

To Our Readers



Every country has made the cultivation of human talent a priority in 21st century. As other advanced countries propose education reform in any form, Taiwan also recognises education as the bedrock of national development, implementing various education reforms such as pre-school education reform, grade 1-9 curriculum reform, the restructuring of secondary education, the enhancement of higher education, and lifelong learning projects.

To enhance the quality of education, the Ministry adopts dual approaches, including introducing flexible entrance exams into high schools and higher education so as to enable students to find the most appropriate institution, and encouraging teachers to polish their teaching techniques. We also place emphasis upon social concerns in order to provide equal education opportunities for all children, particularly for those from disadvantaged families. The establishment of the Digital Opportunity Centre (DOC) also marks our determination to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas. All of these efforts at every level not only facilitate democratic and economic development, but have also cultivated talent in many youths, who have

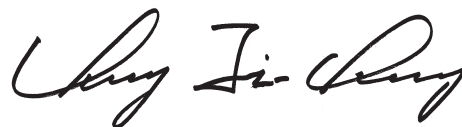
since earned several titles in international academic competitions.

To realise even greater achievements, we look forward to a deeper collaboration between local and central governments as well as efforts from both the private and public sectors.

In light of the challenges arising in this changing era, education policies rely on the Ministry's experience to recognise the core values and education mission in the 21st century. Furthermore, drawing up more concrete education policies will allow Taiwan to enter into the fierce international competition which exists among other advanced countries. Based on these, the Ministry has mapped out an "education policy blueprint" for the following four years (2009-2012), with advice from all levels of education. The vision for this "education policy blueprint" includes the establishment of a well-rounded environment, a happy learning atmosphere for both students and teachers, and the cultivation of high quality modern citizens with abilities of self-fulfillment in the global village. The five principles of this blueprint include: quality learning; adaptive education and well planned school admission system; social concerns; global visions; and sustainable development.

The cultivation of self-realised human talent has been designated a high priority for all educators and scholars. However, education in Taiwan should not only focus on excellent academic achievement, but should also emphasize the importance of assistance for disadvantaged families. For example, the "Luminous Angels Light Hope Project" and "Digital Opportunity Centre" are two of the significant policies in this year aimed at narrowing the learning gap, allowing these children to enjoy equal opportunities. One of our next policies is to take care of those economical-disadvantaged families to improve the quality of family education.

Education reforms such as the recognition of core values, educational restructuring and resource allocation require a long-term effort. Thus, the future policy for this Ministry will be more diverse and sustainable. We look forward to consolidating the efforts of the government and the local community to provide a better and more friendly education platform for future generations.



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