



## Chapter 4

# Learning and Education

*Taipei is a learning city. Schools in Taipei City strive to become quality schools and aim to construct safe and healthy campus environments through sustainable campus programs. The educational system in Taipei City advocates reading, as well as science and art education, with an aim to develop students' fundamental abilities and knowledge in the humanities. The City of Taipei has also established a comprehensive system of social education institutions to provide the public wide choices of learning resources and implemented native language and cultural heritage courses in schools for ethnic Hakka and the indigenous population.*

## Chapter 4

In response to the trend of globalization, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government is actively promoting quality education through the construction of a quality learning environment, providing adequate programs for the development of physical health, and creating safe and healthy campuses. To reinforce students' fundamental abilities, enhance students' international competitiveness, and provide students' with opportunities for adaptive learning and full potential development, and to facilitate the development and experience of cultural diversity, Taipei City has established a comprehensive system of lifelong education and implemented courses in indigenous and Hakka languages.

## Part 1 Quality Learning Environment

## 1. Improving the Quality of Higher Education

The higher education system in Taipei City is targeted to develop quality human resources in education and sports. Currently, the City of Taipei directly supervises two municipal colleges - Taipei Municipal University of Education and Taipei Physical Education College. In the process of becoming an international city, the City of Taipei places great value on the development of talented individuals in its higher education system.

## 2. Development of Secondary Education Excellence

Currently, there are two national high schools, 26 municipal high schools (including complete secondary schools and comprehensive high schools), and 22 private high schools. The total number of classes is 1,892, and the number of students comes to 75,231. For junior high schools, there are 59 municipal junior high schools, 13 junior high schools in the complete secondary school system (including 2 national schools), and three private junior high schools. The total number of classes is 2,900, and the total number of students comes to 90,149.

(1) **“Select One from the One Outline, Multiple Textbook Edition” System and the Joint High School Entrance Exam**

Since 2007, the “Select One from the One

Outline, Multiple Textbook Edition” system has been a key policy in the administration of Taipei City. Through two rounds of textbook selection in 2008 and 2010, the “Taipei, New Taipei City, and Keelung Joint High School Entrance Exam” was launched in May 2011. In Taipei, New Taipei City, and Keelung, over 90% of junior high graduates entered their target schools with scores of the Taipei, New Taipei City, and Keelung Joint High School Entrance Exam before registration for the second Basic Competence Test for Junior High School Students.



Taipei, New Taipei City, and Keelung Joint Entrance Exam Conference.

(2) **The Teacher and Teaching Efficiency Upgrade Program for the Twelve-Year Compulsory Education System**

The City of Taipei works along two axes – “curriculum development in senior high



A concert of the Youth Music Camp.



Second-graders experiencing puppet theater.

schools” and “activation of teaching in junior high schools”, in order to achieve the goals and mission of the coming twelve-year compulsory educational system from the core of education – “curriculum and teaching”. To help the teachers prepare for curriculum development and related assessments, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government set up a “3-year Plan under the 12-year Basic Education Policy – Promoting Effectiveness of Teaching and Assessments in Junior High Schools in the City of Taipei.” This program aims to maintain continuous dialogue between junior high and high schools, advocate creative teaching, encourage curriculum and instructional design, facilitate the development of effective assessment tools for the effective evaluation of students' learning and abilities, and offer curriculum and teaching feedback.

### (3) Constructing Friendly Campuses Through Character Building

To construct friendly campuses and achieve the goals of education in human rights, rule of law, and character building, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government organized the Leadership Training Camp for the Junior High School Students, which was held from July 6 to 8, 2011 at the Shilin Junior High School and Pusin Ranch. A total of 250 students participated in this event. The City also organized the Leadership Training Program for Taipei Senior High School Students from October 29 to 31 at Heping High

School and Hsinchu County Little Ding-Dong Science Theme Park with a total of 140 students participated.



Leadership Training Program for Taipei Senior High School Students.

## 3. Adaptive Technical and Vocational Education

Seven public vocational schools, 10 private vocational schools, eight high schools have vocational training departments, together with two independent continuing education schools. A total of 1,167 classes are offered in the vocational education system, and the number of students comes to 47,829.

### (1) Let Dreams Take Flight

The Department of Education, Taipei City Government published nine issues of the pocket book series entitled “The Sky of Technical and Vocational Education.” This series of publications

highlights the achievements of the graduates from the Taipei municipal vocational high schools and the diversity and vision of vocational education, with an aim to help junior school students make the best choices for their further education. A press conference was held on June 13 at Taipei City Hall Building, and the former Education Commissioner, Mr. Kang Tzong-huu, presented the awards to this year's group of deserving students.



