

The Difficult Period in Overseas Technical Assistance



The Agricultural Mission in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) carry out the Ruzizi Plain Development Project from FAO.



The handicraft team instructs people from the Ivory Coast on rattan chair manufacturing



The Agricultural Mission to Malawi promotes vegetable cultivation.

1970

- Agricultural Technical Missions are stationed in Panama and Ecuador.

1971

- The Directorate General of Posts of Taiwan issues a set of commemorative stamps marking a decade of technical cooperation between Taiwan and Africa.
- Taiwan withdraws from the United Nations. Cooperative relationships with most developing countries in Africa were ended as diplomatic relations were severed.

1972

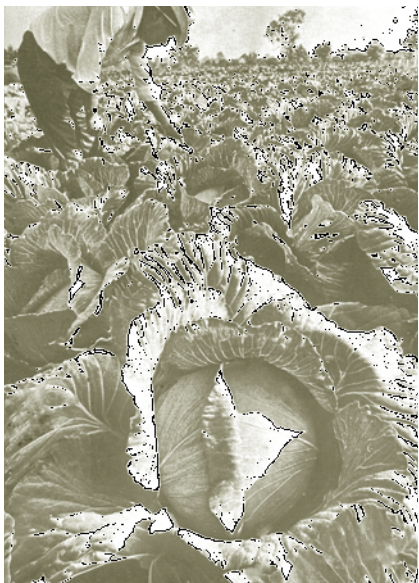
- The SATCC is merged into the MOFA's CITC.
- Technical cooperation is gradually developed with Latin American nations and Technical Missions are sent to Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Haiti.

1973

- An Agricultural Technical mission is stationed in Guatemala.

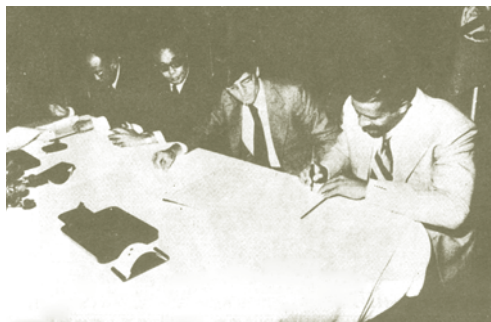
1974

Key Areas of Cooperation



The Agricultural Technical Mission in El Salvador provides assistance in cultivating cabbages, which was lauded by the local government.

Taiwan and Fuji signs an agricultural cooperation agreement in 1978.



In 1972, the Agricultural Mission inaugurated a rice husking factory in Ziquinchor, Senegal.



Indonesian agricultural technicians come to Taiwan for training.

1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taiwan starts funding all overseas assistance expenditures on its own. An Agricultural Technical Mission is dispatched in Indonesia. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Agricultural Technical Mission is stationed in Fiji. This was the first technical mission in the South Pacific. A non-specific project-based agricultural technical service team is sent to Saudi Arabia to carry out research and planning work in a variety of fields. 	

Key Areas of Cooperation



Agricultural Upgrading and Transformation

The United Nations unveiled its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000. The first of the goals is to reduce extreme poverty and hunger in the world by half before 2015. According to statistics, over one billion people around the globe presently live on less than US\$1 per day and over 80 million people lack sufficient food to maintain daily nutritional requirements. In addition, nearly one out of every four children under the age of five in developing countries faces malnutrition.

Poverty and hunger remain some of the most pressing issues facing developing countries, many of which rely on agriculture as their primary economic activity. As such, international bilateral and multilateral institutions focus their efforts on assisting developing countries advance their agricultural technology in order to increase farming output and raise incomes. The ultimate aim is to successfully reach the goals of solving hunger and alleviating poverty. In addition, the agricultural sector plays a crucial role in social stability as the large number of job opportunities provided in farming and related services helps developing countries address social problems.

The agricultural sector has also played a vital role in Taiwan's economic growth. Land reform started being carried out in the 1940s. Policies bolstering the infrastructure of farming villages and the increased

development of the agriculture industry nurtured the growth of Taiwan's industrial sector, which paved the way to Taiwan achieving its world-renowned economic miracle. This successful model shows the importance of agricultural development in the initial stages of a country's economic progress. Moreover, in light of rapid changes in the international economic environment, agricultural development in developing nations should not be restricted to just achieving self-sufficiency in staple foods, relieving poverty, improving nutrition, sparking the economy of rural areas and exporting crops as a means to amass foreign currency. Rather, the goal should be to bolster a nation's overall economic growth and put that nation on the path to sustainable and long-term growth.

Strategies and Methods

In summarizing the aforementioned, agricultural development should cater to production, as well as to living standards and the environment. In providing assistance to partner countries to foster development of their agricultural sectors, the TaiwanICDF not only takes into consideration the goals of reducing poverty, improving nutrition, promoting economic progress, and ensuring environmental sustainability, but also tailors specific projects to partner nations based on their geographical features, climate, farming conditions, available resources, eating habits and cultural differences.



▲Gambian farmers inspect their rice harvest.

1. Africa

Given that Africa still has an urgent need for staple foods, the foremost consideration of the TaiwanICDF's cooperation strategies in this region is to increase agricultural output for self-sufficiency and improve the sources of nutrition. The Fund provides technology for post-harvest processing and preserving freshness, while also working to forge community awareness and overall development. For instance, a flooded river was dammed in the rainy season and irrigation work was established to turn the land suitable for rice production. Similarly, in the Gambia, tidal irrigation areas have been developed along with rice husking factories and packaging facilities. This helps farmers produce high quality white rice.

2. Latin America and the Caribbean

As these regions enjoy relatively stable agricultural output, the TaiwanICDF centers its attention on raising the quality of agricultural product and food safety. In addition to market-oriented production and sale projects, the TaiwanICDF promotes the agricultural transformation and the establishment of agricultural enterprises and farmers' organizations, as well as the conservation of natural resources and sustainable utilization. For instance, food processing projects have



Agricultural Production Reactivation Phase II in Nicaragua

This project cooperates with the IDB, to assist Nicaragua in agricultural reactivation in areas devastated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The total cost of this project is estimated at US\$68 million. The IDB provides US\$6 million, the Nicaraguan government US\$3 million and the TaiwanICDF US\$5 million of financing. With Phase I of the project having restored the infrastructure to its original state, Phase II aims at directly helping low-income farmers engaging in small-scale processing or trading, and community- or farmer-established associations.

The project is primarily focused on areas that have development potential but insufficient agricultural technology and training. These areas often suffer from serious poverty and lack the resources to carry out reconstruction after natural disasters. As a result, the project looks to expand employment for farmers and provide support in terms of agricultural technology. It also re-establishes production models and repairs hydraulic-engineering works that were damaged. Local communities must apply to be included in the project as a means to meet the real needs of farmers and promote participation by local residents. Each community's application for reconstruction is evaluated based on overall welfare prospective benefits to the residents, the status of poverty and future development potential in the area.

