

Welcome Remarks

Ms. Sun-Lu FAN
Ministry of Education

Dr Wu, President Lin, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning. It is my great pleasure to be invited to this international symposium on human capacity building. On behalf of the Ministry of Education, I wish to extend my heartfelt welcome to all of you to this event. For participants from afar and abroad, it is our pleasure to behave this opportunity to learn from you your expert opinions and experiences.

Globalization is a predominant trend. Its impact on the economy cannot be understated. The process poses immense challenges on the local economy, politics and culture, not to mention the effects it has on an economy's global competitiveness and social development. In Chinese Taipei, the issue of globalization merits our prime concern. Educators, being vanguards of the changing times, must take the initiative to study and examine the changing circumstances. Together, we can help equip the population with the necessary capacity and power to meet new challenges as well as prepare Chinese Taipei for a more constructive role in the global village.

Integral to globalization is global connectivity. Given that, education policy makers in Chinese Taipei face one compelling question: How do we upgrade training of human resource? In particular, after entry into the WTO, the competitiveness of an economy has come to rest on the upgrading of traditional industries, the construction of a competitive edge for SME, the nurturing of human resource and the development of high value-added technology. These issues rank high on the agenda of the government, business and academic sectors.

In the same vein, these issues form the scope of discussion in this symposium, relating to 'Enhancing the Capacity for Industrial Restructuring', 'Highlighting the Culture Industry in the process of Globalization', 'Nurturing Human Resource for SME' and 'HRD and High Value-added Technology'.

Attention to those issues is also reflected in our education policies. Efforts are

underway to achieve the following:

1. To pursue excellence in tertiary education, to improve the quality of university education through integrating universities and outstanding research centers as well as recruiting international scholars. Our ultimate goal to establish top-notch universities and international research centers.
2. To introduce a merit scheme based on performance applicable to faculty members of public universities, and to formulate plans for the recruitment of well-known scholars.
3. To implement an integrated nine-year curriculum for elementary and junior high school education. In higher education, the policy is to enhance the regional competitiveness of local universities, speed up international connectivity and establish a conducive environment for foreign language learning.
4. To promote the joint establishment of international institutes of graduate studies by local universities and research institutions. Courses are to be conducted in English and talented students recruited from all over the world.
5. To help create favorable conditions for nurturing talents by encouraging top-notch foreign universities to set up affiliates here or to cooperate with local universities.
6. To set up an alliance on technological education in Southeast Asia and bring about mutual cooperation and training of high-tech personnel through working with overseas universities and training institutions.

In the Six Year Development Plan proposed this year, the Cabinet has drawn a blueprint of the development of cultural and creative industries. The efforts that I have outlined illustrate our commitment to regional cooperation and participation in the international community. That sums up the purpose of this symposium.

The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) is a non-governmental organization set up in 1980 to advance economic cooperation and development in the Asia-Pacific for regional growth. The committee in each member economy is formed by tripartite representation. PECC conferences and work program are executed on a regular basis and have attained remarkable results. Therefore, PECC activities are of significance not only to the Asia-Pacific region but also to the world as a whole.

The organizer of this symposium President Lin of the Yunlin University of Science

and Technology is the international coordinator of the PECC Human Resource Task Force. In April, during the PECC Community Building Forum, President Lin put forward the plans and operations of his task force and obtained general support. This symposium marks the beginning of their work. It is hoped that the event will reinforce economic cooperation and regional exchange. Further to that, outcome of the two-day discussion will provide valuable reference for deliberation in the APEC Ministerial Meeting. I believe, therefore, that experience sharing among PECC members in this symposium offers Chinese Taipei many valuable lessons, too, and it provides the Asia-Pacific with a broader vision of regional development.

In the past few decades, Chinese Taipei has won worldwide recognition for its trade and economic development as well as its contribution to economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. It is my great delight to see the dedication of international participants to examining the impact of globalization and human capacity building. It is also my sincere wish that through learning and sharing, PECC economies deepen their friendship and economic cooperation.

Hopefully, within the framework of regional cooperation, we will all be able to make the best of current globalization. Once again, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, I would like to welcome you to this symposium, and I wish the event every success.

Thank you.