



# Major Environmental Policies

November 2025

## 1. Paraguay and Taiwan Signed MOU under Paris Agreement, Entering New Era of for Climate Governance Cooperation

**Witnessed by Vice Minister Bau-Shuan Ger of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Minister Rolando de Barros Barreto of Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, Paraguay, and Minister Peng Chih-Ming of the MOENV signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation under the Paris Agreement on October 1, 2025. This is the first time that Taiwan has signed an MOU, and it is in hopes of initiating cooperation on carbon reduction and relevant technologies under the Paris Agreement's mechanism and to take actions to achieve goals under the nationally determined contributions (NDCs).**

The MOENV stated that forest and land use management is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions in Paraguay as well as a potential source of carbon sinks, which has hence having become Paraguay's core reduction strategy for carbon reduction efforts. Paraguay's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for Greenhouse Gases updated in 2021 reveals that it aims to reduce emissions by 10-20% by 2030 through measures such as forest conservation, restoration, and afforestation, improved livestock management, enhanced soil management, improved energy efficiency, promotion of electric vehicles, and alignment with international conventions so as to build a healthy and transparent carbon market. The MOENV and the MOFA also visited Paraguay in March 2025. With this MOU, both countries will cooperate in accordance with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to achieve the NDCs and intensify mitigation and adaptation actions. The cooperation covers information on carbon market development, non-market approaches, knowledge, best practices, and exchanges on relevant experiences.

In addition, a forum took place alongside the signing ceremony, in which 17 enterprises, including the Green Growth Alliance, the Taiwan Carbon Solution Exchange, the MOFA and the MOENV were invited for a conversation on environmental governance issues between Paraguay and Taiwan. In his speech, Minister Peng mentioned that Taiwan proposed NDC 3.0 last year, setting a reduction target of 28% ( $\pm 2\%$ ) for 2030 and further increasing it to 38% ( $\pm 2\%$ ) for 2035, goals which are both achievable via future cooperation with fellow international partners. Paraguay possesses natural advantages in renewable energy and has established a regulatory framework that complies with the Paris Agreement, making cooperation between both countries highly complementary. Minister Barreto expressed that Taiwan stands fast as a technological partner of Paraguay, and that both countries may engage in deeper cooperation in areas such as carbon market mechanisms, ecosystem services, promotion of the circular economy, and sustainability education by combining Taiwan's technological innovation with Paraguay's abundant natural resources. Both sides reached a strong consensus that pragmatic collaboration under the Paris Agreement will help drive green

growth in industries for both countries.

The MOENV stated that this MOU is a cooperation agreement between Paraguay and Taiwan, which are 20,000 kilometers apart. This not only demonstrates how willing Taiwan is to work with Paraguay for climate governance but also marks the new era for the solid friendship and climate partnership between both countries.



**Paraguay and Taiwan sign the MOU under the Paris Agreement; Minister Peng Chih-Ming (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Minister Rolando de Barros Barreto of Ministerio des Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (3<sup>rd</sup> from right)**



**All guests witnessing signing of the MOU under the Paris Agreement between**

## **2. HCFC Control Regulations Amended Toward Zero Consumption**

Actively responding to the global trends of environmental protection and fulfilling its commitment to the Montreal Protocol, the MOENV has announced the amended *Regulations for Consumption Management of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons* (氟氯烴消費量管理辦法) on October 13, 2025, now renamed *Management Regulations for Hydrochlorofluorocarbons* (氟氯烴管理辦法). Major changes under the revision include specifying products or equipment containing HCFCs; adjusting the required allocation process down to once a year; and the addition of an auction to dispose of illegally imported HCFCs for better resource recycling. The MOENV stated that the amendment demonstrates the government's determination to lower HCFC consumption down to zero by January 1, 2030.

The MOENV pointed out that HCFCs are known for destroying the ozone layer. As a part of the international society, Taiwan is very active in shouldering its environmental responsibilities. This amendment will ensure that the control measures implemented in Taiwan are in line with the Montreal Protocol and its associated resolutions, highlighting Taiwan's determination and practices to achieve its commitment to international environmental protection.

