

Client story

New ideas in leadership and policy for senior civil servants in Taiwan

Client request

The Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) wished to enhance Taiwan's global competitiveness while increasing public sector efficiency. It approached LSE Executive Education to design and deliver a fully customised annual programme in public sector leadership for up to 30 governmental influencers and decision makers in senior leadership positions in the government of Taiwan.

Approach and methodology

LSE Executive Education designed a programme to equip participants with an awareness of global trends, focusing on the experience relevant to managing the policy agenda and coordinating government activity across departments. The programme covered the application of political ideas around the world, and their implications for Taiwan; analysis of regional and international developments; the latest techniques in public sector management and the development of leadership expertise through practical exercises.

The first customised programme involved two modules: firstly a one-week 'primer' in Taiwan introducing participants to a range of topics. This was followed by a short gap during which they completed individual and group assignments in preparation for the second module, a two-week course in London involving in-depth analysis and application of the theory. By the third year, the programme was being held at LSE for the full three weeks, giving the students even greater exposure to the array of LSE experts and external lecturers from within and beyond the UK. A dedicated academic course director led group and individual work, presentations, interactive simulations and hands-on workshops, ensuring that participants would gain confidence, understanding and a rounded set of skills. Additional essays and presentations thoroughly tested their knowledge, skills and aptitude.



The trade game in action:
an interactive simulation
developing negotiation skills,
teamwork and creative thinking



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programmes around the world.
Contact us to find out more:**

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The participants discussed international issues such as world trade, the state of the global economy, the interplay of regional, bilateral and multilateral relations, current regulation trends, cross-border business relations and views of the energy and climate debates, with application to their own ministries. The academic course director facilitated discussions on the implications of all these for Taiwanese policy, the competitiveness of Taiwan's business sector, and local, regional and global issues facing Taiwan.

Alongside these debates, the participants engaged in practical workshops to develop their leadership, negotiation and influence, effective teamwork management and cross-cultural communication skills. They were able to attend such events as the Mayor of London's Question Time and debates at the House of Lords, with additional visits to further UK government agencies and other relevant organisations. External speakers, including senior government officials, top business leaders, opinion leaders from the public and private sectors and high-level practitioners, reflected on the success or otherwise of policies they had implemented, enriching the participants' learning experience and enabling additional networking opportunities.

Benefits

Spending time at Europe's leading social science university, situated at the financial, legal and governmental hub of the UK, placed participants at the crossroads of international debate. The teaching balanced broad knowledge of the global economic system with regional analyses of South East Asia. With sessions on global best practice and 21st-century public sector management, LSE Executive Education enabled the participants to apply the theory directly to their work. Alongside this core knowledge, the skills they gained in leadership and change management, and the practice in better communicating their ideas, gave the officials the understanding and confidence to make a real difference to governmental policy and implementation. The programme has been running for several years, with modifications to retain relevance to the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan)'s needs and the evolving global situation.

A participant's thoughts

'Throughout this dynamic program, I learned from the LSE's experienced faculty as well as guest speakers who are senior executives in multinational corporations and officials in public sectors.

'I also learned how leaders develop business opportunities and manage the associated challenges, with particular insight into the development and execution of a successful global leadership strategy.

'Attending this program enhanced my business acumen, improved my self-confidence, gave me a broader perspective of global economy, provided a new personal energy and motivation, and expanded my professional network.'

An academic's thoughts

'Students rose to the challenges of the different perspectives of successive teachers, looking at global developments from European, American and other geopolitical angles. They were also introduced to the distinctive ways in which the British approach public administration and parliamentary scrutiny.

'Vigorous discussions on the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches, and the reasons why particular states and societies have adopted different styles of government and administration, gave participants a chance to explore the diverse assumptions that states bring to international negotiations and rule-making.'

*Lord Wallace of Saltaire,
Emeritus Professor of
International Relations at LSE*



Participants attended Mayor's Question Time, right, and visited Parliament, below