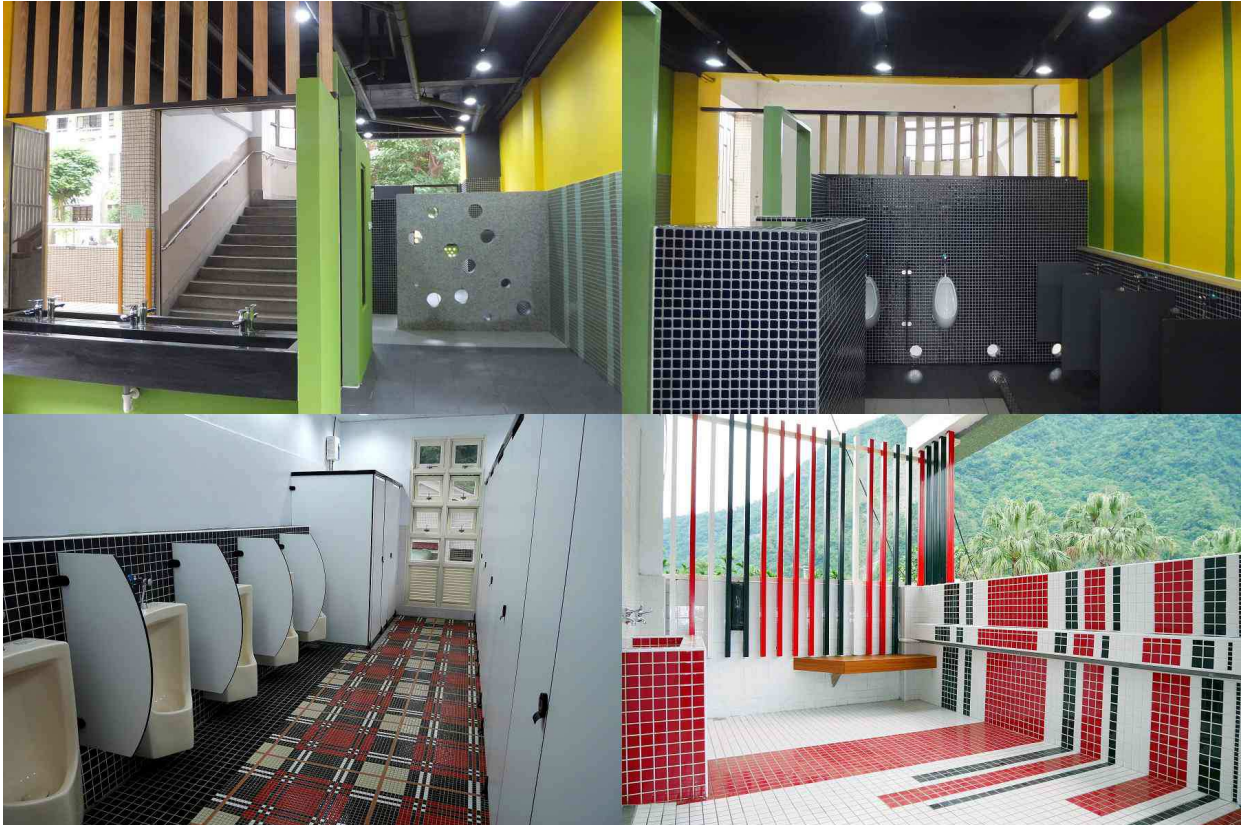


# Junior High and Elementary School Restroom Renovation Program Giving the Old Restrooms a Big Makeover

(Article and Photo by Hu Shu-jhen, Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool Education)



K-12 EA of MOE subsidized 288 public junior high and elementary schools nationwide in the school year of 2015 to renovate their old school restrooms, making 1,040 or so old restrooms turn over a new leaf. This program helped create not only a campus that is beautiful but also a learning environment that is safer, more comfortable and of higher quality. In view of its success, MOE will continue to implement this program in the school year of 2016 with the hope that more old school restrooms can get improved.

Most old school restrooms are built in the early days and frequently used; therefore, many of them have bad ventilation, bad daylighting, bad step-height design, narrow toilet room and other problems. The goal of this program is to subsidize schools to renew the pipeline and facilities of their old restrooms and improve the quality of the interior environment, thereby building an eco-friendly, drafty, well-drained, and hygienic and aesthetical restroom that caters to the needs of children and fulfills the vision of the school.

Tongmen Elementary School of Hualien County, with the three sides of its school buildings facing mountains, boasts beautiful landscape. This aboriginal school of Truku was founded in 1918, 97 years since its establishment. In its renovation plan, red, black, and white tiles, three important colors in Truku culture, were used to decorate the restroom walls and floor. The figure of its two old and symbolic school trees was adopted as entrance image of the restroom on the first floor. The design of lines and geometric shapes on the washbasin of the restroom creates a sense of extensity and beauty. In addition to the improvements in functions, e.g., the renovated urinals and the enhanced ventilation and daylighting, the beautified restroom appeals to more people.

Although Pucian Elementary School of New Taipei City is located in the busy district of Banqiao, its old restroom has been used for more than 25 years. After the renovation, the design of high restroom windows and gravity ventilation enabled natural ventilation. In addition, induction lamp and LED lights were used to save energy efficiently. The restroom floor was paved by fog tiles and added with covered ditch, making clearance and maintenance easier. The renovation program also incorporated school characteristics; for example, the paintings of student clubs were used to decorate the interior room, adding lively elements to the restroom. Teachers also stressed to their students the restroom renovation concept and toilet etiquette, thereby making toilet culture a part of school education and integrating our daily restroom into the field of environmental and aesthetic education.

After renovation, due to the use of bright colored tiles and washbasin, and new toilet cubicle doors, school restrooms are not dark and smelly any more. Students were happy that their experiences with the restroom will be totally different hereafter.

This public junior high and elementary school old restroom renovation program takes the communities by storm and gets positive remarks as well. K-12 EA will continue to subsidize schools in the school year of 2016 and convenes four regional forums (in the northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan) in hopes of helping more schools to renovate their old restrooms and build up a better campus.