After five years at the helm of the ICDF as its Secretary General, Loh Ping-cheung retired on August 19, and has been succeeded by Dr. Yang Tzupao as acting Secretary General. Yang was formerly ICDF Deputy Secretary General.

The ICDF has enjoyed five years of remarkable success since Loh Ping-cheung assumed the position of Secretary General in 1996. With more than 30 years of experience as an attorney, director and senior advisor at the World Bank, Loh’s financial and international development credentials were unsurpassed, and he immediately placed the then-new ICDF on sound footing. Loh has overseen an organization that now comprises 40 technical missions in 33 partner countries with more than 400 professional and volunteer personnel; with financial resources (the Fund) of NT$14.2 billion (approximately US$410.6 million); and with cumulative loan commitments of more than US$413 million at the end of 2000.

In addition to his work at the ICDF, Loh has been active in other areas of ROC foreign affairs. He was instrumental in his support of a proposed new ROC International Cooperation and Development Law, which may be passed by year’s end. Among other particulars, Loh suggested to the ROC Legislative Yuan that the foreign aid bill enhance accountability of foreign aid programs, improve management efficiency and long-term planning of projects and programs, encourage NGOs and the private sector to become more involved in foreign assistance, and forbid assistance to countries that sponsor terrorist activities or drug trafficking. The International Cooperation and Development Law is currently being reviewed by the Executive Yuan.

Loh thoroughly understood the principles and practices of Taiwanese foreign assistance. In a 1997
interview with the Free China Journal, he succinctly summed up ICDF aims when he said, “Our goal is to help developing countries to grow economically, but in ways that neither abuse their natural resources nor destroy their culture.” He also keenly interpreted Taiwanese public opinion in this area. In September 2000, commenting on the proposed foreign aid bill, he wrote:

People in Taiwan are basically supportive of developmental assistance. Any objections have been mainly rooted in people’s unhappiness with the way that assistance programs are managed...Our hope is that through the new legislation a transparent, accountable, professionally managed foreign assistance program will be institutionalized.

Loh Ping-cheung was born in 1937 in China. He graduated from the National Taiwan University School of Law. After successfully passing the bar, he attended school in the United States, earning a Master of Comparative Law at Columbia University and a Master of Law at Yale Law School. Loh currently lives with his wife in Taipei.

The ICDF welcomes Yang Tzu-pao as its acting Secretary General. Yang earned his doctorate in engineering in France, and is a recognized international expert in economic development, complex systems interface management, transport engineering, and transport and urban sociology. He has served as chief engineer at a major Taiwanese transport engineering consulting company, assistant professor at Taiwan’s National Central University, and Hsin-Chu City Deputy Mayor. In August 2000, he was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the ICDF.