseas, and fully manifested Taipei's cultural strengths. The Taipei Culture Celebration attracted nearly 200,000 visitors.

(2) The Seoul Friendship Fair

Taipei's sister city, Seoul, in South Korea, invited Taipei's cultural groups extraordinaire to



The Taipei Civic Symphonic Band's performance is warmly received.

participate in "the Seoul Friendship Fair 2011 – Seoul Friendship Exhibition" between May 5 and 9, 2011. To build up cultural exchange between the two sister-cities and solidify friendships, the Department of Cultural Affairs designated the National Taiwan College of Performing Arts as Taipei's representatives. The group performed traditional Taiwanese operas and "stomp the street," and traditional Hakka opera – "god among us for the celebration of peace", bringing Taiwan's colorful culture and art activities to the international forefront in this performance. Thousands of international visitors stopped to enjoy the show, and the traditional operas helped them better understand Taiwan's cultural richness. "God among us for the celebration of peace" incorporated colorful facial make-up and expressive physical dance moves: it proved to be a successful marriage of traditional opera and folk performances, and has successfully marketed Taiwan's folk cultural personalities overseas, and delivered the message of prosperity and peace of the world. The event was a triumphant city diplomacy breakthrough.

(3) Participation in the 2011 Asian Network of Major Cities

Seoul was tapped as the host city for the 2011 Asian Network of Major Cities and the event was held between October 7 and 10. The Department of Cultural Affairs recommended the 2010 Outstanding Performance Troupe – the Taipei Civic Symphonic Band – to represent Taipei as a five-person core group to participate in the event. The band performed "I love you, Rose," "Golden Classics by Teresa Teng," and "Dusk at Tamsui," plus other renowned brass music pieces in the west. Their performances were quite a hit with the audience and fulfilled the goal of strengthening intercity cultural exchange and city marketing.

(4) Asian Performing Arts Festival

The 2011 Asian Performing Arts Festival, which celebrated its 9th anniversary, was held between October 24 and 28 at Treasure Hill Artist Village. "Joint International Production"

continued to be the theme of the year and three artists from Japan visited Taipei for three weeks of rehearsals with local actors. They staged a performance at Treasure Hill Artist Village. The Department of Cultural Affairs and the Physics Sentiments Theatre Company of LeeQingZhao the Private joined hands in hosting the event. The performance was delivered in the form of traditional Chinese Beijing opera to encourage an interchange of experiences with Japanese actors.

(5) Joint Concert Featuring the Houston Children's Chorus & Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir

2011 happened to be the 50th anniversary of the Taipei-Houston sisterhood. The Department of Cultural Affairs and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston together actualized the Joint Concert Featuring the Houston Children's Chorus & Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir. The concert was staged on June 14, 2011, at the Taipei Family Theater. The day's repertoire included the Taiwan folk songs, "Drop the Coin," and "It's Getting Dark." These folk songs were given a fresh twist with interesting, animated physical movements and were received with fanfare. The performance successfully enhanced the friendship between Taipei and Houston .

(6) The Artist-in-Residence Project and Exchange Programs

Taipei now houses the Taipei Artist Village and Treasure Hill Artist Village to jointly arrange the artist-in-residence programs. By the end of



A joint concert featuring the Houston Children's Chorus & Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir.

December, 2011, the AIR Taipei received 277 artists from Taiwan and overseas. 116 Taiwan-born artists were sent overseas for residence programs abroad. Institutes providing residence programs now span all five continents and many countries, including the U.S, the Great Britain, Brazil, Japan, Pakistan, Austria, Egypt, Malta, Switzerland, Australia, and South Korea. Artists from 11 cities and 44 countries have taken up residence in Taipei, and Taipei-born artists have made their appearances in 32 cities across 22 countries. The program has successfully introduced Taiwan's artists to the international arena, and attracted celebrated artisans to come to Taipei. In all, the program is a great support for artistic exchange activities. In recent years, Taipei has begun working with her sister cities to promote more exchange projects and cooperative assignments to fortify the potential of artistic diplomacy.

2. Cultural Exchange Activities among Foreign Laborers

By the end of December, 2011, the number of foreign laborers in Taipei has reached 39,885, accounting for 9.4% of all foreign laborers in Taiwan. The breakdown according to nations is: Indonesian laborers, 27,995 (70%), Filipino laborers, 7,084 (18%), Vietnamese laborers, 3,873 (10%), and Thai laborers, 933 (2%).

