

Explanatory Notes

- I. Our goal is to strengthen the education reform, increase the quality of education, and to globalize and liberalize the education in the Republic of China. Aside from our effort to expand in the area of international cultural and education exchange to connect with the rest of the world, we have researched and compiled a collection of related education statistics and information into the publication of the “International Comparison of Education Statistical Indicators.” In doing so, it is our hope that others will gain a better understanding of the education development and the differences in major countries around the world.
- II. The contents in this publication include a general overview of the education system, senior high school/senior vocational school system, Tertiary(higher) education system, educational funding, and other appendixes. The major countries examined are the Republic of China, People’s Republic of China, Japan, South Korea, United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, and Australia.
- III. The different levels of education classified in this publication are preschool education, primary education, junior secondary education, senior secondary education, and higher education, respectively equivalent to kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, senior vocational school, junior college, college, and university.
- IV. Various countries have different beginning and end for its fiscal year and academic year. For the convenience of comparison and reference, the Gregorian calendar year is used. (Refer to Appendix 1, The terms of fiscal year and academic year that were used in the OECD Calculation Indicator 2006.)
- V. Due to inconsistent statistical classifications and differences in the objectives on parts of the statistical information, hence, for a better understanding of the differences, any relevant information will be explained in the footnote. (Refer to Appendix 3, Compulsory Education Overview for major countries; Appendix 4, Education System Chart for Major Countries).

VI. Source of information:

1. United Nations-Education, Science, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Statistics Information, website:

http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev_en.php?ID=2867_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC

2. “Education at a Glance 2006 Edition” from various countries by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

http://www.oecd.org/document/6/0,2340,en_2649_34515_37344774_1_1_1_1,00.html

3. “International Comparison of Education Statistical Indicators” by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology

4. Statistical Yearbooks of Education for selected countries.

VII. Symbols used:

— : None

... : Data not available

n : Insufficient data

x(i) : Data included in Column i