

Director's Words

National Chung-hua Living Arts Center has held a watercolor paint from nature contest activity since 1971 in central Taiwan (Taichung city, Chunghua county, Nantou county and Yunlin county). This contest has lasted for more than 40 years and it is the longest-running activity in the Center. For this, we would like to thank the teachers and the parents for their enthusiastic participation, as well as the employees in the 4 Education Bureaus in central Taiwan for their hearty support. Meanwhile, the cooperation of scenery administrator and the various services of volunteers in the townships have also helped us to keep this activity (going on) until today.

On one weekend in spring and autumn every year, we hold this competition for kindergarten kids to adults, in more than 10 scenic locations in central Taiwan simultaneously. This is an artistic leisure activity for various ages. We believe that many of those young and middle-aged artists who are active in the art field today participated in this competition before. The Center is proud to promote art education and to have contributed to the development of these artists.

After the competition, we invite the artistic experts and scholars in central Taiwan to give marks on participants' drawings. For each age group, they select the top five, another excellent five, and several good drawings from among 2000 sketches approximately. Then, we prepare an award ceremony for all of the top

five and their teachers. In addition, we also prepare an exhibition of the selected paintings.

Moreover, this exhibition tours in schools, libraries, and cultural centers in communities. This tour is to encourage and promote those prizewinners as well as to offer an opportunity for students and residents to see the true drawings. For the purpose of cultivating the next generation's appreciation of art, we invite experts as guides on every tour. Once the residents' understanding of art takes root, their subsequent artistic abilities can make our country's competition stronger.

This book accumulates the top pictures, which were completed within 3 hours by different ages of artists in spring 2012. Although these pictures are not professional, they still display the artists' deep skills from their ordinary industrious practices. Through their viewpoints of beauty, they drew the famous sceneries and customs in central Taiwan. Each group expresses different views of beauty according to their ages. We hope whoever views these artists' sketches will like to come and visit the local areas to see what's going on here.

Director, National Chung-hua Living Arts Center

Liu Suan-yung