

# A Study on the Teaching Training Programs in Higher Education

**Chi-Yuan Chen**

The purpose of this study is to give suggestions for developing academic teaching profession in higher education in Taiwan. To achieve this, this research selected the top three universities each in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom. After interviewing the managers of the teaching training programs in these universities, the content and the experience of carrying out the programs have also been collated as well as the teaching certificate programs got compared. In addition, nine managers of the teaching development centers in Taiwan universities were interviewed and their opinions of the practicability of teaching training program in Taiwan's academia were collected, too.

It was found that the teaching training programs offered by the sample universities were divided into long-term teaching certificate programs and short-term teaching training programs. The process for developing the program was holistic, the contents were practicable, and the teachers were all encouraged participating in the program. The results showed a high level of effectiveness in these programs. However, the challenges lie with the attitude that teachers focus more attention on research than teaching and with a belief that the teacher's workload would definitely increase during conducting the program. In Taiwan, organized speeches and workshops are the most prevalent events in teaching development. It hence can be concluded that if a university wants to develop sounding programs of teaching training for her faculty, the programs should be based on the teachers' backgrounds, as well as on their needs. They should also be professional and full of rich contents in all the program lectures. Moreover, increasing the teacher participation, making the programs more practicable, motivational, and interactive to increase the program effectiveness are also necessary. Based on the findings, some further suggestions have been proposed, too, for the higher education in Taiwan.

Keywords: higher education, teaching professional development, teaching training program

Corresponding Author: Chi-Yuan Chen, Assistant Professor, Center of Teacher Education, Chinese Culture University