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Special Reports—

Creating a Unique Avenue for Taiwan in
International Development and Cooperation

**A better
world,
a brighter
future**

Globalization has brought the international community closer together, creating greater interdependence among countries. Many issues of international concern are no longer addressed by a single region or country. Rather, the world as a whole seeks to resolve difficulties and challenges through international cooperation.

Resource Integration: A Global Trend

In 2005, participants at the G8 Finance Ministers Meeting reached an agreement to provide debt-relief of US\$40 billion to 18 developing countries. This historic decision ushered in new hope for the field of global development work. In 2006, more and more companies provided donations or participated in aid work. American investor Warren Buffet, for example, announced that 85% of his personal assets would be used for charitable purposes, with the majority funneled into medical research and funding for education. Meanwhile, the world's wealthiest individual, Bill Gates, donated US\$75 million for the development of a pneumonia vaccine, which has the potential to save the lives of tens of millions of children. Also in 2006, Bangladesh's Grameen Bank and its founder Muhammad Yunus were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, highlighting the importance of the extension of microfinance to development work and the alleviation of poverty. This was the first time that the Nobel Prize selection committee had presented the Peace Prize to an individual and organization working to eradicate poverty, signifying that the international community has come to the understanding that lifting people out of poverty is a vital factor in maintaining peace. This can only be achieved by practical development cooperation projects.

These days, development efforts encompass a wide range of areas, including reducing poverty and hunger, and promoting gender equality, education, health care, environmental sustainability, financing, and trade. People and resources from a variety of disciplines are required to create a comprehensive development platform that can result in synergy. As Taiwan's premier development cooperation organization, the TaiwanICDF works to bring together capital, human talent and technology to create a four-pronged framework covering banking and finance, technical cooperation, human resource development, and humanitarian assistance. The organization seeks to

coordinate domestic and overseas development resources, molding itself into an integrated platform for international development cooperation. It is constantly seeking to strengthen its relationship with government agencies, private companies, and NGOs. In 2006, the TaiwanICDF was commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Bureau of Foreign Trade to conduct the APEC Digital Opportunity Center (ADOC) Project. To this end, the TaiwanICDF has not only effectively combined funding from government agencies with its own expertise in development work, but has also formed cooperative alliances with Taiwan's information and communications (ICT) industry. This has created a three-pillared approach toward assistance in reducing the digital divide, and led to new development opportunities. The TaiwanICDF has effectively maximized the use of limited resources in its role as coordinator.

Overseas Volunteers Program Enhances Technical Cooperation Framework

The TaiwanICDF celebrated its 10th birthday in 2006. At the same time, the TaiwanICDF Overseas Volunteers program also entered its 10th year. The TaiwanICDF established this program in an attempt to encourage the public to participate in international service, and to help people expand their horizons. The program was the first in Taiwan to center its operations on sending volunteers overseas to engage in development work. Over the past decade, the TaiwanICDF's volunteers have left footprints in 30 countries around the world, providing assistance in agriculture, education, business development, ICT, and health care services. In 2005, the TaiwanICDF added a short-term volunteers option to the program. The aim is to provide an opportunity to a wider range of people, with expertise in a variety of fields, to make contributions to the international community. It is hoped that this will, in turn, serve to increase contacts between Taiwan and the world, and lay the roots of a spirit of volunteerism in Taiwan.

Scholarship Programs Train Much-needed Manpower

In order to increase its presence in the global community and give the world a better insight into



▲ The orientation program offers scholarship students the chance to embrace local culture.



▲ Volunteer Huang Yu-ting teaches Mandarin at the University of Costa Rica.

Taiwan, the TaiwanICDF established the Higher Education Scholarship Programs in 1998. Since that time, it has cooperated with universities to create English language programs for overseas students from developing countries, providing them with full scholarships at postgraduate and, as of 2006, undergraduate level. Programs are designed to meet the various social and economic needs of developing countries. The areas of study offered are geared toward assisting these countries in cultivating specialists in the fields of industrial technology operations and management, human resources, public health and medicine, and environmental development. The scholarship programs paved the way for the establishment of the Taiwan International Cooperation Alliance (TICA) through which the TaiwanICDF coordinates resources and facilitates communication among universities. The alliance also helps the TaiwanICDF to integrate the experiences and expertise of Taiwan's universities into its development cooperation framework, maximizing Taiwan's strengths in human resource development in its international operations.

Mobile Medical Missions Reach Out to Remote Areas

Poverty and illness continue to plague many developing nations. In its efforts to eradicate poverty, the international community cannot neglect the inadequacies of the health systems in developing countries. Effectively conquering threats from illness caused by problems like poor sanitation, and improving overall medical and public

health standards, is key to getting these nations on the right track to development. The TaiwanICDF was the first organization in Taiwan to engage in international medical cooperation and has experience in a wide range of cooperative models. In 2006, the TaiwanICDF established the International Healthcare Cooperation Strategic Alliance (IHCSA) to coordinate the manpower and resources of Taiwan's medical community, and dispatch Mobile Medical Missions (MMMs) to provide medical services to people in places that ordinarily would not receive this attention. The alliance also works to provide training to health care workers in developing countries. These initiatives are bolstering the quality of medicine, medical treatment, and health care in developing countries, and are maximizing the international medical assistance efforts of the TaiwanICDF.

Publicity Efforts Increase Awareness

As the international community increasingly focuses on the topic of development work, more attention is being placed on transparency and accountability. In recent years, the TaiwanICDF has released a number of books and pamphlets to publicize its work and educate the public about its initiatives, experiences and achievements. It has also tried to communicate the spirit of its international development operations through media reports, specialized forums, and in schools. Most importantly, the TaiwanICDF seeks to enable the Taiwanese public to understand the true meaning of international development cooperation, and give people in Taiwan and abroad an insight into the contributions that

Taiwan has made over several decades. In the process, the TaiwanICDF hopes to attract more people to engage in international cooperation. It also hopes to initiate even more opportunities for cooperation with other countries and organizations.

This Special Reports section will explain how the TaiwanICDF assembles resources in each area of development cooperation and cements comprehensive development partnerships. On one front, the TaiwanICDF is commissioned by the government to oversee various projects and appropriately distribute public resources, maximizing the government's contribution to international cooperation efforts. On another, the organization acts as a coordinator for the private sector, facilitating trade and technical exchanges between Taiwanese companies and partner countries. This enables industrial upgrading in

those countries and creates niche markets for Taiwanese companies. The TaiwanICDF is also engaged in cooperative partnerships with other international and domestic non-profit organizations. These experiences help to bolster the TaiwanICDF's ability to execute international development projects. In addition, the organization serves as a window for overseas service, finding avenues for Taiwanese citizens with a passion for service, or special expertise, to participate in development cooperation abroad. In the future, the TaiwanICDF will continue to function both as an executor of projects and coordinator of resources. It will work to promote development assistance in general, and Taiwan's contributions in particular, striving to win support for its efforts from the public both in Taiwan and abroad.



▲ Mobile Medical Missions combine experts and goods from Taiwan's medical sector to provide international medical assistance.



