Major Environmental Policies

January 2026

1. Revised Regulations Preannounced Regarding Carbon Inventory, Registration and Verification for More Flexibility

The MOENV announced the partial amendment of the *Regulations for Management of Inventory, Registration and Verification of Greenhouse Gases* (溫室氣體排放量盤查登錄及查驗管理辦法) (referred to as the Regulations hereinafter) on 19 December 2025 in response to the *Regulations for Emission Sources Obligated to Measuring and Reporting Its Emission by Entity* (事業應盤查登錄溫室氣體排放量之排放源) (referred to as the Obligated Enterprises hereinafter) promulgated on 4 March 2025. The Obligated Enterprises cover the service industry, transportation industry, medical facilities, and colleges/universities, which are greatly different from the manufacturing industry previously listed for control in terms of industry nature and business models. The purpose of this amendment is to gradually widen and strengthen Taiwan's management of emission sources and enhance governance capacities by making inventory closer to actual operations of the Obligated Enterprises and providing a more flexible management. The following are keys to the amendment:

I. Simplify inventory of small fugitive emission sources

For the same type of fugitive emission sources within the boundary of the Obligated Enterprises, they may use the most recent emissions that were taken inventory of and verified for two consecutive years if their fugitive emissions are less than 0.05% of the total emissions and fall below less than five metric tons of CO_2e.

II. Include authorized and franchise stores in inventory

If an authorized or franchise store of an Obligated Enterprise is jointly run by another enterprise, the Obligated Enterprise shall conduct inventory at least the indirect energy-related emissions of that store, such as purchased power.

III. Adjust testing specifications for fuel and (raw) materials

The heat value of fuels and carbon content of (raw) materials announced by the central competent authority may be determined based on the information shown on the product labels instead of the testing specifications stipulated in Paragraph 1 Article 5 of the Regulations.

IV. Specify the contents of Obligated Enterprises' inventory reports

Additions are made regarding specifications of necessary information required for the Obligated Enterprises' inventory reports to ensure that information is complete and comply with industry characteristics.

The MOENV indicated that there are approximately 460 Obligated Enterprises announced in 2025. Inventory and reporting are operated on "four No's," which are no trouble, no outsourcing, no inspection and no carbon fees. The MOENV has promulgated the inventory guidelines for four types of GHGs in Jul 2025 and held a series of consultation workshops in August and September jointly with the central competent authorities. A phone number is in place for consultation regarding inventory and verification starting from 2026 onwards.

2. MOENV Revises Article 4 of Management Regulations for Reuse of Common Industry Waste

The MOENV indicated that the Executive Yuan announced 31 December 2026 as the final national transition deadline to ban completely feeding pigs with kitchen wastes as a measure against the risk of African swine fever. All pig farms that wish to keep using kitchen waste as feeds during the transition period are required to comply with relevant regulations, including setting up real-time temperature and image monitoring equipment by 31 December 2025. Therefore, the amendment of the appendix of Article 4 of the *Management Regulations for Reuse of Common Industry Waste* (共通性事業廢棄物再利用管理辦法) was announced on 29 December to enhance the reuse management and operation mechanism.

The MOENV's Resource Circulation Administration further pointed out that Item No. 7 in the Appendix of Article 4 of the revised *Management Regulations for Reuse of Common Industry Waste* specifies the management of kitchen waste reuse. The following are revision keys:

I. Carry out source control: If the clearance equipment used to transport kitchen waste to reuse facilities is used also for joint clearance of kitchen waste which is not the kind to be fed directly as specified in Appendix 1 of the general waste disposal methods, reuse facilities shall refuse to accept it as well as not reuse it as pig feed.

II. Specify rules on steam-cooking: Kitchen waste shall be stirred continuously during the cooking process with the steaming temperature kept above 90°C and cooking time for at least an hour.

III. Install monitoring facilities by a given date: Temperature monitoring and video recording systems for cooking facilities that meet the listed specifications shall be installed by 31 December 2025. Reuse is not allowed until the installation is examined and approved by the competent authority of the local government. For failure to install such facilities by the given deadline, the original document approving direct reuse for feeding will become invalid from the day following the expiration of the installation period, and such reuse will no longer be permitted.

