Major Environmental Policies

October 2025

1. MOENV Holds the 2025 Asia Carbon Pricing Forum for a Green Transition Pathway with International Partners

MOENV held the 2025 Asia Carbon Pricing Forum on September 23, 2025, to deepen exchanges on international carbon pricing policy and look for the best pathway to long- and medium-term carbon pricing strategies for Taiwan. With the German Emissions Trading Authority (DEHSt) as the forum partner, carbon market experts from Europe and neighboring Asian countries were invited to explore the development and challenges of the global carbon trading system with their Taiwanese counterparts. It is hoped that the experience and insights shared in the forum will help Taiwan develop policies that focus both on greenhouse gas reduction and sustainable economic development.

I. Deepen Germany-Taiwan cooperation and set a sustainable foundation

The MOENV mentioned that Taiwan's carbon fee collection system was launched in 2025, marking a significant milestone for Taiwan in reaching the era of carbon emission pricing. Manufacturing and power generation enterprises with more than 25,000 tons in annual emissions are to pay carbon fees in May 2026 based on the GHG emissions of 2025. The carbon fee system is designed for emission reduction. A business that has come up with a voluntary reduction plan that meets specified goals is eligible for a preferential rate. At this crucial moment of rolling out the carbon pricing system, Taiwan hopes to help all countries deal with challenges facing CO_2 reduction and sustainable economic growth through sharing of global experiences and policy exchanges.

Director General Karsten Tietz of the German Institute Taipei and Dr. Jürgen Landgrebe, consultant of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, mentioned the cooperation between Germany and Taiwan in building carbon trading capacity since 2018 in their speeches. Also, the MOENV Minister Peng led a delegation of members from the "Green Growth Alliance" to Berlin in June 2025 for onsite visits and more in-depth bilateral cooperation. As part of substantial cooperation results, the Taiwan Carbon Solution Exchange (TCX) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Energy Exchange (EEX) on 27 June 2025 to set a solid foundation for Taiwan's carbon market development by learning from them.

II. Focus on the dual strategy and develop a carbon pricing pathway

The morning session focused on presenting the European carbon pricing system. Dr. Daniel Klingenfeld, the head of V3 DEHSt, shared the rich experience of carbon trading in Europe and Germany and provided his insights on system design and market management in practice. Next, Director Alistair Ritchie of Asia-Pacific Sustainability at the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) broke down the status and

possible future development of the carbon market in Asia and provided an important background for conversations on regional policies. And as speaker representing Taiwan, Director General Tsai Yi-Ling of the MOENV's Climate Change Administration explained to the participants the structure of Taiwan's carbon fee system and the future for carbon pricing, demonstrating Taiwan's policy concepts and development strategies for climate governance.

III. Learn from Asian partners and explore multiple CO_2 reduction practices

The afternoon session aimed at in-depth exploration of promotion in Asian countries. General Director Sawako Tada of Japan's GX (Green Transformation) Acceleration Agency presented the Agency's system structure and promotion strategies, the feature of which is promotion in stages from voluntary to compulsory implementation. Enterprises are encouraged to participate in voluntary trading in the GX Alliance and gradually transition to the compulsory market. Then the Korean representative presented the latest development and status of promotion of total control and emission trading system (ETS). The Korean ETS features wider coverage and has entered the stage of third-party participation, such as financial institutes, to increase market liquidity. The Indonesian representative, on the other hand, shared their experience of promoting ETS. Its most significant feature is the "business first" model that focuses initially on the coal-fueled thermal power generation that accounts for the largest percentage of emissions in Indonesia, and then the efforts shift to other industries gradually. Via presentations of these speakers, participants were able to understand the diverse designs and operations in the Asian-Pacific carbon market.

IV. Reach policy awareness and design a future ETS blueprint

To wrap up the forum, the dialogue among domestic and international experts and all participants focused on several topics regarding the carbon market, including development strategies, regional cooperation models, and future policy challenges. The MOENV indicated that different countries' exchanges in the forum will hopefully help Taiwan build a solid foundation for a carbon trading system and accelerate the pace to align with the global carbon pricing. Taiwan will continue to learn from international practices to improve its carbon pricing system and at a steady pace create a win-win situation in which carbon reduction and sustainable economic development are reached.

