

Social Education



Photo courtesy of Zhong-zheng Community College
Participants learn how to play Moon Zither in the classroom.

Learning is a lifelong process. Lifelong learning empowers people to gain new knowledge, and therefore enhance social inclusion, personal development, competitiveness and employability.

A “Virtuous Taiwan” campaign was launched in June 2009 to build Taiwan into a more decent society by stressing character-building education, grounding

in the arts, lifelong reading and environmental sustainability with a budget of NT1.2 billion.

The MOE has established a general learning certification system, organized basic education classes for adults and encouraged foreign spouses to attend language classes or receive further education.

Supplementary education is meant to raise the average level of education in the society as a whole. Key components include fundamental supplementary education, supplementary advanced education, and short-term supplementary education. In SY 2008, a total number of 25,201 students enrolled in 534 fundamental supplementary schools, 98,376 students enrolled in 224 supplementary advance senior secondary schools, 38,134 students enrolled in 42 supplementary advanced junior colleges, and 27,495 students enrolled in 42 supplementary advanced colleges.

As for Open University, the enrollment number grew from 2,435 in 1999 to 4,357 in 2008. The total number of students reached 16,751 in school year 2008-2009.

Meanwhile, a well-rounded social education system has helped Taiwan's illiteracy rate among those over 15 years old to drop from 7.98% of the population in 1989 to 2.22% in the end of 2008 (from 1.3 million to just over 424,000).

MOE-sponsored institutions, such as community colleges, provide courses for adults, especially those who had to



discontinue their schooling (mostly females over the age of 55) and the growing population of foreign spouses who wish to learn Mandarin, Taiwanese, and English. Subjects range from Chinese language,

foreign languages, computer skills, to musical instruments and dancing. The annual budget from MOE's Department of Social Education to subsidise community colleges is NT\$260 million in 2009.



Photo courtesy of Zhong-zheng Community College
Participants exhibit hand-sewn dolls in the classroom.