



HIGHER EDUCATION

Cultivating devoted and creative talents in each field is the key to ensuring the competitive edge of Taiwan, a small and densely-populated nation with limited natural resources, in an age of globalization.

To achieve this goal, the MOE has spared no effort in promoting excellence in higher education. Reforms and revisions of policies enable institutions of higher education to strengthen their international ties, earn international recognition and assume a leading position in the international academic community.

The MOE supports a post-bachelor program called the 4+X project, designed to help individuals develop a second specialty while providing an opportunity for cross-field study. The MOE hopes that such programs will enhance learners' competitiveness in the employment market and eventually strengthen national competitiveness.

1. College and University Entrance

Exams

In 2002, the MOE launched a multi-channel college/university entrance system to attract high school and senior vocational school graduates with diverse specialties and talents.

This multi-channel approach includes recommendations from schools, individual applications, examinations and placement pathways. Under the first option, high schools submit a list of students they consider highly qualified to specific college or university departments.

Under the second option, high school students may apply to a maximum of five departments prior to testing. Under the third option, high school students take an entrance exam set by the College Entrance Examination Center, then apply for admission to colleges or universities based on their test results.

Additionally, to narrow the urban-rural divide, a Star Plan has been initiated as an entrance channel, targeting students living in remote areas. In 2010, a total of 1,966 students entered universities of their choice through this plan, and the number increased to 8,000 in 2011.

At the same time, the Star Plan for technological and vocational universities/colleges has also yielded rich fruit. In 2010, 800 vacancies were reserved for the plan. In 2011, the number was set at 1,050.

Moreover, the Star Plan and recommendations from schools were combined into one entrance channel, Star Recommendation, in SY 2011.

2. Enhancing the Quality of Higher Education

Successful outcomes include the UK's September 2011 survey released by the Quacquarelli Symonds Limited, ranking National Taiwan University as number 87, in the world.

(1) Increasing the Number of Higher Education Institutions

The number of higher education institutes in Taiwan, including junior colleges, colleges and universities, increased significantly in the past decade. In SY 1998, there were 137 colleges and universities listed in Taiwan.

By SY 2010, this number had increased to 165 institutions of higher education, including 112 universities, 2 religious colleges, 36 colleges, and 15 junior colleges. There was also a rapid increase in the number of private colleges through upgrading of junior colleges to colleges.

(2) College and University Evaluations

In 2005, the MOE collaborated with local universities and colleges to set up the Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT).

HEEACT evaluates both institutions and programs every 6 years. Institutional evaluations determine if universities have completely carried out their respective development plans. Targeting individual departments at universities and colleges, program evaluations focus on their faculty, teaching, research and services. Departments that score poorly on these evaluations are assigned a smaller quota of students. The MOE also urges local universities to secure accreditation from various international institutions.

To date HEEACT has been accepted as a member of such international accreditation organizations as the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

(3) Higher Education Quality Enhancement Policies

The MOE is committed to upholding its visions and responsibilities to students who

want to further their education. A number of policies have been implemented to promote "Teaching Excellence at Universities" and to have Taiwan universities listed among the top universities of the world.

In 2005, the Ministry began to promote "The Teaching Excellence at Universities" Program to generate new growth and change for Taiwan's universities. In 2008, US\$500 million in subsidies were provided to support better teaching facilities and curriculum design and to provide stronger learning efficiency. Additional subsidies of US\$430 million have been allocated for this program for 2009-2012.

The Aim for the Top University is to be implemented in two phases: from 2006 to 2010 and 2011 to 2015 respectively. With a yearly outlay of US\$300 million, it is meant to further sharpen Taiwan's competitive edge by giving the country's higher education an extra push to help recipient universities reach the top among institutions around the world. This project provides support for infrastructure upgrading, the employment of outstanding faculty from overseas and participation in international academic collaboration. The goal is to integrate various resources, enhance teaching and research capabilities, strengthen



cooperation with well-known universities, and continue the pursuit of excellence in teaching and research.

(4) Academia-Industry Collaboration

To maximize higher institutes' impact on development, the MOE has launched an incentive program for effectiveness in academia-industry collaboration with operation centers in 11 institutes. This platform helps gear up profits earned from such cooperation, showing a growth of 43% in technology transferred to enterprises and a 15% increase in funding for R&D in the past 3 years.





