



**General Policy**

## EPA to Strengthen International Communications

Showing his regard for views from overseas, EPA Administrator Hau Lung-bin has instructed the EPA Office of Science and Technology Advisors to serve as a window for contact with the international community, and immediately establish systematic channels of communication. The institution of direct communication channels, regular discussion, an improved English-language website and an updated role for the English Environmental Policy Monthly will give the EPA many channels for sharing ideas with the international community in Taiwan and overseas.

The first thing you'll see when you enter the EPA Office of Science and Technology Advisors (OSTA) is a dozen or more employees quietly immersed in their international cooperation duties. Although this unit does not directly participate in the drafting and implementation of air and water quality and waste management policy, it is playing an increasingly important role in the EPA – a role that reflects the world's ongoing globalization and Taiwan's policy of internationalization.

### Globalization and the EPA

Owing to Taiwan's special political circumstances, it cannot engage in cooperation with most nations via the UN or normal diplomatic procedures. This hasn't made us lose heart, however, and in fact we are putting more effort than ever into the establishment of pragmatic diplomatic ties. Environmental issues are an increasingly common subject of discussion with our diplomatic partners. Taking our WTO membership negotiations as an example, although the main focus of attention was on such issues as agricultural products, alcoholic beverages and intellectual property rights, environmental protection issues were raised at almost every negotiation meeting. While it is undeniable that Taiwan was a relatively late convert to environmental protection, our environmental laws and systems have been updated with great speed. Some persons overseas are even worried that environmental protection constitutes a source of risk to investment in Taiwan. To dispel doubts and publicize our achievements, OSTA began publishing the English-language Environment Policy Monthly (EPM – this publication) in 1997. The EPM presents major environmental policy highlights on a monthly basis to all English-reading persons interested in Taiwan's environmen-



*The English edition of the EPM is getting the word out on environmental protection in Taiwan.*

tal affairs. The American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei gave EPM very high marks in both the 2000 and 2001 issues of its annual "Taiwan White Paper."

Nevertheless, although the EPM is successfully making the EPA's thinking and methods known to the world at large, a single publication is an inadequate means of communication in this time of rapidly-changing industrial structure and gradually increasing pressures for environmental protection. It is for this reason that the EPA must establish broader channels of communication and contact. Aware of this situation, Administrator Hau

### In this Issue

EPA to Strengthen International Communications .....	1
President Chen: Remember the Environment When Building the Economy .....	4
EPA Releases Results of This Year's Second Policy Poll .....	5
The Fundamental Environmental Protection Act: Legislation of a Non-Nuclear Homeland .....	6
Fees Doubled for Falsifying Air Pollution Emissions Reports .....	7
Administrator Hau: One Incinerator for Each City and County Policy Will Not Change .....	8
New Particulate Pollution Controls for Construction Sites .....	10
Intensified Auditing of Recycling Fee Underreporting .....	11
Marine Oil Carriers to Need Liability Insurance .....	12
News Briefs .....	9, 10
Activities .....	5, 11, 12

recently affirmed the importance of better communication with the international community in a speech to colleagues at the EPA. Hau has consequently assigned OSTA responsibility for communication with international persons, and also for systematically changing the EPA's internal administration in such a way to facilitate the incorporation of overseas information in the decision-making process.

### Communication Channels to be Systematized

Responding to Administrator Hau's explicit instructions, the EPA decided after extensive discussion to adopt the following measures:

**Establishment of a direct window:** Direct face-to-face or written communication can prevent many of the misunderstandings that may arise when speaking through an intermediary. Moreover, because the EPA's affairs are so complex and far-ranging, foreigners often do not know whom to contact to discuss a specific issue. OSTA will act as a unified contact window for communication with foreign organizations and individuals in the future. International persons who would like to discuss EPA policies and environmental measures, or even make suggestions concerning the EPA's affairs, may contact either of the following two personnel:

as the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei) on a regular basis. These conferences, to be co-chaired by OSTA Director General Dr. Roam Gwo-dong and the heads of the relevant EPA bureaus whenever possible, will seek to find solutions to problems faced by foreigners. In addition, the deputy administrators of the EPA will host a conference once every year or every six months to discuss unresolved issues and confirm that relevant matters are being implemented.

Furthermore, OSTA will emphasize its proactive communication and coordination role. While outsiders frequently grumbled that they were unable to provide input into the EPA's decision-making process, the regular discussions to be held in the future will enable many minor operational-level problems to be resolved. On the other hand, the EPA administrator will make specific rulings concerning other more major policy decisions because these issues often involve the more fundamental standpoints of the EPA and foreign parties.

Real communication cannot be a one-way street. As an example, the "Taiwan White Paper" issued by the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei (AmCham) every year receives considerable attention in Taiwan and abroad. Nevertheless, the failure of relevant AmCham committees to invite the EPA to participate in the

manner. By increasing the likelihood that recommendations will be accepted, enhanced communication will insure a win-win outcome.

### Strengthening the EPM's role:

As described above, the English-language EPM has become one of the key channels by which foreign organizations and individuals can obtain information on environmental protection in Taiwan. In the future, editorial personnel will call on and communicate with major international organizations, and will make sure to cover issues of particular interest to the international community. For instance, AmCham's 2002 White Paper recommended that the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Fund Management Committee's discussions and conclusions be made openly available to businesses. While the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Fund publishes an annual report, the EPA will make sure that readers can obtain up-to-date English-language information concerning the fund directly through the EPM.