3. Ban Announced for Methoxychlor as Environmental Agent Ingredient

The MOENV promulgated the amended *Prohibited Ingredients for Environmental Agents and Testing Methods* (環境用藥禁止含有之成分及檢驗方法). Revisions include adding methoxychlor as an ingredient of any environmental agent banned for manufacture, processing, import, export, sale or use. Also, the detection threshold is set at 10 x MDL (Method Detection Limit).

MOENV mentioned that that investigation shows methoxychlor is not registered as an active ingredient in any environmental agent product used in Taiwan as investigated. Therefore, the ban on this substance has no impact on the environmental agent manufacture in Taiwan. As methoxychlor is classified by the Stockholm Convention as a persistent organic pollutant, banning its use in any environmental agent help in protection of human health and the general environment.

4. Recycling Labels Mandatory on Cellphones Since 2026 to Achieve 15% Circulation Rate

The new requirements on recycling and circulation services for cellphones will take effect on 1 January 2026 to ensure environmental sustainability and extend producer responsibility. All cellphone manufacturers and importers are required to provide a recycling label on each of their products and achieve an annual circulation rate of 15%. Such promulgation marks the start of the era of complete resource circulation in Taiwan's cellphone industry.

Approximately 5 million cellphones are sold every year in Taiwan, and these phones are high in recycling value as they contain more than 70 rare metals. The "circulation service" defined in the *Regulations Governing Recycling, Circular Services and Recycling Labels, and Other Compliance Requirements for Mobile Phone Producers* (應執行廢行動電話回收、循環服務與標示分類回收標誌之業者範圍及其他應遵行事項) covers cell phone rental, used phone buyback, repair, or product-service billing models offered by enterprises. It is designed to improve both the service life of cellphones and resource efficiency. To ensure smooth policy transition, the *Resource Circulation Administration (RCA) has published the Guidelines for Registration and Inspection of Annual Results Regarding Circulation Rates for Mobile Phone Recycling and Circulation Service* (行動電話回收、循環服務之循環率年度執行成果資料申報查核作業指引) so as to provide enterprises with clear instructions for registration and inspection.

The RCA stressed that all cellphone manufacturers and importers are required to report the implementation results of the previous year by 31 May 2026 as references for future reviews on a rolling basis. The government will continue to bring businesses and sales channels together to enhance the convenience of cellphone repairs and recycling, allowing returning valuable metals to return into the circulation system and turning every cellphone into a force to achieve a circular economy.

Cellphone recycling regulations take effect, mandating cellphone manufacturers and importers to provide recycling services.

5. MOENV Works with Fellow Ministries to Help Industries Face EU's Launch of CBAM in 2026

The European Commission published several draft implementation and authorization bills on 17 December 2025 for the Definitive Period of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). In response to these bills, the MOENV emphasized that Taiwan has already launched a carbon fee system, which will become an important foundation for domestic industries to connect with the EU's CBAM and obtain carbon fee deductions. The MOENV pointed out that it will continue to cooperate with the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) and industries to assist enterprises in responding to the EU's CBAM, reducing impacts and increasing competitive edges.

As the issue of "carbon price deduction for third countries" has raised public concern, the MOENV pointed out that the EU's CBAM has clearly stipulated that carbon cost of imported products that has already been paid may be deducted, provided that the country of origin has had a clear carbon pricing system in place. Taiwan's carbon fee

system has been launched in 2025 and is a carbon pricing mechanism recognized under the EU's CBAM. This explains why Taiwan had to launch a carbon fee system, as it helps domestic industries secure reasonable deductions under the CBAM. However, the European Commission has not yet proposed rules regarding the effective calculation of paid carbon fees, an issue on which the MOENV will keep an eye on EU's latest developments.

Regarding the EU's announcements of preset carbon contents for imported products, the preset values may be used for declaration by EU importers who cannot obtain carbon content data from the countries of origin. However, this preset value will increase year by year (10% increase in 2026, 20% in 2027, and 30% in 2028), and with that corporate carbon costs will go up as well. The MOENV urges businesses exporting to the EU to build calculation capacity to determine carbon emissions of their products as soon as possible to lower costs.

