



台灣新經濟簡訊

經建會法協中心

專題報導

■ 印度招商傳捷報

台灣進行全球布局招商，經建會主任委員劉憶如於 2 月 21 至 25 日率團至印度，獲得豐碩成果。她指出，台印兩國在雙邊投資上偏低，經建會此行為企業搭起橋梁，雙邊經貿發展前景看好，希望 5 年能達到貿易額倍增的目標。

行政院海外招商今年首站選定印度，企業界反應熱烈，參加的團員人數近百，是台灣歷來赴印層級最高、規模最大的代表團。5 天的行程共舉辦 3 場招商大會、參訪 30 餘家當地企業，並拜會印度官員，達成多項合作共識。

3 場招商大會分別在新德里、孟買（Mumbai）、阿美達巴（Ahmedabad）舉行，吸引當地許多大型企業參與，總出席人數逾千。劉憶如在會中指出，2010 年台印雙邊貿易額為 64.7 億美元，僅占台灣貿易總額的 1.2%，2001 至 2010 年間，台灣對印度投資總額，僅占對外投資總額的 0.04%；印度對台灣投資總額，僅占同期海外來台投資（FDI）總額的 0.05%，台印兩國經貿往來有極大發展空間。

劉憶如對與會的印度企業強調，國際貨幣基金（IMF）預估，亞洲國家包括南韓、新加坡、香港等，經濟成長率將逐年下降，但台灣由於兩岸關係的改善，以及 ECFA 生效，未來經濟成長將逐步增加。目前政府推動的「愛台 12 建設」，預計投入 1,320 億美元，其中 3 成將開放民間參與，歡迎印度企業來台投資。

此次台灣招商獲得印度企業的重視與迴響。印度第一大工業集團塔塔（Tata Group）、知名房地產開發集團 Hiranandani 與在印度規模第 2 大的鋼鐵集團 JSW 均表示，對於與台灣企業合作非常有興趣，希望能盡快訪台，進一步洽談實質合作的可能與計畫。

在印度重要性相當於台灣台塑企業的塔塔集團，由旗下之塔塔國際有限公司（Tata International）前主席 Syamal Gupta 與現任策略長 Janaki Chaudhry 接待參訪團。Chaudhry 表示，塔塔集團將尋求與台灣在太陽光電、旅館、半導體與電動車等產業合作的可能性，特別是針對台灣已研發成功，即將上路的電動巴士。

東元集團會長黃茂雄表示，印度這幾年的基礎建設發展神速，東元集團有意與塔塔集團合作，目前正針對設立電動馬達廠進行評估，最快可於 6 月定案。同時東元也在探討，未來擴大與印度合作發展汽車、造船或金融業的可能性。

JSW 則對中國鋼鐵公司的電磁鐵先進製造技術，表示高度肯定，希望能引進相關技術，且不排除技術入股的合作可能。另外，該集團對合作開發太陽能裝置也非常有興趣。

在土地開發方面，遠雄自由貿易港區公司董事長葉鈞耀說，已有多家印商主動接觸，希望在桃園航空自貿港區設置配銷中心或化學品物流中心。其中，已在高雄和台南設有辦公室的 HP Chemicals，計畫將觸角延伸到台北，印度公司總經理 3 月將來台，考察化學品物流中心的設置環境。

在科技業合作方面也傳出捷報，旭能光電公司已敲定與 5 家印商合作，將提供或出售模組生產技術及模組給印商。

台灣區電機電子工業同業公會理事長焦佑鈞指出，應運用印度企業經營能力，與台灣的技術相結合，形塑「台印模式」。他認為，台灣在資訊科技、研發、創新方面，具領先優勢，印度可將台灣視為「亞洲矽谷」，在台投資設立研發中心，運用台灣高科技人力資源與創新能力，開發印度所需的技術。焦佑鈞說，台印產業已達成設立互動窗口與合作平台的共識，目前規劃將由電電公會與印度商工總會（FICCI）擔任兩方的窗口。

經建會此次也分別拜會印度中央與地方政府首長。印度人力資源發展部兼通訊與科技部長 Kapil Sibal 表示，雙方可進一步加強科技產業交流，次長 Sachin Pilot 則指出，印度在科技領域的強項是軟體，硬體方面明顯落後，若能引進台灣的半導體人才與技術，將使印度半導體產業快速發展。此外，能源開發也是兩國可合作的領域，印度經濟快速成長，但電力供應不足，除傳統能源外，須尋求替代方案，再生能源是一項選擇，此部分剛好是台灣的強項。

經濟重鎮古吉拉特省（Gujarat）的省長莫迪（Narendra Modi）說，印度經濟高速成長，古吉拉特省表現尤其耀眼，台灣擁有先進的生產技術，古吉拉特省以創業精神著稱，雙方若能結合軟硬體優勢，將可搶占全球市場。

劉憶如表示，古吉拉特省具有戰略地理位置，能連結印度市場乃至於中東與歐洲市場，台灣也有同樣的關鍵地位，是全球企業進軍中國市場的重要窗口，未來將極力促成雙方在經貿方面進一步往來與合作。

法規鬆綁

■ 專利審查資訊可上網查詢

為提升專利審查品質與資訊透明度，經濟部智慧財產局將自 3 月 1 日起，提供專利審查資訊線上查詢服務。除便利民衆即時取得專利審查進度資訊外，同時也可降低因資訊不足，重複研究既有專利的資源浪費情形。

智慧局自 2010 年著手建置專利審查資訊公開的電子服務，已先提供專利申請人及代理人，透過憑證 IC 卡授權及加密連線等安全控管機制，線上快速調閱所屬案件資訊的功能。