The Taipei City Government organized the following outreach and cultural activities to support mutual exchange activities between the laborers and the Taiwan communities; through these activities, the Taipei City Government expressed its gratitude to the hard-working laborers for their contribution to municipal constructions and services.

(1) The Thailand Cultural Festival

Every year between April 13 and 15, Thais celebrate their traditional New Year holidays. The New Year is celebrated by Thais with the throwing of water. Through the throwing of water, they hope to wash away the frustrations from the previous year, and look to the New Year with hope. The Department of Labor hosted the 2011 Thailand



A snapshot of the Thailand Cultural Festival.

Cultural Festival – Songkran to welcome the New Year – on April 9. Internationally famous Thai performance troupes traveled to Taipei to deliver their best performances on the conventional throwing of water festivities, and demonstrative Thai boxing. Those laborers who were unable to go home for the holidays had a chance to celebrate the occasion and alleviate their longing for their home.

(2) The Philippine Cultural Festival

To comfort the foreign labourers from Philippines to Taiwan and recognize their hard work, the Department of Labor planned the 2010 Taipei International Flora Exposition outings on March 20, 27, and April 10 and 17, 2011 for Filipino laborers to the Flora Expo. On May 5, 2011, the Department organized a “Colorful Snapshots Party,” encouraging the laborers to



A snapshot of the Philippine Cultural Festival.

share their thoughts and their picture collections taken at the Expo.

(3) Who's MVP Austronesian Idol Talent Show

In thanking the foreign laborers who have traveled to Taiwan from their motherlands to make a living, the Department of Labor organized the 2011 Who's MVP Austronesian Idol Talent Show on June 19, 2011, offering the laborers a platform to relax and express their artistic sides. The laborers enjoyed themselves to the hilt with their songs and dances; it was also an opportunity for the employers and people in Taiwan to experience the joy and subtropical charm of Southeast Asian countries.

(4) The Foreign Labor Poetry Competition

Since 2001, the Department of Labor has organized the Foreign Labor, Taipei City Government Poetry Competition annually. The contest is now gaining growing support from laborers. The competition is divided into two categories: poetry and prose. Last year, 963 pieces were collected, and after a three-stage screening, 18 winners were selected. On August 28, 2011, the Awards Ceremony and the Winning Poetry Recital were held, so that foreign laborers and Taipei citizens could join in the fun of appreciating the beauty of Southeast Asian Countries and songs and performances from those nations.

(5) The Moslem Fast-breaking Festival

The Moslem Fast-breaking Festival is a vital religious ceremony for Muslims. During the one-month “Ramadan,” the Islamic month of fasting, participating Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, and smoking during daylight hours. These activities are permitted after sundown. After the one-month fasting ends, Muslims gather to celebrate the success of the month. In Indonesia, the fast-breaking festival is celebrated like the New Year. Therefore, the Department of Labor hosted the Moslem Fast-breaking Festival in Daan Forest Park on September 4, 2011, in hopes of giving Muslims a chance to relax; meanwhile, local residents could also take advantage of the

occasion to learn about another religion and culture to encourage exchange activities.

(6) Vietnam Cultural Festival

In reaching out to Vietnamese laborers and spouses, and alleviating their yearnings for their home and the stress of living in Taiwan, the Department of Labor organized “the 2011 Vietnam Cultural Festival” on September 18, 2011, and invited celebrated Vietnamese singers to perform. Other than thanking the great folks from Vietnam for their contribution to the land, the DOL also hoped that those who were unable to go home for the Mid-Autumn Festival could have a chance to experience the warm outreach and blessings of the people of Taipei..

(7) Indonesian Cultural Festival

The number of Indonesian laborers in Taipei has grown significantly in recent years: Taipei now has more Indonesian workers than ever. In



A snapshot of the Vietnam Cultural Festival.

thanking these hard working Indonesian friends, the Department of Labor, Taipei City Government hosted the 2011 Indonesian Cultural Festival – the Batik and Arts Festival on October 23, 2011. During the event, Indonesian songs and dance performances were presented; batik-made costumes and Taiwan's aboriginal wardrobes were showcased in a runway show. The event aimed at encouraging exchange activities on

art and culture, and was thoroughly enjoyed by Indonesian friends and local residents. The Indonesian laborers, who left the comfort of their home to travel to Taiwan to make a hard living, had a chance to relax to the fullest on a beautiful autumn afternoon and enjoy the carnival-like atmosphere.