The MOENV indicated that an application procedure for exemption was added in this amendment to align with international regulations. It is specified in the Montreal Protocol that the HCFCs used for specific purposes are not necessary to be included for consumption calculation. As a result, the application procedure for such exemption is specified in this amendment so that Taiwan's control measures are consistent with international standards. Additional revisions have established a more thorough border control mechanism, enhanced import bans, and set up solid regulations regarding import and declaration for enterprises importing HCFCs for purposes whose HCFC consumption is exempted from calculation. Such efforts aim to tighten the overall controls and enhance their effectiveness.

The MOENV stressed that HCFC reduction is a long-term and continuous task and requires cooperation between the government and private businesses. This amendment demonstrates Taiwan's response to the global commitment to environmental protection and provides clear regulatory guidelines for industry transition. With better management and more user-friendly administrative procedures in place, Taiwan will be able to lower HCFC consumption more efficiently and contribute to the protection of the ozone layer and the Earth.

## **3. Management Regulations on Environmental and Motor Vehicle**

### **Testing Organizations Revised to Ensure Testing Credibility by Heavily Penalizing Fraudulent Practices**

The MOENV is determined to fight against test data forgery and ensure fairness and

reliability of tests on environmental and motor vehicles. As a result, the *Environmental Testing Organization Management Regulations* (環境檢驗測定機構管理辦法) and *Regulations Governing Motor Vehicle Air Pollutant and Noise Emission Testing Organizations* (機動車輛排放空氣污染物及噪音檢驗測定機構管理辦法) were amended on October 2 and October 3, 2025, respectively. Centered on “zero tolerance for test data forgery”, this amendment aims to increase punishment on data forgeries, hoping to deter any foul play and maintain the integrity of environmental policies.

The regulatory amendment is designed to intensify management efforts and encourage integrity. Major features include the new addition of administrative controls to revoke or cancel permits, stricter restrictions on the period for a testing organization to apply for permits, heavier penalties for organization representatives and application and report signatories on behalf of testing organizations, and new provisions for commending exemplary testing personnel.

The National Environmental Research Academy of the MOENV stated that the credibility of environmental test data is important for promoting environmental protection policies, and its accuracy is not to be challenged. This regulatory amendment demonstrates the government's determination to safeguard testing quality, and stricter management and heavier penalties are in place to maintain the reliability of testing data and rigorously ensure environmental quality for all citizens.

The MOENV will continue to supervise testing organizations, strengthen licensing and certification, and encourage businesses to jointly maintain order in the testing market, thereby contributing to the sustainable environmental development of Taiwan.

#### **4. The Asia Pacific Circular Economy Roundtable & Hotspot 2025**

##### **Concludes with Taiwan's First Circular Economy Roadmap is Formed, Australia to Host Next**

The four-day Asia Pacific Circular Economy Roundtable & Hotspot 2025, which brought together more than 500 participants from 50 countries, came to a successful conclusion on the afternoon of October 23 at Songshan Cultural and Creative Park. President Lai Ching-Te delivered a speech at the event, encouraging Taiwan to become an important hub for the circular economy in Asia. He and the four organizers - the MOENV, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Circular Taiwan Network - witnessed the presentation of the forum's outcomes, symbolizing that the forum's discussions would be turned into solid action plans to promote Taiwan's circular economy from vision to practice.

In Taiwan, the transition to circular economy is gaining its momentum. Over the past five years, the average added value in Taiwan's circular economy has grown annually by 9.01%, and the average export growth rate went even higher at 19.38% annually for exports, making it a high-growth and highly promising sector within the green technology industry. This shows that the circular economy is more than an environmental issue, but also a crucial engine driving new economic growth.

A "dynamic co-creation" model was adopted for the first time in this forum to facilitate Taiwan's link to the Asian circular economy circle. Experts from 50 countries were invited to provide suggestions and feedback in real time, jointly forming the first cross-border "Circular Economy Roadmap" in the Asia-Pacific region. It will serve as the future base to continually promote Taiwan's link to the Asia-Pacific circular industry and the new framework for policy cooperation.

