

## FOREWORD



The Republic of China (ROC) has been sharing its experience with friendly countries for close to four decades. We are proud that our efforts to help our partners in developing their economies and improving the living standard of their citizens have been highly successful.

After World War II, the ROC benefited greatly from foreign aid, which helped it in transforming its agricultural economy to an industrialized one. Based on that economic development, the ROC was able to implement a democratic system of government. Having achieved its principal objectives, the ROC is now in a position to feed back some of what it received, by sharing its experience and resources with others.

In this interdependent global community, we recognize our responsibility to provide assistance to other nations. Our actions have demonstrated our belief in international cooperation and our commitment to assisting other countries to develop their potential fully so that their citizens can enjoy liberty, basic rights, dignity and freedom from want.

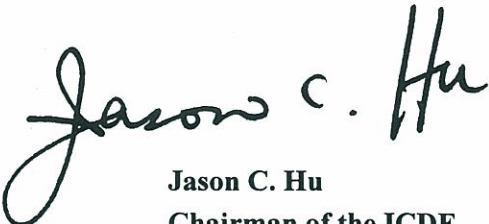
The International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) was founded on 1 July 1996, to replace the International Economic Cooperation Development Fund (IECDF). A year later it merged with the Committee of International Technical Cooperation (CITC), thereby consolidating all of the ROC's foreign assistance programs. Today it is the ROC's only international cooperation body dedicated to providing a full range of services—including technical assistance, investment and concessional lending, and human resource development.

During the past two years of its existence, the ICDF has become an efficient institution, assembled a team of well-trained professional staff, and adopted sound management practices along with the methodology for assistance programs commonly used by international economic development agencies.

The ICDF has been working closely with other bilateral and multilateral development agencies. Its lending and investment activities range from the financing of infrastructure to the granting of microcredit to people in rural communities. The technical assistance programs delivered through the ROC's resident missions have been restructured to ensure that the work can be sustained when our experts complete their assignments. Over the past years, the human resource development programs of ICDF have benefited some 500 foreign participants who have come to Taiwan to share our development experience.

Whether through investment, loans or technical assistance, the aim of the ICDF is to help partner countries achieve a more prosperous society for their citizens. In sharing the "Taiwan experience" and playing our part as a member of the international community, we are helping to make the global village stronger.

We hope that this year's annual report will help readers at home and abroad understand better some of the ways in which the Republic of China is responding to international needs while opening up more and broader channels of cooperation. We sincerely wish that the information and analysis in the report will create greater interest in the work done by the ICDF and thereby help us to redouble our efforts in international cooperation.



Jason C. Hu

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**Chairman of the ICDF**