


A photograph of a basketball game. In the foreground, a player in a green jersey with "北一女中" (Beier Girls' High School) on it is jumping with arms raised. Another player in a white and red jersey with "淡水商" (Tanshui Commercial) and the number 15 is also jumping. A basketball is in the air above them. The background is filled with a large crowd of spectators, many wearing green and white. A semi-transparent blue box contains the title "Upper Secondary Education".

Upper Secondary Education

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

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

A photograph of Lu Pei-Chuan, the principal of National Beigang Senior High School, standing in front of the school building. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue tie. He has short black hair and is wearing glasses. The background shows a modern school building with large windows and a traditional Chinese gate with red pillars and a tiled roof. A large white stone with red Chinese characters is visible on the left.

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: improving a student's quality of education and helping them to 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 has barely any access to diverse educational resources. In 2005, the MOE launched the Excellence in Senior Schools Project, and in 2007, 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, 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 Education Project and this year, has granted subsidies to 107 senior high schools and 84 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 between 15 and 18 years of age prepare for higher education.

Before the implementation of multiple channels for entering colleges or universities in 2001, senior high schools were primarily focused upon 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, after taking a test set by the various departments of colleges and universities, or by taking the JUEE. Senior high schools now encourage their students to join in extra-curricular activities such as student societies, non-governmental organisations 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. Firstly, the Ministry designed a global learning environment in 2002 that included well-structured English courses. Secondly, the MOE encouraged high school students to participate in International Science and Maths Olympiads. Moreover, in 2005, the Ministry introduced policies intended to increase the number of international

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

Dual-Stream High School

To help some students who are undecided as to whether to undertake an academic or a 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 also 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 2007, 110,215 students were enrolled in 151 dual-stream high schools.

Nurturing Diversified Talents

Education in Taiwan is now focused on nurturing versatility. Hence, over the past few years, upper secondary schools and higher education institutes have adopted more diversified and internationalised curricula. With a more flexible college/university entrance system, the MOE has been encouraging a greater number of high schools not only to prepare students to pass the entrance exam, but also to cultivate versatility in ways 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 or junior colleges are, in principle, equipped to start a business, take up employment or pursue a degree at a university of technology.

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

college-level students acquire a 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 Programme

The MOE, in accordance with the Human Resources Programmes passed by the Executive Yuan in 2005, plans to expand the industry-related content of school curricula in order to derive more value from the increased cooperation between private firms and schools. Thus, the Industry-Academia Partnership Programme was born in 2006.

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

Such a curriculum, in accord with the vertical continuation principle, will help a student to find a job in the partnership companies after receiving complete professional training.

The MOE also plans to revise the Education Personnel Employment Law by relaxing restrictions on including a professor's temporary employment in industry in the computation of their years of service. This would enable them to undertake further research. During a practicum session, junior college vocational education students visit a plane cabin (top) and observe a catering company chef.



Chen Wan-Yao, 18, Taipei

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

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 programme this 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 initiatives have helped me to cultivate my cosmetology skills."

Daojiang is determined to enhance its students' international competitiveness by promoting exchanges with vocational high schools in other countries. During the last summer holidays, Wan-Yao participated in a tour to Japan organised by the school.

The MOE established the Taiwan International Association for Educational Tours in 2004, as a channel by which students in senior high education can visit other countries. In SY 2007, 6,500 students from 110 schools joined educational tours to Japan and up to 7,200 Japanese students visited Taiwan. Such tours help the students acquire a global view and also serve to enable other countries to know more about Taiwan.