The ICDF Marks its Fifth Anniversary

The ICDF celebrated its fifth anniversary of operations on July 3 at the organization’s Taipei headquarters. ICDF Secretary General Loh Ping-cheung was joined by Taiwan Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Hung-mao (who is also the ICDF’s chairman), other Taiwanese officials, representatives from Taiwan’s allies and media members.

“During the past five years, the ICDF has made brilliant achievements under the capable leadership of ICDF Secretary General Loh Ping-cheung,” Tien said. He also reiterated the core principle that the ICDF’s foreign aid policies and projects must be in accordance with ROC diplomatic objectives. Loh concurred, saying the ICDF has formulated strategies that support the nation’s diplomatic policies, yet which are flexible enough to respond to the contemporary demands of international cooperation and development. With this approach, the ICDF’s relations with aid recipients and other nations worldwide have steadily improved.

Loh also remarked that the ICDF has established sound operational procedures as it has grown. During his tenure, ICDF human resources have improved, financial management has been strengthened, and an internal audit system has been established. The ICDF has forged many productive working relationships with international institutions, nongovernment organizations and social groups in nations the organization works with, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of projects. Since its creation in 1996, the ICDF’s mandate has grown to 22 technical cooperation projects (in 2000); the ICDF Fund now totals NT$14.2 billion and the organization oversaw cumulative loan commitments of more than US$413 million at the end of 2000. Currently the ICDF manages 40 technical missions in 33 partner nations, overseeing investments, lending and advisory services to a variety of businesses and other enterprises, managing and promoting agriculture and fisheries projects, developing education and training systems, and participating in infrastructure construction projects. In addition to the ICDF’s mission work in Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean and Asia Pacific regions, the organization has worked with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Southeastern and Eastern Europe. The ICDF’s responsibilities also include a role in the ROC’s Diplomatic Alternative Service program, and the organization has just selected 19 skilled new volunteers for work in overseas ICDF projects and technical missions.

Reflecting on the organization’s first five years, and looking to the future, Loh said the ICDF will continue to adhere to the spirit and ideals of humanitarian foreign assistance as it strives to create wealth and social stability for people around the world. Five years from now, we hope to give you as affirmative a report as we have today.
Clockwise from top: Decorations at the ICDF headquarters highlighting ICDF achievements during the last five years; ROC Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Hung-mao; ICDF Secretary General Loh Ping-cheung speaks at the ceremony; Tien meets Loh; Wu Rong-i, president of the Taiwan Economic Research Institute; H.E. Jacques Sawadogo, Burkina Faso Ambassador to the Republic of China.