



Education should be guided by the discernable transformation of society and the articulated needs of a nation's citizens.

Those needs include the wholesome development of every child's personal traits and talents and the life-long education of those who have long completed formal schooling. As a Chinese proverb says: "A tree takes ten years to grow, while a citizen may require 10 times to cultivate" This is the reason we view education as a long-term endeavor and spare no efforts to work for reforms, which include pre-school education reform, grade 1-9 curriculum reform, decreasing the tuition difference between public and private high schools and vocational schools, and strengthening higher education and lifelong learning.

To enhance the quality of education, the Ministry has introduced multi-channel admission system for high schools and higher education to enable students find the most appropriate institution, and encouraged teachers to improve their teaching techniques. We also emphasized equal education opportunities for all children, particularly those from disadvantaged families. Through working collaboratively between the central and local governments of Taiwan, together with schools, all these efforts not only facilitate democratic and economic development, but also cultivate talent among the youth that some facts show Taiwan's remarkable success in

international academic competitions.

In light of the challenges arising in this changing era, the international community has taken toward what can be termed as the 3-Es era: Excellence, Efficiency, and Equity. The Ministry has drawn up the Blueprint for Education, which incorporates advice gathered from all levels of education. This Blueprint highlights a vision of establishment of a well-rounded environment, a happy learning atmosphere for students and the cultivation of high-quality citizens to raise the county's competitiveness and overall life quality. The five pillars guiding this Blueprint include: holistic education, life education, lifelong education, mastery learning, and healthy campus.

In view of global competitions, we have made efforts to promote international academic exchanges, encourage overseas studies, workshops or volunteering. We also try to establish friendly environment to attract more international students to study in our colleges and universities. Furthermore, we encourage higher education to marked out flexible salary to recruit excellent faculties. Meanwhile, our Legislature has also approved a bill to enroll students from mainland China step by step, and to recognize their degrees conditionally. All these are aimed at strengthening our international competitiveness. In order to follow these endeavors and build consensus for our future, the Ministry held the Eighth Nationwide Education Conference in this August. We drew out a roadmap for educational development based on the principles of Refinement, Innovation, Justice, and Sustainability, these values and consensus will be consolidated to plot out a blueprint for next decade.



Anticipating that Mandarin learning will remain a global trend, we have upgraded our facilities and increased the number of English-taught programs to welcome more students to study Mandarin or earn their degrees in Taiwan, thereby deepening their understanding of both Taiwanese and Chinese culture.

This 2010 Education in Taiwan handbook and our website <http://english.moe.gov.tw> will enable you to acquire an extensive understanding of our system and share our vision: quality education for all and help everyone fulfill it.

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Minister of Education
September 2010