



## Major Environmental Policies

September 2025

### **1. Ministry of Environment explains the progress of negotiation meeting for INC-5.2 of the UN's Global Plastics Treaty**

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) had a press conference on 15 Aug, during which an online meeting with our team in Geneva, Switzerland took place, explaining to the public how the subsequent meetings of the subsequent part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2), the Global Plastics Treaty was making progress. The latest version of "Chairman's Draft" authorizes decision makers for subsequent refined practice instead of a globally unified banning and restriction list, thus making it flexible for all member countries. In addition, this is the first time to specify the "extended producer responsibility (EPR) as a core means to facilitate circular economy while focusing on the governance and just transition of existing and remaining plastic pollutions.

Minister Peng Chih-Ming of MOENV pointed out that the alarm is rising on the increasing crisis of plastic pollution. The UN has warned that there could be more plastics than fish in the oceans by 2050 if no aggressive action is taken. Despite not being a member country, Taiwan sent a delegation to Geneva, Switzerland to stay informed on the latest international developments. However, it was never an easy task to reach an agreement among nearly 200 countries and the negotiation texts kept being revised. No matter how much progress was made for the international negotiation, Minister Peng stressed that, nevertheless, Taiwan is determined on the path toward plastic reduction regardless how much progress has been made. Taiwan will add two additional plastic reduction goals to the four existing ones with a more systematic structure.

#### **I. Results of the INC-5.2 Meeting**

The INC-5.2 meeting took place at the Palace of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from 5 to 15 Aug. More than 3,700 people from 184 member countries and more than 600 observer organizations attended the meeting. Director General Lai Ying-Ying of Resource Circulation Administration explained that the Treaty aims to "protect human health and environment from plastic pollutions, including those in the marine environment". For the provisions, a globally unified banning and restriction list is no longer considered for plastic product control which has drawn public attention. Instead, the Conference of Parties (COP) will decide a list covering products of control priority, which may focus on "deliberately added micro-plastics" and certain single-use products in the short run. In addition, the Treaty specifies for the first time the "extended producer responsibility" (EPR) as a key tool to promote circular economy, while the concept of Basel Convention is adopted to ensure that plastic wastes are disposed of in a way that is harmless to environment. It is also one of the focuses of the Treaty on the existing plastic pollutions and, for this, the governance clauses are included for "existing pollutions". The progress provides certain level of flexibility, but at the price of limited binding power at the beginning. The cooperation and efforts of all member states in the COPs are still required in the days to come, should an agreement be reached for the Treaty, as to build these principles and framework into a solid, robust building.

However, the chairman of the meeting called it an end for the meeting at 9:15 a.m. local time in Geneva (3:15 p.m., Taipei time). The date, location and form of the next meeting will be determined and announced later. An agreement has yet been reached for the first plastics treaty in the world; its progress has certainly raised global attention.

## **II. Taiwan's Plastic Reduction Policies are Highly Consistent with the Treaty**

Director General Lai Ying-Ying of Resource Circulation Administration pointed out that Taiwan's plastic circulation policies are highly consistent with the Global Plastics Treaty in terms of "reducing and replacing plastic products", "plastic product designing to ensure reusability and recyclability", "transitioning to circular economy by reusing plastics" and "managing existing pollutions", and have produced certain results. For reducing and replacing plastics, a number of restriction policies have been launched in Taiwan and new business models have been encouraged and developed, such as circular container rental. When it comes to product design, the Resource Circulation Administration started from pure materials, original colors, reduced use of labels and caps tethered to bottles with the principle of "4Ss for Green Design", and encouraged businesses to design products that are easily recyclable and reusable. For the transition to circular economy, Taiwan has established a highly efficient recycling system in the form of "Four-in-One Recycling System", and preferential rates are available to encourage businesses to adopt recycled materials. The government, at the same time, manages existing pollution through strategies like "Solute to the Ocean" program, effectively removing and reducing coastal wastes.

Director General Hsieh Yein-Rui of Chemicals Administration expressed that the Treaty talks about not only plastics management, but also the management of chemicals used in plastics. The Chemicals Administration identified 7 categories of chemical substances that have been discussed in the Global Plastics Treaty. There are currently 877 operators and users who are required to operate with or use 18 categories of controlled chemical substances with a valid permit and to report and identify their uses on a regular basis. The Chemicals Administration will keep a track on the progress of the Global Plastics Treaty and adjust and/or add new controlled substances based on the international control trends.

For the rear-end waste governance, the Ocean Affairs Council said that the "environmental protection fleet" and "diver force" are established for cleaning floating and sunken garbage, and so is the "Marine Waste Renewal Alliance" to promote circulation and reuse of marine wastes and reduce long-term burdens on the environment. In addition, the Council actively communicates and cooperates with neighboring countries and international organizations, shares experiences and technologies, and helps countries in the region improve their marine waste management capabilities through the *"Indo-Pacific Regional Marine Waste Cooperation Platform"* (印太區域海廢合作平台). The Ocean Affairs Council emphasized that the efforts will not only strengthen international partnerships but also demonstrate Taiwan's international responsibility and contribution, while also being in line with the overall spirit of the Global Plastics Treaty.

## **III. Experience sharing online from Geneva**

During the online press conference, Taiwan's INC-5.2 team in Geneva indicated that the Treaty draft is a framework document subject to constant improvement and revisions. During the negotiating, production reduction and sustainable production were deleted from the draft; and the product control list and phase-out dates were removed, indicating disagreement in detail

among participating countries. For the plastics lifecycle management promoted in Taiwan and the draft of “*Resource Circulation Promotion Act*” (資源循環推動法), the principles of green design and reduction from source are highly consistent with the spirits of the Treaty. The delegation pointed out that the plastics governance in Taiwan has gradually transitioned from controls at the rear end to the overall lifecycle management to stay in line with the Treaty. In the future, Taiwan will continue to improve all necessary measures and monitor and evaluate plastic pollution hotspots based on scientific data. At the same time, Taiwan's experience in nationwide marine pollution control activities and platform building can become an asset for future international interaction and cooperation.

