

RE: Secondary Schools Exchange International Program (SSEI)

The Ministry of Education (MOE) announces the Secondary Schools Exchange International Program (SSEI), aimed at developing an international approach to secondary school education. It was funded by the MOE at the beginning of this year, with the singular purpose of diversifying learning opportunities and providing a mutually beneficial (win-win) international learning environment for secondary school students. It not only allows Taiwan students the opportunity of an international educational experience, but also invites students from all over the world to come into contact with life and culture in Taiwan.

SSEI consists of two types of programs. "Visiting Taiwan", inviting international students to come to Taiwan to study; and, "Visit tours from Taiwan", encouraging students from Taiwan to study abroad. All secondary schools in Taiwan will be able to participate in the SSEI Program. Based on their requirements and interests, these schools will be able to select one or more programs that best meets the needs of their students. According to the flowchart of SSEI, the secondary schools are subject to propose their projects by the end of November for a funding review organized by the MOE.

To support the promotion of this program, and to provide a fast and convenient information platform, the SSEI programs can be accessed via our newly established website at

<http://www.exchange.edu.tw>. This website includes the introduction of the SSEI program as well as the core function- International Exchange Window (IEW), which not only provides posting information about projects in secondary schools in Taiwan, but also includes an upload mechanism for international exchange opportunities from overseas. Through the IEW, the international educational institutes can access the current projects by using the key words "language", "project" or "school location in Taiwan"; they can be instantly connected with any potential partner school in Taiwan; Moreover, they can provide their exchange opportunities for Taiwanese school partners.

In view that there are similar platforms established in the advanced countries to promote students exchange, the establishment of IEW will help Taiwanese schools to connect with those international exchange boosters. This is a big step of the promotion of international education work in Taiwan.

The MOE will demonstrate how to use the search engine of IEW, including how to search the current projects from secondary schools in Taiwan, and how to upload the exchange opportunities from overseas schools, as well as answer questions from the participants.

SSEI is in the beginning stage. The MOE welcomes overseas educational institutes and secondary schools to visit this website and provide any comments or suggestions for its improvement.