



BUSINESS & DIPLOMACY

MAGAZIN FÜR AUSSENPOLITIK, WIRTSCHAFT & LEBENSART

WWW.BUSINESS-DIPLOMACY.DE

Global Warning!
Waging war on
global warming
is impossible
without TAIWAN



Minister Ying-Yuan LEE
Taiwan's Environmental
Protection Administration

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Calling for Taiwan's professional, pragmatic, and constructive participation in the UNFCCC

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Minister Ying-Yuan LEE
Environmental Protection
Administration
Republic of China (Taiwan)

ECOTOURISM IN TAIWAN

Over 10 million tourists from around the world travel to Taiwan each year, making Taiwan one of the most popular eco-destination in the world

Environmental Protection Administration:<https://www.epa.gov.tw>**National Council for Sustainable Development Network:**<https://nsdn.epa.gov.tw>**Ministry of Foreign Affairs:**<http://www.mofa.gov.tw>

Leaving No One Behind:

Calling for Taiwan's professional, pragmatic, and constructive participation in the UNFCCC

Global warming and climate change affect all of mankind and the sustainable development of the world we inhabit. For the past 23 years, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has called for the widest possible cooperation by all countries in the fight to avoid the devastating consequences. Yet the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and the 23 million it represents, still does not have proper access to the meetings of the Conference of Parties.

Ever since the first COP was held in 1995, Taiwan has only been allowed to participate as a nongovernmental organization observer under the name Industrial Technology Research Institute. This NGO status merely affords Taiwan access to peripheral UNFCCC events, which is neither effective nor appropriate. This untenable arrangement has caused Taiwan to miss significant events over the last two decades, such as negotiations leading up to both the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. Taiwan has, nonetheless, never used this as an excuse to shirk its responsibilities as a stakeholder in the international community.

Taiwan has set an ambitious GHG reduction target

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act

In June 2015, Taiwan took the concrete step of passing the landmark Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act. This act, which came about as the result of 10 years of dialogue between industry, government, academia, and the public, not only serves as the legal foundation for Taiwan's efforts to respond to climate change, but also underlines the government's determination to take part in global initiatives.

The act officially enshrined into law Taiwan's goal of cutting carbon emissions to 50 percent of 2005 levels by 2050. Taiwan is proud to be one of the few countries in the world to have written its carbon emission reduction target into domestic law.



TAIWAN

Taipei 101,
the world's tallest
building 2004 – 2010



Taiwan's INDC announcement

In response to the Lima Call for Climate Action, and with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC as set out in Article 2, Taiwan voluntarily announced its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution on September 17, 2015, committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent from the business-as-usual level (from 428 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents to 214 million tonnes) by 2030. This INDC target, which is more ambitious than those announced by similarly sized economies in Asia, is predicated on the phasing out of nuclear energy. It serves as a legally binding short-term goal that is part of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act. Calculated on the basis of 2005 levels, it equates to reducing carbon emissions by 20 percent by 2030. In other words, Taiwan is committed under its domestic legal framework to achieving its INDC. Taiwan understands that the issues associated with climate change are inextricably linked to the world's sustainable development, and will therefore also take responsibility for helping achieve the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It is currently working on the first voluntary national review, which will document the concrete progress it has made to this end. As an island state with a relatively large economy, Taiwan relies hea-

vily on imported energy, at over 98.8 percent of total demand. Despite the challenges, Taiwan is determined to move towards becoming a low-carbon economy, aiming to raise the proportion of renewable energy generated for the country's power supply to 20 percent—five times the current level—by 2050.

The people of Taiwan must not be left behind

When the United Nations adopted its SDGs in September 2015, it pledged that no one would be left behind. And yet Taiwan, a democratic and peace-loving country with a population of 23 million and the world's 22nd-largest economy, is indeed being left behind through its unwarranted exclusion from UN specialized agencies and mechanisms, including the UNFCCC. Climate change knows no boundaries and requires across-the-board cooperation. Taiwan has as much of a stake in combating climate change as any other country. Our absence from the UNFCCC undermines this simple fact and, more worryingly, weakens the world's ability to act as one. Taiwan therefore urgently calls on the international community to support its bid to participate in the upcoming 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties, in Bonn, as a nonmember government observer under the name of its Environmental Protection Administration.