2025 Asia Carbon Pricing Forum

Minister Peng Chih-Ming gives a speech in the 2025 Asia Carbon Pricing Forum

Director General Karsten Tietz of German Institute Taipei speaks at the forum

2. Amendment Preannounced for the Regulations Governing Water Pollution Control Measure Plans and Permit Application Reviews

The MOENV preannounced the amended *Regulations Governing Water Pollution Control Measure Plans and Permit Application Reviews* (水污染防治措施計畫及許可申請審查管理辦法) on September 22, 2025 in order to intensify management of permits (documents) issued to enterprises or sewage systems involved in major violations. It is expected that the amendment will shorten the period of permit validity and limit the daily maximum quantity of approved wastewater (sewage) or production or service scale, to properly carry out permit control and maintain water body quality.

The MOENV further explained that this amendment of the regulations aims at enterprises or sewage systems that violate the *Water Pollution Control Act* (水污染防治法) in terms of rerouting discharges, insufficient wastewater (sewage) treatment facilities and equipment, or failure to maintain their normal operations while their permits are still valid. The period of permit validity would be shortened to no more than 3 years and would not be recalculated if permit modifications were made after the extension. Also, the revision has considered the need to enhance controls on wastewater pollution regarding discharge of industrial wastewater (sewage) that results in damaged water bodies in rivers with medium or severe pollution. Therefore, the revision has targeted enterprises which have wastewater (sewage) treatment facilities of inadequate functions or discharge wastewater by rerouting and have treatment facilities not operated properly. The competent authority is to require these enterprises to modify daily maximum wastewater (sewage) generation, and daily maximum scale of production or service registered in the permit by a given deadline, which shall not be more than 80% of the original approved quantity, and no modification of quantity increase

shall be applied within three years starting from the approval date. The goal is to reduce river pollution, give polluted water bodies a chance to recover, and deter intentions of illegal operations within enterprises.

The MOENV stressed that this amendment aims to intensify the permit management of enterprises with major violations, encourage enterprises to abide by the regulations, and protect the water bodies by enhancing law enforcement.

Regulations Governing Water Pollution Control Measure Plans and Permit Application Reviews

3. MOENV Promotes Digital Transformation for Better Wastewater/Sewage Management

The MOENV has started promoting digital transformation of wastewater/sewage management by preannouncing the amended *Water Pollution Control Measures and Test Reporting Management Regulations* (水污染防治措施及檢測申報管理辦法)

for effective monitoring of water environment. This amendment aims to eliminate data forgery by digitizing management and increasing corporate responsibilities as well as to create a fair environment for competition for law-abiding enterprises. MOENV pointed out that such a move will deter pollution violations more effectively.

The keys to the amendment are summarized as follows:

I. Data monitoring and smart management: The revision focuses on enterprises and sewage systems with daily approved discharge of up to 10,000 metric tons that are listed for control. The revised regulations newly mandated them to install independent and dedicated electronic power meters, water quality and quantity transmission facilities, as well as a data link at key locations, such as wastewater/sewage treatment facilities and inflow points. This turns passive monitoring into active management for effective prediction and conservation of manpower and energy.

II. Increased corporate responsibilities: The revision has newly defined "automatic monitoring facility and service institute" and required enterprises or sewage systems to report and upload information of commissioned institutes providing monitoring service. If such commissioned institutes are found to provide false or forged data or records, resulting in penalizations on the commissioning enterprises or sewage systems, the competent authority is to disclose the names of these institutes and request compulsory replacement of commissioned institutes to strengthen enterprises' environmental responsibilities.

III. Direct data upload to eliminate forgery: A consistent interface and format for communication are introduced under the amendment to improve connections to automatic wastewater/sewage monitoring and data transmission. A direct raw data transmission mechanism would be set up to ensure authenticity and reliability of every entry of data.