▲ The TaiwanICDF effectively integrates resources, in an effort to bolster the effects of its development work and create a better future for children in developing countries.

Coordination, Integration, Synergy



Core Methodology in International Development

Leslie is a typical little girl from the suburbs of Manila, the capital of the Philippines. She and her family live in Smoky Mountain, one of the biggest slums in Southeast Asia. There is neither a convenient road network nearby, nor any modern housing in the vicinity. What there is plenty of, however, is fetid water and malodorous garbage that is stacked so high that it forms a small mountain. The trash is smoldering in many places, creating a haze over the area. Leslie should be in the second grade in elementary school, but both of her parents are unemployed. As a result, she has dropped out of school. All around Leslie are people who are struggling to survive. For young and old alike, eking

out an existence entails sorting through the trash heap, looking for anything that can be sold to earn a few pesos.

Dreaming of a better life is a luxury for the people of this poverty-stricken region. While Leslie and others like her hope to receive an education which could help them change their lives for the better, the bare essentials such as desks and chairs are not even available. Any chance to access computers or the Internet is even more remote. Because of the ADOC Project, which the TaiwanICDF is implementing on behalf of the Bureau of Foreign Trade, there is now hope for forgotten corners of the world like this. Government resources are being coordinated and distributed to build ICT infrastructure, and create the chance of a better life for Leslie and others like her.



▲ Helping people in developing countries emerge from poverty requires the effective coordination and allocation of development resources.

Integrating Resources Becomes International Trend

From the example of Leslie, we can see that the international community is becoming ever more dedicated to development work. What distinguishes this new trend is the integration of resources and the synergy achieved. Originally, Taiwan's main impetus in participating in development cooperation was to repay the international community, and to fulfill its responsibility as a global citizen. As Taiwan has adjusted its organizational framework for development operations and refined its strategies in this regard, the TaiwanICDF presently places



▲ In carrying out the ADOC Project, the TaiwanICDF signed a cooperative agreement with a representative (right) from VIA Technologies, paving the way for Taiwan's firms to join the effort to bridge the digital divide in the international community.

greater emphasis on integrating resources. This not only complements trends in international development cooperation, but also enables limited resources to be utilized to their maximum.

Taiwan is increasing its level of participation in the global community, which is reflected by the vibrant growth among government agencies involved in international cooperation. However, because these operations have enormous scope, resources are frequently distributed thinly. In 2000, the United Nations (UN) announced its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Eight goals and 18 targets were set forth in this initiative, creating priorities for international development cooperation. The MDGs marked a milestone in international cooperation and development work as countries and development agencies worked together to address the issues of global concern. Looking at the MDGs, development issues not only include basic goals such as eradicating poverty, hunger, and disease, but also cover topics such as education, gender equality, health, environmental sustainability, trade, finance, debt relief, and ICT. Even more importantly, the announcement of the MDGs provided concrete objectives for the international development drive, and helped to promote the coordination and integration of resources.

In summary, the creation of the TaiwanICDF in 1996 had dual value: On the one hand, the agency would serve as a platform to integrate the government's various international development cooperation resources, working to create synergy and to optimize the value of these resources. On the other, the TaiwanICDF would

respond to the goals and targets such as those set forth in the MDGs, and implement various projects that were supported with resources from a variety of sources. Simply put, successful coordination of development resources helps create more room for Taiwan in the world community, which is in Taiwan's own interest. At the same time, these resources are used to assist the global community in reducing the development gap by helping to raise living standards in developing nations.

Maximizing Limited Resources

Integrating resources is the focus of both Taiwan and the international community. Based on this thinking, we now examine the integration of development assistance resources in Taiwan: Let us first look at quantity. Official development assistance (ODA) accounts for about 0.14% of Taiwan's GDP, which is still well below the UN-endorsed target of 0.7%. Among OECD nations, ODA rose from 0.25% of GDP in 2003 to about 0.44% in 2006. Based on these figures and Taiwan's desire to be an active participant in the global community, there is still ample room for growth in official funding. However, amid the pursuit of increased resources, the TaiwanICDF must consider how to maximize the benefit of the limited resources presently available.

The other part of the equation is the nature of development resources. Government agencies in Taiwan frequently do not work together when engaging in international cooperation. Many units neither share information nor coordinate their strategies, which leads to imbalances in the allocation of their already limited resources. As a result, Taiwan's international development resources are often not integrated effectively. Government agencies must therefore raise administrative efficiency, effect strategic convergence, integrate operations, and jointly assess whether resources are being appropriately used amid changing international development trends. In addition, a platform should be set up to coordinate the resources and support related development strategies.

Focusing Development Cooperation Strategies and Raising Synergy

In the 21st century, international development work is characterized by integrating resources that are used in a variety of fields, from the supply of staple



▲ Huang Tien-hsing (left) the chief of the Technical Mission in Honduras, accepts an honorary cordon from TaiwanICDF chairman James Huang on behalf of all technical mission members.

foods, to environmental protection, health and medicine, education, and trade. With so many disciplines involved, there is a need for specialists from many backgrounds. The only way to achieve synergy is through the effective integration of this manpower and resources. According to Michael Porter, the well-known academic in the field of strategic thinking, the strength of an organization is derived from maintaining a correct strategic position. Meanwhile, integration enables a lasting competitive edge. Porter also points out that home bases create advantages, and a unique and irreplaceable value.

Taiwan was once a recipient country, but is now able to provide assistance. It has successfully combined international aid resources, government policies, and the power of the private sector to hone advantages in agriculture, medicine and ICT, while also supporting the



▲ Members of the Mobile Medical Mission visiting Guatemala provide emergency treatment to a infant.

development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). As Taiwan's premier development assistance institution, the TaiwanICDF strives to incorporate Taiwan's strengths and experience into its work, and have its operations complement Taiwan's foreign aid goals. It has stationed technical missions and personnel throughout the world, uniting the capital, information networks, and project implementation frameworks, of international organizations. It has brought Taiwan's resources and advantages together to address the needs of partner countries in an effective manner.

Tailoring Operations to Partner Countries' Needs

The TaiwanICDF is commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to operate 34 technical missions in 29 countries. These missions include experts in the fields of farming, fishing, animal husbandry, medicine, ICT, and SME advisory services. The missions operate in conjunction with long- and short-term volunteers, to assist the citizens of partner countries in their efforts to become self-reliant. A wide range of information is assembled prior to the execution of each project, enabling the TaiwanICDF to understand the environment and social conditions of each location. As a result, projects can be tailored to fit the specific needs of developing nations, improving their economic systems, and helping to raise incomes for the people of these countries. The aim is also to instill the concept of costs, while introducing modern production methods. With technical missions stationed in partner nations for the long term, technicians come to have a deep understanding of the social and economic framework of the partner countries. Emphasizing economic principles, along with fine-tuning to meet local needs, the missions become centers that promote regional development. Meanwhile, in Taiwan, the TaiwanICDF serves as a window for information on partner countries, and has become the most effective vehicle for conducting international cooperation projects.

