

Special Reports



2001 was an exciting and noteworthy year for the ICDF. In addition to marking its fifth anniversary in June, the organization participated in innovative programs allowing more Taiwanese citizens to contribute to its international development operations, deepened its humanitarian assistance efforts worldwide, continued to attack the roots of poverty in developing nations, and strengthened its educational programs.

Perhaps the most significant operational development in 2001 was the ICDF's participation in the Diplomatic Alternative Service program, the ROC's most concrete effort to date to realize the ideal of civilian-based diplomacy. The ICDF accepted responsibility for the professional and linguistic training of the first recruits in the program, and now manages their work in Africa, Central and South America and the Asia Pacific region. The launch of the Diplomatic Alternative Service program was truly a landmark in the ROC's cultural and diplomatic history.

In addition to the Diplomatic Alternative Service program, this year the ICDF Volunteers program trained its latest contingent of talented Taiwanese men and women, who are now working in overseas technical and medical service missions.

The ICDF in 2001 solidified its commitment to disaster relief and humanitarian assistance worldwide. In addition to providing urgently needed immediate disaster relief in Mongolia and post-disaster reconstruction in El Salvador and Peru, the ICDF for the first time formally included humanitarian aid funding in its annual budget, and contributed to the drafting of new laws which specifically incorporate "humanitarian concern" into ROC foreign aid goals. These developments will allow the ICDF to better respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises in the future.

One area of human development is consistently at the forefront of ICDF efforts: the alleviation of poverty. The ICDF employs a multifaceted poverty reduction strategy that includes rural and agricultural development, improved educational opportunities, modern medical care and facilities, provision of credit to enable business growth, and government institution capacity building to encourage democracy and citizen participation. Success in these undertakings will reduce poverty and improve social conditions, foster social and economic equality of opportunity, and maintain citizen rights.

Responding to the ever-growing need for high-level, skilled professionals, the ICDF this year expanded its educational cooperation with National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, and also teamed up with National Chengchi University on a graduate international business management program.

The special reports in this section examine these various ICDF international cooperation activities, all of which attest the ROC's commitment to the cultivation of a peaceful, thriving, equitable international environment. Through its work, the ICDF hopes to play a positive role in international affairs and realize the vision of "making the ROC a better place and reaching out to the world."



Overseas Volunteers and the Diplomatic Alternative Service

Civilian-based Diplomacy

Civilian-based diplomacy is both an attitude, with which Taiwan accords itself with international trends, and a method, which the nation employs as it widens its cooperation with partner nations worldwide. The goals of civilian-based diplomacy, quite simply, are to tap into the strengths of Taiwan's government and private sector resources in order to deepen the value and broaden the scope of the nation's cooperative international activities.

As an attitude, civilian-based diplomacy emerges from what has perhaps been the single most influential worldwide trend since the end of the Cold War: democratization. Democracy, by definition, includes increased civilian participation in a nation's affairs, and government respect for and obeisance to popular opinion in state matters. It is these three principles—democracy, civilian sector participation, and respect for public opinion, “the three principles of the people”—that guide Taiwan's international cooperation activities. In terms of democracy, Taiwan is firmly committed to using its own democratic experience and its ties to international human rights and democratic institutions to help create an international environment in which peace and democracy thrive. The principle of civilian participation means the nation will draw on the human resources of its private sector to achieve lasting and authentic results in its international coopera-

tion efforts. Finally, the principle of respect for public opinion means that Taiwan's government will maintain open communication with the nation's people, thus giving the public a strong voice in cooperative diplomatic policies.

As a method, civilian-based diplomacy comes into its own, and has produced concrete results that have benefited all of the countries Taiwan cooperates with, and strengthened the nation's technical and medical missions in those countries. The growing scope and needs of this international cooperation network require continual infusions of skilled human resources in order to sustain beneficial efforts. The two principal, practical constituents of Taiwanese civilian-based diplomacy—overseas volunteers and the Diplomatic Alternative Service—are doing much to alleviate concern in this respect, and providing other important benefits as well. ICDF volunteers have been bolstering overseas technical and medical missions with energy and new skills for many years. The ICDF has come to depend on the infusions of talent that its groups of volunteers provide annually. The Diplomatic Alternative Service, which allows Taiwanese conscripts to assist in ICDF overseas technical and medical missions, is a new program, which formally got under way in 2001. Both of these programs amply illustrate the international reach, aims and accomplishments of Taiwan's civilian-based diplomacy. They are

Figure 1. Overseas Volunteers Host Regions: 1996-2001

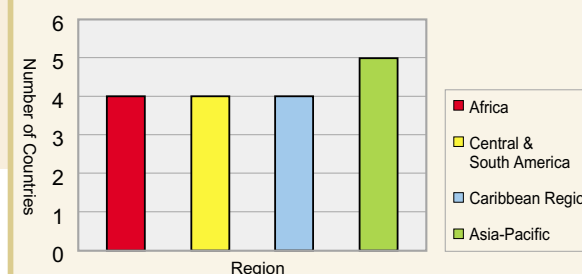
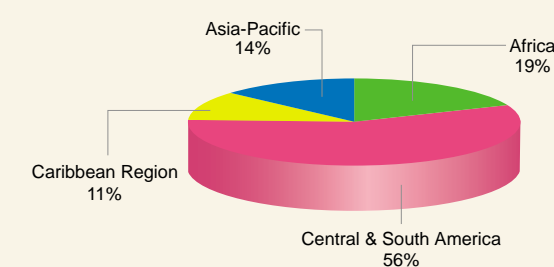


Figure 2. Overseas Volunteers Personnel: 1996-2001



not only injecting fresh enthusiasm and talent into the nation's technical and medical missions, but enlarging and refining its overall diplomatic posture as well.

