

The Ministry of Education subsidizes the reinforcement of seismic resistance of buildings of public senior high schools to create a safe teaching and learning environment

(Courtesy of the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



As Taiwan is located in the Circum-Pacific seismic belt, on average thousands of earthquakes occur every year, and more than 100 of which are felt. The occurrence of an earthquake often causes loss of life and property. With the aging of a building, the structural strength or the seismic design strength would deteriorate, resulting in a risk of insufficient seismic capacity. Taking into account such necessities, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, seeks to improve the earthquake-resistant designs of buildings of public senior high schools and below between 2020 and 2022.

Take National Hsin Hua Senior High School in Tainan City as an example: its Natural Science Museum was constructed in 1999, and the school should conduct a security inspection of the building for a retrofit according to the Project on Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Existing Buildings. The seismic resistance was proven to be inadequate based on the preliminary and detailed assessments of the earthquake resistance of the building conducted by the structural

engineering technicians commissioned. This school then received a subsidy from the K-12 Education Administration in the amount of NT\$15.35 million in February 2021 for a retrofit project and put this project for a bid in May of the same year. This school successfully awarded the bid in mid-June and launched the construction project in July. In this project, one shear wall and 58 steel plate girders were installed, and 10 reinforced concrete walls were built. After the level-3 COVID-19 alert and the shortage of labor and materials, this project was finally completed on December 17, 2021.

Hsu, Hung-Ming, the principal of Hsin Hua Senior High School, expressed his gratitude to the K-12 Education Administration for its full support, which include the subsidies, as well as an engineering inspection team it assigned to the school to provide guidance during the construction period. This project has effectively improved the safety of the building and provided a safer and more secure learning environment for teachers and students at this school.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, a total of 44 public senior high schools applied for subsidies related to the reinforcement of the seismic resistance of school buildings between 2020 and 2022, in a total amount of NT\$476.96 million. This subsidy program has improved the seismic resistance of 59 school buildings, allowing teachers and students to teach and learn with peace of mind in a safer and more comfortable school environment.