The TaiwanICDF's development cooperation strategies and expertise are further highlighted in its human resource development projects. Each year, the TaiwanICDF holds about 20 specialized workshops and offers scholarship positions. It invites



▲ The TaiwanICDF cooperates with Food For The Poor to assist charitable organizations in Honduras with tilapia cultivation. The fish raised provides a source of food and nutrition for underprivileged children in the region.

people from NGOs, specialists, and government officials in developing countries, to visit Taiwan to learn about the “Taiwan experience.” Workshops cover topics such as economic planning in Taiwan, agricultural policy, community development and the tourism industry, and SME development. Meanwhile, undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship programs are available in fields such as industrial engineering and management, international workforce education and development, international business administration, and environmentally sustainable development. All of these courses focus on strengths that Taiwan has developed over the course of its transition from recipient to provider of foreign assistance. Other agencies in Taiwan can also take advantage of the training systems and curriculums offered by the organization, pooling their resources with those of the TaiwanICDF in order to raise the quality of manpower in developing countries.

Pooling Resources via Strategic Alliances

The TaiwanICDF also enters into strategic alliances in order to effectively integrate government strategies with private sector resources. The organization has teamed up with a number of local universities to form TICA, creating a win-win situation for both Taiwan’s education sector and international human resource development. It has also formed the IHCSA, which exports Taiwan’s strengths in the field of medicine and health care, and integrates resources from civil society. Meanwhile, under the thriving TaiwanICDF Overseas Volunteers program,



▲ The TaiwanICDF cooperates with the Inter-American Development Bank to assist Latin American nations in strengthening the services of local financial institutions and fostering MSME development.

the organization develops opportunities to work in friendly and allied countries for Taiwanese passionate about providing assistance to other nations. These are all excellent examples of the organization’s role as a platform in coordinating assistance resources.

In 2006, the TaiwanICDF was commissioned by the Bureau of Foreign Trade to oversee the ADOC Project. For this project, the TaiwanICDF integrated government resources, its expertise in development cooperation, and resources from the private sector and civil society. Taiwan’s ICT prowess was used to assist APEC members such as Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Peru and Chile in bolstering their ICT capabilities. As well as raising the overall level of ICT in the Asia-Pacific region, the project has also helped generate business opportunities for Taiwanese ICT companies in ADOC partner member economies (PMEs).

The TaiwanICDF also takes advantage of Taiwan’s successful development experiences to expand its exchanges with the international community. For instance, it maintains cooperative relationships with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and other international organizations, to jointly execute various regional development projects, engage in private equity investment, or assist in the development of financial institutions. In 2006, the TaiwanICDF and the EBRD cosigned an agreement for the Financial Intermediary Investment Special Fund’s Trade Facilitation Program (FIISF—TFP). This has enabled Taiwanese companies to develop business opportunities in Central and Eastern

Europe, boosting international development on a mutually beneficial basis. Meanwhile, Food For the Poor (FFP), one of America's top aid organizations, has cooperated with the TaiwanICDF on agricultural development projects in Central America. With capital from FFP, and expertise from the Taiwan technical missions in the region, projects can yield even greater benefits. The TaiwanICDF has cooperated with FFP on boosting farmer output, and on human resource training and diversified production in Haiti and Honduras, establishing social stability and creating economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. Taiwan's strengths attract cooperation and funding from international organizations, maximizing the influence of Taiwan's technology and experience.

Creating Pillars to Support Global Development

The OECD, along with the World Bank and other large-scale development institutions recently held a High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to discuss how donor countries can better coordinate resources used in development assistance. The participants examined how donor countries can work with each other and on their own to implement global strategies on issues such as AIDS prevention or the eradication of poverty. In

other words, far-reaching assistance projects that are set out by the global community to serve as crossbeams in working to create a better world. At the same time, the assistance projects of individual donor countries serve as pillars to support the broader objective. The width of the crossbeam will depend on the degree of coordination between donor nations, while the strength of each pillar will be a reflection of the degree to which each donor nation has integrated its own resources.

The historian Arnold Toynbee once said that when history looks back on societies, it does not focus on political conflicts or technological innovations. Instead, it looks at how boldly those societies pursued practical objectives for the well-being of all mankind. With this statement in mind, there certainly appears to be hope for Leslie and other poor children like her, based on the current development trends and goals formulated by the international community. Without a doubt, appropriate coordination and integration of resources maximizes the effectiveness of development cooperation projects. In the future, the children of Smoky Mountain hopefully will no longer need to rummage through the trash in an effort to ensure survival, but will be typing on keyboards and obtaining skills that will give them hope for a better tomorrow.

Striving to Make a Difference



A Decade of the TaiwanICDF Overseas Volunteers Program

In Costa Rica, Chu Yu-ying, a volunteer from the TaiwanICDF, is communicating with a patient in Spanish. Sitting next to them are pharmacists, who Chu has come to know quite well. Group after group of people, with various maladies, have come to seek medical treatment. Yu-ying resigned her position as a pharmacist at Wan Fang Hospital and came to Central America in the hope of assisting those in need in Costa Rica, a country thousands of miles away from Taiwan. While her motive was a simple one, the results of her work have had a tremendous impact.

A two-year period of service is not short, and Yu-ying had to spend nearly half of it familiarizing herself

with her work and acclimatizing herself to the culture of the place. Nonetheless, her passion for service, coupled with her expertise in pharmacy, enabled her to gradually fit in with her co-workers there. She also figured out the best ways to communicate with patients, transforming her passion for service into concrete action.

In fact, Yu-ying's experiences are not much different from those of other TaiwanICDF overseas volunteers. They work hard day after day, constantly seeking to improve themselves. Their efforts assist the people of developing countries in raising living standards. Overseas volunteer work is not just charitable relief, but an occupation that requires expertise and compassion, and that fosters sustainable development.

Each TaiwanICDF overseas volunteer starts out in an unfamiliar environment, but learns how to blend in. Initial frustrations eventually give way to a higher level of self-confidence. TaiwanICDF volunteers are spread throughout the world, providing computer instruction, health care services, Mandarin instruction, and education in culture and handicrafts. Some of the volunteers are retired, while others have taken a sabbatical from their regular jobs. Others have just graduated from university, while some have decided to take a break from their graduate studies. Though they may have different backgrounds and areas of expertise, all share a vision of wanting to make the world a better place. They hope the



▲ Volunteer Chu Yu-ying takes an inventory of medicine ahead of a trip into remote mountain areas.



▲ Vocational training is one of the services provided by TaiwanICDF Overseas Volunteers.

opportunity to provide volunteer service overseas can help them achieve this.

Joining the International Development Cooperation Trend

The origins of government-supported overseas volunteer service can be traced back to the middle of the 20th century with the unveiling of the Marshall Plan by the U.S. in 1947. In 2000, the UN set forth its MDGs, which featured eight main goals and 18 targets, and called on the global community to pay attention to the problem of an imbalance in development throughout the world. The MDGs focus on eradicating poverty and hunger, and promoting education, women's rights, health, disease prevention, and environmental sustainability. Since the announcement of the goals, major donor countries have been increasing funds, technology, and manpower to promote development assistance projects in order to close the gap between advanced and developing countries. Overseas volunteers play an important role in this momentous work by providing the technology and human resources required by developing countries.