ICDF Volunteers

2001 was a good year for volunteers worldwide, and those in Taiwan in particular. The UN began the year by naming 2001 “International Year of Volunteers.” Then, in February, a team of Taiwanese volunteers attended the 16th World Volunteer Convention in Amsterdam. Representatives from more than 100 nations applauded the nation's volunteer spirit and expressed keen interest in Taiwan's Volunteer Service Act. Additionally, President Chen Shui-bian kept his focus trained on his “Volunteer Taiwan” vision, which he had first described in his inaugural address in May 2000, when he said “the driving force for economic development and societal progress comes from the people,” and “with the spirit of a ‘volunteer Taiwan,’ Taiwan's new family will stand up resolutely once again.”

The ICDF enthusiastically embraces Chen's vision. Indeed, the ICDF has a significant and growing role in encouraging altruistic Taiwanese citizens to volunteer in economic and social development work in nations worldwide. Since its founding, volunteers under the ICDF banner have contributed their skills and energy to many of the nations the ICDF cooperates with,

including Swaziland, Honduras, Costa Rica, Malawi, Panama, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Grenada, Fiji, Senegal, Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands, São Tomé and Príncipe, Nicaragua and Myanmar. Basing its approach on America's venerable Peace Corps, the first team of overseas volunteers was sent to the Kingdom of Swaziland to perform consulting and assistance services in 1996. This group paved the way for greater Taiwanese international volunteer involvement, and to date the ICDF has trained and dispatched 72 volunteers—including the most recent group of 14 in fall 2001—who have provided assistance in disaster relief, language instruction and other subjects, computer usage, vocational training, medicine and public health, small business management consulting, rural community development, and agricultural extension. Volunteers are stationed in developing nations with which Taiwan has formal diplomatic relations, and developing nations that do not formally recognize Taiwan, but which are interested in cooperative economic development and improved bilateral ties. Apart from giving the host nations urgently needed assistance, the volunteers also gain valuable life and work experience. Their interaction with their fellows in host countries facilitates mutual understanding, fosters lasting relationships, and ultimately strengthens sincere international friendships.



- ① Ceremony for the ICDF Volunteers and Diplomatic Alternative Service program
- ② ICDF volunteers
- ③ Diplomatic Alternative Service program recruits learn emergency rescue techniques

To ensure professionalism, ICDF volunteers receive at least three months of intensive training before they are dispatched overseas. Training covers a wide range of subjects, including language development, specialized professional subjects, the volunteer spirit and ideals, host country expectations, survival and first aid techniques, and mental preparation. Further instruction is held in host countries, where volunteers receive thorough orientation on the culture and traditions of the host country, and intensive language instruction from native speakers.

Volunteers serve for two years, assisting in technical and medical missions, and working at the grassroots level of community development. They not only bring Taiwan's practical economic development experience to nations around the world, but also participate in rich cultural exchange, bringing glimpses of Chinese culture to faraway locales, and themselves absorbing and learning from the new cultures they are volunteering in. In addition to these attributes, dispatching volunteers around the globe provides a solid foundation for a new generation of technical and medical mission personnel, and even personnel for Taiwan's diplomatic corps. Please see the figures 1-2, "Overseas Volunteers Host Nations" and "Overseas Volunteers Personnel" for additional information about ICDF overseas volunteers.

Diplomatic Alternative Service

Taiwan's civilian-based diplomacy has found another concrete expression in the recently founded Diplomatic Alternative Service program. Diplomatic Alternative Service represents a concerted effort by the Taiwanese government to direct the energies of the nation's citizens into the fulfillment of civilian-based diplomacy ideals. The Diplomatic Alternative Service first took shape when MOFA drafted the Overseas Cooperation Service Conscription Proposal in 1996. With the backing of MOFA and the Ministry of the Interior's Department of Conscription, the Overseas Service Conscription Proposal was sent to the Executive Yuan for review in July 2000. Initially, the proposal was not approved, but during his tour of technical and medical mission facilities in Central and South America and Africa in August 2000, President Chen Shui-bian saw firsthand the potential of

a shortage of human resources at the missions, and a lack of younger personnel. To ensure the continuity of mission operations, President Chen announced on August 28, 2000 that he would devote his full efforts to promoting a Diplomatic Alternative Service. In response, MOFA redoubled its efforts, and lawmakers approved the Diplomatic Alternative Service on October 23, 2000.