(8) Love in the Mortal World – Foreign Labor Health Care

Due to the language barrier and the lack of information access, foreign laborers often put off seeking medical attention. To better service them and prevent diseases, the Department of Labor organized “Love in the Mortal World – Foreign Labor Health Care” on February 13, April 10, June 12, October 9 and December 11 with the Tzu Chi International Medical Association. The program is a quarterly free medical service to foreign laborers, helping them seek medical attention, getting physical examinations, health consultations, follow-up outpatient services, and medical outreach assistance. The program is aimed at giving laborers the feel of local people's care and respect for them.

(9) Competition of Outstanding Foreign Laborers and Employers and Awards Ceremony

In thanking foreign laborers for their contributions to the city, in recognizing and supporting the employers of the foreign laborers, and in promoting positive working dynamics between employers and laborers, the Department of Labor has organized the Competition of Outstanding Foreign Laborers and Employers since 2001. For those who are working in Taipei legally, with an excellent track record and positive relationship with their employers, they can sign up or be recommended to take part in the competition. Award-winning employees and employers were publicly recognized at the 2011 Competition of Outstanding Foreign Laborers and Employers and Awards Ceremony on December 18, 2011, International Migrants Day.

PART 3 Educational Exchange Activities

To better align itself with the international community, the Taipei City Government actively promotes educational and academic exchange events, oversea visits, student exchanges and sports exchanges.

1. Educational Visits and Learning Tours

To emulate quality educational systems in Europe, Commissioner of the Department of Education, Tzong-huu Kang, led a delegation of 42 teachers – winners of Excellence in Teaching 2010 – to visit Lent Rise Combined School in Great Britain and St. Andrew's College in Ireland for an educational inspection tour between January 11 and 24.

Faculty, students and their parents, totaling 19 people, from the Taipei School for the Hearing Impaired visited ShangHaidisilongxiao, Jiaxinglongxiao and the ShangHai Technological School for Hearing Impaired Youths between June 2 and 10, 2011. 21 faculty and students from ShangHaidisilongxiao in turn came to the Taipei School for the Hearing Impaired between October 25 and November 2.



Students from Shanghaidisilongxiao and the Taipei School for the Hearing Impaired exchange experiences and opinions.

The Local Dialect Division of the Taipei City National Education Consultation Corps traveled to Rotokawa School in New Zealand to check out their cultural program and curricula design between October 29 and November 6. What they learned in Rotokawa School would be used as a



Staff at Rotokawa School explain the Mauri language program.

reference for promoting local dialect and cultural education in primary schools in Taipei.

To promote integrated kindergarten and nursery school policies, a delegation of 21 representatives from the Department of Education, Taipei City Government traveled to Tokyo between October 10 and 16, to better understand the nursery school system, the response measures battling the dwindling number of children, special curricula in nurseries and the management of kindergartens there. What they learned during their visit would be used as a reference for promoting effective children's education policies.

The following are visits to Taipei by overseas groups for educational development discussions and experience exchanges: Deputy Director Zhang Min Xuan from the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission led a delegation of 15 to visit the Department of Education on January 25). A group of 14 from Urasoe city in Okinawa came to Taipei to visit the Department of Education on February 17. The University of Toronto at Scarborough visited the Department of Education on April 22 to discuss details of educational cooperation. An educational study

group of 16 from Dongguan City's east side district visited the Department of Education on June 13. Mr. Petri Petonen, Director General of the Technology Department at the Ministry of Trade and Industry from Finland and his group of five visited the Department of Education on June 16 to introduce "Future Learning Finland". An education delegation from Guangzhou visited the School for the Hearing Impaired on October 21 to learn about Taipei's educational program for the hearing impaired.

2. Education Cooperation and Sharing

Between May 28 and June 2, Taipei Teachers' In-Service Educational Center Commissioner Wu Jin-sheng led a group of 26 information education professionals from Taipei City to Zhejiang University in Zhejiang Province, China, for the 15 GCCCE 2011: the Global Chinese Conference on Computers in Education. The Taipei group enjoyed a productive exchange activity with peers from the Chinese information and education communities in China, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, other Asia Pacific Areas and the United States.