#### **IV. Where Taiwan is going from here and what improvements to make**

The MOENV indicated that Taiwan has come a long way in terms of reducing and replacing plastics, green product design, promotion of circular economy and management of existing pollutions. Taiwan will be centered on life transition and industrial transition, and promote the milestone of reduced use of single-use products through cross-departmental cooperation and industrial guidance. At the same time, the “*Resource Circulation Promotion Act*” is drafted to serve as a solid legal foundation for plastics circulation and reuse to promote reduction of single-use plastics, improve Taiwan’s plastics governance, and share our successful experience with the international society.



**Taiwan’s delegation, consisting of staff members from Ocean Affairs Council and MOENV shared what they have observed and learned online from Geneva, Switzerland**

## **2. Ministry of Environment preannounces the Standards for Air Pollutant Emissions from Cement Industry**

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) preannounced the amendment to “the Standards for Air Pollutant Emissions from Cement Industry” (referred to as the Standards hereinafter) on 27 Aug 2025 in response to the policy goals of resource circulation, net-zero emissions and air quality maintenance. For this amendment, dioxin, 12 heavy metals, hydrogen fluoride (HF), hydrogen chloride (HCl) and carbon monoxide (CO), among other air pollutants, are included in the

**Standards for comprehensive pollution control. Businesses are encouraged to intensify their efforts in composition screening and management for the use of circular materials/fuel. One of the goals is to stay in line with the EU's Directive on Industrial Emissions (IED), ensuring that domestic air quality and public health are maintained while circular economy is being promoted.**

The MOENV explained that the use of recycled waste as raw materials is increasing in Taiwan as the net-zero emissions and circular economy are being promoted, and cement kilns are playing a more vital role in the resource circulation. However, the highly diversified sources of raw materials and fuel, particularly those containing chlorine, will increase the potential of generating dioxin and other harmful air pollutants. For this, the emission level standards of dioxin, 12 heavy metals, HF, HCl and CO are added in this amendment, and internationally equivalent control values are identified based on the EU's IED to ensure pollution control performance. Meanwhile, the amendment will encourage businesses to update or improve their control equipment and improve the overall efficiency of operational management and pollution reduction.

In addition, to enhancing the emission standards at the rear end, the MOENV pointed out that the possible components in alternative materials and fuels, such as heavy metals, chlorine and fluorine, have been considered in this amendment and, therefore, cement kilns' processing ability the use of these materials should be screened based on a cement kiln's processing capacity. Therefore, businesses are encouraged to manage wastes at the source, establish waste and alternative fuel composition management mechanisms, set material source usage thresholds and proportions, and develop source control and appropriate material usage plan, which not only prevents wastes exceeding processing capacity from entering cement kilns, but also reduces environmental impact effectively, allowing businesses to maintain the balance between air quality and environmental protection while promoting a circular economy.

The MOENV emphasized that this amendment not only aligns with international air pollution management trends but also demonstrates Taiwan's forward-looking planning and commitment to pollution prevention through the dual-track implementation of end-of-pipe emission controls and the promotion of material composition management, which will effectively reduce the impact of the cement industry on air quality and public health.

### **3. Carbon fees launched as scheduled and businesses helped for low-carbon transition in response to the tariff impacts**

**Request from Chinese National Federation of Industries to postpone carbon fee collection in response to tariffs, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) stated that leading countries in Europe and Asia have recently reaffirmed their net-zero transition goals, remained firm with their goals particularly in light of extreme weather conditions caused by climate change; at the same times the global pace of green technology transformation has not slowed, and pressure on supply chains to reduce carbon emissions continues to increase. The voluntary reduction plans submitted by industries in 2025 demonstrate strong momentum for carbon reduction. A carbon fee system is indeed conducive to internal carbon pricing and green transition within businesses. Taiwan's carbon fee system will be launched as scheduled to support proactive transition for Taiwan's industries.**

The industries pounded by the latest tariff policies of the US include machine tools, plumbing

hardware, fasteners and motorcycle and automotive parts, where nearly 90% of businesses are small and medium in size. MOENV has broken down the emission statistics of 2024 and analyzed 464 businesses subject to carbon fees and found that one business was engaged in machine tool manufacturing, two were involved in motorcycle and automotive parts and no fastener manufacturer was on the list. For small and medium-sized enterprises (as defined in the *Act for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises* (中小企業發展條例)), there were seven in this category. Even so, MOENV has actively proposed two major measures to support the industry and maintain the international competitiveness of those subjects to carbon fees in response to the potential impact of tariff policies on the overall industry:

**I. Expand the scope for businesses with high carbon leakage risks and i and Include Case-by-Case Impact Considerations on a case-by-case basis**

*The Regulations Governing the Collection of Carbon Fees* (碳費收費辦法) specify that a 0.2 discount coefficient for emissions to be charged is awarded to a business subject to carbon fee which is one of high carbon leakage risk, provided that a voluntary reduction plan is proposed and approved. A business that is high in carbon leakage risk is identified based on international industry-specific identification standards. The MOENV will also assess these businesses based on several factors, such as whether a business has poor operating gross profits, has a certain proportion of profits that go to carbon fees, is affected by tariffs that have increased export costs by a certain percentage, or is subject to the risk of international commodity dumping. Businesses may apply for eligibility every year to keep carbon fees from weakening the international competitiveness of overall industry.

