



adaptability, cultural awareness, tolerance, innovation, and the chances of employability. Led by National Taiwan University (NTU), an alliance has been formed to not only increase the reach of the potential partner universities but to incentivize further collaboration.

Wu Chung-chih, an electrical engineering professor who heads the school's Office of Research and Development, said the alliance aims to recruit more students from overseas as schools deal with enrollment decline due to ever-decreasing fertility rates.

Wu said the role of NTU is to study the strengths of prospects outside Taiwan through preliminary talks before initiating internal discussions with local partner schools. The office will also ensure that the prospective collaboration aligns with national development

strategies before inking a memorandum of understanding.

"After signing the agreement that describes the broad outlines of cooperation, the next step is to create task groups to nail down details based on a wish list that has a specific scope of cooperation from each university," Wu added.

As demand for a workforce with STEM skills increases, cultivating sufficient talent in STEM fields has become part of schools' academic goals and the focus of national development strategies, which encompass semiconductor, artificial intelligence, aerospace, circular economy, and smart manufacturing.

Collaboration with other university alliances or systems outside Taiwan is beneficial for schools. It helps improve the quality of teaching and research work in the course of exchanges, further increasing school visibility and reputation.

It is rewarding for students who join the exchange programs, too, as their international mobility and perspectives would be broadened.

"It could become a win-win solution for all stakeholders: schools, students, teachers, and the nation as the alliance plays a critical complementary role in sustainable industrial and economic development," said Wu. ■



# Lifelong Education



In the age of the knowledge economy, lifelong learning is the key to enhancing civic literacy, understanding, knowledge, skills, and national competitiveness. In order to promote lifelong learning, create a community-based learning map to foster trends of community learning and reading, and be prepared for an ageing society, the government has actively integrated resources among lifelong learning facilities, supported the development of community colleges, and created a learning system targeted at senior citizens. The importance of family education and the quality of social education institutions and libraries are also one of the focuses of lifelong learning, with the purpose of providing more public and diverse channels and opportunities for lifelong learning.

## A Community Colleges: Subsidies and Incentives

The Community College Development Act took effect on June 13, 2018. Community Colleges are lifelong education institutions that enhance citizens' civil literacy and ability to participate in public affairs, help promote local public affairs, strengthen people's sense of local identity and regional vitalization, cultivate local talents, develop local culture and knowledge, as well as stimulate communities' sustainable development. There are 89 community colleges in Taiwan, with approximately over 400,000 enrollments in recent years. The MOE subsidizes