When it comes to the CBAM's inspection system, the EU will require declaration documents and data to be verified by an inspection institute starting next year, and such inspection institutes shall be approved by the EU member states. MOENV stressed that this requirement applies to all countries that trade with the EU. Taiwan will continue to communicate with the EU to enhance the feasibility of domestic inspection institutes being approved through bilateral or mutual certification mechanisms, thereby reducing the administrative burden on enterprises.

Finally, in regard to domestic supplementary measures, the MOENV has also simultaneously announced the draft *Principles for Reviewing Carbon Fee Applicants Deemed as High-Risk Carbon Leakage Entities* (碳費徵收對象申請認定屬高碳洩漏風險者審核原則) on 18 December. To avoid carbon leakage, the adjusted emission fee rates will apply to 17 industries that have had their voluntary carbon reduction plans approved and are considered high-risk for carbon leakage. The initial discount factor is 0.2 for the balance between carbon reduction efforts and industry competitive edges. The MOENV emphasized that this approach is consistent with the international trend in carbon pricing systems. In addition, Taiwan has introduced a product carbon emission declaration system based on the EU's approach and already launched a plan for a pilot declaration system as Taiwan's own version of CBAM. Cement products are selected as a priority for pilot application, and a complete mechanism will be gradually established. There will be close communications with the steel industry to find mutual ground because of a huge number of steel-related products.

Minister Peng assured that there is no need to be concerned about the EU's CBAM as the MOENV will work with the MOEA to assist affected industries in adapting to the new EU regulations while simultaneously initiating negotiations and technological dialogues with the EU to maximize domestic industries' interests. The government will stand on the front line ahead of the industry and help enterprises prepare early and respond steadily.

Minister Peng presides over the press conference and explains progress of the EU's CBAM and Taiwan's response

Director General Tsai Ling-Yi explains progress of the EU's CBAM and Taiwan's response

6. MOENV Minister Peng Talks with Former Japanese Environment Minister and Senator Keiichiro Asao on Net-Zero Transition and Green Industries

The MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming met with former Japanese Environment Minister and Senator Keiichiro Asao and his delegation on 26 December 2025. Both sides had an in-depth conversation on regional environmental developments, net-zero emissions, circular economy and green transition.

Minister Peng greeted Senator Asao and his delegation to Taiwan with open arms, stating that Senator Asao is a senior Japanese politician and has profound environmental expertise and that his integrity and principles are widely recognized by the public. Minister Peng and Senator Asao have been friends for a long time. This meeting at the MOENV demonstrated the deep friendship and high consensus between Japan and Taiwan on environmental governance. Minister Peng pointed out that Japan and Taiwan have been closely connected and share similar ideas in facing challenges such as global climate change and resource circulation. Taiwan is actively promoting the "Five Trustworthy Industries" proposed by President Lai, which must be based on green industries. Taiwan has shown strong growth in the circular economy and renewable energy sectors, whose values reached NT$512.3 billion in 2024. It is hoped that Japan and Taiwan will move from "regular visits" to "substantive co-prosperity" in the future and jointly create a green supply chain with competitive edges in the process of promoting net-zero transition.

Senator Asao expressed his pleasure in having a professional exchange with Minister Peng on environmental issues and highly commended Taiwan's efforts in promoting environmental sustainability and resource circulation. He emphasized that Taiwan and Japan should build stronger ties in environmental governance and together address regional and global environmental challenges by deepening substantive economic, trade and technological cooperation.

Several specific consensuses were reached during the talks with future focus placed on deepening climate change countermeasures to jointly achieve the net-zero target, strengthening exchanges on regulations related to chemical substance management, enhancing resource circulation resilience, and the signing of an agreement on resource recycling and critical rare metals. In response to the semiconductor industry's demand for rare metals, efforts will be made for a stronger cooperation between Japan and Taiwan in areas such as establishing value chains for recycling of electronic waste (such as mobile phones and computers) and plastic materials for vehicles. In addition, new agreements may be discussed regarding cooperation on carbon credits and climate change adaptation. Senator Asao and Minister Peng also exchanged views on cooperation under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under the Paris Agreement, green technologies, green-collar jobs, private sector’s participation in carbon reduction projects, and Japan's new technologies for producing ethanol using sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide.