**II. Provide subsidies and incentives for low-carbon investments and help industries with transition and upgrades**

Currently, more than 90% of businesses subject to carbon fees have applied or registered for voluntary reduction plans for the eligibility for preferential rates of NT\$50 or NT\$100 per ton. The MOENV is actively reviewing the voluntary reduction plans together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), and will also cooperate with the MOEA on special subsidy projects, including carbon reduction measures such as process improvement, energy efficiency improvement and low-carbon fuel substitution, as well as related technology research and development, to actively assist businesses in low-carbon transition and meet international green supply chain requirements.

Finally, the MOENV added that the carbon pricing system is one of the important tools for driving the green growth and transition in Taiwan's industries. To help industries survive the tariff crisis, businesses experiencing poor profitability or impacted by international trade policies may apply for a discount on their carbon fee-based emissions, provided that a voluntary reduction plan is proposed and approved. Furthermore, the MOENV will collaborate with the MOEA to provide subsidies and incentives for industrial transition and upgrading, ensuring that Taiwan's industries maintain their competitiveness in the global race for net-zero emissions and green technology while steadily promoting the carbon fee.

**4. Ministry of Environment is participating in the Venture Capital Summit for the first time. Launching up the new green growth engine toward net-zero sustainability**

**The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) held an event at the “2025 Taiwan Venture Capital Summit” on August 13, marking the first role that the government plays in the dialogue with capitalists and encouraging the Taiwan Venture Capital Association to establish the green industry interaction platform. Minister Peng Chih-Ming of MOENV presented himself in the event and stressed the significance of venture capitals in Taiwan’s net-zero transition, demonstrating the government’s policy determination and action power in promoting the “green growth fund” and 6 key industries.**

**I. MOENV works with venture capitalists to draw the new blueprint for Taiwan’s green transition**

This event was centered on the investment configuration for the “green growth fund”. Multiple venture capitalists, startup businesses and experts were invited to focus on key green aspects, such as resource circulation, carbon capture energy storage technology, climate adaptation and urban mining. The event consisted of a theme lecture and startup demo show, hoping that the startup result displays and in-depth industrial dialogues will accelerate the application of green technologies and match them with the much-needed funds, as to vitalize the green investment ecology in Taiwan.

In his speech, Minister Peng pointed out that we are dealing with extreme climates and increasing competition for resources. Taiwan has to not only innovate in terms of environmental governance, but also develop green industries that have outstanding potentials in investment, are capable of development in large scale, and can change the current status substantially. He further indicated that the net-zero emissions is not just an environmental protection goal. It is an opportunity for Taiwan to reshape its competitiveness and requires the integration of policy guidance and market momentum to open a new economic horizon.

**II. Government joins force with private powers to drive green transition and create the new momentum for Taiwan’s economic growth**

This is the first time the MOENV participated in the venture capital summit in the hope of partnering with venture capitalists to encourage private capital to invest in green startup businesses, enhance the mutual trust and bonding between the government and industries, and achieve the long-term strategic goal of 2050 net-zero emission at the end.

Honored guests like Professor Emeritus Chen Chuh-Yung of National Cheng Kung University and Prof. Chien-Te Fan of National Tsing Hua University, along with representatives from Yuen Foong Yu and many corporations, were invited for the dialogue. 9 startup businesses with great potential were invited to give presentations, demonstrating Taiwan’s innovative capability in environmental technology and sustainable business models.

The MOENV stressed that the Ministry will continue to encourage more startup businesses to start the development of their unique green technologies using policy tools like the “green growth fund”, and work with private sector partners to make green transition no longer a slogan but the new energy to drive the economic growth in Taiwan.





Group photo



Minister Peng giving his speech



**Minister Peng giving his speech to the participating guests**

## **5. Circular Economy Hotspot comes to Asia for the first time; Taiwan hosts the event to lead to circulation**

**The Circular Economy Hotspot (CE Hotspot) will come to Asia in 2025 for the first time. Also for the first time, Taiwan will be hosting the “Asia Pacific Circular Economy Roundtable & Hotspot 2025” in Taipei from October 20 to 23, 2025, and it is now available for signing up. Co-organized by Ministry of Environment (MOENV), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Circular Taiwan Network, this year’s event is centered on the topic of “Leading Circular Collaboration”, and advocates the idea of “Circular Collaboration for Climate Crisis (CC4CC)” in the hope of working together with countries around the world on how to convert the “good idea” of circular economy into good business” through “good governance” among businesses, countries and international society, thus creating the “Circular Trilogy” and promoting Taiwan as the key role as a center for circular economy cooperation and innovation center in Asia Pacific.**

Field visits are scheduled for October 21 on 6 industrial circular economic topics, covering agriculture and food, textile, advanced technology and electronic products, architecture and construction, plastics and packaging, culture and regenerative communities. Visitors will have a guided tour at TSMC, Health Life’s down factory, Taipei 101, Asia Plant Organic Agribusiness, Plastics Industry Development Center and Spring Pool Glass, for a taste of innovative momentum of Taiwan’s circular economy.

Two international dialogues will take place in the morning on October 22, where participants talk about the paths that lead them to circular economic transition. Taiwan will publish the latest draft of “*Circular Economy Roadmap*” (循環經濟路徑圖) and invite international partners to share their insights and experience. In the afternoon on 22 Oct, workshops are scheduled for the 6 key industries, discussing the topics of agriculture and food, advanced technology and electronic products, architecture and construction, textile, energy and key materials, plastics and packaging, and these workshops are designed to present how Asia Pacific countries respond to the challenges



coming from the Global Plastics Treaty, among all international trends, through specific actions. Later that day is the business matching conference which is the best opportunity for businesses, organizations and circular economy partners in Taiwan, Asia Pacific and even around the world to look for cooperation.

