

Senior Secondary Education

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

The senior secondary education system encompasses senior high school and senior vocational school for students aged fifteen to eighteen 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.

Wu Ching-yung, Yilan

**School Actualisation
Programme grants
bring innovation to
students, teachers and
classrooms**

**Principal of National Yilan
Senior High School**

One of the major challenges in the development of non-urban schools is to create a quality learning environment which will enable talented students to stay in their hometowns and develop a career. For Wu Ching-yung, the principal of the National Yilan Senior High School, receiving a School Actualisation Programme grant was a major step in shaping a positive and active learning attitude among students and teachers.

The Ministry of Education launched the School Actualisation Programme in 2007, aiming to bridge the learning gap between rural and urban high school students and to help senior high schools and senior vocational schools to build upon their own strengths in order to attract students. The MOE awarded the National Yilan High School a NT\$ 14 million grant over a three-year period.

“The biggest change that came with the grant has been the transformation of our whole teaching ideology and learning atmosphere,” says Wu.

“Our students are keener to learn and the teachers are exploring innovative approaches to teaching in order to increase interest among students in maths, science and the arts. Such heightened interest helps raise the students’ innovative abilities and academic achievement.”

The school does not give away huge amounts of scholarship money, but rather uses the grants to encourage students to write their own research proposals (subsidy up to NT\$ 20,000 per person); to help publish students’ research results; to hold scientific experimentation classes every Saturday; to have digital recorder-microphones installed in every classroom; to establish an English Corner; and to use modern technology such as the Geographic Information System (GIS) in its geography classes.

The School Actualisation Programme is an educational reform initiative sponsored by the MOE. It selected 40 senior high schools and 34 senior vocational schools for grants in SY 2009, putting the number of total subsidised schools at 265 island-wide.



Senior High Education

The three-year senior high school is part of Taiwan's mainstream educational system. The MOE has pushed forward projects to include senior secondary school as part of compulsory education with an aim of relieving study pressure on high school students and decreasing the gap between rural and urban schools.

Before the implementation of multi-channel admission into colleges and universities in 2001, senior high schools were primarily focused on preparing students to pass the Joint University Entrance Examination (JUEE). These days, admission into colleges or universities can be gained through recommendation by senior high schools, 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 upon involvement in such activities.

Enhancement of Global Competitiveness

The MOE has taken two important steps to infuse the principles of global competitiveness into senior 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 Mathematics and Science 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 senior secondary education in Taiwan by 2011.



Dual-Stream High School

For students who are undecided on whether to follow 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; they 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, as they would have gained adequate vocational training.

Nurturing Diversified Talents

Education in Taiwan is now focused on nurturing versatility. Hence, over the past few years, senior secondary schools and higher education institutes have adopted more diversified and internationalised curricula. With a more flexible college/university entrance system, high school students are encouraged not only to pass the entrance exam with high scores, but also to cultivate versatility in ways such as strengthening their language capabilities. 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, enhancing course design and improving teaching facilities. More foreign languages, such as Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, French and Spanish were included in the plan.

Senior Vocational Education

Technological and Vocational Education

Technological 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 at universities of technology are able to sharpen their vocational skills and are trained to write academic papers.

