

## Words from the Minister...



### *Bring education to a new level through cultivating excellence*

As part of the restructuring being undertaken by the Executive Yuan, on January 1, 2013 the Ministry of Education has implemented a new law which incorporates the Sports Affairs Council and National Youth Commission, their staff, and the affairs they handle within the Ministry. This organic integration will create a team which will promote national education, athletic and youth affairs with tremendous force. The restructured organization is concise, flexible and effective, which conforms perfectly with the restructuring goal. Several areas of government

are consolidated into a single window, and further integrating our strengths in education, athletic affairs, and youth affairs in this way will improve our international competitiveness. New horizons for education are being opened up, building on the foundations past policies have put in place.

The Ministry of Education has proposed 12 key policies to promote steady improvement of the quality of education. These key policies are to: publish a white paper on cultivating excellence targeting the nurturing of highly-skilled people, and

establishing world-class universities and research centers; implement 12-year basic education; implement Early Childhood Education and Care Act to ensure quality preschool education; promote Phase 2 of the Technological and Vocational Education Reform Plan to shorten the gap between school and work; improve the quality of higher education and promote the export of the higher education industry; train mentors and make arts education available to everyone; build a lifelong learning society, and promote family education, and senior citizen education; promote e-learning, and establish sustainable campuses; build friendly and healthy campuses, and implement gender equality, and moral education; strengthen assistance for the disadvantaged, and protect the rights of disadvantaged students to an education; create diverse learning environments for youth and increase their core competitiveness; and construct a quality sports environment and obtain better results in international competitions.

Human resources are a nation's foundation. They are also the key to elevating a nation's competitiveness. Taiwan ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the Global Competitiveness

Report 2012 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), for strong performance in higher education and innovation, and Taiwan ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2012 published by the IMD. This improved ranking is attributed to Taiwan's educational ranking. Taiwan also ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the Prosperity Index published by the British think-tank, Legatum Institute. The ranking they give Taiwan's education is 4<sup>th</sup>. These rankings are all testimony to the world's recognition of Taiwan's efforts in education. They also encourage us to focus even more on cultivating skills and excellence in Taiwan. Drastic changes are taking place in Taiwan and around the world. Globalization, decreasing fertility, global warming, the digital age and an aging society have greatly impacted education, and the government needs to respond immediately. The Ministry of Education will create a blueprint for cultivating excellence for the next 10 years, based on the cultivation, retention and recruitment of highly-skilled people, with the goal of developing our ability to compete in the international community and to establish a firm footing for the nation.

Education is the foundation of the nation: it exerts a profound influence on national development and on the lives of its people, and requires long-term strategies. It is also closely associated with the happiness index of people in Taiwan. In the future, the Ministry of Education will continue to take an innovative approach and encourage conduct that invokes a sense of happiness, and that allows students to develop appropriately, gives parents peace of mind, allows teachers to do their best, allows society to be clearly aware of the growth and progress achieved in education, and that establishes education as the cornerstone of the nation.



A stylized black ink signature of Dr. Wei-ling Chiang.

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Minister of Education  
September 2013