

Lee, Ying-Yuan Ph. D.

Representative

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Education:

- Ph.D. in Health Economics, University of North Carolina, USA
- Master's degree of Health Care Management, Harvard School of Public Health, USA
- Bachelor of Public Health, National Taiwan University (NTU), Taiwan

Career History:

- Representative of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Thailand (2020 - present)
- Minister of the Environmental Protection Administration, Executive Yuan (2016 - 2018)
- Legislator (Senator) of the 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th Legislative Yuan (1996, 2000, 2012, 2016)
- Secretary General of the Democratic Progressive Party (2008)
- Minister of the Labor Affairs Council, Executive Yuan (2005 - 2007)
- Secretary General of the Executive Yuan (2001 - 2002; 2005)
- Deputy Representative of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the USA (2000 - 2002)

Born in 1953, Yunlin, Taiwan, Dr. Lee is married and has two sons. While studying at NTU, he was awakened by the Formosa Incident (1979) and later devoted himself to Taiwanese political reform. In 1980, Dr. Lee received a master's degree of Health Care Management (1981) from the Harvard school of Public Health and a doctorate in Health Economics (1988) from the University of North Carolina in the US. Meanwhile he actively participated in overseas student movements and called for the then authorities to conduct democratic reform, resulting in him being blacklisted and banned from returning back to Taiwan.

In July 1990, Dr. Lee deliberately challenged the authorities by returning to Taiwan illegally. Throughout 14 months of being a fugitive, he resisted and battled by wits against the military-police agencies in nonviolent resistance. In September 1991, Dr. Lee was arrested and imprisoned on charges of sedition under Article 100 of the then Criminal Code. Through the relentless protests of civil activist groups, the article was abolished in substance, rendering Taiwan as a society with complete freedom of speech. Dr. Lee was then acquitted in May of 1992.

After the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the presidential election in 2000, its first time as ruling party, Dr. Lee was appointed with several important political positions such as Deputy Representative to the United States (2000), Secretary General of the Executive Yuan (2001), Minister of the Labor Affairs Council (2005), and elected as a legislator for 4 terms. He was appointed as Minister of the Environmental Protection Administration by President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016.

In addition to his political career, Dr. Lee has been involved in social movements for years, concerning issues such as labor rights and environmental protection. In 2004, Dr. Lee echoed former President Lee, Teng-hui's appeal to resist the various coercions of China, organizing the "228 Hand-in-Hand Rally" (2/28/2004). The rally was joined by over 2 million Taiwanese in an unbroken hand-in-hand human chain encircling the Taiwan island for hundreds of kilometers. As one of the largest political movements in Taiwan history, it demonstrated the strong willingness of Taiwanese people to guard their homeland against the malice of a regional power. It also helped consolidate the Taiwanese self-identity, and exerted strong influence on the 2004 Presidential Election.

Dr. Lee enjoys reading, watching movies, and hiking.