Many private organizations around the world have been recruiting volunteers to take part in designated projects for a long time. For example, religious organizations have for years sent missionaries overseas to participate in social work. Government agencies then gradually began introducing overseas volunteer programs, to support and add momentum to international development work. Recruiting volunteers to partake in overseas service gradually became one of the most

important means of implementing development projects.

In the U.S., for instance, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 and served as head of the agency. President Kennedy issued a clear call for American youth to provide service in developing countries. Several years later in 1970, the UN created the United Nations Volunteers program, to have volunteers play an instrumental role in development assistance. The Japanese government formed the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in 1965, to get large numbers of Japanese youth involved in development assistance projects. Meanwhile, Taiwan began sending volunteers overseas in 1996, when the TaiwanICDF Overseas Volunteers program was created by the organization to recruit people with special skills to provide service in developing countries.

Exhibiting Taiwan's Strengths and Experiences

Many of the fields in which volunteers serve are related to the UN's MDGs, specifically: Working to reduce the digital divide, AIDS prevention, public health, education, raising levels of agricultural technology and village development, and women's development. In 2004, the UN for the first time held a conference to discuss the role of volunteers in promoting the MDGs. In Pakistan, for example, the UN is conducting Rural Support Programmes to reduce extreme poverty and hunger. These volunteers are involved in providing technical assistance, and are cooperating with village organizations in order to strengthen economic development. In Haiti, meanwhile, volunteers serve as a bridge between the poor and the administration, implementing education projects in rural areas and establishing mobile libraries and pre-schools. This is providing opportunities for the children and women of Haiti to improve their situations.

Through the dispatch of volunteers, the TaiwanICDF is able to execute projects more meticulously, allowing its development assistance work to have a far-reaching impact. Volunteers typically excel in work that is related to their own specific field of expertise. The TaiwanICDF's volunteers provide overseas service in the fields of ICT, Mandarin instruction, health care, general education, SME advisory services, culture and handicrafts education, agricultural assistance, vocational education,

and administration. Of these areas, the first three have the most volunteers.

Taiwan maintains a competitive edge in the global market in terms of information technology (IT) and related applications, and its prowess in terms of development of hardware and software is well-known. The TaiwanICDF therefore takes advantage of Taiwan's edge by sending a large number of volunteers overseas to participate in these fields. The volunteers provide instruction in computer operation and hardware maintenance, and on a more sophisticated level, the establishment of information systems and information education planning. Providing technology transfers and education contributes toward the goal of reducing the global digital divide. Taiwan also stands out for its achievements in health care. Medical workers who have received stringent training have a high level of expertise both in medical techniques and theory. The outstanding training of nurses in Taiwan has created a top-notch care and support system on the island. By sending medical volunteers overseas, Taiwan can transfer its successful experiences to developing countries and also help fill in any manpower gaps faced in the medical fields of these nations. Volunteers assist friendly countries in improving the professional expertise of their doctors, nurses, and caregivers. Meanwhile, Taiwan is the only country in the world that still uses traditional Chinese characters. Amid the increasing interest in learning Mandarin throughout the world, language volunteers from Taiwan can help to promote the preservation of long-form Chinese characters as they teach Mandarin in partner nations. They also help people around the world to better understand Chinese culture and traditions.

Developing a Diverse Group of Volunteers to Represent Taiwan

From the commencement of the TaiwanICDF Overseas Volunteers program through 2004, the term of service for a volunteer has been two years, in keeping with the majority of development agencies in the U.S. and Japan. Research has indicated that during this period, overseas volunteers must overcome language and cultural barriers, and differences in work methods. However, the biggest problem they face is in establishing personal relationships. In light of cultural, work, and

lifestyle differences, volunteers must first establish a bond of mutual trust with the institution for which they provide service. This helps volunteers to gradually blend into local society and enables them to serve as partners to locals rather than leaders. While the TaiwanICDF's volunteers in principle serve terms of two years, in certain circumstances some may serve one-year terms.

In Taiwan, the spirit of overseas volunteer service has not yet become popular, and most people still do not consider this line of work a lifestyle. As a result, the number of volunteers recruited each year is insufficient for the needs of partner countries. The TaiwanICDF stresses that those who do decide to become volunteers should have a specific area of expertise that can be of practical use in overseas service. In order to encourage people with backgrounds in appropriate fields to get a taste for this work, the TaiwanICDF has initiated short-term volunteer programs that range from 1-3 months. For these volunteers, the most important thing is to become familiar with the TaiwanICDF's development framework, so that they are able to help execute cooperative projects involving the TaiwanICDF, or the initiatives of its overseas missions.

Short-term volunteers began to be sent abroad in 2003, both on a trial and case-by-case basis, and agencies in partner countries expressed satisfaction with the arrangement. As a result, the TaiwanICDF expanded the scale of its short-term volunteers programs, starting in 2005. In order to expand its short-term volunteer resources, the TaiwanICDF is in the process of creating a volunteer database, which will include information about



▲ Comprehensive training enables short-term volunteers to prepare themselves for the problems and challenges they may face in service overseas.

available individuals and people with appropriate training and skills. It is also cooperating with private companies, government agencies, and academic institutions, in an effort to recruit more talent. The TaiwanICDF continues to introduce its programs, and the spirit of volunteerism, at venues throughout Taiwan. As of the end of 2006, the TaiwanICDF had held 11 training courses, training nearly 400 reserve volunteers. These courses disseminate information about global development trends and the role of volunteers in development work, and furnish the public with a better understanding of the TaiwanICDF's international development operations.

Ensuring a Fruitful Second Decade

Sociological research suggests that the number of people involved in volunteerism is an indicator of a nation's social development. Management specialist Peter Drucker has forecast that, in the future, knowledge workers will not need to work full time throughout the year, and that the economic productivity of these workers will shrink. As a result, more and more knowledge workers will have extra time to engage in social service work. At the same time, engaging in overseas service will enable people to experience the "fusion of horizons," posited by the German philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer. People will have a better understanding of their own cultures after experiencing the cultures of others, and volunteer service will not only help to hone a person's ability in foreign languages and tackling various life issues, but will also expand the horizons of people on a spiritual level.

A high level of volunteerism is seen in Europe, the U.S., and Japan. The number of volunteers is especially high in European and North American countries due to smaller linguistic and cultural differences between those nations and many recipient countries. Over the last 45 years, Peace Corps has sent 187,000 volunteers to 139 countries. Since its inception in 1965, Japan's Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program has dispatched 29,060 volunteers to 83 countries. Meanwhile, over 30,000 volunteers have been sent to 144 countries since 1970 under the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program (including volunteers on loan from other international



▲ Volunteers Chen Chi-chien (back row, second from the left) and Chen Yi-fan (third from the left) provide health care and education to impoverished children at a childcare center in Panama.

organizations). As for the TaiwanICDF, it has sent 246 volunteers to 30 countries over the last 10 years. Because of factors like a lack of enthusiasm, manpower planning, the number of volunteers, and the number of available countries in which volunteers can serve, Taiwan has a long way to go before its programs can match the standards of the volunteer programs of the U.S., Japan, and the UN.

