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Feature Article

Durban Climate Conference Decisions Considered in Taiwan's Policy Making

To deal with the issues that are growing daily around climate change mitigation, a conference of major importance in greenhouse gas reduction negotiations was held in Durban, South Africa from 28 November to 11 December 2011. A delegation comprised of representatives from Taiwan's government, industry and academia and led by EPA Deputy Minister Tzi-Chin Chang participated in the talks. The Taiwan delegation observed first-hand the development of global carbon reduction regulations, interacted with international experts, academics and delegates during conference activities and made a broad range of exchanges.

Officially referred to as the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP 17/CMP 7), over 14,000 people from 194 countries attended, including government officials, observers and media, to discuss greenhouse gas reduction responsibilities and global warming adaptation measures for the post-Kyoto Protocol period. This meeting is regarded as an important milestone in climate talks.

A wide variety of decisions were made at the Durban conference, including 19 decisions adopted by COP

17 and 17 decisions adopted by CMP 7. The issues were multi-faceted and highly specialized, covering the organization and timeline for future rounds of negotiations, national adaptation plans (NAPs), impacts and exposure to disasters due to extreme weather events, a Green Climate Fund financial mechanism, capacity building, technology transfer, forests and reduction of deforestation, national communications and emissions inventories, market mechanisms (emission trading, clean development mechanism), and carbon capture and storage. The decisions with regard to subsequent development of climate treaties and protocols were abundant and diverse, all with far-reaching and positive influence. Major items related to resolutions from past

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negotiations were also implemented, in particular regarding the equity basis established in the 2010 Cancun Agreements.

Countries agree to reach legally binding consensus before COP 21

The EPA considered the most important results of the Durban conference to be: the establishment of the "Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action," which will start work in the first half of 2012; an agreement among countries upon applicable standards within the treaty framework that signatory countries shall fulfill; and, an agreement that a legally binding consensus (a protocol or other agreed outcome with legal force) should be reached at COP 21 in 2015, that can formally enter into force by year 2020. The negotiation model under the Bali Action Plan (Long-term Cooperative Action, AWG-LCA), which took effect in 2007 and has been used for four years, will conclude in 2012.

The core elements of the Durban conference included a return to the UNFCCC spirit and principles, namely that each country should undertake common but differentiated reduction responsibilities, and carry out reduction tasks through the most inexpensive and cost effective methods to bring about sustainable economic development. The outcomes of the Durban conference will influence and enlighten the direction of Taiwan's policy in three broad categories:

1. The new reduction accord will have an expanded level of influence and longer timeline: The new accord will take effect and be executed after 2020. A clear timeline over the next ten years for international climate negotiations has already been arranged. The new accord may not differentiate between developed and developing countries, thus future negotiations will be more challenging. From this point onward there will be growing international demands on developing countries to take on more reduction responsibilities. In order to maintain the international competitiveness of Taiwan's industry and help national sustainable development, Taiwan has already taken the initiative to declare openly to the international community its voluntary reduction actions and periods, as it strives for opportunities for meaningful participation in the UNFCCC.

2. Formation of a multi-track, integrated carbon

reduction mechanism: Future international carbon reduction could employ a single mechanism (protocol or accord) to integrate different reduction methods. The conclusions at this conference mentioned the governments of several countries (including 35 industrialized countries) agreeing to begin the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol on 1 January 2013. During the second commitment period, signatory countries should clarify as soon as possible their move from "economy-wide targets" in the present stage to "quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives," and it was proposed that a review of this changeover in models for reduction targets take place before 1 May 2012.

Also, although it will still be subject to negotiations, it is anticipated that responsibilities of Non-Annex I countries (developing countries) will no longer be determined under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities for burden sharing, however their reduction targets are not expected to be determined through the methods used for original Annex I countries (developed countries). Thus the future system for declaring and verifying the effects of the results of countries' implementation of different measures to meet reduction targets will be a key point in subsequent treaty negotiations. Taiwan will continue to address the key considerations of how to implement a domestic system aligned with the international system, using measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) mechanisms, as well as how to strengthen bilateral and multilateral climate cooperation mechanisms.

3. Strengthening transparency and continuity of GHG reduction work: Further work was done in Durban on items from the climate conference of 2010 in Cancun, Mexico, regarding a package to support developing countries, including: the Green Climate Fund, establishment of an adaptation committee to coordinate global actions, and the full launch in 2012 of technology transfer mechanisms to assist developing countries with adopting mitigation and adaptation technologies. At the conclusion of the conference, special emphasis was placed on the importance of transparency and continuity.