The closing ceremony began with the organizers explaining results from exchanges in the forum and reviewing the important consensus and action plans reached during the forum. Afterwards, expert suggestions on the Asia-Pacific's first cross-border, co-created "Circular Economy Roadmap" were presented to the four main organizers, symbolizing the continual promotion of international cooperation and policy exchanges among the Asia-Pacific partners.

President Lai Ching-Te pointed out in his speech that the Asia-Pacific region will become the most active region for the global circular economy, and Taiwan will move forward hand in hand with partners from all countries with "Taiwan Can Lead" as its belief. The conclusion of this forum is not the end, but a new beginning; through the joint efforts of Taiwan and its Asia-Pacific partners, the circular economy will become a "cooperative ecosystem that continues to be implemented in Taiwan and linked to the Asia-Pacific region" instead of just a topic of discussion. President Lai also shared his thoughts from visiting the "2025 Circular-Cross Expo," saying that Taiwan has demonstrated its ability of producing "circular economy products" with a full display of achievements of industry innovation and sustainable design.

Finally, CEO Freek van Eijk of the Netherlands Circular Economy Hotspot took the stage to announce that Australia will be the host country for the next Asia-Pacific Circular Economy Hotspot. The reins were handed over to the four host organizations of this year's event, symbolizing the continual legacy and expansion of the Asia-Pacific Circular Economy Exchange Platform. The forum concluded in a round of applause, marking a new chapter of Taiwan advancing the circular economy in the Asia-Pacific through actions and cooperation.



Experts' suggestions from the Asia-Pacific's first cross-border "Circular Economy Roadmap" were submitted to the four main organizers, symbolizing the continued promotion of international cooperation and policy exchanges within the Asia-Pacific network.



The four-day "Asia Pacific Circular Economy Roundtable & Hotspot 2025" (APCER+ +Hotspot 2025) brings together more than 500 participants from 50 countries



**Host country for the next Asia-Pacific Circular Economy Hotspot, Australia took the reins from this year's four host organizations, symbolizing the legacy and expansion of the Asia-Pacific Circular Economy Exchange Platform.**

## **5. Taiwan-Japan CCS International Conference Held to Build Key Net-Zero Capacities**

**The MOENV held the "Net-Zero Key Enabler – Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS) International Conference" on October 8, 2025, to speed up Taiwan's net-zero transition. Experts from Japan and Taiwan were invited for in-depth discussions on multiple major CCS-related issues such as national policies, forward-looking technologies, and social communication to establish a CCS development strategy and help achieve the 2050 net-zero goals.**

The MOENV Deputy Minister Hsieh Yein-Rui stressed in his speech that carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) is an important technology in Taiwan's "Pathway to Net-Zero Emissions in 2050." The goal of the plan is to achieve a reduction of six million tons of carbon by 2035 with CCUS. Japan's CCS development experience is highly valuable since Taiwan and Japan share similar geological conditions and industrial structures. Deputy Representative Kawai Gen of the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association pointed out that the carbon storage potential can be as high as 15 to 24 billion tons along the coasts of Japan. The Japanese government promulgated the "Act on Carbon Dioxide Storage Business" in 2024 to establish a framework for storage permit and transportation mechanism, forming nine Advanced CCS Projects to build an all-round industry value chain. He encouraged the continuous exchanges between Taiwanese and Japanese experts for long-term sustainability.

### **I. Japanese experiences: From national strategies to forward-looking technologies**

Dr. Kunieda Makoto of the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) said that Japan's CCS strategic goal is to store six to 12 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year by 2030, with an increase to 120 to 240 million tons by 2050. Therefore, JOGMEC has selected nine "Advanced CCS Projects" as commercialization examples and is now working with Malaysia and Singapore on transboundary transportation cooperation. Dr. Takeshi Tsuji of Tokyo University mentioned that safety and public trust are the foundation on which to realize CCS goals, and presented several low-cost innovative monitoring techniques, such as a portable active source and distributed acoustic sensing, which can precisely track underground CO<sub>2</sub> movement and ensure geological stability.