Nonetheless, the people of Taiwan are gradually becoming more aware of the opportunities volunteer service offers. The number of volunteers has increased in recent years. Efforts made by the TaiwanICDF to introduce the spirit of volunteerism to schools, and at various events, are laying the foundation to attract a greater number of volunteers in the future. Also, in 2006 the TaiwanICDF Overseas Volunteers program passed ISO certification, which has fostered standardized appraisal, recruitment, and management procedures, and has created a comprehensive overseas volunteer quality management system. With this certification, the TaiwanICDF is able to more effectively promote its overseas volunteer operations, increasing the results and accountability of its development work. The TaiwanICDF Overseas Volunteers program will continue its efforts to attract larger numbers of qualified Taiwanese who have a passion for providing overseas service, offering them an opportunity to expand their horizons. These individuals will be instrumental in working toward the TaiwanICDF's goal of a better world and a brighter future.

Building a Bridge to the World



Cultivating High Level Human Resources

Students on the vast campus of National Pingtung University of Science & Technology (NPUST) walk about under the tropical sun and the gentle breeze. It is not difficult to spot one student, who stands out among the crowd. African students like Babou Ousman, a native Gambian, are not a common sight here. Ousman is presently studying for his Ph.D. in Tropical Agriculture, and is one of 126 students enrolled in the TaiwanICDF's Higher Education Scholarship Programs as of December 2006. Though he had obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in the U.S., he decided to come to Taiwan to study for his doctorate. What particularly attracted him was Taiwan's broad experience in training high-level manpower, and the fact that Taiwan's agricultural applications are more suited to the requirements of The Gambia. Moreover, coursework at NPUST combines tropical agriculture with elements of international cooperation. This will enable Ousman to apply the knowledge he gets in Taiwan back in his homeland, helping to bolster the Gambia's economic development.

Ousman is not the only one who selected Taiwan for its academic strengths. Jair Sossa, from Costa Rica, who graduated from National Chengchi University (NCCU) with an IMBA, praised the management curriculum of his degree for focusing on practical experience. By studying in Taiwan, he had the opportunity to learn

management science as well as SME development, which is an important part of coursework here. He added that his studies in Taiwan also gave him the opportunity to acquire language skills, making him more marketable in a world where the ability to speak Mandarin has become increasingly valuable.



▲ Babou Ousman, from The Gambia, studies compost production techniques at National Pingtung University of Science and Technology.

TaiwanICDF Foreign Student Scholarship Programs

Year Commenced	University	Curriculum
1998	National Pingtung University of Science and Technology	Master's Program in Tropical Agriculture Ph.D. degree program added in 2001 Undergraduate Program in Tropical Agriculture for Central Americans added in 2006
2001	National Chengchi University	International Master's in Business Administration International Master's Program in Taiwan Studies added in 2003 International Undergraduate Program in Business Administration added in 2006
2003	National Tsing Hua University	International MBA in Technology Management International Master Program in Information Systems and Applications added in 2004
2003	National Yang Ming University	International Master's Program in Public Health International Ph.D. Program in Public Health added in 2006
2003	National Taiwan Ocean University	International Master's Program in Aquatic Sciences and Marine Resources Management International Ph.D. Program in Aquatic Sciences and Marine Resources Management added in 2006
2003	National Taiwan Normal University	Graduate Institute of International Workforce Education and Development
2004	National Central University	International Master's Program in Environment Sustainable Development
2005	Kun Shan University	International Master Program in Plastic Injection and Precision Mold International Undergraduate Program in Mechanical Engineering added in 2006
2006	Yuan Ze University	International Master's Program in Industrial Engineering and Management
2006	National Sun Yat-Sen University	International Master's Program in Electric Power Engineering

Boosting Higher Education Development

The examples of Ousman and Saboria attest to the success of the TaiwanICDF's International Higher Education Scholarship Programs. Under the programs, students from developing countries can specialize and take coursework that is relevant to the social and economic needs of their home nations. Higher education institutions in Taiwan assist partner countries in nurturing people with expertise in fields such as tropical agriculture, business administration, aquatic sciences, electrical engineering, public health, and environmental sustainability. Even more important is that the International Higher Education Scholarship Programs bring outstanding foreign students to Taiwan, further internationalizing higher education here. At the same time, students will return to their home countries across the world having learned about, and formed ties

with, Taiwan. This helps to further round out Taiwan's international development assistance platform.

The TaiwanICDF's International Higher Education Scholarship Programs were launched in 1998, and have



▲ Foreign students at National Taiwan Ocean University receive instruction in lab techniques from an assistant professor.



▲ A foreign student studying at Kun Shan University takes a course in plastic injection and precision mold production.

been responsible for bringing 225 foreign students from 30 countries to Taiwan. These students have earned 98 master's degrees and one Ph.D. In 2006, the Central America Economic Development Fund (CAEDF) began injecting funds into the scholarship program, to enable the program to be expanded to undergraduate study, and in order to recruit more students from Central America. As of the end of 2006, coursework is being offered in 18 subjects. Each year, a total of 25 new undergraduate students and 40 new postgraduates receive scholarships.

Over the past nine years, the program has been responsible for cultivating a large number of highly-trained people in developing countries. Students take what they have learned in, for example, agriculture, and put that knowledge to good use back in their home countries, leading to industrial development. One of these students is Nerie Sanz, from Belize. She was an outstanding scholar during her term at NPUST, and won a Yu Yu-sian Scholarship from the Agricultural Association of China (Taiwan), the first foreign student to receive this award. After returning to Belize, she was promoted to a post in her country's Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, heading the department of agricultural health, inspection, and quarantine. In addition to helping design Belize's farming and fisheries inspection policies, Ms. Sanz now plays a key role in agricultural technology cooperation between Taiwan and Belize.

Agriculture is one of the major disciplines of the programs; many foreign students are also attracted to Taiwan due to its strengths in the field of technology management. They take the theory and methods learned in Taiwan back home where they can use them to upgrade



▲ The first group of foreign scholarship students graduates from National Yang Ming University.

their countries' digital capabilities. Lester Antonio, from Nicaragua, began studying for an International MBA in Technology Management at National Tsing Hua University in 2005. In January 2007, he attended a Global Digital Business Society seminar in India on behalf of Taiwanese students. As the only representative of Taiwan, he shared the knowledge he had gained from his studies at NTHU with other seminar participants, and outlined Taiwan's technological abilities, helping to boost visibility for Taiwanese technology in the international community.

Attracting Foreign Talent

All courses in the TaiwanICDF Higher Education Scholarship Programs are taught in English. This sets them apart from the Mandarin curriculums of most universities that offer scholarships in Taiwan. The TaiwanICDF program was designed especially to attract foreign students. In the past, if foreign students wanted to study here, they had to have an advanced level of Mandarin or first take language courses. As a result, the goal of most foreigners coming to Taiwan to study was to learn Mandarin. The TaiwanICDF's scholarship programs, however, provide a higher degree of flexibility to foreign students, allowing them to avoid language obstacles in their studies.