Taiwan to pass GHG Reduction Act as quickly as possible to take advantage of market mechanisms

In the future Taiwan will work towards achieving voluntary reductions, while maintaining clear

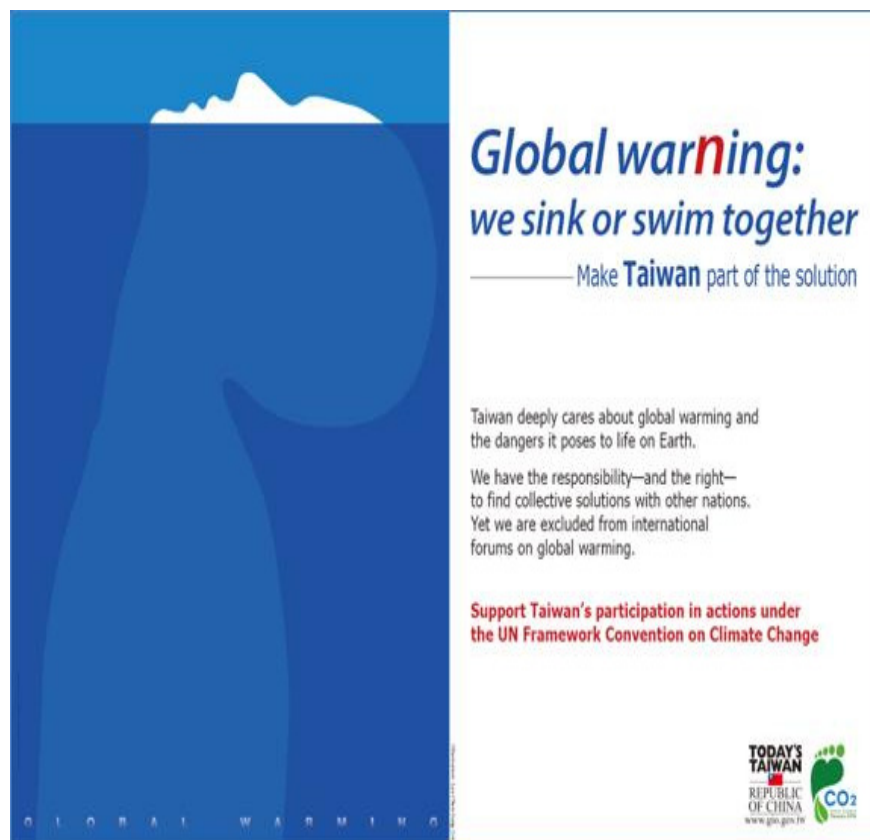
records and verification mechanisms of domestic related reduction performance, for the benefit of explaining emission reductions to both international and domestic entities. The most important of these mechanisms is the draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (溫室氣體減量法草案), and the expedient passing of this act is likely to receive special attention during bilateral meetings with other nations. This Act will establish the legal foundations and procedures according to which government departments will administer affairs, help progressively build GHG reduction management mechanisms in phases, and introduce market mechanisms at the appropriate time to keep the cost of reductions low for the benefit of international industrial competitiveness.

At the 2009 Copenhagen climate conference the innovative concept of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) for Non-Annex I countries was proposed, and at the 2010 Cancun conference the vision of the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund was addressed. At the 2011 Durban conference, the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action was established, through which all countries,

particularly developing ones, will undertake global reduction responsibilities at appropriate times, providing practical mechanisms for the realization of the aforementioned visions and ideals. The Durban conference clearly demonstrated the political complexity and difficulty of climate negotiations.

Additionally, green technology and market mechanisms remain as two major elements that are absolutely necessary in a treaty to confront the challenges posed by climate change. The Durban conference paved the way for a treaty that will continue to build confidence in carbon markets, letting global businesses and investors understand that the transformation to a low-carbon economy is already irreversible.

The EPA indicated that at this moment in the daunting challenge to deal with climate change, we are all together in the same boat. Although climate negotiations involve countries with competing interests and much political wrangling, the EPA urged everyone to remember we are facing a "Global Warning: We Sink or Swim Together" (see Figure).




▶ Figure: Taiwan's advertisement displayed in Durban, South Africa, Taoyuan International Airport and major international publications (reproduced with permission from Leo Chun-Liang Lin, Associate Professor, National Taiwan Normal University)

Feature Article

New Environmental Measures Effective in 2012

The EPA is implementing various new environmental measures, effective from 1 January 2012. Examples include the promulgation of the Soil Pollution Assessment, Investigation and Testing Management Regulations, strengthening of controls on refrigerant recycling, tightening of vehicle diesel and gasoline control standards, revision of reduction targets for use of plastic food packaging trays and boxes in hypermarkets and supermarkets, and the adjustment of light bulb recycling, clearance and treatment fee rates. The EPA calls on all citizens and related businesses to take heed of these new measures.