The first recruits in the Diplomatic Alternative Service program were selected based on their skills in agricultural technology, hydraulic engineering, medicine, vocational training and computer science. While the program was originally slated to have 35 recruits, the number was increased to 40 because of enthusiastic response. After a rigorous screening process, 37 Diplomatic Alternative Service recruits were selected to serve in the program early in 2001. MOFA assigned the ICDF the tasks of planning and

implementing professional and language training for the program. After the recruits received basic training, the ICDF assumed control and gave them 12 weeks of specialized professional training (the two most important subjects were agricultural science and medicine), foreign language instruction (recruits variously studied English, Spanish, French and Portuguese), and academic work in diplomatic affairs and international cooperation. These recruits were dispatched to 21 friendly nations in November 2001 to perform services according to their areas of expertise. See figures 3-5, "Diplomatic Alternative Service Recruit Host Nations," "Diplomatic Alternative Service Recruits," and "Diplomatic Alternative Service Recruit Areas of Specialization" for additional information about recruits and this program.

The services of this highly-qualified group of young men will add fresh vigor and professionalism to Taiwan's technical

Figure 3. Diplomatic Alternative Service Recruit Host Regions, 2001

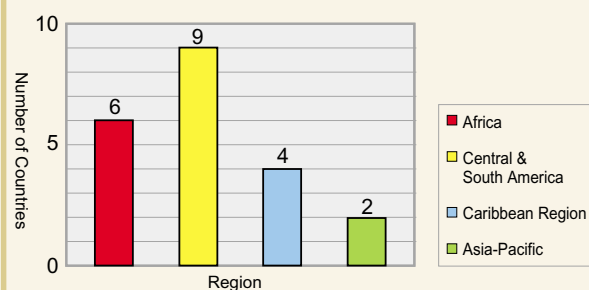


Figure 4. Diplomatic Alternative Service Recruits, 2001

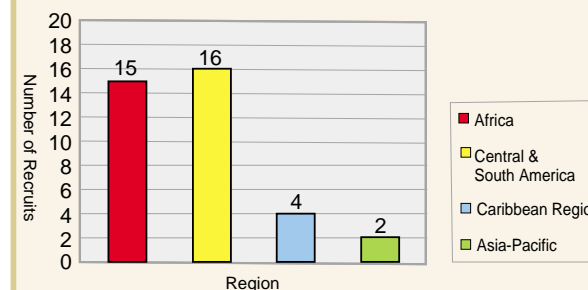
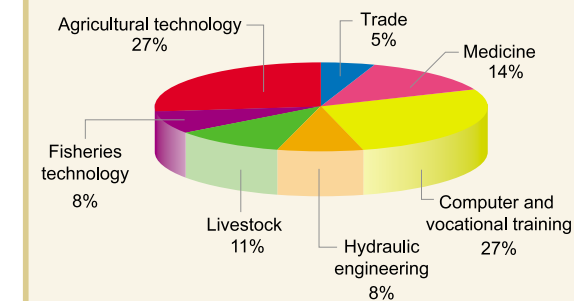


Figure 5. Diplomatic Alternative Service Recruit Areas of Specialization





① ROC President Chen Shui-bian greets Diplomatic Alternative Service program trainees
 ② ICDF overseas volunteers
 ③ Children gather near home rebuilding in Europe

missions, and as they gain experience it is hoped that many will continue to work in missions, “accepting the torch” from the older generation of technical and medical personnel. In addition to these rewards, these young recruits now serving as Taiwan’s “grassroots ambassadors” will in the future be given priority when foreign service specialist examinations are given in Taiwan. Diplomatic Alternative Service members will thus not only improve Taiwan’s cooperation work now, but in the future they may strengthen the nation’s diplomatic corps. Philip Lo, 23, a Diplomatic Alternative Service member who now works in the medical mission in Mzuzu, Malawi, made a comment before he began his service that epitomized the aims of these young men and this program. Looking toward his upcoming challenges, Lo said, “I want to be a different person in three months. I want to be a different kind of doctor. I want to learn more from different experiences of being in another country and culture.”

Conclusion

With the ICDF’s assignment of overseas volunteers, and the implementation of the Diplomatic Alternative Service program, Taiwan’s civilian-based diplomacy is becoming more tangible and functional. The ICDF Volunteers and the Diplomatic Alternative Service are realizing exciting new concepts in cooperative development, and serving as vital links between the present and the future in technical and medical missions. Civilian-based diplomacy based on these two programs is enhancing Taiwan’s international stature, and creating productive interaction with friendly nations—whether formally allied or unallied with Taiwan—through joint international cooperation. These two programs show that civilian-based diplomacy and participation in cooperative international affairs is a practical and effective diplomatic attitude and method.

International Humanitarian Assistance

The Pressing Needs of International Humanitarian Assistance

According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCRC), global climate change, changing socioeconomic patterns, and sprawling human development have led to a growing threat of natural disasters. Globally during the 1990s, natural disasters killed an average of almost 1,300 people every week. Ninety-eight percent of the victims of these disasters lived in countries with low or medium human development. These figures are frightening in their own right, but the IFRCRC also points out that although the actual number of disasters is relatively stable, the total number of people impacted by disasters, and associated costs, have risen dramatically. In 2000, 256 million people were affected by disasters, up from an average of 211 million per year during the 1990s. Since the 1950s, costs associated with natural disasters have increased 14-fold. It is unnecessary to state that natural disasters are a threat to human society, and that everything that can be done, must be done, to prevent and mitigate their damage.

