

## Research results show the right direction of Education Reform



On January 25, 2011, at S D Avenue Hotel, Bangkok, OEC organized Brainstorming Meeting on the Research on Policy and Strategy of Education Quality Development of Member Countries of International Organizations chaired by Dr. Suthasri Wongsamarn, Deputy Secretary-General of the Education Council.

In the Meeting, Dr. Suthasri stated that the most important problem of Thai education is unsatisfactory quality. At present, OEC is expediting the Education Reform in the second decade, emphasizing on 4 main quality developments which are: 1) quality development for modern Thai people, 2) development for modern teachers, 3) development of educational institutions and new learning sources as well as development of new management.

OEC realized that the success of education reform depends on cooperation from several parties concerned. The various research studies should be conducted to support the sustained development, for example, the research studies on other countries' experiences of education development in general and countries having high standard of competitiveness in particular. Their policies and strong points can be adapted to Thai context which will be useful to strengthen the education development policy.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chantana Chanbanchong, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Education, Naraesuan University, a member of the researcher team, said that Japan adopted a clear target in country development with emphasis on lifelong learning. The improvement of the compulsory national curriculum has been made every 10 years. In 2003, the education reform took place with emphases on thinking, integrated education from grade 3 onward. As for strategies for development of quality education, the curriculum will vary according to child's potential, i.e. at primary level; the main subjects taught are Arts and Music and lessen learning hours. Meanwhile, there is a law preventing teachers to teach outside the classroom. However, the salary rate for teachers is as high as that of other professions. More people are attracted to become teachers. The management of compulsory education in Japan is thus successful.

As far as the education reform in Thailand is concerned, it's on the right track but needs the sustained implementation. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chantana further stated that the children's learning hours should be reduced because it would be useless if students attend more classes but pay no attention to the lessons. The target on improvement of curriculum must be clear with variations in accordance with students' potential and subject overlapping should be also reduced.