As the new year begins, the EPA has made a special announcement to remind people of new measures that will become effective from 1 January 2012. The following chart sums up the new measures and the regulations to which they pertain:

 Table: New measures effective from 1 January 2012

Measure	Content	Contact
Soil Pollution Assessment, Investigation and Testing Management Regulations Promulgated	To improve systems of reporting for future reference and review work as stated in Article 8 Paragraph 1 and Article 9 Paragraph 1 of the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act (土壤及地下水污染整治法), and ensure sound implementation procedures for land owners, businesses, assessors, investigators, and testing organizations, the EPA has, based on the authority granted in Article 9 Paragraph 2 of the Act, promulgated the Soil Pollution Assessment, Investigation and Testing Management Regulations (土壤污染評估調查及檢測作業管理辦法), effective 1 January 2012. The regulations lay out details on work procedures, data compilation, and verification methods concerning soil pollution assessment, investigation, and testing. For example, companies planning soil pollution assessment, investigation and testing on their land should have the work done by a certified assessor.	Soil and Groundwater Remediation Fund Management Board, Tel: 02-2383-2389 ext. 8000
Refrigerant recycling control measures strengthened	Revisions to the Regulated Recyclable Waste Recycling, Clearance, and Treatment Inspection Certification Guidelines (Electric, Electronic and IT Products) were promulgated on 22 August 2011. The focus of these revisions was to make regulations for waste refrigerators, heaters and air conditioners more comprehensive and include standard values for the recycling of various refrigerants. To reduce the occurrence of pollution due to careless disassembly of electric and electronic appliances outside of treatment plants after they have been collected for recycling, the revised guidelines stipulate that when waste refrigerators enter treatment plants, the ratio of damaged condensers, which was formerly limited to 3% of monthly treatment volume, is now lowered to 1%, effective 1 January 2012.	Recycling Fund Management Board, Tel: 02-2370-5888 ext. 3000
Light bulb recycling, clearance and treatment fee rate adjusted	In order to ensure the reasonable operation of the recycling fund for light bulbs, from 1 January 2012 the EPA increased the recycling, clearance, and treatment fee collection rate to NT\$31 per kg, marking a 15% increase in the former rate of NT\$27 per kg. High intensity discharge (HID) light bulb recycling, clearance and treatment costs are closer to other light bulbs at NT\$32.48 per kg, thus a standard fee rate has been made across the board for all bulbs at NT\$31.	Recycling Fund Management Board, Tel: 02-2370-5888 ext. 3000

Measure	Content	Contact
Vehicle diesel and gasoline control standards tightened, lowering the limit on sulfur to 10 ppmw	Control standards on ingredients of automobile diesel and gasoline have been tightened by lowering the restriction on sulfur content from 50 ppmw to 10 ppmw, in two stages on 1 July 2011 and 1 January 2012, respectively, to further improve vehicular pollution emissions and air quality. Also added to the list of regulated items are the hexadecane index set at 48 (minimum) and the percentage of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which has been lowered to 11%. The restriction on gasoline aromatics has been tightened to 35%. Tightened standards on sulfur content, the hexadecane index, PAHs and gasoline aromatics in diesel fuel took effect on 1 July 2011, while tightened standards on sulfur content in automobile gasoline took effect on 1 January 2012.	Department of Air Quality Protection and Noise Control, Tel: 02-2371-2121 ext. 6000
Locations providing free collection of Recycling, Clearance and Treatment Fees increased to over 10,000	The EPA entered into cooperation with four major convenience store chains on 1 January 2012. These stores now provide free service in collecting recycling, clearance and treatment fees. Any single payment bills under NT\$20,000 can be downloaded and printed out via the Internet and be paid for at counters of participating stores. The addition of this new channel for paying recycling bills, combined with existing payment channels such as banks and post offices, puts the total number of locations that offer free payment services at over 10,000.	Recycling Fund Management Board, Tel: 02-2370-5888 ext. 3000
Bioplastic recycling fee will be collected from manufacturers and importers	On 28 December 2011, revisions to Articles 19, 20 and 21 of the Responsible Enterprise Regulated Mandatory Recyclables Waste Management Regulations (應回收廢棄物責任業者管理辦法) were announced, abolishing regulations that required responsible enterprises to recycle bioplastics on their own. Bioplastic raw material manufacturers and importers, as well as container, bioplastic panel or single-use tableware importers, are now required to pay recycling, clearance and treatment fees according to fee rates announced by the EPA, effective 1 January 2012.	Recycling Fund Management Board, Tel: 02-2370-5888 ext. 3000
Soil Pollution Assessment, Investigation and Testing Data Review Fee Standards implemented	<p>The Soil Pollution Assessment, Investigation and Testing Data Review Fee Standards (土壤污染評估調查及檢測資料審查收費標準) were drawn up according to Article 55 of the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act. The Standards require enterprises to pay review fees to environmental protection bureaus (EPB) for any situation requiring review according to Article 9 of this Act. Parties utilizing land which requires a reference check by an EPB according to Article 8 of the Act do not have to pay a review fee.</p> <p>According to the regulation which states that land is exempt from sampling and testing, an environmental specialist should be employed to conduct land assessments and surveys to decide whether sampling is unnecessary. Only after approval from the local EPB can the case be officially declared exempt from sampling and testing. Enterprises may not decide on their own as to whether land is exempt from sampling and testing, and doing so will cause delays as applications will be sent back for inclusion of the missing required data. Collection of review fees commenced on 1 January 2012.</p>	Soil and Groundwater Remediation Fund Management Board, Tel: 02-2383-2389 ext. 8000
Major reforms made to clearance and treatment of waste lubricants	<p>The EPA has already announced that waste lubricants have been removed from the list of regulated recyclable waste, effective 1 January 2012. In the future, clearance and treatment of waste lubricants will be carried out in the same manner as general or industrial waste designated for reuse.</p> <p>On 12 August 2010 the EPA announced that subsidies for the recycling and treatment of waste lubricants would be terminated on 1 July 2011. On 27 December 2010, the EPA announced that waste lubricants would be removed from the list of regulated recyclable waste on 1 January 2012.</p>	Recycling Fund Management Board, Tel: 02-2370-5888 ext. 3000

