

Azalea International Folk Fair (AIFF) of Valdosta, GA
in collaboration with
Valdosta-Lowndes County Schools (VLCS) of Valdosta, GA, U.S.A.
&
Chia-Yi City Schools of Chia-Yi City, Taiwan, R.O.C.

for

The International Exchange Program (IEP)

Expected Program Dates:

Students from Taiwan will visit Valdosta: February 25 – March 6, 2011

Students from Valdosta will visit Taiwan June 2 – July 2, 2011

Document # 1 – Purpose and Goal of IEP

Document # VLCS 2 – Meet the Mayor and Four Hosting Schools

Document # VLCS 3 - Health & Travel Insurance – A MUST!!

Document # VLCS 4 - Cost Share

Document # VLCS 5 - Cultural and Educational Immersion

Document # VLCS 6 – **Planning Time Frame:**

September 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011: Meet the Media and Orientation

May 30 – June 1, 2011: Project Director On-Site Visit

Document # VLCS 7 – **Visiting Schedule:**

Wednesday, June 2, 2011 leaves Valdosta/Atlanta

Thursday, June 3, 2011 arrives Taiwan

Saturday, July 2, 2011, leaves Taiwan and returns to the States

(To avoid the visa application fee of \$135.00, guests can only stay in Taiwan up to 31 days. If staying for more than 30 days, visitors will need to apply for a visitors' visa through the Taipei Economic and Culture Office in Atlanta.)

Document # VLCS 8 – Registration Form for Students

Document # VLCS 9 – Registration Form for Teachers

Document # VLCS 10 – Host families – Recommended by School Principals

Document # VLCS 11 – Websites to know more about Taiwan and Chia-Yi City

The IEP project will be coordinated by:

Serena Huang, M.Ed., Project Director, AIFF

Contact: serenahuang@gainternationalfolkfair.org

229-242-0974 (office) / 229-506-1973 (cell)

Taiwanese Delegation will be coordinated by:

Dr. Tsai, Hong-Jung, Dean of Office of International Affairs

Wu-Feng University, Chia-Yi County, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Contact: hjtsai@mail.wfc.edu.tw

011-886-5226-7125 (office) / 011-886-0935-304519 (cell)

(1) Purpose and Goal

In 2007, we were able to extend an invitation to the Taiwanese Youth Folk Sports Troupe to perform for our region's four schools (Brooks County Middle, Hahira Middle, Lowndes Middle, and Lowndes High Schools) and an open to the general public performance. From September 30 – October 2, 2007, five shows reached up to 5,000 audiences. The troupe has traveled around the world to entertain thousands of people with their unique talents, and now, they have even come to Valdosta!! How remarkable that we are putting South Georgia on their world map!



From September 25 – October 1, 2008, Mr. John Newton, our board member for invention and technology and an instructor of technology and engineering at Lowndes High School, was invited by the International Forum for Invention Promotion (IFIP) to be one of the judges for the 5th annual International Exhibition for Young Inventors (IEYI) in Taipei, Taiwan. The then Hahira Middle School student Wesley Newton was sponsored by the Georgia Power Foundation to represent the U.S. alongside the hundreds of students from 13 countries around the world. These inquisitive students built strong cultural and intellectual connections as they shared information about their inventions or simply engaged in friendly conversation.

What a joy to see young people from a wide diversity of backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, and religions take great pleasure in making new friends without boundaries. In this world of invention and technology, young creative minds open their hearts and minds and reach out without hesitation. What a beautiful world!!



From February 27 - March 8, 2010, eighteen exceptionally talented students from Taiwan and the Philippines flew halfway around the world to compete in the Fair's Youth Invention Exhibition. A total of 25 inventions were displayed, representing Taiwan, the Philippines and the United States. Our students were surely inspired.





These young inventors dedicated two entire days to the Folk Fair's school field trip programs, interacting with and presenting their inventions to nearly 2,500 students and teachers from all over South Georgia and North Florida. Seeing their enthusiasm and creativity, teachers responded positively, expressing hope that these inventors can return every year to motivate our local students' interests in science, technology, and invention. The cultural and educational advantage this project has brought to South Georgia's rural schools and communities has indeed been substantial.

All of these we have achieved, yes indeed, we can be rightfully proud - we have opened eyes, expanded horizons, and enriched lives. Because of these international guests, our region's students have learned and experienced things no two-dimensional textbook could provide. In the process, they have gained new perspectives and understandings, learning to appreciate the rich diversity of the world beyond our borders. In today's interconnected, transnational world of supersonic jets, virtual spaces, and globalized economies, instilling a sense of international awareness and responsibility in the youth is more important than ever. This is the reason why the cross-cultural exchanges among countries around the world have become the key issue in the twenty-first century. Valdosta-Lowndes County's teachers and students, of course, should never be left behind.

Therefore, in 2011, we dare to dream more. We hereby propose an **International Exchange Program** between Lowndes County Schools of Valdosta, GA and Chia-Yi City Schools of Taiwan. We hope to connect both school systems' teachers and students to exchange visits, to build the sister schools and plan educational partnerships, to share educational resources and to advance teaching achievement.

With these enthusiastic exchanges, our teachers and students will face future global challenge and competition with much confidence and strength. Even more, through these exchange visits, students must find and develop their own unique talents, expertise and strengths in order to best represent themselves, our schools, our communities and the U.S.A. to the country they visit. They will learn to become the best ambassador of Lowndes County Schools and of the U.S.A. In the true spirit of cultural exchange, the foreign countries will gain much from our students as well, learning that there is more to America than what is commonly portrayed in movies and on television. In doing so, we have helped to establish Valdosta as a vibrant, modern city ready to meet the future with open, outstretched arms.

