



Family Background

Vice President Chen Chien-jen was born in 1951 in Qishan Township, Kaohsiung County, now Qishan District, Kaohsiung City. His father was former Kaohsiung County Magistrate Chen Hsin-an, and his mother, Chen Wei Lien-chih, was once a daycare center manager. Vice President Chen is one of eight children. He has two daughters with his spouse, Ms. Lo Fong-ping. All are devout Catholics.

Academic Background

Vice President Chen graduated from the Department of Zoology at National Taiwan University in 1973, and received his master's degree in public health from the same university in 1977. In 1983, he received his Sc.D. in epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. His areas of expertise include epidemiology, human genetics, public health, and preventive medicine.

Political Career

Vice President Chen was appointed Minister of Health in 2003. He successfully contained the SARS epidemic in Taiwan that same year, and pushed for the reorganization of Taiwan's health care system, reformed the National Health Insurance program and effectively improved the nation's disease prevention capabilities and the quality of its medical services. In 2006, he was named Minister of the National Science Council, and in 2011 was appointed Vice President of Academia Sinica. During his tenures in these organizations, Vice President Chen devoted his time to strengthening the administrative efficiency of the country's research and development bodies, broadening international scientific and technological cooperation, and advancing Taiwan's global competitiveness.

Academic Awards and Achievements

Vice President Chen's research on Blackfoot disease, chronic arsenic poisoning, viral hepatitis and cancer is widely respected and recognized by his peers in the international community. He has received the prestigious title of Academician in Academia Sinica and Taiwan's Presidential Science Prize. He is also the recipient of the Fogarty International Research Fellowship from the US National Institutes of Health. Vice President Chen has given the Cutter Lecture on Preventive Medicine at Harvard University and won the Knowledge for the World Award, now the Global Achievement Award, from Johns Hopkins University. Vice President Chen has been granted the Order of the French Academic Palms and the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great. In addition, he has received numerous other prestigious international awards in recognition of his contributions to his fields of academic expertise.



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VICE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)