



Virtual Exchange Program

*Neither Pandemic Nor Language Could Stop Us
from Communicating Internationally*

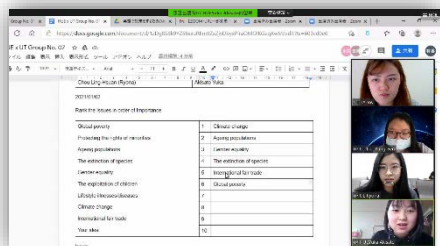
From March 1st to 5th, 2021, Hokkaido University of Education (HUE) collaborated with the University of Taipei (UT) to hold “The English Program for Teaching in English.” This five-day online program broke the boundaries caused by COVID-19 and created an opportunity of international communication between students of HUE in Japan and students of UT in Taiwan.

We were glad to have 51 participants to join in this virtual exchange program (27 Japanese students and 24 Taiwanese students.) The host of the five-day online sessions was Mr. Andrew Ryan, a teacher of HUE. Mr. Ryan divided the participants into 12 groups, each of which consisted of 2-3 Japanese students and 2-3 Taiwanese students. Participants introduced themselves to each other on the first day, and discussed global issues, including their causes, effects, and solutions, on the second and third days. On the fourth day, each group prepared for a presentation concluding their discussions, and on the final day of this program they gave a presentation. Everyone tried their best to communicate in English, to search for information regarding the issues discussed, and to give a fluent and comprehensive speech to sum up their arguments. Dr. Hung-Shu Chen of UT and Prof. Yorozyua of HUE were both very impressed by the amazing result of cooperation between students of HUE and UT.

In the end of the virtual exchange program, everyone expressed their appreciation. Some participants created groups in LINE app to keep in touch with each other. We were so glad to have this wonderful experience of virtual international communication, and we hope to promote similar exchange programs with partner universities in the future, no matter how the worldwide pandemic may stop us.



- Chats about cultural differences among participants



- Discussions within groups

- Presentations with brilliant ideas about global issues



- Many thanks for the assistance of **Mr. Ryan**, **Dr. Chen**, and **Prof. Yorozyua**