

台灣高齡智障服務考察團

鑒於智障人士老齡化成為現時社會及本會所關注的課題，故此本會於本年5月15至20日組織了一隊考察團前往台灣，了解當地應對智障人士老齡化的策略及配套安排，期望員工將考察經驗和所得知識應用在本會服務上。是次考察團共有16位職員及3位家長參與。

考察團主要探訪為高齡智障人士提供服務的機構，包括日間訓練、住宿、社區及家庭支援和生死教育服務。這些機構強調「先有人，才有服務」，故此必須以服務使用者為出發點，並因應個人特質、生命經驗和環境而提供服務。同時，他們也強調「支持」的服務理念，因為每個人各有所長，故給予支持至為重要。另外，考察團在探訪的過程中，體會殘障人士家庭物質上雖然擁有一些，但心靈上卻很富足。

台灣智障人士及其家庭同樣面臨著老化帶來的健康、經濟及照顧等問題，當地機構協助他們作多方面的準備。本會亦正協助所有服務使用者都能認識及面對「老年化」的過程，積極預備晚年生活。



A Study Tour to Taiwan – Understanding the Services Provided to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities of Ageing

The issue regarding the ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities has become a topic that concerns by both the community and our Society. In view of the issue, our Society organized a study tour to Taiwan on 15-20 May this year with the aim to understand the strategies and arrangements that Taiwan has adopted to deal with the ageing problem. It is hoped that our staff would be able to put in use what they have experienced and learnt from the study tour, which consists of 16 staff members and 3 parents.

During the study tour, the members mainly visited organizations that provide services to persons with intellectual disabilities of ageing. Such services include day training, residential service, community and family support, and life and death education. These organizations emphasize the concept of putting "men before service". They place service users as their first priority and tailor-make the services according to the service users' personal characteristics, life experiences and environment. They also place value on the service concept - "support" since they believe every single person has his own strengths and that it is crucial to offer support to each individual. Through the visits, our study tour members were also given a chance to feel for themselves how the families of the persons with disabilities may be materially insufficient but spiritually rich.

In Taiwan, persons with intellectual disabilities and their families face similar problems brought along by ageing: health, financial and care issues. The local organizations would help them prepare thoroughly for ageing. As for our Society, we are also working on helping service users understand how to face the process of ageing and how to prepare well for their life as an elderly.

