

Providing service and language and cultural learning from Taiwan to Australia,  
Europe and Asia: The impact of one teacher and her volunteer students.

By Shirley O'Neill

Sylvia Li is a teacher of English at Kaohsiung Girls' Senior High School, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. She is also President of Kaohsiung City Zonta. Since her establishment of the **Youth Knowledge Network** in 2002 she has been instrumental in working with high school students from different schools in Taiwan in a volunteering initiative to provide community support and facilitate the learning of Chinese and English. Volunteer activities have also included working with Indigenous people in Taiwan and providing assistance following the devastating floods of 2009. Her most recent achievement is the opening of restaurant in Kaohsiung that will promote Taiwan Indigenous people's creative achievements in art and crafts and sculpture besides delicious local and international cuisine.



*Sylvia (bottom right) and volunteer students and colleagues*

Besides developing the Asia Pacific Exchange Program bringing Japanese and Taiwanese high school students together, she has developed a Chinese culture and language-teaching program with Korea. Through volunteering she has developed **learning circles** in Europe and Asia. In 2011 she establish connections between Taiwan and Australia through collaboration with Mr Dan Wu, teacher of Chinese in three Toowoomba schools.

All of this is supported by her wonderful expertise with online communication and expertise with multimedia. Through setting up an online league for service learning she has developed several working models for volunteering through the Youth Within Youth Neighborhood. Her students are trained in using the pinyin system and she is keen on promoting Chinese calligraphy abroad because it helps students realize the original form/characters and helps them realise some of the deeper meaning of the Chinese language.

Her program provides mutual benefits as her volunteers have opportunities to present in English and communicate in English as well as teach Chinese. For example, they recently gave presentations and workshops in Chinese classes in Seoul and introduced themselves in English at a barbecue in Brisbane. She is able to collaborate with you to develop the volunteer program and activities to suit the needs of the teacher and students or community that would like to become involved. In Korea for the Chinese language learning program she and her volunteers designed activities to motivate students Chinese language learning and offered sessions on:

1. Chinese culture (presentations)
2. Chinese language lessons (language), including pronunciation, games, interactive activities
3. Computer assisted language learning (resources in language learning)

4. Chinese story telling (language and literature)
5. Chinese films (imagery and media)

The program also supports the opportunity for English speaking students to connect to Taiwanese students to volunteer in facilitating Taiwanese students English language learning.

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Social Network Connection: Facebook - Sylvia Li and Plurk - jinglu817

See also Powerpoint on **Culture Curio Cabinet**

Taiwan Workshop

**The following links provide insights into the richness and creativity of the program.**

<http://peport.com/v1037019>

European Asian Circle

<<http://vimeo.com/24974382>>

Tutor Within Youth Neighborhood

<http://vimeo.com/24974452>

Little League (activities in Penghu )

<http://vimeo.com/24974695>

Interaction with the expatriates in our Chinese teaching program

[http://www.youtube.com/v/JAqZ\\_agv7y0](http://www.youtube.com/v/JAqZ_agv7y0)

Sylvia is speaking at 3 minutes. 50 seconds point

Recent completion <<http://peport.com/v1047672>>

Youth Knowledge Network: <<http://ajet.ykn.org.tw/>> <<http://www.ykn.org.tw>>

Kaohsiung Girls' Senior High School, Kaohsiung,  
Taiwan <<http://www.kghs.kh.edu.tw>>.

### **Other links**

Linkedin - <http://www.linkedin.com/company/youth-knowledge-network-taiwan>

Kaohsiung City ZONTA – <http://zontakhs.org.tw>

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[www.zonta.org/](http://www.zonta.org/)