Measure	Content	Contact
General Waste: Waste Lubricant Reuse Management Methods announced	The General Waste: Waste Lubricant Reuse Management Methods (一般廢棄物—廢潤滑油再利用管理方式) were announced on 1 December 2011 and put into effect on 1 January 2012. In line with the removal of waste lubricant from the list of regulated recyclable waste, waste lubricant recycling and reuse will be no longer done by waste lubricant treatment enterprises registered under the Management Regulations Governing Recycling and Disposal Enterprises for Regulated Mandatory Recyclables (應回收廢棄物回收處理業管理辦法). Enterprises with valid permit for recycling and reusing waste lubricant are required to follow general waste procedures for reusing waste lubricants. To do so, these enterprises need to apply with the local competent authority using their valid recycling permit to obtain a control number as an approved reuse organization. Following this procedure, an audit or on-site inspection of the enterprise will not be required.	Department of Waste Management, Tel: 02-2311-7722 ext. 2600
Effluent Standards revised to strengthen control of effluent from high-tech industry	On 15 December 2010, the EPA promulgated revisions to the Effluent Standards (放流水標準), adding new items and restrictions covering materials and components manufactured in the optoelectronics industry, as well as materials containing gallium, indium, molybdenum, total toxic organics and biotoxins generated in science parks. The grace period prior to these new measures expired on 1 January 2012. Details are posted on the EPA Web site (http://ivy5.epa.gov.tw/epalaw/) in the section on the latest environmental regulations (最新環保法規).	Department of Water Quality Protection, Tel: 02-2311-7722 ext. 2800
Restrictions on the Use of Plastic Food Packaging Trays and Boxes revised	Revisions to the Restrictions on the Use of Plastic Food Packaging Trays and Boxes (限制塑膠類托盤及包裝盒使用) were promulgated on 23 December 2011, and became effective on 1 January 2012. A reduction target was set for retail stores and convenience stores to reduce use of plastic food packaging trays and boxes by 40% in 2012. Starting in 2013, an 80% reduction target is slated for the use of petroleum-based food packaging trays and boxes for three categories of products: eggs, fruits & vegetables, breads & pastries. This measure is estimated to achieve an overall reduction of 46.5% of plastic food packaging trays and boxes.	Department of Waste Management, Tel: 02-2311-7722 ext. 2600
GPS tracking required for non-tanker transport of solid toxic substances	The first and second groups of toxic substance transport vehicles required to install GPS equipment have been operating since 2008 with excellent results in toxic substances control. The third group of vehicles was announced on 23 September 2011, including non-tanker vehicles transporting solid toxic substances, effective 1 January 2012. Operators were required to install GPS equipment before 1 January 2012 and maintain the normal functioning of this equipment to ensure public safety and environmental quality during the transport of toxic substances.	Department of Environmental Sanitation and Toxic Substance Management, Tel: 02-2311-7722 ext. 2850
Air quality forecasting service strengthened by providing two forecasts every day	As a result of technical cooperation between the EPA and the Bureau of Meteorology from 2008 to 2011, the public can now access four simulated weather forecasts and two sets of satellite monitoring data every day, a program that has greatly benefited the advancement of the EPA's ability to produce air quality forecasts and time resolution. From 1 January 2012 the EPA has been providing two air quality forecasts every day.	Department of Environmental Monitoring and Information Management, Tel: 02-2311-7722 ext. 2300

Waste Management

Minister Shen: EPA to Promote Sustainable Use of Recycled Resources

On 6 December 2011, EPA Minister Stephen Shu-hung Shen indicated that Taiwan's recycling rate has attracted international attention and recognition, and that the EPA is now planning for the promotion of sustainable use of recycled resources, in line with international trends to promote sustainable materials management and raise waste treatment efficacy.

