

## White Paper towards a Learning Society

Since the Executive Yuan Council on Education Reform promulgated the “Report on Education Reform” in 1996, the trend of a lifelong learning society has generally been supported and has been responded to. Our country specifically designated year 1998 as “Lifelong Learning Year”, and published the “White Paper towards a Learning Society” on March in the same year, thereby continuously promoting lifelong learning to achieve a vision of a constantly evolving society.

The White Paper consists of three parts. **Part 1** indicates each challenge and necessary response our country is facing to move towards a developed country; **Part 2** proposes an educational vision of a developed country and goals to establish a constantly evolving society; **Part 3** states a specific approach to establish a lifelong evolving society. Additionally, 14 specific reform items are planned in the “White Paper towards a Learning Society”, the scope of which includes the establishment of a continuing educational system, stipulation of lifelong educational regulations, liberalisation of entrance channels, adjustment of courses and teaching, promotion to learn a foreign language, establishment of an achievement and knowledge certification system, general establishment of lifelong learning institutions and learning junctures, integration of learning information and issuance of a learning card (passport), etc. Meanwhile, the relevant projects are stipulated to establish learning organisations in families, communities, enterprises, correctional institutions, official businesses, human resource development institutions, etc.

Regarding **Part 3** of this White Paper: 14 specific approaches to establish a lifelong learning society are described respectively as follows:

1. To establish the recurrent educational system.
2. To create flexible and multiple entry routes for schools.
3. To implement educational reform of schools.
4. Development of a diverse system of higher education.
5. Carrying out the transformation of supplementary schools.
6. Encouraging the provision of learning opportunities by business.
7. Developing various types of learning organizations.
8. Increasing the opportunities of lifelong learning for the minority groups.
9. Integrating the information network of lifelong learning.
10. Encouraging people to be engaged in the learning of foreign languages.
11. Establish lifelong education councils at different levels of governments.
12. Complete lifelong learning regulations.

13. Build the system of accreditation of learning achievement.
14. Reinforce the cultivation of teachers' lifelong learning capacities.

Additionally, the White Paper proposed 14 projects. Each project is clearly specified with an individual goal, approach and steps of action. The fourteen projects are described respectively as follows:

1. Action Program 1 The Full Integration of Information for Learning.
2. Action Program 2 Pilot Study for Lifelong Learning Card (Passport).
3. Action Program 3 The Diversification of Channels for Learning and the Adjustment of Curriculum.
4. Action Program 4 Learning Organizations in Private Enterprises.
5. Action Program 5 Cooperation with Libraries and Promotion of Study Circles.
6. Action Program 6 Establishing Recurrent Education Systems.
7. Action Program 7 Establishing Widespread Locations of Lifelong Learning Centers.
8. Action Program 8 Propagating Foreign Language Learning among the General Public.
9. Action Program 9 Promoting Learning Organizations for Civil Service Servants.
10. Action Program 10 The Development of Learning Organizations in Prisons.
11. Action Program 11 The Development of Learning Families.
12. Action Program 12 The Development of Learning Communities.
13. Action Program 13 The Integration of Relevant Regulations and the Formulation of "Lifelong Education Law".
13. Action Program 14 The Establishment of Accreditation System of Learning Achievement.

This White Paper declared that “establishment of a learning society” is one of Ministry of Education’s most significant policies. Each project and goal proposed in the White Paper is essential for long-term promotion and implementation; therefore, the “White Paper towards a Learning Society” may become a crucial instruction for our country’s lifelong learning and adult educational development.