

## The Ad Hoc Office for School Lunch is Launched by the K-12 Education Administration

### to Provide “Safe, Nutritious, and Healthy” School Lunches

(Courtesy of Xiao, Li Yi at the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Security)



To implement the policy proposed by the Executive Yuan to enhance the “Five Pillars of Food Safety”, the Ministry of Education works to fortify the management of school lunch safety, strengthen the balanced nutrition of school lunches, and develop healthy eating education for students. Meanwhile, the K-12 Education Administration has commissioned National Chung Hsing University to set up the "Ad Hoc Office of School Lunch," and its inaugural ceremony was co-hosted by Chiu, Chien Kuo General-Director of the K-12 Education Administration and Shieu, Fuh Sheng, President of National Chung Hsing University. This ceremony marks the beginning of a new era for our country’s effort in implementing well-balanced school lunches. Apart from continuing to promote "safe, nutritious and healthy" school lunches, efforts will be launched to enhance the educational content of school lunches as well as the social responsibility for promoting school lunches.

Mr. Chiu, when presiding over the inaugural ceremony, pointed out that the management of school lunches was complicated and included various focal aspects. Due to the differences in surroundings, models of running schools, types of catering, market size, economic conditions, number of students, and so on, there were considerable differences among urban, rural, and remote areas. In addition, with the rising awareness of food safety among the public, food safety management has become an ever-important issue. In order to improve the quality and the health education aspect of school lunches, to demonstrate the "farm-to-table" spirit, and to establish proper eating habits, all the while giving full play to the educational function of school lunches, the attention in the future will be focused on strengthening the integration of school lunches, social responsibility, and ecological sustainability. Hence, the K-12 Education Administration works to launch the Ad Hoc Office of School Lunch, and is dedicated to refining the promotion work of school lunches. In the meantime, it makes great endeavors to introduce modern and intelligent tools; thus, the content of school lunches can meet the future social expectations and environmental needs, which will be helpful for institutionalizing school lunch management and ensuring the quality of nutritious meals.

Moreover, the Ad Hoc Office of School Lunch launched by the K-12 Education Administration will give priority to the following tasks in the year of 2017. First, the emphasis will be put on lunch system improvement and administrative support system in elementary and middle schools across the country. Furthermore, the office will increase educational activities to promote healthy eating and enhance the quality of school lunches. Additionally, it will establish a digital database, develop a supply chain management platform, set up an ingredient checkup system to ensure safe lunches, strengthen school lunch management, as well as develop educational programs for healthy eating. This project will be jointly implemented by National Chung Hsing University, the Affiliated Taichung Senior Agricultural Vocational High School of National Chung Hsing University, Taichung Municipal Wefeng Agricultural and Industrial High School, National Huwei Agricultural and Industrial Vocational Senior High School, Fubon Cultural and Educational Foundation, and Association of Agricultural Education to help promote school lunches, healthy eating education, and educational activities related to agriculture and farming collectively, with an aim to enrich the educational content of school lunches.

Finally, the Ministry of Education expects that : through the launch of Ad Hoc Office of School Lunch, the quality of school lunches will continue to improve and healthy eating education will take root so that the next generations will grow up in a healthy manner. Meanwhile, with the long-term goal of improving the health of the general public, it will continue to promote "safe, nutritious, and healthy" school lunches, as well as enhancing the educational content of school lunches and strengthen the social responsibility.