For conclusion, Minister Peng emphasized that the MOENV will continue to deepen cooperation with Japan and more like-minded countries to align Taiwan's environmental protection experience with international standards, achieving mutual prosperity in both the economy and the environment, and jointly making positive contributions to regional and global sustainable development.

Japanese Senator Keiichiro Asao and Minister Peng

7. MOENV Discusses Cooperation on Carbon Credits with Friendly Countries During Annual Meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Minister Peng Chi-Ming of the Ministry of Environment and Minister Lin Chia-Lung the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a meeting to discuss cooperation on carbon credits in Taipei City on 17 December 2025. They reviewed the 2025 achievements of the carbon credit task force of their respective ministries and charted the path toward action on important issues requiring cooperation, such as the *"Rongbang Carbon Credit Program"* (榮邦碳權計畫) as well as 12 environmental governance cooperation projects between Taiwan and Paraguay. The meeting was an example of proactive diplomatic cooperation in the environment and mapped out practical plans for Taiwan in terms of international cooperation regarding climate change and carbon credits.

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) said the meeting aimed to implement President Lai Ching-Te's statement in 2024, made during the establishment of the National Committee on Climate Change, that Taiwan should approach *"international cooperation in climate governance from a national perspective"* ("要從國家視角的氣候治理，進行國際的合作"). Thereafter, the MOENV and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs started working together to promote cooperation with friendly countries regarding carbon credits. Environment Minister Peng and Foreign Affairs Minister Lin resolved on 11 October 2024 to establish a "Carbon Credit Working Group," composed of experts, academics and inter-ministerial representatives, that would meet regularly. The second

annual meeting of the two ministries was held on 17 December 2025, during which the Carbon Credit Working Group reported its annual progress. Key highlights of the year included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation under the Paris Agreement between Taiwan and Paraguay on 1 October 2025, along with 12 environmental governance cooperation projects launched via mutual visits by the environment ministers of Taiwan and Paraguay. Minister Peng and Minister Lin continued to discuss strategies for promoting possible cooperation, such as more carbon credit agreements with allies, in the hope of building upon the Taiwan-Paraguay cooperation framework to work with other allies and friendly countries.

Along with the 12 bilateral environmental governance cooperation projects, the MOENV reported that Taiwan and Paraguay have established three working groups focusing on "climate governance," "circular economy," and "environmental governance", as well as contact points and a regular meeting mechanism. In 2026, priority will be given to promoting "climate governance" to establish the bilateral governmental carbon credit cooperation system, and to studying trial projects to facilitate the step-by-step establishment of a digital registration platform and the Taiwan-Paraguay Emissions Trading System (ETS). At the same time, specific actions will be taken in the fields of circular economy and environmental governance, including exchanges on resource circulation industries and policies, mutual visits of government officials, exchanges between youth and academic institutions, and cooperation on AI applications and green technologies.

The MOENV stated that the international voluntary cooperation mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement has been incorporated into Taiwan’s "Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) for 2035," which was officially approved by the Executive Yuan on 3 November 2025. While ensuring compliance with the Paris Agreement, the government-to-government cooperation model will help both parties achieve NDC objectives and serve to support Taiwan’s mandatory carbon pricing system. This also echoes the memorandum of understanding signed between Taiwan and Paraguay under the Paris Agreement, as Taiwan works with allies and international partners to promote the achievement of the Rongbang Carbon Credit Program and carbon reduction targets.

MOENV Minister Peng emphasized that simply participating or organizing activities through NGOs is no longer sufficient to build deep international connections, as the international climate framework becomes more comprehensive. In the future, a strategy of "substantive investment instead of promotional activities" is to be adopted for international climate negotiations. The recent focus is on the international cooperation mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The next step is to gradually expand to areas such as "actively seeking diverse and pragmatic participation" and "cultivating young climate negotiation talents." With the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is hoped that Taiwan's environmental experience and strength will be extended to more friendly nations and countries in the future.

