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THIRTY-THREE VINCENTIANS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO TAIWAN

Thirty-three Vincentians were awarded the 2023 Taiwan ICDF scholarships, in a ceremony which took place earlier today on Friday August 11, 2023 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conference room.

Prime Minister, Dr. the Honorable Ralph Gonsalves congratulated the recipients and noted that his Government remains committed to education and creating educational opportunities for all Vincentians and it is a vision shared by the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

“We were given six scholarships at first and they have grown now to 33 per year...since this programme was initiated, we have 269 including the 33 this year, the number this year represents 8 per cent of the total number. The cost of each scholarship is approximately 200 thousand dollars Easter Caribbean,” Dr. Gonsalves said.

Newly appointed Ambassador of Republic of China on Taiwan to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Her Excellency, Fiona Fan at first official event said the scholarships symbolize the “power of diplomacy” as it strengthens bilateral relations between St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Taiwan and further assists in fostering social and economic development. The Ambassador encouraged the scholarship recipients to take advantage of the opportunities that studying in Taiwan will bring.

Ambassador Fan further urged the students, upon completion of their programmes to work in advancing their country’s development with the knowledge that they would have acquired in Taiwan.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and National Reconciliation, Myccle Burke thanked the Government of Taiwan, noting that Taiwan has supported many educational and economic opportunities; including the Women's Empowerment Project, the ON- SITE programme, infrastructural projects among others.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Keisal Peters gave testimony as to how far access to education has evolved and noted that in celebrating forty-two years of diplomatic relations with Taiwan, scholarships are distributed as more opportunities for advancement are opened.

Currently, over one hundred persons have benefitted from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and over seventy persons from the ICDF scholarships.

Minister Peters remarked that the cultural exchange between Taiwan and St. Vincent and the Grenadines is evident as there are locals in Taiwan specializing in Vincentian cuisine and other aspects of Taiwan's culture are being embraced.

To date, two hundred and sixty-nine Vincentians have become beneficiaries of Taiwanese scholarships.

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