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General Policy

EPA Aims for a Clean Sustainable Future on Its Thirtieth Anniversary

The EPA celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on 22 August 2017. The premier at the time, Chuan Lin, attended the ceremony and gave a speech. Among the attendees were ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from countries with close ties with Taiwan, delegates of foreign economic organizations, former EPA ministers and deputy ministers, heads of county and city environmental bureaus, and delegates from industry, government, and academia, all coming together to celebrate the memorable day.

On 22 August 1987, the Environmental Protection Bureau under the former Department of Health was upgraded to the Environmental Protection Administration. At the 30th anniversary ceremony, then Premier Chuan Lin acknowledged the EPA's contributions to maintaining environmental sustainability in the past three decades and encouraged it to keep improving regulations and increase policy effectiveness.

Other guests also delivered speeches, including Madaleine Majorenko, the head of the European Economic and Trade Office in Taiwan; Robert W. Forden, Deputy Director of the American Institute in Taiwan; and Datuk Pung Shuk Ken Adeline, President of the Malaysian Friendship and Trade Centre in Taipei.

With the invitation of Minister Ying-Yuan Lee, former Ministers

Eugene Chien, Lung-Bin Hau, Juu-En Chang, and Stephen Shu-Hung Shen; former Acting Minister Long-Jin Chen; former Deputy Ministers Da-Shong Lin, Feng-Teng Chang, and Hsin-Chung Yeh; former Director Jing-Yuan Chuan of the Environmental Protection Bureau under the Department of Health (the predecessor of the EPA) all attended the ceremony. Also present were Je-Ming Chang of the Environmental Protection Society of Taiwan, directors and

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📍 On EPA's thirtieth anniversary, many delegates of foreign economic organizations were invited to celebrate the memorable day, including Madeleine Majorenko, the head of the European Economic and Trade Office in Taiwan (third from right).

deputy directors of county and city environmental protection bureaus, and more than 20 foreign ambassadors and diplomatic delegates, all offering the EPA wishes and congratulations.

In his speech, Minister Lee said that the EPA has arrived at its 30th year as a more mature entity. He thanked all former ministers for laying a solid foundation and their outstanding achievements, including many significant environmental policies. For example, former Minister Eugene Chien, as the EPA's first minister, built the agency's structure at the EPA's founding stage and developed regulation prototypes, such as those of the Environmental Analysis Laboratory and the Environmental Professionals Training Institute. Minister Lung-Bin Hau initiated the restricted use of plastic bags and oversaw the adoption of the *Basic Environment*

Act (環境基本法) by the Legislative Yuan during his term. Minister Juu-En Chang institutionalized environmental service industries, formulated specific regulations, and advocated mandatory full waste classification. Minister Stephen Shu-Hung Shen drafted the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act* (溫室氣體減量及管理法) and oversaw the approval of the *Environmental Education Act* (環境教育法) by the Legislative Yuan.

Minister Lee stressed that environmental protection can be achieved only through team work with cross-party, cross-generational, cross-regional, and international cooperation. For example, plastic waste is a growing threat all nations have to face, and the plastic in the oceans affects everyone. It's just as crucial to nations, such as the UK, next to the northern Atlantic, as to Taiwan,

next to the Pacific, thus Taiwan cannot avoid this threat and must work closely with other countries to protect the earth. Minister Lee closed his speech by expressing his gratitude to all former ministers for building the EPA's solid foundations, and to his current colleagues in the EPA, directors of regional environmental protection bureaus, and all the staff in other relevant positions for their devotion and contributions.

During the celebration, previously promoted activities were reviewed, and directors of each department gave reports on current tasks, such as environmental impact assessment, clean air initiatives, and flushing of toilet paper. At the ceremony, the EPA also announced that it will actively promote the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Feature
Article

EPA Minister Lee Addresses European Parliament on Circular Economy

On 26 June 2017, Minister without Portfolio Chen-Chung Deng and EPA Minister Ying-Yuan Lee, leading more than 100 representatives from government agencies, research institutes, public associations, and Taiwan industry, attended the 2017 EU-Taiwan Event on Industry of the Future held in Brussels, Belgium. It was Taiwan's largest government-organized overseas delegation of economic and trading representatives in recent years. Besides highlighting the importance placed on bilateral economic relationships, the event also demonstrated the high expectations Taiwan's government and private corporations have for Taiwan-EU partnerships. At the European Parliament, Minister Lee delivered a speech titled "Taiwan, a Circular Economy Hot Spot in Asia."

