

## **Incorporation of Aesthetic Design into Textbooks—New Edition of Textbooks in School Year of 2019 Wins Recognition**

(Courtesy of Li, Wen-Ni at the Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool  
Education)



In order to improve the quality of textbooks, incorporate aesthetic design into textbooks, and develop policies in line with the trend of the times, the Ministry of Education has invited a total of 20 experts, scholars, and representatives from the Aesthetic Sense Association, parent groups, teacher groups, as well as the fields of finance, accounting, and design, through the Textbook Quality Promotion Committee for National Elementary School and Junior High School, to form a committee to provide professional advices for the enhancement of the quality of textbooks. In addition, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, organized a training

workshop for compilation of textbook and development of talents to motivate more excellent talents to join relevant fields.

The fifth meeting of the Textbook Quality Promotion Committee for National Elementary School and Junior High School Under the Ministry of Education was chaired by Fan, Sun-Lu, Political Deputy Minister of Education on March 9, 2020. Most of the committee members had a positive attitude toward the quality of the textbooks for the first grade of primary school and the seventh grade of junior high school in the school year of 2019. They believed that the overall layout was widened with larger fonts, clear colors, and increased reading comfort, and that the content also centered on the core competences emphasized in the curriculum guidelines of 12-Year Basic Education, guiding students to acquire the competencies from the concepts of inquiry and practical experience. The textbooks published in the school year of 2019, through its excellent visual design, was brought to life and took into account students' learning process and teachers' teaching needs, as well as the cultivation of all rounded competence and aesthetic development, not only to help students learn in a better and easier manner but nurture their aesthetic sensibility and enhance their learning effect.

The participating committee members also stressed that high-quality textbooks should guide children to learn knowledge and appreciate beauty using "design" and help them learn more easily. The new edition of the textbook or the strong visual experience of the title page design could lead students to assimilate into the learning scenarios faster, and help to build students' learning structure and cultivate their competencies through the texts and lesson designed cleverly. For example, mathematics textbooks not only presented the concept of numbers, but also introduced mathematicians' stories and contributions to inspire students' interest in mathematics. The participating committee members also suggested that the editing and design of textbooks in the future still be closely connected with the learning content and that for the use of graphics and texts, special attentions should be given to suitability as well as intellectual property rights. Through the professional design of fonts, colors, illustrations, as well as graphs

and charts, the quality of textbooks could continue to be improved so as to help students learn more effectively.

In addition, in order to attract more outstanding talents to join the textbook editing work and promote the development of the textbook industry, the K-12 Education Administration commissioned a team led by Professor Yeh, Hsing-Hua from City University of Taipei to hold the "National Primary School and Junior High School Textbook Writing and Design Talent Workshop" this January year. The lessons in the workshop address the basic education knowledge and skills through writing and design modules, and most participants said that it was a rewarding experience and hoped that such an event would continue and more participants could join, so as to improve the quality of textbooks.

The Ministry of Education expressed its gratitude toward the professional advices provided by the committee members. In the future, it will continue to collect users' opinions, increase dialogue and cooperation with civil groups, strive to reach a consensus, and continue to improve the quality of textbooks.