**Improving the EPA's English website:** Apart from the EPM, for several years the EPA has also used its English-language website to communicate policy information to readers (<http://www.epa.gov.tw/english/>). This website contains an introduction to the EPA, English translations of environmental laws

Name	Phone	Fax	E-mail
OSTA Director General Dr. Roam Gwo-dong (阮國棟)	886-2-23117722 ext. 2201	886-2-23115486	gdream@adm.epa.gov.tw
Chang Shiu-an-wu (張宣武)	886-2-23117722 ext. 2203	886-2-23115486	shiuansun@sun.epa.gov.tw

**Regular discussion mechanisms:** After obtaining the international community's comments and suggestions via direct channels, the EPA will hold consultative conferences with major international organizations (such

drafting of environmental recommendations has caused a number of unnecessary misunderstandings. Better prior communication will insure that the White Paper will present the most important issues in a clear

and regulations, past and current issues of the EPM, environmental protection firms, government purchasing policies, and information on sustainable development, the Green Mark and the online APEC virtual center (APEC-VC).



*The EPA will enhance the content and function of its English-language website.*

Because the EPA website allows foreign persons to conveniently obtain information from anywhere in the world around the clock, OSTA is committed to using its limited resources to improve the content and function of this powerful communications tool. OSTA welcomes all comments and suggestions concerning the website and how it can be made more effective.

### Promotion of Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

Apart from the channels for contact with foreign businesses now being established, OSTA has also spent many years of determined effort creating channels for the coordination of bilateral and multilateral government-to-government cooperation. Taiwan currently has bilateral environmental cooperation agreements with the US, Canada, Japan, France, Germany and Norway. Numerous projects have been carried out successfully under these agreements. These projects have included reciprocal visits by environmental personnel, the acquisition and development of advanced technology and the sharing of business opportunities in environmental protection.

Among Taiwan's various bilateral undertakings, the most significant and far-reaching is the environmental protection program being carried out together with the US. Initiated in 1993, this program is to receive funding of NT\$5 million and NT\$7.39 million in 2002 and 2003 respectively. It has made a well-defined contribution to domestic systems, technology and data collection.

As for multilateral cooperation, while Taiwan has been unable to become a member of the UN, it can use APEC and the WTO as platforms for interchange with other nations. Taking APEC as an example, due to the Taiwan's ability and commitment, it has served as a "Lead Shepherd" of the Marine Resource Conservation Working Group (MRCWG) from 1998 to 2001, and in this role has guided the implementation of many marine conservation tasks.

### Environmental Technology and Industry Cooperation

Not just the EPA's main channel of communication with foreigners, OSTA also aspires to become a leading promoter of contact between the environmental protec-

tion industries in Taiwan and abroad. International environmental cooperation programs in which Taiwan participates almost always involve the exchange or transfer of environmental equipment or technology. For example, the promotion of the investment in and transfer of environmental protection equipment and technology is one of the tasks being carried out under the 2002 ROC-Canada Environmental Protection Cooperation Program. This will provide a starting point for future business opportunities.

And in addition to this, the EPA is also doing its utmost to establish and develop environmental technology parks, and the environmental technology park program budget stands at NT\$5 billion. The three parks slated to be established during the next ten years will eventually house 60 manufacturers and 150 research organizations (see EPM Vol. V, Issue 9). Furthermore, OSTA has formulated a draft "Environmental Protection Technology Incubator Program" to support the development of three innovative environmental protection firms with total annual funding of NT\$10 million. Under this plan, the EPA will draw on Taiwan's existing technology incubator resources to promote environmental technology localization and innovation. The draft program has recently been submitted to the Executive Yuan for review, and the EPM will report on it further after it has been finalized.

As the EPA's designated window to the world, OSTA hopes that its sincere and effective communications efforts will shrink the distance between the EPA and international organizations and individuals. It is our wish that when the EPA is mentioned, the first thing our friends from overseas think of is OSTA.

For more information, please call 02-2311-7722 ext. 2203.

## General Policy

# President Chen: Remember the Environment When Building the Economy

**The EPA presents the Annual Environmental Protection Award for Enterprises every year in order to encourage enterprises to promote environmental protection. The Hualien factory of Taiwan Cement Corp., taking this award for the third consecutive year, was among the ten enterprises that the EPA presented with awards this year. President Chen Shui-bian met with representatives from award-winning companies in order to express his appreciation for their hard work and the contributions they have made to the promotion of environmental protection in Taiwan.**



*President Chen Shui-bian receives representatives of the companies that won the Annual Environmental Protection Award for Enterprises.*

President Chen Shui-bian received representatives from the ten enterprises that have been presented with this year's Annual Environmental Protection Award for Enterprises (中華民國企業環保獎) at the Presidential Office on November 21. In addition to expressing his utmost respect and affirmation, President Chen also stressed that the growth of an enterprise and environmental protection could be pursued side by side. Chen asserted that with sufficient diligence and effort, the impact of economic development on the environment does not necessarily have to be completely negative. He also thanked these outstanding enterprises for the contributions they have made to the promotion of environmental protection in Taiwan and called on them to continue working in this direction, declaring that environmental protection should not be forgotten in the drive to build the economy.