The focus on October 23 is on the systematic circular governance framework at the corporate, regional and national levels. there will be 5 workshops covering policies and governance, financial facilitation mechanism, corporate transition, trading and traceability, and consumer participation.

Taiwan is a circular economic implementation domain featuring with a high density, maturity, and diversity of projects. By demonstrating to the world that the circular economy “can be done”, it not only presents the successful cases, but also allows participants to experience for themselves the context and cooperation models behind every design, process and decision.



**As the host of the first Asia Pacific Circular Economy Roundtable & Hotspot, Taiwan is ready to work together with other countries in the Asia Pacific to facilitate regional circular cooperation and accelerate the realization of climate solutions. This is not only an international forum focusing on the future, but also the best platform to explore strategic partners and demonstrate sustainable leadership. The event is scheduled to take place from 20 to 23 Oct in Taipei. All are welcomed to work hand in hand with global key decision makers to promote the circular economy.**

# Event Agenda

Time	10/20 Mon.	10/21 Tue.	10/22 Wed.	10/23 Thu.	10/23-26
Morning		Field visits for good circulation topics Route 1 Agriculture and food Route 2 Textile Route 3 Advanced tech and electronic products	Reception Conference forum   circulation trilogy International discussion 1   from waste recycling to system transformation National circular roadmap from the Asian perspective International discussion 2   from blueprint to action Promote circular governance and build circular cooperation	Sub-forum   circular good governance Policy and governance Financial facilitation mechanism Corporate transition Circular economy roadmap and legislation workshop Green financing to vitalize circular economy Design that facilitates a full circle Recycling system upgrade and EPR localization Circular accounting and value measuring Circular procurement and innovative business model	Peripheral events Exhibition
Afternoon	2026 Hotspot selection	Route 4 Architecture and construction Route 5 Plastics and packaging Route 6 Culture and regenerative communities	Conference forum   circular ecosystem Agriculture and food Advanced tech and electronic products Architecture and construction Textile Energy and key materials Plastics and packaging	Sub-forum   circular good governance Trading and traceability Consumer participation Welcome to visit peripheral events Economic and trade cooperation and reverse supply chain Consumption-oriented emission disclosure Circular sustainable education and life transition workshop Digital tech and traceability	
Evening	Welcome party		Business matching meeting	End Conference banquet	

This forum is focused on “Leading Circular Collaboration”. Governments, corporations, academic scholars and international network converge to explore the innovative implementation of circular economy, focus on Taiwan’s highlights in 6 major industries, demonstrate how to turn a good idea into a good business, promote good governance, and create a new example of cross-sector collaboration via the “Circular Trilogy”

## 6. Ministry of Environment establishes the “Southern Office for Post-Disaster Recovery” to expedite post-disaster waste disposal and environmental recovery to full speed

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) established the “MOENV Southern Office for Post-Disaster Recovery” on August 16. The opening ceremony was hosted together by Minister Peng Chih-Ming of MOENV and Magistrate Weng Chang-Liang of Chiayi County and witnessed by many esteemed guests, including Director General Yen Hsu-Ming of Environmental Management Administration, Deputy Director General Lin Chien-San of Resource Circulation Administration, Director General Hsu Jen-Tse of Tainan City Government Environmental Protection Bureau, Deputy Director General Yang Chih-Ming of Chiayi County Government Environmental Protection Bureau, and Mr. Liao Li-Ling from Legislator Tsai Yi-Yu’s Office. The office will be led by Deputy Minister Shen Chih-Hsiu of MOENV with Deputy Director General Lin Chien-San of Resource Circulation Administration as his deputy. Workers from the Resource Circulation Administration and Environmental Management Administration will station at the office that serves as the command and coordination center for post-disaster recovery efforts. The office will liaise, dispatch and assist local governments in accelerating post-disaster waste disposal and environmental recovery.

The MOENV pointed out that the “MOENV’s Southern Office for Post-Disaster Recovery” will carry out three main tasks, coordinate and coordinating the demand for recovery resources, supervise the progress of post-disaster waste disposal and environmental recovery, and inspection on temporary waste dump sites. For the dispatching and coordination of relief resources related to environmental recovery, the office will help and support local government in terms of, for example, emergency reporting, dispatching and liaison and coordination with all departments involved, and accelerating

resource integration and dispatching; planning and accelerating the post-disaster waste removal (including asbestos, solar photovoltaic facilities, general waste, and construction mixes), implementing classification, transportation and back-end processing, and accelerating environmental recovery; and inspecting and reporting by inspectors on temporary dump sites for post-disaster wastes, and preventing the breeding of dengue fever mosquitoes.

The MOENV emphasized that Southern Office for Post-Disaster Recovery is established to advance into the disaster-stricken areas and strengthen cooperation between the central and local governments. The office will help accelerate the coordination and integration of disaster relief resources and ensure that waste is cleaned up quickly to facilitate environmental restoration and that people can return to their normal life in the shortest possible time.