Given the technical mission's many years of accomplishment in Nicaragua, Nicaraguan agricultural authorities asked the mission to provide guidance and advisory services in the areas of cultivation technology, storage, the establishment of agricultural enterprises and the conservation of soil and water after natural disasters. This will help restore agricultural economic activity and best utilize the nation's natural resources.



▲Nicaraguan technicians improve paddy rice with the help from the Taiwan Technical Mission.



▲The Rice Yield Increase Project carried out by the Technical Mission in Chad.

been instituted in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama. Also missions are assisting East Caribbean nations in producing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables needed in the tourism industry.

3. Asia-Pacific

Given the relatively strong economic situation in Asian and Middle Eastern nations, agricultural cooperation strategies focus on expanding the variety of crops, raising production technology, linking production and sales networks, and stimulating agricultural investment. One example of this is the Vegetable Production Project in Indonesia. In another example, crop diversity is encouraged in Pacific island nations, helping to boost the nutritional intake of the local populace. Furthermore, tourist-oriented recreational agriculture is also promoted, making the best use of each country's resources. In Kiribati and Tuvalu, natural organic materials are used to create cultivation media, helping to address the problem of infertile land in these countries. This also promotes the recycling of resources.

Despite the differences in strategies based on the conditions of each region, every agricultural cooperation project provides human resources, technology and capital as a means to achieve its desired goals:

Guava Pulp Processing Factory Project in Costa Rica

Turrialba County in Cartago Province produces most wild guavas in Costa Rica and is responsible for providing 80% of the fruit for the nation's guava processing factories. Farmer have been disadvantaged by middlemen as they bought guava at lower prices and then sold the fruit to processing factories. This farm processing association was established in Turrialba in 1998. The association applied to the TaiwanICDF through the technical mission for a loan of US\$85,000 to set up a guava pulp factory, with the aim of

adding value to agricultural products and raising income.

The first production commenced in September 2001 upon the installation of machinery and successful testing. However, production did not proceed smoothly due to lack of operational experience among association members. The technical mission then provided technical guidance. The sanitation around the factory was improved and changes were made to the production process. This helped to resolve pollution caused during processing. After increasing the quality of the product, the mission helped to expand markets through the Internet, advertisements in newspapers and participation in various fairs. Lastly, talented young people were trained as factory managers with the hope that locals would manage the facility on their own. The mission also assisted farmers in propagating guava seedlings that were appropriate for pulp and helped farmers in replacing sickly or old fruit trees, boosting the quality of the guavas to be processed.



The pulp factory presently has annual sales of over 20 million colons and is responsible for over half of the country's pulp raw materials. The factory also purchases guavas from farmers at a preferential price. This boosts farmers' income, creates opportunities and bolsters the local community.

1. Human Resource Requirements

In addition to delegating Taiwan technicians and Technical Missions to partner countries and planning and executing agricultural development projects, the TaiwanICDF works with local agencies to train technicians in those nations. This raises the capacity of human resources in these countries. The TaiwanICDF presently has missions in 29 countries throughout Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific, carrying out agricultural, fishery, animal husbandry and food processing projects. The TaiwanICDF also holds specialized workshops and operates master's and Ph.D. programs in a wide range of fields, including policy making, production technology, marketing, and international commerce. This offers the technologists of partner countries an opportunity to study in Taiwan. These methods help realize technological transfers and create seed personnel who could help Taiwan technicians in carrying out various agricultural development projects in partner nations.

2. Technical Assistance

This includes introducing new crops, the selection of superior varieties, experiments on cultivation, propagation and planting; field management technology; fiscal management; agricultural product grading and packaging, market expansion; and the establishment of

farmers' organizations. All these assist partner nations in establishing and applying technology in a variety of aspects, which is advantageous to the comprehensive capacity building of the agricultural sector.

3. Capital Provision

In general, agriculture is considered as an industry that



▲The Technical Mission promotes tilapia cage culture in Lago de Yojoa, Honduras.

Workshop on Agriculture Policy and Rural Development

The TaiwanICDF in 2005 held the Workshop on Agriculture Policy and Rural Development to assist diplomatic allies and partner nations in cultivating policy-making personnel, enabling them to learn Taiwan's agricultural development policies and best practices. Over the years, this workshop has been so well received that it is now held virtually on a regular basis each year.

The workshops in 2005 focused on six key themes: (1) Economic progress theory and a review of Taiwan's agricultural policies; (2) Agricultural production and product sales and marketing; (3) Agricultural financing and farmer organizations; (4) Planning and development of farming villages; (5) International trade of agricultural products; and (6) International agricultural cooperation. Since most partner nations feature small farms, which make them more vulnerable to WTO trade policies, these nations are in urgent need of policy support to strengthen their competitiveness. The themes of the workshops revolve around this issue and also introduce adjustments in Taiwan's own agricultural policies since its entry into the WTO as a source of reference for partner countries.

Since most participants are high-ranking



agricultural officials, The workshops also strengthen agricultural cooperation and interaction between Taiwan and partner nations.

is less competitive than others and reliant on government protection and subsidies. Most farmers have only limited means to obtain production resources. In light of this, the TaiwanICDF provides loan to construct irrigation system, helping partner countries in creating an environment beneficial to agriculture and raising productivity and product competitiveness. The TaiwanICDF also cooperates with local financial institutions on providing microcredits to farmers. Missions stationed in each country also channel loans to farmers for purchasing production materials and equipment, and provide subsidies to establish facilities and propagate seeds and seedlings. The TaiwanICDF hopes that these efforts will help farmers in overcoming bottlenecks they face as a result of their inability to access financing or resources.

Looking Ahead

Our future work will continue to focus on assisting partner countries in raising their agricultural capacity and developing agricultural industries or agricultural enterprises. The TaiwanICDF will also plan and conduct projects with the specific advantages of each country in mind as well as crops with significant potential and competitiveness. This will increase the net worth of agricultural production and sales, improve the lifestyles of local villagers, alleviate poverty, and aid in economic progress and sustainable operations. In this era of globalization, over-development in advanced nations and some developing countries has resulted in environmental

degradation, the depletion of forestry and fishing resources, and climate change. This impacts agricultural production and growth of specific countries as well as developing countries in neighboring regions. As such, sustainable utilization of resources will become an important part of the TaiwanICDF's agricultural cooperation programs.



▲The bountiful harvest of cauliflower from the Swaziland Royal Farm illustrates Taiwan and Swaziland's valuable agriculture cooperation.