President Chen stated that Taiwan has had to face competition from enterprises from around the world ever since gaining accession to the WTO and that these foreign companies have achieved results related to environmental protection that are worthy of emulation by Taiwanese enterprises. He called on these award-winning enter-

prises to continue promoting environmental protection, adding that they should not simply be satisfied with being examples to other domestic enterprises, but should aim to become models for businesses around the world. Chen also called on those enterprises that have yet to begin actively implementing environmental protection measures to step up their efforts now so as to join the endeavor to leave a beautiful environment for future generations and make a contribution to global sustainable development efforts.

The EPA established the Annual Environmental Protection Award for Enterprises in 1992. Every year companies that have made the most impressive contributions to the promotion of environmental protection in Taiwan are presented with these awards. This is the eleventh year the EPA has presented these awards. For this year's awards, the selection committee conducted an initial evaluation, an on-site factory reevaluation and a final evaluation. Five major standards were used to evaluate enterprises: environmental planning and management, the promotion of waste reduction, the effectiveness of end-of-pipe controls, waste treatment and final disposal, and the promotion environmental concepts and education.

Ten enterprises were presented with these environmental awards this year: the Hualien factory of the Taiwan Cement Corp., the number two steel cutting plant of the China Steel Corp., the Tayuan paper mill of Cheng Loong Co., the Kaunyin plant of Taiwan Dupont, the Taichung power plant of Taiwan Power Co., the number three foundry of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the number one silicon wafer foundry of Macronix International, the number two plant of Winbond Electronics Corp., Yulon Motor Co. and Ford Lio Ho Motor Co. As this was the third consecutive year for Taiwan Cement to win this award, the EPA also conferred an honorary award upon it in order to encourage Taiwan Cement to keep pressing forward.

Enterprises that wish to be considered for the twelfth annual awards can submit applications between April 1 and April 30 of 2003. The EPA encourages those enterprises that have made concerted efforts to improve their environmental performances to apply.

For more information, please call 02-2311-7722 ext. 2914 or 02-2753-2895.

**General Policy****EPA Releases Results of This Year's Second Policy Poll**

**The EPA's latest opinion poll reveals that the majority of Taiwanese recycle both glass containers and batteries, 76% are willing to support river remediation projects and 74% feel environmental sanitation near their homes has improved over the last year.**

Aiming to gain an understanding of public opinion concerning recent EPA policy, the EPA commissioned a private polling company to conduct a survey of people aged 20 and over. The survey collected a total of 3,754 valid samples from September 17 to September 26. This survey focused on the topics of recycling, river remediation, environmental sanitation and motor vehicle-related air pollution controls.

This poll reveals that 72% of the public recycles glass containers. Sixty-three percent said that they find recycling channels to be convenient and that they had not run into difficulty when attempting to recycle glass containers. However, 18% did respond that they had experienced trouble when recycling glass containers. Of this 18%, 47% said that they were not sure where they could turn in glass containers for recycling, while 34% said that they were unsure which glass containers could be recycled. These were the primary reasons cited for difficulty in recycling glass containers. As for the recycling of dry cell batteries, 64% of those polled claimed that they recycle these batteries, 55% said that they consider the recycling channels for batteries to be convenient and

21% asserted that they had experienced difficulty when attempting to recycle batteries. Of this 21%, 57% said that they did not know where they could recycle batteries and 22% stated that they did not know that batteries could be recycled. These were the main reasons noted for difficulty in recycling batteries.

---

**...74% said they feel environmental sanitation near their homes has improved in the last year...**

---

Seventy-six percent of those surveyed said that they would do their part to support river remediation projects, with 54% saying they would show their support by not throwing trash in rivers and 39% saying they would support these projects by using low-pollution laundry detergents. In contrast to this strong support, 20% stated that they would not personally support these remediation projects. Of this 20%, 78% said they could not support these projects because they do not have the time.

In a sign that things are getting better, 74% said they feel environmental sanitation near their homes has improved in the last year, while only 11% said they think it has deteriorated. Also, 80% said that they personally make efforts to empty containers and clean up other places where water accumulates in order to deny breeding grounds to mosquitoes and other insects. Just 6% said that they had never taken such action. Of the people polled who said they had visited a scenic area in Taiwan within the last month, 72% said they felt the amount of roadside litter had decreased compared to the past and 14% said they had seen an increase in litter.

Promoting the installation of vapor recovery equipment on filling station fuel pumps is one step the

EPA has taken to control VOC pollution. In this survey, 28% said that they would fill up at filling stations that use this equipment. Another 40% claimed they were unaware that filling stations use vapor recovery equipment. Five percent said they had purchased fuel from illegal filling stations. Seven percent of survey subjects aged

20 to 39 said they had used this illegal fuel, while an average of only 4% of subjects in other age brackets said they had used illegal fuel. Thirty-six percent said that they were aware they could be punished for using illegal fuel, but 64% claimed they did not know there were such punishments.

This survey focused primarily on environmental policies that have been enacted recently or are soon to be introduced. The findings of this survey will be used to strengthen to implementation and promotion of these policies. The EPA says that public participation in these policies will ensure that Taiwan's environment continues to improve.