Digital transformation for water pollution control regulations

4. MOENV Minister Stresses AI and Digital Transformation in US-Taiwan held IEMN Annual Meeting

The USEPA and the MOENV's Resource Circulation Administration (RCA) co-hosted the opening of International E-Waste Management Network (IEMN) Annual Meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil on the morning of September 16 (evening of 16 September, Taiwan time). Attendees included more than 70 representatives from Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailan, Vietnam, the US and Brazil.

In his video remarks, the MOENV Minister Peng Chih-Ming stressed the importance of adopting innovative solutions to tackle the challenges of climate change and limited resources. As the topic of this year's event centered on "Exploring the potentials of digital technology and AI applications in e-waste management", Taiwan took the chance to share results of the promotion of the digital product passport and the applications of AI in waste classification, demonstrating Taiwan's concrete actions toward a circular economy.

Minister Peng mentioned that the introduction of digital and AI technologies enhances recycling efficiency and accelerates all countries' pace toward green growth and net-zero transition. Furthermore, the RCA representatives interacted with their counterparts at the event, hoping to work with international partners to build a more resilient and sustainable e-waste management model.

Jointly promoted by the US and Taiwan since 2011, the IEMN has become an important global platform for promoting proper e-waste management and will continue to bring in international partners to help achieve sustainable development in the world.

2025 IEMN Annual Meeting in Brazil

Minister Peng gives a speech via video

Director Chu Yi-Ching of Escritório Econômico e Cultural de Taipei em São Paulo (left), Thaianne Fabio, Diretora do Departamento de Qualidade Ambiental (middle), and the RCA's representative Tseng Chih-Ping under the MOENV

5. International Forum Held on to Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Governance

The MOENV's National Environmental Research Academy (NERA) held the "Towards the Future: International Forum and Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Governance" on September 9-10, 2025, and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Korea Climate Change Center. To strengthen scientific research, policy formulation, and educational outreach on climate change adaptation and sustainable development, this forum brought together representatives from Taiwan's central government, as well as international and domestic researchers specialized in climate change adaptation, resource circulation, and environmental governance to present policy initiatives and research findings and explore future collaborations.

The NERA aimed to strengthen interaction and collaboration with international partners and enhance information exchange and research capabilities through this forum. With this MOU with the Korea Climate Change Center, collaboration will go deeper in areas such as climate education and public participation, climate policy research and strategy development, climate adaptation and mitigation projects, as well as capacity building and knowledge sharing. The NERA stated that this will facilitate international diplomacy on climate issues and enhance both Taiwan and Korea in education, policy research, and knowledge exchange on climate change issues.

The MOENV Minister Peng stated that the ministry has been taking concrete actions to adapt to high temperatures in the face of increasingly severe and extreme weather conditions. Efforts include the "Cool Map", which surveys and analyzes urban heat island effects, assists local governments in planning cooling green infrastructure and resilient communities. Collaboration is also facilitated across different departments to mitigate health and social impacts of high temperatures. Furthermore, the forum highlighted topics such as weather forecasting capabilities and cross-sector collaboration on disaster prevention and support, energy challenges and resilience, and local implementation and adaptation actions, demonstrating Taiwan's comprehensive efforts in climate change adaptation.

Climate change adaptation, environmental governance, and resource recycling have been the key policies since the MOENV's establishment, and the NERA has been promoting scientific research collaboration and cross-ministerial cooperation. Its achievements include the establishment of the national platform on climate change data integration and information service, enhancement of waste polyester recycling technology, onsite pollution tracking technology, and emerging pollutant forensics and research on toxins. Besides scholars from the EU, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, forum attendees included experts from the MOENV's Climate Change Administration, Resource Circulation Administration, and Chemicals Administration, the National Science and Technology Council, the Water Resources Agency under the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the National Land Management Agency under the Ministry of Interior, the Central Weather Administration under the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, the Academia Sinica, the Industrial Technology Research Institute, the National Taiwan

University, the Chung Yuan Christian University, the National Central University, local environmental protection bureaus and other institutes. A total of 22 lectures and 20 exhibitions were arranged at the event as well.

The NERA expressed it hope to continue urging all parties involved to work together on the three major areas, which are climate change adaptation, environmental governance, and resource circulation, via dialogues and collaboration during the forum and respond to global climate challenges with practical actions.