Agricultural Resource Recycling in Kiribati

Kiribati is a collection of atolls that straddle the equator. Given its sensitive environment, the government has set strict environmental standards. Comprised of volcanic rock, Kiribati lacks arable land and irrigation resources, putting up obstacles to agricultural development. In light of this, the



technical mission has provided non-traditional production models with regards to farming and fishing, putting the focus on reusing the natural resources. This provides the people of Kiribati with a source of a variety of foods and enables them to be self-sufficient in staple crops, both boosting their nutritional intake and their incomes.

In 2005, the Horticulture Project stressed on assisting local farmers in raising the cultivation techniques and providing a more diverse array of vegetables. The mission also promoted household vegetable and ornamental gardens, improving the living environment in communities. Organic cultivation trials, demonstrations and extension, utilization of kitchen waste as a source of organic fertilizer have been carried out. This not only provides benefits to the environment, but also reduces fertilizer costs.

After the impartation of pig raising techniques and the formula of feed mixture, superior breeder pigs and feed have been provided to households. This not only creates a source of animal protein to local residents, but also the manure of the livestock can be used to strengthen the fertility of the soil, boosting crop yield.

Promoting Private Sector Development

Private sector plays a crucial role in advancing economic growth and reducing poverty. In Latin America, for instance, the private sector accounts for nearly 90% of all economic activity. Of this, the service sector accounts for 61% of GDP while the manufacturing and agricultural industries comprise only 39%. About 90% of private companies are microenterprises and half of them take part in informal economic activities. The private financing market in many developing countries is hampered by insufficient savings, weakness in the structure of financial institutions and a lack of clarity in public policy. As a result, micro and small private enterprises face limited formal access to obtain financing.

Since the 1980s, Taiwan's SMEs have played a crucial role to push the nation's industry to be more globalized, and gradually unfold the economic achievements in Taiwan. In light of the advantages and experience obtained in the development of Taiwan's private sector, the TaiwanICDF hopes to promote private sector progress in partner nations not only to increase employment opportunities, but also to promote sustainable economic growth and eradicate poverty.

Strategies and Methods

The TaiwanICDF's policies and methodology to

promote private sector development include several aspects.

First, it works with international organizations to engender regional cooperation. Based on the different needs of the private sector in each region, equity investment and enhancement to local financial institutions maybe carry out. Through the injection of a small amount of funding, the TaiwanICDF hopes to achieve the objectives of raising incomes and sparking job growth.

Second, the TaiwanICDF works with local governments and the private sector in various ways. For example, joint investment funds have been established for diplomatic allies and friendly nations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, Taiwan's private sector is encouraged to invest, or establish strategic operation alliances with companies in those nations, sharing expertise and experience from Taiwan and encouraging the industrial development and economic growth in those partner countries.

Third, the TaiwanICDF provides technical assistance to strengthen institutional capacity and improve human resources. Taiwan experts with a variety of expertise are sent to help partner countries establish an industry consultation system as well as provide consultation and

TaiwanICDF Specialized Financial Institution Investment Fund

The TaiwanICDF has cooperated with the IDB Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) in establishing a investment fund that carries out microfinancing projects. This helps to further cement its cooperative relationship with the IDB and jointly assist in the development of MSMEs in partner countries in Latin America. The MIF investment in the past in microfinance institutions and small-scale fund has reached US\$146 million. It has invested a total of US\$30.64 million in 14 microfinance institution investment projects, including five regional microfinance institution investment funds.

Under this project, the Finance Institution Investment Fund has been established and is managed by the MIF/IDB. The fund carries out investment in and financing for eligible microfinance institutions in Latin America with the aim of promoting growth in the sector. All of the institutions that have received investment or financing have a high degree of profitability, strong asset quality, an ability to repay loans, and high levels of liquidity and operation efficiency. In addition, all of the institutions have sizeable loan portfolios, offer a wide range of services, provide top quality service, offer services to marginal customers and outreach over a wide geographic area.

Annual returns in this project are forecast at about US\$675,000 (based on an annual return rate of 4-5%). This project is responsible to meet a large increase in financing demand under US\$5,000 to MSMEs in the region.



technical advisory services. Mid- and high-level officials and corporate executives from friendly countries are also invited to Taiwan to take part in workshops regarding private sector development.

The TaiwanICDF in 2005 continues cooperating with the IDB and the CABEI in investing and financing



▲The Belize branch of the Inter-American Development Bank.

the financial institutions in Latin America as well as re-lending the fund to MSMEs. These direct and indirect assistances help Latin American countries improve their ability to provide sustainable financing services and strengthen the environment facilitating the growth of private enterprises. Meanwhile, in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the TaiwanICDF has cooperated with the EBRD in setting up the Financial Intermediary Investment Special Fund (FIISF). Lending projects to financing institutions in these regions provide the funding required by SMEs and addresses the difficulties of these companies in accessing formal financing sources as well as high funding costs. The TaiwanICDF also supports the EBRD to recruit Taiwanese consultants and experts into EBRD data base so they can provide consultation companies in EBRD member nations. In the Asia-Pacific region, the TaiwanICDF works with the ADB, sparking private sector growth in the region through investment activities.

In 2005, the government introduced the Co-Prosperity Project. It combines the experience and tools of the TaiwanICDF in promoting private sector development, including credit guarantees. Cooperation with other government agencies is formed to jointly help Taiwan firms invest in Latin America and the Caribbean. This effort will increase the local production capacity and create jobs, transferring technology and know-how, and leading

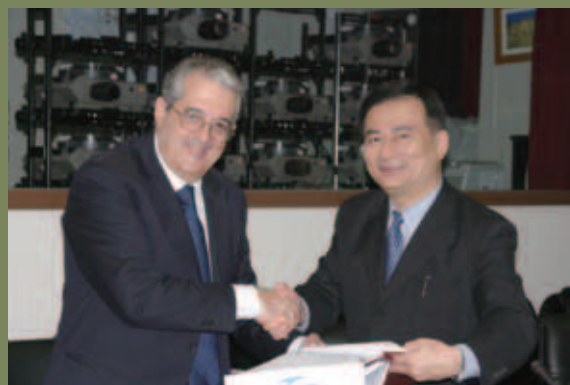
Financial Intermediary Investment Special Fund—Small Business Account (FIISF-SBA)

The TaiwanICDF and the EBRD initiated cooperation in 1996 to promote private sector in Central and Eastern Europe. Cofinancing and coinvestment activities are including the Belarus SME Re-lending Project, the Bulgaria ProCredit Bank Project, and the EBRD FIISF Special Fund, etc. Capital aggregated amounts to US\$33 million.