To promote sustainable materials management and strengthen international exchanges, on 6 December 2011, the EPA hosted the Second International Conference on Sustainable Materials Management, bringing together specialists and academics from several countries to Taiwan to share their expertise.

Participants, including the UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) expert and experts with profound experience in sustainable materials management from Germany, Poland and Israel, discussed issues related to sustainable materials management, resource productivity and the rate of use of recycled resources.

In his remarks at the conference, Minister Shen outlined out how Taiwan's waste material management policy has transformed from earlier "end-of-pipe treatment" to the current "zero waste" goals. Progressing through step by step measures

for "source reduction" and "resource recycling and reuse," Taiwan's achievements in waste recycling are now internationally acclaimed. The EPA is currently formulating a plan to promote the sustainable use of recycled resources, in line with international efforts to promote sustainable materials management and improve the efficacy of waste treatment.

Besides discussions, the conference also included a "Sustainable Materials Management Specialists' Symposium" on 7~8 December 2011 and a tour to better understand resource recycling and reuse efforts in Taiwan. The tour included viewing of AU Optronics Corporation's material flow management of phosphorous in thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD) manufacturing, Solar Technology Inc.'s sustainable materials management of precious metals in Tainan, and a restoration center for large furniture run by the Environmental Protection Bureau in Tainan City.

Soil and Groundwater

Categories and Usage Restrictions for Sediment Quality Indicators Announced

In order to establish a comprehensive national mechanism for managing sediment quality, recent revisions to the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act (土壤及地下水污染整治法) have added regulations governing the establishment and management of sediment quality indicators. As authorized by Article 6 Paragraph 6 of the Act, the EPA has formulated a set of relevant regulations – the Category Management and Usage Restrictions for Sediment Quality Indicators (底泥品質指標之分類管理及用途限制辦法) – which were promulgated and put into effect on 4 January 2012.

The addition of Article 6 Paragraph 6 to the revised Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act makes the EPA responsible for formulating regulations concerning category management and usage restrictions for sediment quality indicators. The EPA has been working hard on policy research for the new restrictions while keeping in mind that sediment control strategies in nations in Europe and North America are far more developed than in Taiwan. For example, in order to give reports to Congress on sediment conditions, from 1980 to 1999 the US EPA monitored water bodies at over 50,000 testing stations, collecting almost 4.6 million data sets. This enabled the US to establish suitable sediment quality screening methods and screening limits for various chemicals. These figures give some idea of the vast amounts of resources and manpower that the US has

put into monitoring sediment quality.

Taiwan, by contrast, has to date collected only approximately 20,000 items of data on sediment. The EPA thus referred extensively to the experiences and measures of advanced countries, then considered local sediment data and convened conferences and public hearings to formulate the Regulations for Category Management and Usage Restrictions for Sediment Quality Indicators.

The regulations cover three main areas, including sediment quality indicator items and values, category management and usage restrictions. Items covered by the indicators include common pollutants such as heavy metals and pesticides. New additions to the list of organic compounds include polycyclic aromatic

hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins and plasticizers. The new method of category management means that sediment quality will be graded as one of three grades determined by degree of pollution risk to living

organisms. The competent authorities will be in charge of subsequent management, control and improvement measures if necessary.

Environmental Education

Grants of up to NT\$500,000 for Environmental Education Accreditation Applicants

The EPA encourages private organizations and operators of premises engaged in environmental education to actively seek accreditation for their organization/premises and the environmental education activities and personnel training that they conduct. To this end, the EPA has drawn up two plans that allow such entities that gain accreditation before 31 August 2012 to receive grants, of up to NT\$70,000 for premises and NT\$40,000 for organizations. Grants of up to NT\$500,000 are available for holding environmental education activities, personnel training and development courses.