To broaden the content of educational exchanges and build an education cooperation channel, principals from Taipei's primary schools accepted an invitation from the Beijing National University to participate in "Advanced Education Research for Middle- and Elementary Schools Principles and Faculty and a Seminar on Cross-Strait Fundamental Education" between July 14 and 22.



Taipei Municipal Dalong Elementary School takes part in the Chinese classics competition.

Taipei Municipal Dalong Elementary School led seven schools to Suzhou, China for "the 2011 Suzhou-Taipei Classical Chinese Poetry Recitals, Exchange and Seminar" held by the Chinese Classics Association between August 15 and 22, to promote the heritage and exchange activities on Chinese classics across the straits.

The Taipei Teachers' In-Service Education Center invited representatives from the Pudong Education Development Institute in Shanghai and the Education Ministry in the Zhuang People Auto-Governance District in Guanxi for the 30th Anniversary Celebration and Conference on the Professional Development of Teachers on September 27. Participants addressed the positioning of on-the-job training institutes and the professional development of teachers.

3. Exchange Activities, Competitions, and Cross-National Learning

To broaden students' international horizons, Xinsheng Elementary School in Daan District visited Sheung Shui Alliance Primary School in Hong Kong from January 16 to 19 to experience their bilingual training courses, and to nurture a sense of self-governance among pupils. Representatives of Hushan Elementary School traveled to the Chinese International School in Hong Kong from May 14 to 22 to experience and be part of the local culture, and nurture their hosts' worldview. Zhi Chin Elementary School in Wenshan District was invited by Tanjong Katong Primary School in Singapore to experience an Immersion Program between August 10 and 20. During the visit, they signed an international learning module to strengthen the exchange students program and periodical dialog between teachers from both schools.

The Taipei Songshan High School of Agriculture and Industry visited Ueda Someyaoka High School in Nagano Prefecture, Japan, for an exchange on culture and education. The Taipei Shilin High School of Commerce visited Tone-sho High School in Gunma Prefecture, Japan, for an outing on education. 88 faculties and students from five schools in Taipei: Song Shan Senior High School, Neihsu Senior High School, Yu Cheng Senior High

School, Nan Gang Senior High School and Yong Chun Senior High School organized the 2011 Student Ambassadors of Taiwan R.O.C.-Singapore Cultural Exchange Program and traveled to Singapore from July 19 to August 5 for an exchange on education and culture. To promote exchanges between high schools in sister cities, five students were chosen from the Taipei Municipal Zhongshan Girls High School, Wan Fang High School, Shilin High School of Commerce and Yu Da High School of Commerce and Home Economics to fly to Atlanta in the United States from October 21 to 30 for the 2011 Atlanta Sister City Commission Student Exchange-Training the Next Generation of Sister City Program Leaders.

To showcase the achievements attained in online learning without boundaries, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government led a delegation of 80 faculty members and students to Hong Kong on June 24 for the 2011 “Hong Kong-Taiwan Online Games on Campus, Themed Education Discussion and Results.” The participants engaged in online exchange activities in the Learning Village. Additionally, high school principals, teachers and students, totaling 34 people, visited Shijia Village in Hebei Province, China from July 17 to 22 for the 2011 Network Originality Competition. Also, to encourage culinary skills learning and cultural exchanges, the Taipei City Government organized

the International Secondary Schools Culinary Challenge 2011; participants from prominent cities in Australia, Asia and Oceania stayed in Taiwan from September 19 through 24. The Kai-Ping Culinary School won the group competition, the runner-up was team Japan, and third place went to New Zealand.

To promote international exchange activities, the Taipei City Government launched the 2011 Taipei City's Learning Chinese Grants for Enhancing International Exchange: mayors of Taipei's sister cities recommended candidates for screening. Ten spots were open in the program and eligible candidates receive monthly subsidies of NT\$25,000. Between September 2011 and February 2012, the following ten applicants were subsidized by the program accordingly: Erdenesaikhan, Bilegt (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia), Seol Hwi Kim (Daegu, Korea), Wong, Jason Glen (San Francisco, U.S.A), Levad, Andrew Miles (Anchorage, U.S.A.), Serpytyte, Agne (Vilnius, Lithuania), Tullao, Joseph Stewart Dionisio (Manila, Philippines), Hewitt-Cartwright, Bridget May (Brisbane, Australia), Prescott, William Noel John (Brisbane, Australia), and Poda, Amede Dyokayi (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso).