Let the dreams take flight.

## **(2) Exemplar of Teaching Excellence**

To commend teachers of excellence, encourage the development of teaching professionalism and boost enthusiasm in teaching, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government hosted an awards presentation ceremony to commend the dedication of 30 teachers (including four principals). This event, entitled “Exemplar of Teaching Excellence,” was held on September 24, 2011, at the Daan Vocational High School.

## **(3) Skills Learning leads to the Future**

To commend excellent students in the skills learning programs and the winners in the skills competition (the top six plus judges' selections), the Department of Education, Taipei City Government held an awards presentation ceremony on June 1 at Songshan High School of Agriculture and Industry. A total of 157 students were recognized for excellence in the Technical Education Program for Junior High Schools and 53 students received awards for their outstanding

performance in the skills competition. A total of 210 awards were given out at this ceremony.

## **4. Development of Creative Elementary Education**

There are a total of 153 public and private elementary schools (including 2 national, 141 municipal, and 10 private schools) in Taipei City, offering 5,584 classes to a total of 139,259 students.

### **(1) Continuous Upgrading of the Quality and Quantity of Reading**

The Department of Education, Taipei City Government, set the year of 2011 as “The Year of Reading.” This program aims to promote reading in the city. Through several presentations of classical literature, plays, and drama, the City took action to promote the upgrading of the quality and quantity of reading, with a goal to create a city of literature. In addition, along with the various reading activities, the City has also set up the Children Love Reading Website. This website offers a consolidated searchable database for quick access to a teaching resources site, reading lesson plans sharing, reading action research, themed reading groups, and an online book club, providing teachers and students in Taipei City with a network platform for dialogues and exchange with links to external resources. This website highlights all the activities in “The Year of Reading” in Taipei City.

### **(2) The Implementation of a Main Language – Second Language Policy in Language Education**



Family Reading Challenge Game Opening Performance.

Apart from Chinese language teaching, the City has been actively implementing parallel learning of student mother-tongues and English in elementary schools. To achieve this, several programs were implemented, including the Mother-Tongue Day, one extra hour of English class for grades 3 to 6, English excellence after-school experimental classes, and the establishment of the English scenario teaching center and English learning scenario and optimization classrooms. Many of the programs offer students opportunities to use language in real-life scenarios. Parent-children learning programs have also implemented to promote learning effectiveness.

### **(3) The “No Child Left Behind” Program**

To take care of disadvantaged children, the City of Taipei launched the “No Child Left Behind” program. This program consolidates resources to set up an after-school remedial teaching system for low-achieving students. It is a “Hope Project” targeted to set every child on track. In 2011, a total of 143 schools offered 2,617 classes, which were attended by a total of 18,194 person-times.

### **(4) Summer Vacation Camps**

In 2011, a total of 27 schools organized 39 summer vacation camps. To provide opportunities for culturally or economically disadvantaged students, a quota of 3 to 6 places in each camp is reserved for this group of students (including children of disadvantaged new immigrants, low-

income households, single-parent low-income families, and low-income families suffering from injuries or major accidents). To promote inter-city cooperation, an extra 5% was reserved for students from New Taipei City and Keelung City. This rounds up to an approximate total of 2,100 participants.

## **5. Development of Quality Early Childhood Education**

There are currently 135 public kindergartens in Taipei City, offering 460 classes for 11,337 children, and 154 private kindergartens with 546 classes for 10,138 children.

### **(1) Taipei City “Happy Parenthood” Program - Free Schools for Children Under 5 years Old**

To create a conducive environment for child birth and reduce the burden of childcare, the City of Taipei took the lead in the nation to implement the “Free Schools for Children under 5 Years Old” program in the school year of 2011 and, starting from school year 2012, Taipei City will subsidize NT\$12,543 and NT\$17,543 each semester for children of Taipei City residents. In addition, as a coordination program with the Ministry of Education's “5-year-old Early Childhood Education Program,” each household in the City will be eligible for a subsidy of NT\$7,000 to NT\$30,000, depending on the category of kindergarten, the number of children in the household, and the household income.

### **(2) Building a Quality and Healthy Schools for Early Childhood Education**

To create a joyful and safe school environment for young children, teaching facilities were taking serious consideration of safety into account, and school staff members have also undergone safety education training. On November 13, 2011, the City of Taipei hosted the “Healthy Babies - The Children Aerobics Dance Show.” Approximately eight thousand children, parents, and teachers participated in this event.