## **II. Taiwan's strategic planning: Public-private cooperation to build a complete value chain**

Regarding Taiwan's strategies, Chief Chen Chia-Yi of the MOENV's Climate Change Administration expressed that the "CCUS Carbon Reduction Flagship Action Project" will be promoted in legislation, industry, technology, and finance through cross-departmental efforts. To achieve Taiwan's 2035 reduction goal, i.e., the NDC 3.0, CCS is an indispensable part. Currently, the MOENV is drafting the "*Management Regulations for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage*" (二氧化碳捕捉後封存管理辦法) based on the "*Climate Change Response Act*" (氣候變遷因應法), specifying matters regarding the application for storage sites and management matters. The ongoing environmental impact assessments (EIAs) will serve as guidance for future EIA cases. Professor Bing-Zih Hsieh of National Cheng Kung University analyzed that it is challenging for Taiwan to achieve the 2035 goal, but it may start by improving public awareness, building core infrastructures, providing economic incentives, and establishing well-designed regulatory system. Professor Ming-Lone Liou of National Taiwan University mentioned that CCS is the last puzzle for Taiwan to achieve net zero. He came up with six suggestions for promotion strategies, including accelerating formation of management regulations, eliminating concerns about seismic events, building value chains, a financial support mechanism, setting up companies based on Japan's JCCS model, and facilitating social communication.

## **III. Technological practice and social communication: Foundation of trust for safe storage**

Director Daiji Tanase of Japan CCS Co., Ltd. (JCCS) shared the company's successful experience in the Tomakomai Project. He mentioned that JCCS has accomplished the goal of 300,000-ton injection and proved scientifically that operation is safe without any risk of leakage after the Hokkaido earthquake in 2018, thereby gaining trust from the public. JOGMEC Special investigator Sato Ryosuke further discussed about the "Advanced CCS Projects" with in-depth talks on challenges regarding pipeline and shipping. He explained how Japan invited over 30 enterprises to establish a hub-and-cluster model to lower costs and distribute risks through a conference on mutual regulation regarding liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> shipping value chain.

As for Taiwanese experts, Professor Tien-Shun Lin of National Central University

pointed out that western Taiwan has theoretically more than 40 billion tons of storage potential. Currently, plans have been in place to set up several pilot test sites with potential in Guanyin, Tiezhanshan, Taichung, and Mailiao. Then Professor Ya-Hsuan Liou of National Taiwan University broke down the international regulations and pointed out that countries including the UK, USA, and Japan have adopted strict government-led supervision models. She suggested that Taiwan learn from other countries and set up a thorough regulatory system covering site selection, prospecting, injection, to monitoring to ensure environmental safety.

#### **IV. Future prospect: Deepening international cooperation for steady net-zero progress**

A dialogue took place at the end of the conference among all Taiwanese and foreign experts and participants and focused on issues such as carbon market development strategies, regional collaboration models, and future policy challenges. Through nations exchanging valuable experiences, the MOENV hopes to gradually provide solid references for Taiwan's emission trading system and speed up alignment with global carbon pricing trends. Future efforts will continue to learn from global experiences to enhance Taiwan's carbon pricing system and achieve both effective reduction and sustainable economic development.



**Honored guests of the CCS International Conference**



Dialogues between experts from Japan and Taiwan



All participants of the CCS International Conference

## 6. MOENV Holds Resilient Taiwan International Forum on Chemical Disaster Prevention and Response and Global Cooperation

The MOENV-organized “2025 Resilient Taiwan - International Exchange Forum on Resilient Technologies for Environmental Accident Disaster Prevention and Response” took place at the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) Chung Hsing Campus

**from October 29 to 31. The purpose was to promote exchanges of domestic and international experience in environmental accident response and enhance the nation's capacity for preventing and responding to toxic chemical disasters and emerging energy accidents. Presided by Director-General Meng-Yu Tsai, the forum acknowledged outstanding enterprises and joint defense organizations that handle and manage toxic and concerned chemical substances. Attended by more than 500 experts from Taiwan and abroad, the event showcased Taiwan's achievements in disaster prevention and response technologies and international cooperation.**