The NERA signs a MOU with Korea Climate Change Center; The NERA President Tsung-Yung Liu (second from left), the MOENV Minister Peng Chih-Ming (middle) and Chairman Jai Chul Choi of Korea Climate Change Center (second from right)

Group photo of MOU signing ceremony

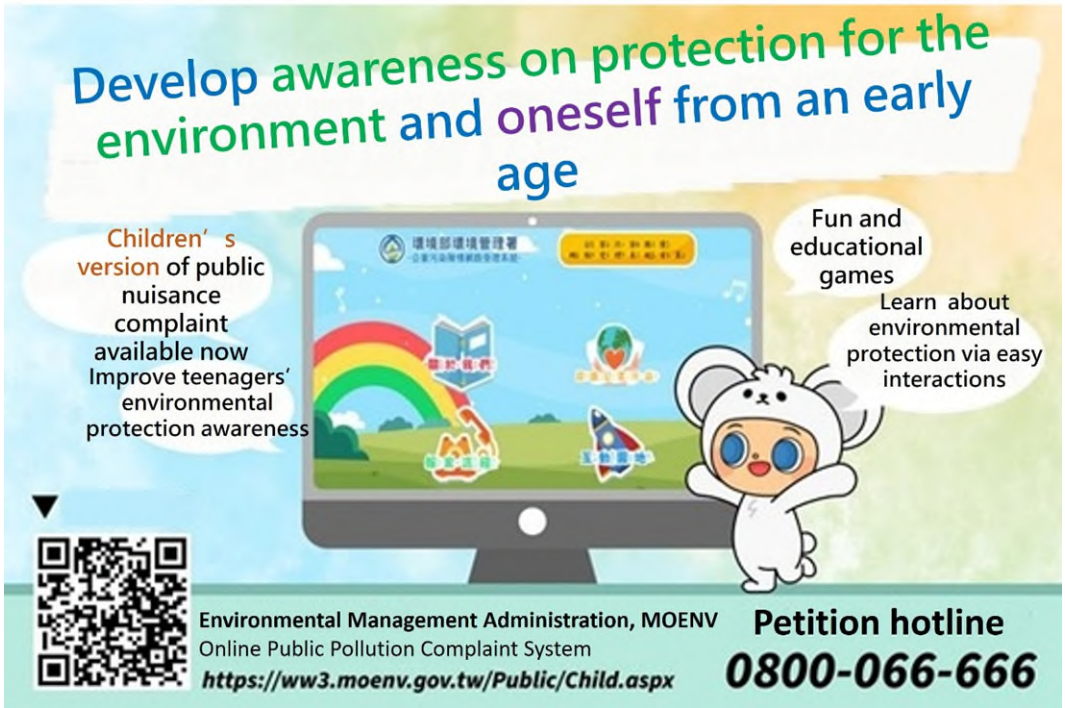
6. Minor-Friendly Online Public Nuisance Complaint System Launched

to Raise Teenagers' Environmental Awareness

Aiming to enhance awareness on public nuisance complaints for teenagers and children, the MOENV's Environmental Management Administration (EMA) established the "children's version" of the Online Public Pollution Complaint System webpage (https://ww3.moenv.gov.tw/Public/Child.aspx). The webpage has been linked to the section of "Environmental Education" under the Ministry of Education's website, Education Cloud - Digital Learning Portal (https://cloud.edu.tw/). With a vivid design, the website converts the previously rigid content regarding public nuisance complaints into information easily understandable to teenagers. There is basic information on public nuisance petitions and a detailed introduction to the process and measures regarding the handling of public nuisance disputes, in hope of raising students' awareness of protection for the environment and themselves from an early age.

A section is designed particularly on the website to improve interactions and learning effects, with fun games in place to allow students to learn about environmental protection in a relaxing and engaging manner. The EMA stated that such efforts answer the global calls for the protection of children's rights and align with the government's policy goals for promoting environmental education and enhancing public environmental literacy. For easy petitioning, issues may be reported and consulted through the petition hotline at 0800-066-666.

The EMA aims to inspire public concern and participation in environmental protection and jointly create a green and sustainable home via the strategy of in-depth education. By developing environmental awareness at an early age, it is hoped that every teenager will become an environmental guardian and work together to create a cleaner and more accommodating space.