Facial Tattoo and Traditional Costumes.

## Part 2 Constructing Healthy and Safe Campuses

### 1. Quality School Certification

In the 2011 Quality School Certification Campaign, a total of 217 applications were submitted, and 49 schools, with a total of 55 nominations, won the certification of a “Quality School.” The winning rate (25.35%) marked the second highest in history. Among the schools, Neihu District Nanhu Elementary School won the Golden Award for overall school quality. Since Taipei City launched the Quality School Certification Program in 1996, a total of 133 schools have been awarded with 266 Quality School Certifications over the years.

### 2. School Renewal

The Department of Education, Taipei City Government implemented school campus renewal projects with the goal of achieving sustainable campus development through the construction of safe and healthy campuses and green buildings. The renewal projects are designed to establish the connections between humans and the environment, taking aesthetics and energy efficiency into consideration, and to create quality environments for learning about nature, the humanities, arts, science and technology. The attractive, comfortable, and safe public spaces are expected to significantly increase the competitiveness of the schools. To meet the quality standards for the continuous advocacy of sustainable campuses, several landscaping projects were also implemented. In this project, large areas of plants and landscape design were created, with an aim to expand visual and activity spaces for the children and provide each campus with a new look.

Furthermore, Taipei City has also launched the “Green Campus, Green Fences” campaign to promote the concept of a green environment and energy re-use. The on-going project of the “Walks to School” campaign connects the streets in the communities into green corridors that also serve as practical, safe, and fun paths to school. To encourage the re-use of water resources, the City has also set up water piggybanks for rainwater collection and implemented swimming pool water recycling. Hard cement pavements have also been gradually replaced by water-permeable pavements to facilitate water retention, energy saving and carbon emission reduction. Quality reading spaces have also been constructed wherever possible. Through quality hardware and resources tailored for reading activities, the City aims to provide students with diversified reading environments. The establishment of such living spaces is an initiative to advocate lifelong reading and learning, care for nature and humanity, and foster the concept of “life is learning”.

### 3. Healthcare in Schools

#### (1) Health Management and Promotion

The Department of Education, Taipei City Government teamed up with the Department of Health to implement student health checkups and promote the “Health Promoting School” program. This program covers six health topics, including vision care, oral care, healthy weight, tobacco hazard prevention, sex education, and the correct use of medication. It was implemented through teachers and administrative staff training and student activities.

## (2) Healthy Diet

To create a healthy dieting environment, the City published the Taipei City Public and Private School Campus Food Serving Standards and implemented campus food inspection and evaluation. To advocate healthy diets, the City teamed up with the John Tung Foundation to organize a student poster competition.

## (3) Environmental Education

Based on the Environmental Education Act, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government organized the Danshui River

Ecology Seed Teacher Training, as well as the Teachers' Energy Education Teaching (Plan) Aid Design and Students' Creative Energy-saving Proposal Competition. With the collaboration of the Department of Environmental Protection, Taipei City Government, the Department of Education organized the "Taipei - A LOHAS City Golden Autumn Environment Fest Campaign" and the students' environmental knowledge challenge cup, in an aim to enhance teachers' and students' knowledge of environmentalism.



Beitou District Mingde Elementary School Library Improvement Project.

## Part 3 Adaptive Development Enables Diversified Achievements

In a society with high diversification, teaching and learning are also developed to provide students with diversified and adaptive learning and development opportunities. To provide healthy and comprehensive education for the City's residents, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government offers a wide range of extra-curricular learning activities.

### 1. Adaptive Education Services

#### (1) Entrance Exam Exemption for Graduates of Junior High Schools with Disabilities

To achieve adaptive placement and diversified development for special education, the City launched the High School/Vocational High School Entrance Exam Exemption for Junior High School Graduates with Disabilities in accordance with the Completion of Basic Education for Students with Disabilities Ordinance in school year 2011. A total of 815 places were opened for eligible students. Students eligible for this program are guaranteed places in high schools or vocational high schools before the Basic Competence Test for Junior High School Students, thus reducing the anxiety of both parents and students.

#### (2) Warm and Diversified Activities for Students of Special Education

The City organized a wide range of city-wide recreational and learning activities to provide diversified and rich learning contents for students in special education. These activities include elementary special education recreation activities, holiday sports activities for junior high school

special education students, the Lele Cup Baseball Tournament, performances/exhibitions of students in special art programs (music, dance and fine arts), and an elementary and junior high school creative science project contest.