Some research indicates that global climate change and associated environmental problems such as deforestation and desertification are root causes of an increase in the magnitude of certain types of natural disasters. A major problem, the IFRCRC says, is the increase in hydro-meteorological disasters such as floods, windstorms and droughts, which may be linked to climate

change. Also important, however, are the effects of human demographic patterns on the human toll of disasters in the world. Increases in poverty and resultant poor living conditions, and construction of cities and communities in dangerous areas (some 40 of 50 of the world’s fastest-growing cities are located in earthquake zones, according to the IFRCRC, and towns and villages in flood-prone areas have long been a human development problem) have exacerbated the effects of world disasters.

Apart from natural disasters, human conflict has also disrupted societies and created refugees, many who find themselves living in squalid, dangerous conditions far from their homes. Children are especially at risk during refugee crises. The statistics are terrifying, but the UN estimates that over the last decade, two million children have been killed in conflict, over one million have lost their parents, and well over half of the world’s displaced people are children.

To heal the human misery and repair the material destruction caused by man-made and natural disasters, international and regional aid and development groups, NGOs, national governments and local communities are working harder to increase humanitarian assistance and coordinate their activities. The ICDF is itself deeply involved in this work, and emergency assistance (in concert with the groups noted above) to allies or countries friendly to the ROC always takes priority in ICDF work. The organization’s very Statute states that it shall provide “humanitarian aid to international refugees or



- ① Hurricane Mitch reconstruction project
- ② A girl expresses gratitude for the Mongolia Blizzard Relief project
- ③ ICDF medical service mission



countries suffering from natural disasters” (Chapter 1, Article 7). In this report we shall examine the ICDF's cooperative humanitarian assistance projects, with their overall aims of not only providing emergency assistance to countries and peoples distressed by disasters, but also of implementing long-term reconstruction and development projects that include sound disaster prevention measures within overall community development. This work is helping people put their lives back in order and become more self-reliant, and is creating the conditions for safer lives in the future.

Origin and Development of ROC Humanitarian Assistance

The ROC government began participating in international relief and humanitarian assistance undertakings during its rapid economic expansion in the 1980s. The International Disaster Relief Aid Fund was established in 1990 to strengthen overseas disaster relief and humanitarian aid operations, and the ROC government began including funding for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance in its regular budgets. The ROC has also worked to create a sound legal basis for the nation's humanitarian assistance efforts, including the creation of the International Cooperation Development Act, which is being reviewed by the national legislature, and which incorporates humanitarian relief among the country's foreign aid goals. Taiwanese private charitable groups including the Tzu

Chi Association, Fokuangshan Association, Rotary Club, Lion's Club, World Vision Taiwan, Children's Welfare League Foundation of Taiwan, and Taiwan Root have also provided resources for overseas humanitarian assistance work.

The people of the ROC have joined their government, the nation's charities and NGOs in contributing money and human resources during disasters worldwide in recent years. The ROC has not forgotten the outpouring of international support that followed the “921” earthquake in September 1999. Since that time, the ROC government has helped other nations stricken by earthquakes, including El Salvador and India in 2001.

With its many disaster relief policies and programs, the ROC government, working in conjunction with the nation's populace and private sector, has initiated a policy of “humanitarian diplomacy.” President Chen Shui-bian has emphasized that the ROC must increase its participation in international NGOs with humanitarian aims. Because this policy offers a productive and benevolent means by which the ROC can contribute to the international community, the country will continue to pursue it vigorously.

ICDF Humanitarian Assistance

The ICDF has included humanitarian assistance funding in its annual budget since the start of fiscal year 2001, and is currently planning and executing programs to respond to overseas natural disasters and refugee crises. This work includes emergency relief

in the aftermath of disasters, post-disaster resettlement assistance, and long-term reconstruction programs. Goals of these programs include not only restoring social conditions to normal, but also development of safer environments than existed before disasters. This last point is most important to consider. The IFRCRC's World Disasters Report 2001 says that, “in the past, post-disaster reconstruction has focused too much on rebuilding physical infrastructure. But there is more to recovery than concrete.” Nobody understands this better than citizens who have lived through disasters and are then attempting to rebuild their lives and plan for better, safer futures. Several recent ICDF projects illustrate how ICDF disaster relief work conforms to this view.

Hurricane Mitch struck Central America ferociously in October 1998, and the ROC's response to the unfolding disaster was swift. The nation had a delegation in Central America within days, and by early November 1998 the ICDF had set up a mission to appraise the damage. The ICDF went to work with the OAS, emergency lending was arranged, and work immediately began on reconstruction of destroyed communities in northern and central Nicaragua. Community Housing Commissions were created and citizen work teams began construction projects. Physical infrastructure work included safer housing, better designed communities with housing relocated away from riverbanks, and improved water, health care and other public facilities. The end result, when

the first 838 houses constructed in the program were completed in August 2000, was much more than the reconstruction of houses lost to Hurricane Mitch. It was, said Nicaraguan President Arnoldo Aleman, a “transformation of Nicaraguan rural life.”

This year, the ICDF conducted the El Salvador Earthquake Reconstruction Project in January, and the Peru Earthquake Reconstruction Project in June. These projects helped El Salvador and Peru implement second-stage reconstruction projects. The El Salvador project helped residents build bamboo houses, while in Peru, earthquake-resistant adobe brick houses were built. In what is becoming the ICDF's standard approach to post-disaster reconstruction, these projects mobilized the combined skills of ICDF technical missions, international organizations, NGOs, national governments, and of course, local communities. Local institutions were strengthened during rebuilding, citizens attained valuable work skills, and new community leadership emerged—all keys to sustainable recovery.