Given the role of the scholarship programs in the TaiwanICDF's overall development assistance framework, the organization places special emphasis on management of the program, selection of students, and follow-up procedures on the return of students to their home countries, upon the completion of their studies. The TaiwanICDF has created comprehensive management

methods and operational procedures in cooperation with representative offices overseas, and local universities. In 2006, the TaiwanICDF began instituting a wider variety of admissions procedures for the programs. In addition to recommendations by Taiwan embassies and representative offices overseas, the TaiwanICDF started to accept recommendations from overseas technical missions, and foreign embassies and representative offices in Taiwan. The TaiwanICDF now also considers recommendations made by international organizations, and NGOs with which it cooperates. Meanwhile, the TaiwanICDF sets aside 10% of the slots in the programs for students from underprivileged backgrounds.

A two-week orientation program is arranged for the students upon their arrival in Taiwan, helping them to acclimatize to life in Taiwan. During this period, the students receive instruction in basic Mandarin and an introduction to social values here. After completing orientation, the students then matriculate at their respective universities. The TaiwanICDF respects the autonomy of each university in managing its academic affairs. However, the organization still regularly visits the foreign students in its programs to check on their progress, and provide them with any assistance they might need. The TaiwanICDF also arranges activities for students during major holidays, such as Lantern Festival or Moon Festival, allowing them to better understand the culture and customs of Taiwan.

Forming Strategic Alliances

In light of the expanding scale of the TaiwanICDF Higher Education Scholarship Programs, efforts have been made to create an operations management platform to enable universities to share their experiences, and to raise the effectiveness of the programs. The idea was to create a platform that would provide a mechanism for local universities to participate in international development assistance. To this end, the TaiwanICDF and six cooperating universities established TICA in 2003. The TaiwanICDF serves as a coordinator in integrating information and resources for TICA. It combines the resources of the higher education community with the government's development cooperation strategies, helping to reduce the development gap in the international community, and also promoting the internationalization

of Taiwan's universities. As of the end of 2006, 10 universities had joined TICA. The TaiwanICDF is looking to expand its cooperation with these schools in areas on which the organization focuses its assistance, such as health care, ICT and volunteer work.

The TaiwanICDF looks to have its international cooperation projects correspond to the specialties of each cooperating university in TICA. Consultants and experts required by the TaiwanICDF in its various projects can then be sourced from these cooperating universities. This not only assists the universities in combining theory with practice, but also aids partner countries in their development. Meanwhile, some of the universities in TICA are seeking to direct their long-term development in line with the mission of the alliance. For example, NPUST has established the Center for Developing Countries Studies, which focuses on development topics. Also, the university's Department of Tropical Agriculture has become the Department of Tropical Agriculture and International Cooperation, highlighting a broader agenda.

Honing Management Efficiency, and Boosting Integration of Resources

One of the goals in establishing TICA was to provide a management mechanism for the TaiwanICDF's scholarship operations, to help systematically and effectively manage and coordinate the scholarship programs of each university in the alliance. A decision-making-level conference is held once each year, while operational-level conferences are convened as needed. These meetings allow schools to share management



▲ In 2003, the TaiwanICDF and six local universities signed an agreement, creating the Taiwan International Cooperation Alliance (TICA), integrating Taiwan's higher education resources in international development cooperation work.

experience and jointly resolve various problems, helping the scholarship program to run even better in the future. In 2006, the program received ISO9001:2000 certification, reflecting the TaiwanICDF's efforts to ensure that the program is operated as efficiently and effectively as possible, and setting a new benchmark in the management of scholarship programs. Procedural and project management continue to be refined, making TICA an attractive target for cooperation among many local educational institutions and NGOs. This, in turn, is expanding the amount of international educational assistance resources available, and is enabling the TaiwanICDF to function in the role of coordinator, putting local and foreign academic institutions in touch with each other in an effort to boost educational development in the international community.

The scholars Michael Maloni and W.C. Benton have defined a "partnership relationship" as a situation where two or more independent parties form a cooperative relationship with the aim of realizing a specific goal, or achieving a designated effect. This philosophy is the main impetus for the TaiwanICDF Higher Education Scholarship Programs, which aim to assist developing countries in nurturing the high level manpower they need to support economic and social development. The programs have linked the higher education resources of many universities in Taiwan, and with the creation of the TICA platform, the TaiwanICDF is better able to integrate the resources and experiences of higher learning institutions here. This is helping to maximize international development cooperation in the field of education, while also highlighting Taiwan's unique methods and contributions in reducing the international development divide.

Sensible Education, Sensitive Interaction

Development work is a long-term effort that is aimed at using sensible means to narrow the inequality gap. In September 2006, the TaiwanICDF held an Information Education Summit in Central America. A delegation of representatives from the universities



▲ TICA representatives visit partner countries to promote the International Higher Education Scholarship Programs.

participating in TICA traveled to Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala to promote the scholarship programs. Blanca Natalia Montes Berdugo, who had previously received a scholarship to NPUST, and attained a master's degree in tropical agriculture, met the delegation upon their arrival in El Salvador. Berdugo, who is now a schoolteacher, had son in tow as she pulled out photos and talked fondly of her time in Taiwan. Another Salvadoran, Cecilia Gudalupe Aguillon Ortiz, who graduated from National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU), and Jose Adolfo Aguilar Umanzor, from Guatemala, a graduate from NCCU, also met with the visiting delegation, and reminisced happily over their shared experiences in Taiwan. These relationships made it clear that the benefits of the scholarship programs extend beyond academic achievement, and that the time students spend in Taiwan could touch them on a more personal, spiritual level. They are also key to ensuring the long-term success of the TaiwanICDF Higher Education Scholarship Programs. As the scholarship programs enter their ninth year, alumni from the programs are spread throughout the globe. Indeed, TaiwanICDF Alumni Societies have been established worldwide, building lasting bridges between Taiwan and its partner countries. The students are the pride of the TaiwanICDF and the universities participating in TICA, and often serve as staunch supporters of Taiwan in the international community.

Dynamic Medicine — Turning A New Page in Foreign Assistance



The Achievements of the Mobile Medical Missions in 2006

In late March 2006, it was the perfect time to be in Swaziland as winter gave way to spring. A group of children clustered around a dozen or so foreign faces. Meanwhile, nearby, there was a long line of people waiting to be seen by medical personnel who had traveled to this southern African kingdom from a far-off place. Even though many had been waiting for a long time, they did not seem to mind. There was optimism in the air. These people were waiting to see members of the TaiwanICDF-Changhua Christian Hospital Mobile Medical Mission (MMM).

This stop was quite an important one in the extensive itinerary of the MMMs in 2006. Medical treatment was provided and technical exchanges took place as in the past, but this year used toys were also handed out to the children. A total of 22 crates of used toys had been donated by the public and packed up in Taiwan. Taiwanese pharmaceutical companies had also donated 960 bottles of children's vitamins to help address malnutrition among children in this country. These supplies accompanied the MMM to Swaziland.