Protecting Our Planet

through Climate Action on Multiple Fronts

Minister Ying-Yuan LEE
Environmental Protection Administration
Republic of China (Taiwan)

Climate change is a scientific fact, and its effects are already being distinctly felt around the world, threatening human health, the places we inhabit, and the sustainability of our socioeconomic systems.

This includes Taiwan, which this year alone has experienced several extreme weather events. In early June, Sanzhi District in New Taipei City, northern Taiwan, received 615 mm of heavy rain in just nine hours, while the mountainous regions around Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan received a record 1,446 mm in total. In late July, two typhoons (Nesat and Haitang) struck the island in close succession, a rarely seen event resulting in a record 690 mm of rainfall in the southern coastal region of Pingtung's Jiadong

township over a three-day period. This long-duration high-intensity rain broke records and caused serious property damage. Then, in August, northern Taiwan suffered a heatwave with sustained temperatures of above 37°C, surpassing all heatwaves recorded over the last 100 years. International scientific reports have also confirmed that average global temperatures in 2016 were the hottest on record.

These examples offer irrefutable evidence that climate change is real and already happening, with dire consequences. However, we must not feel all is lost. Rather, we must recognize that the planet's wellbeing is inextricably linked to humanity's survival, and seize the opportunity to transform the way we live through direct actions.

Taiwan, an island nation, is heavily exposed to the worst effects of climate change. In response to global calls for climate action, we have introduced the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, and formulated the National Climate Change Action Guidelines on how to control and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile,



the subsequent Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan targets six major areas – energy, manufacturing, transportation, residential and commercial property, agriculture, and the environment – with over 200 policy initiatives, many of them cross-ministerial. The Guidelines also call for regular five-year reviews to ensure effective management.

In order to build capacity for clean energy generation in Taiwan and improve air quality, the government has set an ambitious target of an overall energy mix of 20 percent renewables and 50 percent natural gas, with coal dropping to 30 percent, by 2025. Similarly, it has amended the Electricity Act to spur the development of green energy, adopted the Energy Development Guidelines and, through public participation, developed the Energy Transformation White Paper to help accelerate the transition. It also provides incentives, such as those involving financing, investment capital, funding channels, and personnel training, to enlist the help of business and industry in developing green energy technologies.

In short, Taiwan is doing all it can to combat climate change in line with the Paris Agreement, and is striving to cut carbon emissions to 50 percent of 2005 levels by 2050.

In the endless pursuit of economic development, societies the world over have made excessive use of fossil fuels and squandered Earth's natural resources. We are paying a heavy price today with not only climate change, but also serious environmental destruction and pollution. Taiwan's efforts over the years to promote recycling and waste reduction has

caught the world's attention. In May 2016, the Wall Street Journal published an article entitled "Taiwan: The World's Geniuses of Garbage Disposal." It points out that Taiwan, once dubbed Garbage Island, has since become a recycling poster child, ranking among the top three countries in the world for its initiatives to promote a circular economy. These include creating an industrial value chain, setting up special circular economy zones, and exploring business opportunities to make the necessary industrial transformation. It is hoped that, by 2022, Taiwan will have become a circular economy hub in Asia, with a healthy regenerative economy that can continue to grow while reducing waste, and help light the way towards a sustainable world.

Leaders around the world, including the Pope, are increasingly calling for more to be done to combat the threats brought by climate change. The leader of Taiwan, President Tsai Ing-wen, has pledged that this country will be an unrelentingly positive force in pursuing the solutions so desperately needed to preserve our planet for future generations. Through bilateral agreements and multilateral cooperation, Taiwan has for a long time now quietly gone about fulfilling its role as a responsible member of the international community. We want nothing more than to work with other countries, and do all that can be done to tackle climate change. We will happily share our experience and knowledge in environmental protection, particularly with those countries that really need help. Taiwan wants to be a contributor to the green energy policies, green industries, and green employment we must create to protect our planet.