For more information, please call 02-2311-7722 ext. 2100.

**Environmental Volunteers' Day Celebrated**

The EPA held an activity on November 12 to celebrate "Environmental Volunteers' Day." More than 800 environmental volunteers from throughout Taiwan came to celebrate this day in honor of themselves. EPA Deputy Administrator Chang Juu-en (張祖恩) thanked environmental volunteers for their hard work during the past year in a speech to the gathering. Chang expressed his hope that citizens would cherish their homeland and love the environment, transforming Taiwan into one of the world's best places to live.

## General Policy

# The Fundamental Environmental Protection Act: Legislation of a Non-Nuclear Homeland

**Recently passed by the Legislative Yuan, the ROC's *Fundamental Environmental Protection Act* expressly states that when economic, technological and social development come into conflict with environmental protection, the claims of the environment must take precedence. The Executive Yuan must establish a Council for Sustainable Development to oversee national sustainable development policy. The central government must establish a dedicated environmental resources ministry to integrate and implement environmental resource matters. The act also explicitly calls on the government to gradually realize the ideal of a non-nuclear homeland.**

The legislation of the *Fundamental Environmental Protection Act* (環境保護基本法) began with the issue of a draft version by the EPA in 1988. This was subsequently withdrawn for further revision in 1996, and resubmitted to the Legislative Yuan for review in 1999. The act was finally passed by the legislature on November 19 of this year (2002).

The act's five chapters and 41 articles are the most fundamental environmental protection laws in Taiwan and expressly declare that economic, technological and social development must give consider-

ation to environmental protection. When economic, technological and social development have a severe, negative impact on the environment, or are suspected of causing environmental damage, environmental protection must take precedence. The act thus mandates the importance and primacy of environmental protection.

The act also explicitly declares that environmental protection is the joint duty and responsibility of citizens, businesses and all levels of government. The act states that while polluters and destroyers of the environment must bear responsibility for all harm and risks that they create, the government must assume responsibility when polluters or destroyers cannot be identified or do not exist. If government agencies at any level are negligent in implementing their responsibilities, the act authorizes citizens or public interest groups to sue the responsible agency in an administrative court. It is hoped that oversight by the country's citizens will spur all levels of government to vigorously discharge their environmental protection duties.

With regard to the controversial issue of nuclear energy, the act specifically proclaims the goal of a "non-nuclear homeland" and calls on the government to formulate a plan for the gradual attainment of this goal. In response to the greenhouse effect problem, the act also asks all levels of government to draft plans for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and avoid the further worsening of this phenomenon. To prevent and alleviate environmental damage, the act mandates the establishment of an environmental health risk assessment system, a policy EIA system and an environmental monitoring and warning system. All government procurement must, whenever possible, give first precedence to products made with

renewable resources and environmentally friendly Green Mark products. The act also reaffirms the nation's commitment to environmental protection, and designates June 5 as World Environment Day in Taiwan in line with the UN's declaration.

As far as sources of funding are concerned, because environmental resources belong to everyone and to future generations, the act authorizes the government to establish a "polluter-pays" system to collect pollution prevention and environmental restoration charges from polluters and destroyers of the environment. The government is also permitted to collect appropriate fees from users or beneficiaries of public environmental protection facilities. At the same time, the central government must establish various types of environmental funds in accordance with existing regulations; such funds will bear responsibility for environmental cleanup and restoration, the tracking down of pollution sources and the implementation of development projects beneficial to the environment.

While the Executive Yuan has already established its own National Council for Sustainable Development (國家永續發展委員會), this act creates a legal basis for the foundation of such a council. The membership of this body shall consist of equivalent numbers of government personnel, experts and specialists, and representatives of private organizations. To establish comprehensive environmental systems and insure that environmental duties are planned and managed in a unified fashion, the central government must also establish a Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (環境資源部) to replace the EPA. This new ministry would be in charge of the planning and implementation of land development, environmental

conservation, management of energy and mining, and maintenance of natural scenery and water resources, etc.

The EPA has emphasized that granting priority to environmental protection does not mean the death of economic development. The primary intention of this act is to gradually reduce pollution and to use emission standards to control pollution from highly-polluting industries.

For more information, please call 02-2311-7722 ext. 2710.

### Air Quality

## Fees Doubled for Falsifying Air Pollution Emissions Reports

**The EPA has prepared a draft of revisions to regulations governing the reporting and collection air pollution control fees. The focus of these revisions includes rules for selecting reports to be reviewed for falsified reporting, time limits for the payment of unpaid fees and emissions volume calculation methods, the handling of fuel volume reporting, and some emissions calculation coefficients for the secondary smelting of aluminum.**

The EPA presented its draft of revisions to the *Air Pollution Control Fee Collection Regulations* (空氣污染防制費收費辦法) on November 7. These revisions are intended to put these regulations in line with revisions made to the *Air Pollution Control Act* (空氣污染防治法) in June. This draft includes amendments to eight existing articles and the addi-

tion of six new articles, raising the total number of articles in these regulations to 27.