The EBRD in recent years has carried out a number of MSME development projects, including providing financing service for the private sector, direct investment in local banks and providing technical cooperation. All of these help to strengthen the fundamental structure of private enterprises and financial institutions. Thus the TaiwanICDF has cooperated with the EBRD assists for economic reform and reconstruction in the region.

In June 2005, the TaiwanICDF and the EBRD created the FIISF-SBA, providing a financing service to private enterprises that have development potential. This addresses the difficulty faced by many companies in accessing financing or high costs in obtaining financing. The project aids in the growth of the private sector and improves the overall economic situation in each participating country.

Presently, the account has already pledged US\$2 million of investment to non-bank microfinance institutions in early transition countries (ETC). Initial participants are located in countries relatively mature in laws and regulations such as Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova.



linkages to the global marketplace, thus stimulating economic growth in the region.

Meanwhile, the TaiwanICDF also cooperates with vocational training organizations in host countries to bolster human resources. Seminars and conferences are held in conjunction with local government development policies and to meet the specific needs of companies. Technology transfers are carried out and the training of local industrial advisory personnel is held from time to time in order to boost industrial competitiveness. Besides dispatching experts to partner nations, the TaiwanICDF also invites officials and industrialists from those nations to Taiwan to take part in various workshops. The themes include WTO topics, and the development of agriculture and aquaculture, SMEs and tourism industries.

In 2005, the TaiwanICDF held a special training course for high-ranking economic planning officials to share Taiwan experience with these nations in mapping out economic strategies and creating a stable political and regulatory environment. The TaiwanICDF also assists to strengthen the vocational education systems of partner countries, develops appropriate educational materials and helps to upgrade equipment and facilities to raise the quality of vocational education and training. Lastly, the TaiwanICDF offers scholarships to outstanding students of Taiwan's diplomatic allies and partner nations to study in Taiwan for a master's and Ph.D. degree in the



▲The microfinancing project in Mongolia XacBank provides capital needed by local MSMEs.



▲The Swaziland Handicrafts Training Project instructs students on leather crafting.

MSME Re-lending Project

MSMEs contribute about 33% of GDP in Central American countries, making them an important force in economic development. In light of this, the TaiwanICDF has provided a US\$10 million loan to CABEL to finance the MSMEs Fund and implement the MSMEs Re-lending Project.

A total of 110 financial institutions throughout Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua cooperate with the CABEL in this project and receive funds to re-lend to MSMEs, enabling these small enterprises with formal access to financing. The program promotes growth among these companies and helps create jobs for local residents. The project also helps to strengthen the structure of local financial institutions.

In order to expand financing services for MSMEs, starting in 2006 eligible credit cooperatives will be provided guidance and will also start handling MSME re-lending operations. Presently, the region has 3,724 credit cooperatives. About 100,000 MSMEs benefited from similar programs instituted by CABEL in the past, resulting in the creation of about 90,000 jobs. Based on past experience, this latest project is expected to benefit two to three times



the number of MSMEs and offer over 100,000 jobs.

The MSME Fund has roughly US\$180 million of capital. In addition to the TaiwanICDF, organizations from the EU and Spain are also participating to help CABEL carry out a four-stage program to promote MSME development. These steps include:

1. Funds began to be lent out to MSMEs in October 2005;
2. Improving the operational performance of the executing financial institutions;
3. In the 2006-2008 period, assistance will be provided to bolster growth of credit cooperatives and strengthen the constitution of the non-banking sector; and
4. Cooperating with governments in the region to provide consulting services to MSMEs.



▲The Tourism Development Financing Project in Belize is to emphasize both Mayan culture preservation and industry development.



▲The Workshop on Trade Promotion is held to share Taiwan's economic and trade development experience.

fields of management and technology, cultivating the highly trained human resources needed in the course of industrial advancement.

Looking Ahead

The private sector plays an increasingly important role as the economies of underdeveloped countries gradually grow. The TaiwanICDF will make a special effort in providing technology, funding, and human resources to aid the growth of the private sector. In conjunction with the six core strategies of the “Co-Prosperty Project”, the TaiwanICDF will work to provide the necessary assistance to the private sector. These include:

1. Strategic alliances and developmental investment:

The TaiwanICDF and the Executive Yuan have jointly established the Consolidation Investment in Latin America.” This fund is expected to have a total of NT\$7.5 billion of capital available. Resources will be utilized to stage joint investment overseas with Taiwan enterprises to increase employment opportunities in partner countries.

2. Assistance in providing actual mechanisms to boost investment:

The TaiwanICDF will work with the soon-to-be-established “Central and South America Trade and

Training Program for High-Level Economic Planners of Central and South American Allies

Economic development in Latin America is being threatened by competitive pressures from emerging developing nations in light of WTO liberalization and global trade. The TaiwanICDF has been commissioned



by the Council for Economic Planning and Development to carry out a training project for high-ranking economic policy makers. This makes use of Taiwan's abundant experience in economic planning to raise their expertise in economic planning and implementation.

The project began in August 2005 and is divided into a “core curriculum” and “advanced curriculum.” The training courses focus on seven topics, namely economic strategic planning, the development of agriculture/forestry/aquaculture/livestock, industry, trade and investment, culture and tourism, and human resources and infrastructure. High-ranking officials and experts from Taiwan serve as lecturers. Arrangements are made for participants to visit such places as the Hsinchu Science Park, Port of Kaohsiung, Taiwan High Speed Rail and Sun Moon Lake. These different places represent important economic, cultural and scenic sites. In addition, forums were held by Vice President Annette Lu, and attended by influential economic planning officials who shared their experiences with the participants.

A total of 28 leading government officials from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic have participated in this training project. The visits and exchange of experiences will be of great assistance in boosting the planning, execution, management and evaluation of economic policies.

Investment Project Office” and investment service task force stationed overseas to provide agricultural enterprises and SMEs with related information and technical assistance. It will also encourage Taiwan companies to invest in partner countries.

3. Human resources training to boost employment:

The TaiwanICDF will implement projects to train economic policy makers of partner nations in Latin America and will take part in the establishment of Taiwan-El Salvador Park Vocational Training Center.

Under the framework of the Co-Prosperty Project, the TaiwanICDF will provide support in the following areas:

1. Central & South America Study Center will be responsible for analyzing the macroeconomic situation of countries in the region and will carry out investment environment analysis as well as industrial competitiveness reports that will shed light on economic trends and business opportunities;

2. Strengthening bilateral exchanges and mutual understanding, encouraging the tourism between Taiwan and Latin American countries and investment in the tourism industry.