Joint Dance Performance of the Elementary and Junior High School Dance Classes.

### 2. Information Learning and Science Education

The Department of Education, Taipei City Government has been actively promoting the application of education cloud and digital book-bag technologies, aiming to provide teachers and students with diversified and convenient modes of teaching and learning.

To build the “Integrated Platform for Teaching Resources” and promote the development of free teaching aids, the Department of Education signed a memorandum with the Institute for Information Industry and the Songshan District Sanmin Elementary School on August 25, 2011 in accordance with the “Campus Services Cloud Building Plan.” This plan will provide free lesson plans and teaching aids, as well as free software tools and course management applications. These resources are expected to consolidate the system of digital learning and create an omnipresent learning environment.

In the year 2011, Taipei City launched the digital book-bag plan. This pilot project was funded by the Industrial Development Bureau, Ministry of Economic Affairs with a total of seven junior high schools and nine elementary schools participated in this project. This project aims



Joint Concert of the Junior High School Music Classes.

to facilitate creative teaching, through which teachers are enabled to quickly consolidate their teaching resources based on the goals and needs of the teaching activities and plan classroom activities. These innovative teaching and learning media are expected to enrich teaching content and create a friendly environment for mobile learning.



The Digital Book-bag offers a convenient tool to annotate e-books.

In order to strengthen IT and science education in the public and private high schools, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government regularly organizes information, mathematics, natural science competitions and, in addition to the competitions, the City also encourages inter-school exchange, with an aim to enhance the quality of information and science education. Furthermore, the City has also launched the Secondary School Students Science Research Grant Program. This program aims to encourage



Information Science Competition Awards Presentation Ceremony.

students to engage in scientific research, motivate interest in academic studies, and inspire thinking and creativity.



Taipei City Students' Creative Puppetry Competition.

### 3. Art Activities and Competitions

To promote the development of art diversity and international exchange, the City regularly organizes for Taipei students five categories of art competition every year. In 2011, a total of 366 teams and 1,702 individuals entered the music competition, 52 teams and 250 individuals signed up for the dance competition, 5,698 individuals entered the fine art competition, 47 teams entered the teacher-student folk song competition, and 17 teams registered for the creative puppet theater competition.

In the Elementary and Junior High School Grades 1-9 Curriculum-Humanities and Arts Curriculum Plan, the subject of arts and culture was integrated into the formal curriculum. To coordinate this program, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government and the Department of Education implemented the program "Art Education In depth," starting from 2005. In 2011, this program was further expanded downward to include students of the second grade up to the seventh grade. A total of 743 guided-art tours, 56 theatrical performances, and 43 music concerts were organized under this program, and a total of 110,682 individual participated in the events. The events cover a wide range of

art genres, including experience courses of the local puppet theater, exploration activities at art galleries, theater performances, the Taipei Symphony Orchestra concerts, the Taipei Chinese Orchestra concerts, and Traditional Beijing Opera performances.

To promote the education of theater arts, integrate art education into school education, develop students' abilities in appreciating fine arts and performing arts, and reinforce environmental awareness, the Taipei Cultural Center launched a series of art events on campus in 2011, targeting elementary school children. The organizer invited the If Kids Drama to present a theatrical performance, entitled "Beaver loves the Earth" on campus, and students from the Department of Chinese Opera, National Taiwan College of Performing Arts, hosted the "Opening the Gate to Classical Theater" series. A total 4,100 persons participated in the 16 performances. The "Fun in Theater" event organized by the Taipei Cultural Center Wenshan Branch Center was opened to school groups for free admission and, after each

professional performance, the organizer arranged a Q&A session to allow the performers to interact with the students. A total of 7,532 students participated in 41 performances. Furthermore, to give the students a complete concept of theater art, the Wenshan Branch Center organized the "Behind the Scenes" series of activities, hosted the "Theater Mystery" performances, complete with guided tours. For each event, a theater lecturer guided the visitors through the exhibition, introduced the students to the processes of production, and allowed the students to experience the various elements of theater art. A total of 2,581 students participated in 54 sessions.

The City has also organized several arts and culture camps to provide students opportunities for in-depth learning of the arts during the holidays. The Taipei Symphony Orchestra hosted "2011 TSO Music Camp" from July 13 to 23, 2011 and a total of 72 students participated in this event. Outstanding Taiwanese conductor Mr. Qiu Jun-qiang, along with piano soloist Mr. Yen Jun-ji, led the participants in studying the different



Guided tour for the Night and Day exhibition.

music styles. A concert was held on July 23.