The MMM spent more than 10 days in Swaziland, with its itinerary largely planned by Swaziland's health authorities. It visited remote villages that other international organizations rarely reach. Mission members provided check-ups for the residents of these communities, offering them treatment for a variety of illnesses. Meanwhile, the mission also taught residents

about the importance of oral hygiene and AIDS prevention measures. As well as easing the suffering of the residents of these communities, the toys handed out to the children meant there were many happy faces.

Government health officials could clearly sense the spirit of devotion among the Taiwanese medical workers, who also, unsurprisingly, were a hit with the locals. The MMM was so popular that the government expressed its hopes to Taiwan's embassy in Swaziland that the TaiwanICDF would continue to send similar missions to Swaziland in the future.

Raising Health Standards to Achieve MDGs

This example shows how the TaiwanICDF works to coordinate Taiwan's strengths and gets the private sector involved in its operations, helping to raise the health care standards of developing countries. The international community presently focuses on two major areas in assistance for developing countries: A secure supply of staple foods, and health care. Many of the MDGs revolve around poverty alleviation and health issues such as eradicating extreme hunger; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. These problems can be addressed directly or indirectly by improving health systems.

Since 1990, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has released an annual human development index in its Human Development Report. This index evaluates a country's level of development based on expected lifespan, level of education, and economic development. The 2006 Human Development Report indicated that there are 1.1 billion people around the world who do not have access to safe drinking water. Meanwhile, 2.6 billion people lack access to appropriate sanitation facilities, 1.8 million children each year die of diarrhea, and on average a child dies every 15 seconds due to a lack of safe drinking water or access to sanitation facilities. These figures show that the lack of sanitation caused by unsophisticated medical and health environments results in far more deaths than AIDS and malaria. In light of this, the UN has asked donor nations to help improve sanitation and health systems, assisting developing countries in their efforts to emerge from the vicious circle of poverty-related illnesses.

As Taiwan's premier development cooperation organization, the TaiwanICDF keeps the MDGs in mind as it plans and executes its development work. It has created comprehensive assistance methods in the area of medicine and health, including stationing medical missions in various countries to conduct medical service projects, and organizing its highly dynamic MMMs. The TaiwanICDF also cooperates with domestic and foreign NGOs, and specialized medical organizations to provide health care-related humanitarian assistance.



▲ A member of the Mobile Medical Mission visiting Guatemala helps a patient who has just received treatment.



▲ Members of the Mobile Medical Mission visiting Nauru prepare medicine, brought from Taiwan.

Implementing New Models in Medical Assistance

Taiwan first provided overseas medical assistance as early as 1962, when it sent a mission of six military physicians to Libya to help improve the north African nation's health care system and military medical organization. In the years following, Taiwan continued to assist developing nations in Africa with improving their medical care and public health systems. These efforts not only helped saved countless lives, but were also lauded by the international community and partner countries. Presently, the TaiwanICDF maintains medical missions in Burkina Faso, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Malawi. The missions provide a range of medical services in those countries.

Over the years, changes have taken place in international social conditions. Providing long-term medical assistance at designated sites no longer meets the broader needs of developing countries. Universal medical humanitarian assistance has gradually become the focus of medical aid. In response to the latest trends, at the end of 2005, the TaiwanICDF began dispatching the short-term, dynamic MMMs. These missions bring together groups of highly-trained Taiwan physicians,



▲ Doctors with the Mobile Medical Mission visiting the Marshall Islands conduct thorough exams for local patients suffering eye problems.

pharmacists and nurses, who, as well as participating in the aforementioned assistance operations, conduct clinics in a variety of places and help train local medical technicians. This helps to raise the quality of medical and health care at the most basic level.

The arrangement of these MMMs relies on a resource integration and coordination platform at the TaiwanICDF. To this end, on February 14, 2006, the TaiwanICDF and Taiwan Nongovernmental Hospitals & Clinics Association (NHCA) — which encompasses 27 private medical facilities, as well as Chang Gung University's School of Medicine — established the IHCSA. The alliance, in conjunction with government funding, serves to introduce medical experts from the private sector to international medical and health care projects. As of the end of 2006, 31 medical institutions had joined the alliance. In 2006, the IHCSA organized and sent 16 MMMs abroad. Among the IHCSA members that had personnel participating in these missions were: Changhua Christian Hospital, Taipei Municipal Wan Fang Hospital, Mackay Memorial Hospital, National Yang-Ming University School of Medicine, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University's Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital, Changhua Show Chwan Memorial Hospital, Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, Taipei Medical University Hospital, Yu Li Veterans Hospital, I-lan Hospital, Kaohsiung Municipal Hsiaokang Hospital, Changhua Show Chwan Hospital, and Chang Bing Show Chwan Memorial Hospital. Missions were dispatched to Swaziland, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Fiji,

Papua New Guinea, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Nauru. The missions provided urgently-required health services for the residents of those countries, as well as clinical education and training to local medical workers. Over 35,000 people in partner countries have benefited from the MMMs' efforts.

Providing Services to Remote Regions

Given the mobile nature of these missions, Taiwanese medical assistance can reach remote areas of developing nations, providing a rare chance for impoverished people in these places to receive professional care. Because the TaiwanICDF has successfully combined private sector medical resources with the government's development assistance strategies, the MOFA has commissioned the organization to dispatch MMMs to friendly countries in the Pacific region, to further strengthen medical cooperation between Taiwan and its partners. Indeed, 12 of the 16 MMMs dispatched in 2006 headed to nations in the South Pacific, treating over 20,000 people. Moreover, six local hospitals have signed sister hospital agreements with medical institutions in those countries, further solidifying the foundation for continued medical cooperation.

Diabetes and related complications, tuberculosis, and high blood pressure are all common ailments in South Pacific nations due to the dietary habits of the people there, as well as their living environments. With this in mind, MMMs heading to those countries comprise specialists in these fields. They provide medical services and clinical instruction at national-level hospitals in these partner countries. The MMMs also hold clinics in remote areas of the island nations. The TaiwanICDF and Taipei Municipal Wan Fang Hospital cooperated in sending an MMM to the Marshall Islands in June 2006, the first such mission to visit the island nation. Wan Fang Hospital had two ophthalmologists participating in this MMM. These doctors performed surgery to remove cataracts, which are frequently a result of diabetes. They also treated other eye diseases. A surgeon and orthopedist performed surgery on other areas of the body where diabetes-related problems had developed. Meanwhile, an expert in chest conditions provided technical assistance in diagnosing diseases, and in the prevention of tuberculosis. Marshall Islands President Kessai Note praised the MMM for its

achievements in his country and personally expressed his hope to President Chen Shui-bian that Taiwan would send another such mission. In response, the TaiwanICDF did just that in October. This mission continued to provide service to Marshallese on the capital atoll Majuro. It also made a trip to Ebeye, the largest offshore island, which has the highest population density in the Marshall Islands, to serve residents there.