Image above: BIPV Solar Power Demonstration Systems (50 kWp), Taipower Exhibit Center in Southern Taiwan

Image on right side: 2017 Taiwan Cycling Festival

Taiwan is ready to contribute more to the UNFCCC

Taiwan is part of the global solution to climate change

Taiwan is known for its expertise in developing green technology, which it actively exports to other countries. Taiwan has much to offer the UNFCCC, not just in terms of technology transfers, but also financial support and capacity building. We can assist countries in updating their national commitments and boosting their ability to face climate change. As an island state, Taiwan's experience with rapid economic development, industrialization, and environmental management would be extremely valuable to other island states and developing countries facing similar challenges associated with climate change. By drawing on Taiwan's advanced technologies and experience, these nations could modernize their economies without causing unnecessary harm to the environment.

Experience assisting developing countries

Over the decades, Taiwan has undertaken numerous cooperative projects with developing countries in a wide array of fields related to climate change, including food and energy security, renewable energy, green technology, LED street lighting, biodiversity conservation, natural disaster management, post-disaster reconstruction, reforestation, environmental protection, water resource management, and drought relief. For example, an organic waste composting project Taiwan carried out in Central America has seen hundreds of tonnes of vegetable waste recycled, greatly reducing carbon emissions. In another project, Taiwan assisted Caribbean countries in developing solar energy, improving energy efficiency in the public sector, and adopting LED street lighting and biogas technology. Taiwan has also cooperated with countries in the Pacific islands to record and classify plant resources, boost conservation efforts, and provide solar energy systems for homes, as well as solar street lighting and handheld lights.

Multilateral cooperation on technology transfers

Taiwan is one of the Asia-Pacific region's environmental leaders, and has established close ties with partners in the Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Africa that facilitate the sharing of experience and expertise. For instance, Taiwan and the United States have worked together to manage the environment and reduce pollution through projects, research, and knowledge exchange. In 2014, Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration officially launched the International Environmental Partnership, a network of experts from around the world who work together to strengthen capacity for addressing such environmental issues as climate change, environmental education, electronic waste management, air pollution, mercury monitoring, and contaminated soil and groundwater. Taiwan is also globally recognized as a leader in the field of seismic and maritime weather monitoring, and has the highest concentration of monitoring stations of any nation, with some 800 currently in operation. Given the vulnerability of Pacific Island nations to climate change, Taiwan offers training to their meteorological personnel and dispatches experts to assist in improving their weather forecasting systems.



Jade Mountain, at 3952 meters, the highest mountain in East Asia.

Taiwan's participation is a matter of climate justice

The Paris Agreement highlights the important concept of climate justice, calling on all states to take action to address climate change. Taiwan is a densely populated island that is particularly exposed to extreme weather events and rising sea levels associated with climate change. The increasing frequency of floods, landslides, droughts, and heat waves endangers Taiwan's development and very survival. It is unjust that Taiwan is excluded from the UNFCCC and left to deal with the impact of climate change on its own. The threats posed by climate change continue to grow increasingly clear, and no country is immune to the impacts. It is therefore of paramount importance that these challenges are dealt with in unison, so as to ensure our planet's sustainable development. The people of Taiwan are eager to participate in the global climate regime. Taiwan's inclusion in the UNFCCC process would conform to the purpose and spirit of the convention, which acknowledges that "the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation," as well as to the principles embodied in the UN Charter.

Conclusion

The 23 million people of Taiwan have the right, the ability, and the willingness to contribute to efforts to ensure our planet's sustainable development. We therefore call on all parties concerned to look beyond political considerations, and support Taiwan's professional, pragmatic, and constructive participation in the UNFCCC.



A biking route surrounding Sun Moon-Lake in central Taiwan has been chosen as one of the world's top 10 cycling paths by CNN.

Ecotourism in Taiwan

Over 10 million tourists from around the world travel to Taiwan each year, making Taiwan one of the most popular eco-destination in the world.

By Rainer Schubert

They arrive via the capital Taipei, which has two special attractions in store for them - the Taipei 101 - the tallest building in the world from 2004 to 2010. Meanwhile, it has been surpassed but still comes in at a respectable 7th place. Another must see is the National Palace Museum with 620,000 objects; the largest collection of China's 5000-year old history.

