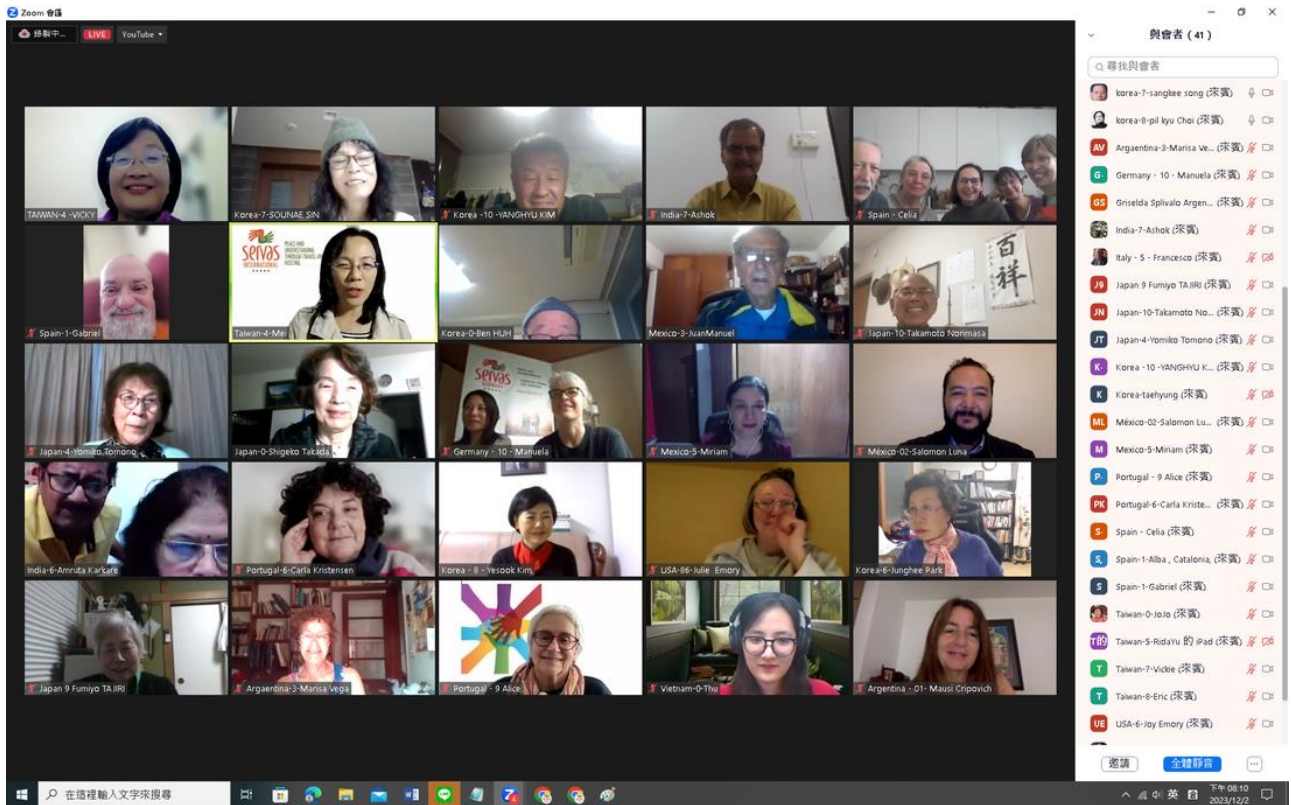


The 3rd Servas Peace Forum: Build partnerships with communities and universities



The 3rd Servas Peace Forum hosted by Peace Secretaries of Servas International was held as an online meeting on Dec. 2, 2023. The theme was "Building Partnerships with Communities and Universities". Servas Taiwan share its experience.

Jojo, National Secretary of Servas Taiwan, reported that the world is aging and the current rule of Servas for hosting a traveler each time is only 2 nights, which does not meet the needs of elder Travelers. Taiwan is trying to design a longer program to host elder members, with local communities having many seniors. This program makes seniors from different cultures have a chance to meet and learn from each other.

Vicky, the executive director of Servas Taiwan, who is also the principal of Zhongshan Elementary School and the CEO of Zhongshan Senior Learning Center in Keelung City, took the recent day hosting of Indian members Ashok and his wife as an example, and explained how Ashok shared Indian mudra, his healthy secrets and Indian cuisine with local seniors and primary school students. Ashok and his wife also tasted Taiwanese delicacies. Both parties benefited a lot.

Not only the elderly and children in the community who usually have less contact with foreigners have the opportunity to experience foreign culture, find it fresh and interesting, and even attract the media to come. Ashok, who has retired, was interviewed like a big shot in Taiwan. Teaching and sharing interests which all Indian knew in a different country, the value increases significantly.

Then Jojo also shared how Servas Taiwan established a partnership with Providence University through Servas members who are professors at the university and signed a letter of intent for cooperation in order to attract more young people to join Servas.

After the group discussion, Carla, Vice President of Servas International, provided the results of the small group discussion. Carla from Portugal said that she was also a member of a women association. Once she hosted travelers who were members of a choir in another country, and took them to women association. Travelers went to sing, so the women association was interested in Servas. Italy has a cooperative relationship with refugee organizations, and the Servas Peace School in Turkiye is closely integrated with the local community. They are all good examples of partnerships.



Francesco, an Italian member, said that he once served as a volunteer at the Peace School in Turkiye. It was touching that the local community and families fully devoted themselves to host the foreign volunteers of the Peace School. Italy also has Servas by bike, which is also a case of proposing cooperative relationships with different fields.

A total about 50 members attended the meeting on the day. Mei and Francisco, the Peace Secretaries of the Servas International, who plan and host the forum, said that the peace forum held every quarter allows members to communicate online even if they do not fly abroad. Those who are unable to attend can also watch the video posted on the Youtube of Servas International.

<https://www.youtube.com/@servasinternational2037>

<http://www.servastaiwan.org/27963212053200037636/december-02nd-2023>