

# Preface of the Minister

The goal of education is to allow every student to show their full potential and become individuals who can make contributions to society, the nation and mankind. In view of this goal, we should first of all ensure that each student is able to study according to his/her own attributes. Secondly, in keeping with the principle of social fairness, the Ministry of Education should allocate resources to those who need them the most in order to ensure that the needs of underprivileged students are also looked after. Furthermore, innovation is the source of a nation's power, the planning of Taiwan's education schemes should use those of advanced nations as a reference. These education schemes should possess the foresight to formulate curriculums that will give students the ability to meet the challenges caused by globalization, and therefore, continue increasing Taiwan's international competitiveness.

In order to nurture students that possess the skills necessary for the modernized 21st century, we must ensure that they have 'analytical thinking skills', 'innovative skills', 'an awareness of their duties as citizens' and 'viewpoints that are global in nature'.

Thus, we have come up with three main hopes for education in Taiwan. The first hope is based on fostering a care for our home country. Studies about Taiwan's culture, ethnic groups, geography, history, art, religion, folklore and the natural environment will be emphasized to ensure that students of different background are able of getting along harmoniously. Secondly, we must nurture the ideas students have about what it means to be a citizen in this society. They must be able to appreciate the common values of democracy, freedom, the rule of law and human rights. We should upgrade the basic skills as Taiwan's national, further knowledge about science, technology and liberal arts and foster attitudes of pluralism and long term sustainability. Lastly, education must go international. Starting with English language education, the English skills of primary and secondary school students should be improved. In addition, promotion of the study of a second foreign language will be encouraged for all students of senior high schools and higher education institutes. What is more important is that a multi-language living environment is created in order to increase the study motives of students. Also, the Ministry of Education will encourage more Taiwanese students to study abroad and at the same time attract more foreign students to study in Taiwan by setting up the 'Taiwan Scholarships'. Schemes such as these are set to fully



promote international academic exchanges.

To fully implement these education schemes, in addition to foresight planning quality control and evaluation are emphasized. Recently, quality evaluations of senior professional training schools and technical high schools have been completed. The evaluation of universities will also be carried out in the near future. The evaluation process will eventually establish a solid entry/withdrawal mechanism of higher education.

The success of a nation's education system will influence the overall development and advancement of its power and education policies are therefore one of the most important for a nation. Every component of education policy is closely linked. Like a butterfly effect, the slightest lack of attention or error in any aspect will cause chaos across the whole system. Each component of education policy must be managed well. Only in this way can we gain greater benefits from education. The train of education reform has already started and we cannot turn it back. To adequately meet the education demands of our society, constant policy revisions must be made. It is only with the continued improvements that are gained from these revisions that we can create an environment that is more beneficial to the long term development of education.



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