In another important emergency relief project in 2001, the ICDF conducted the Mongolia Blizzard Relief Project in January, to assist residents who had suffered livestock and financial losses after severe blizzards pounded the country. This project, which included the donation of emergency relief payments, gave stricken families the necessities of life as soon as possible after the emergency, and helped them during the difficult post-disaster period.



In the area of improved village-level medical services, equipment and facilities, the ICDF has established medical service missions in a number of nations in Africa. Apart from providing routine inpatient, outpatient and surgical services at existing hospitals and clinics, medical mission personnel also provide services in remote areas. Additionally, the ICDF is striving to improve standards of grassroots-level medical care in the Eastern Caribbean region by providing funding in its annual budget for the Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Donation Program. This program is strengthening medical equipment and facilities in four nations of the region, improving the quality of community medical services, and helping these island nations deliver medical services to isolated areas. These programs, while not in response to immediate disasters, could well prevent potential health emergencies, and are also establishing better medical infrastructure and services that could be used in the event of future natural disasters.

The Future of ICDF Humanitarian Assistance Operations

As a conscientious member of international society, the ROC considers it its duties to contribute to world welfare and fulfill its international responsibilities. Moreover, the ROC government remains grateful to the world for aid it has received during past disasters. Consequently, in the future the ICDF, in accordance with its statutory obligations, will strengthen its international human-

itarian assistance operations by developing in the following directions:

Expanding the Scope of International Humanitarian Assistance Operations

The ICDF's current international humanitarian assistance operations consist primarily of natural disaster relief, resettlement assistance, post-disaster reconstruction work, and grassroots-level medical services. In the future, the scope of ICDF humanitarian assistance efforts will be expanded to include assistance for international refugees and displaced persons, with the goals of resettlement and return to normal lives and, when possible, the provision of long-term socioeconomic development packages. In light of the correlation of humanitarian aid and basic human rights, and to deepen the content of its humanitarian assistance operations, the ICDF is also considering incorporating human rights preconditions within its humanitarian assistance work, such as basic education, health, nutrition, sanitation, poverty relief, and care and protection of children.

Increasing the Range of Humanitarian Aid Recipients

The ICDF currently provides the bulk of its humanitarian assistance operations to nations formally allied with the ROC. Believing that humanitarian assistance is a universal value, however, the ICDF will endeavor in the future to provide humanitarian assistance not only to allied nations, but



also to other friendly developing nations and their citizens in true need of assistance.

Strengthening Cooperation with NGOs

Many Taiwanese social welfare organizations and humanitarian aid groups have made noteworthy contributions to international humanitarian aid work. In light of their experience, and shared cultural bonds with the ICDF, the ICDF will extend cooperation with these NGOs in the future. On the larger stage, the ICDF will also strengthen ties with international NGOs (such as World Vision Taiwan and the International Red Cross), which have extensive knowledge and practical experience in humanitarian aid work. The ICDF believes that partnerships with NGOs large and small will make its own humanitarian assistance operations even more international and professional.

Balancing Emergency Relief and Long-term Development

In the most limited sense, humanitarian assistance consists solely of rapid emergency relief in the wake of crisis. But many of the most difficult challenges—reconstruction of homes and public facilities, reformation of people's livelihoods, and the sparks of community rebirth and "hope building"—occur after immediate relief efforts have been concluded. Long-term assistance is therefore of the utmost importance. Particularly in the case of developing countries, assistance for social, educational and economic development in stricken areas deeply affects future

prospects. The ICDF consequently will balance and harmonize its emphasis on emergency relief and long-term development projects. Following emergency relief and resettlement assistance during the early stages of a crisis, the ICDF will assess the situation and then plan medium and long-term socioeconomic, educational and infrastructure development programs, bringing to bear the combined efforts of its technical assistance, lending and education and training resources.



① Grain development extension training in Malawi
② ICDF alumni visited the Youth Welfare Art Village in Panchimalco, El Salvador



International Cooperation and Human Rights Development

Human Rights Diplomacy

The ROC wishes to be a fully contributing member of international society, to respect and abide by accepted international values, and to participate broadly in cooperative international affairs. The nation's basic beliefs that human rights are at the foundation of economic and social development underpin its active international cooperation and collaborative foreign aid work and the "human rights diplomacy" espoused by the ROC government.

The Scope of Human Rights

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that human rights are based on the principles of equality and the "inherent dignity of all members of the human family." Apart from commonly acknowledged rights of citizenship, political participation, freedom of speech, security and equal protection under the law, the scope of human rights should also comprise the economic, social and cultural rights of individuals. These include the right to work, the right to a basic standard of living, and the right to education. Further, the Declaration on the Right to Development, issued by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, states, "The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development."

This Declaration charges nations with "the duty to take steps, individually and collectively, to formulate international development policies with a view to facilitating the full realization of the right to development." The means by which nations may fulfill this mission include the formulation and implementation of policy, legislation and other necessary measures. These admirable documents make clear that eliminating poverty, establishing good governance, maintaining equality of opportunity, protecting disadvantaged groups, and promoting full participation in society are all key preconditions to the attainment of human rights.

