

Higher Education

Junior College



Junior colleges aim at cultivating a workforce with mid- level technical or managerial skills by teaching applied sciences and technology.

Programs at junior colleges are divided into five- year and two- year systems, offering daytime and evening courses. Junior high school graduates are admitted on the basis on their Basic Competence Test grades, their applications and the schools' recommendations. Certain students may

be admitted without taking any exam.

The sub-fields offered by junior colleges in Taiwan include industry, commerce, medicine, marine, languages, home economics as well as tourism and hospitality. According to the statistics, as of the 2005 academic year, there were 17 junior colleges. Some colleges and universities of technology also offer junior college programs.

Graduates of junior college can choose to enter the



job market and become mid- level technicians or continue their studies at either two- year colleges of technology or four- year colleges/universities of technology. Those who enter the job market after graduation may continue their studies by taking in-service study courses. Those who choose to continue their studies may also take the college/university transfer exam to enter regular colleges/universities.

Harnessing Technological and Vocational Education

Taiwan's TAV education is aimed at increasing students' skills in the working world after graduation. This educational system includes senior vocational high schools, specialized schools, technical institutes and technological universities.

MOE has established six Centers for Regional Industry-Academia Collaboration to foster more school-industry collaborations. Besides the establishment of industry-academia centers, MOE has also established 40 technical research centers within various universities. The "Research Center for Speedy Development of Precision Products" at Chienkuo Technology University has helped generate business opportunities for high-precision production processes and the semiconductor industry.

Participation in international art and design competitions

Taiwan industries are on the threshold of a major transformation and one of the key factors in upgrading and adding value to industries is innovative ideas. In collaboration with Taiwan's growing need for artistic and creative industry needs, the Ministry of Education drafted the Development Plan for Art and Design Talents in Tertiary Education Institutes. Specialization fields included in the plan are visual arts, performing arts, sound arts, industrial design, visual communication design, space design and fashion design. Using current resources as a foundation and integrating the learning environment of various educational institutions, collaborations with industries and international organizations are strengthened.

College and University of Technology



The goal of Colleges / Universities of Technology is to train a high- level workforce in the fields of technology, engineering and management.

Colleges / Universities of technology offer undergraduate programs, master's programs and doctoral programs.

In the academic year of 2005, there are 75 colleges/ universities of technology in Taiwan, 16 public and 59 private. Sub-fields are classified into eight categories: engineering, design, agriculture, management, marine technology, home economics, medical and nursing and commerce.

Individuals graduate from colleges/ universities of technology may choose to take up further study at a domestic or foreign university, develop aptitude for independent research or enter the job market based on their high level of technical expertise.

Present Policies

In order to face the tremendous changes in industries and cope with the international trends the following measures have been taken to make technological and vocational (TAV) education become more flexible and diversified.

1. Ensure the teaching quality by evaluation system

At present, many junior colleges have been upgraded to either college or university status. More opportunities for entrance into colleges or universities have been created.

With the increase in the number of colleges and universities, to maintain the quality of schools becomes an important issue. Besides encouraging schools to do self- evaluation, the MOE also delegates professional institutions to do evaluation on administrative affairs and disciplinary evaluation hoping that through the process, a consensus of evaluation standard can be built.

The quality of schools can, thus, be enhanced.

2. Develop basic abilities; build a knowledge-based society

In the future, TAV education should focus on not only the professional skills but also the scientific knowledge and language ability to empower the students to meet challenges.

3. Encourage vocational schools to set up courses in accordance with the needs of local industries.

Besides stressing technical skills and the development of professionals, TAV education in Taiwan also emphasizes the appreciation of culture and diversified learning. The purpose is to make students more aware of their environment.

4. Integrate educational resources; build partnerships, especially emphasize on the linkage between schools and industries

TAV education is a multi-layered system creating a high-quality learning environment and sharing information through teaching and study-related activities at each level of the educational system. In addition, with the introduction of distance learning via the Internet, TAV education will provide learners more interactive and diversified learning programs. It will also encourage cooperation among academia, communities, governmental agencies, and industries in order to increase pre-job training opportunities.

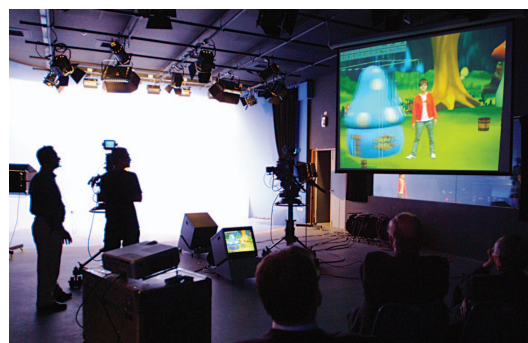
5. Promote international cooperation; enhance international exchanges

TAV education hopes to promote international academic activities through international visits, exchange students, exchange professors, lan-

guage education, information sharing and expanding recruitment for foreign students. In addition, to promote the overall development and academic status of each school, TAV education institutions in Taiwan will aim to cultivate personnel with international vision.

