



Hualien Seven Kilometers to Happiness Initiatives

The Hualien Seven Kilometers to Happiness is a committee established in response to the Hualien earthquake in February 2018. It aims to help survivors heal, overcome post-traumatic stress disorder, and bring life back to the disaster struck area. Located on the fault line, it recognizes the importance in initiating projects that teach community members how to reconnect and coexist with nature. The Fault Line Festival and the Hualien Seven Kilometers to Happiness Fair was created in effort to achieve this. Both initiatives took place one year after the earthquake between February and March of 2019 sharing the outcome of the past year. [Read more.](#)



The Alliance Cultural Foundation:

2019 LUMA Overseas Study Tour Final Rehearsal

June 23rd, the 2019 LUMA overseas study tour team got together one last time for rehearsal after over one year of preparation and training. The team of 13, which include two team leaders and 11 college students, together introduced Taiwan and its indigenous culture. Audiences were ACF and third annual partner Vox Nativa Association (VXNA) team and sponsors.

LUMA team member Aruay from the Rukai tribe shared his journey of overcoming challenges and his introverted nature through training; U-su from the Kananavu tribe expressed his appreciation to ACF and VXNA for the opportunity to share the Kananavu culture to the world. ACF Chair Stanley Yen encouraged the 2019 team to confidently experience the journey and understand more their own Austronesian origins through it.

“One does not have to have indigenous blood to be an indigenous, if you care about this land, you are indigenous.” - *Abronglong Sakinn, Writer and Forest Hunter of the Paiwan tribe*

[Vox Nativa Association](#)



The Alliance Cultural Foundation:

Changbin-Fengbin Media FAM Trip

June 10th to 12th, 11 journalists from Mainland China, Japan, Malaysia and Taiwan were invited on a Media Familiarization (FAM) trip to visit the Changbin and Fengbin Townships. Changbin is located at the boarder of Taitung, and Fengbin, at the boarder of Hualien. The aim of the trip was to share the serenity of slow travel in Taiwan’s east coast through firsthand experience, capturing the true warmth, kindness and beauty of the region and its people.

The journalists stayed at a local B&B – one that accepts one group per stay for ten days out of the month with the idea to encourage visitors to take the time to appreciate the surrounding nature and slow lifestyle of Huatung. They visited the Gaoshan Forest Center, witnessed indigenous arts and crafts, experienced traditional indigenous method of producing sea salt and more.



Junyi School of Innovation:

Food & Environment Awareness Project

Making positive impact on the environment is valued at the Junyi School of Innovation. As a food and environment awareness project, 11th graders were tasked to dissect the head of a pig – a major staple in the Taiwan and indigenous food culture. The project gave students direct interaction with a food commonly seen on dining tables but not seen so close in its natural form. Students also read *Farmageddon: The True Cost of Cheap Meat* and watched *Food Inc.* as part of the project. It aimed to nurture appreciation on the food we eat, to educate students on the reality of mass production, and to demonstrate that their daily choices make an impact on the environment and the world.



Sharestart:

Train the Trainer Workshop

2019, Sharestart conducted a total of three train the trainer workshops, with June 22nd being the finale for the first half of the year. The workshop was designed for beginner Sharestart teachers. At the National Feng Yuan Commercial High School in Taichung, a total of 65 participants, led by Sharestart lead teachers and facilitators from 56 schools across Taiwan attended. The topic was on how to create classroom handouts.

One teacher reflected on being reminded by the Sharestart method that every student learns at a different pace. Teachers are key mentors and supporters of students, and Sharestart nurtures teaching according to each of their aptitudes, allowing every learning experience to be a personal and effective one. Sharestart method inspires curiosity, encourages independent thinking and understanding. As long as the teacher is willing to change the way of thinking, the way of teaching changes.