Human Rights and Development

To coin a phrase, there are no human rights where there is no development, and there can be no sustainable development when there are no human rights. Thus, international development organizations are promoting economic development as a means of advancing human rights. The principal step in economic development is the alleviation of poverty. Poverty, of course, results in intolerable problems such as inadequate public health care, high levels of infant and child mortality, the menace of illegal or immoral child labor, deficient educational opportunities, and insufficient community and national infrastructure. Terrible in their own right, these problems in turn intensify inequality, diminish economic opportunity, and erode human rights. A multitiered

strategy is necessary to alleviate poverty and its concomitant conditions:

- Implementation of rural and agricultural development to provide the basic requirements for life and to increase economic productivity.
- Provision of better educational opportunities to strengthen human resources.
- Improvement of medical care and facilities to minimize threats to health and nutrition.
- Availability of micro-credit to resolve problems of unequal opportunity.
- Strengthening of government institutions through capacity building, modernization and personnel training.

With this strategy in effect, children in underdeveloped countries will be safer and healthier, the hardships borne by women and other disadvantaged groups can be reduced, an educated workforce can emerge, businesses can grow upward from the foundation, and governments can become more efficient and effective. The end result can be widespread poverty reduction—the primary step in economic development and resulting human rights.

ICDF Promotion of Economic Development and Human Rights

In its efforts to alleviate poverty in partner nations and foster human rights, the ICDF has designed and executed development projects that incorporate the strategies and principles outlined above. Below are some of the aims and results of these projects.

Poverty Alleviation

Rural and Agricultural Development

Cooperative agricultural technology projects are at the heart of the ICDF's mission. In consideration of limited natural resources and the need for sustainability, ICDF agricultural projects place balanced emphasis on production and the appropriate use of resources. Grain output enhancement projects in Africa have made full use of local human and material resources, adapted plans to local environmental conditions, employed and developed the most appropriate agricultural technologies, and worked systematically to resolve Africa's agricultural problems. ICDF projects developing rice—the world's most important staple food according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization—have had extremely beneficial effects in Africa. Other key agriculture and rural development work in Africa, Central and South America and Asia has included:

- Livestock and aquaculture development have introduced valuable new industries and products such as pork, shrimp and fish, that were previously unavailable in different countries and regions.
- Fruit and vegetable projects have helped farmers raise their incomes and achieve self-sufficiency. High-value crops such as tomato, chili pepper, watermelon, garlic and melons have been introduced, and flowers have also proven to be valuable cash crops.



1 Orphans in El Salvador help collect vegetables
2 Farmers harvesting crops in Malawi



- Water supply, irrigation development, land reclamation and forestation have taken place in areas with fragile or degraded land and water resources.
- Cooperative Production Marketing Teams have more efficiently brought the fruits of ICDF projects to market, and created strong new working relationships within and among communities.

Educational Development

The ICDF has numerous education projects that are preparing citizens of all ages for more productive employment, as well as enabling them to better contribute to their local and national polities, thereby strengthening human rights. The ICDF is conducting scholarship programs in the Eastern Caribbean region, Africa and Mongolia, offering scholarships to primary and middle school students. In conjunction with educational reform projects conducted by other international organizations, the ICDF is also promoting and developing systematic vocational education in many Central American countries.

Medical Care

The ICDF has medical service missions in many African nations, and is helping nations in the Eastern Caribbean region improve medical facilities, make available medical services in remote areas, and provide essential medicines.

When disasters and crises occur, the ICDF dispenses initial emergency aid,

followed by post-disaster reconstruction projects. These efforts have helped affected communities survive, rebuild their homes, and restore normal lives.

Equal Economic Opportunity

Many commercial banks in developing nations are unwilling to lend to socially and economically disadvantaged groups, such as women, micro-enterprise owners, and small farmers. To ease the difficulties these people face in obtaining lending, international development organizations have created rural savings and loan and micro-credit institutions to help individuals and small enterprises obtain funds to launch new businesses or expand existing ones. To enable people to create and expand employment opportunities, and earn sufficient incomes, the ICDF now views the development of micro-, small and medium enterprises as one of its most important goals. Consequently, the ICDF now cooperates with many financial organizations and NGOs to help individuals, small farmers, farmer's associations and small enterprises in the Eastern Caribbean region, Central and South America, Asia and Europe obtain financing to create and grow businesses. Re-lending and micro-credit projects now account for 53 percent of the ICDF's financing budget. To maintain the availability and sustainability of appropriate financial services, ICDF lending projects are designed to strengthen financial and organizational systems in the nations it cooperates with.

Protection of Disadvantaged Groups

In order to improve the economic and social status of women, the ICDF is conducting vocational training projects that are helping women in Central and South America and Africa participate in handicrafts production and sewing projects, and subsequently to obtain lending and gain employment or start businesses. Additionally, ICDF social and community infrastructure development includes water supply projects that reduce the amount of time women must spend carrying water, giving them more time to care for their families and engage in productive activities. As noted above, ICDF education projects increase educational opportunity, which aids many disadvantaged groups, perhaps most importantly, girls.