The Minister of Environment and the Minister of Foreign Affairs reached an agreement

at their December meeting stipulating that, under the existing framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Taiwan-Paraguay Cooperation and the 12 Action Projects, they will continue to expand cooperation with other friendly countries, creating opportunities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in climate action and green growth in areas such as climate governance, circular economy, and environmental governance.

MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming (right) and Foreign Affairs Minister Lin Chia-Lung (left) at the carbon credit cooperation promotion meeting

MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming (5th from right) and Foreign Affairs Minister Lin Chia-Lung (6th from right) at the carbon credit cooperation promotion meeting

The carbon credit cooperation promotion meeting in progress

8. Taiwan and Japan Sign MOU on Environmental Protection Labels to Improve International Connection of Green Products

Represented by Deputy Minister Hsieh Yein-Rui, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in environmental labeling with the Japan Environment Association (JEA) and the Taiwan Environment and Development Foundation on 10 December 2025, in Tokyo, Japan. This cooperation symbolizes closer and more institutionalized international cooperation between Taiwan and Japan on their green product labeling systems and lays an important foundation for promoting mutual recognition of environmental labels in the future.

MOENV Deputy Minister Hsieh stated that this collaboration will further enhance the efficiency of the circulation of green products in the international market and enable the labeling systems of Japan and Taiwan to have greater influence on global sustainability issues. He also hoped that cooperation on a broader range of products will be gradually achieved through the establishment of this MOU, bringing more benefits to green industries and environmental sustainability in both countries. In addition, the Deputy Minister emphasized in his speech that President Lai Ching-Te recently listed green procurement/green living as one of the core pillars for promoting net-zero carbon emissions at a National Climate Change Committee meeting. Eco-labels and green products play an indispensable role as part of the continuing promotion and expansion of green procurement by Taiwan's central government, helping to drive the transformation to green living. It is expected that the Taiwan-Japan eco-label cooperation will facilitate green procurement in the marketplace.

The MOENV noted that climate change is having profound impacts on global ecology

and human lives. Thus, the international community is paying more attention to carbon reduction, circular economy and green consumption policies, while environmental labels in various countries have become an important tool for promoting sustainable products. Taiwan's Green Mark and Japan's Eco Mark are recognized both domestically and internationally, and exchanges and cooperation between the two countries are of great importance as they build a model others may emulate.

This new MOU focuses on “information products” and “imaging equipment,” covering the following:

I. Joint definition and review of common standard items and verification methods for products

II. Exchange of technical information, product specifications, and verification experience

III. Regular multilateral working meetings on standardization and mutual recognition

IV. Mutual notification of regulatory revisions and joint assessment of the impacts thereof

V. Inclusion of more product categories as the cooperation progresses

The MOENV pointed out that Taiwan and Japan signed an agreement in 2004 to mutually recognize environmental labels. As the systems of Japan and Taiwan evolve over time, this new MOU will serve as the main guideline to help the Taiwan-Japan cooperation keep pace with the times and respond to rapid changes in the global green product market.

The MOENV emphasized that the Japan Environment Association is tasked with managing the "Eco Mark" as well as an important private-public interest incorporated foundation in Japan, while in Taiwan, the MOENV serves as the governing body for the environmental label system, and the Environment and Development Foundation is designated as its verification body. Both the Japan Environment Association and the Environment and Development Foundation are members of the Global Environmental Labelling Network. This joint MOU better represents the comprehensiveness of both parties' systems and practical operations and will ensure a broad cooperation framework covering all responsibilities.

The MOENV stated that, based on the MOU, it will initiate technical discussions, compare standards, and conduct exchanges of verification experiences, thus actively working towards the goal of mutual recognition of labels, joint promotion of green trade, and eventual fulfillment of the 2050 net-zero vision.

