

# Lifelong 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 4,408 training sessions and seminars, and 126,576 participants. The program continued in 2012 with 3,094 training sessions and seminars and 55,633 participants. In 2012, 97 community learning posts were established, offering courses such as arts and culture, eco-leisure and local industrial improvement. The communities are able to establish the learning system by providing the public with participatory and learning channels for lifelong learning and the means to contribute what they have learned through revitalizing existing space.

### **E** | Multi-functional Lifelong Learning Center Pilot Projects

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 SY2011 to be the sites of lifelong learning community centers; from Dec. 2011 to Mar. 2012 these 15 community centers were evaluated with eight elementary schools added in SY2012 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 18,799 as of Mar. 5, 2013. 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

76 community colleges in 2011 and 76 community colleges in 2012 as well were subsidized for 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** | Advocate Family Values and Promote Family Education

An aging society, low fertility, high divorce rate, interracial marriages, single parent and restructured family are impacting the demographics of Taiwan. The sense of values is also tilting toward individualism. Conflict in fragile marriage relationships and the lack of parenting education for parents are becoming major factors in child abuse and juvenile crimes. The Ministry of Education has established the Mid-Range Plan for Promoting Family Education (2013 to 2017) and Integration Plan for School and Family Education for Primary Education and Preschools by MOE (2013 to 2017) based on Family Education Law as the blueprint. The regulations are intended to connect

central and local departments in promotional efforts. In addition, the Ministry established an implementation plan for the Year of Family Education, 2013. The aims are to cherish family values, friendly family interaction, generational cultural heritage and marriage management to advocate family values, conduct related programs and activities and help citizens establish a healthy homeland.

### **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. 12 years from now (2025), the elderly are expected to constitute 20% 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 2013-2016" 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** | *Update the Hardware and Software in Social Education Institutions to Create Diverse Learning Fields with Quality*

The Ministry will guide the national social education institutions to develop mid-term development plans. These institutions may establish greater utilization of their organizational structures through cross-industry alliances, collaboration with schools and the infusion of corporate capital, which will hopefully improve the features, functionalities and service qualities of the national social education institutions. Marketing activities will be held regularly on multiple subjects to encourage the public to visit national social education institutions and experience the fun of learning. In addition, the Ministry has also been conducting relocations. The relocation plan for National Taichung Library started in 2012 and the relocated library started test operation on May 15, 2012. The official opening was on June 3. (The library was renamed National Library of Public Information on January 1, 2013.) The National Museum of Marine Science and Technology (Preparatory Office) test operated the

Regional Exploration Hall on June 30, 2012 and the Marine Theater was inaugurated on February 1, 2013. Other administrative and research facilities will be fully open in 2013.

## **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** | *Promote Native Language Education to Increase Citizen's Native Language Skills*

To promote the native language skills for the people of Taiwan and to encourage balanced development and environment for learning native languages, the Ministry continues to promote and support native language learning based on the principle of equality. The Ministry will continue to maintain the electronic dictionary for native languages, conduct certification programs, establish online learning resources, promote Taiwan Mother Language Day and establish an ideal environment for learning native languages in order to maintain the functionality of native languages. The Ministry will also conduct literary contests for native languages to speed up the revitalization and growth of the culture of multiple languages. ■