Besides sharing case studies on toxic chemical disaster responses just as in previous years, the forum in 2025 expanded on exchanges on international issues, inviting experts from American organizations such as UL Solutions and EMD Electronics, and Japanese ones such as Hazardous Materials Safety Technology Association (KHK) and Maritime Disaster Prevention Center to share case studies on disasters involving lithium batteries, specialty gases, liquid ammonia and liquid hydrogen as well as electric vehicle fires. As for Taiwanese participants, experts from National United University, National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology, and the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) discussed experience in disasters involving energy storage facilities and liquid ammonia, deepening interactions on technical practices. TSMC and Chi Mei Corporation shared their practices in voluntary chemical substance management, providing valuable information for the latest operations and contingency preparation as references. An exhibition section on disaster prevention and response technologies Innovative applications such as AI big data, extended reality (XR) training modules, detection robot dogs, detection robots, and smart sensors were on display to demonstrate how to improve disaster response efficiency and lower disaster risks with technologies.

Director-General Tsai stated that the government is enhancing measures regarding inventory, management, investigation, and training through cross-department efforts in the face of diverse risks of environmental disasters. It is hoped that this forum will facilitate exchanges of experiences with other nations and jointly build a more resilient environmental safety protection network via this forum. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the prevention and response of toxic chemical disasters and emerging energy disasters require integration across different fields and collective efforts, which will be achieved through the continual introduction of global experiences and emerging technologies to improve the response system and safeguard citizens' health and environmental safety.



Director-General Tsai delivers a speech at the forum



Director Tsai (5<sup>th</sup> from left) poses with representatives of local joint defense organizations with outstanding performance in field testing awards



Director-General Tsai and all participants

## 7. MOENV Establishes Central Forward Coordination Office for Food Waste Disposal to Intensify Disposal and Epidemic Prevention

The Environmental Management Administration (EMA) under the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) announced the establishment of the "Central Forward Coordination Office for Food Waste Disposal under the African Swine Fever Prevention and Response Center (Food Waste Treatment Section)." The office will keep track of the implementation of food waste treatment measures in various regions of Taiwan. Starting on October 31, 2025, the office will hold daily meetings with local governments to coordinate communication between ministries and local governments, integrate national food waste disposal capacity, and ensure that food waste is disposed of safely, quickly, and properly during periods when food waste is prohibited for use in pig farming, while taking into account both epidemic prevention and environmental safety.

The MOENV indicated that the coordination office is located in the Environmental Management Administration office in Taichung City and is in charge of: 1) Helping Taichung City deal with the disposal of food waste; 2) Coordinating the transportation of local food waste, overseeing proper disposal, and matters requiring coordination in the short term; and 3) Food waste boiling management, food waste disposal planning, and long-term coordination.

Regarding the disposal measures during the ban on using kitchen waste for pig farming, the MOENV stated that the current methods for classifying and collecting kitchen waste remain unchanged. Cleaning teams and qualified recycling businesses will assist in the collection and transportation of kitchen waste to appropriate locations designated by competent authorities, to prevent its illegal diversion. Short-term emergency

responses will prioritize reuse, for example, for fertilizer and energy production, supplemented by proper disposal through incineration and landfilling. In the long term, the focus will be on converting food waste to fertilizer, energy, and other reuse methods (such as black soldier fly larvae treatment), thus facilitating a circular economy and sustainable green energy development.

The MOENV stressed and asked all local governments to strengthen the control and verification of the flow of kitchen waste, prevent illegal use, and ensure zero blind spots in epidemic prevention according to the *“Guidelines for Prohibiting Pig Feeding with Kitchen Waste in Response to African Swine Fever Prevention”* (因應非洲豬瘟防疫禁止廚餘養豬指引) and the *“Regulations Governing General Waste Recycling, Clearance and Disposal”* (一般廢棄物回收清除處理辦法) promulgated by the MOENV on October 23, 2025.

The MOENV emphasized that governments at both central and local levels will continue to work together on balancing epidemic prevention measures and resource circulation, while ensuring environmental hygiene, food safety, and stability for daily living, jointly protecting Taiwan's livestock industry and sustainable environment.

