

Encounter, Enlighten, Our Future

Report on the meeting of Waldorf kindergarten teachers in Taiwan

Shy-Tyng Kai

On the afternoon of October 10th afternoon, a successful closing of the Taiwanese Waldorf kindergarten teachers gathering in Lichuan Waldorf School in Taichung took place. Around 180 people from some twenty kindergartens or programs attended.

Taiwanese parents need kindergartens to be open all year long and kindergarten teachers can only have national holidays off, with no summer or winter vacations. Therefore it was only a two-day program, but it nevertheless really met the needs of the kindergarten teachers. Since there was a three-day weekend this October, the first two days were used

well and meaningfully to have this gathering with the theme, "Encounter, Enlighten, Our Future".

In the main lecture time, June Lin, one of the earliest Waldorf founders in Taiwan, addressed the work of the archangel Uriel. Many teachers feel they know so little of Uriel in comparison to the other seasonal archangels. Through learning about the four seasons and the archangels, we aimed to deepen the kindergarten teachers' work with angels and in the preparation of the festivals. The other two lectures were given by Shy-Tyng Kai and Sue Chang. The topics were "Cultivating Our Relationship with Angels by Thinking, Speech and Action", and "The Kindergarten Teacher's Self-Identification." In the afternoons, artistic activity, pastel drawing, and discussion groups offered teachers from around Taiwan the possibility to get to know each other.



Taiwanese kindergartens teachers meetings had not taken place for the last five years. In 2010, a gathering was held in Taichung; then according to the needs of the times, that gathering was transformed into the Chinese Asia Waldorf Teachers Conference, open for all levels of teachers. That conference was held in Chengdu, China in 2012 and again last May in Yilang, Taiwan. There were many participants, and a new wish arose for kindergarten teachers to resume their kindergarten teachers' gatherings and to host a meeting in Taiwan, so that Taiwanese teachers could meet regularly every two years. This wish was taken seriously, and seven

kindergartens in Taichung put lots of effort into making this October gathering happen.

It is a clear decision and picture for the future that the kindergarten teachers in Taiwan are willing to take a further step by forming a national association and becoming a member of IASWECE. A meeting was scheduled in Kaohsiung, in southern Taiwan, for November 30th, 2015, to work out a future working plan together.

Shy-Tyng Kai has been involved in Taiwan Waldorf Education movement more than 20 years, both in legal and teaching work.