In light of changes in the world’s economic environment, a globalized economy is gradually forming. National development and regional trade relationships are also becoming more tightly knit. Promoting private sector investment opportunities is becoming a focal point among international organizations. Through cooperation with international organizations and by combining resources with Taiwan’s private sector, the TaiwanICDF is helping to create business opportunities in developing countries at different stages of economic development. This cooperative model will attract more financial support in the host private sector, leveraging enormous benefits for partner nations. Alongside the financial support, the TaiwanICDF continues augmenting its human resources and upgrading technology to boost economic development. By sharing Taiwan’s experience and instilling an international perspective, the TaiwanICDF helps pave the way for partner nations to enjoy stable and sustainable growth.

Industry Service Mission in The Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is one of the countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region that stresses most in industrial development. Years ago, the country began encouraging export-oriented industries as well as industries to supplant imports. The country worked aggressively to attract foreign investment to its export processing zones. These policies created a foundation for industry to prosper. Presently, the country is primarily made up of light industries, such as tobacco and liquor, cement, textiles, garments, paper, food products, and plastics. Starting in 1995, the predecessor of the TaiwanICDF, IECDF, began sending experts to the Dominican Republic to provide SME consultation in order to promote cooperative trade relations between the two countries and increase the Dominican Republic’s industrial output. This marked the beginning of industry technical cooperation between the two countries.

In order to assist the Dominican Republic in upgrading its industrial technology and management expertise, the TaiwanICDF established the Industrial Service Mission back in 2000 that was stationed in the country. The mission ties with the host government’s policies to conduct consulting services and guidance for strategic industries. Short-term experts are also sent to the Caribbean nations to provide factory advisory services and to hold seminars and conferences, helping to introduce new technology and management information, and aiding in training the technical and management personnel needed in industrial development. The mission has provided advisory services to the metals processing, wood furniture, plastics processing, textile and garment, footwear, food



processing, handicrafts, and home furnishings industries. It has held a total of 102 conferences and seminars, with over 3,000 people having attended these events.

The service mission has also assisted the Dominican Republic in establishing a vocational training center and holding short-term training courses or seminars in CNC machinery processing, mold manufacturing, automation, industrial electronics, computer-aided graphics, computer-aided design and manufacturing. Over 1,000 people have taken part in these courses so far. The service mission also engages in cooperation with major local industry associations, as well as the government’s vocational training agency and an industrial technology research institute to jointly promote industrial advancement in the country.

Using Information Technology to Foster Social and Economic Development

The international digital divide is gradually widening as the information technology is progressing at different speeds between economically advanced nations and underdeveloped countries. For example, advanced nations may account for only 16% of the world's population, but control nearly 90% of Internet services. According to an analysis of ratings of informational societies carried out by the World Economic Forum, the scores between the first and last countries, the United States and Chad, respectively, is nearly 2.5 times.

As advanced nations develop technology further, developing countries with limited capacity of information and communication technology (ICT) are falling behind. These developing nations face roadblocks in taking part of the global knowledge-based economy and become marginalized and isolated, which pushes them further into poverty. The widening digital divide between advanced and developing nations is creating an enormous disparity in incomes throughout the world.

Given this situation, reducing the digital divide has become important for international organizations and NGOs throughout the world. Besides, the ability to access digital opportunities has become an important indicator in assessing human rights. In 2003, the United Nations held the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva, which focused on the topic of reducing the international digital divide. The world summit that followed in Tunis in 2005 reiterated that assistance must be provided to poor countries to enable the people of these nations to

share in the economic and social benefits brought by advances in technology. Providing ICT assistance to developing countries has become an important topic in international cooperation.

Taiwan's achievements in developing ICT are well known. It is among the world's top producers of many network and flat panel products, not to mention hardware, software, design and applications. The high-tech sector is without a doubt Taiwan's most competitive industry. Making use of its ICT development experience to reduce the international digital divide is one of the key areas of the "Challenge 2008: National Development Plan" declared by the Executive Yuan. In November 2000, Taiwan proposed at the APEC Ministerial meeting the concept of transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities. At the APEC Leaders Meeting in October 2003 in Bangkok, Taiwan proposed the establishment of the APEC Digital Opportunities Center as a policy initiative to assist APEC member nations in taking advantage of the revolution in information technology to develop new economies.

Strategies and Methods

The TaiwanICDF is carrying out work in response to the calls by APEC and the UN to bridge the international digital divide. The TaiwanICDF has made "ICT for Development" a focal point, hoping to use Taiwan's successful experience over the past two-plus decades in developing an informational society as a means to assist partner countries to create digital opportunities. TaiwanICDF's strategy is on two levels:



The TaiwanICDF has helped establish e-learning centers in two schools in El Salvador to encourage the enhancement of computer literacy.

1. Raising the capacity of organizations in partner countries and cultivating the knowledge and abilities of users of ICT. The TaiwanICDF provides necessary network hardware and trains people in the fundamentals of using this equipment. It also looks to foster R&D and innovation abilities among people who will use their skills to directly and indirectly create economic activity.
2. Assisting the partner country's government in drafting a legal framework and systems that would raise the transparency of public information and increase administrative efficiency. This will also help facilitate the public's accessing of information networks and lay the foundation for an informational society.

The TaiwanICDF continues to expand and integrate its various ICT-related projects, fostering cooperative synergy. It also seeks to establish partnerships with international organizations, governments of partner nations, local NGOs and education institutions. Outstanding Taiwanese ICT companies are also encouraged to participate in our cooperation work to provide their expertise in technology and management to our partner countries.

The TaiwanICDF continues to promote digital learning projects in Malawi and Swaziland in Africa, and El Salvador, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic in Latin America. Computers and information-related equipment have been donated and digital learning centers have been created in schools and rural communities. These centers provide a venue for



▲The Panama Information Improving Project establish an information training classroom in Instituto Nacional de Agricultura (INA)



▲Education is a fundamental human right and is the future hope for each child.

The TaiwanICDF Scholarship Program for Master's and Ph.D. Degrees in Information Technology

The TaiwanICDF has cooperated with National Tsing Hua University in introducing master's degree programs in technology management and computer science. These programs provide scholarships to outstanding students from partner countries and enable them to study in Taiwan, helping to cultivate ICT technologists and policy-making personnel. The international master's program in technology management was started in 2003 and coursework is entirely in English. Courses focus on training technology industry managers. The programs include a core curriculum in technology industry management and advanced coursework in the nature of and development trends in markets for high technology products. Arrangements are made for students to visit and have internships at Taiwan high-tech companies to help them understand the models and practices of local high-tech firms. This helps them to apply their knowledge upon returning home.

In 2004, the international master's program in computer science also introduced. This program focuses on practical research, including network infrastructure, information security and e-commerce, intelligent human computer interfaces, computer-aided language learning and mechanical translation, e-libraries and multimedia applications, and learning technology. The knowledge gained will enable students to carry out the transfer of technology upon returning to their home country.

