
An Overview



Taiwan has experienced 50 years of economic development and in the process managed to create the "Taiwan economic miracle". Of extreme importance in this process has been the nurture of a big number of outstanding individuals. Over a period of half a century, social development has not only depended on the persevering efforts of all the people but also relied heavily on educational policies spanning a century.

Since 1968, Taiwan has implemented a nine-year national education plan and, for a long time, every effort has been made to improve the nation's educational standard and to cultivate outstanding talents. Taiwan's teachers have painstakingly made sacrifices to improve the nation's education.

The Taiwanese people have always cared about building the best possible educational system. After 10 years of educational reform, the educational system now includes the nine-year compulsory education, the multi-channel entrance program, the expansion and development of adult education as well as the setting up of a national educational network.

Modern Taiwan has gradually closed ranks

internationally and become closely linked with the rest of the world. While keeping an eye on the world picture, it will need to face and reflect on world trends.

Direction of Modern Education

Taiwan's educational system has grown and expanded, now even taking steps towards the upgrading of the quality of education.

Globalization has greatly affected education, economy and politics. Nations of the world have zealously worked to improve national competitiveness. While Taiwan, too, is trying to increase its competitiveness, it is even more important for it to be aware of what it is good at and what its advantages are as a nation. It is absolutely necessary for the citizenry to be made aware of their characteristics and to appreciate Taiwan, its culture, as well as its environment.

Looking at the present situation of Taiwan's society, the Ministry of Education has come up with the overall educational goal summed up in "Creative Taiwan, Eye on the World." Three core approaches support the implementation of this motto: adaptability in nature and ability, embracing globalization, and supporting the disadvantaged.

From 1998 to 2002, the Ministry of Education appropriated a budget of NT\$150 billion to implement 12 key points in educational reform. The educational system at every level looks after the citizenry's right to a good education and even raises the living standards. Thirteen administrative and governing directions, which took into consideration the needs at every educational level, were decided in 2004. They are listed below:

- 1. Education for the Citizenry:** Reduce the number of students in each high school class, introduce the nine-year compulsory education's curriculum, incorporating local subjects in classroom studies.
- 2. High School Education:** implement multi-channel entrance program at the senior high school level, introduce 12-year compulsory education plan.
- 3. Training Teachers:** reduce education courses for teachers, encourage elementary and high school teachers to seek further training while on job.
- 4. Vocational education:** strengthen collaboration between industrial sector and schools, international exchanges, and enforce stricter technical schools' evaluation standards.
- 5. Higher Education:** improve college and university international competitiveness, invite overseas resource persons to visit as faculty members, hire local specialists to fill teaching positions, modify and improve educational loan system, bring higher education and economic development together.
- 6. Social Education:** promote lifelong learning, bolster function of public social systems, promote cultural activities, provide adult education classes for female immigrants from overseas, including China.
- 7. Physical Education and Health Education:** implement school's physical education plan, hold sports competitions with other schools, strengthen health education plan.
- 8. International Cultural Education:** establish Taiwan scholarships, promote cooperation and exchange with overseas educational institutions, implement reciprocity and exchanges programs with schools overseas, participation in international scholarly symposiums, publicize overseas study programs and counseling, overseas study trips for students in senior high school or vocational school.

- 9. Training and Counseling:** promote human rights on campus, counseling for dropouts, gender equality education, implement the organization of college volunteer squads, hold fairs for senior high school organizations.
- 10. Internet and High Technology Education:** improve auxiliary education, encourage working for digital education certificates, establish community education network
- 11. Science Education:** revamp science education, hold science-based competitions at college or university level, life-long science learning.
- 12. Environmental Protection Education:** nationwide safety and hygiene training, school safety protection, establish sustainable campus, and so forth.
- 13. Special Education:** accreditations for physically and mentally challenged students, subsidize special education in 25 counties and cities, improve quality of aboriginal education, open the possibility of overseas service as alternative for military service.

Throughout the decade of educational reforms, Taiwan's educational system has acquired valuable experiences, making possible the effective implementation of educational policies and the development of the educational spirit. Reviews and revisions have continued taking place until the goals are achieved. Diverse, creative and caring concepts take root with the help of Taiwan education. A new face in Taiwan's education emerges to strengthen Taiwan's global competitiveness.