We look forward to a great successful International Exchange Program in 2011 for Lowndes County School System.

(2) Meet Mayor Huang, Ming-Hui of Chia-Yi City, Taiwan, R.O.C.

In Chia-Yi City, we were most impressed with its delightful Mayor Huang, Ming-Hui. Her vision in education is both intriguing and admirable. Mayor Huang urges that, "urban development must take education as the key, top priority. We are committed to putting our best efforts toward the growth of our city's talents."

Mayor Huang asserts that educating children is not only parents' and teachers' responsibility, but rather the responsibility of the entire community of Chia-Yi City. Mayor Huang called for teachers, parents, schools, the community, city administrators, the key five roles of the city development, to work together to accomplish a goal she has set for city's educational environment:

*"Humanity first, science and technology in excellence, advanced innovation and **global vision**".*

Mayor Huang has worked actively in cultivating Chia-Yi City children's potential in facing the rapidly changing society and world. She pledged to offer international education and opportunities for students to meet a higher level of competitiveness and achievement.

Mayor Huang said: "The competitiveness of the city is from the cultural industry, from its talents, and talents depend on high-quality education. Only first-class education will allow a city's glory to dazzle."

Mayor Huang's advanced perspectives and forward thinking were true treasure of Chia-Yi City and she is highly commended by her citizens.



On behalf of the Azalea International Folk Fair, Dr. Tsai, Hong-Jung (left), the Dean of International Affair Office of Wu-Feng University presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Huang, Ming-Hui (center) and Director of Education Department, Mr. Yu, Kun-Lung (right). We thank them for all support they have given to students for their participation in the AIFF programs on March, 2010.

Students from Chia-Yi City performed remarkably and won many outstanding awards.



On April 2010, Chia-Yi City Mayor Huang and Education Department Director Yu gave their welcome-back greeting to the students for Azalea International Folk Fair and congratulated them for a rewarding experience. Mayor Huang gave all participants a **BIG RED ENVELOPE**... How sweet!!



Members of Taiwanese Delegation reported to the Mayor Huang their experience in Valdosta-Lowndes County. They described they were amazed to see students in Valdosta were so active and enthusiastic in playing sports and participating in extra-curriculum activities while in Taiwan their academic learning continue till 10:00 p.m. every day. The relationship between teachers and students, parents and children, were interesting and impressive. They observed teachers and parents are like friends to their students and children in America, while in Taiwan they are more like the commander, the boss!! They expressed American peoples are extremely, super sweet, kind and friendly.

These young students reported to Mayor Huang that 10 days in Valdosta-Lowndes County with the host families and lively, energetic students are the happiest time they ever had for their lives... so far....

Wonderful Host Families from Lowndes County Schools

The heroes that make 2010's foreign guests' participation both possible and successful are the host families - the faculty members from Lowndes County Schools and Valdosta State University who kindly opened their homes to take in our visiting young inventors. The kindness and nobility of the American character shines vibrantly through these wonderful host families. In helping us to ensure that all of the Taiwanese and Filipino students had the best possible experience while visiting our lovely city, state, and country, they embody the ideals of true Southern hospitality and we proudly salute them.



Mrs. Cammie Traylor
Lowndes Middle School



Mr. & Mrs. Greg Register & son Cody
Lowndes Middle School



Ms. Nikovia Ramfjord, Lowndes County School Psychologist



At the right, Chang-Sheng Sanuel Liu with host brother, Bryant Ramfjord of Hahira Middle School



Cureton family, Mrs. Wanda Cureton and children, Louis and Tray, hosted Yu-Su from Taiwan & Melvin from the Philippines Mr. Eric Cureton is now the 8th grade social studies of Lowndes Middle School. Cureton was also the host family for Taiwanese Folk Sport Troupe in 2007.



Mrs. Kristina Freeman
Lowndes Middle School



Mrs. Janice Evans
Lowndes Middle School



Weise family and children Jalen and Jordan hosted Hugo from Taiwan.
Jalen is the 7th grade student from Lowndes Middle School.
Jordan is the senior at the Lowndes High School.



A Great Pleasure meeting the Principals of Future Hosting Schools

On July 8, 2010, AIFF project director, Mrs. Serena Huang, had a great pleasure to meet the principals of four major schools of Chia-Yi City who were invited to learn more about the International Exchange Program AIFF sponsors. During the meeting, videos of Valdosta City, Lowndes County Schools and Azalea International Folk Fair programs were played and viewed.



After watching the DVD, the draft proposal of building an International Exchange Programs between Lowndes County School and Chia-Yi City Schools was discussed. All of the attending school principals have expressed great interest, and all agreed to join in the Exchange Programs as the hosting schools. They will all be prepared and look forward to welcoming teachers and students from Lowndes County School on June, 2011. They also all proposed and hoped to invite Superintendent Steve Smith to visit to build the sister schools and to plan educational partnership for many years to come.



Exchange School # 1: Ming-Shen Junior High School

Students studying 7th – 9th grades will visit the **Ming-Shen Junior High School**, which currently has more than 3,000 students enrolled. The school is a national education award winner. It is proud to be an educational model in fulfilling its magnificent vision and ideals in the school's hardware construction and in its enthusiastic community service, including a tutorial school for the city's illiterate citizens, sports classes focusing on the promotion of baseball, special education classes to help students with special needs, and social education workshops to help promote social education in the city. It is the only middle school in Chia-Yi City that provides its 3,000 students with lunch. It is also the only middle school in Chia-Yi City that has set up a teachers' Resource Room to provide teachers with abundant resources for teaching.... very much worth to learn more.