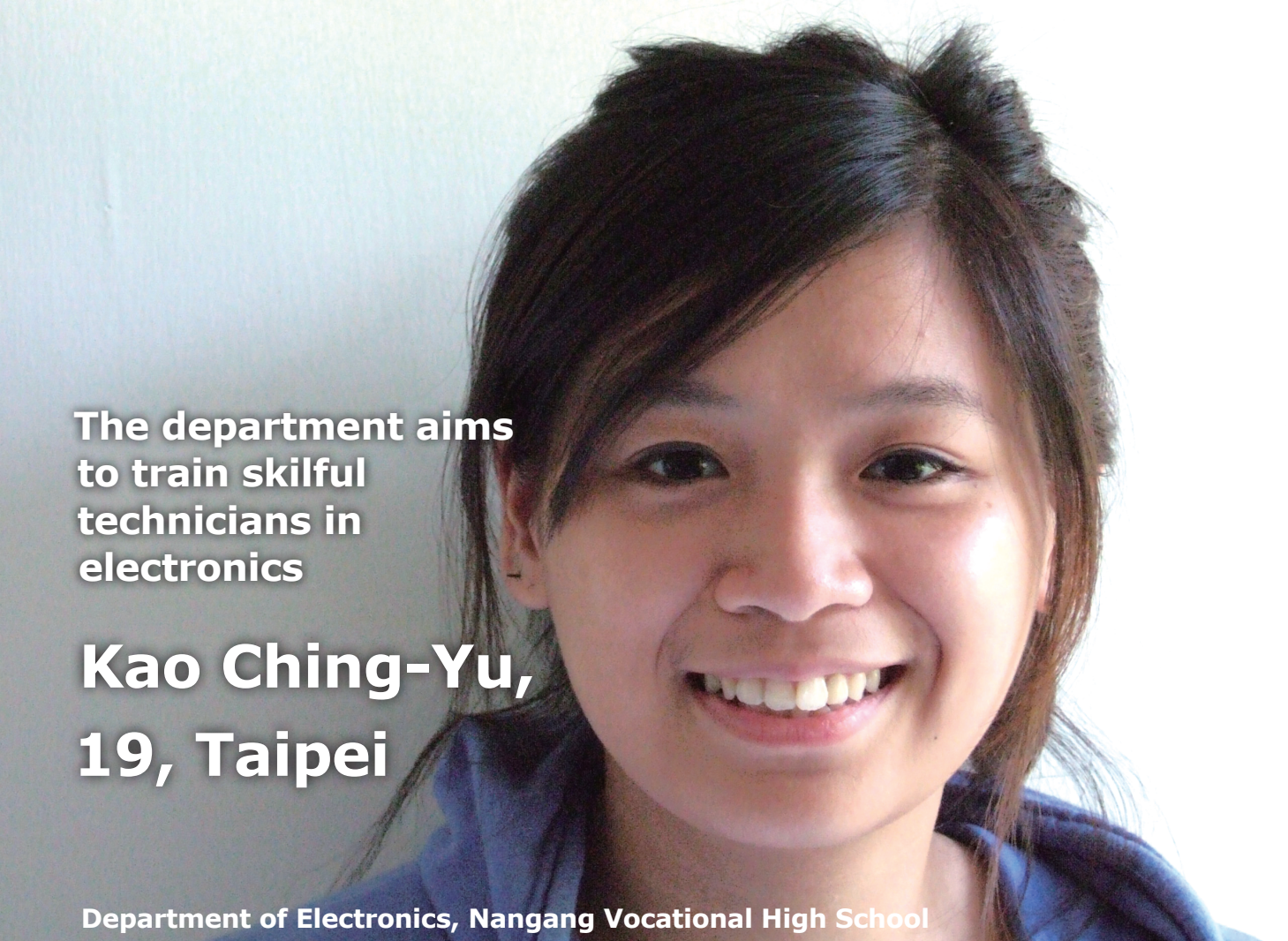
Industry-Academia Partnership Programme

The MOE, in accordance with the Human Resources Programmes passed by the Executive Yuan in 2005, plans to expand the industry-based 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 several options. They are: 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 programme, based on the vertical continuation principle, will help students to find a job in the partner 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 teachers to undertake further research, and benefit students' learning prospects.

A close-up portrait of a young woman with dark hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a blue jacket. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**The department aims
to train skilful
technicians in
electronics**

**Kao Ching-Yu,
19, Taipei**

Department of Electronics, Nangang Vocational High School

Before Ching-Yu studied in Nangang Vocational High School, she was not sure whether her interest was in accounting or electronics. She followed the suggestions given by her parents and opted for electronics at the Taipei school.

“Here I learned how to design computer programmes, which could sometimes be fun but at other times very challenging,” she says.

Students at the department also have to learn the assembly, operation and maintenance of electronics equipment as well as micro-computer electronic equipment or systems. The department is equipped with 60 advanced computers and it aims to train skilful technicians in electronics and to teach relevant professional knowledge and competence.

“It was very inspirational when I received the scholarship from our department and it motivated me to study harder.”

Kao took dance and culinary courses as extra curricular activities, which she said helped build her confidence and ease the daily study pressure.

As the school prepares its students to discover their real interests during their three- or four-year period of study, Kao ascertained in aptitude tests that she was more interested in accounting, rather than electronics.

Ching-Yu will be admitted into the Chihlee Institute of Technology for a two-year study period this year.

The MOE established the Taiwan International Association for Educational Tours in 2004, as a channel by which students in senior secondary education could visit other countries. In SY 2008, more than 6,000 students from 127 schools took part in educational tours to Japan and South Korea, while up to 6,400 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.