The most important revisions are those made to the rules for selecting emissions reports to be reviewed for falsified reporting. As a criteria for screening reports for review, the existing phrase "when sulfur oxide (SOx) emissions concentration values calculated based on sulfur content levels in fuel are 50% or more lower than those values determined through smokestack testing" has been reversed to "when sulfur oxide (SOx) emissions concentration values determined through smokestack testing are 50% or more lower than those values calculated based on sulfur content levels in fuel." This draft also adds to these screening criteria the phrase "when emissions volumes determined through the testing of per unit production intensity are 50% or more lower than announced emissions coefficients." In addition, aiming to coordinate with existing rules that allow for exemptions from paying air pollution control fees when these fees are under NT\$100, the draft revisions exclude reports from review when the fee amount is underreported by NT\$100 or less. When reviews reveal that an operator has underpaid emissions fees, the draft would require it to make up the difference the next time it pays its air pollution control fees.

These draft revisions also designate the product storage tanks at oil refineries and those at import harbors as the places for measuring fuel volumes for the calculation of emissions fees. When reviews reveal that operators have provided inaccurate reporting data, this draft would require that, in addition to the imposition of the required penalties, their fees be recalculated based on the conclusions of these reviews. If this recalculation proves that the opera-

tor has underpaid its fees, the draft would require the operator to pay these overdue fees together with its next fee payment.

When reporting air pollution control fees for stationary pollution sources, if production volumes or fuel consumption volumes are underreported or if the number of reported pollution sources is lower than the actual number, the draft would allow the EPA to directly calculate emissions volumes based on emissions coefficients. It would also require these operators to make up unpaid fees the next time they pay their fees. However, if it is determined that operators have tampered with continuous emissions monitoring (CEM) devices or falsified emissions testing records in order to avoid paying their full emissions fees, the draft would permit the EPA to charge fees two times the amount of fees calculated based on emissions coefficients.

These revisions would also authorize the EPA to demand that public and private operators whose emissions reports have been selected for review provide the EPA with the data used to calculate their emissions volumes within a limited period of time. A formula for calculating seasonal volumes of sulfur oxide emissions has been included among calculations for determining air pollution emissions volumes. Payment receipts have been added to the list of documents that are required to be kept on record and the period for which these records are to be kept has been extended from two year to five years. This draft would also make the volume of low-sulfur fuel consumed, rather than production volume, the basis upon which emissions volumes are calculated for the crucible furnaces and reverberatory furnaces of plants conducting the secondary smelting of aluminum.

For more information, please call 02-2311-7722 ext. 2770.

## Waste Management

# Administrator Hau: Policy of One Incinerator for Each City and County to Stay

**During a legislative review of the EPA budget in November, some legislators and environmental groups expressed their opposition the EPA's current municipal waste incineration policy. In response, Administrator Hau once again declared that, while the EPA fully supports waste reduction and recycling, it would continue to pursue the current policy of constructing one incinerator in each city and county until there are other acceptable methods for handling the country's municipal waste.**

Taiwan is not only a small place, it also has one of the highest population densities in the world. Add to this that it is situated in a rainy and humid subtropical climate and one can see the extreme difficulty faced in finding suitable places to build municipal waste landfills. Consequently, the EPA has adopted "incineration first, landfilling second" as Taiwan's municipal waste management policy. The Executive Yuan approved the EPA-devised *Plan for the Construction of Energy Recovery (Incineration) Plants in the Taiwan Area* (台灣地區垃圾資源回收(焚化)廠興建工程計畫) in 1991. Setting the goal of having each city and county handle its own garbage within its jurisdiction, it is this plan that ushered in the policy of allocating EPA subsidies to help establish at least one incinerator in each city and county.

Of the 21 incinerators the EPA is

helping to establish, 18 have already been constructed and begun operating. Construction of the other three is still underway. BOO/BOT investment methods have been adopted for the construction and operation of another eleven incinerators. One of these, the Taoyuan County incinerator has begun operating. These 19 operating incinerators are making a significant contribution to relieving Taiwan's garbage handling problems, and are the primary reason no large-scale garbage crisis has erupted in recent years.

Responding to demands by some legislators and environmental groups that the construction of incinerators be halted, EPA Administrator Hau Lung-bin asserted that relying on waste reduction and recycling policies to replace incin-



*The locations of the 21 incinerators the EPA is helping to establish are shown above.*

landfills are full, garbage crises could occur in these areas.

---

**EPA Administrator Hau Lung-bin asserted that relying on waste reduction and recycling policies to replace incineration is a type of ideal, but that it is impossible to implement now.**

---

eration is an ideal, but that it is impossible to implement now. Noting that government policy has its continuity and stability, Hau pointed out that the present waste management policies of city and county governments are formulated in line with the EPA's "incineration first, landfilling second" policy. Hau contended that, were the EPA to suddenly announce a comprehensive halt to the construction of incinerators, the garbage handling systems of each local government would be thrown into total chaos. He added that there are ten cities and counties that have yet to construct incinerators and still rely on landfilling. Hau noted that the EPA estimates that these landfills will be full within two years, and said that if these cities and counties have not established incinerators to help handle waste by the time these

Administrator Hau also expressed his views concerning the inter-area handling of garbage: "Of course this is a great idea. However, the inter-area handling of garbage is almost certain to lead to public protests and excessive transportation costs, issues which will be difficult for local governments to resolve." For instance, the sharing of municipal waste handling responsibilities by Taipei City (台北市) and Keelung City (基隆市) is highly feasible and the mayors of these cities are also very willing to pursue this plan. However, these city governments have failed to implement this plan for over two years due to the opposition of the Taipei City and Keelung City city councils. Also reflecting the level of resistance to the inter-area handling of garbage, the Changhua County (彰化縣) council passed a resolu-



tion this year prohibiting garbage from other cities and counties from entering Changhua County. Hsinchu City (新竹市) also purposely raised its garbage handling fees to the unreasonable level of NT\$1,900 in order to deter other cities and counties from transporting their garbage into Hsinchu City for handling.