Representatives from Xinsheng Elementary School visit Sheung Shui alliance primary school in Hong Kong for international exchange activities.



A delegation visits Hong Kong for the theme conclusion and achievement showcase conference.

4. Social Education Exchange

In 2010 the Taipei Zoo provided assistance to Macau to establish a care program for giant pandas. The Official Provisional Municipal Council of Macau invited representatives of the Taipei Zoo

to attend the grand opening of the Macau Giant Panda Pavilion from January 18 to 19, 2011. The Taipei Zoo and Liugong Island Commission in Weihai City in Shandong Province, Shanghai signed the Formosan Sika & Formosan Serow Breeding Memorandum on May 17th: the zoo has sent veterinarians and caregivers many times to Weihai City to provide counseling on the caring, medical treatment and breeding of sikas and serows. And, to ensure a sustainable future of natural resources, the zoo and Kushiro Zoo in Hokkaido, Japan, signed a conservation memorandum to work on conservation and education displays of red-crowned cranes. The zoo unveiled a display of the red-crowned cranes on October 30, with Jin-pyng Wang, President of the Legislative Yuan of the Republic of China, Taipei Deputy Mayor Chen Hsiung-wen, Governor Takahashi of Hokkaido, and Mayor Ebina of Kushiro City presiding over the unveiling ceremony. A total of 150 representatives from Hokkaido gathered at the zoo to watch a special red-crowned crane, Big.

To better understand the developmental trend of national libraries in other countries, Taipei Public Library director Hong Shi-chang traveled to Puerto Rico from August 12 to 21 for the 77th International Library Association Alliance Conference, and visited local libraries. Director of the Taipei Public Library Dongyuan Branch, Chen Yi-wen, flew to the Shanghai Library for exchange learning and on-site services from September 2nd to 21st. Shanghai Library director Huang Xiao stopped by the library to provide information resource counseling.

To make family education in Taipei City better known, principals from Songbo Second Elementary School in Xiamen, Huming Elementary School, and Jiamen Technological Middle School, totaling six people, visited Taipei Municipal Longshan Junior High School, Yongle Primary School in Datong District and Lao Song Elementary School in Wanhua District, Taipei City, on June 21, 2011. On August 6, a delegation of 25 from Caritas de Macau visited the Family Education Center in Taipei City to

learn about community counseling. On August 26, representatives from the Education Bureau in Xiaoshan District and Xiaoshan Second Middle School, totaling five people, visited the Family Education Center and Songshan High School.

5. International Sports Exchange

To ensure the viability of sports exchange promotional activities, the Taipei City Government sent 28 athletes of tennis, badminton, golf and judo to participate in the 2011 International Children's Games, held in Lanarkshire, Scotland, from August 2 to 12. The athletes took home seven gold medals, ten silvers, and two bronzes. The Asia Junior Sports Exchange Games, 2011 was held from August 22 to 29 by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Taipei sent 14 badminton and judo athletes to participate in the games.

To better promote folk sports among teenagers in Taipei, the Taipei Youth Folk Sports Group traveled to Canada from July 15 to 29 for fifteen days for a series of performances, which were highly popular among the locals.

To fortify friendship through academic and sports exchange activities, Dongyuan Primary School in Wanhua District visited Takamigaoka Elementary school in Higashihiroshima in Hiroshima Prefecture, and established a sister-school bond. The school also participated in the 13 Western Japan Friendship Women's Volleyball Invitation Game 2011.

Conclusion

The goal of intercity exchange activities is to enhance international competitiveness. Through mutual visits among senior officials in Taipei City and other metropolises, the establishment of town-twinning, and exchange events on economy, culture, education, academy and humanity, et al., Taipei has further refined its municipal administration quality and strengthened city marketing efforts. Through these efforts, the Taipei City Government is aligning herself with the finest in the world, letting others hear the voice of Taipei; and in this fast-changing world, Taipei is now finding a steady footing in a sustainable future.