## **8. Government Chief Sustainability Officers Meet for Training to Collaboratively Create a Sustainable Future**

**The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) held the “2025 Government Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) Training Course” on October 7, 2025, at the Howard Civil Service International House in Taipei City. The course aimed at strengthening leadership and execution capabilities of governments at all levels as well as state-owned enterprises for the transition to sustainable net-zero, and chief sustainability officers from 70 entities, including central ministries, local governments, and state-owned enterprises, were invited for the course.**

Deputy Minister Jiunn-Horng Yeh emphasized in his address that Taiwan remains on its course toward the 2050 net zero target despite the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and the global tariff crisis. Taiwan will assist industries in reducing carbon emissions and lowering costs and will also provide guidance and assistance to industries suffering severe impacts. The MOENV not only promotes the training of green-collar talents but also directs billions of New Taiwan Dollars from the *“Green Growth Fund”* to invest, for example, in industries involved with net zero, circular economy, and climate adaptation. It is hoped that crisis will be turned into opportunities as the “dual-axis transformation” and movement toward a low-carbon supply chain will become new economic driving forces for Taiwan. Deputy Minister Yeh further stated that CSOs are key drivers in guiding departments within all entities to focus on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. He hoped that all CSOs would bring what they have learned in the course back to their own entities, while strengthening lateral communications, and building a more sustainable and resilient Taiwan together.

The *“Government CSO Alliance”* was established on August 29, 2024, as announced by Premier Cho Jung-Tai. Vice Premier Cheng Li-Chun serves as the Executive Yuan’s

CSO, and Minister of Environment Peng Chi-Ming serves as the Alliance's Secretary-General. The alliance aims to guide governmental institutions and state-owned enterprises in practicing green growth to achieve the net-zero transition by 2050. This training course was an important part of the "CSO Alliance" formed to support sustainable development efforts. The course covered *"The Concepts, History, and Related Regulations of Global Sustainable Net-Zero Topics"*, *"Analysis and Planning of Sustainable Net-Zero Strategies"*, and *"The Current Status and Future Planning of National Green Procurement Policies"*.

In addition, the Government CSO Alliance has carefully developed a series of online courses to expand the influence of sustainability concepts, and the courses have been made available on the *"Civil Service e-Learning Platform"* for civil servants, to help them learn more about sustainability issues. The total of nine courses cover several aspects, for example, *"Evolution and Trends of Sustainable Development Goals"*, *"Theories and Foundations of Greenhouse Gas Inventory"*, and *"Current Status and Future Planning of National Green Procurement Policies"*. As of October 2025, nearly 40,000 people have taken the courses, with more than 33,000 people successfully obtaining certification, suggesting civil servants are highly interested in sustainability topics. Workers in both the public and private sectors are encouraged to take the online learning programs.



Deputy Minister Yeh (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) poses with lecturers and group discussion mentors



**The Government CSO Alliance training course participants**

## **9. Heading into a New Era of Environmental Management, Establishing the Department of Environmental Information Technology to Drive Digital Governance**

**On October 16, 2025, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) announced the official establishment of the "Department of Environmental Information Technology". Minister Su Chun-Jung of the Directorate-General of Personnel Administration, Executive Yuan and Deputy Minister Isabel Hou of the Ministry of Digital Affairs were invited to attend the unveiling ceremony, symbolizing that Taiwan has started the full digital transformation in environmental management, and is now stepping into a new era. MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming stressed in his speech that the new department will adopt artificial intelligence (AI) for environmental governance, make information more transparent, and deepen public participation through the establishment of citizen science platforms and improvement of national environmental databases. At the same time, an AI customer service system is being designed that will optimize public service, while a human-oriented set of AI ethical environment management principles will be established to ensure secure and reliable AI applications.**

The MOENV indicated that the Department of Environmental Information Technology will build the foundation of digital governance from the ground up. First, a national environmental database system will be constructed by integrating data on air and water quality, waste management, toxicology, environmental impact assessments (EIAs), and 15,000 environmental protection project reports and layered maps with Geographic information system (GIS) data accumulated over the years. This massive data

will be optimized as the core engine for AI services and to assist decision-making, for example, in the review of EIAs or large development projects, and to encourage public participation. Regarding AI public services, an integrated intelligent customer service system will be established to provide the public with a single window for 24-hour instant consultation services, enabling people to quickly obtain answers to environmental questions. Internally, AI tools such as smart document processing and smart procurement are being introduced to comprehensively improve internal administrative efficiency. In addition, the Department of Environmental Information Technology will collaborate with fellow agencies to promote three proof-of-concept demonstration projects annually for complex and repetitive tasks and assist in project development and risk assessment to build AI resilience and lead environmental technology into the future.