In 2015 and 2016, the EU had arranged visits to Taiwan of groups consisting of industry representatives, producing fruitful results. In response to the EU's invitation, this year a trip to Europe by a large industry group from Taiwan was organized and enthusiastically received by EU representatives. Both sides engaged in dialogues to help understand the current situations and policies for industrial development in Taiwan and Europe, as well as to look for potential areas of cooperation that would strengthen mutual industry bonds.

In-depth discussions between Taiwan and the EU on four issues, including circular economy and renewable energy

Afterwards, Minister Lee spoke further on Taiwan's efforts, as the world's third largest waste recycler, to build a circular economy focusing on waste reutilization, industrial value chains, special circular economy zones, and potentials for industrial transformation toward a circular economy. He stated that Taiwan aims to achieve a resource recycling rate of 6.1% by 2020,

as well as increase resource productivity by an annual average of 4.1% to go from NT\$42.5/kg in 2011 to NT\$65.8/kg in 2022. Compared to the average annual recycling rate of 3.4% in Austria, currently the largest recycler in the world, and 2.7% in Germany, the second largest, Taiwan's goal demonstrates its ambition to become a circular economy leader in Asia.

Minister Lee stated that this year's industry dialogue was a result of Taiwan's consensus with EU policies. In the future, there will be many opportunities for Taiwan-EU cooperation in five particular areas: plastic transformation, kitchen waste reutilization, recycling of key precious metals from e-waste, biomass material utilization, and construction waste controls.

In addition, representatives from Taiwan and the EU had in-depth discussions on prospects, challenges, and collaboration opportunities in areas related to circular economy, industry cluster policies, digitalization, information and communication technology (ICT), and renewable energy.

National Environmental Education Awards Enter their Fifth Year

On 27 June, at the European Parliament building in Brussels, Minister Lee delivered a talk titled "Taiwan, a Circular Economy Hot Spot in Asia." A total of 60 people, from Taiwan and other countries, were in attendance, including 20 Members of the European Parliament.

Minister Lee pointed out that circular economy was one of the major policies mentioned in President Tsai Ing-Wen's inauguration speech, so he was delighted with the many meaningful dialogues with relevant EU agencies during the visit. Through exchanges on the perspectives, strategies, and promotion experiences related to circular economy, both Taiwan and EU representatives felt some excitement toward the common principles and methods in which both sides firmly believe, and thus became even more convinced that a circular economy is the future path for the planet.

We must abandon outdated production and consumption models and embrace a circular

economy so that economic growth can disengage from resource depletion, said Minister Lee. Only then can the world's economy start heading in a healthy direction, helping to protect the environment while creating new jobs. The minister also mentioned that a circular economy has been kick-started in Taiwan. As the EU Center in Taiwan and various European trade offices in Taiwan recently expressed in the local media, "Now is the time to act on

climate change."

While Taiwan industry representatives took part in the visit, Taiwan's consulates across Europe arranged events for enterprises of both sides to share and exchange experiences. Many European enterprises expressed enormous interest in Taiwan's recycling technology, opening up windows for overseas business opportunities for a circular economy.

This visit made known to the EU Taiwan's key policies on sustainable economy, industrial innovation, and strengthening of global competitiveness. Besides enhancing Taiwan-EU industry partnerships and expanding the scale and diversity of foreign trade, the events also enhanced both sides' links regarding advanced technology and should help industrial transformation and economic development in Taiwan.

Environmental Monitoring

EPA and US NASA Co-monitor Air Quality and Visibility in Central Taiwan

The Taichung City Government invited the EPA to participate in the launching ceremony for a joint project on air quality and visibility monitoring in central Taiwan held on 8 September 2017. The project was organized through the cooperation of local and central governments, educational institutions and NASA of the United States, with the aim of understanding the source of poor visibility in Taichung City and to find a solution to this problem by combining advanced monitoring technology and equipment to collect scientific data.

According to EPA manual sampling and monitoring data of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), the average annual PM_{2.5} concentrations from 2013 to 2016 in Taiwan were 24, 23.5, 22 and 20 µg/m³, respectively. The trend reflects a gradual decline in national average PM_{2.5} concentration and indicates the effectiveness of control measures. However, the average PM_{2.5} concentrations of most cities and counties still exceed the standard value of 15 µg/m³, with the exceptions of Yilan County, Hualien County and Taitung County.