MOENV Deputy Minister Hsieh Yein-Rui (2nd from right) witnessed the signing of the MOU between Taiwan and Japan

All delegation members at the MOU signing

9. Inter-ministerial Team for National PFAS Management Meets to Review Implementation Outcomes

On 10 December 2025, at the GIS NTU Convention Center in Taipei City, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) hosted the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance, the Ocean Affairs Council, the National Science Council, and the National Health Research Institutes at a meeting on the "2025 National Chemical Substances Management Policy Framework and Action Plan Results Presentation - PFAS Management and Future Outlook." The meeting focused on the practices and future strategies of various ministries on how to strengthen the regulation of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in response to international trends, and on exchanging views with representatives from industry, academia, research institutions and NGOs. In his keynote address, Minister of Environment Peng Chi-Ming stated that the government is actively responding to a global push to improve PFAS regulations. He expressed his gratitude to fellow ministries for their assistance and support and pledged to continue striving to achieve environmental sustainability.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a family of chemical substances notorious for their harmfulness and long-lasting nature, classified as persistent environmental pollutants, with some PFAS having been included in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants since 2009. The MOENV stated that Taiwan takes persistent organic pollutants very seriously, and as early as 2008, the Environmental Protection Administration convened inter-ministerial meetings to formulate and promote the "Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan." Subsequently, a dedicated chapter has been added, and the Executive Yuan approved the inter-ministerial "Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Management Action Plan" in 2024.

The national implementation plan and action plan have produced preliminary results since being promulgated. Regarding source management, the MOENV has listed 508 substances, including perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), in accordance with the *Toxic and Concerned Chemical Substances Management Act* (毒性及關注化學物質管理法). On 5 August 2025, a preliminary announcement was made to add to the list another 269 PFAS substances as chemical substances of concern.

In addition, the MOENV has also set a standard in accordance with the *"Drinking Water Quality Standards"* (飲用水水質標準) stipulating that the total content of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and PFOS shall not exceed 50 ng/L, and the total content of PFOS and perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) shall not exceed 70 ng/L, which came into effect on 1 July 2027. Furthermore, a new guideline of 100 ng/L for the "sum of 20 PFASs" has been established to safeguard drinking water.

Regarding cosmetics, the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced on 21 March 2024 an amendment to the *"List of Prohibited Ingredients in Cosmetics"* (化妝品禁止使用成分表), adding 13 PFAS substances in five categories as prohibited ingredients in cosmetics. This amendment has been in effect since 1 January 2025, to safeguard human

health.

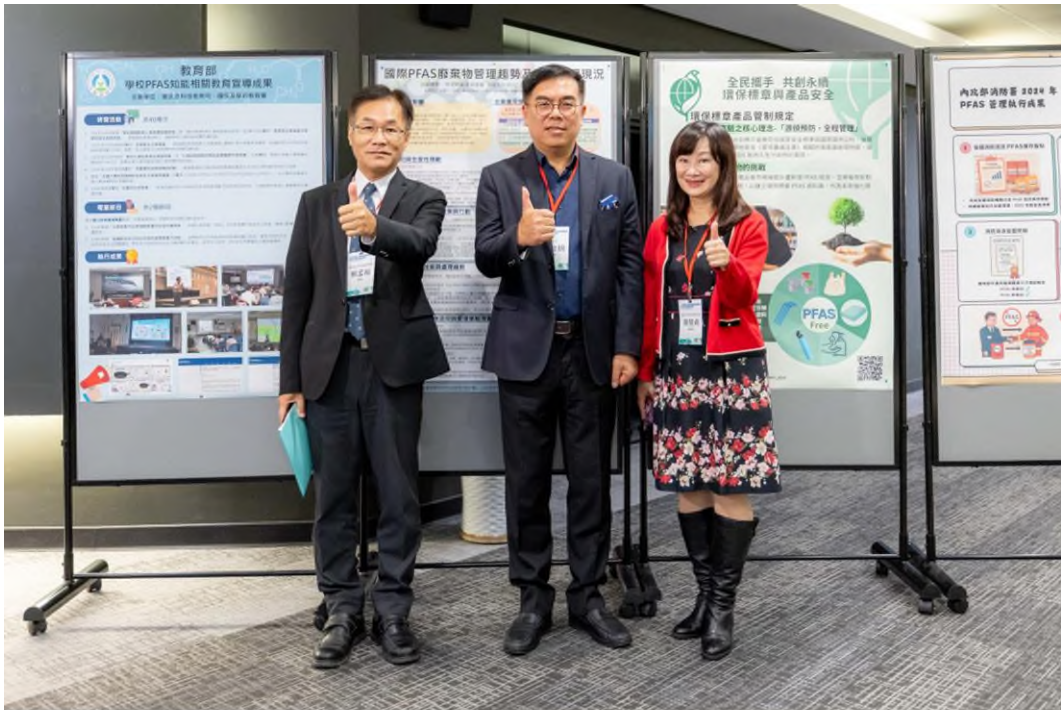
Testing of water has also been ongoing. In 2024, 4,714 data entries were collected from fish, river sediments, groundwater, seawater, discharged water, drinking water, soil and textiles, to provide a better picture of the background concentration and distribution of PFAS in the environment and in commodities.

