



Serving New Immigrant Families in Taiwan For More Than Five Decades

2024 was a busy year for Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan, as they continued serving new immigrant families with a range of projects. In the current year, core services have continued while introducing new initiatives.

Many educational opportunities were provided to students, including workplace visits and career day presentations by professionals from various job fields. A financial workshop utilized board games to simulate workplace scenarios and investment environments, helping youth develop proper values and financial perspectives. On the same day, scholarships were presented to high school, vocational school, and university students.

Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan once again offered the "Children's Hearts in Action—Spring Festival Gathering for New Immigrant Families," an annual tradition since 2006 and the first time it was celebrated in-person since 2020. Nearly 600 participants attended the gathering, which included the distribution of educational allowance red envelopes and an academic scholarship award ceremony.

Empowerment Training in Hairdressing Skills was a workshop that was also offered. Recognizing that many primary



caregivers in the families supported by Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan are women, most of whom held entry-level service industry positions that were disrupted by the pandemic, it has been deemed crucial to equip them with professional skills. This not only increases the employability of these women but also offers the potential to start their own businesses. This year, women also had the opportunity to learn how to be nail artists.



Services for families were also provided through the year, including interpretive services for children of new immigrant families and to help fellow immigrants in healthcare settings, the opportunity for teenagers to attend summer camp, and family outings to allow parents and children to spend time together and learn how to communicate better with each other. Fun outings such as movie screenings and karaoke helped foster family connections.



Students from the American School's Helping Hands Club raised funds through charity sales to provide Christmas gifts for children supported by Pearl S. Buck Foundation Taiwan and to organize a Christmas party. 274 Christmas gifts were donated and were distributed to the children.

Woman of Influence Honors Acclaimed Korean Singer and Humanitarian Insooni

Pearl S. Buck International will honor acclaimed Korean singer and humanitarian Kim In-soon, known professionally as Insooni, as the 2025 Woman of Influence at an award dinner and ceremony on Thursday, August 21, 2025.

Each year the Woman of Influence Award honors our founder, Pearl S. Buck, by recognizing women who continue in her humanitarian, cross-cultural, and advocacy footsteps. Originally established in 1978 as the Woman of the Year Award, the Woman of Influence Award honors a woman each year, who like Pearl Buck, has distinguished themselves through activism, education, and humanitarianism, who shines a light on the work being done for the rights of all people, and who advocates for those without a voice facing discrimination and inequity.

Insooni is an award-winning R&B and Gospel singer as well as a humanitarian and an advocate for young people of mixed race and multicultural backgrounds. Born to a South Korean mother and African-American father following the Korean War, she was raised in Korea by her mother, who received assistance from Pearl S. Buck International's child sponsorship program.



In addition to her longstanding first-hand connection to the work and mission of Pearl S. Buck International, Insooni also embodies the humanitarian, cross-cultural, and advocacy legacy of Pearl S. Buck. She overcame deep societal racial discrimination to become a success in the music industry and a household name in her home country. Insooni also founded



and operates Haemil School, a tuition-free residential alternative school in Hongcheon, South Korea, for multiethnic and biracial students—embodying the very spirit of coexistence envisioned by Pearl S. Buck. In 2023, she was appointed by Prime Minister Han Duck-soo to the Multicultural Youth Families Support Council as an advocate for multicultural and mixed-race middle and high school students. Insooni also currently serves as a board member for Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea, an affiliate of Pearl S. Buck International.

Insooni will be honored at a dinner and award ceremony on Thursday, August 21, at 6:30 pm at the historic Pearl S. Buck Estate, 520 Dublin Road, Perkasie, PA 18944. Insooni will be in attendance to receive her award and will perform and speak at the event. Event sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available now at <https://pearlsbuck.org/woman-of-influence/>. Tickets are limited for this event and are expected to sell out quickly.