**The “MOENV’s Southern Office for Post-Disaster Recovery” opened for business on 16 Aug, helping accelerate the environmental recovery in disaster-stricken areas**





**Minister Peng Chih-Ming of MOENV and Magistrate Weng Chang-Liang of Chiayi County co-hosted the opening ceremony**

## **7. Net-zero Travel: Tourists can Collect Stamps at Green Sites to Win Prizes**

**To promote sustainable tourism and put the concept of net-zero green living into practice, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) launched the "Let the Net-Zero Journey Begin" campaign, integrating rich natural scenery and cultural industries in green tourism demonstration areas, helping local businesses introduce net-zero green living measures, and encouraging green tourism that is both in-depth and environmentally friendly. Everyone is invited to act and leave a sustainable and beautiful footprint on the Earth.**

The campaign covers the northern, central, southern and eastern parts of Taiwan, focusing on in-depth slow travel and green experiences, integrating low-carbon transportation modes, unique local culture, eco-friendly restaurants/green dining, green-label hotels, local community organizations, ecological sites, green attractions, geographical features, and other tourism resources. Fourteen special itineraries are recommended, including the Pearl Coast in Taoyuan, indigenous tribes in Hualien, the Sun Moon Lake Scenic Area, and Dawu Mountain in Pingtung. Tourists can have fun, eat good food, live sustainably, and travel in a low-carbon way", while practicing green living in all ways, from food and accommodation, to shopping and travel.

Pearl Coast in Taoyuan – Experience the Taiwan beach seine, take a guided tour of the Stone Weir Museum, and learn about the sustainable living wisdom of coastal communities and Hakka maritime culture.

Sun Moon Lake in Nantou – Experience the unique fusion of history and ecology by hiking through the mountains, enjoying stand-up paddleboard experiences and no-trace picnics, and taking a cultural stroll through Zhongxing New Village.

Dawu Mountain in Pingtung – Ride an electric scooter deep into the Wanluan and Dapeng Bay areas, see handmade leather carvings and rural DIY activities, and witness the charm of the integration of low-carbon and indigenous culture.

Indigenous tribes in the hills and by the ocean of Hualien – Visit a tribal hunter school, sustainable farms, experience coffee roasting, and experience local customs and the freshness of the mountains and sea.

This green tourism campaign also comes with a double lottery offer. People can not only receive a "Green Tourism Passport" to enjoy discounts and travel experiences, but also collect stamps for the lottery, with up to six opportunities to win a prize.

**I. Online interactive game: "Let the net-zero journey begin with you. Which type of net-zero traveler are you?"**

From 11 August to 11 September 2025, this fun personal travel preference quiz was offered for people to find out what type of green travel suits them.

**II. Stamp collection with travel passport: "Let the net-zero journey begin toward a green future; Collect stamps on your journey to unlock green travel!"**

From 11 August to 11 November 2025, travel passports are available at designated locations. Anyone who participates in a tour in any zone described in the passport and completes the stamp collection is eligible for the lottery. By collecting stamps in all four zones, you get an additional opportunity, i.e., up to five opportunities to win a prize.

This campaign aims to encourage tourists to choose low-carbon, eco-friendly ways to travel, and gain deeper experience of local culture and ecology. The goal is for travel to be more than just taking photos and checking in at a scenic spot, but also a green action that connects with the land and fosters a dialogue with the Earth. All are welcomed to explore the beauty of Taiwan with their "Green Travel Passport," embark on a profound and fulfilling green journey, and unlock a sustainable future together while travelling.



The campaign poster

## **8. Jianguo Flower Market to Serve as Model for Reducing Use of New Plastic Bags, Emphasizing Three Alternatives**

To lead the public to change their consumption behaviors and answer the policy call to reduce pollution at source, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) and the Taipei City Government have partnered to create the first "plastic-free flower market" through public-private cooperation, with the Jianguo Holiday Flower Market as the first model. The press conference titled "Prepare Your Own Bags for a Flower-filled New Life" was held on 2 August 2025 to launch a flower market plastic reduction model and promotion campaign, in collaboration with the Jianguo Holiday Flower Market Association, the Taipei City Farmers Association, and other NGOs and businesses. By using the "three environment-friendly bags" -- bringing your own shopping bags, reusing second-hand bags, or borrowing recyclable bags -- the "Three bags together, reducing plastic is feasible" slogan reminds people to contribute their own environmental protection efforts toward reducing plastic even when shopping at a flower market.

Environment Minister Peng Chi-Ming pointed out at the news conference that there have been many plastic reduction events in the past but most of them were not sustained for a long period. This time, the MOENV started with people who love flowers and plants and enjoy being close to nature, to work together with them to reduce plastics, motivate more people, and maintain good interaction with vendors and NGOs with the hope of creating Asia's first plastic-free flower market within a few years. Commissioner Chen Chun-An of the Taipei City Government's Department of Economic Development also mentioned that economic development and environmental sustainability can progress together. This cooperation with the Taipei City Environmental Protection Bureau will maximize benefits from limited resources. It is hoped this collaboration between the government and certain members of the public will establish a new model, in the form of the flower market under Jianguo Road. Deputy CEO Scott Liu of the Tzu Chi Foundation indicated that his charitable organization has been providing local recycling services for more than 27 years, and now they are hoping to work with MOENV to transform its operational experience and years of hard work into substantial change. Vendor representatives attending the event also stated that more than 120 vendors have joined the plastic reduction initiatives and demonstrated their support for the Jianguo Flower Market plastic reduction demonstration event.

The extensive use of single-use plastic bags is a waste of resources and seriously impacts the environment. The Jianguo Flower Market was selected as a demonstration site for plastic reduction due to the types of products sold and the shoppers' love for nature, as recently observed. A feasible model can be established for reducing plastic consumption through public-private partnerships, thus gradually pushing forward to achieve the goal of encouraging consumers to act towards plastic-free consumption. MOENV mentioned that the Phase I demonstration activity will run from 2 August 2025 to the end of December. The "Three bags together, plastic reduction is feasible" approach will encourage the public to buy their own shopping bags, reuse second-hand bags, or borrow recyclable bags from the Resource Circulation Administration of the MOENV at the Jianguo Flower Market. This will allow flower market shoppers to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags by using alternative products. At the same time, vendors will no longer proactively offer plastic shopping bags, working to build a plastic-free environment through friendly competition.