The Taipei Chinese Orchestra organized the 2011 TCO Summer Camp from August 21 to 26 at the Taipei Youth Corps Jiantan Youth Activity Center. A total of 120 students participated in this event. The camp included four major courses, instrument group training, demonstration lectures, seminars, and orchestra training. A concert was held on August 26 .



Children interacting with members of the Taipei Chinese Orchestra.

The Taipei Cultural Center organized a series of talent camps for children, including camps for Ocarina, calligraphy, diabolo, recorder, comedy, dough figurines, dance and magic. The Taipei Cultural Center offered seven classes for 210 students in the Winter of 2011 and 14 classes for 280 students in the Summer of 2011.

The Taipei Cultural Center Wenshan Branch Center also organized a series of workshops, emphasizing the concepts of “contact” and “experience.” The Wenshan Branch Center invited professional art groups to host classes in visual arts, physical expression, theater, dance, and script writing. Through various media, the workshops offered students actual contact with the creative process of the arts. A total of 14 workshops were organized in 2011, and a total of 253 students participated in the series of events.

#### 4. Family education

The Family Education Center, Taipei City launched several major events in 2011.

#### (1) The “Month of Filial Piety and Family” Series

In coordination with the Month of Filial Piety and Family Campaign in May, the Family Education Center, Taipei City launched a series of events, including the “Mother’s Day Family (Grandparents and Grandchildren) Love Campaign,” “Model Filial Family Nomination and Awards Presentation Ceremony,” “Hearts of Parents: Cross-generation Love - Oil Painting Competition and Watercolor Invitation,” and “2011 Taipei City Family Education Excellence Group and Individual Nomination and Awards Presentation Ceremony.”

#### (2) “Nation-wide Grandparents-Grandchildren Carnival”

In coordination with the 2nd National Grandparents Day, the Family Education Center, Taipei City organized the “LOHAS Grandparents: Happy Generations - Nation-wide Grandparent-grandchildren Carnival” on August 28 at the National Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall. Over a hundred multi-generation families were invited, including the family of the Vice President, Mr. Vincent Siew, magistrates of cities and counties, elected representatives, and school principals.

#### (3) Family Learning Curriculum

A series of classes were organized specially for family learning on a quarterly basis. This series of classes cover the subjects of art, English, music, writing and literature and creative arts.



Drama performance by the Wende Girls High School.

## Part 4 Resources for Social Education

On June 10, 2011, Taipei City Mayor Hau Lung-bin declared Taipei a learning city and launched the learning city network. This network consolidates the lifelong learning resources in Taipei and creates an “anyone, anytime, and anywhere” learning environment.

### 1. Learning Institutions in Diversified Formats

The City of Taipei set up a great number of social education institutions in diversified formats to provide the public with a wealth of social education resources.

#### (1) Taipei Public Library

The Taipei Public Library is assigned the mission to promote cultural activities in the city. This system was implemented in a highly concentrated manner and includes 42 libraries, 11 public reading rooms and 4 intelligent libraries, providing city residents with readily available resources and services. The Taipei Public Library launched the E-Card service, which encourages students to integrate their digital student ID cards with their City Library card and the public to integrate their library cards with the Easy Card, in an aim to promote public reading. The new facilities and services added to the system in 2011 include the American Space at the Main Library on January 14, the “FastBook Automatic Book Stop” on April 23, the Songshan Airport Intelligent



American Space Launch.

Library on June 27, and the Solar Library and Energy-Saving Exhibition Building on October 29.

#### (2) Taipei Children's Recreation Center

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Taipei Children's Amusement Park was hosted by Taipei City Mayor Mr. Hau Lung-bin on November 3.

#### (3) Taipei Astronomical Museum

With its quality exhibition, high-tech audio-visual services, excellent space exploration facilities, and innovative activities, the Taipei Astronomical Museum shares the secrets of the universe with the residents of Taipei City. The Museum launched the following events in 2011.

A. From January 7 to October 10: Searching for Extraterrestrial Life Exhibition. A total of 74,810 visitors joined this exhibition.



Opening of the Extraterrestrial Life Exhibition.

B. September 12: 2011 Mid-Autumn Festival. A total of 2,350 visitors participated in this event.

#### (4) Taipei Zoo

“Respect Life; Care for Nature”, the Taipei Zoo takes on the mission to provide an educational environment for the learning of biodiversity and nature conservation, as well as opportunities for experiential learning. The Taipei Zoo launched a series of events. The following are some of the events and achievements.

