

## Finding True Love – AIDS Prevention Speech Contest

Taichung City Government Health Bureau was commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Ministry of Health and Welfare to carry out AIDS prevention promotion for the 2017 National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases. The Health Bureau specially held a speech contest for inmates of Taichung Prison under the theme – Finding True Love.

The event was held in the auditorium of Taichung Prison's Zhong Ward from 2:00 to 4:30 P.M. on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Besides the Health Bureau's case officer, Min Tsung-I, Officer of the CDC, also attended the event to watch the first speech contest to ever be held in prison.



According to the 2017 AIDS Prevention Plan of the National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases implemented by the CDC, inmates learn about the routes of infection and prevention methods for AIDS, and then arrange what they learn in the form of a speech, entering the contest for promotion of AIDS prevention. Besides stepping up AIDS prevention promotion, the event improves understanding of infectious diseases, and effectively prevents the further spread of epidemics, which is the reason for establishing this project.

For the contest, 24 inmates first participated in the first round of each workshop, and then they were recommended to participate in the finals. The contest was a personal contest and contestants set their own topic. They were scored based on whether if the speech matched the topic, their manner on stage and fluidity, whether or not their speech was vivid, and their level of creativity. Inmates that entered the contest not only increased the depth of their speech and practiced, but also prepared quite a few props. Their speeches were funny and touching; quite a few speakers used their own experience and analyzed their struggles. The hardships and sorrow they endured moved many people to tears.

Even though the event was on a tight schedule, it was very orderly, and the results were immediately announced after everyone gave their speech. In the end, Chen ○-Jung from Workshop 7 of the Xin Ward won first place.

The event was thorough and fitting, and the contents described allowed more inmates to understand the routes of transmission and prevention methods. It also allows us to not fear AIDS patients because of having correct understanding, so that we can give them more space and care, allowing AIDS patients to gain more respect and care. This is society's responsibility and obligation.

