

SOCIAL EDUCATION



A. Lifelong Learning Promotion: The 331 Initiative

To cultivate the habit of lifelong learning, nurture citizens that thrive on learning, and thus build a lifelong learning society, from 2010 onwards the Ministry of Education has promoted the 3-3-1 initiative. This policy encourages citizens to exercise at least 30 minutes a day, learn for 30 minutes a day, and perform one good deed a day. The active promotion includes:

1. The trial issue of lifelong learning cards
2. The election of lifelong learning role models.
3. Encouraging the practice of a good deed daily.

B. Promotion of Certification for Non-orthodox Learning, Linking Formal and Informal Learning

The Ministry of Education has long encouraged people to engage in lifelong learning and is dedicated to acknowledging accomplishments in personal learning as part of its drive to link formal and informal learning. In November 2006, the Ministry initiated a certification system for courses taken via informal education and achievements obtained through non-orthodox learning, in the process encouraging lifelong learning institutions to establish systematic curricula so as to foster professional skills among the general public.

C. Promotion of Open University Education

Taiwan has two Open Universities, National Open University and the Open University of Kaohsiung. The cumulative number of students has exceeded 400,000, with the average enrollment per semester at 18,000. The universities have produced over 40,000 graduates so far. Open Universities do not require entrance exams and have no set time limits for completion of coursework. Students who fulfill 128 credits will be awarded a bachelor's degree, while 80 credits will earn the student an associate degree.

D. "Learning Hometown – Sustainable Community" Project

To promote lifelong learning, the Ministry of Education has worked to promote "Lifelong Learning Neighborhoods" throughout the country, allowing these neighborhoods to

become lifelong learning environments that provide opportunities for participation and growth, thus fulfilling the vision of lifelong learning that everyone can learn anytime. A team of 14 people made up of representatives from various governmental institutions as well as experts serve as a professional coaching team of counselors. In 2011, the "Learning Hometown – Sustainable Community" Project was launched with 187 neighborhood stations, offering courses such as art and culture, eco-leisure and local industrial improvement.



E. Multi-Functional Lifelong Learning Center Pilot Project

To promote the effective use of supplementary elementary school and junior high school facilities and give community elementary schools and their supplementary school education programs a role to play in the promotion of lifelong learning, 15 elementary schools were chosen in 2011 to be the sites of lifelong learning community centers; from Dec. 2011 to Mar. 2012 these 15 community centers will be evaluated to assist in their growth and sustainability and offer a learning platform for community members.

F. Oversight of Short-Term Cram School

The number of short-term cram schools stood at 18,962 as of Feb. 29, 2012. The Ministry of Education has delegated the oversight of these cram schools to local governments, a job which is included in the local education authorities' scope of evaluation and supervisory work. Public safety lectures and inspections are also carried out annually. A "National Cram-School Information System" database is now being set up to allow the public to look up relevant information.

G. Community Colleges

There were a total of 83 community colleges in 2011, offering the public educational institutions for lifelong learning, raising public awareness of critical social issues and encouraging the public to take part in community education. In the future, local colleges will be encouraged to offer local culture courses and develop areas of specialization. Meanwhile the Ministry of Education will facilitate the certification of informal courses, help to raise quality of instruction, and work to improve community learning institutions and increase the level of community participation, thus revitalizing community learning power and stimulating community growth.

H. Respect the Elders – Grandparents Day

1. National Filial Family Month Events in 2011
2. During the ROC Centennial, special pastries for grandparents were created
3. Centennial Grandparents Day Celebrations



I. Promotion of Elderly Education

With advances in medical science leading to greater longevity for the nation as a whole, the aging of society is an inevitable part of the future. 13 years from now (2025), the elderly are expected to constitute 20.1% of the total population in Taiwan. To improve the adaptability of citizens in both family and social spheres after retirement, to slow the speed of aging of the population, and to protect the rights of the elderly to learn, since 2008 the Ministry of Education has set up “Senior Citizen Active Learning Centers” as well as “Senior Citizens’ Active Lifelong Learning Universities”. These centers utilize the personnel and facilities of existing higher learning institutions and are aimed at citizens aged 55 and older. The project is focused on improving opportunities for the elderly to participate in society and lifelong learning, and offering them an adaptive and friendly learning environment.



J. Promoting Reading and Improving the Quality of Libraries

To improve the quality of service at libraries, the Ministry of Education has secured funding from the Executive Yuan to launch the “Reading Promotion and Space Transformation: Library Service Renewal Development Project 2009-2012” to assist both central and local public libraries in improving the reading environment and upgrading collections and facilities, as well as promoting reading activities. The project also aims to promote the integration of library resources and enhance library hardware and services.

K. Promotion via Social Education Organizations – Bringing Together Education and Leisure

National social education organizations have done much to promote lifelong learning, organizing more than 200 summer and winter camps, 32 events and 40 performances and shows, as well as 30 book readings and scores of other training events during 2011. The first half of 2012 saw over 285 classes and winter camps, 175 lectures and over 3,000 shows and performances.



L. Raising Educational Awareness and Collaborating with Non-Profits

In order to effectively integrate education foundation resources and achieve sustainability in non-profit organizations, the Ministry started promoting educational foundations as part of the lifelong learning project in 1999. In 2009 this effort was transformed into a charitable education project and assisted event, and in 2011 it was further transformed into a lifelong learning education foundation.

M. Art Competitions and Art Education

To promote art education and encourage creativity in art, the Ministry encourages organizations under its supervision to hold various contests in music, art, folk song, puppetry, and literature.

To adapt to changing times and reconsider the usefulness of the existing art education legislation, as well as to anticipate future trends in art education, the Art Education Act is currently being reviewed as of 2012.

In the future, to adjust to the organizational restructuring of the Executive Yuan in 2012, the Ministry of Education will establish a special unit for art and aesthetic education to integrate the art education of all educational stages, enhance administrative connections between all levels of art education, and promote the appreciation of art in all citizens, so as to enhance the sophistication of the people of Taiwan.