In addition to the opposition of local governments to accepting garbage from other areas, the transportation costs stemming from the inter-area handling of garbage are also quite high. The EPA estimates that, if Nantou County (南投縣) chooses to not build an incinerator and instead ship its garbage to nearby cities and counties for disposal, annual transportation costs would reach at least NT\$200 million. The EPA does not possess the financial resources to subsidize such high transportation costs over a long period. If local governments decide to ship their municipal waste rather than build incinerators, they must promise to take full responsibility for related transportation fees themselves.

Administrator Hau says the EPA fully supports waste reduction and recycling policies and points out that its current policy of restricting the use of plastic bags and disposable dishes is merely a first step in cutting garbage volumes. At the same time, the EPA has also instituted the twice-a-week collection of recyclable garbage on a national level. These measures are preparations for the implementation of a comprehensive waste reduction policy. However, for the time being, the EPA will continue to advocate its policy of subsidizing the construction of at least one incinerator in each city and county. Requiring each local government to handle its own municipal waste is the most ideal policy for Taiwan at the moment.

For more information, please call 02-2311-7722 ext. 2530.

## News Briefs

### **Marine Oil Spill Response Drill Held in Kaohsiung County**

The EPA and the Kaohsiung County government held a marine oil pollution emergency response drill on September 20 at Hsingta Deep Sea Fishing Harbor. In this exercise, after becoming aware that a freighter had malfunctioned, gone aground and was leaking large amounts of oil, the Harbor Bureau immediately notified the responsible authorities to set up an emergency response center. Both the Coast Guard and Chinese Petroleum Corp. (CPC) mobilized vessels to extinguish fires, lay oil booms, recover oil and perform other response measures at sea. The 38-kilometer length of the Kaohsiung County coastline includes eight fishing harbors and the Taiwan Power Co. and CPC wharfs. Ship traffic is especially heavy along this coast. It is hoped that the training in emergency response and oil disposal procedures received in this exercise will enable personnel to minimize the damage done by marine oil pollution.

### **Soil and Groundwater Pollution Control Zone Management Simplified**

The revised draft of the *Regulations Governing Soil and Groundwater Pollution Control Zones* (土壤及地下水污染管制區管制辦法) announced on November 29 condenses the current four types of control approaches for soil and groundwater pollution control zones into two approaches. Plans for any excavation, backfilling, temporary storage, transport or pumping to be conducted in pollution control zones may be submitted together with the control or remediation plan.

### **Pollution Source Permit Procedures Simplified for EPZ**

Seeking to make it easier for economic processing zone (EPZ) businesses to apply for stationary pollution source installation and operation permits, the EPA has announced that businesses lawfully established in the Nantzu Economic Processing Zone, Kaohsiung Economic Processing Zone, the Chengkung Special Zone, the Hsiaokang Special Zone, the Kaohsiung Software Park, the Linkuang Economic Processing Zone, the Taichung Economic Processing Zone, the Chungkang Taichung Economic Processing Zone and the Pingtung Economic Processing Zone may apply directly to the Economic Processing Zone Administration (EPZA), an agency under the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and its branch offices for such permits starting on December 1 of this year. The EPZA shall thereafter bear responsibility for stationary pollution source installation and operation permit review, issuance and extension.

### **Information Product Recycling Subsidy Rates Announced for 2003**

The EPA announced the 2003 subsidy rates for the recycling, clearance and disposal of waste information products on November 25. The four types of products covered by these rates are computers, monitors, notebook computers, and printers. All waste information product disposal organizations legally qualified to receive subsidies may apply to the EPA for recycling and clearance subsidies and disposal subsidies on the basis of the number of recycled waste information products as verified by an audit and certification organization commissioned by the EPA.

#### **Subsidy Rate for the Recycling, Clearance and Disposal of Waste Information Products (NT\$/unit)**

Waste Information Products	Recycling and clearance subsidy rate	Disposal subsidy rate
1 Desktop computers	116	66
2 Monitors	104	111
3 Notebook computers	200	103
4 Printers	115	77

## Air Quality

## New Particulate Pollution Controls for Construction Sites

**The EPA has drafted regulations aimed at limiting particulate matter pollution stirred up at construction sites. These regulations would require construction companies to clean streets within 30-100 meters of construction sites. They also clearly stipulate which control measures these companies would be required to adopt.**

EPA statistics indicate that, after having climbed to 32%, the particulate matter pollution reduction rate for construction sites has stopped rising. Aiming to break through this barrier, the EPA has drafted *Management Regulations for Air Pollution Control Facilities at Construction Sites* (營建工程空氣污染防治設施管理辦法) .

made of metal plates, cement or asphalt in order to prevent trucks and construction machinery from stirring up dust. A number of methods are listed for the control of dust from exposed land at construction sites. These include the use of dustcovers, metal plates, cement or asphalt to cover this land or the spaying of chemical agents or water to keep dust down.

limited significantly the effectiveness these controls at reducing pollution. By requiring the pollution control facilities and measures at construction sites to meet these basic requirements, the implementation of these draft regulations will effect a great reduction in construction site pollution. These draft regulations are expected to take effect before the end of this year (2002). Construction projects that have commenced prior to the implementation of these regulations will be granted an adjustment period that lasts until the end of December 2003.