A. Won the 3rd Government Service Quality Award, hosted by the Executive Yuan.

B. Organized several events over the summer, including the 2011 Summer Zoo Festival and the International Forest Year “Summer Forest”

Series: “A Night in the Black Forest,” “Overnight at the Zoo Camp,” “Black and White Bears,” “Dr. Batman Camp” and “Forest Elf – Looking for True Happiness.” A total of 1,104 persons participated in the series of events.



Taking animal specimens at the Dr. Batman Camp.

### (5) Taipei Youth Recreation Center

The Taipei Youth Recreation Center takes on the mission to provide educational and recreational activities to the youth of the city. The following are some of the major events and competitions launched in 2011.

- A. May 1: Y17 Cup National Youth Go (Weiqi) Competition; a total of 573 players competed in this tournament.
- B. May 29: 2011 Taipei City Cup Youth Calligraphy Invitation.
- C. July 6 to 7: 2011 Taipei City Elementary and Junior High School Stand-up Comedy Competition.

## 2. Life-long Education

### (1) Education for Senior Citizens

Currently, there are nine Senior Active Learning Centers in Taipei City. The centers offered over 1,958 sessions of classes and seminars in 2011, attracting 50,000 participants.

To enrich the spiritual life of the elderly, the Taipei City Elderly Continuing Education Programs have been launched at 22 sites in the city's 12 administrative regions (including Senior Service Centers, institutions affiliated with

the Department of Social Welfare, Taipei City Government community colleges, and extension education centers of tertiary institutions), offering full-day learning programs on diversified subjects to senior citizens. The classes offered in 2011 cover a wide range of subjects, including culture and sports, leisure, crafts, literature and art, and continuing education. A total of 162 classes were offered in 2011, attracting 5,540 senior citizens (110,800 times).

To shorten the digital divide of the elderly population, the Elderly Continuing Education Programs offered 33 computer and information-related courses at 13 different facilities. These programs provided elderly citizens with basic knowledge in computing, and some of them were able to complete online hotel and ticket bookings and online shopping transactions after six months. Senior citizens who love to travel shared their travel experience through Facebook and Internet telephony applications, and some of them who developed hobbies in photography produced their own digital photo albums and shared them over the internet. In 2011, a total of 950 senior citizens participated in the program (19,000 persons-times).



Demonstration of Chinese painting and exhibition of Chinese painting class.

### (2) Adult Education Encourages On-the-job Training

The Department of Education, Taipei City Government launched the “Adult Basic Education Program” in 30 elementary schools, targeting

people who had lost the opportunity of education at an early age and new immigrants. Seven public and private high schools also offered adult education classes. A total of 86 classes were offered in 2011, attracting a total of 1,451 participants.

### **(3) Multi-Faceted Supplementary Education**

A total of 2,700 supplementary schools have registered in Taipei City. These schools offer different facets for supplementation of knowledge, further education, and skill learning. To protect the rights of the purchasers of private courses, the City organizes seminars to promote supplementary school management and relevant regulation on a regular basis. As the supervising authority to private supplementary schools, the City implements an annual public safety inspection and service administration/standardized contract audit. The city office has also published several designs of supplementary school selection guidelines and set up the Taipei City Supplementary School Database for related inquiries.

## **3. Languages of the Indigenous People**

The Formosan Austronesian languages are characterized by wide distribution and rich linguistic phenomena, and the languages used by the various ethnic groups are considerably different from the local dialects. Currently, very few people of the younger generation use the indigenous languages in the metropolitan areas, and only the remaining elders are fluent in their mother tongues. This poses a danger of extinction of the Formosan Austronesian languages; therefore, the languages are now classified as disappearing languages. On July 21, 2011, Taipei City enacted and promulgated the “Taipei City Indigenous Culture Preservation and Development Autonomous Government Ordinance” which explicitly declares that, “the city government should actively preserve and protect the development of indigenous cultures.”

Article 6 specifically requires that administrative actions should be taken to provide facilities for the learning of indigenous languages and to advocate indigenous language families. Therefore, to achieve these goals, the Indigenous Peoples Commission, Taipei City Government set up the “2011 Indigenous Languages Family and Family Language Nests Program.” This program aims to revitalize speaking of indigenous languages at home, inspire indigenous families to value their ethnic languages, create a good environment for native-tongue learning and use, and enhance the effectiveness of native language learning through creatively teaching the languages, so that the indigenous languages will continue to develop for generations to come.