AIFF Project Director, Serena Huang and VSU Professor Dr. Wilson Huang visited the Acting Principal (Retire in August, 2010) of Ming-Sheng Junior High School.

Exchange School # 2: Chia-Yi Industrial High School

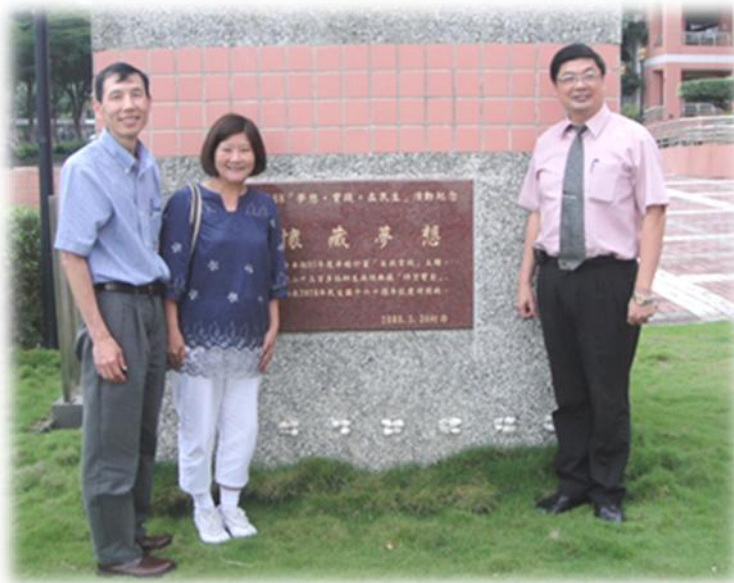
Students interested in technical curriculum will visit an **Industrial High School**. This school is well-known for preparing students highly competent in the fields of machinery, auto maintenance, electric engineering, electronics, chemical engineering, architecture, interior design, air conditioning and refrigeration. Exchange students will have hands-on experience in the diverse areas of technical education. The school is most reputed for its equipments and advanced classes in auto maintenance.



On behalf of the Azalea International Folk Fair, Dr. Tsai, Hong-Jung, the Dean of International Affair Office of Wu-Feng University presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Principal Chiang, Yao-Tsung of Chia-Yi Industrial High School. We thank him for supporting his students to participate in our youth invention project.

Exchange School # 3: Chia-Yi Commercial Vocational High School

Students interested in business management will visit a **Commercial Vocational High School** which specializes in data processing, international trade, visual communication design and all aspects of business management including accounting and finance. This school maintains an excellent foundation of traditional business education and a flexible curriculum preparing students to meet future possible social challenges and global needs.



AIFF Project Director, Serena Huang and VSU Professor Dr. Wilson Huang met the Principal Kuo, I-Teng of Chia-Yi City Commercial Vocational High School. Picture was taken in front of a Time Capsule that was built on May 30, 2008. The capsule will be opened in 20 years on 2028.

Exchange School # 4: Singang High School of Arts

For students interested in creative arts, they will visit a High School of Arts. Their curricula focus on fine arts, humanities, drama, literature, music and particularly multi-cultural aspects of Taiwanese tradition and heritage. Students from this arts school are required to take at least 20 credit hours of arts-oriented courses to graduate. Students from Lowndes County may enjoy a distinctive diver arts experience.



Pictured on the first left is a parent representative of Singang Arts School. 2nd left is the Director of Student Affairs of Singang Arts School. Third from the left is the Dean of Student Affairs of Commercial Vocational High School. The far right is the new Principal Chiu, Kun-Lung of Ming-Shen Junior High School, the **Exchange School # 1**.

(3) Accident and Health Insurance & Health Condition

All of the participating students and teachers must be in good health condition and be physically capable of undertaking all of the activities and programs organized by AIFF, Chia-Yi City schools, and host families. International Exchange Program (IEP) participants must certify that they do not have any medical or health-related problems. All IEP participants must maintain **accident and health insurance** in force and effect for the entire duration of their participation in the International Exchange Programs at Chia-Yi City, Taiwan, R.O.C.

We **DO NOT** accept any students who fail to meet this health condition and health insurance requirement.

Liability Disclaimer and Hold Harmless Agreement

I acknowledge that participation in the International Exchange Programs and all of its related activities may involve some unknown, unforeseen risk of injury, illness, or loss of personal property. **I agree to release and forever discharge** the institution, Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA USA, its members individually, its officers, its project partners including Lowndes County School System, Chia-Yi City School System, and host families from any and all claims, demands, rights, and causes of action of whatever kind or nature, arising from and by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, including death, damages to personal property and the consequences thereof, resulting from my participation in the International Exchange Programs.

I hereby agree to maintain accident and health insurance in force and effect for the entire duration of my participation in the International Exchange Programs at Chia-Yi City, Taiwan, R.O.C.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, I am in good health and physically capable of undertaking all activities of International Exchange Programs.

I understand and agree that the Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA, USA, its project partner of Lowndes County School System, Chia-Yi City Schools and host families **DO NOT provide** and **IS NOT responsible** for any insurance (health, accident, ...) for the protection of students, teachers or whoever participate in the International Exchange Programs and all of its related activities during our visitation in Chia-Yi City, Taiwan.

Sign
The Parents or Guardians

Sign
The Student

(4) Cost-share

A. The host, Azalea International Folk Fair (AIFF) of Valdosta, GA & Chia-Yi City Schools of Taiwan, will provide the following:

(a) While visiting Chia-Yi City of Taiwan, free lodging with host families who will be faculty or staff from Chia-Yi City School System and Wu-Feng University.

It is possible other professionals may be recruited as their credentials are endorsed by school administrators. Host families' background will all be provided to participating teachers and students.

