

## Summer Course 2014 and Winter Course 2015 in Asia Education Leader (AEL) Course

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Summer Course 2014 and Winter Course 2015 were the first and the second summer/winter course in AEL Course. Summer Course 2014 was hosted by Tohoku University's Graduate School of Education in Sendai and attended by 18 students from all five partner universities in 19 – 29 July 2014; Winter Course 2015 was hosted by National Chengchi University's College of Education in Taipei and participated by 16 students from four of the five partner universities in 19 January – 6 February 2015.

Following the four clusters (knowledge, attitude, skill and practice) in the AEL Course curriculum, each of the two summer/winter courses offered four subjects, which involved both lectures and discussions in classroom and field trips to local education related facilities and institutions.

In Summer Course 2014 students had chance to not only interact with residents in the temporary housing area in 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami hit region, but also visit a range of facilities and institutions in Sendai city, including Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen Junior High School & High School (仙台白百合学園中学・高等学校), Watage Welfare Facility (社会福祉法人わたげ福祉会), Sendai Child Consultation Center (仙台市児童相談所), Miyagi Psychiatric Medical Center (宮城県立精神医療センター), Tohoku Fukushi University Sendan Hospital (東北福祉大学せんだんホスピタル). Some even had a short internship experience in Miyagi International Association (MIA) or Sendai International Relation Association (SIRA).

Similarly, participants of Winter Course 2015 were guided to a wide range of local facilities and education related institutions, such as National Academy for Educational Research (国家教育研究院), Sanxia Elementary School (三峡国小), Taipei Teachers In-Service Education Center (台北市教師研習中心) and Wulai Seedling Experimental School (烏来種籽実験小学).

At the end of each course, student participants were asked to give feedback on individual subjects and on the course in general to help maintain and improve AEL Course.

For Summer Course 2014 the feedback survey results indicate that the participants were overall satisfied with the contents, teaching methods and arrangements of the four subjects and

the summer course in general. In particular, all of the students agreed or strongly agreed that the course was well organized and prepared and that contents learnt in the classes were useful for their future study. Students participating Winter Course 2015 also expressed a general satisfaction with the course. Also, all of the students in both courses considered (agree or strongly agree) that facility visiting was meaningful and should remain in AEL Course's summer/winter course.

The feedback results also shed light on some issues to be solved. Not a small number of students of Summer Course 2014 pointed out that the schedule was too tight to have free time to visit around the local city. This posed a challenge to the host university to guarantee on one hand enough free time during the course and on the other necessary study time which is required for credit recognition in a minimum length in order to minimize the living expense of overseas students. This challenge was to a certain degree overcome in Winter Course 2015 as its students were generally satisfied with the schedule. The students, however, still raised some specific points – such as desire for bus arrangement in field trip – that need to be considered in future AEL summer/winter courses.



*Closing ceremony (AEL Summer Course 2014)*



*Closing party (AEL Summer Course 2014)*



*In National Academy for Educational Research (Taipei) (AEL Winter Course 2015)\**



*In front of Taipei Teachers In-Service Education Center (AEL Winter Course 2015)\**

\* Photo provided by National Chengchi University