ICDF agricultural and environmental projects improve the quality of life of disadvantaged groups, as well as the overall development of their communities. Nutritious foods and the production and sale of new farm products are being developed, and in areas with fragile or degraded land and water resources, the ICDF helps local governments with tree propagation, erosion prevention or water use planning.

Government Capacity Building

To improve efficiency and effectiveness, governments must not only draft beneficial policies and projects, but also establish able, transparent implementing organizations and personnel with sufficient administrative

expertise. The ICDF is providing equipment and consulting services enabling governments to reform and strengthen their agencies and personnel. Annual government policy seminars and projects provide training to foreign government officials while sharing the ROC's economic development experience. Using an established method that other international organizations have employed during the planning and implementation of such seminars and projects, the ICDF emphasizes active contributions by project participants. In one major example, these varied approaches and methods are coming together in the ICDF's participation in an ambitious project to increase the capacity and modernize the Dominican Republic National Congress and the Office of the Comptroller General.

Working with NGOs

The growing impact of NGOs, and their unique and useful grassroots ability to extend the positive results of development projects, has been noted. NGOs have become some of the most influential actors in the global move toward extended democratic participation for all citizens, and thus working with them encourages the spread of human rights everywhere. Currently, the ROC government cooperates with over 900 international NGOs. As well, numerous NGOs have set up headquarters or secretariats in the ROC, and Taiwanese organizations have hosted or participated in many NGO



1

1 A Malawi market
2 Farmers harvesting crops



2

meetings and activities (information from the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs). In its projects and programs encouraging human rights, the ICDF will continue to establish

cooperative relationships with Taiwanese and international NGOs, as well as NGOs located in nations the ICDF cooperates with.

ICDF Project Human Rights Issues and Objectives

Measure	Human Rights Issues	Objectives	Projects
Economic development	Equality of economic opportunity	Employment expansion and equitable income distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector development Micro-credit projects Agricultural projects
		Increase of financial services recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial system strengthening Micro-credit projects Small farmer lending projects SME financing
		Sustainable utilization of natural resources and environmental conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply projects Environmental protection projects
Social development	Equality of social opportunity	Elimination of gender biases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's micro-credit projects
		Human resources development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education projects Vocational training
		Improved child welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's scholarship programs
		Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply projects Tree-planting projects Health and medical services Grain output increase projects
		Community development and self-reliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-disaster reconstruction Agricultural development Rural development Hydraulic engineering planning Water supply projects
Government capacity building	Preservation of citizens' rights and equality of opportunity	Establishment of government transparency, improvement of administrative efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliamentary modernization Government personnel training Government agency improvement projects

ICDF Project Benefits and Human Rights Issues

Project Type	Human Rights Issues	Project Benefits
Small farmer lending/micro-credit projects	Equality of economic opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Increased employment
Women's micro-credit projects	Equality of economic opportunity; improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Increased employment Improvement of women's status
Financial organization strengthening	Equality of economic opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Economic growth Improvement of financial services
Agriculture projects and grain output increase projects	Equality of economic opportunity; improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Improved health and nutrition Economic growth Increased employment
Medical projects	Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Improved human resources Improved health and nutrition Protection of underprivileged groups
Education/vocational training and children's scholarship programs	Equality of educational opportunity; improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Improvement of human resources Increased employment
Water supply projects	Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Environmental protection Improved health and sanitation
Environmental protection and tree-planting projects	Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Environmental protection
Post-disaster reconstruction and relief projects	Humanitarian relief; improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster relief Poverty alleviation
Agricultural area and rural development projects	Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty alleviation Increased employment
Government capacity building and parliamentary modernization projects	Preservation of citizens' rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved government efficiency Expanded opportunities for citizen participation
Government personnel training projects	Preservation of citizens' rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved government efficiency

International High-Level Professional Training

Background

The ICDF's early human resources training programs consisted primarily of short-term training seminars with specialized topics. These seminars focused on the most relevant and advantageous elements of Taiwan's development, transmitting Taiwan's successful experiences to government officials and professionals from allied nations. In order to give seminar participants an inclusive overview during the two- to three-week seminars, content typically included broad issues such as policy planning and long-term development. In addition to the training provided at the seminars, attendees were able to learn from each other and share experiences gained during development in their home nations. The variety of subjects and the brief durations of these seminars were appealing, and governments of allied nations sent large numbers of trainees to participate each year. To build on the success of these seminars, and to respond to the growing need for high-level professionals in allied nations, the ICDF established a graduate scholarship program for foreign students at National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) in 1998. The program took root and grew, and this year, it was expanded to include doctoral studies in agricultural science. Also in 2001, the ICDF created an international MBA (IMBA) program in conjunction with National

Chengchi University in Taipei, which is accepting Taiwanese and foreign students. With this program, the ICDF significantly increased the breadth and depth of its human resources development operations. Following are descriptions and highlights of both of these programs.

