

Taiwan 2018 – An Introduction to Physical Literacy

Introduction

The National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) in Taipei, Taiwan, hosts an International Sports Teaching Symposium every summer which regularly attracts around 250 delegates. The symposium aims to share best practice from around the world and invites teachers and lecturers from around the world to contribute. A number of the NTNU staff and PhD students had started undertaking research into physical literacy which led to the International Physical Literacy Association being invited to present a number of theoretical sessions on physical literacy, at the Teachers Symposium in August 2018. Nigel Green had the pleasure of attending the symposium and sharing an understanding of the concept of physical literacy with PE teachers and lecturers.



Project Description

Nigel was asked to present 4 sessions which allowed delegates to hear about physical literacy. The sessions were theoretical in nature and were simultaneously translated into Mandarin Chinese. The four sessions included an introduction to physical literacy and its philosophical underpinning; a consideration of how physical literacy relates to physical education; operationalising physical literacy; and charting progress. As the week progressed, conversations during the week saw an increasing interest and appreciation of the concept of physical literacy and a realisation that it could provide the focus for physical education in Taiwan in the future. NTNU were leading a Quality Physical Education (QPE) project at the time and had recently started engaging teachers to encourage them to reflect on their practice and provide a clear direction for PE in Taiwan. Having been introduced to physical literacy and appreciating its links to PE, leaders from NTNU felt that the concept would fit in well with their QPE work and invited the IPLA to be involved in future developments.



Impact

The teachers and lecturers really appreciated the introduction to physical literacy and could see clearly how it could impact on their work in schools and at university. Lecturers were encouraged to join the IPLA and also start to engage in research into physical literacy. At the symposium, there were two PhD students who attended every session of the physical literacy workshops and over the last five years they have continued to be involved in the developments in relation to the QPE project and physical literacy. They are now teaching and lecturing in Taiwan and were involved in translation duties at the latest workshop in August 2023. The experience of working with teachers and lecturers and being able to appreciate and understand the cultural differences and similarities Taiwan has with other countries in the world, allowed Nigel and the IPLA to gain a better understanding of physical education practice in Taiwan and the potential needs of teachers and lecturers who are interested in a deeper understanding of the concept, relative to physical education.