Even though the average PM_{2.5} concentration in Taiwan has improved, visibility is often poor. The EPA suspects that the

poor visibility may be caused by a large amount of particulate matter ranging from 0.4 to 0.7 microns in diameter. If such particles remain suspended in the air for an extended period of time, they may undergo chemical reactions leading to the formation of different particles. However, further research needs to be done to clarify the causes so that the EPA can formulate effective improvement measures based on solid evidence. The EPA has thus commissioned National Central University and National Taipei University of Technology to conduct surveys on visibility and PM_{2.5} in central and southern Taiwan. One of the purposes of the surveys is to understand the relationship between the sources of air pollution and the composition

of PM_{2.5}, and how particle size distribution, cloud condensation nuclei, hygroscopic growth and aerosol optical properties affect regional visibility. The surveys will also help people understand the relationships between weather conditions (e.g. temperature, humidity, and radiant flux) and the characteristics, formation and transmission of PM_{2.5}.

The EPA has worked closely with US NASA on a variety of projects since 1996, attaining excellent results from the cooperation, which has included international projects related to satellite monitoring, telemetry technology, regional atmospheric monitoring, and so on. To further improve the air quality in Taiwan, the EPA plans to establish a long-term partnership



Integrated Measurements of Pollution and Aerosol Composition & Transformation

with NASA. With the advanced equipment and technology provided by NASA, the EPA will be working with the Taichung City Government and domestic

educational institutions to conduct research and monitoring projects to better understand the formation processes and sources of $PM_{2.5}$, and how these are related to

visibility. By analyzing the data, the EPA will aim to formulate practical control measures and carry out air quality protection policies based on the results of the projects.

Waste

Manufacture, Import, and Sale of Cosmetics and Personal Care Products Containing Microbeads to be Banned in 2018

On 3 August, the EPA announced its formulation of *Manufacturing, Import, and Sale Restrictions for Cosmetics and Personal Care Products Containing Microbeads* (限制含塑膠微粒之化粧品與個人清潔用品製造、輸入及販賣). For six categories of microbead-containing cosmetics and personal care products, manufacturing and imports are to be banned from 1 January 2018, and sales from 1 July 2018.

In recent years, the United Nations has been urging the world to address the impact of plastic microbeads on aquatic and marine environments. Millimeters in diameter, these microbeads

are used as extra additives in cosmetics and personal care products such as facial cleansers and shower gels, and after being flushed into waterways and oceans, they cannot be decomposed in

natural environments and are too tiny for collection and clearance. To effectively control and mitigate the environmental impacts of this pollutant, common international practices mostly start from the

source, namely the manufacturing end, by limiting the amount of microbeads in personal care products.

Many products in the category of personal care do not contain microbeads. Therefore, the EPA issued the announcement

under the authorization of Article 21 of the *Waste Disposal Act* (廢棄物清理法) in an effort to protect waterways, oceans, and environments. Controls will be implemented in two phases in 2018 for six categories of microbead-containing products: shampoo/hair washing products;

facial cleansers and makeup removers; shower gels; soaps; scrubs; and toothpastes. Moreover, all parties and the general public are encouraged to gradually cut down purchase and use of microbead-containing products.

Table: Some categories of plastic microbead-containing cosmetics and personal care products are to be banned from 2018

Categories	Facial cleanser	Shower gel	Body scrub	Toothpaste
				
Usual Names	•Deep-cleansing bead facial foam •Bead facial cleanser •Exfoliating facial cleanser •Microbead facial cleanser	•Oil-controlling bead shower gel •Bead shower gel •Bead body gel	•Bead body scrub •Smooth exfoliating scrub •Cleansing body scrub	•Bead-containing toothpaste •Nano toothpaste

Waste

Plastic Bag Restrictions to be Expanded by January 2018

To encourage people to not only carry their own shopping bags but also reuse them, the EPA will take measures to reduce the usage of one-time use plastic shopping bags. The EPA announced the revised *Plastic Shopping Bag Restriction Targets, Implementation, and Date of Implementation* (購物用塑膠袋限制使用對象、實施方式及實施日期). Starting on 1 January 2018, fourteen industries (accounting for approximately 100,000 enterprises) will not be permitted to provide free plastic bags, and the previous regulations on thickness standards for plastic bags will be eliminated.