MOENV emphasized that there are three ways to participate in plastic reduction: bringing your own shopping bags, reusing clean second-hand bags, or borrowing recyclable bags. Regardless of how



one shops at the Jianguo Flower Market, shoppers may scan the vendor's exclusive QR code to enter a draw for a chance to win good deals, as long as they don't use disposable plastic bags from vendors. Furthermore, those who bring their own shopping bags will have a chance to win a Fullon Hotel accommodation voucher. For more event details, please visit the MOENV's Resource Circulation Administration's "Single-Use Product Reduction Information Network" at <https://recycle2.moenv.gov.tw/SingleUse/>.

The MOENV pointed out that this demonstration event was jointly promoted by the Taipei City Government's Department of Economic Development and Environmental Protection Bureau, the Jianguo Flower Market Association, and the Taipei City Farmers' Association, and received support and participation from many civic groups and local community groups. The nearby Fullon Hotel Taipei Central also joined in the event by offering a 12% discount on dining for green consumers at the flower market. This collaboration aims to create a cross-sector green co-prosperity circle, contributing to plastic reduction and expanding to new areas of plastic reduction.



**Deputy CEO Scott Liu of the Tzu Chi Foundation (1<sup>st</sup> from left), Chairman Chang Hsiueh-Tan of Jianguo Flower Market Association (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Director General Lai Ying-Ying of Resource Circulation Administration (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Deputy Minister Shen Chih-Hsiu of MOENV (4<sup>th</sup> from left), Minister Peng Chih-Ming of MOENV (5<sup>th</sup> from left), Chairman Pan Ching-Sen of Taipei Farmers' Association (1<sup>st</sup> from right), President Chen Chih-Chung of Consortium Chinese Floral Arts Foundation (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Deputy Commissioner Lu Shih-Chung (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), and Commissioner Chen Chun-An of the Taipei City Government Department of Economic Development (4<sup>th</sup> from right)**



CEO Sun Hsiu-Ju of Trust in Nature Foundation (1<sup>st</sup> from left), Chief Secretary Lai Su-Yen of Friends of Daan Forest Park Foundation (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), CEO Yang Ping-Shih of Friends of Daan Forest Park Foundation (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Deputy CEO Scott Liu of the Tzu Chi Foundation (4<sup>th</sup> from left), Chairman Chang Hsiueh-Tan of Jianguo Flower Market Association (5<sup>th</sup> from left), Director General Lai Ying-Ying of Resource Circulation Administration (6<sup>th</sup> from left), Deputy Minister Shen Chih-Hsiu of MOENV (7<sup>th</sup> from left), Minister Peng Chih-Ming of MOENV (8<sup>th</sup> from left), President Chen Mei-Nuan of Tse-Xin Organic Agriculture Foundation (1<sup>st</sup> from right), Manager Cheng Hui-Wen of Fullon Hotel (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Chairman Pan Ching-Sen of Taipei Farmers' Association (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), President Chen Chih-Chung of Consortium Chinese Floral Arts Foundation (4<sup>th</sup> from right), Deputy Commissioner Lu Shih-Chung (5<sup>th</sup> from right), and Commissioner Chen Chun-An of the Taipei City Government Department of Economic Development (6<sup>th</sup> from right)



**MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming explaining how the Jianguo Flower Market is going plastic-free**

## **9. Environmental Management Administration and Local Prosecutors Office Solve Miaoli's Largest Ever Illegal Soil Dump, Nearly NT\$300 million Seized**

**Leading a team consisting of justice and police personnel, the Taiwan Miaoli District Prosecutors Office joined forces with the Environmental Management Administration (EMA) of the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) and discovered a criminal ring that has been dumping excavated construction waste illegally in Miaoli for massive financial gains at the cost of environmental devastation. On the morning of August 25, 2025, a press conference “Prosecutors fight crime – Work with MOENV to solve the largest environmental criminal group in the history of Miaoli” held at the local Prosecutors Office, officials described what was found in the criminal case and reiterated their determination to fight crime.**

The Taiwan Miaoli District Prosecutors Office and the Environmental Management Administration (EMA) under the MOENV jointly held a press conference on solving the historic case. Attendees at the conference included personnel from: the law enforcement team from the Central Mobile Team of the Investigation Bureau, Ministry of Justice; the Miaoli County Police Bureau; the Miaoli County Environmental Protection Bureau, and the Second and Third River Management Branches of the Water Resources Agency. Key officials were: Deputy Minister Huang Shih-Chieh of the Ministry of Justice; Prosecutor-General Hsing Tai-Chao of the Supreme Prosecutors Office; Chief Prosecutor Chang Tou-Hui of the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office; Chief Prosecutor Lin Chin-Chun of the Taichung Branch, Taiwan High Prosecutors Office; Chief Prosecutor Lin Yin Tzu of the Miaoli District Prosecutors Office; Director General Yen Hsu-Ming of the EMA; Deputy Director Shen Feng-Tai of the Miaoli County Government Environmental Protection Bureau; Director General Yang Jen-Chieh of the Second River Management Branch of the Water Resources Agency, and; Director General Chang Chih-Hui of the Third River Management Branch of the Water Resources Agency. With videos and photos officials explained how the case was solved, and representatives from various agencies jointly

pledged their determination to "fight crime and protect our homeland."