Up to now, a total of 21 students from Central America, the Caribbean and Africa have come to Taiwan to study in these two programs. The first group of five students in the technology management program obtained master's degrees in June 2005. They have returned to their homes and are working in government agencies or private enterprises, contributing what they have learned.



▲Information technology seed instructors from Guatemala receive training in Taiwan.



▲Commissioned by the EBRD, the TaiwanICDF holds the workshop for ICT business development.

students, teachers, and residents of communities to gain digital-related knowledge and skills. The TaiwanICDF trains seed instructors that are responsible for carrying out information education on a broader scale to ensure that the projects are sustainable. Self-learning software and courses has also been developed and provided in case the insufficiency of instructors.

In addition to establishing digital learning centers in partner nations, the TaiwanICDF and National Tsing Hua University have cooperated in establishing an English-language curriculum in digital technology. Technicians from partner countries come to Taiwan to study for masters' and Ph.D. degrees in this field. So far, 21 students from Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa have taken part in this program. The TaiwanICDF has also held global workshops on Technology Policy and Management and Development of ICT Business Opportunities, inviting academics, officials, and industry representatives come to Taiwan and share Taiwan's development experience and begin drafting appropriate IT policies. These workshops also provide a platform for business opportunities and information exchanges among participating countries and Taiwan.

The TaiwanICDF has also held an International Conference on Digital Opportunities each in Africa and

Workshop on ICT Business Opportunities Development

In November 2005, the EBRD commissioned the TaiwanICDF to hold the Workshop on ICT Business Opportunities Development. A total of 14 representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Georgia came to Taiwan to learn about Taiwan's IT experiences in order to assist them to draft appropriate capacity-building policies upon their return. The workshop also provided a platform for participants and Taiwan companies to explore business opportunities.



The workshop was divided into three portions. The first part – The ICT Entrepreneurs Forum – was open to the participation of Taiwanese. The second portion was open only to the representatives of the four countries. Taiwan and overseas experts and scholars in the field of software development were invited to speak on theory and their experiences. This portion also included a question and answer session. In the final portion, the participants from the four countries utilized what they learned from the previous two portions to outline ICT capacity-building blueprints for their respective countries.

Topics in the course included Taiwan's ICT policy planning, SME ICT incubation centers, e-government, e-society and industry, and the importance of product certifications. The participants asked the Taiwanese and foreign scholars about topics related to IT development in their respective countries. The workshop also enabled the participants to realize the importance of establishing ICT incubation centers. A follow-up seminar will be held in Georgia in May 2006, with the focus being on the cultivation of ICT incubation centers and capital utilization. Participants also suggested that the EBRD cooperate with other international organizations in jointly assisting in the establishment of ICT incubation centers.

Latin America, helping countries to carry out digital opportunity feasibility assessments. These reports will be used as reference in mapping out policy directions and related cooperation projects. In 2005, IT capacity-building policies were completed in Belize, Panama, El Salvador and the Gambia, with first phase projects to focus on strengthening information hardware in government agencies and related organizations. Information software and hardware systems developed on Taiwan have been introduced to these countries, enabling government agencies to integrate information and improve effect in tabulating statistics, releasing information, and management. This will improve administrative efficiency. In addition, IT seminars were held and consultancy services provided to help draft policies, develop agency capacity, establish e-government and e-commerce, and boost technology utilization.



▲Taiwan shares its e-government experience in a seminar in Belize aiming for improving its public service management system.

Agency Capacity Building Project for Central America Government

The TaiwanICDF in 2004 held regional conferences on reducing the digital divide in Guatemala and Swaziland respectively, participated with representatives of countries and organizations in each region. Short-, medium- and long-term goals were laid out to reduce the digital divide. It was suggested that in the short term, Taiwan Technical Missions undergo computerization. In the medium term, the Technical Missions would carry out IT development projects. Long-term goals consisted of assisting partner nations in e-government, e-commerce and e-learning.

In continuing these resolutions, the TaiwanICDF in 2005 held projects in Panama and Belize to improve the

function of government agencies, introducing information systems developed by private Taiwan companies. The focus of assistance to Panama is on boosting agricultural information functions. This two-year project (2005-2006) includes employing agricultural information announcement systems developed by Taiwan companies, helping the local agricultural and livestock ministry analyze and tabulate agricultural products and create an agricultural market information network. An information center was established in 2005, with personal computers and servers provided by the TaiwanICDF. In addition, a Taiwan information development policy conference was held. A total of 146 government officials from 50 agencies, including the President Office, the National Telecommunication Bureau, the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, and the Transportation Ministry, attended the conference.

Under the three-year (2005-2007) Belize Information Cooperation Project, an administration management systems have been introduced, helping the Belize government establish database systems. This enables the local government to aware of the benefit of computer systems in raising administration efficiency. An information education center was established in 2005 and conferences on Taiwan's e-government experience and reducing the international digital divide were held. Officials from 30 government agencies, including the premier and the foreign minister, have visited the information education center since its establishment.



Looking Ahead

The advancement of digital opportunities has become one of the Taiwan government's key measures in its information society policy. One important facet of this policy is to assist in the bridging of the international digital divide. The TaiwanICDF is developing long-term plans toward the direction of e-government, e-commerce, and e-education and encourage the sustainable development in information technology in our partner countries. In the process of promoting digital opportunities, an "e-mindset" will begin to take root in the populations of these countries and they will become accustomed to using information products. As Taiwan has an advantage in IT development and would like to share its expertise and experience, the TaiwanICDF will seek opportunities to join forces with Taiwan's IT companies to bring quality products and systems to share with international organizations and institutions.



▲Teachers in El Salvador instruct students learning computer skill, as part of the ICT Education Improvement Project.

Vocational Training Project Assists in Reducing the Digital Divide in Swaziland

In 2004, the TaiwanICDF held a conference in Swaziland on reducing the digital divide to discuss the situation in that nation and make suggestions on how to achieve the goals of e-learning, e-industry, e-business, e-travel, and e-government. It was decided that the Technical Mission in Swaziland would implement a three-year (2005-2007) plan to reduce the digital divide in the nation. These efforts will be carried out under the existing Vocational Training Project. Thus, Taiwan's experience and achievements in IT applications are being shared with friendly African nations.

The technical mission established Swaziland's first wireless network information center at the computer classroom of the National Handicrafts Center (Vocational Training Center) and also established a basic network. Twenty new computers and one server were provided in the first phase of the program, which was completed in July 2005. Internet access was completed in September of the same year. In January 2006, the technical mission will hold a computer workshop for public school teachers. This is coupled with donations of computer hardware and software by the Taiwan government to high schools. It is expected that 80 seed teachers will be trained, providing a foundation for IT education in secondary schools.