### **(1) Learning of Ethnic Languages Continues the Languages and Cultures**

To set up an environment for learning indigenous languages, the Department of Education, Taipei City Government launched “mother-tongue” learning programs at all levels of schools. In addition to the programs, the Indigenous Peoples Commission has also set up 33 language nests in the city's 12 administrative regions. Teachers of indigenous languages are employed to teach the languages and cultures at the language nests. This group of teachers also serves as advisers in language contests and review board members for assessment materials to further promote the passing down of the cultural heritage of the indigenous languages.

Over the years, learners from the language nests have achieved a 94% passing rate in the Indigenous Language and Cultural Abilities Assessment Test. For adult native-language learning, a wide range of classes are offered in the City through the colleges in the areas of indigenous tribes. The courses include the Amis, Paiwan, Atayal, and Puyuma languages and cultures. Continuous efforts have also been made to develop human resources in the indigenous languages. In addition, to encourage participation of private organizations in the language revitalization movement, the Indigenous Peoples

Commission, Taipei City Government subsidized the Taipei City Aboriginal Teachers' Association to organize the "2011 Taipei City Elementary School Indigenous Language Literature Recital Competition." This event was held at the Taipei Neihu Vocational High School on June 11, 2011, providing an opportunity for the demonstration of reading abilities in the indigenous languages.

## **(2) Parents' Participation in the Language Nests Realizes the Concept of Indigenous Language Families**

The "Indigenous Language Family" program is a language revitalization policy launched by the Indigenous Peoples Commission, Taipei City Government in 2011. This program aims to achieve the speaking of native languages in families through the development of indigenous language families. Starting from July 2011, the commission successively launched a series of Indigenous Languages Family seminars to introduce the program and related terms. Through the recruitment and recommendations of the language nest teachers, a total of 23 families participated in the development program for seven indigenous languages. The families are regularly visited and assisted by the program team.

The Indigenous Peoples Commission not only help the indigenous language families to create a family language learning environment; members of the Taipei City Indigenous



Paiwan Language Nest - Family Learning.

Languages Promotion Task Force also conduct regular household interviews to solicit feedback and solve problems. The commission also hosts empowerment forums and classes, inviting members of the Indigenous Languages Promotion Task Force and parents of the indigenous language families to review the effectiveness and make recommendations for the improvement of the methods and strategies of family learning for indigenous languages.

## **(3) Senior Citizen Cultural Service Troupe Advocates Cultural Heritage in Elementary Schools**

The elders of indigenous people have a wealth of knowledge of their cultural heritage. They have a lifetime of experiences and wisdom for us to learn from, and through them, we have a chance to learn of the fineness and beauty of indigenous cultures. To bring the indigenous elders to serve to continue their own experiences and indigenous cultures, the Indigenous Peoples Commission, Taipei City Government invited 22 indigenous elders to participate in empowerment courses. On November 22 and 25, 2011, 22 elders shared their stories with children at the Neihu District Donghu Elementary School for the Indigenous Culture Week series of activities. Their services not only brought them to know themselves better, but also instilled the concept of cultural diversity in the hearts of the children.

## **(4) Learning Activities Enhance the Learning Abilities of the Indigenous Language Teachers**

To enhance the learning ability of the indigenous language teachers and to review the "Family Learning" method and strategies, the Indigenous Peoples Commission, Taipei City Government launched the "Revitalizing Learning Abilities" seminars on August 20 and 21 and "Family Learning" on August 25 and 26. Experts were invited to share their experiences and strategies at the events, offering Taipei City's indigenous language teachers and language nest teachers the opportunity to broaden their knowledge.

#### **(5) The 3rd Taipei City Indigenous Language Drama Contest**

This event aims to encourage the families and organizations to extend their creativity into short dramatic works or stage play competitions. The families created their own dramatic works based on family dialogue or the history and development of the life and culture of the indigenous peoples and told stories through stage performances. This event is expected to extend the experience in the use of the language and culture. A total of 11 teams organized by families or organizations participated in the Indigenous Language Drama Contest organized by the Indigenous Peoples Commission, Taipei City Government.

#### **4. Diversified Learning of Hakka Culture, Language, and Experience**

The Taipei Hakka Affairs Commission aims to inspire the younger generation of Hakka to develop identification with Hakka ethnicity through teaching of the Hakka language, arts, and culture in an effort to preserve the Hakka heritage.