The "children's version" of the Online Public Pollution Petition Acceptance System is now online

7. Taiwan's Environmental Sustainability Initiatives Receive International Exposure as Youths from 11 Countries Gain First-hand Experience with Resource Circulation at Aquaculture Farms in Chiayi

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) held the "2025 International Environmental Issues and Education Workshop for Youth" in Chiayi County on September 7-8, 2025. Thirty-five young students from 11 countries came to Taiwan and visited aquaculture farms to gain first-hand knowledge of how Taiwan's traditional aquaculture farms are taking steps to transitioning toward sustainable development.

Since 2020, MOENV has been organizing environmental education courses that combine intellect, emotion, and action, targeting foreign students studying in Taiwan and aligning with national policies and international trends, answering the call of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the last five years, more than 150 young students have participated in this workshop as a platform for interaction in environmental education between students from Taiwan and the rest of the world.

This year's topic was " Aquaculture and the circular economy", with activities primarily held in the coastal area of Budai, Chiayi County. Mr. Chang Chien-Cheng of the Agriculture Department, Chiayi County and Deputy Director General Chang Ken-Mu of the Climate Change Administration, MOENV (formerly director general of the Environmental Protection Bureau, Chiayi County Government) were invited as lecturers to share their insights on the development of local aquaculture businesses and the challenges of transitioning to net zero. Field activities included boarding a water bus to observe oyster farming racks within a wetland ecosystem and visits to the Xingang Plant of the Formosa Chemicals & Fiber Corporation (FCFC). The participants gained first-hand observations of marine pollution and environmental impacts due to discarded oyster racks and fishing nets. They saw with their own eyes how Taiwan has been practicing the circular model of “turning waste into resources" through policy guidance and technical innovation.

The participants also visited the Haomei Community in Chiayi County, the winner of the Outstanding Award in the Community Category at the 9th National Environmental Education Awards. There, they saw how the community used discarded oyster racks to build sand barriers for coastal protection and ecological conservation. Led by locals, the young participants collaborated to complete work on a section of a sand barrier, gaining a profound experiential education lesson. It was practical participation in coastal environmental protection that left a footprint of international collaboration at the Haomei community. Following their first-hand experience of the business, the participants visited the FCFC Xingang Factory to learn more about how the company uses recycled oyster shell waste to create recycled textiles, demonstrating how Taiwan's manufacturing industry implements sustainable innovation and circular economy measures.

To close the workshop, the MOENV expressed its eagerness to share Taiwan's sustainable development experience with the world through in-depth interactions between international youth and local Taiwanese environmental activists. The MOENV also expressed its gratitude to the Chiayi County Government and local businesses for their assistance in allowing the world to witness Taiwan's local actions and its power to make positive changes.

Participants of the 2025 International Environmental Issues and Education Workshop for Youth

International students learn about marine circular economy waste recycling and reuse at Formosa Chemicals & Fiber Corporation's Xingang Factory

An international participant speaks in a classroom session

8. “Love Baseball for Sustainability!”: Rooting for the Earth on an Environmental Protection Day Held at Professional Baseball Game

There is no baseball if there is no Earth! The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) worked to launch the first environmental protection day held with the China Professional Baseball League (CPBL), with the theme "Love Baseball for Sustainability" at the Taipei Dome on September 12, 2025. To throw the ceremonial first pitch, MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming wore a jersey made of environmentally friendly fibers before watching the match enthusiastically with tens of thousands of fans and took part in the combination of sporting events and sustainable concepts.

The MOENV signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on “Love Baseball for Sustainability” in July 2025 as an attempt to bring the principles of sustainability into daily life via a sport loved by many people. MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming indicated that since the signing, the environmental protection bureaus of all 6 major municipalities in Taiwan have been working with all professional baseball clubs in Taiwan to roll out green events and optimize the sustainable features at ballparks. Actions were taken to improve garbage sorting, promote the circular container system, and prioritize the purchase and use of single-material fabrics for making environmentally friendly jerseys. Recycling businesses, schools, and charity groups were brought together to recycle and reuse used sports equipment, thereby planting deep into the minds of baseball fans the roots of environmental protection policies starting in ballparks. Minister Peng also emphasized that the self-discipline, consistency, and simplicity displayed by professional players on the baseball field have an influence, encouraging fans to join the Taiwan team and take more tangible actions.