MOENV explained that there will be an AI competition for environmental agencies to deepen public participation in environmental management. It is hoped that these digital transformation measures will help Taiwan's environmental governance become more intelligent and transparent, and that all citizens will be encouraged to participate and work together towards a new era of sustainable environment.



**Unveiling ceremony of the Department of Environmental Information Technology**



MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming delivers his address at the ceremony

## 10. Public Cautioned to Be Careful when Leasing Land After Criminal Dumping Ring Prosecuted for Illegal Earth Dumping

In June 2025, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV), the Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office, the Third Division of the Seventh Special Police Corps of the National Police Agency, the Central Taiwan Criminal Investigation Center of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, the Taoyuan City Government Environmental Protection Bureau, and the Police Bureau joined forces in a multi-pronged search operation. The operation was a success as the task force apprehended a waste dumping ring led by a suspect surnamed Hsu, who was suspected of dumping large quantities of construction waste and excavated materials on three hillsides as well as farmlands in Longtan District, Taoyuan District, Taoyuan District, and Dayuan District of Taoyuan City. Following an investigation by the Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office, 31 individuals, including the main suspect Hsu, a cleaning company, drivers, and an upstream construction material storage site, as well as the legal representatives of 6 companies, were indicted in accordance with the *“Waste Disposal Act”* (廢棄物清理法), the *“Soil and Water Conservation Act”* (水土保持法), and the *“Urban Planning Act”* (都市計畫法).

Hsu would find suitable hidden sites for backfilling, and members of the group would arrange agreements with the property owners to use or lease the properties for construction material storage under the pretext of stockpiling construction materials, or for soil and water conservation projects provided free of charge as a disguise. Then, they collected construction waste, excavated materials from construction sites or gravel storage yards, and sludge generated from wastewater treatment facilities. These materials normally be properly processed by a recycling business or stored at a soil and gravel resource stacking site, as the law prohibits their use for backfilling farmland. The criminal group packed these wastes and sludge into gardening soil under the

guise of a legally registered "gardening" company, in a cunning attempt to avoid inspection by environmental protection authorities. Hsu provided properties for storage and backfilling of waste materials without proper approval, thus violating Article 46 of the Waste Disposal Act.

The Environmental Management Administration alerts property owners to frequent recent reports of illegal waste soil and construction waste disposal. Property owners should exercise caution and be on the lookout for illegal operations that involve using a property in return for free-of-charge land preparation and earthwork backfilling. To prevent illegal dumping on one's private property, any unusual situation encountered should be reported immediately to police or the environmental protection bureau.

The Environmental Management Administration will continue to cooperate with law enforcement, local governments, and other relevant authorities to combat environmental crimes and safeguard a healthy living environment.



**Illegal dump site on a piece of farmland.**



**An excavator excavating a farmland dumping site.**



**Taking a measurement of backfilling depth.**

## **11. Circular Economy Innovations Presented at Circular-Cross Expo 2025 Grand Opening**

The “Circular-Cross Expo 2025” was held from October 23 to 26, 2025, at the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park in Taipei City. The opening ceremony on October 23 featured a speech by Lai Ying-ying, Director-General of the Resource Circulation Administration, Ministry of Environment (MOENV), and was attended by representatives from the Netherlands Office Taipei and other distinguished guests. The event marked a significant milestone for the expansion of Taiwan's circular economy towards cross-domain cooperation and international connections.