In order to expand the benefits of the project, information stations and education services have been established at selected locations, helping to foster prosperity within communities. The technical mission has already visited five communities and 10 schools, and is actively promoting computer-related education. This is raising the ability of students and residents of various communities in utilizing information products and retrieving information.

Improving Medical Care and Health

The UN's MDGs include the reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, and the combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, all of which touch upon medical and health care systems. Meanwhile, the United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP) since 1990 released a Human Development Report and Human Development Index, which measure such areas as life expectancy, education levels and the standard of living in order to calculate a means of measuring well-being. Medical care and health policies along with the environment have an enormous impact on life expectancy. This shows that strengthening medical care and health is an important requirement for developing countries in addition to ample food supply.

For the majority of developing countries, attempts at upgrading medical care and health consume enormous resources, which puts a drag on economic growth and progress. Therefore, assisting developing countries in establishing basic medical care standards and improving public health is the only way to move towards achieving the MDGs.

Strategies and Methods

Most developing nations in Asia and Africa have long faced problems of poverty and insufficient staple food supplies. Combined with a poor health environment and a lack of resources to provide medical care, these countries are the primary focus for the TaiwanICDF in providing medical and health assistance. When carrying out these plans, the TaiwanICDF maps out strategies that conform to the goals of the MDGs. The TaiwanICDF has a comprehensive range of strategies and methods in providing medical assistance. In addition to stationing medical missions to provide service over the long term and implementing medical service projects, the TaiwanICDF also sends highly dynamic mobile medical missions to various countries to provide mobile clinics and carry out health education campaigns. Meanwhile, The TaiwanICDF engages in cooperation with local and international NGOs and medical organizations to offer humanitarian assistance. These various efforts are described below:

- **Permanent Medical Missions**

Overseas Medical missions provide regular clinical services in the hospitals and clinics in which they are stationed. They also regularly hold outreach clinics in remote areas and engage in public health education. The clinical education and training guided by mission members help to cultivate medical workers in these

developing countries. The missions also promote the Bamako Initiative in pharmaceuticals management and operations, which require patients to contribute to a portion of the cost for the treatment and this money is used as revolving funds for purchasing essential drugs or other medical goods. Besides, the management ability of local medical workers has also been strengthened. These initiatives help to bolster the medical networks



▲The Medical Mission in Malawi holds an activity to encourage blood donation and promotes HIV-AIDS prevention education.



▲The Medical Mission in Chad carries out a project to prevent blood flukes.

and systems in these countries and improve the quality of medical institutions. In addition to treating regular illness, the medical missions also implement special projects directed at contagious diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, utilizing the pillars of education, prevention, and therapy to halt the spread of these diseases. In 2005, the TaiwanICDF maintained medical missions in Burkina Faso, Chad, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Malawi. It also sent members of the Taiwan Overseas Volunteers and Taiwan Youth Overseas Service with medical backgrounds to various countries to help professional medical workers in carrying out medical and health projects.

- **Mobile Medical Mission**

Regular and stationed medical missions play an important role in international medical assistance projects. Mobile medical missions, however, also have a critical position. These missions are sent to countries for short periods and provide outreach clinic services. The short-term nature of these missions is conducive to attracting the participation of Taiwan medical workers,



▲ In northern India, the Mobile Medical Mission staff member instructs the patient on how to use the medicine.

Malaria Eradication Project in São Tomé and Príncipe

Malaria is the leading cause of death for children below the age of nine in São Tomé and Príncipe. Based on Taiwan's successful experience in eradicating malaria in the 1960s, the TaiwanICDF in June 2000 sent six experts to São Tomé and Príncipe to carry out a malaria eradication feasibility study. In July 2002 when President Chen Shui-bian visited the country, he reached a consensus with São Tomé's president and health minister on combating malaria. In December of that year, the two countries signed a memorandum under which Taiwan would assist São Tomé and Príncipe in establishing appropriate measures to control the spread of malaria-carrying mosquitoes



and methods of treatment, helping to reduce the incidence of the disease and mortality.

The project included methods to control malaria-carrying mosquitoes (including survey, monitoring, and analysis on mosquito index and the resistance to various pesticides), large-scale spraying and monitoring of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, appropriate therapy to those having contracted the disease (including bolstering diagnostic ability, determining resistance to anti-malarial drugs, establishment and promotion of measures to treat malaria, and analysis into the resistance to pesticides among malaria parasites), studies on the prevalence of malaria, rate of contraction and death, personnel training and health education campaigns. The ultimate goal of the project was to assist São Tomé and Príncipe in cultivating experts in analyzing and treating the disease.

In 2002 and 2003, Project Vanguard yielded outstanding results, largely reducing the number of patient being treated in the hospital. In 2004, large-scale spraying was held on the island of Príncipe. The percentage of children under the age of nine contracting the disease fell to 1.02% from 10.29%. Results throughout São Tomé were also excellent, with the rate of incidence in Ribeira Afonso County falling to 6.99% from 24.6% and in Neves County to 7.1% from 35.35%. The second stage of national spraying is presently being planned. Malaria is projected to be eliminated from São Tomé before 2008. This project will assist São Tomé and Príncipe in stemming the spread of malaria and the other diseases before 2015 as according to the UN's MDGs.

providing the ability to carry out various humanitarian medical assistance in a rapid response to the specific requirements. This also offers the opportunity to serve the countries in which the TaiwanICDF does not maintain regular medical missions and addresses the needs of remote areas and places with insufficient medical resources.

The TaiwanICDF in December 2005 sent its first mobile medical mission to Darjeeling in northern India to implement a free clinic. Accompanied with a medical vehicle donated by the TaiwanICDF to the Tibetan Refugee Self-help Center, the mission provides quality medical services to local residents. The convoy went deep into eight areas to help over 3,600 patients, winning the praise of people in the regions of northern India and Nepal. The success of this effort provided the spark for members of the Taiwan Nongovernmental Hospitals and Clinics Association and the TaiwanICDF to establish the Strategic Alliance for International Health and Medicine. In the future, the alliance will play an important role as providing medical professionals, equipment, and medicines in an effort to make a contribution in the field of international medical assistance.

• International Humanitarian Assistance

2005 was a year full of natural disasters, including the tsunami in the Indian Ocean, hurricanes in the United States, earthquakes in Pakistan and Iran, and plagues of locusts and cholera in West Africa. These calamities inevitably resulted in catastrophic financial damages and loss of life. The international community



▲ Mobile Medical Missions are dispatched to address the lack of medical attention for residents in remote areas.

