

APEC DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER FOR THE BLIND WILL OPEN JUNE 2

New Occupation Model—APEC Digital Opportunity Center (ADOC) for the Blind, a cooperated project between TKU and CHTD (Chunghwa Telecom Co., Ltd.) will officially open. TKU President Flora C. I. Chang, ADOC Convener Chen-rong Shi and CHTD General Manager Hsiao-tong Chang will attend the opening ceremony in Chueh-sheng International Conference Hall June 2 at 10:00 am. At the same time, the information systems for the blind jointly created by TKU's Center of Resources for the Blind and CHTD will be displayed.

With the concept of creating digital working opportunities by ADOC, Sponsored by CHTD, TKU has promoted a Distance Working Plan for the Blind and created the first Distance Telemarketing System for the Blind in Taiwan. Through computers for the blind, combining voice technology, the blind can also be trained with professional skills and choose other professions except massage work. The Plan has helped 6 blind persons such as Chi-mei Yang and Yu-chen Lin to become telemarketing surveyors, doing service satisfactory surveys for CHTD. In the future, they will also develop "Telephone Polls", "Commodity Marketing Surveys" and other services.

The Center of Resources for the Blind Director Huan-chao Keh said, "According to the grand justice's explanation of the constitution, the long protected massage jobs for the blind will open for everyone just in a few years. In such a bad economic situation, it is hard for anyone to find a job, let alone the blind. I hope more enterprises will donate to the Plan, offering the blind opportunities to find proper jobs. Through the international exchanges by ADOC, other APEC countries can 'copy' this creative experience."

Chi-mei Yang mentioned that during the training, the curriculum was very substantial, and she obtained a lot of knowledge and skills. For all these, she should her gratitude to TKU' s Center of Resources for the Blind and CHTD for their help. She has promised to try all her best in her job. Yu-chen Lin has expressed that telemarketing work can contact all kinds of people, and she treasures this job very much as it is not easy to get.

In addition, the displayed achievements for the blind include “Network Immediate Communication” , “Non-character Input Method” , “Assistant System for the Vision-challenged” , “Network Extensive Browsing” and some others. Winner of both Wen Hui Award by the Council for Cultural Affairs and Literature Award by Taichung County, Public Administration blind Assistant Professor Tsong-jyi Lin will also operate the “Automatic Reading Machine,” helping the blind read various materials. (~Dean X. Wang)

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