Director Lai expressed that it was the sixth year of the Expo, which has contributed much to Taiwan's circular economy. She pointed out that innovation is where the circular economy starts, and the participation of younger generations is its driving force. Thanks to the curatorial team, the Expo has connected entrepreneurs and groups across Taiwan, showcasing boundless creativity from entrepreneurial experiments to industrial development. This year's event was held in tandem with the “2025 Asia Pacific Circular Economy Roundtable & Hotspot (APCER & Hotspot)”. With the participation of the Netherlands Pavilion and partners from many countries, Taiwan's circular economy roadmap sets sights on moving towards the goal of net zero and zero waste, driven by the participation of youth and international cooperation.

Matthijs van der Hoorn, Deputy Representative of the Netherlands Office Taipei, expressed his appreciation for Taiwan's efforts in promoting the circular economy. He stated that the circular economy is a challenge that requires innovation and a change of mindset in various ways, and it needs clear goals and concerted action to truly achieve a sustainable transition. He emphasized: “One walks fast, but a group walks far,” which is why it was important for everyone to gather at the event. He also thanked the Holland Circular Hotspot (HCH) for being a pioneer and partner in promoting the circular economy.

Freek van Eijk and Vesna Lavtizar, CEO and COO of the Netherlands Circular Economy Hotspot, respectively, said in their remarks: “The Netherlands is known as a global leader in the circular economy, but for us, Taiwan is the pioneer of the circular economy in the Asia-Pacific region. Taiwan is becoming an important gateway connecting regional circular opportunities. At the Circular-Cross Expo, both countries are sharing their insights, practices, and passion for the circular economy. Only through cooperation can we scale up innovation and make the circular economy a new everyday mode.”

Curator Lai Yi-Jung mentioned that since its inception in 2020, “Circular-Cross Expo” has been hoping to connect those who are willing to experiment across fields—designers, farmers, teachers, engineers, and social entrepreneurs. One thing they have in common is that they care not only about their own products or expertise, but also about the planet and society we live in. This year's expo theme is “Let's Circle Up! A Party for Circular Ideas.” The exhibition is no longer just for viewing, but is a circular carnival that allows for exchange, interaction, and concrete action.

The public was invited to visit the venue and participate in this grand event, which

featured exhibition experiences and interactive learning, including nearly 20 hands-on workshops, 7 international sharing sessions, and multiple industry matchmaking meetings. The event covered five major themes: “Taiwan's Circular Ecosystem”, “Circular Highlights”, “Lifestyle Aesthetics and Handmade Experience”, “Circular Innovation” and “International Exchange Zone”, fully presenting the diverse aspects of culture, education, innovation, and international exchange.

This year's exhibition spanned four major venues in Songshan Park: the Cultural Plaza, Cultural and Creative Boulevard, Coconut Grove Avenue, and the Southbound Tobacco Factory. In the Cultural Plaza, there were wonderful examples of the integration of local Taiwanese materials, cultural beliefs, and technology. On the Cultural and Creative Boulevard were displays on how technological innovation brings about brand-new solutions. Along Coconut Grove Avenue, the focus was the integration of education and life and how the spirit of circularity can enter families and daily life, from handicrafts to parent-child activities. Meanwhile, the exhibition area of the Southbound Tobacco Factory brought together startup services and sharing platforms, showcasing the potential of innovative circular models.

Thanks to exhibitions, forums, and industry matchmaking, Taiwan's circular economy is expanding from local practices to international cooperation, demonstrating the Asia-Pacific region's determination to move towards sustainability. The event served as an important platform for Taiwan to promote the circular economy and cultivate a sense of sustainability among all citizens by combining policy promotion, industrial innovation, international exchange, and civic education, and symbolizing that a circular economy is no longer just a concept, but a movement created by all citizens.



**President Lai Ching-Te and Matthijs van der Hoorn, Deputy Representative of the Netherlands Office Taipei, attend the Circular Cross Expo held at Songshan Cultural and Creative Park**



**Grand opening of the “Circular-Cross Expo 2025” at Songshan Cultural and Creative Park**



**Group Photo of Participants and Staff at the Circular-Cross Expo Press Conference.**



**Asia-Pacific startups and sharing technologies are connected at the Southbound Tobacco Factory exhibition area, showcasing innovative circulation models and their future potential.**