The HIV/AIDS Prevention Project in Malawi

Malawi has one of the highest levels of HIV infection in the world. According to a report by UNAIDS, the AIDS is responsible for having caused average life expectancy in Malawi to drop to 36 years from 47 years. Approximately one million of Malawi's 12 million residents are carriers of the AIDS. It is expected before the year 2010, 25% of Malawi's urban labor force will die from AIDS. Education, prevention, and providing care for those having infected HIV are the most effective methods to prevent the further spread of AIDS in Malawi.

The Medical Mission has established the Rainbow Clinic at the Mzuzu Central Hospital in northern Malawi. Since March 2005, the clinic has already treated over 2,500 patients. In an effort to further boost operational efficiency, the medical mission has developed a fingerprint recognition system, which serves as the sole means of identification for patients. The mission has set up a comprehensive array of information hardware and software to record the issuance of medicine, keep track of the status of patients, and manage stockpiled medicines. This also helps to reduce human management costs. The conceptual development of this system has been featured in international medical journals.

Given the substantive results of the HIV/AIDS Prevention Project, the mission leader has been invited by Malawi's health ministry to monitor the work of the national agency in charge of AIDS-related matters. The Taiwan representative and local officials jointly supervise HIV/AIDS prevention projects being carried out by nine health

agencies in the northern part of the country. In addition, mission members have participated in a conference on prevention of HIV/AIDS among children, which was held by the WHO and UNICEF in Malawi. It is hoped that with cooperation of Taiwan's medical mission, Malawi will be able to achieve the MDGs of combating and curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS in Malawi by 2015.



has devoted a great deal of personnel and resources to emergency relief, and Taiwan is no exception in these



▲A project staff member explains health and sanitation concepts to schoolchildren in Uzbekistan.

efforts. Given Taiwan's unique diplomatic situation, it is often difficult to get official relief and assistance to areas in need in a timely manner. It is in these times that non-governmental organizations can take a leading role. For instance, shortly after the tsunami ravaged South Asia, the TaiwanICDF participated in an activity with the MOFA and domestic NGOs to raise funds and goods for post-disaster relief. The TaiwanICDF was responsible for transport goods to the disaster regions in the shortest time possible. Likewise, Taiwan's medical mission in São Tomé and Príncipe immediately lent a helping hand to prevent the spread of cholera amid an outbreak of the disease in that country.

International organizations and NGOs have comprehensive trigger mechanisms in conducting emergency relief and basic assistance. Therefore, the TaiwanICDF cooperates with Mercy Corps in raising community and public health in Central Asian nations. In the beginning of 2006, it sent volunteers with expertise in public health to Uzbekistan to engage in a public health campaign there, helping to reduce the high level of infectious diseases in that area.

Mobile Medical Missions Project in Northern India

In addition to Medical Missions stationed in specific places, the TaiwanICDF also sponsors Mobile Medical Missions to serve poor residents of remote areas. In December 2005, outstanding medical professionals voluntarily participated in the first mission and went to northern India to provide outreach clinics.



The team set up a base at the Tibetan Refugee Self-help Center in Darjeeling, from which it expanded service to seven peripheral areas. Given the high altitude and remote location of the area, the region faces a challengeable environment of medical resources and living standards. Two TaiwanICDF long-term volunteers stationed in the area said that residents also lack a basic knowledge about health-related issues. The arrival of the Mobile Medical Mission not only addressed the illnesses faced by the people of the region, but also enabled exchanges of medical and health information, helping to raise the expertise of local medical personnel.

The Mobile Medical Mission, comprised of nine persons, was led by a TaiwanICDF staff member with considerable experience in international medical assistance. Included in the team were a surgeon, an internist, a pediatrician and a gynecologist; a pharmacist; two nurses; and a project manager. The team is also able to utilize the medical vehicle donated by TaiwanICDF to the Tibetan Refugee Self-help Center in 2002.

During the three-week period of offering services, the Mobile Medical Mission visited eight areas in the Himalayan region at altitudes of over 3,000 meters, treating 3,699 patients. Surgical demonstrations were also held for medical workers in the refugee center, helping to boost their expertise and be able to provide better service for residents in the future.

Looking Ahead

Medical Missions, Mobile Missions with outreach clinics, and humanitarian assistance are three tightly knit links in the TaiwanICDF's medical and health assistance. Medical Missions play the role of being stationed in a fixed spot and offer long-term, in-depth support. The flexibility of the Mobile Medical Mission enables Taiwan to provide immediate emergency relief and medical services in countries without diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Meanwhile, cooperation with international organizations helps to expand the scope of services offered and strengthens the effective allocation of technology and resources. These three pillars create a comprehensive framework and network for the TaiwanICDF's international medical assistance.

Currently, medical missions are mainly staffed by medical professionals. In the future, the TaiwanICDF will delegate members of the Taiwan Youth Overseas Service with backgrounds in public health to serve in these missions, injecting new blood into the public health projects being waged in developing countries. In addition, the Mobile Medical Mission model will be promoted and the TaiwanICDF will work in conjunction with the Strategic Alliance for International Health and Medicine.

This will increase the number of people engaging in international medical assistance and expand Taiwan's contribution to the international community.



▲The shortage of medical resources is a common issue for people living in remote areas.

Community Health and Sanitation Project Phase II in Uzbekistan

The TaiwanICDF previously cooperated with Mercy Corps in January-July 2004 to promote public health education and improve sanitation infrastructure in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan under the Central Asia Community Health and Sanitation Project.

In light of the positive results in Phase I of the project, the TaiwanICDF in November 2005 began carrying out the Phase II Project, which will last for one year. Eight communities in the Ferghana Valley region of Uzbekistan have been targeted for assistance. In early 2006, the TaiwanICDF sent two short-term volunteers with expertise in public health to Uzbekistan, carrying out public health education with Mercy Corps staff in the area. It is expected that over 30,000 people living in these communities will learn about basic health concepts through this project.

Statistics indicate that prior to the program, only about half of the area's residents understood the reasons for contracting diarrhea, the importance of washing one's hands, measures to ensure food safety and to store clean drinking water. Upon the completion of the project, about 90% of residents had a fundamental understanding of public health and personal hygiene.

The ultimate goal of the project is to establish a mechanism to continue improving community health and public sanitation habits. In the future, all of the public

health mechanisms and hardware in these communities will be integrated and a memorandum will be signed with the Uzbekistan Health Ministry ensuring that health topics will be included in school curriculum and health and sanitation infrastructure will be increased. In addition, a health volunteers training program will be carried out to gradually cultivate qualified instructors who will regularly hold training workshops in health education. Under this plan, community opinion leaders will be urged to participate in this training and attend discussions and conferences on bolstering public health and sanitation infrastructure.