In his press conference statement, Director General Yen Hsu-Ming of the EMA noted the fact that in recent years organized crime has gradually become more involved in illegal dumping of construction waste, causing devastation to the ecology and environment of Taiwan's homeland. To stop such crimes, the MOENV is drafting an amendment to the *Waste Disposal Act* (廢棄物清理法) to increase the maximum prison penalty for violating the Act from five to seven years. The MOENV will continue to comprehensively shatter environmental crime chains through cross-departmental cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior. The MOENV has requested funding from the Executive Yuan to build a nationwide "smart fence" system, deploying 2,200 e-Tags and license plate recognition points. By combining AI recognition and GPS monitoring to detect and trace pollution sources in real time, it will be extremely difficult for illegal activities to escape detection, thereby protecting Taiwan's homeland and environment.

The illegal construction waste dumping was uncovered by an inter-agency task force led by Prosecutor Peng Yu-Ching of the Miaoli District Prosecutors Office, and consisted of personnel from the Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau's Central Mobile Team; the Miaoli County Police Bureau; the Changhua County Police Bureau; the Central Environmental Management Center; the Environmental Management Administration of the MOENV, and; the Miaoli County Government Environmental Protection Bureau. The team conducted the largest-ever environmental crime investigation in Miaoli County over a period of 8 months, conducting seven extensive searches across 34 locations in five counties and cities. With critical assistance from the EMA's Central Environmental Management Center, the investigation team cross-checked and analyzed the money, material, and data flows of suspect businesses, analyzed the composition of the waste, and traced it to the sources. The team uncovered a comprehensive criminal construction waste disposal chain, involving clearing and transporting waste from contracted construction sites, transport fleets, illegal dumping, and cooperation in the issuance of false waste disposal site certificates. The investigation found that several construction waste removal companies worked with soil disposal sites to create the illusion of legal activities by using false stamps and QR code scanning, but in fact they shipped the received construction waste to unauthorized "tail soil" (土尾) sites, causing land exposure and hazards to soil and water conservation. Multiple illegal dumping sites were found in Miaoli County, covering 33,933 square meters in total, equivalent to five soccer fields. The investigation concluded in March 2025.

The Miaoli District Prosecutors Office indicted 49 suspects. The Miaoli District Prosecutors Office indicted 49 suspects on multiple charges then-current chairman of the Taipei City Construction Excess Earthwork Resources Management Association and sitting Houlong Township representatives, including violations of the *Waste Disposal Act* and document forgery under the *Criminal Code*. The total illegal gains were estimated at nearly NT\$300 million. The Miaoli District Prosecutors Office has seized over NT\$120 million in real estate and NT\$24 million in cash, as publicly announced. Other criminal assets were also confiscated, including a national record 39 tractor-trailers seized.

The EMA stated that illegal backfilling of construction waste has significant impacts on soil fertility and overall ecology. According to Article 46 of the *Waste Disposal Act*, an offender may be subject to imprisonment of not less than one year and not more than five years, and possibly an accompanying fine up to NT\$15 million. The EMA stressed that the government will not tolerate actions that damage the land and pollute the environment. It also called on the businesses at the source of the waste to properly dispose of construction waste and surplus soil and rocks in accordance with relevant regulations such as the *Waste Disposal Act* and the *Construction Surplus*



Soil Disposal Plan. Failure to observe applicable regulations may not only lead to criminal liability, but violators will also be held jointly responsible for cleanup and environmental remediation. The cost of the consequences exceed that which can be gained.



Director General of the Environmental Management Administration (6<sup>th</sup> from left) with other officials



A construction waste dump site is excavated for investigation

## **10. 2025 International Environmental Education Workshop Hosts 300 Participants from 15 countries to Work for Sustainable Future**

More than 300 experts, young people and practical “green collar” workers from 15 countries attended the "2025 International Environmental Education Workshop" held by the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) on 25 and 26 August in Taipei City and online. Participants joined either in person or online, transcending borders to attend this major environmental education event and work together toward environmental sustainability and net-zero emissions.

"The world is trying very hard to deal with the challenges from issues such as climate change, net-zero transitions and circular economy. However, the government's efforts alone are not enough. A true transition requires the participation of the entire society," said MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming to start the day. Later, the minister delivered a speech titled "Climate governance and Cultivation " to encourage tackling climate challenges through environmental education and the actions inspired thereby.

The topics discussed in the workshop were "Climate Actions", "Recycling", "Net-zero green life", "Results of environmental education promotion in Taiwan", "Biodiversity" and "Youth participation in sharing environmental education experience". The Japanese representatives shared their experience in circular economy and environmental practices; the Vietnamese representatives shared their strategies toward 2050 net-zero emissions; those from Thailand focused on promoting green consumption, biodiversity, and sustainability. As Taiwan is promoting the implementation of green policies through solid actions, Minister Peng shared with all attendants the nation's experience in taking climate action, net-zero green life, resource circulation and recycling, environment-friendly design, biodiversity and youth participation in environmental education.

The workshop served as a platform for knowledge exchange, allowing environmental education partners in the Asia-Pacific region to learn from each other, to better face future environmental challenges by taking solid actions.



**In-person participants of the 2025 International Environmental Education Workshop**





Minister Peng explained climate governance and incubation of green collar talent in his speech

## 11. Wastewater Resource Circulation and Intelligent Management Work in Tandem to Create Green Business Opportunities

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) held the seminar “Wastewater and Clean Future: Initiate the Green Transition and Green Action Roadmap” on 29 August 2025 in Taipei City. Twelve experts were invited to share innovative technology and real-world cases of intelligent management and recovering resources from wastewater. More than 200 people from the industrial, governmental, academic and research sectors attended the seminar collectively initiated a sustainable action roadmap, a sustainable action roadmap for green transition, to create green business opportunities for the wastewater treatment industry. Posters at the venue displayed results of the MOENV’s innovative wastewater treatment R&D subsidy program.

