

Words from the Minister...



Cultivate Excellence and Quality across the Board to Build a Prosperous Happy Society

Education is the foundation of personal development, social advancement, vibrant economic prosperity, and national sustainability, and it shoulders the mission of enhancing national literacy, cultivating highly-skilled people, and promoting social progress. A new Ministry of Education structure integrating education, athletic affairs, and youth affairs began on January 1, 2013. This has created a consolidated, flexible, and effective team guided by the principles of teamwork, innovation, communication, and delivering results. Building on the governance achievements

of the past, the Ministry is working to create robust quality educational strategies, enhance the professionalism of educators, improve administrative efficiency, actively implement and promote national education, sports, and youth development, and promote education reform, and boost Taiwan's international competitiveness.

The Ministry of Education is energetically working in all areas of education to fulfill the high-quality education component of the President's Golden Decade National Vision which was unveiled in 2011. Our recent

work includes implementing: 1. the Quality Preschool Education Development program; 2. the extension of basic education to 12 years; 3. Phase 2 of the Technological and Vocational Education Reform Plan, and the Plan for Developing Technological University Paradigms; 4. the Aim for the Top University, and the Promoting University Teaching Excellence projects; 5. the Family Education Program, and establishing locally available ongoing learning and education for all senior citizens; 6. the Study-in-Taiwan Enhancement Program, and the 8-Year Chinese Language Education Export; 7. the White Paper on Teacher Education; 8. Phase I of the 5-year Aesthetic Education Plan to boost arts education; 9. the E-learning Promotion Plan; 10. bringing special education organizations within the legal framework; 11. providing barrier-free campus environments; 12. the 5-year Indigenous Education Development Program begun in 2011; 13. vigorous anti-gangs, anti-drugs, and anti-bullying policies, and the Draft Student Counseling Act; 14. promoting the Sports Island Project, and publishing the Physical Education and Sports Policy White Paper; and 15. publishing the Youth Policy White Paper, and increasing

young people's participation in public and community affairs, and in learning by service.

In light of the crucial role that cultivating excellence plays in national development, in early December, 2013 the Ministry of Education issued a White Paper on Human Resources Development as the blueprint for delivering educational quality and excellence. It presents 16 strategies and 39 action plans, covering the next 10 years (2014–2023), designed to nurture highly-skilled people in Taiwan to world-class standard across a diverse range of fields. Its guiding vision is “transition and breakthroughs – cultivate multi-dimensional excellence and quality and together create a prosperous and happy society”.

The Ministry is constantly striving to improve the quality of teachers; improve the quality of early childhood education; revitalize junior high education; refine senior high school education; formulate new technological and vocational education regulations; establish both technological and vocational training programs, and collaborative platforms, in conjunction with business and industry; assist private schools; formulate regulations to support the cultivation of excellence; provide clear pathways and opportunities for lifelong learning; promote differentiation in the higher education sector; and strengthen the education

and training of people of world-class excellence. Our guiding aspiration is to ensure that our nation's highly-skilled people will be well-equipped in 6 key ways: having global mobility, employability, an innovative outlook, a sense of community and civic duty, and an interdisciplinary approach, and being information savvy.

At the same time as nurturing quality and excellence, the Ministry is focusing on ensuring that our highly-skilled people and all students receive a fully-rounded education encompassing five different dimensions:

morality, knowledge, physical health, social interaction, and aesthetic sense. We hope that students, parents, teachers, and the general public will fully experience and appreciate innovation and progress in education, and build a society of happiness, prosperity, harmony, and sustainability together. ☉

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