

TECHNOLOGICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TAIWAN, ROC

Overview

During the last several decades, Taiwan's Technological and Vocational Education (TVE) has cultivated numerous professional talents in various disciplines. Taiwan's economic development has been tightly interwoven with the TVE development. The government began to press forward with economic development plans around the 1950s, starting with advancing sweeping changes in agricultural production technologies while actively developing labor-intensive essential goods industries. The student ratio of TVE vs. traditional highs is shown as follows:

Year	TVE Development	Student Ratio
50s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Education in agriculture and commerce ■ Attention to senior-level vocational schools 	4:6
60s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Developing industrial and commercial vocational education ■ Launching nine-year compulsory education ■ Expanding the vocational education program and the number of schools and students ■ Starting the 5-year and 2-year junior college systems 	4:6
70s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improving industrial vocational education and junior college education ■ Establishing technological institutes 	6:4
80s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Overall upgrading the quantity and quality in industrial vocational education and junior college education 	7:3
90s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establishing comprehensive high schools ■ Increasing colleges of technology ■ Upgrading meritorious junior colleges to colleges of technology ■ Upgrading meritorious colleges of technology to universities of science & technology 	5:5
00s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maximizing the overall TVE ■ Internationalizing the TVE 	5:5
10s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Focusing on matching the industries' workforce demand and student aptitude 	6.2:3.8

TVE Today

The current status of the two major levels of TVE (Middle- and Higher-level TVE) is described below. The middle-level TVE consists of crafts and skills programs in junior highs, senior vocational schools, the professional programs offered in general high schools, and the vocational programs offered in comprehensive high schools. The higher-level TVE can be classified into two strata of junior colleges and colleges of technology/universities of science & technology. As of the 2012 academic year, overall there are 246 schools in the TVE system, totaling 1,045,593 students.

vocational high schools, Junior colleges, universities/colleges of technology, to graduate schools with master's and Ph.D. programs. The different tracks within the system have been designed with vertical continuity and horizontal flexibility of switching tracks in mind, and the pipelines for recurrent education are also in place, so students and the general public alike may find suitable education opportunities at any stage of their lives.

Private institutions are an important force in Taiwan's TVE development, and their presence exceeds that of public institutions. They have close connections with industries and enterprises, and their connections allow close match between TVE and market needs.

The fundamental rationale of TVE emphasized teaching practical skills and applicable knowledge. To encourage those who are already excellent in their own crafts to continue their education; students can enter TVE higher education through multiple channels such as by excellent performance in skills or by referrals.

Features

TVE in Taiwan is now a comprehensive system that consists of schools ranging from junior highs in compulsory education, senior

Goals

The importance of TVE emphasizes "Teaching Practical Skills and Applicable Knowledge." To cultivate quality professionals, improve the teaching and learning environment for TVE teachers/students, and elevate TVE's overall quality. Taiwan's TVE, under the direction of government's policy and efforts put forth by individual institutions, has seen excellent advancement and development over the years. Some of the main goals are listed below.

1. Commitment to caring for the economically disadvantaged students:
 - Tuition Waiver for senior high school professional groups and the first three years of the five-year junior colleges
 - Financial assistance for economically disadvantaged college students
 - Other assistance programs
2. Adopting a multichannel school admission system:
 - Enrollment control quotas
 - Examination and recruitment separation program
 - Admission through multiple channels
3. Proactively improving teaching quality:
 - Implementing "Program for Adaptive Learning for Senior Vocational School Students and Fair Distribution of Community Education Resources"
 - Implementing "Quality Improvement Program for Senior High Vocational Schools"
 - Elevating teaching quality in junior colleges
 - Implementing "Teaching Excellence Projects for Universities/Colleges of Technology"
 - Strengthening faculty's practical teaching capabilities in TVE institutions
 - Infusion of industry resources for collaborative TVE teaching
 - Encouraging students to participate in all competitions
 - Substantiating the professional certification system
4. Promoting evaluations for TVE institutions:
 - Senior vocational high schools
 - TVE Higher Education Institutions
5. Cultivating industrial-academic cooperation talents:
 - Special industrial-academic cooperation classes
 - Student off-campus internship program
 - Post-baccalaureate second-major program
 - Industry-Enterprise Human Resources (HR) Supporting Program
6. Emphasizing industrial-academic cooperation innovation and r&d:
 - Consummate industrial-academic cooperation rules and regulations
 - Establishing regional industrial-academic cooperation centers
 - Promoting industrial-academic cooperation plans in industrial parks
7. The plan for developing technological university paradigms.
8. Developing international cooperation and exchange:
 - International cooperations and elevating student language capabilities
 - Admission of international students

9. Linking industry's technological and vocational reformations.

The goals are to ensure that "all graduates from all TVE institutions have the ability to take up employment immediately," "sufficiently providing the quality technological labor force needed by the development of industries," and "reshaping the society's images on TVE" – thus, reaching the goal of elevating the overall competitiveness of TVE.

Outlook

Because TVE has not been in existence that long, its concepts, structures, and systems still need improvement for the best. With the rapid social changes beyond imagination, TVE on the one hand, needs to keep up with the times in terms of both content and methodologies in order to achieve the goal of practical applications. On the other hand, TVE needs to continuously review the environment it is in, so perfect comprehension between the ideals of education and technical training can be found. Thus, while we acknowledge TVE's achievements, we need to continue to contemplate and explore, to bravely experiment and innovate; only by doing so we may pave an even better path to TVE's improvement and development.

TVE today, with persistent endeavors of our predecessors, has seen bountiful results, and we cherish that. In order for the general public to have a clear and comprehensive view of TVE's development in Taiwan, the MOE publishes this booklet, hoping to lead even more students who are technologically inclined or have preference in practical applications to choose TVE. In so doing, these students may advance in accordance to their personal interest, aptitude, and capabilities. Choose TVE, put efforts in it, a bright future is reachable. Meanwhile, we also urge our TVE educators to continue to innovate, excel, and bring TVE in Taiwan to another new plateau.

