

FOREWORD



Since the late 1950s, the government of the Republic of China (ROC) has been offering international assistance through technical cooperation programs, while establishing friendly relations with countries in Africa, the Middle East, Central and South America, East Asia and the Asia Pacific region.

In the 1980s, as a result of its considerable economic achievements and a favorable international trade balance, the ROC government intensified its lending and cooperation programs. Over the years, the Committee of International Technical Cooperation (CITC) and the International Economic Cooperation Development Fund (IECDF) accumulated invaluable experience as they demonstrated solid achievements in bilateral cooperation.

As the cooperative ventures became more complex and diverse, and the international society began to look to the ROC for more help, the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) was founded to consolidate and manage these initiatives. This marked a new stage in the ROC's international cooperation program.

Despite the fact that we have achieved many important objectives in technical cooperation, we are not complacent about those accomplishments. We recognize that, although we rank as a developed country, the percentage of our GNP dedicated to international assistance lags behind that of other developed countries, and we are exploring ways to increase the level of involvement.

The ROC finds itself in a unique situation internationally. We need a showcase through which to display the dignity of our nation, and to achieve that we require the friendship and support of other nations. International cooperation is one of the ways through which we demonstrate that we merit such friendship and support. In no way can this be written off simply as 'dollar diplomacy.' In performing our obligations to developing and newly industrializing nations, we are fulfilling the responsibilities that fall upon the shoulders of all developed nations.

The ICDF is the principal medium through which the ROC intends to fulfill its responsibility to assist people throughout our global society to improve their standard of living and well-being. We trust this first annual report of the ICDF will help readers to understand some of the ways in which the Republic of China is responding to international needs and, in the process, will encourage them to support us more resolutely.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Chang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John H. Chang, Chairman of ICDF