Multiple green displays were exhibited at this event, with well-prepared garbage sorting facilities provided at every level of the ballpark and a second-hand baseball gear recycling event held to encourage fans to give old bats and gloves a new life. At the same time, the Taipei Dome adopted energy-saving lamps, water-saving and rainwater recovery equipment, and recycled building materials to create a carbon-reducing ballpark that is both professional and environmentally friendly. In addition, a series of interactive activities have been designed to get fans more involved. Many dining perks or shopping discounts are available from cooperating vendors for fans who bring their own environmentally friendly tableware or rent a circular cup. They may also participate in a DIY baseball recycling experience. From entering the stadium and watching the game to leaving, fans can root for the Earth.

The MOENV will expand environmental sustainability to more sports venues and large-scale events based on the MOU signed, to encourage all residents to work together to move towards net zero and protect a beautiful environment for the generations to come.

Minister Peng Chi-Ming (third from left) and others at the "Love Baseball for Sustainability" environmental protection day at Taipei Dome

9. Toxic Chemical Incident Response: Robodogs Introduced to Make Detection Timelier and Response Operations Safer

At a press conference on September 25, 2025, the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) announced the introduction of a "detection robodog" for response to toxic/chemical incidents, showing the government's progress in deploying up-to-date technology for disaster prevention and in safeguarding the public. Using unmanned and intelligent equipment, detection can now be timelier, response operations safer, and overall emergency capabilities improved.

The MOENV pointed out that Taiwan uses a three-level defense scheme in its toxic/chemical incident response system, consisting of "self-help, mutual help, and governmental help". "Self-help" is the most effective way to prevent and reduce toxic and chemical incidents. The *"Toxic and Concerned Chemical Substances Control Act"* (毒性及關注化學物質管理法) specifies that, in addition to ensuring all their personnel complete the specified training, businesses using certain substances need to assign professional responders or hire a professional institute to ensure timely response in case of an accident. A professional responder training system has been established under the Chemicals Administration and has helped train more than 17,000 responders, 3.1 times the legally required number. For "mutual help", the MOENV has supervised the establishment of 161 organizations for joint response to incidents involving toxic and other substances of concern, involving approximately 4,300 businesses. Currently, the Industrial Technology Research Institute's (ITRI) Emergency Response Consultation Center and the Chemical Emergency Response Association (CERA) are available to provide professional consultation and response entity certification, to help

businesses improve their response capabilities, as well as carry out incident assessments, environmental detection, protective measures and other response services.

For the final line of defense, “governmental help”, the MOENV has developed ten professional technical teams and two centers for environmental incident response, consisting of 194 responders and capable of (1) 24/7 incident monitoring, (2) providing response consultation in 30 minutes, and (3) arriving at the scene of an incident within an hour. A complete national toxic and chemical disaster response system is being built. To minimize the risk of exposure faced by responders, the new "robodog" can negotiate barriers and slopes, carry thermal imaging and gas detection instruments for reconnaissance in high-risk areas, and transmit images and data in real time. The combination of drones in the air and unmanned vehicles on the ground enables a more integrated response and highlights the advantage of smart technology deployment.

The MOENV stressed that the core of toxic and chemical disaster prevention and response relies on effective containment at the initial stage of the incident. The ministry will continue to promote the three pillars of self-help, mutual help (through joint defense), and governmental help, and take the initiative to introduce intelligent technologies and build a more resilient toxic and chemical disaster prevention and response system. At the same time, it is necessary to urge all businesses to put voluntary disaster prevention management into practice. Toxic incident impacts can be minimized only when preparations for prevention and response are securely in place. The government will continue to bring businesses and local authorities together to maintain a safe society, with the goal of building Taiwan into a major hub for toxic and chemical disaster response technology and training in East Asia.