Beginning in 2002, the EPA pushed for measures to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags. The regulations carry stipulations

for seven sectors (accounting for 20,000 enterprises), including government facilities, public and private schools, department

stores and shopping centers, hypermarkets, supermarkets, chain convenience stores, and fast food chains, all of which

are required to have consumers purchase plastic bags, and are barred from providing free ones. The regulations will be expanded to seven additional industries: pharmacies; medical equipment stores; retailers of household appliances, photographic, electronic, and communication equipment stores; bookstores and stationery shops; laundries; drink stands; and bakeries. The expansion adds 80,000 enterprises that are subject to the restrictions. In the future, bookstores, drink stands and pharmacies will be restricted from providing free plastic shopping bags. It is estimated that this will reduce the number of plastic bags by 1.5 billion annually.

The revised regulations will supersede previous regulations regarding the thickness of paid plastic shopping bags. Now both thick and thin plastic bags are not to be provided for free. In addition, biodegradable plastic bags will no longer be excluded. The price of plastic bags will continue to be set by

individual stores.

The EPA, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection of Taipei City, held a “Painless Plastic Reduction” press conference to display the joint efforts of the central and local governments. Minister Ying-Yuan Lee stated that, according to United Nations statistics, every minute there is a truckload of plastic waste being dumped into the oceans around the world. It is estimated that if current trends continue, by 2050 there will be as

much plastic in the water as there are fish, by mass. This trend will ultimately impact food supplies and human diets. Reducing and restricting plastic use must be done, and Minister Lee said he believes that there is public support for the current policies to do so. Now, the public must take the next step to reduce and restrict plastic use at its source by using the idea of “painless plastic reduction”, carrying one’s own shopping bags and using fewer plastic bags.



↑ Restrictions on the use of plastic are to be expanded starting January 2018, announced at the “Painless Plastic Reduction” press conference.

Waste

Diversified Waste Treatment Leads to New Era

On 6 July 2017, the EPA presented in the Legislative Yuan the *Diversified Waste Treatment Plan* (多元化垃圾處理計畫), on which the central and local governments plan to spend NT\$15.3 billion. Premier Chuan Lin expressed his strong approval for the circular economy feature of waste utilization proposed by the plan and thus asked the EPA to expedite its execution by shortening implementation periods.

Facing the issues of challenging energy development, greater awareness of environmental

protection, and economic transformation, Premier Lin stated that the *Diversified Waste*

Treatment Plan is capable of connecting related industries in Taiwan and achieving

technological advancement using new technological applications and equipment. Furthermore, it bears great significance for being able to open up overseas markets and multiply its benefits.

EPA Minister Ying-Yuan Lee spoke about the historic background and needs behind the evolution of garbage disposal. For instance, garbage incineration has seen changes from waste reduction in the 1970s, reinforced pollution controls in the 1980s, power generation in the 1990s, strengthened energy recycling in the 2000s, to thorough improvement of waste-to-energy conversion efficiency as well as reduction and recycling of incinerator ash in the 2010s.

Garbage disposal in foreign countries has gradually headed toward energy production and resource reutilization, attaining greater benefits by utilizing technology such as thermal or biological waste treatment.

In order to realize the insightful and integrating vision of new-generation garbage disposal, there will be NT\$9 billion allotted for the upgrading of incinerators and related treatment facilities, and for integrating overseas experiences with newly developed technology in Taiwan. Another NT\$3.7 billion will be spent on innovative technologies, such as Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT), gasification, anaerobic digestion (centralized), and dehydration

and highly effective composting (decentralized), which will largely increase the effectiveness of waste utilization. By gradually building a circular economy, diversified waste utilization technology is sure to replace the older methods of incineration and landfilling.

The EPA emphasized that garbage is actually misplaced resources, and it is up to all citizens and the government to decide together whether it becomes a waste or a resource. If everyone actively generates less garbage at the beginning with proper sorting, and the government constructs diversified local disposal facilities for waste utilization, eventually a circular economy that benefits all will become a reality.

