

Taiwan and US hold International Air Quality Monitoring Camp for Youth in Thailand

From 21-24 June 2016 in Thailand, the Taiwan and the US EPAs held a school students' air quality monitoring camp called Kids Making Sense International. The camp is one of the events being run as part of the International Environmental Partnership (IEP). School students from Taiwan and the USA were on hand to help their Thai counterparts gain experience using simple air quality monitoring techniques. The aim was to nurture care for the environment and to help young students gain a deeper understanding of pollution sources and how to improve air quality.

In 2014 the Taiwan and the US EPAs launched the IEP based upon the concept of a simple partnership to promote a variety of cooperative environmental endeavors. The IEP aims to establish a network of regional and international platforms for experts to share their ideas and knowledge about common – and often challenging – environmental issues. These platforms will hopefully then also develop into a source of accumulated successful methods for improving the environment, both regionally and globally. One of the projects under the IEP umbrella is Kids Making Sense International.

Since 2014, the Taiwan and the US EPAs have been actively promoting the Kids Making Sense International camp, which aims to raise awareness about air quality among students. By learning simple monitoring techniques students will further their knowledge about environmental issues and increase their desire to protect the environment.

The 2016 Kids Making Sense International event, jointly held by the Taiwan and the US EPAs, ran from 21-24 June in Bangkok and Chiangmai, Thailand. The students of Stella Matutina Girls' High School from Taiwan and Mark Keppel High School from the US, as well as some staff from Thailand's National Science Museum also helped out. The students from Taiwan and the US acted as demonstrators to help their Thai counterparts gain experience with simple air quality monitoring techniques. Ambassador Kelly Hsieh, Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand, and the representatives of the Taiwan, American, and Thai teams all gave speeches at the opening ceremony on June 22.

The 2016 Kids Making Sense International event included a training day for teachers on 21 June, a workshop for students on 22 June, and a training session for students on 24 June conducted by the Doi Suthep Nature Study Center of Chiang Mai University. In addition to the demonstrations by the Taiwan and American students, experts from Sonoma Technology from the US also provided teacher training on the use of simple, hand-held air quality monitoring devices that combine analysis functions with easy application to give quick readouts on air quality. Knowing how to use such devices should nurture care for the environment in students, and help them gain a deeper understanding of pollution sources and how to improve air quality.

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