The 2012 Subsidies for Accreditation Applications from Environmental Education Premises Plan provides for subsidies of up to NT\$70,000 for premises engaged in environmental education that apply for and gain accreditation before 31 August 2012. Premises that have their applications successfully evaluated before this date but do not receive accreditation in time can apply for a grant of NT\$4,500. Grants of up to NT\$500,000 are available to premises that hold environmental education activities and personnel training/development courses, provided that the application is received before 31 August 2012. Premises that receive grants to hold such activities and courses should offer discounts to participants on entrance fees, instruction, learning materials and any other costs related to the environmental activity being held. The above subsidies are available to the first 40 applicants, and it is hoped that implementation of the subsidy plan will lead to more than 40 premises that are able to provide the public with top notch environmental education facilities gaining accreditation within a year.

The 2012 Subsidies for Accreditation Applications from Environmental Education Organizations and for Conducting Training (Workshops) of Environmental Educators Plan also provides for subsidies of

up to NT\$40,000 for organizations engaged in environmental education that apply for and gain accreditation before 31 August 2012. Organizations that have their applications successfully evaluated before this date but do not receive accreditation in time can apply for a grant of NT\$5,000. Accredited organizations that apply before 31 August 2012 are also eligible for subsidies of up to 50% of the tuition fees charged to participants in training and workshops up to a limit of NT\$8,000 per student for training courses and NT\$2,000 per student for workshops. The maximum amount that any one organization can receive in total has been set at NT\$500,000. The above subsidies are available to the first ten applicants, and it is hoped that implementation of the subsidy plan will lead to more than ten organizations gaining accreditation within a year.

At present, two premises have been accredited: Taipei City Guandu Nature Park and Feitsui Reservoir Environmental Learning Center. Members of the public are welcome to visit these centers to learn more about environmental matters. The EPA will soon be announcing details of these two subsidy plans and welcoming applications from all qualified organizations.

Environmental Education

Environmental Education Hotline and Advisory Team Established

As a part of its implementation of the Environmental Education Act, the EPA has set up a free environmental education service hotline – 0800-001-540 – and an environmental education advisory team. These free services

will run to 31 December 2012 and are available to government agencies, publicly and privately run enterprises, schools (up to senior high level), and legally-registered foundations that receive over 50% of their funding from the government. Any of these entities that have queries or need advice concerning environmental education laws, environmental education plans, or how to conduct the stipulated four hours of compulsory environmental education, are free to use these services.

To assist entities with implementing Article 19 Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Education Act, the EPA is providing expert guidance and consultations in the formulation and implementation of environmental education plans. The EPA is also pressing local governments to formulate environmental education action plans for the cities and counties under their jurisdiction in accordance with the National Environmental Education Framework and the National Environmental Education Action Plan. In addition, the EPA has also commissioned the Chinese Society for Environmental Education to set up a free hotline to answer queries about environmental education issues. The hotline is now open Monday~Friday 8:30-17:30, and will be available until 31 December 2012.

The EPA has also asked the Chinese Society for Environmental Education to establish an environmental education advisory team that will be responsible for giving expert advice and guidance regarding the implementation of Article 19 Paragraph

1 of the Environmental Education Act, the formulation of environmental education plans and action plans, and suitable methods for implementing them.

When there is a need for the environmental education advisory team, government agencies, schools and their subordinate organizations can make requests via the hotline. The EPA will assess these inquiries, taking into account such factors as available resources, unique features, and particular problems, and then send teams of specialists led by the Chinese Society for Environmental Education to agencies and schools to provide professional advice. The EPA earnestly hopes that the establishment of the free hotline and the environmental education advisory team will facilitate more diversity in environmental education and make it a learning experience enjoyable enough for citizens to want to learn more and take action for the environment in their own lives.

Water Quality

Water Pollution Control Plans and Permit Application Review Procedures Revised

On 3 January 2012, the EPA announced revisions to the Regulations for Reviewing Water Pollution Control Plans and Permit Applications Review Procedures (水污染防治措施計畫及許可申請審查辦法). Important new requirements for applications include overall environmental impact assessment review conclusions; inclusion of permits, allocations and registration of cap-and-trade system; and the implementation of pilot operation management for wastewater treatment facilities. The measures are designed to enhance permit management for water pollution control.

The current set of management regulations for permit applications were promulgated on 16 October 2006 and have provided the basic standards for evaluating permit applications, including alterations and extensions, and for formulating other relevant control measures. Tighter control values for effluent – one of the items in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) pledge for development activities – were not originally required as a part of the permit registrations management, which meant that the restrictions were not complete.

The addition the EIA review conclusions, as required by the latest revision, complement water pollution control measures, and their addition to permit registrations will make permit management more thorough. The EPA is also currently looking into drawing up total quantity controls in order to address the issue of water quality. In particular, some sections of Taiwan's rivers do not reach minimum standards due to pollution from wastewater discharges exceeding the rivers' natural capacity to absorb them. Pollution sources that fall within total quantity

control areas will be required to abide by total quantity allocations in order to reduce overall pollution levels, facilitate water body assessments, and achieve minimum water quality standards. The purpose of the latest revisions is to provide the legal foundation for adding pollution limits for water body total quantity controls to water pollution control plans or permit registrations.

