

## **A New Generation of Austronesian Youths Joining Forces: Outstanding Youths of 13 Nationalities Gather in Taiwan**

The Council of Indigenous Peoples today held the opening ceremony for the domestic training course of the 2020 Austronesian Forum – Cultivation Program of Young Talent for International Affairs at the Hsin Hotel in Chiayi City. CIP Deputy Minister Iwan Nawi presided over the opening. Youths from a record number of countries are participating in this year’s program. These youths come from 12 countries including the nine member countries (Palau, Nauru, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia) and one observer member (Belize) of the Austronesian Forum, as well as Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Deputy Minister Iwan said in her remarks that a lot of research in the fields of linguistics, archeology, and genetics point to Taiwan as the origin of Austronesian-speaking peoples. The high degree of similarities between the traditional culture and language of Austronesian peoples highlight the deep and intimate connection between the Indigenous Peoples of Taiwan and Austronesian-speaking peoples.

The CIP has organized training programs for international affairs professionals since 2003. In 2016, the CIP began inviting those from Austronesian countries to participate. With the reopening of the Austronesian Forum, the talent cultivation program was especially

incorporated into the forum's priorities and the programs were expanded to include the training of youths from the Austronesian countries and territories. The CIP also highlighted the fact that in contrast with previous trainings, this year, youths from non-Austronesian countries (Belize and Australia) are also invited. Besides learning about issues in the Austronesian region, participants will also learn more about indigenous issues in other countries, gain a more global perspective, and connect with indigenous youths from around the world.

Deputy Minister Iwan also said that in addition to the 4-day domestic training program, the CIP will also be organizing training abroad for the first time at the end of this year. According to the initial plans, a class of 20 comprised of participants from Taiwan and Austronesian countries will head to Austronesian countries for further training. Three of the spots will be reserved for Indigenous youths from Taiwan that participated in the domestic training. This training abroad will open a new chapter for the CIP's talent cultivation program.

This year's domestic training will include an overview of the Austronesian-speaking population, international conference skills, and issues related to Austronesian-speaking peoples. The CIP has also arranged a trip to the Saviki community in Alishan Township for participants to learn more about the community's local culture and the issues that they face. The program aims to help build camaraderie among participants and inspire them to speak up for Taiwan and the issues Taiwan faces on the international stage. This year's training will conclude on July 26.

業務承辦人：潘文成業務祕書

連絡電話：（02）8995-3174/0935-718176