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Expert Discussion on 「Edtech Promotion Plan」

- Input gathered from the industrial and educational fields on how public education and the edtech industry can work together

On September 5, Vice Minister of Education Jang Sang-yoon convened a gathering of panel discussion at Seoul's Samkyung Education Center to seek expert input as it relates to the Edtech Promotion Plan developed by the Ministry of Education.

The gathering aimed to collect insights from a diverse array of education stakeholders, spanning the private sector, education tech firms, local education authorities, educators, and administrative professionals. Their valuable perspectives were sought to address the direction and potential hurdles in advancing the Edtech Promotion Plan.

The Edtech Promotion Plan aims to cultivate a digitally enriched school environment within the context of the ongoing digital transformation. Simultaneously, it endeavors to bolster the education information technology industry through collaboration with public education, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of the public education system. This initiative further supports the education information technology sector in its journey to become a prominent and representative industry in Korea.

Those working in the education sector expressed their appreciation to the Ministry's policy orientation to leverage private sector technology for enhancing the level of public education. They further called upon the Ministry to assume a leadership role as the primary agency in championing the edtech industry, given its multidisciplinary involvement across ministries, including the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, and the Ministry of Science and ICT.

In alignment with numerous digital education transformation initiatives spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, edtech companies were optimistic about the prospect of increased opportunities for advanced edtech to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in public education.

Specifically, they voiced concerns about the challenges faced by numerous edtech companies in penetrating international markets, citing a deficiency in access to essential information despite their possession of world-class technology. They also conveyed their hopes for a strategic approach that combines public education efforts to facilitate the overseas expansion of edtech ventures.

An official from a provincial office of education underscored that the paramount consideration in the implementation of educational information technology within schools is its seamless integration into classroom settings, devoid of the need for extensive adjustments. To achieve this goal, the official emphasized that edtech companies must prioritize the development of solutions that align closely with school curricula and operating systems.

Teachers recommended addressing the significant gap in digital proficiency among educators by implementing tailored training programs that align with each teacher’s skill level and competency. Moreover, they emphasized the importance of fostering digital coaching that extends beyond basic technical support, providing comprehensive guidance and support for educators.

They also suggested that the information platform should be created to facilitate easier access to edtech-related information. Simultaneously, they highlighted the need for reinforcing edtech demonstrations to ensure the quality and reliability of information available on the platform.

Furthermore, all the experts attended agreed on the necessity of synergizing both private and public resources to drive the digital transformation of education and bolster the competitiveness of public education. They emphasized the importance of sustained policy promotion in this direction moving forward.

The Ministry of Education will evaluate the inputs and insights gathered during today’s discussion to enhance the existing Edtech Promotion Plan, with an aim to unveil the updated plan later this month.

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