In order to confirm that plants that treat industrial wastewater have fully-functional facilities, the latest revisions also stipulate that new applicants for effluent

discharge permits or extensions of permits pre-approved by the relevant competent authority should conduct a pilot operation and functionality tests. Thus sanctioning agencies can quickly approve new permit applications or applications for extensions. Such tests will also serve as important reference data for evaluating at a future date whether or not the facilities are functioning normally. Details of the latest revisions can be found on the EPA Web site <http://ivy5.epa.gov.tw/epalaw/> under the section on the latest environmental regulations (最新環保法規).

General Policy

Compilation of Taiwan's Major Environmental Events Released

To commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Republic of China, the EPA has compiled information about the significant events that have marked Taiwan's environmental development, to reflect upon the history of Taiwan's environmental protection and bear in mind the lessons learned. Photographs and narrations of 30 major environmental events were selected and compiled into the book "Collection of the Republic of China's Major Environmental Events" which was officially released on 7 December 2011.

The book has seven sections covering natural disasters, man-made environmental disasters, pollution incidents, controversial events, developmental disputes, ecological conservation and systemic adjustments. These 30 events were chosen for meeting the criteria of being close to the hearts of the people, arousing widespread media attention and public debate, demonstrating the evolution of the nation's environmental policies, explaining the establishment of relevant departments, and introducing regulatory changes. Government documents and media reports were referenced and interviews were conducted with key figures to grasp the essence of circumstances surrounding specific events, which are presented in a historical narrative style, providing a complete recording of these events.

Taiwan's economic development process led to an economic boom that increased incomes and improved living conditions, but also brought with it environmental pollution and destruction. This collection records the history of Taiwan's significant environmental developments, and also traces the evolution of the nation's environmental policies,

establishment of institutions, regulatory changes, and environmental improvements. For instance, the establishment of the EPA and local (city and county) environmental protection bureaus, legislation of the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act and the Marine Pollution Control Act, the environmental impact assessment (EIA) system, waste disposal and recycling mechanisms, and an industrial waste management system.

The EPA notes that the "Collection of the Republic of China's Major Environmental Events" provides the public with instructive environmental protection educational material, giving readers an understanding of the efforts and resources that were invested by civic organizations and governmental departments to resolve pollution problems and improve the environment. Bit by bit the cooperative efforts of environmental protection work are recorded and illustrated with the practical application of creating a safer and healthier living environment for the population.

Climate Change

More Automobile Manufacturers Sign Agreement on Voluntary CO₂ Reductions

The EPA is actively promoting the production and sales of low-carbon vehicles. Last year six domestic manufacturers and importers signed an agreement to voluntarily reduce automobile CO₂ emissions. Excellent results were achieved during the first year with an average reduction of 6.5%, prompting the EPA to issue special recognition awards. Also, six other automobile manufacturers agreed to voluntary reduction commitments, increasing the total number of automobile manufacturers under signature to 12, which now constitutes 40% of the domestic new car sales volume.

On 28 December 2010, six domestic automobile manufacturers and importers — Pan German Motors Ltd. (BMW), Ford Lio Ho Motor Co., Ltd. (Ford), Honda Taiwan Co., Ltd., China Motor Corporation (CMC), Sanyang Industry Co., Ltd. (Hyundai), and Mercedes-Benz Taiwan Ltd. — co-signed an agreement with the EPA to voluntarily reduce automobile CO₂ emissions. They have made the commitment to produce and introduce low carbon vehicles for domestic consumers and initiate product modification strategies to achieve the target of cutting CO₂ emissions 10% to 15% by 2015. Following the signing of this agreement, by the end of November 2011 the introduction of hybrid cars, energy efficient engines, active energy-conserving management technology and modifications to low-carbon vehicle marketing strategies among these six companies resulted in average CO₂ emission reductions of 6.5% compared to 2009. In honor of these outstanding results the EPA issued special recognition awards

with the top three reduction winners being Mercedes-Benz Taiwan Ltd. (12%), Pan German Motors Ltd. (BMW) (10%), and Sanyang Industries Co., Ltd. (Hyundai) (9%).