---

**...after having climbed to 32%, the particulate matter pollution reduction rate for construction sites has stopped rising.**

---

These draft regulations would designate the party that has contracted a construction project as the party to be held responsible for the control of particulate matter pollution at construction sites. This means the person in charge of public construction projects or private development projects. Those in charge of construction projects that are found to be in violation of these regulations would face fines of NT\$100,000 to NT\$1 million

Depending on the size of the project, construction companies would be held responsible for cleaning the streets within 30-100 meters of construction sites exits. They would also be required to build fences around construction sites that are flush with the ground so as to prevent runoff water from escaping. Dustcovers would also be required for piles of construction materials such as sand and gravel. These draft regulations stipulate that on-site driveways be

In order to prevent trucks from polluting surrounding areas when they leave construction sites, construction companies would be required to set up facilities for washing truck tires. Also, trucks transporting materials that are easily blown into the air, such as sand and gravel, or waste materials would have to use dustcovers or sealed containers. These draft regulations would require construction companies to wrap building frames in dust control netting once construction has begun. When conducting demolition work, companies would have to use pressurized water spraying equipment, dustcovers and windscreens to prevent the dispersion of dust.

The EPA states that past air pollution controls for construction sites permitted authorities to crackdown on polluters only if they were caught in the act of polluting. This

For more information, please call 02-2311-7722 ext. 2682.

### News Brief

#### **Revised Noise Pollution Control Act Passes Legislative Review**

The Legislative Yuan Health, Environment and Social Welfare Committee passed the *Draft Revised Articles to the Noise Pollution Control Act* (噪音管制法部分條文修正草案) on November 25 after preliminary review. The revisions will provide a clear-cut legal basis for aircraft noise control regulations. In addition, the draft articles also stipulate that military airports must also formulate aircraft noise improvement plans in accordance with law, formally making them subject to the *Noise Pollution Control Act*. Addressing the use of land within aircraft noise control zones, the revised act will forbid the construction of new schools, libraries and medical institutions, and forbid the rezoning of land for residential use within grade 2 and 3 aircraft noise control zones.

## Waste Management

# Intensified Auditing of Recycling Fee Underreporting

**The EPA initiated the on-site auditing of enterprises that are suspected of misreporting recycling, clearance and disposal fees starting in August. Preliminary findings indicate that these enterprises have shorted the Recycling Fund at least NT\$146 million.**

Taiwan's present recycling system is centered around the Recycling Fund (資源回收基金). Enterprises that are responsible for paying recycling, clearance and disposal fees (meaning the manufacturers and importers of recyclable materials) are required to report their revenues to the EPA and pay these fees to the Recycling Fund every two months in line with by the *Principles for Honest Reporting and Payment* (誠實申報繳費原則). At the same time, recycling enterprises may apply to the Recycling Fund for recycling, clearance and disposal subsidies following the auditing and verification of their recycling volumes by an independent third party.

payment amounts and maintain fair competition among these enterprises, the EPA initiated a full-scale auditing operation of such enterprises in August. To carry out this operation, the EPA commissioned a professional accounting agency and mobilized personnel from the Recycling Fund Management Committee, the Bureau of Environmental Inspection and the Environmental Protection Police Force. This auditing operation focused mainly on enterprises that were suspected of serious underreporting.

Auditors reviewed accounting records, production records, records of raw material volumes used in production, inventory volumes and energy consumption in order to calculate production volumes at these suspected enterprises. In addition to these audits, the EPA conducted pollution inspections at these enterprises, checking air, wastewater, waste and soil. The EPA also stationed auditors at the plants of the targeted enterprises for long periods of time. This move was intended to allow auditors to gain a practical understanding of production processes, actual production capacity and sales volumes and to verify real production volumes so as to ensure that

and that these enterprises have failed to pay NT\$146 million in recycling, clearance and disposal fees to the Recycling Fund. In addition to this amount, the EPA is still in the process of verifying whether another NT\$30 million in fees have been underreported. This would bring the total amount of underreported fees discovered in this auditing operation to over NT\$170 million, reflecting just how successful this operation has been.

The EPA will press charges against and seek punishment for enterprises that have acted in violation of regulations. It will also send letters to these enterprises demanding that they make up payments within a limited time. As for serious violators, the EPA does not rule out the possibility punishing them by forcing them to halt production or to shut down their businesses. The EPA has also made the stationing of auditors at plants a routine part of this auditing operation in order to do its utmost to prevent enterprises from underreporting production volumes and avoiding full payment of their recycling, clearance and disposal fees.

For more information, please call 02-2370-5888 ext. 3213.

---

**...as most of the enterprises that must pay fees are small and medium enterprises, there are frequently problems with omissions and underreporting of fee payment responsibilities.**

---

However, as most of the enterprises that must pay fees are small and medium enterprises, there are frequently problems with omissions and underreporting of fee payment amounts. Therefore, in order to improve the financial situation of the Recycling Fund, ensure the honest reporting of fee

cheaters would not supply inaccurate accounting records.

