

# Vision



## A Look Ahead

As we approach 2005, we should take a moment to reflect on our past year's accomplishments, and, at the same time, focus on goals for the coming year ahead. Just as individuals frequently engage in introspection, agencies and organizations often do the same thing. In the case of an organization, weaknesses must be corrected and areas of strength identified and built upon. As Taiwan's principal body overseeing international cooperation and development, the TaiwanICDF, under the auspices of the MOFA, must also review its past operations and carefully plan organizational objectives for the future.

During 2004, the TaiwanICDF successfully implemented a wide variety of programs with the strong support of its Board of Directors and Supervisors, the MOFA, and, of course, its local and overseas staff. The passion and expertise displayed by the TaiwanICDF team is not only setting a strong foundation for future international development operations, but is also helping to achieve new milestones in Taiwan's foreign assistance work. In the past year, the TaiwanICDF has introduced a variety of new operations that further international cooperation on a global scale. In doing so, the TaiwanICDF has transcended the limits usually associated with international development work. For example, the Fund is utilizing Taiwan's competitive advantages in IT to develop new cooperation models. In response to the policy objectives formulated at the APEC Leaders' Summit to reduce educational inequalities, the TaiwanICDF continues to work with World Links to create telecenters in allied countries and to establish computer labs at local schools within these nations. The TaiwanICDF and National Tsing Hua University have also jointly established a masters program in technology management to train technologists from partner nations. Experts have also been sent to friendly countries to hold seminars on the IT industry. All of these measures are assisting the international community in reducing the "digital divide" in emerging countries, developing opportunities in related industries, and training human resources in this field.

Over the past year, the TaiwanICDF has also worked in tandem with the government's policy of "people's diplomacy" to expand the number of persons in its Overseas Volunteers and Youth Overseas Service programs. This provides even more opportunities for citizens of Taiwan to serve overseas in allied and friendly countries and make a contribution, thus widening their own global view while becoming heartily involved in diplomatic work. The above-mentioned programs have become quite popular with young people in Taiwan. Members in both of these programs have made outstanding contributions at the grassroots level, and their work overseas has been lauded both at home and in host countries alike. The TaiwanICDF also undertakes humanitarian assistance and technical cooperation programs to complement the government's efforts to obtain entry into the WHO. TaiwanICDF programs provide cooperating nations with medical and public health aid, just one

example of its tangible methods of repaying the international community. In addition, humanitarian assistance is also helping to strengthen Taiwan's international image.

International cooperation and development encompasses everything from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development. These programs, however, require specialized skills, passion, personnel, and resources. Given Taiwan's unique diplomatic status, the TaiwanICDF bears the important responsibility of carrying out international cooperation work. In the year ahead, the TaiwanICDF will continue to employ creative thinking in finding ways to further its development work. While heeding operational efficiency guidelines and internal controls, the TaiwanICDF will work toward the following goals:

### **Raising Its Image; Creating an International Cooperation Network**

International cooperation and development work is quite arduous, requiring innovative thinking by specialized teams. In the future, the TaiwanICDF will continue to strengthen its human resources through various training programs. It will also broaden cooperation and information exchanges with international organizations and NGOs. The TaiwanICDF seeks to study the project implementation operational models of various international organizations in order to raise its own level of expertise and build its image. The TaiwanICDF seeks to play the role of an interface manager, coordinating activities among agencies participating in various projects and balancing needs and supplies in terms of international cooperation. The TaiwanICDF will also create a network that integrates information on domestic and foreign NGOs in order to introduce multilateral resources that can be used in cooperation programs. It will establish avenues for information exchanges and serve as a catalyst for international cooperation.

### **Stressing Sustainable Development; Expanding International Activities**

Sustainable international cooperation and development includes short-term relief efforts and long-term development programs. The scope of cooperation covers emergency relief, reconstruction, and sustainable development. Most non-governmental relief agencies focus primarily on providing emergency humanitarian assistance and are less involved in longer-term developmental aid. In the future, the TaiwanICDF can appropriately utilize its specialized knowledge and abundant international cooperation experience to serve as the vital link in connecting short- and long-term assistance projects. This linkage is even further strengthened by the TaiwanICDF's experience in planning and carrying out cooperative projects aimed at alleviating poverty, protecting the environment and its ecosystems, promoting democracy and human rights, and other global efforts related to sustainable development. Since no single agency or nation can address these issues alone, cooperation is needed on a nation-to-nation, continent-to-continent, and multi-organizational basis in various regions. The TaiwanICDF can utilize these cooperative exchanges to execute sustainable development projects and spark further cooperation. This will enable more interaction with the international community and expand Taiwan's participation on the international stage.

### Involving the Populace; Looking for Support

In addition to specialized skills and lots of passion, foreign assistance work requires the support of a nation's populace. In recent years, Japan, one of the largest providers of official development assistance (ODA) in the world, has focused on promoting public participation in its development cooperation activities, thus deepening the understanding of the country's assistance policies both within Japan and abroad. In keeping up with this global trend in ODA, the TaiwanICDF has encouraged people in Taiwan to become more familiar with and participate in international cooperation work. Development work requires more than just specialized knowledge and support from the MOFA or the TaiwanICDF. In fact, achieving success requires the backing of society in general. International development work is not only about doing beneficial work on an international level to repay the global community, but also about providing an opportunity for a nation's people to participate in international affairs and display concern for the whole world. In the future, the TaiwanICDF will continue to utilize publicity activities both through the mass media and on an individual basis to enable the Taiwanese people to understand the Fund's international cooperation operations more comprehensively. This is expected to win the support and recognition of the populace for the TaiwanICDF's efforts.

The Fund aims to provide Taiwan's expertise and experience to countries that require such assistance, hoping to create real opportunities and achieve the goals of sustainable development at all levels. In the days ahead, the TaiwanICDF will set its sights on the entire world. It will be a partner with developing countries in providing investment and lending, technical cooperation, international human resource development, and humanitarian assistance programs. Together, the TaiwanICDF and host countries will work in unison to achieve the objective of building a better tomorrow. Globalization is an irreversible trend in world development, and the TaiwanICDF has every intention of harnessing the forces of the new global economy to help developing nations. At this crucial point in time, the Fund is determined to play an active role in international development and intends to participate even more actively in international cooperation operations, to highlight issues that need attention, and to make contributions on a global scale. We believe that Taiwan can help the world become a better place. In this new year we are full of hope, energy, and confidence. We look forward to the challenges of the year ahead and to reaching new heights.



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