(b) Host families will provide all breakfasts & dinners every day. Additionally, they will provide lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

In brief, host families will sponsor breakfast, lunch and dinner while guests live in their house.

However, please understand this well that in Taiwan, foods in night markets and from street vendors are very popular and delicious. You surely don't want to miss them. If guests wish to explore different variety of authentic, ethnic street foods in addition to the foods host families will provide for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the guests must use their own allowances. **Host families are NOT responsible for providing the additional, street or night market foods besides breakfast, lunch and dinner.**

(c) When guest students are visiting the hosting schools, schools will sponsor students' lunches.

(d) The host families will sponsor all entertainments that they wish to present to the visiting guests. If host families choose to bring guests to tour around Taiwan's many attractions out of the region, the host families will sponsor the extra lodging hotel cost including the breakfast, lunch and dinner that comes with the travelling.

(e) AIFF in collaboration with Chia-Yi City Schools will host a banquet dinner of gratitude honoring the guests, their host families, the hosting schools, city administrators on the night before the guests leave Taiwan.

(f) Participants will be asked to share the transportation cost between Chia-Yi City and the international airport in Tao-Yuan City on the days they arrive and depart.

It should not cost more than US\$50 altogether.

B. Program participants need to be responsible for their own airline ticket cost as well as allowances for personal expenses such as extra, popular street foods and souvenirs. A summary of these costs is shown below.

(a) Apply for a U.S. Passport. The application form is available at the Valdosta's post office off Inner Perimeter Road. Details are also available at http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/get_4855.html
Application fees: \$140.00
Estimated Processing Time: 4 weeks

(b) Round trip airfare between Valdosta and Taiwan is about **US\$1,200 - US\$1,500.00.**

However, it is important to note that the airfare is subject to types of airlines, gas price changes, and other marketing factors, the estimates may fluctuate up to US\$1,500 - \$1,800.

(c) Prepare gifts for host families who will provide lodging, meals, transportation and entertainments for the guests for up to two weeks.

(d) Prepare gifts for the student ambassadors who are assigned to be students' school guides. Need to prepare four gifts as we are visiting four schools.

(e) Personal expenses include (but are not limited to) shopping for clothing, additional foods outside of the provided meals, souvenirs and personal care.

(f) 1st 6-day field trip to Central Taiwan including Counties of Chunghua, Taichung and Nantou, there will be extra cost of \$250 with most meals included.

(g) 2nd 6-day field trip to Northern Taiwan including YiLan Count and visit attractions of Taiwan's Capital City, Taipei. There will be an extra cost of US\$250.00 This cost will cover five nights at Taipei City, transportation between Chia-Yi and Taipei, all attractions visits and some meals. Other lunches or dinners at night markets, streets, or food courts will **NOT** be included since there would be huge variety that the IEP guests should feel free to pick whatever they like to try.

In sum, the estimated cost for IEP guests to participate in the Taiwan program will be:

(a) US\$1,500 for airfare between Valdosta/Atlanta & Taiwan.

(b) Suggested personal expenses of \$300 include (but are not limited to) shopping for clothing, additional foods outside of the provided meals, souvenirs and personal care. The amount of allowance is totally up to the parents and students.

(c) US\$250 for the 6-day field trip to the Central Taiwan

(d) US\$250 for the 6-day field trip to the Northern Taiwan

Total: US\$2,200

(5) Cultural and Educational Immersions

- A. During the program period, IEP participating students and teachers are encouraged to immerse themselves fully in the cultural and educational environments. They are recommended to partake actively in academic activities both inside and outside the classroom, along with other events meaningful to learning of a different culture. A coordinator will be assigned to the students and teachers to help coordinate their visits in classrooms or meetings with native teachers and students. IEP participants should feel free to choose class visits according to their interests. All can be arranged with ease by the coordinator.
- B. To expand their educational experience, IEP guest teachers and students are welcome to visit different levels and types of schools and classrooms. They are also welcome to interact with the students during class visits. This may be quite a big cultural shock to American teachers and students. You may be surprised to learn the instructional styles presented by native teachers and the level of textbook materials adopted.
- C. Please be prepared to discuss your school, background, hobby, religion, lifestyle, extra-curriculum activities, the education system of Lowndes County Schools etc. with the native teachers and students. They are all interested in learning what you may present to them. Hope you may find time to practice your speech scripts and skills before you leave the States. **Be aware, there may be many presentations or meetings in which you will take part. So, be prepared!!**
- D. IEP students may be assigned as English assistants to help native students practice English and to interact with students in the English classrooms. Be prepared to present writing and conversational English correctly, fluently, **patiently** and comfortably with non-English speaking students.
- E. Native student ambassadors will be assigned to help host participating students in school visits. IEP participating students may shadow around their student ambassadors for their whole day school activities even including their after school activities. You may be amazed to learn how the students' lives are defined in an Eastern society.
- F. **(OPTIONAL)** AIFF would offer one **once-a-week** Chinese language class to help IEP participating teachers and students to learn some basic Chinese conversation. This preliminary learning will help our participants to better enjoy the distinctive customs of non-western societies. Some basic language skills will surely help you enjoy the trip more.

Schedule and place for the Chinese class will be announced once the final number of teachers and students has been determined.

