

In This Issue

- **Korean Officials Sharpen Their Communication Skills While Building Professional Relationships During Month-Long Program at TIEC**
- **TIEP Online: An Innovative Approach to English Instruction for Uruguayan Classrooms**
- **Mishima Students Explore U.S. Culture Beyond the Classroom in Specially-Designed Program**

More About TIEC

Overview

A unique association of public universities in Texas

Programs and Services

Offering assistance to public and private organizations worldwide

Study in Texas

Featuring a full range of programs for students and professionals

Contact Us

Web: www.tiec.org
E-mail: info@tiec.org

1103 West 24th Street
Austin, TX 78705

Phone: +1 512-477-9283
Fax: +1 512-322-0592

TIEC is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.



TIEC GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

September 2016

www.tiec.org

Korean Officials Sharpen Their Communication Skills While Building Professional Relationships During Month-Long Program at TIEC

Thirty Korean local government officials spent four weeks in Austin, beginning August 29, 2016, for an English training program at TIEC designed to promote increased global awareness and English-language proficiency as well as to build relationships between the officials and their American counterparts.

Sponsored by the Local Government Officials Development Institute (LOGODI), a government entity affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Korea, the TIEC program was part of a 10-month LOGODI training experience that also included visits to Hong Kong and Singapore.

The Korean officials visited both State of Texas and City of Austin government offices in addition to intensive English instruction at TIEC. They also attended lectures about local government and public service given by specialist guest speakers and participated in escorted

educational and cultural visits to museums, the Texas State Capitol, and other areas of interest in Austin and San Antonio.

Soon-nyo Shin, Director of International Training and Cooperative Division at LOGODI, and Hee-jeoung Ahn, Deputy Director of International Training Team, remarked that they saw a major boost in confidence from the participants' final presentations at the end of the program, compared to their first day at TIEC.

"Based on their knowledge of public administration, their presentations were mixed with expertise and language skills," Shin explained. "We are happy that they've made great advancements in the field of English as well as a global sense of international affairs."

The group departed Austin September 24 to spend two weeks visiting other U.S. cities before returning to Korea to continue their training at LOGODI.



Korean trainees and TIEP students practice conversation together in a special class activity.

TIEP Online: An Innovative Approach to English Instruction for Uruguayan Classrooms

TIEP has been providing online English instruction through live videoconferencing with secondary school students in 30 classrooms across Uruguay since May 2016 as part of the *Ceibal English (Ceibal en Inglés)* program. This is the first time that TIEP has offered real-time online instruction in another country.

Sponsored by Plan Ceibal, which over the last decade has connected all Uruguayan schools to the Internet and provided all primary school children with a free laptop, the program was first piloted in 2012 and seeks to offer high-quality English instruction for all Uruguayan students. The program now reaches over 3,000 primary school class groups and



TIEP instructor Jackie Hastay teaching her online class.

over 300 secondary school class groups.

Each class in Uruguay has a local teacher present to assist the English-speaking TIEP teacher during the remotely delivered instruction. TIEP instructors also collaborate with these on-site teachers to create and implement

the weekly English lessons for their students. The intent is to have students improve their listening and speaking skills and motivate them to learn English through videoconferencing with a native-level speaker of English, and for the lessons to complement larger unit plans being taught locally by the Uruguayan teachers.

"In general, the students are enthusiastic and ask questions. They seem to enjoy the conversation part," observed Jackie Hastay, one of the TIEP instructors for this special program. She added that the Uruguayan teachers have been supportive and "enjoy hearing their students speak" during the live class discussions and activities.

Mishima Students Explore U.S. Culture Beyond the Classroom in Specially-Designed Program

TIEC welcomed 52 Japanese students and three teacher chaperones from Mishima Senior High School for three weeks of intensive English and U.S. culture study in Austin, July 23-August 13, 2016. This was the seventeenth group from Mishima to attend this custom-designed TIEP program.

One of the teachers, Tomoya Hayasaka, first participated in the program eight years ago. He recalled being "very nervous and worried" as a new teacher who, at that time, had never undertaken study abroad before. "Now, I enjoy the experience and find something to learn from it as an English teacher," Hayasaka explained, "and I'm very happy to see the students have a good time and have their own many experiences."

Hayasaka added that this kind of study abroad program is important to the students at his school, which is an affiliate of Nihon University, in part because the



program feeds directly into the University's College of International Relations. "We want to encourage students to study English and go abroad in the future," he noted.

The Mishima students attended morning classes at TIEP each weekday and participated in afternoon and evening cultural

activities outside the classroom. These included exploring different areas of Austin to complete various task-based assignments as well as group conversation sessions involving local American students and other TIEP students. The students also enjoyed a weekend home stay with an Austin family and travelled on a daytrip to San Antonio, Texas.