In addition to control and testing, risk communications were conducted across multiple ministries. Forty-two promotional activities were held in 2024, including meetings, presentations, experience camps and school outreaches. Publication materials were produced and a dedicated webpage was established to help the public and stakeholders learn more about the risks and management measures for PFAS.

The MOENV emphasized that PFAS control is a wide-ranging challenge that will take time to meet, and only through cross-ministerial involvement and public participation can steady and sustainable progress be made. In addition to reviewing achievements, this meeting also demonstrated how Taiwan has integrated the strengths of all relevant sectors into a single framework for the purpose of chemical substance governance, and how all participants are able to cooperate to reduce the risks posed by chemical substances, such as PFAS.

Representatives of several ministries and agencies took part in the 2025 National Chemical Substance Management Policy Framework and Action Plan Results Presentation - PFAS Management and Future Outlook

MOENV Minister Peng (6th from left) with event host and Director General of the Chemicals Administration, Meng-Yu Tsai (7th from left), and other speakers from the cross-ministerial promotion team



MOENV Minister Peng (center) viewed posters made by participating ministries

10. 14th Annual Partners Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network Convenes Member States to Strengthen Regional Cooperation in Environmental Monitoring

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) hosted the "14th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network (APMMN)" on 9 December 2025 in Taipei City

to further expand regional environmental monitoring cooperation and enhance partner exchanges. Officials, academics, and partners from 16 countries, including the United States, Japan, Thailand, Australia, and Mongolia, were invited to participate and share their findings on mercury monitoring and management.

Monitoring atmospheric mercury concentrations is one of the key tasks outlined by the *Minamata Convention on Mercury*. In 2013, the MOENV's forerunner (the Environmental Protection Administration) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were key players in the launching of the Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network (APMMN) with a mission to protect human health and the environment from the effects of mercury and its compounds. By exporting monitoring technologies, the network assists partner countries in establishing mercury monitoring capabilities, improving related technologies, enhances data quality through education and training, and strengthens international joint monitoring mechanisms and data sharing.

After MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming gave welcoming remarks to open the annual meeting, a pre-recorded video was played, of a speech given by Victoria Tran, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of International Affairs and Tribal Affairs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She thanked the APMMN for its efforts and contributions in strengthening regional environmental cooperation, mercury monitoring, environmental protection, and safeguarding health. Several experts attended the meeting to share their latest research and discuss international trends.

Speakers and topics included: Professor David Gay from the US Atmospheric Deposition Project spoke about the current status of mercury monitoring development in the APMMN; a South African scholar explained the results of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the *Minamata Convention on Mercury*; Japan's National Institute for Environmental Studies gave a presentation on changes in atmospheric mercury concentrations and fluxes in deciduous and coniferous forests in Japan; the Chemicals Administration of the MOENV shared Taiwan's mercury management achievements and experiences in line with the *Minamata Convention*; and other APMMN partner countries shared and discussed mercury monitoring results and implementation experiences. A training workshop was provided on atmospheric mercury sampling to help improve the mercury monitoring capabilities of partner countries and to strengthen atmospheric mercury monitoring capacity within the region.

The MOENV continues to promote the inter-ministerial *"Implementation Plan for the United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury"* in response to global mercury management trends and as the basis for mercury management in Taiwan. The inter-ministerial collaboration starts with controlling the flow and use of mercury starting from source, and environmental monitoring and sampling. The capacity for managing mercury-containing waste is continually upgraded, and management measures constantly improved to ensure a healthy living environment for the public. It is hoped that continuing exchanges and interactions with partner countries will facilitate environmental cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, enhance the effective implementation of measures under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and create a healthy and sustainable environment.