(6) Planning Time Frame

September 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

Date	Task
August 24, 2010	<p>Submit to Dr. Steve Smith, the Superintendent of Lowndes County Schools, to review the draft proposal prepared by AIFF project Director, Serena Huang, to discuss concerns & issues of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Health and Travel Insurance (2) Cost-share (3) Support cultural and educational immersions that the hosting schools may invite guests to take part in. <p><u>The hosting schools include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ming-Sheng Junior High School (b) Chia-Yi Senior Commercial Vocational School (c) Chia-Yi Industrial High School (d) Singang Senior High School of Arts <p>Two promotional flyers are attached for Dr. Smith to evaluate.</p>
September 8, 2010	<p>Meeting with Dr. Smith to review the draft proposal. Need Dr. Smith's approval and support in order to process the promotion of this international exchange programs among Lowndes County Schools.</p> <p>Dr. Smith schedules to meet members of the Board of Education & high school, middle school principals for a presentation of the project on Monday, September 20th.</p>
September 21, 2010	<p>After the approval of the Board, recruitment and planning activities for the international exchange program (IEP) will be conducted for Lowndes County Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A handbook will be provided by e-mail to principles of the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Lowndes High School (b) Lowndes Middle School (c) Hahira Middle School (d) Pine Grove Middle School (2) Hang promotional posters and flyer at the above four schools. (3) IEP Planning Time Frame: September, 2010 – May 31, 2011 (4) IEP Visiting Schedule: Leaving Valdosta on June 1, Returning to Valdosta on June 26, 2011

<p>December 31, 2010</p>	<p>Interested teachers and students will fill out Application Forms & submit required supporting materials.</p> <p>AIFF's committee will review the application package and may request interviews with the applicants.</p>
<p>January 31, 2011</p>	<p>Announce and contact the selected teachers and students.</p> <p>Once teachers and students are sure of their participation, would need to reserve the airline tickets when there is the best airfare rate. (Between Atlanta and Taiwan, the best rate will be within \$1,200.00)</p>
<p>March 1, 2011 - March 31, 2011</p>	<p><u>AIFF:</u> Recruit Taiwan's host families & student ambassadors. All are teachers of Chia-Yi School System and Wu-Feng University</p> <p><u>Teachers and Students:</u> Apply for American passport. It will take 4 - 6 weeks to process.</p>
<p>April 1, 2011 - May 31, 2011</p>	<p>Connect Valdosta's students/teachers with Taiwan's host families & student ambassadors.</p>
<p>Monday, May 16 - Friday, May 20, 2011</p>	<p><u>Meet the media for News Release:</u> Valdosta Daily Times & Black Crow Media Pre-departure orientation for teachers, students and parents Review Rules of Guests</p>
<p>June, 2011</p>	<p>AIFF project director, Serena Huang, will conduct on-site visits at Chia-Yi City's hosting schools and families:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To examine hosting arrangements (2) To review the schedule and activities with schools and host families. (3) To discuss the opening welcome and dinner banquet of gratitude at the end of the programs.

(7) Visiting Schedule

Length of duration can be shortened depending on the interest of teachers and students. The organizing committee is flexible with the schedule and open to the participants' inputs.

Because flying from the Valdosta airport is more expensive, we recommend flying from Atlanta to Taiwan (usually with a connection flight in Los Angeles, Detroit, or Tokyo). We strongly recommend NOT flying through Los Angeles, as the process of going through customs and transferring airlines is extremely time-consuming and complex.

Additionally, to avoid the visa application fee of \$135.00, foreign visitors can only stay in Taiwan up to 30 days. To stay for more than 30 days, the visitors would need to apply for a visitor's visa through the Taipei Economic and Culture Office in Atlanta.

More details of guests' activities with the hosting schools and families on weekdays as well as on weekend will be provided by the host schools and families during the month of April and May.

Guest activities arranged by hosting schools and families may vary individually.

Participants' application materials will be forwarded to hosting schools and families for arrangements of visiting activities.

Departing and Returning Schedule

Leave U.S.A.: June 1 or 2 ... Depends on airfares
Arrive Chia-Yi City: Friday, June 3, to meet the host family in Chia-Yi
Leave Taiwan to return to U.S.A.: Saturday, July 2

This trip offers:

- (1) **9 days** of school visits - One middle school, three high schools, one university and one day to serve the most rural middle school of ChiaYi County.
- (2) **6 days** of field trip with host family to explore Southern Taiwan
- (3) **6 days** of field trip with delegation members to explore Central Taiwan
- (4) **6 days** of field trip with delegation members to explore Northern Taiwan and Capital Taipei

(To know the places we will tour for the field trips, visit <http://puileng.travellerspoint.com/16/> to see many of the places and story. Also watch www.youtube.com/educationexchange for the hosting country, city, schools and the field trip details to central Taiwan)

(5) One Welcoming Banquet -

Valdosta-Lowndes Delegation members may need to prepare performances presenting American culture.... ChiaYi City VIP, many media, newspapers and TV stations will all attend.

(6) One Farewell Banquet -

Will present the performance involves host family members and school students. There will many opportunities for all students to practice together. ChiaYi City VIP, many media, newspapers and TV stations will all attend.

Dates	Activities
January, 2011	<p>Must purchase airline tickets. Price: \$1,200 - \$1,500</p> <p>Must have \$1,500 ready to pay for the airline ticket.</p>
March 1, 2011	<p>Apply for passport: Cost \$140.00 It will take 4 – 6 weeks.</p>
March – May, 2011	<p>Practice the performances for Welcoming and Farewell Banquets. Prepare to be Valdosta-Lowndes’ best American ambassador!!</p>
Late May – Early June, 2011	<p>AIFF project director, Serena Huang, would like to conduct on-site visits at Chia-Yi City’s hosting schools and families:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To examine hosting arrangements (2) To review the schedule and activities with schools and host families. (3) To discuss the opening welcome and dinner banquet of gratitude at the end of the programs.
<p>Thursday, June 2, 2011 Valdosta-Lowndes Delegation leaves from Valdosta or Atlanta airport.</p> <p>Bring with you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) \$300 for allowances (2) \$250 for Central Taiwan field trip (3) \$250 for Northern Taiwan field trip (4) Two luggage allowed for international flight Weight limit: 50 lbs. 	<p>There will be one AIFF staff, the Assistant Project Director for the IEP, travel with the delegation. We hope there will be at least one faculty member from Valdosta-Lowndes County School Systems to join the trip. However, if not, the project director will stay to accompany the delegation to fly Taiwan.</p> <p>Meet & Greet AIFF staff, Mrs. Serena Huang, will welcome Valdosta-Lowndes delegation at the airport and transport guests to Chia-Yi City which is 2 hours away from the airport.</p>