But the island state has much more to offer for the active and eco-conscious tourist. In 1984, the densely populated country (639 inhabitants per square kilometre covering an area the size of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany) started to establish eight national parks. 8.4 percent of the country's territory is now protected area under nature conservation law. Taiwan is highly interesting from a geological point of view. The island encompasses a variety of climate zones, from cold to tropical. This explains the great biodiversity. Although Taiwan covers only 0.25 per cent of the Earth's surface, it accounts for 2.5 per cent of all animal species, 100 times more than the world average, and an astonishing ten per cent of marine species, which is four hundred times the world average.

Actually, Taiwan is a large rock, with the highest mountain in northeast Asia, namely the Jade Mountain, which stands at a height of 3952 meters in the Yushan National Park. In this park alone one third of the more than 3000-metre high mountains of Taiwan are located. Here, you can see the Formosa salamander, a reptile unchanged since the Jurassic period. Taiwan's second highest moun-

tain, the Xue, is located in the Shei-Pa National Park, as is the „Century Mountain“ Dabaijan. The particularity of this almost inaccessible park is the Formosa salmon that lives only here.

Just north of Taipei, the Yangmingshan National Park offers hot springs and 5000-year old volcanic craters. Cherry and azalea blossoms, and a multitude of bird and butterfly species provide a rich play of colours from February to April. Kenting, at the southern tip, is the oldest national park, with tropical rainforests, 250 coral and 1000 species of fish, one twentieth of all species of the world. So also marine life characterizes the ecology of Taiwan. Another example: the wetlands in the Taijiang National Park in the southwest at the mouth of the Zengwen River. Two hundred species of fish have been found here alone by scientists, and the paddlefish regularly comes to spawn in this waters.

A must see on every Taiwan trip: the Taroko Park in the east with its 19-kilometre long gorge of the same name. Over millions of years, the Liwu River has dug its way through the rock, creating 500-metre high canyons of granite and marble. An ideal place for hikers to work their way along the ridges and paths of the rocky outcrop and along the roaring river. It's not just strong shoes that you require, you also need to keep an eye on the weather forecast.

In short: biodiversity and rich nature provide an ideal ground for active and ecotourism. Diving, walking and cycling, climbing, canoeing, windsurfing, whale and dolphin watching, and, above all, bird watching: Taiwan has everything to offer.

*For more information
<http://eng.taiwan.net.tw>*

RAINER SCHUBERT
is chief editor of BUSINESS & DIPLOMACY

Endemic Birds of Taiwan



Taiwan Blue-Magpie
臺灣藍鶲
Urocissa caerulea
L: 64~69 cm Common resident.



Taiwan Barbet
五色鳥 (臺灣擬啄木)
Megalaima nuchalis
L: 21~23 cm Common resident.



Flamecrest 火冠戴菊(臺灣戴菊)
Regulus goodfellowi
L: 9 cm Common resident.



Styan's Bulbul 烏頭翁
Pycnonotus taiwanus L: 18 cm
Locally common resident.



Taiwan Whistling-Thrush
臺灣紫嘯鶲
Myophonus insularis
L: 13 cm Common resident.



Yellow Tit 黃山雀
Parus holsti
L: 13 cm Rare resident.



Taiwan Partridge 臺灣山鶇
Arborophila crudigularis
L: 25 cm Uncommon resident.



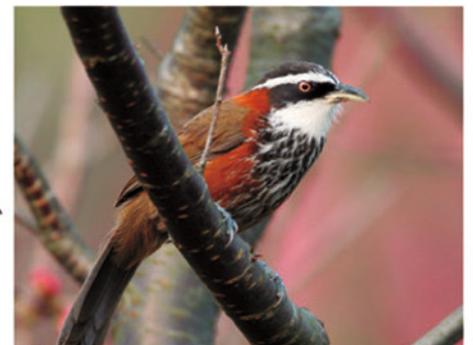
Mikado Pheasant
黑長尾雉
Syrnaticus mikado
L: ♂ 85 cm; ♀ 50 cm
Rare resident.



Taiwan Rosefinch 臺灣朱雀
Carpodacus formosanus
L: 15 cm Common resident.



Swinhoe's Pheasant 藍腹鶲
Lophura swinhoii
L: ♂ 80 cm; ♀ 50 cm Uncommon resident.



Taiwan Scimitar-Babbler 小彎嘴畫眉
Pomatorhinus musicus
L: 20 cm Common resident.

