

## **Ministry of Education White Paper on Information Education 2008-2011 at the Elementary and Secondary School Levels**

Information education at the elementary and secondary school levels is necessary in order to provide students with skills and competences about information technology, and to help students to cultivate the right attitudes and behaviors toward information technology. Information technology application includes hardware and software application, as well as internet usage capabilities. Information technology attitudes and behaviors include correct legal and rational concepts on software, hardware and internet usage.

Since 1997, programs such as “Program to Build a Basic Foundation for Information Education” and “The 2008 Challenge on Major National Development Program – eGeneration Talent Cultivation Project” have been promoted.

In 2006, content compilation began in order to realize the vision of information education development, and in August 2008 the “Ministry of Education White Paper on Information Education at Elementary and Secondary School Level 2008-2011” was completed.

Under this White Paper, Taiwan’s information education for elementary and secondary school levels was examined in six areas. These included student information technology application capabilities, teacher information technology application capabilities, digital learning resources, basic information communication facilities, information education cooperation, and the rules and regulations of information education.

International promotion experiences were used as references and from within the above areas, 3 visions, 4 core ideals, 8 major goals, 20 promotion strategies, and 49 action plans were established and set out as the common vision and goal of the Ministry of Education and for elementary and secondary level teachers. It is the hope that after four years students will be able to apply information technology to increase their learning abilities and life skills, while teachers can properly utilize information technology to improve their teaching quality, and that their classrooms will be able to provide both students and teachers with equal digital opportunities.

The three visions in the “Ministry of Education White Paper on Information Education at the Elementary and Secondary School Level” are: students will be able to utilize information technology to increase their learning abilities and life skills, teachers will be able to properly utilize information technology to improve their teaching quality, and the classroom will be able to provide both students and teachers equal digital opportunities. The four core ideals are: proper utilization of information technology, the stimulation of creative thinking, the sharing of digital resources, and secure digital opportunities. The eight major goals are - Goal 1: Teach students how to

apply information technology in areas of problem solving; Goal 2: Cultivate accurate concepts, attitudes, and behaviors in students toward using information technology; Goal 3: Ensure and promote equal digital opportunities for students and teachers; Goal 4: Train teachers with information technology abilities; Goal 5: Develop diverse digital learning resources; Goal 6: Improve hardware and software facilities and internet service within the classroom and on campus; Goal 7: Develop and popularize individual schools' application and usage features of information technology; Goal 8: Establish a complete information technology education system. These visions and goals are to be promoted yearly by related promotion strategies and action plans.

It is the Ministry's hope that within a digitized society all citizens will be able to utilize information and knowledge in order to become proficient in the area of information technology. By doing so, the quality of human resources can be improved for Taiwan's long term national development. It is also the hope of the Ministry that through information education and the preparation of relevant environments that a solid foundation can be laid down for the development of diversification within education in order to support innovation and the creation of future talents.