

Educational Reform

Creative Taiwan, Eye on the World



Taiwan's educational system has grown and expanded; now steps need to be taken to upgrade the quality of education. Globalisation has greatly influenced education, the economy and politics. Like other nations of the world, Taiwan is working zealously to improve national competitiveness.

Looking at the present situation of Taiwanese society, the MOE has come up with an 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 globalisation; and supporting the disadvantaged.

From 1998 to 2002, the MOE appropriated a budget of NT\$150 billion to implement twelve key points in educational reform. The educational system at every level assures the citizen's right to a good education. The following thirteen administrative and governing directions were decided in 2004.



1. Education for the Citizenry: Reduce the number of students in each high school class; introduce the nine-year compulsory education curriculum incorporating local subjects in classroom studies.

2. High School Education: Implement a multi-channel entrance programme at senior high school level; introduce a 12-year compulsory education plan.

3. Teacher Training: Reduce education courses for teachers; encourage elementary and high school teachers to seek further training while on the job.

4. Vocational Education: Strengthen collaboration between private firms and schools; foster international exchange; and enforce stricter evaluation standards for technical schools.

5. Higher Education: Improve the international competitiveness of colleges and universities; invite foreign professors to visit as faculty members; hire local specialists to fill teaching positions; modify and improve the educational loan system; bring higher education and economic development together.

6. Social Education: Promote lifelong learning; bolster functions of public social education systems; promote cultural activities; provide adult education classes for female immigrants, including those from China.

7. Physical Education and Health Education: Foster physical education classes in schools; hold sports competitions; strengthen the health education plan.

8. International Cultural Education: Establish Taiwan scholarships; promote cooperation and exchange with overseas educational institutions; foster participation in international scholarly symposiums; publicise overseas study programmes and counselling; encourage overseas study trips for students in senior high school or vocational school.

9. Training and Counselling: Promote human rights on campus; offer counselling for school drop-outs; ensure gender equality in education; organise college/university volunteer teams; hold fairs for senior high school organisations.

10. Internet and High Technology Education: Improve auxiliary education; encourage working for digital education certificates; establish community education networks.

11. Science Education: Revamp science education; hold science-based competitions at college or university level; promote lifelong science learning.

12. Environmental Protection Education: Promote nationwide safety and hygiene training; safeguard school safety initiatives; establish sustainable campuses.

13. Special Education: Formalise accreditations for physically- and mentally-challenged students; subsidise special education in 25 counties and cities; improve the quality of education for indigenous people.

