

【聯合報 2014-07-01 大台中綜合新聞B2版】



明道中學師生所組成的國際志工服務團，帶著募集來的英文繪本，昨天出發前往非洲坦尚尼亞。

## 帶5箱繪本文具 26師生飛非洲當志工

【聯合報／記者趙容宜／扁日報導】 2014.07.01 04:20 am

台中市烏日區明道中學逾百名學生擔任暑期國際志工訓練課程，由26名師生組成國際志工服務團，昨天帶著募集的文具、物資前往非洲坦尚尼亞服務19天。

明道中學前校長林雲瑛說，明道中學從6年前在台北開始，啟動志工教育，4年前拓展到馬來西亞，去年拓展到東非肯亞，今年有26名師生前往坦尚尼亞協助當地社區維修公共建設、油漆和維修等，並為教育弱勢婦女與孩童；下屆的馬來西亞團也有36名學子啓程，提供老人院與小學志工服務，此團並獲選教育部「學校本位國際教育計畫」。

林雲瑛說，坦尚尼亞團學生募集物資，行李箱內裝滿物資、教材文具，還有5大箱的英文繪本、二手背包、文具等，準備送給當地孩童；學生們特別苦練原住民族語，希望能與當地民眾文化交流。

林雲瑛指出，明道中學今年共3個海外志工團隊，由71名師生所組成的臺北團上周已出發，在臺北展開中小學擔任教育志工共16天。

林雲瑛指出，參加海外志工的學子，必須先經過國內社區關懷服務學習，才能取得國際志工參與資格，校方安排老師帶領，規劃行程教育，家長也可以透過各團所成立的臉書粉絲專頁，隨時掌握孩子狀況。



關閉視窗

## *Discover yourself...*

**Joyce has just finishing running a 2 week intercultural student trip in Tanzania with students from various schools in Taiwan. It's been an eventful trip full of self-discovery, building relationships, giving a helping hand and having a lot of fun...big thank you to everyone at Braeburn School Arusha, Heshima Centre and World Passport in Taiwan for making this such a success...**

Discover yourself. So cliché!! Right?

Well, that's what I thought too. But intercultural students experiences give this term a whole new light.

They discovered a whole new side. New friend, new experiences, such as learning to play African drums, learning about construction and even learning to make reusable sanitary pads! Valuable life lessons, for example, there is life even without internet and gizmos. And they also have a lot of Maasai shukas and coffee beans to go back to Taiwan with...

The evenings were filled with drumming sessions, Swahili lessons, traditional African songs and dances, Tinga Tinga art and campfire activities...



And we put them right into action the following day!!

Their first challenge was to make a meal for four. They only had a dollar, which translates to Tsh2000. The first reactions were:

*"Miss that's impossible! Seriously!!"*

*"Miss, are you joking!!"*

We took time and explained why it had to be for one dollar only. Most families in developing countries live on less than a dollar a day. They do not have formal or reliable employment. Often only one parent would be working as the other one juggles the children, the farming and the animals at home. No "fancy" things like dressings and accompaniments' such as ketchup, that most privileged families treat like it is a must have. They understood this and they gave it their best shot. At the local market is where they realized how hard it is to budget for the money they had. Not to mention the language barrier. But they pulled it off. Let's just say no one slept too hungry. And they will never forget the reality of living on a less than a dollar a day...



The group spent several days doing community service at **Heshima Centre**, Lovilukuny Primary School and Mateves High school. Heshima (Swahili for "respect") is a women's community centre that offers their children a good start to life and school and offers mothers training and skills to enable them to make an income and become more independent.



At Heshima, Ming Dao School and the Catholic Schools students were able to put up a swing, draw murals on the outer walls and build a tricycle course. They painted walls and put a new floor in one of the classrooms at Lovilukuny Primary school. And for Mateves, they painted a laboratory and planted trees. The classrooms are now brighter and much more conducive for learning.

We were also able to introduce and make reusable sanitary towels with the Taiwanese and Mateves students. They were shy at first but after explaining the importance of this project they were into it like a duck to water. The most surprising thing is the boys from Mateves made the most pads. This made the girls feel more comfortable and appreciated because the boys were sensitive to their needs. At least we can be almost sure, with this new pad making skill, none of the girls will have to skip school during that time of the month.



Ming Dao spent 12 consecutive afternoons working on a documentary with 16 students from Mateves. They were focusing on plastic waste disposal in Tanzania and Taiwan. It was an educative and an eye opening documentary. The local students admitted to not caring about waste disposal and the environment as much as they should. The time they spent researching and interviewing local residents made them realize the damage their ignorance was causing. They are now sensitizing people around them on better plastics waste disposal. The Taiwanese group on the other hand wished they too could have clean air and clear skies at night as it is in Tanzania. Maybe we will do a documentary on air and light pollution next time...



The Catholic schools students also spent quality time in the afternoon with kids from Lovilukuny. They taught them songs, dance, Art, and sports. And the local kids taught them singing games that left most of the Taiwanese breathless because it involved a lot of running and singing at the same time! A few days into the afternoon sessions we realized that most kids would not play for too long and we pulled one aside and tried to understand why. We were shocked to find out that these pupils do not have lunch and they stay behind long after others have gone home to spend time with Catholic School. Their parents simply cannot afford lunch (and the Dollar a Day challenge became a reality to these Taiwanese students...). Alison and Ngugi, our hosts, offered to be providing snacks for these kids for the remaining sessions. And it made a whole lot of difference. They were actually looking forward to these sessions because they were also guaranteed to have some food!



Then came the days for game safaris. They wanted to see everything. From warthogs, zebras, lions rhinos, elephants, monkeys and the list continues. And they got to see most of these animals in Lake Manyara National Park, Tarangire and Ngorongoro Crater.



A lot has been achieved by these two groups. Lives have been touched. And so many students from Taiwan and Tanzania have gone away discovering a little bit more about themselves and the world...

I cannot wait to do this all over again next year.

**Joyce Kiragu, Trip Leader, Rift Valley Adventures**