##### **(1) Children's Learning of the Hakka Language and Cultural Diversity**

The Taipei Hakka Affairs Commission launched

the “Hakka Culture to the Schools” service at Taipei City's elementary schools and hosted the “Hakka Journey of Learning” challenge game in 2011. A total of 30 elementary schools and 4,600 persons participated in this series of events.



Hakka Culture for School Service.

##### **(2) Development of Hakka Language Human Resources**

From July 4 to 9, 2011, the Taipei Hakka Affairs Commission commissioned the Daan District Guting Elementary School to organize the “Preschool and Elementary School Hakka Language Teachers Training Camp”. This camp covered the subjects of classroom management strategies, Hakka language teaching strategies, understanding Hakka nursery rhymes, the beauty



Senior Cultural Service Troupe for School Service.

of Hakka songs, and the promotion of Hakka culture, and closed with a series of exhibitions and outdoor learning sessions. The small-class courses include three categories: bamboo castanet recital, Hakka opera, and nursery rhymes and dances; the different courses were attended by 31, 15, and 32 persons, respectively. A total of 71 persons completed the courses. Learners who complete the training course are eligible to take on volunteer work for the “Hakka Culture to the Schools” service program.

### (3) The Public and Private Sectors

#### Work Together to Promote Nation-Wide Learning of the Hakka Language

- A. Continuous expansion of the Hakka Education Centers: The key to the preservation and manifestation of Hakka culture lies in the heritage of the language. With this in view, the City of Taipei expanded the 69 Hakka Education Centers set up in 2006 into 78 learning points in 2011 (including areas for folk songs, book clubs, Eight Tunes, dance, drum troupes, ritual classes and a classical music orchestra). The Hakka Education Centers and learning points have been set up with the goal of creating a Hakka language learning environment and promoting nationwide Hakka language learning. In addition, an exhibition of the Preliminary Hakka Heritage and Culture Competition was held from August to September. The finals were held at the Taipei City Hakka Cultural Park on October 16, with six classes for the Selection of Excellence Award, six classes for the Selection of Honor, and six classes for Special Commendation.
- B. Diversified programs at the Hakka College: In 2011, Taipei continues to organize the 24 Taipei Hakka College Program. This program offers a series of Hakka-related courses at the venues managed by the Taipei Hakka Affairs Commission, providing the public an opportunity to learn and appreciate Hakka



A class at the Hakka College.

culture. Course in five major categories were offered in 2011, including language, arts and culture, Hakka music, Hakka cuisine, and traditional crafts. A total of 401 persons enrolled in this series of events.

### (4) Other Hakka Language and Culture Promotion Activities

- A. The “Hakka Culture Tour of College Campuses” : the Taipei Hakka Affairs Commission continued its cooperation with colleges in Taipei City to organize cultural seminars and a two-day, one-night “Hakka Village Tour Summer Camp” in 2011. The staff of this program even organized a team to participate in the Martyr’s Festival activities. In addition, on November 12, the “College Hakka Folk Songs Concert” was held at the Taipei City Hakka Cultural Park. The year-long series brought together more than 1,000 persons to participate in the learning and experience activities.
- B. Increased scope of Hakka language broadcast through the mass media: the Taipei Hakka Affairs Commission commissioned the Formosa Hakka Radio Broadcast System to produce and air the “Taipei Hakka” series of radio broadcast programs. These programs bring the learning of the Hakka language and Hakka proverbs into people’s lives. Through the radio broadcasts, learning of the Hakka language is readily available to the public and as wide-spread as Mandarin.

C. The e-learning system makes learning the Hakka language unrestricted by time and space: the Taipei Hakka Affairs Commission set up the “Hakka e-School” online, offering e-learning materials for learning the Hakka language to the public. This versatile medium effectively promotes Hakka culture, drama, songs, and tourist attractions, making instant and interactive inquiries available to the public over the Internet.



Hakka Village Tour for College Students.

D. Hakka language and culture workshops: to promote the knowledge of Hakka language and culture to the employees of Taipei City, the Department of Civil Servant Development, Taipei City Government organized the Entry Level Hakka Language and Culture course in November.

## Conclusion

The education policies and key developments of the Taipei City Government for 2011 were set up to continuously build on the existing solid foundation and to plan programs and activities within a systematic, holistic, and comprehensive system. The education system will be developed along three major axes: “Balanced education brings quality learning”; “adaptive development enables diversified achievements”; and “development of creativity links the city to the world.” Through the implementation of major educational programs, the City strives to build quality education and develop citizens with a balanced education in the humanities and the sciences.