<p>Arrive Taiwan International Airport on Friday, June 3.</p>	<p>Host families will meet and pick up the guests in the Chia-Yi City.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, June 4 & Sunday, June 5 & Monday, June 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Host families</u> Spend the days with the host families to experience Taiwanese way of life.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enjoy the Dragon Boat Festival!!</p>
<p>(1st School Visit) Tuesday, June 7 & Wednesday, June 8: Visit Ming-Sheng Jr. High School</p> <p>(2nd School Visit) Thursday, June 9 & Friday, June 10: Visit Singang Arts High School 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>You may be surprised to learn the instructional styles presented by Taiwan’s teachers and the level of textbook materials adopted. You may also be most amazed to learn how the students’ lives are defined in an Eastern society. See how these high schools’ graduation rate are all 100%... What is their magic wand that ALL students in Taiwan so desire to learn and pursue for higher education?</p> <p>You will need to tell us all stories!!</p>	<p><u>School Visit:</u> <u>Cultural and Educational Immersions</u></p> <p>(1) You are welcomed to visit different levels and types of schools and classrooms. You will interact with the students during class visits.... All students speak English in Taiwan.</p> <p>(2) You may be assigned as English assistants to help native students practice English and to interact with students in the English classrooms.</p> <p>(3) YOU MUST WELL- PREPARE FOR MANY PRESENTATIONS!!</p> <p>Discuss American value, culture, your school, background, hobby, religion, lifestyle, extra-curriculum activities, education system....etc.</p> <p>(4) You are invited to join in any extra-curriculum classes of your interest. You may learn many new skills from this trip.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, June 11 & Sunday, June 12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Field trips with host families to explore Southern Taiwan including ChiaYi, Yunlin & Tainan</p>
<p><u>Day 1:</u> Monday, June 13 LuKang/Folk Arts Museum – TaiChung County Arts Center – WuChi Fishing Harbor - FengJia Night Market</p> <p><u>Day 2:</u> Tuesday, June 14 National Museum of Natural Sciences – 9/21/1999 Earthquake Museum & Education Center – PuLi Paper Mill – PuLiWine Brewing House and Showroom</p> <p><u>Day 3:</u> Wednesday, June 15 QingJing Farm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SIX-Day Field Trip to Central Taiwan including Nantou, Changhua & Taichung</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lodging: Hotels</p>

<p>Day 4: Thursday, June 16 Sun Moon Lake</p> <p>Day 5: Friday, June 17 Hsitou Forrest Recreation Area</p> <p>Day 6: Saturday, June 18 LuGu Township Tea Culture Experience – NeiHu Elementary School (Fascinating) Return to ChiaYi City in the evening to have dinner with host family.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, June 19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Field trips with host families to explore Southern Taiwan including ChiaYi, Yunlin & Tainan</p>
<p>(3rd School Visit) Monday, June 20 & Tuesday, June 21: ChiaYi Industrial High School</p> <p>(4th School Visit) Thursday, June 23 & Friday, June 24: ChiaYi Commercial High School 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. You may be surprised to learn the instructional styles presented by Taiwan’s teachers and the level of textbook materials adopted. You may also be most amazed to learn how the students’ lives are defined in an Eastern society. See how these high schools’ graduation rate are all 100%... What is their magic wand that ALL students in Taiwan so desire to learn and pursue for higher education?</p> <p>You will need to tell us all stories!!</p>	<p>School Visit: Cultural and Educational Immersions (1) You are welcomed to visit different levels and types of schools and classrooms. You will interact with the students during class visits.... All students speak English in Taiwan. (2) You may be assigned as English assistants to help native students practice English and to interact with students in the English classrooms. (3) YOU MUST WELL- PREPARE FOR MANY PRESENTATIONS!! Discuss American value, culture, your school, background, hobby, religion, lifestyle, extra- curriculum activities, education system....etc. (4) You are invited to join in any extra-curriculum classes of your interest. You may learn many new skills from this trip.</p>
<p>(5th School Visit) Wednesday, June 22: 8:00 – 1:00: A service day for the Chia-Yi County’s most rural & under-served middle school 1:00 - 5:00: WuFeng University</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">School Service Day!!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, June 25 Farewell to host families!! Will need to pack up luggage and leave for Taipei after lunch.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Will meet Taipei's host families in Taipei Railroad Station.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Farewell Banquet and Performance</p>
<p>Day 1: Sunday, June 26</p>	<p>Spend the days with the host families to experience Taipei value and way of life.</p>