NPUST Agricultural Science Scholarship Program

When the ICDF was planning a new graduate scholarship program in early 1998, it was well aware that agriculture still formed the economic mainstay of most nations allied with the ROC, and that most of the projects conducted by ICDF overseas technical missions involved agricultural development. Providing full scholarships to a well established, highly professional agricultural program was therefore decided upon as the most effective strategy. The ICDF selected the two-year master's program at NPUST's Institute of Tropical Agriculture (ITA). The program offers over fifty courses in agricultural science in NPUST facilities, with additional laboratory and fieldwork conducted at the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center and other agricultural organizations. Initially limited to agronomy, horticulture, plant protection and rural planning, the scope of the courses—taught in English to improve participants' professional communication skills and global perspective—has been expanded to include



Signing an agreement for the cooperative scholarship programs conducted by the ICDF, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology and National Chengchi University

agribusiness management and food processing. In an effort to train even more competent agricultural specialists, plans are being drawn up to add courses in agricultural economics, veterinary medicine and environmental protection.

Students who successfully complete this program are granted master's degrees accredited by the Ministry of Education in accordance with the ROC's *Degree Conferral Act*.

Of the 22 students in the first three classes in the program, 10 students in the first and second classes graduated and received master's degrees (the third class will graduate in July 2002). In light of these results, the program has been extended, and the ICDF will now offer scholarships to one to three agricultural science doctoral students each year. It is hoped that the top students in the master's program will continue their studies in the Ph.D. program after earning their degrees. The fourth class in the ITA, enrolled in the 2001 academic year, consisted of eight M.S. students and the first Ph.D. student.

From the outset of the program, it was hoped that graduates would apply what they had learned to their nations' agricultural sectors and long-term socioeconomic development, as well as provide support for cooperative agricultural projects conducted by ICDF technical missions. This hope was not unfounded, and now many graduates have achieved high positions in government

and industry in their home countries. Momodou D. Jabang is currently a research officer at the National Agricultural Research Institute of The Gambia; Mbaye Ndiaye is now chief of Senegal's Phytopharmacie Laboratory; Michael Ho'ota is was named chief of the Extension Department of the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Agriculture and Primary Industries; and Jean Carlin Prosper is employed by the Organization for the Development of the Artibonite Valley, a group associated with the Haitian Department of Agriculture. Mr. Prosper is also helping the ROC technical mission in Haiti conduct an agricultural assistance project.

National Chengchi University International MBA Program

The ICDF created the IMBA program at National Chengchi University in order to help allied nations train corporate managers with international perspectives and experience, which will in turn strengthen trading relationships between Taiwan and these nations. The ICDF will each year provide full scholarships to four to six students to attend this program. In 2001, the inaugural year of the program, twenty Taiwanese students (each with at least one year of work experience) and ten foreign students (four Central American students and one African student were awarded scholarships) are taking part.

IMBA program courses, taught by leading professors, include management, international finance, marketing, human resources and entrepreneurship. The program also includes professional seminars, and the option of either studying for one semester at a sister school overseas, or participating in an internship in a foreign company. Like the ITA program, the IMBA program is conducted in English. The combination of academic work, real-world training, practical experience, language instruction, and interaction with students from around the world in this program will broaden students' global business perspectives and deepen their academic and professional experiences.

Future Prospects

The NPUST Foreign Student Agriculture M.S. and Ph.D. Scholarship Program has assumed a prominent role in Taiwan's higher education system and in the ICDF's human resources training operations. The program has received accolades in Taiwan and abroad. Education at this level is yielding professionals with advanced expertise that have already brought important benefits to their home countries. The continued development of the program is an ICDF priority. The ICDF is similarly committed to the new National Chengchi University IMBA program.

In the future, schools participating in ICDF scholarship programs will expand their course options, providing students more diverse and flexible academic choices. The ICDF hopes to institute courses in technical management and the development of Taiwan's high-tech industries—areas in which Taiwan has abundant experience and a keen competitive advantage. Simultaneously, the ICDF is arranging for conversational Chinese courses to be included in the programs. With this training, students will return home possessing not only graduate and postgraduate degrees, but also the ability to communicate in Mandarin, which will strengthen their ties with ROC technical missions, educators and government. The ICDF looks forward to this fruitful and rewarding exchange.



NPUST Graduate Agricultural Science Program: Student Application

At the beginning of each year the ICDF, through the ITA, sends recruiting notices to ROC embassies overseas and the embassies of allied nations in the ROC. These institutions select and recommend suitable students and then send student application materials to NPUST. Applicant review begins in mid-May. A review committee examines each applicant's educational background and transcripts, résumé, research, published material, academic honors and English skills. The director of the ITA performs a telephone interview with each applicant before final acceptance into the program. Successful applicants are sent acceptance letters in June. The ICDF then requests ROC embassies to assist with student travel arrangements. Students are expected to arrive in Taiwan and enroll at the university in late August. The program begins in mid-September.

NPUST Graduate Agricultural Science Program: Student Performance

In addition to regular midterm and final examinations, the ITA implements a series of student evaluations based on students' academic performance and extracurricular activities. The results of these assessments are sent to the respective embassies in the ROC, and the student with the top academic performance receives a merit scholarship of NT\$10,000. All students with perfect attendance receive an award of NT\$5,000. Students in the program have generally displayed outstanding academic performance. The Chinese Agronomy Society began accepting scholarship applications from students in the NPUST program in the 2000 academic year. That year, the ITA recommended four students, and after rigorous review, the Society honored Belizean student Nerie T. Sanz with the Yu Yu-hsien Scholarship.