6. Encourage recurrent education; ingrain life-long learning habits

TAV education in Taiwan encourages a "live and learn" attitude to let everyone acquire new knowledge and update the abilities.



College & University

Increase in Colleges and Universities

In the past ten years, Taiwan's educational policy has led to an increase in colleges and universities.

Three notable developments are unfolding:

1. The proportion of private colleges has increased rapidly.
2. The growth rate of graduate schools is faster than that of undergraduate schools.
3. The proportion of technological and vocational schools in higher education is getting bigger.

In 1995, there were only 53 colleges and universities. By 2005, the number had gone up to 70. The upgrade of junior colleges to universities accounted in great part for the increase.

Subsequently, from 1995 to 2005, the number of students in colleges and universities multiplied by more than four times. The number of undergraduate students increased by 24.34 %; the number of masters degree students increased by 17.48%; and the number of candidates for doctorate degrees increased by 26.60%.

College/University Entrance Exams

MOE has separated the administering of examination and enrollment as well as maintained multiple channels for students' gaining entrance to colleges/ universities since 2000. The College/University Entrance Examination Center conducts the entrance exam and the colleges and universities decide whom to admit. (Please see Chart 1)

Enrolment of Foreign Students

Foreign students can come to Taiwan to get a degree via regular or special channels. To apply for admis-

sion, foreign students should send their diploma, ID and copy of their transcripts to Taiwan's de facto embassies for verification. (Please see Chart 2)

College & University Evaluation

With the increase in colleges and universities, maintaining the quality of schools becomes an important issue. Besides encouraging schools to do self- evaluation, the MOE also delegates professional institutions to do evaluations on administrative affairs, medical evaluation, management evaluation and chemistry evaluation, hoping that through the process, an evaluation standard could be built. The quality of schools can thus be enhanced.

From July 2004 to September 2004, the MOE authorized specialized institutions to carry out a comprehensive college and university evaluation.

In 2005 the MOE established a professional evaluation institute - the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan(HEEACT) - to train professional staff and set up standards and database.

In the future, the MOE will regularly hold college and university evaluation.

Chart 1

| Entrance Channels | | Description |
|--|------------------------|--|
| Admission through recommendation and screening | School recommendation | High school recommends qualified students to a department of a college/ university. The high school can recommend 2 to 3 students to the same department of a college and one student can only be recommended to one department. |
| | Individual application | Every student qualified to enter a college/ university can apply to enroll in at most 5 departments. |
| Admission via examination and placement | | The Subject Competence Test is taken as a basic requirement. Every school designates 3 to 6 subjects. |

Source: MOE

Tuition

Before 1999, the tuition was based on uniform standards decided by the government. Since 1999, the MOE has implemented the "Flexible Tuition Plan" allowing schools to strike a balance between covering the school's overhead and not imposing an economic burden on students. In 2005, the public university tuition accounted for 11.78% of per capita GDP and private schools accounted for 21.62%.

Internationalization

Internationalization is important to higher education. Policies that revolve around the idea of internationalization are:

1. To enhance international competitiveness

In August 2002, the MOE promotes "Plan for Enhancing International Competitiveness." The plan includes international exchange activities, improving students' English proficiency and encouraging colleges and universities to recruit international students.

2. Expanding the plan to recruit international students.

Since August, 2003, attracting international student to study in Taiwan has become an important goal. The ways to attract international students include giving scholarship to international students and encouraging schools to conduct classes in English and strengthen integration with the industries.

3. Encourage students to study abroad.

Students are encouraged to study abroad. In

Chart 2

| Channel | Application | Citizenship Qualification | Qualification of Educational background |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| General Channel | Via the same channel as Taiwan's students | There is no restriction on the foreign citizenship. | 1. For bachelor's degree: Having educational attainment equivalent to Taiwan's high school level and verified by Taiwan's representative office. 2. For master's degree (1) Have a degree equivalent to one from Taiwan's college/university and verified by Taiwan's representative office (2) Have graduated from three-year technological and vocational school, having left school for more than two years or graduated from five-year technological and vocational school, having left school for more than three years. |
| Special Channel | Colleges/ Universities have quotas for foreign students | The person should not have Taiwan's nationality and should not be a compatriot living abroad. Former R.O.C. nationals should have lost citizenship for more than eight years. | 3. For doctorate degree: (1) Have master's degree from a graduate school verified by the MOE. (2) Have bachelor's degree and published dissertation equivalent to master's dissertation. For medicine or dentistry graduates, two years training and dissertations equivalent to master's level are required (3) Having bachelor degree and having been working related to the fields for more than six years and publish dissertation equivalent to master degree. |

Source: MOE

2004, the MOE set up "Loan for Studying Abroad" for those who go abroad to study for their masters and doctorates.

4. Creating a friendly environment for foreign students.

Colleges and schools are encouraged to build a bilingual campus and train counselors for foreign students.

The MOE also works with other government institutions to simplify visa application procedure and allow foreign students to work in Taiwan after graduation.

At present, 63.78% of the foreign students are from other Asian countries and most of them study in technology- related fields, which account for 36.22%.