

08 Lifelong Education

A Community Colleges

76 community colleges in 2012, 78 community colleges in 2013 and 80 community colleges in 2014 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.

B “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. In 2014, 11 cities and counties were subsidized to offer 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.



C Multi-functional Lifelong Learning Center

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 2013 to be the sites of lifelong learning community centers; these 20 community centers were evaluated with 28 elementary schools added and subsidized in 2014 to assist in their growth and sustainability and offer a learning platform for community members.

D Promotion of Open University Education

Taiwan has two Open Universities, the 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 50,000 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.

E 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.

F Oversight of Short-term Cram School

The number of short-term cram schools stood at 18,849 as of Dec. 2014. Annual subsidies are provided for local authorities to conduct inspection and training to allow the public to inquire about information related to cram schools and ensure public safety at these facilities. A "Municipal, Counties and Cities Cram-School Information System" database is now being set up to allow the public to look up relevant information.



G Advocate Family Values and Promote Family Education

Industrialization and urbanization have had a major impact on family structure and family values. As a result, cases of child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile crime and teenage pregnancy are rising. These trends reflect the importance of rebuilding family functions and values. In order to promote family values, family education and lifelong learning, 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 various promotional programs for family education and integrate key holidays such as Grandparents Day, International Day of Families and Family Value Month with promotion events, school and community special activities to advocate and bring more awareness to family values.



H 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. 10 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 Citizens' Active Learning Centers" with courses appropriate for seniors. As of 2014, a total of 306 Senior Citizen Active Learning Centers have been established. The Ministry has also pioneered "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. In 2014, 100 seniors' colleges were established to increase the opportunities for the elderly to participate in society and lifelong learning, and offer them local learning opportunities.



I Promote Reading and Improve 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 national and public libraries established by local municipal governments 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.



J Promote Across Boundary Value-added Development Plan, Shape the Cross Boundary Experience and Create a Space to Practice Life-long Learning

Provide assistance and execute "the value-added development plan for cross boundary and lifelong learning by the National Social Education system". The plan will integrate 7 social education institutions were under the Ministry of Education through the creative design facilities and incorporating digital resources. The plan will further integrate the locals, civilians, business sectors and interlibrary cooperation, so the values of the social education institutions and the surrounding sites of the targets will increase, values to their creativity and boost the local culture tourism.

K Raise Educational Awareness and Collaborate 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. The Ministry put many efforts in expanding all types of education discussion topics, increasing more lifelong learning opportunities, combining the civil charity resources and encouraging more cooperation with the strategy alliance of the education and charity fund. In 2011 this effort was transformed into a lifelong learning education foundation. In 2014, there were 6 major topics, 7 learning circles, and executed 115 activities.

L Promote Native Language Education to Increase Citizens' 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. 