Deputy Minister Hsieh Yein Rui of the MOENV (4th from left), Acting Director General Chen Shu-Ling of Chemicals Administration (5th from left), deputy office leader Lu Chia-Hui (6th from left) behind the MOENV’s new toxic incident response robodog

Deputy Minister Hsieh Yein Rui giving his speech

Acting Director General Chen Shu-Ling explains the robodog at the press conference

10. Premier Cho Presents Certificates to Net-zero Green Collar Trainees, With Ages Ranging Widely

The Executive Yuan held the certificate presentation ceremony for the "Ministry of Environment (MOENV) net-zero green collar training program" on September 25, 2025. Twenty-two trainees with outstanding performance in the program were invited to personally receive their certificates of completion from Premier Cho Jung-Tai of the Executive Yuan. The youngest trainee was only 17 years old and the eldest nearly 70. The high number of trainees successfully completing the course serves as an example of how members of the public are getting involved in the net-zero transition.

MOENV combines governmental and private efforts to build an ecosystem for green collar incubation.

MOENV Minister Peng Chi-Ming described how his ministry worked with private entities to enlist 32 universities throughout Taiwan to form the *" MOENV Net-Zero Green Collar Training Alliance"* (環境部淨零綠領人才培育聯盟) to answer the massive demand for green collar workers in Taiwan. The "MOENV net-zero green collar training program" was launched in April 2025, consisting of 48 hours of instruction with a tuition fee of NT$12,000. The National Environmental Research Academy (NERA) of the MOENV provides the basic teaching materials for the program, while the alliance schools oversee recruiting, fee collection, and lecture delivery. Upon completing the coursework and passing the NERA test, trainees are awarded the "official certificate of completion" issued by MOENV, adding an edge when looking for employment, a job promotion, or pay raise.

Trainees from a multitude of backgrounds

The "MOENV Net-Zero Green Collar Training Alliance" has been recruiting since April, and nearly 2,000 trainees have signed up across Taiwan. Among them, approximately 1,400 of them have completed the training and taken the test. Over 40% of trainees were students. A wide range of backgrounds were represented, including officers of listed companies, accountants, environmental protection volunteers, information engineers, medical institutes, hospitality businesses and civil servants. There was even a beauty stylist, a motorcycle garage owner, a college professor, and a film editor. This demonstrates how the green collar program has become an important channel for inter-disciplinary professional advancement and transition.

The "top place" performer on the first centralized exam came from a greenhouse gas verification body.

The first exam was held on 30 August 2025 with nearly 1,400 trainees taking it, and a pass rate of 86.7%. Of all the 22 trainees who attained outstanding performance and awarded the certificate of completion from Premier Cho, the one with the highest score had a background working with a GHG verification body and already had relevant professional knowledge. He still signed up for the program to better understand Taiwan's latest net-zero policies and attained "top place" for this exam.

Age and gender of trainees

The proportion of male and female trainees taking the test was 50:50, with the average age being approximately 33 years. The youngest was only 17 years old and the oldest nearly 70. There was no tuition discount for adults, but there were still more adults than students, suggesting there is a general thirst in society for professional knowledge related to the net-zero transition.

Colorful stories behind outstanding trainees

At the ceremony, a 17-year-old high school student literally took center stage. He signed up for the program with his father and elder brother in the summer and all three of them passed the test, an illustration of the strength of sustainability concepts being shared among different generations.

Another trainee who worked for a motorcycle shop and has now "turned from a grease monkey to a green collar", hopes to incorporate what he learned about CO_2 reduction in his business. In addition, it is known that hospitals are a major source of GHG emissions, accounting for 4.6% of total emissions in Taiwan. That is why the president of a government-owned hospital signed up for and completed the 48 instruction hours of the program, passing the exam with flying colors. All the trainees coming from every corner of society are hoping to take what they have learned back to their jobs and help their businesses improve their CO_2 management.

Premier Cho: From a policy blueprint to public action toward 2050 net zero

Premier Cho said in his speech that the net-zero transition is the established direction for Taiwan's development. In addition to comprehensive system design and policy planning, the transition will require professional talents in all areas to be implemented. He congratulated the 22 trainees awarded the certificate of completion, saying they symbolize Taiwan’s developing generations of talent who are also equipped with the professional abilities needed to make important contributions to industry, society, and governance, and motivating even more people to engage in CO_2 reduction.