<p>Day 2: Monday, June 27 Eastern Taipei's TWO major commercial districts: XinYi District: Taipei 101, Eslite Bookstore, Taipei Mahantan and Taipei Discovery!! SongShan District: Wufenpu Garment Wholesale Market & Raohe Street Night Market</p> <p>Day 3: Tuesday, June 28 YiLan County Traditional Arts Center & Northeastern Coast</p> <p>Day 4: Wednesday, June 29 ASUS Computer Manufacturer – GuanDu Bicycle Ride – DanShui Old Street and Harbor</p> <p>Day 5: Thursday, June 30 NeiHu Tzu-Chi Recycling Center – National Palace Museum – Hot Spring – ShiLin Night Market</p> <p>Day 6: Friday, July 1 Chiang, Kai-Shek Memorial Hall / Observe Taiwan's unique morning exercise culture – Nan-Men Traditional Market –Wanhua Commercial District. LungShan Temple & Bopiliao Historic Area - Ximending Pedestrian Only Area</p> <p>5:00 – 7:30 p.m.: Farewell Dinner at TASTY Steakhouse (BIG YUMMY!!)</p> <p>8:00 p.m.: TAIPEIEYE show http://www.go2taiwan.net/monthly_selection.php?sqno=39</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Field Trip to Northern Taiwan and Taipei City</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Big Exploration & Inspiration!!</p>
<p>Saturday, July 2</p>	<p>Leave Taiwan. Return to the U.S.</p>

Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA. U.S.A.

3810 Winchester Place • Valdosta • GA 31602 • Phone: 229-242-0974

Website: www.gainternationalfolkfair.org

2011 International Exchange Program (IEP)

**(8) Guest Student of Lowndes County Schools (Must be 7th - 12th grades)
Application Form**

AIFF will form a selection committee to review application packages and determine the students for the 2011 Lowndes County School delegation to the Chia-Yi City schools, Taiwan. The selection committee will consist of board members of AIFF. The selection process includes:

- (a) Initial screening on academic performance and special talents
- (b) Face-to-face interviews may be required by the selection committee
- (c) List of delegation members will be announced by a formal letter/e-mail on/before January 31.

Name: (In English) _____ (In Chinese) _____

Gender: Male or Female

School Attends:

Grade (which year):

Date of Birth:

Age:

Home Address:

E-mail Address (**Required**):

Emergency Phone # (**Required**):

Name of emergency contact person:

Student Cell Phone # if applicable:

Academic Information: Current GPA: _____

Rank of the grade level: _____

A. What is your level in spoken Chinese (circle one)? None Beginner Intermediate Advanced

B. Do you have any special talents such as singing, dancing, musical instruments, arts, public speech, debate, sports, etc.? If so, please describe them more:

C. Area of interest during the exchange program

(a) Which schools you would like to visit and explore their curriculum:

(You may choose more than one)

- _____ 1. Industrial High School
- _____ 2. Commercial Vocational High School
- _____ 3. High School of Arts
- _____ 4. Jr. High/Middle School
- _____ 5. Others.

I am particularly interested in learning more about _____

(b) Any special kind of folk arts/extra-curriculum activities that you are interested in?

Such as folk dance, folk musical instrument, calligraphy, painting, martial arts, magic.....

(c) Sports you play and would like to take part in the visiting schools: _____

D. Student information to the host family:

() Are you allergic to any pets? If yes, please specify: _____

Even you are NOT allergic to pets, but do you mind being in a Host Family with pets?

_____ I do NOT wish to be in a host family with pets.

_____ I am fine with a hot family with pets.

() Are you allergic to any kind of foods?

If yes, you MUST specify clearly: _____

() Are there any dietary restrictions or foods that you are forbidden to eat?

If yes, you MUST specify clearly: _____

() Are you allergic to any cigarettes smoke? _____ Yes _____ No

Religion (optional, provided to the host family): _____

E. Parents or Guardians Information

Father's Full Name:

Profession:

E-mail Address:

Phone #:

Mother's Full Name:

Profession:

E-mail Address:

Phone #:

F. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: The following supporting materials must attach with this application:

- a) **Current academic transcripts** from your school
- b) **One or two pages essay** describing why you are interested in this exchange program.
What are your participating goals and expectations?
- c) **A brief description** of your personal information. Examples include family, religious affiliation (if any), cultural origins, social background, siblings, hobbies, interests, sports, extra-curriculum activities, goals of life, etc.
- d) **A letter of recommendation** from the school teacher.
- e) **Two different photos** (taken within three months) and one family photo.

Read Carefully & Understand this Policy WELL

Liability Disclaimer and Hold Harmless Agreement

I acknowledge that participation in the International Exchange Programs and all of its related activities may involve some unknown, unforeseen risk of injury, illness, or loss of personal property. **I agree to release and forever discharge** the institution, Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA USA, its members individually, its officers, its project partners including Lowndes County School System, Chia-Yi City School System, and host families from any and all claims, demands, rights, and causes of action of whatever kind or nature, arising from and by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, including death, damages to personal property and the consequences thereof, resulting from my participation in the International Exchange Programs.

I hereby agree to maintain accident and health insurance in force and effect for the entire duration of my participation in the International Exchange Programs at Chia-Yi City and Taipei City, Taiwan, R.O.C.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, I am in good health and physically capable of undertaking all activities of International Exchange Programs.

I understand and agree that the Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA, USA, its project partner of Lowndes County School System, Chia-Yi City Schools and host families **DO NOT provide** and **IS NOT responsible** for any insurance (health, accident, ...) for the protection of students, teachers or whoever participate in the International Exchange Programs and all of its related activities during our visitation in Chia-Yi City and Taipei City, Taiwan.

Sign
The Parents or Guardians

Sign
The Student

Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA. U.S.A.

3810 Winchester Place • Valdosta • GA 31602 • Phone: 229-242-0974

Website: www.GAinternationalfolkfair.org

2011 International Exchange Program

**(9) Guest Teacher Supervisor of Lowndes County Schools
Application Form**

AIFF will form a selection committee to review application packages and determine the teachers for the 2011 Lowndes County School delegation to the Chia-Yi City schools, Taiwan. The selection committee will consist of board members of AIFF. The selection process includes:

- (a) Initial screening through application form.
- (b) Face-to-face interviews may be required by the selection committee
- (c) List of delegation members will be announced by a formal letter/e-mail on/before January 31.

