

06 Senior Secondary Education

Senior Secondary Education

Senior secondary education is designed to cultivate physically and mentally sound citizens, laying the foundation for academic research and the acquisition of professional knowledge in later years. Senior secondary schools can be divided into "regular senior secondary schools," "skill-based senior secondary schools," "comprehensive senior secondary schools," and "specialty-based senior secondary schools." Students who graduate from junior high school or have an equivalent education level can gain admission to senior secondary school through methods such as examination-free entrance, specialty enrollment. 160 credits are required for graduation.

A Advanced Science Education and Cultivation of Talent in the Science

1 Taiwan has achieved outstanding results in the International Mathematics and Science Olympiad. Domestic mathematics and science competitions are frequently held for senior secondary school students, and there are also science talent cultivation plans and domestic and international exhibitions to stimulate interest and learning in the sciences.



2 Key objectives for the year 2015:

- i. Continue training students for the Math and Science Olympiads, and organize similar domestic competitions in mathematics and information technology for junior high school and senior secondary school students.
- ii. Continue supporting secondary and elementary education projects in science and cultivation programs for scientific talent.
- iii. Set up science programs in senior secondary schools and monitor the effectiveness of the programs.
- iv. Set up "Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles" selective exams.



B Bring Second Foreign Language Education into Practice and Improve Students' International Awareness:

- 1 The main goals of the fourth phase 5-year plan is to "Improve Second Foreign Language Education in Secondary Schools" include the following:
 - i. Encouraging schools to adopt the plan and offering them support.
 - ii. Strengthening the promotion mechanism for the second foreign language education system.
 - iii. Creating a second foreign language learning environment.
 - iv. Improving the teacher recruitment system.



- 2 In SY1999, a total of 22,623 high schools students enrolled in 648 second foreign language classes, a number which ballooned to 112,980 students with 3,760 classes by SY2012, which is 4.97 times the number in SY1999. In SY2013, nine universities, colleges and junior colleges applied to offer 36 advanced placement foreign language classes for high school students.

3 Key points for the year 2014~2015:

Continue encouraging schools to teach more foreign languages and offer more foreign language classes in order to cultivate talent and increase international competitiveness in the area of languages.



C Practical Technical Program and Cooperative Education

Practical Technical Program

These programs impart practical skills to students who choose the technical arts curriculum in junior high school, providing them with the means to enter the job market and secure employment. Instruction is provided via day classes or evening classes, and students are eligible for graduation after completing 150 credits in 3 years.

Cooperative Education (Alternative Classes)

These classes were first implemented in 1969. Students study general subjects and theory at school while receiving hands-on training in the workplace. This approach was extremely popular in past decades. Now, in response

to the changing environment, the Ministry of Education has published "Implementation Guidelines for Cooperative Education in Vocational High Schools," changing the hour-based system into a credit-based system. Students can graduate after completing 150 credits in 3 years.

In order to enhance cooperative education and ensure the rights and privileges of students in the cooperative education programs, the Ministry of Education established "the Act of the Cooperative Education Implementation in Senior High Schools and the Protection of Student Participants' Right," which was approved, promulgated and enacted by the President on January 2, 2013 with Hua-Tsung (1)-Yi-Tzu No. 10100290761.

Steadily Promote 12-year Basic Education

- A The Ministry of Education has long been planning for the launch of 12-year Basic Education, and since 2008 has been implementing the 12-year Basic Education Precursor Program.

- B To allow junior high school education to become more adaptive, creative, active, superior and quality-driven, and to enhance the quality of senior secondary education, President Ma Ying-jeou made the announcement during his New Year's speech for the ROC's Centennial Celebration of the initiation of 12-year Basic Education.

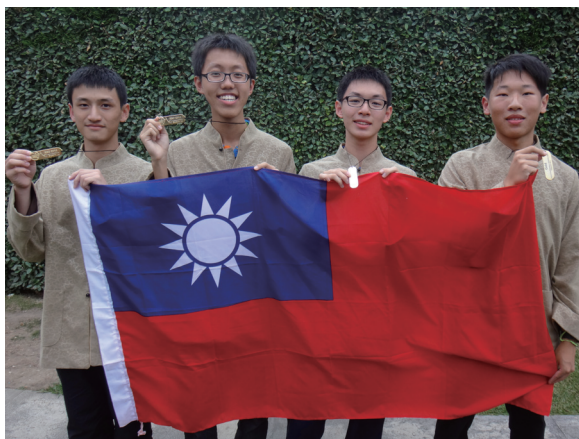
C Key objectives for the year 2015~2016:

Promote the "Implementation Plan for 12-year Basic Education" approved by the Executive Yuan and ensure that it is completely and effectively carried out. Additionally, the policies will be continuously discussed and improved. ■



Crave for Knowledge Sent Taiwanese Student to Top at IESO

Chen, I-Kai, 18, Taipei
Municipal Jianguo High
School



Driven by the crave for knowledge, Chen, I-kai defeated contestants from worldwide and brought back the golden award from the 2014 International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO).

Chen revealed strong interests in science when he was little as Taipei Astronomical Museum was one of the places he visited most. "Upon seeing the stars shining in the sky, I felt a pure desire of knowledge rising in my mind," he said. "I wanted to know the origin of these stars. I wanted to know more about them."

As growing up, Chen said he especially like to read magazines like Scientific American, which provide some of the newest discoveries in the world. Preparing for IESO, Chen



further added some college textbooks such as Understanding Earth, Invitation to Oceanography, and Meteorology Today into his reading list.

Ranking 1 in the IESO this time, Chen modestly contributed the accomplishment to the combination of hard work and luck. To him, ranking is not that important; instead, "it was the opportunity to know other people from all around the world."

"Being with them, I learned a lot about their countries, cultures, and the ways of thinking," reflected the young man. Chen recalled that there was one activity that required all participants to group with other foreign contestants to do a field investigation. This was a really fresh experience for me, he said. 🇹🇼



Sweaty Effort Paid Back with Baseball Tournament Championship

Ku-Pao Home Economics
& Commercial High
School



The baseball team of Ku-Pao Home Economics & Commercial High School was crowned in the 2014 Black Panther Pennant National High School Baseball Tournament after sweaty effort.

The bond among team members, successful tactical implementation, as well as positive attitude were the key to win, said coach Chou Tsung-chih. Daily drills such as agility training and fielding are carried out to reinforce flexibility of players. In addition, matches with real game setting are offered to accustom players to real situations.

"All effort is paid back after winning the championship," said team leader Wang Ying-peng. We are so happy that we finally grabbed the gold after all these tournaments.

Stress was in fact everywhere before the final match. Chou gathered all players and told them it's do-or-die situation. "So many opportunities we have missed, striving to do our best is the only belief in mind," he reflected.



The pressure dissolved the moment the result was settled. However, one goal achieved only marks the beginning of next challenge, said Chou. "Remember the moment, and get the best out of the High School Baseball League Wooden Bat Division," Chou told these young players.

Considered one of the sports with the strongest competitiveness in Taiwan, baseball is not merely a kind of sport but a symbol of national identity especially when it comes to international games. However, the inadequacy of beginning players resulting from insufficient support compared to the US and Japan has a great impact on Taiwan's sport industry, pointed out Chou based on his observation.

To counter the plight, the government has taken measures such as increasing the number of elementary school baseball teams and professional sport coaches as well, which is hopefully to boost the sport's development in Taiwan, said Chou. 🇹🇼