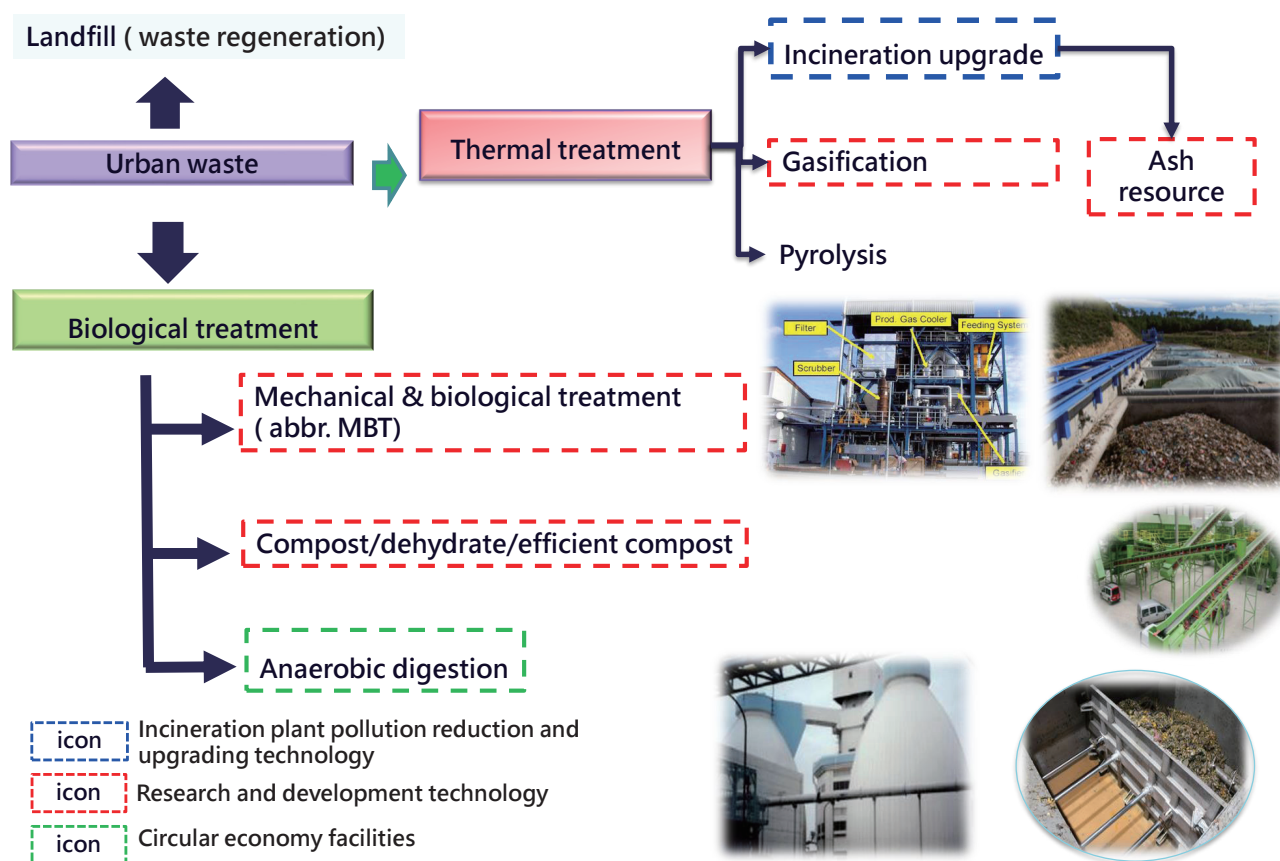


Figure: Diversified Waste Treatment Strategy Flowchart

Waste

Waste Disposal Act Amended to Limit Export Destinations for Hazardous Industrial Waste

Amendments were made to Articles 38 and 53 of the *Waste Disposal Act* (廢棄物清理法) to improve regulations on penalties and fines and ensure the proper treatment of hazardous industrial waste exported to other countries. Through the amendments, the EPA aims to strengthen the management of hazardous industrial waste sent to other countries, in accordance with the Basel Convention. The amendments passed their third reading in May 2017, were announced on 14 June 2017, and will take effect next year.

The amendments to the *Waste Disposal Act* prioritize domestic treatment or reuse of hazardous industrial waste over exporting waste for treatment. Should exporting of waste be needed, facilities in the recipient countries receiving hazardous industrial waste must be capable of properly treating and reusing it. So far only the following countries have been approved: member states of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), nations with which Taiwan has signed bilateral treaties on transboundary movements

of hazardous waste, and other nations or regions that have been approved and announced by the central competent authorities.

The amendments will take effect a year after their announcement to provide sufficient time for manufacturers, energy enterprises, and waste disposal organizations in Taiwan to adjust. However, enterprises that had received their export permits before the announcement will be able to maintain the expiration dates on their current permits to ensure their existing agreements with other

companies remain valid.