Name: (In English) _____ (In Chinese) _____

Gender: Male or Female

School teaches: _____ Grade/which subject: _____

How many years of teaching? _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Home Address:

E-mail Address (**REQUIRED**):

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Emergency Phone # (**Required**): _____ Name of emergency contact person: _____

A. What is your level in spoken Chinese? _____ Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced

B. Do you have any special talents such as singing, dancing, musical instruments, arts, public speech, debate, sports, etc.? If so, please describe them more:

C. Area of interest

(1) Which schools you would like to visit and explore their curriculum?

(You may choose more than one)

- _____ 1. Industrial High School
_____ 2. Commercial Vocational High School
_____ 3. High School of Arts
_____ 4. Jr. High/Middle School
_____ 5. Others.

I am particularly interested in learning more about _____
(There are **20** elementary schools, **8** middle schools and **16** high/vocational/industrial/nursing schools in Chia-Yi City. Feel free to discuss with us your field of interest. We may make the arrangement.)

(2) Any kind of academic programs that you are interested in?

Such as language arts, math, science, arts, music, PE.....

(3) Any special kind of folk arts/extra-curriculum activities you are interested in?

Such as folk dance, folk musical instrument, calligraphy, painting, martial arts

D. Teacher information to the host family

() Are you allergic to any pets? If yes, please specify: _____
Even you are NOT allergic to pets, but do you mind being in a Host Family with pets?
_____ I do NOT wish to be in a host family with pets.
_____ I am fine with a hot family with pets.

() Are you allergic to any kind of foods?
If yes, you MUST specify clearly: _____

() Are there any dietary restrictions or foods that you are forbidden to eat?
If yes, you MUST specify clearly: _____

() Are you allergic to any cigarettes smoke? _____ Yes _____ No

Religion (optional, provided to the host family): _____

E. (REQUIRED) supporting materials to attach with this registration form:

- (1) One to two pages essay describing why you are interested in this international exchange program. What are your participating goals and expectations?
- (2) A brief description of your personal information. Examples include family, religious affiliation (if any), cultural origins, social background, hobbies, interests, sports.....
- (3) Two different photos (taken within three months) individual photos and one family photo.

Read Carefully & Understand this Policy WELL

Liability Disclaimer and Hold Harmless Agreement

I acknowledge that participation in the International Exchange Programs and all of its related activities may involve some unknown, unforeseen risk of injury, illness, or loss of personal property. **I agree to release and forever discharge** the institution, Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA USA, its members individually, its officers, its project partners including Lowndes County School System, Chia-Yi City School System, and host families from any and all claims, demands, rights, and causes of action of whatever kind or nature, arising from and by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, including death, damages to personal property and the consequences thereof, resulting from my participation in the International Exchange Programs.

I hereby agree to maintain accident and health insurance in force and effect for the entire duration of my participation in the International Exchange Programs at Chia-Yi City and Taipei City, Taiwan, R.O.C.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, I am in good health and physically capable of undertaking all activities of International Exchange Programs.

I understand and agree that the Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA, USA, its project partner of Lowndes County School System, Chia-Yi City Schools and host families **DO NOT provide** and **IS NOT responsible** for any insurance (health, accident, ...) for the protection of students, teachers or whoever participate in the International Exchange Programs and all of its related activities during our visitation in Chia-Yi City and Taipei City, Taiwan.

Sign
The Parents or Guardians

Sign
The Student

Azalea International Folk Fair of Valdosta, GA. U.S.A.

3810 Winchester Place • Valdosta • GA 31602 • Phone: 229-242-0974

E-mail: project.director@GAinternationalfolkfair.org

Website: www.GAinternationalfolkfair.org

Video Channel: www.youtube.com/azaleainternational

**Taiwanese Host Family Programs Sign up Form
(Used by Chia-Yi City Schools)**

Basic requirements:

1. Must be recommended by hosting schools' administrators.
2. One of the family members must be able to speak and understand English.
3. Must have a separate, individual bedroom for the guest.

Name: _____

Which school and grade do you teach or your non-teaching profession?

Teaching subject, or your professional title and company?

Family members in the house while hosting the students (Please list all)

Home Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone # _____ Cellular Phone # _____

Religion: _____

What is your level in spoken English? _____ Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced

() Will you accept: _____ Male _____ Female _____ Either

_____ Teacher _____ Student

- () How many guests you may take? One Two
**We hope you may host a minimum of two students.
Or, you may just host one teacher.**
- () Do you have any pets? If yes, please specify: _____
- () Do you live in a smoke-free household?
- () Is the bedroom provided for the guest air-conditioned? (Not required; but good to have)
- () Will the students have access to internet?
- () Can students use the laundry facilities to do their wash?
- () Will there be any special concerns that you would like the guests to be aware of?
Please describe and feel free to let us and the guests know.

Required:

- (1) A brief description of your personal information. Examples include family, religious affiliation (if any), cultural origins, social background, hobbies, interests, sports, extra-curriculum activities, goals of life, etc.
- (2) Two different photos (taken within three months) and one family photo.
- (3) List and describe activities including both **weekdays** and **weekend**, you would plan for the guests during their stay with you.**

If all possible, please provide the dates and places for those activities in details.

Recommended Websites to know more about Taiwan

1. Taiwan, one of Taiwan's must-see destinations: <http://www.go2taiwan.net/faq.php#4>
2. ChiaYi City Government: <http://www.chiayi.gov.tw/english/sitemap.asp>