Minister Peng: Green collar workers are in high demand

Minister Peng stressed that the demand for green collar workers is rising very rapidly. In the first six months of 2025, on average every month over 4,000 businesses sought a green collar worker, and there is currently a lack of approximately 21,000 such workers, which is the highest need in recent years. Offering a salary level higher than the overall job market, this indicates the professional skills of "knowing CO_2 management and knowing net zero" are not only widely recognized but also lead to a wide range of employment opportunities. The minister pointed out that the trainees attending the program came from diverse backgrounds, such as company officers, accountants, information engineers, beauty stylists, and film editors. The 40 enrolment spots of the program’s first class run by National Taiwan Normal University starting last April were booked up in merely 16 minutes, which shows the high demand from all corners of society for CO_2 reduction knowledge.

MOENV to intensify inter-departmental cooperation to incubate green collar talent

Minister Peng indicated that the MOENV will continue to work with all ministries on inter-departmental value-added programs, including the "near-net-zero architecture program" in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the "energy efficiency training program" with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the "green medical talent training program" with the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the "indigenous green collar" program with the Council of Indigenous Peoples, the "carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS)" program of National Cheng Kung University, and the "resource circulation" program of the Resource Circulation Administration, MOENV, all of which are established to create a broader stage for green collar workers.

The only net-zero green collar training program in Taiwan that combines policies and practicality

Minister Peng said the "MOENV net-zero green collar training program" is the only complete training program in Taiwan that strictly aligns with national net-zero policy goals. MOENV provides tuition discounts for some trainees. College students (not including those attending in-service graduate programs) are eligible for a 50% tuition discount if they pass the exam. Meanwhile, tuition is free for those who have a mental or physical disability or come from a medium- or low-income household. Alliance schools are rolling out programs across Taiwan. Those interested may visit and register at the "Green Collar Information Platform" at https://ulvis.net/iTs8.

Premier Cho Jung-Tai (front and center) with other officials, representatives from the 32 schools involved in the "MOENV net-zero green collar training program" and top recipients of the graduation certificate

Premier Cho Jung-Tai encouraged green collar certificate receivers to be leaders for the future

11. New Extreme Heat Warning Function on the "Environmental Info Push App" Provides Personal Protection Online

The "Environmental Info Push App" integrates information from smart monitoring systems and a wide range of environmental facility search services to provide useful daily environmental information in real time, including air quality reports, weather forecasts, and ten types of convenient green life information. As Taiwan's summers become hotter and longer due to climate change, extreme hot weather is taking a toll on people's health and daily lives. Thus, the "extreme heat warning" has been added to the "Environmental Info Push App", which everyone is encouraged to download.

The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) launched the "Taiwan Cool Map" (https://gov.tw/YnF) in July 2025 to help people locate a cool place in their proximity, at the same time the "Environmental Info Push App" has also been improved for better service. New features include the "extreme heat report", "extreme heat info push", "extreme heat indicator" and "extreme heat message". The app is synchronized with real time high temperature information from the Central Weather Administration, and an extreme heat report is issued when the temperature at the user's location or selected areas reaches 36°C. This function provides the convenience of allowing users to

select areas to track for high heat warnings. For example, if the user selects a monitored area for seniors or children who need special care, the user can be reminded to make sure they are taking recommended precautionary actions, such as drinking more water, avoiding extended sun exposure, and getting adequate rest to lower the risk of heat stroke and other heat-related hazards.

Besides providing local air quality information in real time, the "Environmental Info Push App" collects information on ten types of convenient services, including environmentally friendly restaurants, green-mark hotels, convenience stores offering circular cup rentals, dining services offering environmentally friendly utensils, friendly stores, public restrooms, drinking fountains, farms and forest recreation areas, and motorcycle inspection stations. The MOENV urges the public to download the "Environmental Info Push App" and activate the "extreme heat warning" function, allowing the app to become a personal protector as well as helping people keep their family healthy and safe.

Graphics for extreme heat warnings