The EPA stresses that the main focus of the amendments is to decrease the occurrence of pollution caused by transboundary waste movement through better domestic waste treatment. The restrictions on export destinations will reduce illegal transport of waste and ensure proper treatment of hazardous industrial waste. The EPA urges any related parties to follow the new policies and strive towards a better environment.

Air

Amendments of Regulations Governing Air Pollution Monitoring Equipment Preannounced

On 10 July 2017, the EPA preannounced revisions to the *Management Regulations Governing Stationary Source Air Pollutant Continuous Automated Monitoring Facilities* (固定污染源空氣污染物連續自動監測設施管理辦法). The revisions aim to strengthen audits and control measures on continuous automated monitoring facilities for factory chimneys, improve the reliability and quality of monitoring data, streamline overall management, and prevent intentional evasion of the regulations.

The main points of the revisions are as follows:

1. Good reason must be given before changes can be made to monitoring system programs in public and private premises. For monitoring data and programs from the data acquisition handling system (DAHS)

that are uploaded, archiving is required in order to enable direct comparisons during the audits done by the competent authorities.

2. Regulations on identification codes and notes for monitoring data and recorded values are added, for example, codes

indicating fire, parking, annual maintenance, operation suspension, and maintenance periods. Monitoring data from public and private premises should be noted in line with actual operations and not have identification codes altered without reason.

3. Online transmission is adopted for monitoring equipment installation and document reporting. Information and documents for such things as original monitoring data, recorded values, and routine correction records are to be kept for six years in electronic format.
4. The percentage of effective seasonal monitoring hours is raised from 85% to over 95%. Public and private premises should be monitored at all times to enable competent authorities to maintain a full picture of pollution emissions.
5. Monitoring data calculation and selection is enhanced by newly adding recorded 15-minute values. To facilitate the upgrading of regulations for standard air quality controls and monitoring data quality, other additions include: variations in monitoring equipment signal gathering, average percentage of variations in lateral signal comparisons, and specifications of NO₂/NO converter efficiency.
6. Weights, concentrations, and operating parameters of particulate pollutants are new items being monitored and will be included in the *Monitoring Equipment Specification Guidelines for Stationary Source Incineration Smokestacks in Public and Private Premises* (公私場所固定污染源廢氣燃燒塔監測設施性能規範參考原則) as well as the *Monitoring Equipment Specification Guidelines for Stationary Source Organic Volatile Compounds in Public and Private Premises* (公私場所固定污染源揮發性有機物監測設施性能規範參考原則). This is to ensure that monitoring operations for stationary pollution sources are carried out in public and private premises in order to enhance the management system.

Table: Framework of Amendments to Air Pollution Control Act (draft)

Strengthening mobile sources control	Extending more stationary sources under control	Increasing fines, penalties and encouraging reporting violations	Information disclosure and others
- Controlling vehicles within air quality protection areas - Controlling mobile pollution sources other than transportation - Bans on installing defeat device - Stricter emission standards for vehicles over ten years old - Vehicles still can be equipped with pollution reduction devices which were certified by central competent authorities - Amendments of vehicles' licenses to be revoked if not inspected regularly	- Focusing on chemical products management - The standards for existing pollution sources to reduce emissions - Adding regulations set in terms of fuel content standards - Unifying evaluation standards for permit application - Not in conjunction with MOEA on total quantity control issue	- Tightening criminal responsibility criteria - Raising the upper limits of fines - Adjusting fines according to the principle of proportionality - Sources of laws for tracing illegal gains - Rewards for reporting violations - Whistleblowers mechanism	Information disclosure

Environmental
MonitoringAQI Replaces PM_{2.5}

Since the EPA integrated the Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) and the PM_{2.5} Index and started publishing real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) data online, 90 percent of the general public has stopped searching for the PM_{2.5} Index online. Therefore, the EPA decided that it would stop providing the PM_{2.5} Index service as of August 2017.

The EPA started publishing real-time AQI data on the Taiwan Air Quality Monitoring Network, the Environmental Message app and the Opendata website on 1 December 2016, with a view towards eventually replacing the PSI and PM_{2.5} Index with the AQI as the only index, and to reduce misunderstanding of readings among the general public.

