



## SOCIAL EDUCATION

### Lifelong Learning Community Education Project

In SY 2010, the MOE continued to emphasize its stance regarding 'education for all' through promotions of lifelong learning and through Community Learning Centers around the island. These centers allow local citizens to learn and develop new skills, enhance current areas of interest and share their areas of expertise with others.

In support of local governments' efforts to refine community lifelong learning systems, the MOE invited 15 scholars to share and contribute their professional experience to the project. Eager to put their feedback and suggestions into practice, the Ministry organized 10 seminars and a nationwide workshop to share resources and exchange experience among these local communities.

To date, 18 counties and cities have participated in this Community Learning Centers Project. An overwhelming 2.4 million citizens have attended over 350 community study camps, 80 speeches, 140 performances and 4,500 seminars, attesting to the success of this project.

In addition, to promote life-long learning, special efforts have been made to lower the

reported 2010 illiteracy rate of 1.96% or 382,112 citizens. Over the last few years, the increase in alien spouses married to local citizens has caught the attention of the MOE. To help these newcomers to fit into Taiwan's society, a total of 2,169 special reading, writing and language study classes are available to over 43,380 individuals. To address a shortage of teaching materials and curriculum resources, the MOE has compiled 35 textbooks and teaching guidelines. These materials help local governments create their own teachers' databases. They are aimed high, designed not only to educate these foreign spouses, but also to help them fit into society.

### Guiding Principles for Family Education

Given the increasing societal pressures that young people are undergoing, the MOE works with local governments to support families in their efforts to raise their children.

Heavy parent work schedules often overshadow family education in such families. Additionally, to deal with increasing domestic violence and juvenile crime, the MOE supports local governments through district Family Education Centers and consultancy services for struggling families. In 2010, these centers handled 9,140

cases and in the second quarter of 2011, over 4,056 cases were documented.

Assisting families to recognize the importance of Family Education is another vital step in the MOE's efforts to support the family. In 2011, local governments held 13,229 Family Education activities, attracting 1,482,845 participants.

Volunteers play an important role in local Family Education Centers. In 2010, more than 1,574 volunteers were recruited and trained to help families with consultations. By 2011's second quarter, the center volunteer program became so popular that 271 additional training courses were held for volunteers.

### Shared Family Time Father's Day

Recently, the MOE has begun a number of shared family time events and activities. In 2010, a day before Father's Day the MOE held a special children's cooking event so children could demonstrate their cooking abilities and share their dishes with their fathers or other significant family members. This event also helped raise family members' awareness about their importance in their families.

### Grandparents Day

Today, grandparents are frequently the pillars of their family. Gone are the days when only one parent worked. Now it is common to find grandparents taking care of their grandchildren.

To address this issue and others, the MOE held an international seminar in September 2010 at National Chung Cheng University. Discussions led by prominent international scholars included such topics as aging societies; the role of grandparents in families, especially as models of experience and wisdom; and benefits for senior citizens.

On August 23, 2010, to celebrate the First Annual Grandparents Day, the MOE arranged for families, students and seniors to attend a summer camp for a week of activities and events. Now the 4th Sunday in August is officially "Grandparents day" in Taiwan.

### Education for All Senior Education

According to the September 2011 statistics, Taiwan's senior population of citizens over the age of 65 has reached 10.81% of its total population.

In anticipation of this 'senior boom', in 2006 the MOE launched a Senior Education Program to ensure seniors would have ample learning opportunities. By 2010, local governments, with subsidies from the MOE, had opened 209 senior education centers for active aging learning. These centers quickly became popular "learning centers" offering a wide range of courses such as computer training, language learning and the fine arts.

The MOE worked with 41 schools to organize small classes for local communities in 2010. Given the demand for classes, the MOE supports 18-week long college courses for seniors. To date more than 2,320 seniors have enrolled in 77 courses. This program of continuing education for seniors has been a huge success.