Also, six other automobile manufacturers — Modena Motori Taiwan Co. Ltd. (Ferrari & Maserati), Hotai Motor Co., Ltd. (Toyota & Lexus), Volvo Cars Taiwan Ltd., Beldare Motors Limited Taiwan Branch (Volkswagen), Liberty Motors Limited Taiwan Branch (Škoda), and Universal Motor Traders Ltd. (Porsche) — recently signed an agreement to voluntarily join the CO₂ emission reduction ranks. These 12 automobile manufacturers and importers who have committed to signing the voluntary reduction agreement constitute 40% of the domestic new car sales volume, providing domestic consumers a greater selection of low-carbon emission automobiles to choose from in the market.

News Briefs

Motor Vehicle Exhaust Emissions and Noise Pollution Testing Certifications Integrated

In January 2012 the EPA combined the motor vehicle exhaust emissions and the noise pollution testing certification application procedures, taking management methods for motor vehicle exhaust emissions and noise pollution into a new era.

In the past, both domestically manufactured and imported motor vehicles for domestic use were required to obtain energy consumption, safety, exhaust emissions and noise pollution testing certifications with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Communications, and the EPA, respectively. Following the issuance of certifications for the four items above, prior to a vehicle being granted a license plate for the road, the EPA first had to review

the exhaust emissions and noise pollution certifications. Since the exhaust emissions and noise pollution applications and reviews were conducted separately, the processing of these administrative procedures was more complicated and time consuming. To simplify this review process and shorten the timeframe, the "Two Certifications in One" measure has been initiated. This new approach simplifies and integrates the entire application and review process for certification of inspections for motor vehicle exhaust emissions, noise pollution and new vehicle random testing procedures and management methods into a one-step procedure.

"Four Big Appliances" Reporting Deadline Extended for Recyclers

As of 1 July 2011, the EPA requires vendors, recyclers,

and treatment organizations that recycle the "four big appliances" (TVs, washing machines, refrigerators, and air-conditioners) to submit online reports for the units they receive detailing volumes, condition, and subsequent receiving enterprises. This is to ensure that these appliances are disposed of through legally-sanctioned channels and are not disassembled in a way that could pollute the environment. The EPA took charge of revising the existing regulations, and now appliance vendors are required to fill out a joint recycling form when they receive an unwanted appliance from a customer and to ensure that the form accompanies the appliance when it is handed on to a recycler or treatment plant. The recycler or treatment plant is then responsible for submitting an online report detailing the condition the appliance was received in. In order to allow recyclers or treatment plants adequate time in which to do this the EPA has revised the regulations to extend the reporting deadline from five to seven working days. Operators who fail to report within the given time period will be given more time to do so, but if they still fail to report then fines of NT\$60,000~300,000 will be levied. Operators who fail to file an initial report more than four times within a three month period in the same category will be fined directly.

Plastic Food Packaging Tray and Box Reduction Targets Announced

On 23 December 2011 the EPA announced a revision to the regulation limiting the use of plastic food packaging trays and boxes. The reduction target for hypermarkets and supermarkets for 2012 is now 40%. From 2013, the grouping together of items will mean a reduction target of 80% for plastic food packaging trays and boxes for eggs, fruit and vegetables, and bakery products. The overall reduction rate achievable by the end of 2013 is estimated to be 46.5%.

The EPA points out that implementation of the reduction policies has led to a 2,300 tonne decrease in fossil-fuel plastic packaging from July 2007 to the end of 2010. The average reduction rate for 2010 was 33%, or 885 tonnes of plastic food packaging trays and boxes. Of these, the reduction rates of packaging for eggs, fruit and vegetables, and bakery products were 84%, 33%, and 69%, respectively. Statistics show that the EPA's announced revision, including the grouping together

of controlled product items which will go into effect at the beginning of 2013, has spurred operators into preemptive reductions of packaging for these three major types of food products. The new announcement also makes the task of reduction planning and result reporting easier for the operators. If packaging reduction targets for these food products are not met, then the shortfall is to be made up by reducing packaging in other product categories.

Environmental Education Mark Design Contest Winner Announced

The first place prize winner of the EPA's "Environmental Education Mark Design Contest" was awarded to Mr. Li-wei Guo, an employee at a local design company. The inspiration for his work "Surrounded by hills and waterways: A good environment" derives from the abbreviation of Environmental Education — EE. It imbues the images of hills and waterways into a pictograph presentation enclosed within a boxed parameter. Its visual representation is powerfully succinct and clear, and the color schema directly corresponds with the natural environment. Its future applicability will match the needs of environmental education facilities, institutions, and personnel. For these reasons, it was an overwhelming favorite among the judges and was awarded the first place prize.

The contest was launched in September 2011 and within just two months 1,895 entries were approved for submission. Public response was very enthusiastic with over 28,000 people voting online, once again showing that within a short period of time "environmental education" has evolved from an unfamiliar new topic into an important issue receiving widespread public attention and support.



▶ The Environmental Education Mark Design Contest Winner

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