To help the general public gradually adapt to the new index, the EPA continued providing the PM_{2.5} Index for another six months, until 87% of the visitors (from 740,000 visitors in December 2016 down to 90,000 in June 2017) no longer searched for the PM_{2.5} Index on the websites. Since the AQI had clearly replaced the need for the PM_{2.5} Index, the EPA stopped providing the PM_{2.5} Index service on 1 August 2017.

The EPA states that the AQI provides more comprehensive air quality information so that citizens can easily respond and

take protection measures in accordance to the suggestions. The Taiwan Air Quality Monitoring Network not only sends automatic alerts to users when poor air quality conditions are imminent, it also publishes hourly monitoring data of various air pollutants (for example, AQI, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, O₃). Furthermore, citizens can also use the EPA's Environmental Message app to look up real-time monitoring data and to set up automatic alerts for different pollutants whenever the concentration exceeds the set limit. So far there have been 310,000 downloads of the app and the peak daily visitors has reached 20,000. The monthly average visitors has reached one million, indicating that the Environmental Message app has become a must-have for many people's everyday lives.

Pollution caused by transportation in port areas is also in need of urgent action. Hence, the EPA is collaborating with different ministries, such as the

Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Economic Affairs to promote the installation of high voltage onshore facilities, controls on old diesel vehicles, and vessel management. The EPA also plans to focus, along with the Council of Agriculture (COA), on open-air straw burning. A reduction in the burning of these biofuels will lower air pollution and the smog that can affect road visibility and traffic safety. The EPA and COA will work to expand the reuse and treatment channels for this agricultural by-product, and thereby increase its value. Subsidies, for example, will be provided for the use of microorganisms to turn agricultural straw into fertilizer.

The EPA will continue promoting a variety of air pollution control strategies, implement controls, and reduce PM_{2.5} emissions at source, with the goal of improving air quality and reducing the impact of pollution on public health.

Ecolabeling

Carbon Product Awards Created to Encourage Industries to Produce Low-carbon Products

In order to raise the awareness of industries of the need to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow global climate change, the EPA announced the *Low-carbon Product Award Regulations* (低碳產品獎勵辦法) on July 10, which will reinforce the EPA's promotion of the product carbon footprint labelling system. The award program increases the concrete incentives for enterprises to apply for carbon footprint labels and carbon reduction labels on their products.

The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act* (溫室氣體減量及管理法) successfully established a legal basis for greenhouse gas control in response to climate change. According to Article 24 of the Act, government agencies at all levels are to raise the awareness of citizens, schools, and industries about reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of global warming. Further, government agencies should also actively support civic organizations in promoting related activities, one of which is setting up the low-carbon product labelling system and promoting low-carbon products. The EPA has drafted the Low-carbon Product Award Regulations, comprising 12 articles, in order to better promote low-carbon products and increase incentives for companies to apply for the carbon labels and carbon reduction labels.

To recognize enterprises that reduce the carbon footprints of their products, the EPA will issue awards and public acknowledgements to encourage companies to disclose information about their carbon footprints and make further reductions. The stipulations for the award's target groups and conditions, application period, method, evaluation

procedures, award types and number of awardees are listed below:

1. This award is meant for enterprises that produce low-carbon products. Applicants must not have either of the two following conditions within the year prior to applying:

- (1) Being penalized for consecutive days or ordered to cease operations or closed down due to violating environmental laws.
- (2) Incurring more than two penalties (other than those previously listed) for violating environmental laws.

2. Low-carbon product refers to items that meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) Obtaining the right to use low-carbon footprint labels from central competent authorities, with its carbon footprint value in the top ten percent of products within the same category carrying carbon labels.
- (2) Obtaining the right to use carbon labels from central competent authorities.
- (3) Obtaining the right to use carbon labels that have passed the central authorities' extended review period, with actual carbon reduction results.

3. Application method: Within a year of obtaining the right to use carbon labels, carbon reduction labels, or carbon labels within the extended review period, enterprises must provide documents and apply online to the central competent authorities for the award between July 1 and August 31 each year.

4. Evaluation Procedure

The central competent authorities will process award applications from companies and complete assessment of qualification documents within seven working days. If the application documents do not meet the above stipulations or are missing information, the applicant must be notified regarding the allotted time for amending the documents. Applicants that have passed the assessment will be evaluated by the central authorities on October 1 of each year in order to select the winning companies.

5. Awards

- (1) Excellence Award, one recipient—NT\$300,000.
- (2) Superior Award, four recipients—NT\$200,000.
- (3) Exceptional Award, five recipients—NT\$100,000.

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