

Lifelong Education



A

Subsidize Community Colleges, Offer Guidance for its Wholesome Development

In order to raise civic awareness of people, to care for major social issues and encourage the public to take part in community education, the Ministry of Education has since 2003 offered subsidies and assistance to local community education organizations (community colleges) in order to promote and expand lifelong learning activities. In 2016, 79 community colleges received subsidies. In the future, each community college will be encouraged to develop its own characteristics, while continuing to develop localized culture courses and raise their quality. By strengthening the outlook for common

participation by community learning organizations, community learning power will be revitalized while stimulating community growth.

B

"The Learning City" Project

To promote diverse lifelong learning channels, promote the establishment of a lifelong education system, encourage local governments to take each location's development characteristics as the base to respond to the local population's divers learning needs, integrate the cities' lifelong learning resources, link up and develop partnership relations between public and private departments, cultivate each kind of lifelong learning talent, increase learning opportunities and environments, establish a "learning city" together. In 2015 seven counties and cities linked

up to experiment with "learning city" plans, in 2016, there were ten counties and cities, hoping to move in the direction of "a learning society, a learning Taiwan."

C

Multifunctional Community Learning Center

In order to promote the effective use of elementary and junior high school facilities, and to maintain the lifelong learning function of the community's elementary and junior high schools, in 2016, 33 elementary and junior high schools were visited and continued to receive subsidies to serve as multifunctional community learning centers, receiving assistance for their sustainable management and to become a platform for community learning.

D

Promotion of Open University Education

Taiwan has two Open Universities, the National Open University and the Open University of Kaohsiung. Open Universities do not require entrance exams and have no set time limits for completion of coursework. Students who fulfill 128 credits will be awarded a bachelor's degree, while 80 credits will earn the student an associate degree.

E

Promotion of Certification for Non-orthodox Learning, Linking Formal and Informal Learning

The Ministry of Education has long encouraged people to engage in lifelong learning and is dedicated to acknowledging accomplishments in personal learning as part of its drive to link formal and informal learning. In 2006, the Ministry initiated a certification system for courses taken via informal education and achievements obtained through non-orthodox learning, and modified methods of certification for non-orthodox learning achievements, in the process encouraging lifelong learning institutions to establish systematic

curricula so as to foster professional skills among the general public.

F

Supervision of Short-Term Cram Schools

The number of short-term cram schools stood at 18,492 as of Dec. 2016. Annual subsidies and rewards are provided for local authorities to conduct inspection and training to allow the public to inquire about information related to cram schools and ensure public safety at these facilities. A "Municipal, Counties and Cities Cram-School Information System" database is now being set up to allow the public to look up relevant information.

G

Advocate Family Values and Promote Family Education

In order to advocate family values and promote family education, continue to promote each kind of family education work according to the "Mid-Range Plan for Promoting Family Education" (2013-2017) and the "Integration Plan for School and Family Education for Primary Education and Preschools" (2013-2017), and appoints the Ministry of Education Home Education Counseling Group to assist with the promotion of counseling. In 2016, advocate the concept of "Using 3C Happy 3T" and the family-loving activity, organize a series of family education promoting activities, include "Reading Together, the Happy Family Joy of Books" family reading together activity, "Playing Together 999 Family Photo Text Competition" and "Running Together" mini-marathon family event.

H

Promotion of Elderly Education, Build a Comprehensive Senior Citizens System

With advances in medical science leading to greater longevity for the nation as a whole, the aging of society is an inevitable part of the future. Eight years from now (2025), the elderly are expected to constitute 20.1% of the total



population in Taiwan, turning the country into a “hyper-aged society.” To improve the adaptability of citizens in both family and social spheres after retirement, to slow the speed of and delay the aging of the population, since 2008 the Ministry of Education has set up “Senior Citizens’ Learning Centers” with courses appropriate for seniors. As of 2016, a total of 339 Senior Citizen Learning Centers have been established. The Ministry has also pioneered “Senior Citizens’ Learning Universities”. These centers utilize the personnel and facilities of existing higher learning institutions and are aimed at citizens aged 55 and older. In 2016, 107 senior citizens’ learning universities were established; in addition, to promote senior citizens’ education in a mobile and generalized way, 80 senior citizens’ independent learning groups were founded in 2016, using an independent and self-help method, and partly move to remote areas to promote lifelong learning to increase the social participation and lifelong learning opportunities for the elderly.

I Promote Across Boundary Value-added Development Plan, Shape the Cross Boundary Experience and Create a Space to Practice Lifelong Learning

Provide assistance and execute “the value-added development plan for cross boundary and lifelong learning by the National Social Education system”. The plan will integrate 7 social education institutions under the Ministry of Education through the creative design facilities and incorporating digital resources. The plan will further integrate the locals, civilians, business sectors and interlibrary



cooperation, so the values of the social education institutions and the surrounding sites of the targets will increase, values to their creativity and boost local cultural tourism.

J Promoting a Creative Technology Service Plan, Building a Complete Learning Environment for Intelligent Service and Nationwide Happy Learning

In order to correspond to national technology policies and to reach the policy aim of “promoting digital learning, building an excellent environment for fair, open and independent learning,” guide the 10 social education bodies under the Ministry of Education to implement the “Intelligent Service and Nationwide Happy Learning – The Creative Technology Service Plan for National Social Education Organizations” (2017-2020)



together. Thoroughly change the traditional look and service model of museums and libraries, through the use of cloud technology extended into the home, offer the public and the users a personalized and bespoke experience before, during and after their visit, and develop it into a complete intelligent learning environment which combines humanities, technology and life.

K Raising Educational Awareness and Collaborating with Non-profits

In order to effectively integrate education foundation resources and achieve sustainability in non-profit organizations, the Ministry of Education started promoting the “Educational Foundation Lifelong Learning Locomotive Realization Plan” in 1999. The Ministry put many efforts in expanding all types of education discussion topics, increasing more lifelong learning opportunities, to include core educational issues in the previously mentioned implementation project to maximize the effectiveness of the strategy alliance of the education and charity fund. In 2011, this lifelong learning locomotive was transformed into a lifelong learning education foundation. In 2017, there were 7 major topics, and 7 learning circles which together executed all types of educational activities.

L Innovating Library Service and Functions, Promoting Public Reading

To improve the quality of service at libraries and satisfy the needs of users, the Executive Yuan approved the Ministry of Education’s organization of the “Reading Promotion and Space Transformation: Library Service Innovating Development Project 2013-2016.” The project includes subsidizing the National Central Library to enhance its collection resources, added information services, collection of ancient documents and celebrity manuscripts, research and set up library technical standards; subsidize the National Taiwan Library to conduct the optimization of its special collections and digital resources, the innovating of services at the Taiwan Study Research Center and at the Taiwan Book Hospital; subsidize the National Library of Public Information to optimize its public digital resources and optimize mobile reading promotion and e-books. Until the year 2016, 12 regional resource centers were set up, and in addition subsidies were awarded to public libraries established by local governments for four projects, namely the organization of reading excellence models, the development of the integration of resources, the upgrading of the reading environment and library hardware, and the promotion of reading and optimization of the collections.

M Promoting Native Language Learning, Strengthening the Promotion of Taiwan’s Native Language Education

Continue promoting native languages and writings, and establish language learning resources; continue to maintain the electronic dictionary for native languages; organize the research and definition, reorganization and rewarding of standards for native language writing and pronunciation; conduct certification work for Taiwanese language ability; in order to raise the value of language diversity, integrate the resources and forces of private organizations and other bodies to jointly promote native language activities. ■