

Preface

Welcoming a Future of Sustainable Development

2014 could be said to have been an important turning point in international cooperation and development. Thanks to the tireless efforts of all stakeholders, the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000, coming to an end in 2015, has already seen great results in its eight major goals.

According to the UN's Millennium Development Goals Report, the proportion of the world's population living on less than US\$1.25 a day fell from 47 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2010, such that the goal of reducing extreme poverty by half was achieved five years ahead of schedule. Global death rates due to malaria fell by more than 25 percent between 2000 and 2010, and by 2012 annual mortality due to malaria had dropped by around 3.3 million. The proportion of the global population suffering from malnutrition also fell from 23.2 percent in 1992 to 14.9 percent in 2012. These unprecedented results are an inspiration to all workers in the field and also highlight the efficacy of aid work.

From the MDGs toward Sustainable Development

Based on the achievements and orientation of prior stages, we now cast our eyes toward the next 15 years; how to reach even more ambitious goals has become a common core task for the whole international community.

In 2012, the UN's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability announced a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a follow up to the development agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In December 2014, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's synthesis report, *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*, outlined three key areas in the advancement and respect of universal human rights – to end poverty and fight

inequalities, to ensure shared prosperity (women, youth and minorities), and to protect the natural environment – stressing 17 SDGs and 169 targets as the latest directions for global development strategies and action. The report also set the stage for the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Ethiopia in July 2015, which will aim to establish a financing framework for the post-2015 development agenda. At the UN General Assembly to be held in New York in September, each member state will have to set goals for sustainable development, while new agreements on global environmental protection are also expected at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris in December.

Although the Republic of China (Taiwan) is not a member of the United Nations, our country has actively participated in international cooperation and development for the past 50 years. Taiwan's proud economic achievement, known as the "Taiwan miracle," was the successful result of various forms of international cooperation together with the common efforts of Taiwan's government and people. Therefore, Taiwan fully realizes that all countries, rich and poor, share a common destiny. At this critical juncture for the UN's development agenda, Taiwan, as a member of the global village, will abide by the consensus on international cooperation and development, and continue to pursue partnerships for progress and sustainable development as it strives to share its experience of success with developing countries.

Pursuing Efficiency and Effectiveness in Line with International Trends of Change

International cooperation projects have long been an extremely important facet of Taiwan's diplomatic work. As Taiwan's specialist development assistance organization, the International Cooperation and

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Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) shoulders the great responsibility of helping to promote official development assistance (ODA). This involves promoting friendly relations with diplomatic allies, fulfilling Taiwan's responsibilities as a member of the international community, safeguarding human security, contributing to the international community, and developing humanitarianism, all in compliance with the policy of viable diplomacy proclaimed by President Ma Ying-jeou, and abiding by his three foreign aid principles of appropriate motives, due diligence and effective practices. Such endeavors are promoting foreign aid projects, helping allies build sustainable development models, and helping fuel the development of the international community.

The TaiwanICDF was founded in 1996. Over the past 18 years, the organization has integrated funding, human resources and technologies, and, through its technical cooperation, education and training, humanitarian assistance, and lending and investment operations, carried out a host of medium- and long-term cooperation projects. To draw on the strengths of Taiwan, the TaiwanICDF focuses on five prioritized sectors – agriculture, public health, education, information and communications technology (ICT), and environmental protection – to deepen bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperative initiatives, by actively cooperating with international organizations.

In order to comply with the criteria of the Paris Declaration and reflect international aid trends, the TaiwanICDF has lately carried out a series of reforms, drawing up a vision statement and creating standardized models of result-oriented cooperation and development in order to formulate operational goals, deploy resources, and focus on priority areas. This year we will follow this strategic direction by improving management tools for appraisal,

project management and evaluation, elevating our performance accordingly and pursuing efficiency and effectiveness in terms of the aims of ODA operations so as to achieve the mandate of institutional sustainable development.

Developing Progressive Projects in the Context of Sustainable Development

The prime objective of the MDGs was human development, focusing on the effective reduction of poverty and stressing the application of aid resources. Meanwhile, the newly developed SDGs stress global public goods by proposing more general and overarching strategies in the drive toward further human development. For this reason, the SDGs were drafted according to two considerations: global public goods as the engine that drives development, and human development as the ultimate goal of all development. Amid active global discussions regarding the post-2015 development agenda, Taiwan, among other responsible stakeholders in the international community, is striving to make greater contributions and exercising far-reaching influence.

With the first stage of the UN's MDGs completed, it is now important to start afresh. I am confident that the TaiwanICDF will continue to serve as a platform for international cooperation and development, actively marshaling government and civil resources in the pursuit of global sustainable development. In terms of global public goods, we will continue to implement projects promoting the economy, employment, good governance and global partnerships. In terms of human development – reducing poverty, ending hunger, promoting education and health, and achieving environmental sustainability – we will continue to make real contributions, both regionally and globally, toward peace and prosperity.