A photograph of a basketball game. In the foreground, a player in a green jersey with '北一女中' (Beier Girls' School) on it is jumping with arms raised. To her left, a player in a white and red jersey with '淡水商' (Tanshui Commercial) and the number '15' is also jumping. The background is filled with a large crowd of spectators, many wearing green and white. A basketball is visible in the upper left corner. The title 'Upper Secondary Education' is overlaid in white text on a semi-transparent blue background.

Upper Secondary Education

The MOE plans to include upper secondary school part of compulsory education.

The upper secondary education system includes senior high school and senior vocational school for students 15 to 18 years old. Both streams offer a great variety of educational content and extra-curriculum activities allowing students to cultivate their academic knowledge and develop their personalities.



Lu Pei-chuan, Beigang

Excellence in senior high schools project helps us greatly

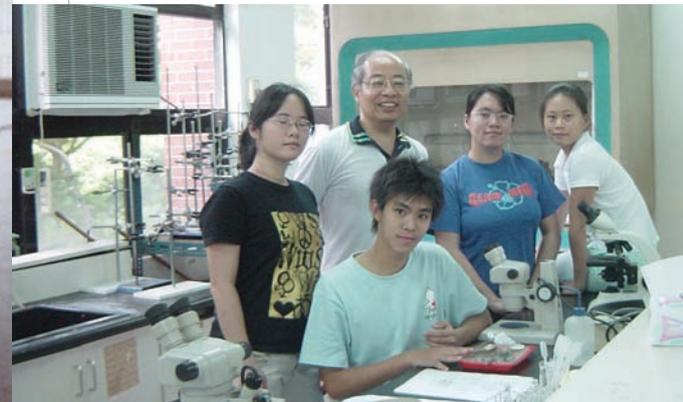
Principal of National Beigang Senior High School

A senior high school principal has the most important task of improving a student's quality of education and helping them cultivate their personality. For Lu Pei-chuan, the principal of the National Beigang Senior High School, this is a daunting challenge. Beigang is located in a rural area and hardly has access diverse educational resources. In 2005, the MOE launched the Excellence in Senior Schools Project and last year, awarded Beigang a NT\$5 million subsidy.

"The subsidy encouraged all our teachers to be more innovative in their teaching," said Mr. Lu. "With the subsidy, we built a multi-media classroom, and equipped each classroom with an overhead projector and an air conditioner, and established an English Corner, where students are encouraged to speak English with our foreign teachers and a Chinese Corner, where students can learn traditional Chinese arts."

The MOE launched the Excellence in Senior Schools Project and this year, granted subsidies to 66 senior high schools and 52 senior vocational schools.

Senior High Education



The three-year senior high school is part of Taiwan's mainstream educational system. In senior high school, students from 15 to 18 years old, prepare for higher education.

Before the implementation of multiple channels to enter colleges or universities in 2001, senior high schools were primarily focused on preparing students to pass the Joint University Entrance Examination (JUEE). Now, admission into colleges or universities can be gained through recommendation by the senior high school; taking a test given by different departments of colleges and universities; and also by taking the JUEE. Senior high schools now encourage their students to join in extra-curricular activities such as student societies, non-governmental organizations and international competitions. Admission into better universities now partly depends on involvement in such activities.

Enhancement of Global Competitiveness

The MOE has taken two important steps to infuse the principles of global competitiveness into upper secondary education. First, the Ministry designed a global learning environment in 2002 that included well-structured English courses. Second, the MOE encouraged high school students to participate in International Science and Math Olympiads. Moreover, in 2005 the Ministry introduced policies meant to increase the number of international

students studying in Taiwan. A total of 12,830 international students are expected to be enrolled in Taiwan's upper secondary education by 2011.

Dual-stream high school

To help some students who are undecided on going through an academic or vocational track in their secondary education, the MOE in 1996, established several experimental dual-stream high schools that offer the usual secondary school academic content and vocational skills courses. Students study a first and second foreign language, mathematics, social and natural sciences, the arts, marine science, physical education, and vocational skills, and are encouraged to be active in extra-curricular activities.

Students who complete 160 credits could decide to continue their studies in four-year technical colleges, two-year junior colleges, or in universities. They could also decide to start working since they would have gained adequate vocational training. In 2005, 111,666 students were enrolled in 162 dual-stream high schools.

Nurturing diversified talents

Education in Taiwan is now focused on nurturing versatility. Hence, in the past years, upper secondary schools and higher education institutes have adopted more diversified and internationalized curriculums. With a more flexible college/university entrance system, the MOE has been encouraging more high schools not only to prepare students to pass the entrance exam, but also to cultivate versatility such as strengthening their language abilities. In 1999, the Ministry designed the five-year Senior High School Second Foreign Language Education Plan. During the first phase of this plan, the MOE focused on training qualified teachers, course design and improving teaching facilities. More foreign languages such as Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, French and Spanish were also included in the plan.

Senior Vocational Education



During a practicum session, junior college vocational education students visit a plane cabin (top) and observe a catering company chef.

Technological and Vocational Education

Technical and vocational education is offered at senior vocational schools, junior colleges, colleges and universities of technology.

Students who graduate from senior vocational schools are in principle, equipped to start a business, take up employment or pursue a degree at universities of technology.

Students at the senior vocational level are able to develop vocational skills and career aptitudes;

college-level students acquire more advanced vocational education based on theoretical principles; and students of universities of technology are enabled to sharpen their vocational skills and are trained to write academic papers.

Industry-academia partnership program

The MOE, in harmony with the Human Resources Programs passed by the Executive Yuan in 2005, plans to expand the industry-related content of school curriculums in order to derive more value from the increased cooperation between private firms and schools. Thus, the industry-academia partnership program was born in 2006.

The program is meant to enhance industry-academia cooperation through the three-in-one program (senior vocational schools plus colleges plus partner enterprises), the "three plus two" (senior vocational schools plus two-year colleges), "three-two-two" (senior vocational schools plus two-year colleges plus two-year technological institutes), or "three plus four" (senior vocational schools plus four-year technological institutes).

Such a curriculum in accord with the vertical continuation principle helps a student, after receiving a complete professional training, find a job in the partnered companies.

The MOE also plans to revise the Education Personnel Employment Law by relaxing restrictions on including professors' temporary employment in industry into the computation of their years of service. This would enable them to undertake further research.



Chen Wan-yao, 17, Taipei

Beauty and Hairdressing Department, Daojiang Senior High School of Nursing & Home Economics

Two months prior to her junior high school graduation, Wan-yao's teacher asked her to consider what her real interests were.

"I struggled with my thoughts for some time," she said, "until my parents suggested I learn a professional skill that would be helpful in finding a job in the future."

She decided to study at Daojiang and will complete her senior vocational program next year.

"Here I learn to design hairstyles and cosmetology," said Wan-yao. "This school also sends students to work as interns with some cosmetologists. We also have a small barbershop on campus managed by the school, where we can practice our skills. All of these have helped me cultivate cosmetology skills."

Daojiang is determined to enhance its students' international competitiveness by promoting exchanges with other vocational high schools in other countries. Last summer break, Wan-yao joined a tour to Japan organized by the school.

The MOE in 2004 established the Taiwan International Association for Education Tours as a channel for students in senior high education to visit other countries. In 2007, 3,500 students from 91 schools joined education tours to Japan and up to 4,000 Japanese students visited Taiwan. Such tours help the students acquire a global view and also serve to let other countries know more about Taiwan.