Cooperation between industry and technological and vocational universities/colleges is also on the rise. Such cooperation is carried out through practical skill courses, training and practice in the field, post-bachelor degree programs, and other areas.

12 joint technology development Institutes targeting such fields as Precision Machinery, Mechatronics & Communication, Biotechnology & Agriculture, Cultural creativity & Digital Content, Green Energy & Ecology, and Leisure & Innovation Service industries have been set up in technological & vocational colleges and universities to ensure this collaboration will achieve maximum benefits.

Fostering a Global Vision

1. Courses Taught in English

As the number of international students studying in Taiwan increases the MOE has encouraged public and private colleges/universities to offer more courses in English and expand their bilingual campus environments.

By 2008, 50 local institutions of higher education had responded to the MOE's request, offering more than 160 courses for students in English or other foreign languages.

To help international students better adjust to life in Taiwan, many schools have established Offices of International Affairs to provide assistance to students with student visa applications, visa extensions, useful tips for living in Taiwan and other counseling services.

2. Internationalization

In response to globalization, the MOE has implemented 5 policies to develop and raise Taiwan's international profile.

(1) Increasing International Competitiveness

The MOE spares no effort in promoting international exchange; with practical and attractive travel/study opportunities to support student efforts to improve their foreign

language competencies; for better understanding and appreciation of the arts, science and mathematics; and to develop top-tier universities and research centers throughout Taiwan.

(2) Promoting International Exchange

The MOE encourages and provides local students with international study abroad experiences and scholarships. Local cultures are promoted overseas in international student communities and as a result the number of international students coming to Taiwan to study has increased.

Through international exchanges and environments that promote global learning, teachers and students continue to widen their global perspectives and understanding.

48 universities/colleges in Taiwan have partnership programs, agreements or dual degree programs with other institutions of higher education throughout the world.

Similarly, such partnerships include a growing number of technological and vocational universities/colleges. In SY 2010, 435 international teachers visited Taiwan; there were 1,464 international exchange students; 933 courses were taught in English; and there were 98 international dual degree program agreements.

(3) Cultivating Educational Links with Southeast Asia

Taiwan offers students from Southeast Asia opportunities to further their education in Taiwan. Currently, more and more nations are recognizing Taiwan as an important international educational hub in Asia. As this recognition grows, Taiwan will have more opportunities for cooperation with Southeast Asian nations.

(4) International Community Service Projects

The MOE encourages students to expand their global perceptions and understandings. Students can participate in a number of international community service projects where they live overseas during summer and winter breaks.

(5) Cross-strait International Educational Exchanges

The MOE also encourages academic exchanges between Taiwan and Mainland China by allowing Mainland students to enroll at some Taiwan universities/colleges and graduate schools. To further strengthen partnerships in cooperation, academic credentials from recognized Mainland institutions of higher education are accepted in Taiwan.





TAIWAN STUDENTS THAT ARE IMPACTING THE WORLD

A Multi-media Learning Packet for Pregnant Women

Kao Ting-ting, 24 ; Lin A-lian, 23
Department of Visual Communication Design,
Tainan University of Technology



Two students from the Department of Visual Communication Design at Tainan University

of Technology, Taiwan, won the Gold Prize at the 2010 International Competition Nagoya Design DO!'s "Other Division Category" for their innovative interactive multimedia approach to pre-natal/post-natal care, along with healthy living information for pregnant women.

The two girls, Kao Ting-ting, 24 and Lin A-lian, 23, recognized a need within society for this type of information packet and wanted to provide an interface where viewers could obtain information about: pre-pregnancy planning, fetal development, birth, after-care information through animation and voice narration.

Awarded Animation Aims to Rekindle Passion for Life

Lee Pei-wen, 23
Graduate School of Department of Industrial and Commercial Design,
National Taiwan University of Science and Technology



Lee Pei-wen, a 23 year old graduate student at National Taiwan University of Science and Technology's Graduate Department of Industrial and Commercial Design, created an animated video game entitled EROS, which maps the 277 day development of a human fetus. Lee focuses on such themes as the conscious decisions that this fetus makes, in its efforts to be born, its entrance into this world, to parental disputes and environmental pollution. Lee's work was named the *Best of the Best* in the Animation Category for the Red Dot Design Awards, in Germany, of 2010.