The EPA has already carried out audits of 87 suspected enterprises, including 80 container makers and 7 other manufacturers. These preliminary efforts have discovered 44 enterprises that have underreported production volumes

### Prize Drawing for Citizens Reporting "Squid Vehicles"

To encourage the public to report heavily polluting vehicles, called "squid vehicles" here in Taiwan, to the authorities, the EPA held a prize drawing with more than 1,000 prizes on November 22 for citizens who have taken the initiative to do so. This is the third consecutive year the event has been held. Anyone who has reported a heavily polluting vehicle may take part in this activity by leaving his or her name, phone number and address. The EPA welcomes the public to report fume-spewing vehicles via its free number (0800) 066666 or on its polluting vehicle website (<http://polcar.epa.gov.tw/>), and make a contribution to air quality.

## Water Quality

# Marine Oil Carriers to Need Liability Insurance

**The EPA has announced that, starting in July 2003, specified public or private enterprises engaging in the transport of petroleum must possess an emergency response plan specifying how they would prevent and clean up marine pollution as well as financial guarantees or liability insurance policies of sufficient value to pay for pollution damages. Petroleum carriers may operate only after receiving the EPA's approval.**

In accordance with requirements of the *Marine Pollution Control Act* (海洋污染防治法), public or private enterprises engaging in the transport of petroleum specified by the EPA must submit emergency response plans adequate to prevent and clean up marine pollution incidents, and must possess financial guarantees or liability insurance policies to pay for damages. Carriers may transport petroleum at sea only after receiving the EPA's approval.

The EPA announced on November 22 that "specified public or private facilities engaging in the transport of petroleum" include:

1. Carriers engaged in the marine transport of crude oil, and who transport more than 1 million kiloliters annually.
2. Carriers engaged in the marine transport of petroleum products other than crude oil, and who transport the following volume annually:
  - a. More than 150,000 kiloliters of light oil, kerosene, fuel oil, volatile oil or other oil announced by the central competent authorities.
  - b. More than 150,000 kiloliters of LPG.
3. Carriers engaged in the one-time ship-to-ship marine transport of more than 50,000 kiloliters of crude oil or petroleum products, or of more than 50,000 tons of LPG.

These regulations will be enforced starting July 1, 2003.

For more information, please call 02-2311-7722 ext. 2843.

## Activities

### *President Chen Emphasizes Sustainable Development at NGO Conference*

The Sixth "Asia-Pacific NGOs' Environmental Conference" (APNEC) was held on November 2 in Kaohsiung City. More than 100 environmental protection specialists and organizational delegates from 16 countries attended this event. In his speech at the opening ceremony, President Chen Shui-bian reiterated that Taiwan is a member of international society and the global village, and as such takes its international responsibilities with utmost seriousness. Taiwan is firmly committed to working together with international groups and organizations to help realize the ideal of sustainable development.

### *2002 EIA Technology and Practice Workshop*

In an effort to improve Taiwan's environmental impact assessment technology, the EPA held the two-day "2002 Environmental Impact Assessment Technology and Practice Workshop" on November 14~15. With lecturers included the nation's most experienced environmental impact assessment specialists, the workshop featured discussion and sharing of experience with regard to environmental assessment practice and technology.

### Environmental Policy Monthly, Taiwan, R.O.C.

#### Publisher

Dr. Hau Lung-bin, Administrator

#### Publishing Directors

Chang Juu-en, Lin Ta-hsiung,  
Chen Yeong-ren

#### Advisors

Lu Chiao-song; Chen Chau-teh; Fu Shu-chiang; Chen Shis-how; Yueh Chang-shya; Chang Hoang-jang; Ni Shih-piao; Chen Shean-rong; Chen Lian-ping; Leu Horng-guang; Tung Te-po; Huang Wan-chu; Young Chea-yuan; Chen Hsiung-wen; Wang Lung-chic; Chang Shen-ho; Horng Yuh-fen; Pong Sheng-ming; Wang Pih

#### Editor-in-Chief

Roam Gwo-dong

#### Executive Editors

Y.F. Liang, Chang Shiuan-wu,  
Hsiao Lee-kuo, Lin Char-hung,  
Stan Blewett

#### Editorial and translation support provided by:

Hui-kuo Consulting, Ltd.,  
Pristine Communications

The EPM has been published monthly since July 1997. The EPM is available on the EPA website at [www.epa.gov.tw/english/EPM/](http://www.epa.gov.tw/english/EPM/).

For inquiries or subscriptions to the printed version, please contact:

Environmental Policy Monthly  
Environmental Protection Administration  
Office of Science and Technology  
Advisors  
41, Sec. 1, Chung-Hwa Rd.,  
Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.  
tel: 886-2-2311-7722, ext. 2207,  
fax: 886-2-2311-5486  
e-mail: [umail@sun.epa.gov.tw](mailto:umail@sun.epa.gov.tw)

GPN: 2008600068

Contents Copyright 2002.



printed on recycled paper

行政院新聞局出版登記證局版北市誌  
字第壹陸壹號

中華郵政北台字第6128號執照登記為  
雜誌交寄