Representatives of the MOENV and all participating partner states of the Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network

Minister Peng Chi-Ming gives a short speech to open the APMMN annual meeting

11. MOENV Showcases Prize-winning AI Innovations: Public and Private Collaborations Create a Smarter Lifestyle

With the advance of digital technology, "hackathons," a type of digital brainstorming event, have become common. Taiwan's "2025 Presidential Hackathon" was jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) and the Ministry of Digital Affairs (MODA) and concluded on 1 September 2025. As described on the MODA website, "under the theme 'Dual Transformation for Green Growth' the 2025 Hackathon

invites cross-disciplinary collaboration among industry, government, academia, research, and civic groups to propose concrete solutions utilizing open data and artificial intelligence (AI), aiming to accelerate public service innovation and build a sustainable, digitally empowered Taiwan.” On 18 December 2025 in Taipei City, the MOENV held the "2025 Presidential Cup Hackathon Innovation Results Presentation," personally hosted by MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming.

The 2025 Presidential Cup Hackathon awards ceremony, hosted by the Office of the President, has concluded successfully, however the MOENV's efforts to address environmental problems is ongoing. The ceremony showcased to the public and the Executive Yuan’s Cabinet concrete transformations regarding MOENV affairs resulting from the 2025 Presidential Hackathon. At the awards ceremony, nine outstanding Hackathon teams were selected to demonstrate how they transformed their creative proposals presented during the competition into practical policy solutions. Of the nine, seven solutions were designed by MOENV units, while the other two, namely the "Asbestos Map Headquarters" and "Tan Jia Lang," were created through partnerships between private enterprises and academia. The teams used AI and big data analytics to propose innovative solutions to issues of high public concern, such as air pollution, waste management, and climate adaptation. This event demonstrated the MOENV's dedication and efforts in using new technologies to address old problems to fulfill its policy vision that "technology is not indifferent, and the environment has warmth."

Highlights of the presentations demonstrated the multiplier effect of public-private partnerships and the innovative drive within departments of the MOENV. In terms of public-private partnerships, the "All-People Explorers" team combined crowd sourced data, meteorological data and drone AI identification capabilities to address the manpower bottleneck in the removal of old asbestos tiles. The "Tan Jia Lang" team joined hands with industry and academia to track the carbon footprint of building materials through digital passports to improve resource recovery from construction waste. The seven proposals led by the MOENV also demonstrated strong digital governance ideas. For example, the Department of Atmospheric Environment along with the Environmental Management Administration used AI technology to create a safe "breathing navigator" for the public, providing precise street-level forecasts to images identifying air pollution sources. The Resource Circulation Administration and the Department of Water Quality Protection used a matchmaking platform to transform coffee grounds and livestock wastewater into valuable green resources. The Climate Change Administration developed a heat protection map to proactively assist the care and support for elderly people living alone, addressing the needs of an aging society. These proposals not only solve administrative headaches but also better optimize public services for all citizens.

Minister Peng Chi-Ming stated that the conclusion of the Presidential Cup Hackathon marks the beginning of the MOENV's implementation of its innovative policies. The nine achievements displayed at this event fully echoed the Executive Yuan's policy direction of promoting digital transformation and a "smart nation," demonstrating that the civil service system can solve complex environmental problems using vital data. Through the Hackathon results presentation, the MOENV aimed to show the Cabinet and the public that environmental protection is no longer just about regulation and

inspection but can also provide easier and more compassionate solutions to life's problems through AI empowerment and cross-domain cooperation. The MOENV will continue to promote the implementation of these innovative solutions, so that excellent ideas will move beyond being merely competition entries and become tangible contributions to safeguarding the environmental health of Taiwan.

Attendees of the 2025 Presidential Cup Hackathon Awards Ceremony

AI Green Chemistry Intelligent Diagnosis Expert, a winning team of the Presidential Cup Hackathon

Zha-Nan, a winning team of the Presidential Cup Hackathon

Tan Jia Lang and Construction C Flow, winning teams of the Presidential Cup Hackathon