Meanwhile, the TaiwanICDF also sent an MMM to the remote area of Sukiki in the Solomon Islands, marking the first visit by an international medical mission to this township. Reaching Sukiki required a half-day boat ride. Residents, young and old, were waiting on the shore for the arrival of the boat transporting the mission, and they helped carry medicine and medical equipment ashore. Some residents of the island even walked for hours to get to the clinic set up by the MMM after hearing about the arrival of medical workers from Taiwan. The visit to Sukiki was the most practical form of assistance for the people of an islet who are afflicted by various illnesses.

Training Health Care Workers Lays Groundwork for Improved Assistance

The TaiwanICDF's MMMs traveled throughout the world in 2006, taking with them not only a passion for service, but also the belief that the world can become a better place due, in part, to the efforts of Taiwan. Serving as a platform to coordinate resources, the TaiwanICDF has helped pave the way for private hospitals to participate in international medical and health care cooperation. The TaiwanICDF has put into practice a new model



▲ A trainee (right) from St. Kitts and Nevis receives three months of training in nursing at Mackay Memorial Hospital.



▲ Residents of Sukiki in the Solomon Islands welcome the Mobile Medical Mission from Taiwan, and help to transport medicine and equipment ashore.

for assistance through its MMMs, enabling Taiwan to provide medical services to the residents of remote areas in developing countries. Furthermore, the IHCSA holds Healthcare Personnel Training Programs in Taiwan for medical workers from friendly and allied countries. Doctors and nurses exhibiting high potential are selected to come to Taiwan for three-month periods to receive training at hospitals participating in the IHCSA. The MMMs also collect information on the prevalence of various diseases while they are visiting partner countries. After analyzing the data, the results are made available to domestic and international institutions for reference in their medical assistance work. Taiwan is eager to share its decades of medical development experience with countries in need, all the while making a name for itself in the field of international health care development and cooperation.

The development gap in the international community remains substantial, especially in the area of medicine and health. Unsophisticated techniques, and a lack of expertise, often result in loss of life, and this has an influence on all other aspects of development. International health care assistance is a long-term initiative that not only requires continued efforts by donor countries, but also appropriate coordination between their official and private sectors. Taiwan's abundant medical resources and expertise are employed to maximum effect through MMMs. Meanwhile, the TaiwanICDF is planning and executing projects with the MDGs in mind, leaving Taiwan's footprint wherever there are medical needs, and highlighting the important role Taiwan plays in international health and medical assistance.

Creating a Broad International Perspective



Publicity Campaigns and Education

The global development cooperation trend began in the middle of the 20th century. International development and cooperation has brought countries throughout the world closer together. The increasing attention paid to development cooperation indicates that people are focusing on issues of survival, rather than simply economic issues. Topics including poverty, disease, environmental protection, and human rights, are now focal points for mankind rather than just individual nations. Development cooperation has become increasingly internationalized, reminding people that we all live in the same world and that each of us plays a role in the future of human civilization.

Taiwan itself benefited from development assistance and over the years maintained close contacts with the international community. In recent years, the public has come into greater contact with the world thanks to social liberalization and the huge increase in the amount of information at its fingertips. While many people travel overseas, study abroad and familiarize themselves with international news and events, there is still a lack of understanding about development issues. Taiwan's diplomatic predicament has caused people to focus purely on economy and trade relations. People seem to have forgotten that developing nations are also important members of the global community.

Development work is more than just the duty of

a nation to give something back to the international community. Rather, the participation in international affairs by a nation's people is a symbol of that country's concern for its partners in the "global village." The TaiwanICDF realizes the importance of helping the public understand the value of international cooperation. Since 2002, the TaiwanICDF has taken the initiative to educate the public about its work, strengthening awareness about Taiwan's participation in international cooperation. This initiative is also aimed at encouraging more people to participate in these efforts.

Publications: Documenting Taiwan's Foreign Assistance

The TaiwanICDF maintains Chinese and English language Web sites and publishes its annual report in Chinese and foreign languages. In February 2002, the organization began issuing a monthly electronic newsletter, detailing the progress and achievements of its development projects, and providing information on the latest international topics. This e-newsletter enables interaction with readers and boosts their understanding of development issues in general, and Taiwan's initiatives in particular. In 2002, the TaiwanICDF published a series of books that document the organization's assistance projects, and personal reflections from people who have participated in the organization's operations. Through these various

channels, the public can get a sense of the experiences of the people involved in the TaiwanICDF's projects.

Meanwhile, extension education is a long-term endeavor. In light of limited resources, the TaiwanICDF relies on accumulated experience and the sharing of knowledge among its staff to bolster its efforts. The TaiwanICDF not only serves as a platform to integrate international development cooperation resources, but also as a channel that spreads the word about development work. The organization is developing a specialized development-related database, and introduces the latest trends to Taiwan. In 2006, the TaiwanICDF released an "Overview of International Development and Cooperation," to introduce the concept of development to Taiwanese readers. It is hoped the book will spark discussion in Taiwan about international cooperation and development work.

Expanding the Scope of Interaction

Another motive for releasing books and other publications is to add momentum to international relations education here. Taiwanese universities that maintain international relations departments rarely have related coursework, leaving a gap in this field of study here. Taiwan needed a conduit to begin the study of development-related topics. The "Overview of International Development and Cooperation" was, therefore, also aimed at opening the door to this topic at higher education institutions.

The TaiwanICDF hopes that its publications will boost public understanding of development cooperation, and spark a consensus supporting these initiatives. The organization continues to promote its agenda, and publicize Taiwan's achievements, through mass media. For example, it produces short films aimed at attracting people to overseas volunteer service work. The TaiwanICDF also holds seminars that are attended by domestic and foreign experts and scholars. These conferences offer a forum in which experiences can be shared, and boost interaction with other international development organizations.

Attracting People into Service

In addition to its publications, the TaiwanICDF uses other means of publicity to attract participation



▲ The TaiwanICDF publishes books, and brochures to introduce its operations. The purpose of these publications is to enable the public to understand the significance of development work, and to spark discussion in Taiwan of international development cooperation.

in overseas assistance. A new organization identity system has been introduced and is featured on a variety of promotional products, and on the organization's Web site. The aim is to promote an understanding that development projects are executed over the long term, to increase mutual benefits. On another front, the TaiwanICDF utilizes this identity system on its promotional items, which are distributed internationally. This helps boost recognition of Taiwan and attract foreign attention to the TaiwanICDF's operations. It also facilitates cooperative opportunities with other donor nations and development institutions.

Development assistance started out as a unilateral initiative. Over the years, however, it has transformed into a bilateral or multilateral effort, spanning government, industry, academia, and NGOs. Government officials and technical experts are no longer the only providers of assistance. While development work focuses on the practical, it also requires a sense of vision. By sharing resources and engaging in technical exchanges, the digital divide, for instance, can be reduced, providing a foundation for sustainable development for mankind. The TaiwanICDF hopes to educate the public about the initiatives being undertaken around the world. It also hopes to generate dialogue about Taiwan's participation in international development cooperation and the value of this work to the international community.