

TES students take German exam

The China Post news staff

For the first time in the history of the Taipei European School (TES), the German students of its Deutsche Sektion very successfully participated in the German Central Examination this year.

The German Central Examination is an examination designed by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, the

"Kultusministerkonferenz" (KMK) in Germany for Klasse 10 (grade 10) students in German international schools. These students are completing their years in the Sekundarstufe I, which is similar to the Junior High School in Taiwan.

Besides the course work throughout the year which is part of their evaluation, the students have to sit for several written exams sent by the German authorities to all German international schools around the world. The exam papers are first corrected by the local examiners and then sent back to Germany for a second correction by the authorities there. In the end the candidates have to succeed in a number of oral exams presented over by an official appointed by the KMK.

Unlike other German international schools, the Deutsche Sektion in TES is not a single entity but part of a larger European School that offers education in a variety of languages according to different

national and international curricula. Thus the German students inside TES—in addition to the subjects taught in German according to the national German curriculum—are able to gain from classes like arts, music and physical education taught in English, from excellent Mandarin classes taught by native specialist teachers as well as from daily intercultural exchanges with their fellow students from over 57 different countries.

Therefore, the first German Central Examination in the Deutsche Sektion of TES was quite different from those in other German international schools around the world. A lot of consultation between the teachers of the Deutsche Sektion and the High School Section was necessary in order to ensure the success of the students in the exams. Furthermore a written exam paper in Chinese (Mandarin) had to be designed for the first time in the history of the German Central Examination. Thus Flora Sung, Chinese teacher and Coordinator in TES High School, drafted an exam paper fulfilling the high standards set by the KMK—the first exam paper ever for Chinese (Mandarin) in a German Central Examination.

The long preparations of the examination were rewarded by the extraordinary success of the German students in the exams. Not only did the first German candidate ever examined in Chinese



German students at the Taipei European School who completed the German Central Examination pose for a picture during a recent ceremony.

mark the highest scores possible, but also all three candidates received the highest marks ever in the oral exams, as the representative of the KMK, Reinhard Kohler, underlined.

In his final speech, Kohler praised the excellent learning environment inside Taipei European School and thanked the people in Taiwan for warmly welcoming the school's families in their beautiful country. He closed with an ancient Chinese saying, emphasizing the importance of education: "Learning is like rowing. Once you stop, you drift back."

Courtesy of TES