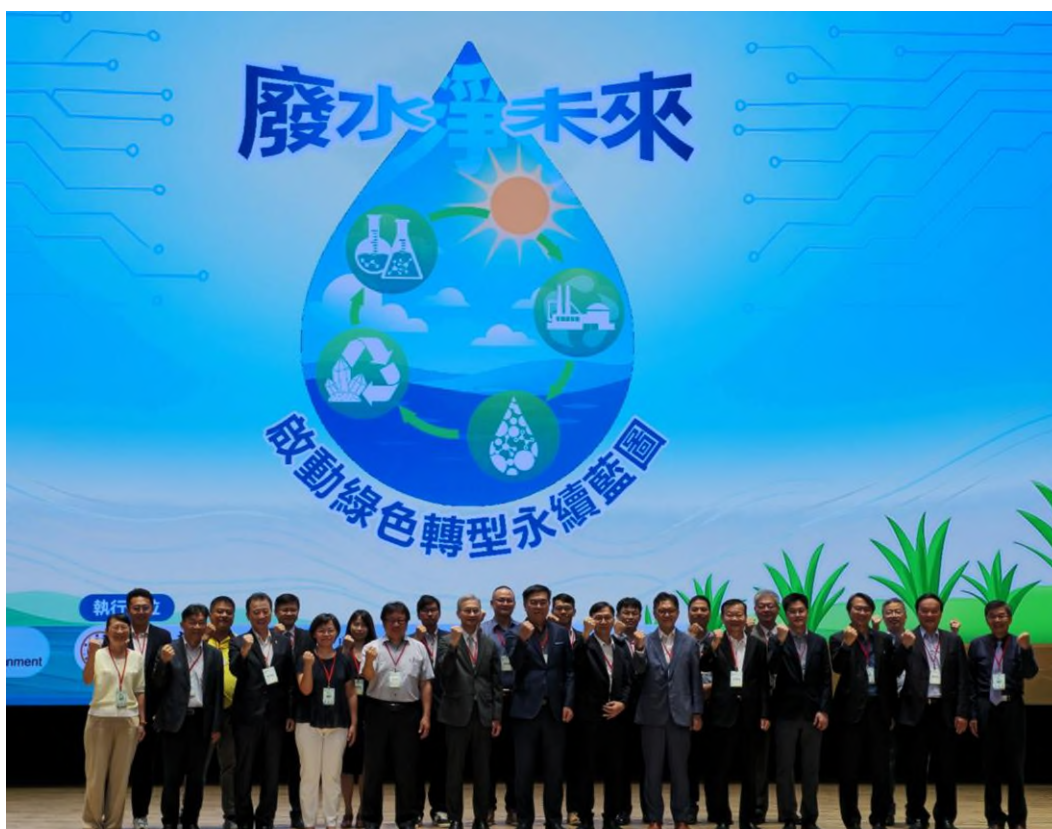
Minister Peng Chi-Ming of the MOENV stressed in his address that wastewater is no longer considered waste but a high-value strategic resource. Taking Germany as an example, he explained that it accounts for 9% of the country's overall economy with an annual growth rate of 3.1%. Water resource management is a part of this, mostly due to Germany’s expertise in producing water- and wastewater-related infrastructure goods for export. By learning from Germany, Taiwan is now promoting a green transition in wastewater treatment, connecting innovation with sustainability. It is hoped that a vital partnership can be established to enhance the outcomes of wastewater technology and to push Taiwan’s green tech industry forward.

MOENV stated that recovering substances from wastewater to reuse them as valuable resources has gradually become mainstream in pollution prevention and control. There are already mature technologies and practical examples that fully demonstrate the diverse potential and industrial

capacity of green technology.

Thin-film capacitor deionization technology combines closed thermal circulation to regenerate liquid ammonia and reduces energy consumption through heat pump technology. Fluidized bed crystallization recovers heavy metals and phosphorus-containing wastewater, with a crystallization rate greater than 80%, and has the potential to supply raw materials for PCBs, electroplating, and lithium-ion batteries. AI-enabled intelligent management of wastewater treatment processes allows better water management to help with the transition to low-carbon. A packaging plant utilizes thin-film intelligent control and management systems to adjust dosing and backwashing frequencies, increasing water production efficiency by 55% and reducing chemical dosage by 40%. An industrial park's wastewater treatment plant utilizes AI and automated management to annually 1.8 million kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e, 3.86 million cubic meters of water, 200,000 kWh of electricity, and 6,800 metric tons of sludge.

MOENV emphasized its commitment to directing industrial transition, by accelerating wastewater resource recovery and utilization and intelligent development using a three-pronged approach: regulatorily driven, technologically driven, and economically driven initiatives. This includes completing legislative process for amendments to regulations such as the *Effluent Standards* (放流水標準), the *Water Pollution Control Measure Management and Self-Monitoring Management Regulations* (水污染防治措施管理辦法), and the *Regulations Governing Collection of Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Fees* (水污費收費辦法). The MOENV also established green transition demonstration sites by working with local subsidy recipients. For businesses pursuing green transition, project loans and credit guarantees will be provided for business financing. The Water Pollution Prevention Fund will support the development of innovative, resource-efficient, and low-carbon wastewater treatment technologies, while also investing in emerging net-zero sustainable industries through the Green Growth Fund. It is hoped these funds will guide the green transition of wastewater treatment and inject a continuous stream of new momentum into Taiwan's sustainable development.



Wastewater and Clean Future seminar attendees



Minister Peng giving his keynote address



**All attendees of the seminar**