此次專利申請審查線上查詢服務範圍擴大，除專利人外，一般民衆只要輸入申請案號、公告號或公開號，便可線上立即調閱該專利案件的審查內容，包括申請案基本資料、申請書及附件、說明書、智慧局各項發文資料等文件。

依據世界智慧財產權組織（WIPO）的調查顯示，善加利用專利資訊，可縮短 60% 的研發時間，並節省 40% 的研究經費。智慧局指出，因資訊不夠普及，常使不知情者投入資源針對已有發明進行研發，此次擴大專利資訊公開服務對象，將有助降低研究經費重複支出。

■ 電子票證可通行國際

為擴大國內電子票證使用範圍，並強化金融業務國際接軌，金融監督管理委員會根據《電子票證發行管理條例》，研擬《發行國際通用電子票證或與國外機構合作發行電子票證之審核標準及管理辦法》，於 2011 年 1 月 25 日公布實施。

金管會表示，辦法實施後，發行機構可自行申請或與國外機構合作發行國際通用電子票證，無論採何種方式，國內的發卡機構都須具備最近半年度的自有資本與風險性資產比率達 10% 以上、逾期放款比率在 2% 以下，以及備抵呆帳覆蓋率達 60% 以上 3 項基本資格。

國內銀行如規劃自行推出國際通用票證，另須有主管機關核准發行電子票證，並營業 3 年以上的資格，且申請前 3 年無虧損及違反金融法規或受處分的情形。

國外機構來台與國內銀行合作發行國際通用電子票證，則須符合下列條件，包括：最低實收資本額達新台幣 3 億元，以及取得該國發行國內及國際通用電子票證業務許可，並已發行國際通用電子票證達 1 年以上。

金管會指出，電子票證在海外必須於特約商店方可使用，因此國內發卡機構，未來極有可能與擁有多家全球特約商店的國外發卡組織，如威士（VISA）、萬事達（Master）等，合作拓展電子票證市場。

此外，因電子票證具有類似儲值卡功能，且不記名使用，金管會表示，為保障消費者，依據《電子票證管理條例》規定，儲存金額將限制在新台幣 1 萬元以下。

■ 開放券商複委託投資陸股

鑒於現行券商複委託投資國外有價證券，不能買賣大陸有價證券，在相關公會極力爭取下，行政院金融監督管理委員會 2 月 10 日同意，開放獲准投資大陸有價證券的專業法人複委託買賣陸股。此項開放措施，對於國內未取得大陸合格境外機構投資者（QFII）資格的保險業及投信業而言，為一大利多。

金管會指出，依據原規定，保險業及國內投信業者可直接買賣大陸地區有價證券，但因大陸 QFII 資格取得不易，目前國內僅有兩家投信業者合乎資格。至於尚未取得 QFII 資格的保險業和投信業者，買賣大陸有價證券，只能複委託國外券商下單，不能委託國內券商下單。

金管會決議採納日前券商公會建議，有條件開放券商複委託投資大陸有價證券，第一階段只開放接受「國內獲准投資大陸有價證券的專業法人」的委託。國內同時擁有保險業、券商及投信事業的金控集團，可透過旗下具 QFII 資格的券商買賣陸股，提高營運效益。

至於自然人委託部分，金管會表示，因涉及國人直接持有大陸股票等政策性問題，將列為下一階段開放考量。

■ 推動簡化建築許可申請

為進一步簡化「建築許可」申請流程，經建會與內政部及台北市政府等機關達成共識，將擴大及強化申請建築許可單一窗口服務功能，推動成立快速服務中心，促使相關程序更為簡化、便民，並成為吸引國際企業來台投資的有利因素之一。

台北市政府預計於 3 月正式掛牌成立「單一窗口倉庫建築快速服務中心」，針對 2 層樓以下倉庫，申請建築、施工、使用許可，以及接水、接電等管線工

程等，採統一收件、審核發證之簡化流程，同時建置相關處理流程及申請表單的專屬網頁，提供民衆更便捷快速的服務。

此外，配合 2010 年底《台北市建築管理自治條例》修正發布，一定規模以下之建築物，各樓層施工勘驗得於全部樓層竣工時一併申請。台北市政府並進一步整併「檢查基地上之建築配置」、「地基之檢查」、「第二層樓之檢查」及「屋頂構造之檢查」等程序，以縮短檢查作業時間。

經建會表示，簡化建築許可申請的革新措施，須以不影響公共安全為前提。在參採國際經驗並經跨機關研議後，未來將以推動程序整合與併行、建置各項申辦業務單一窗口、簡化民衆應檢附之文件及運用分級管理制度等逐步進行改革，持續提升建築許可申請效率。

新聞快遞

■「產業有家」促進在地就業

為規劃台灣未來 10 年產業發展空間分布藍圖，落實招商及強化地方投資，經建會推動「產業有家，家有產業」計畫，舉辦兩階段座談會。第一階段「產業有家」10 場座談會日前結束，經建會表示，將彙整相關意見，並建立中央與地方溝通協調平台，促使區域產業發展達成共識，做為政策擬定的依據。

行政院院長吳敦義在總結會議中表示，推動「產業有家，家有產業」，可協助中央與地方建立夥伴關係，務實規劃區域產業發展方向，期望各縣市能「發揮所長」，找到自己的軸心產業，達成提高經濟成長率、降低失業率、縮短城鄉差距的目標。

他同時提出「壯大台灣，連接亞太，布局全球」的三項產業發展重點，鼓勵各縣市從壯大自己開始，考量產業發展現況，不要忽略現有傳統基礎產業，並評估天候、人力、水土等條件，重新規劃產業與經濟發展方向。

經建會主任委員劉憶如強調，「產業有家，家有產業」計畫最大目的是促進「在地就業」，為留住人才，地方政府應仔細評估本身的發展條件與在地優勢，並與其他縣市區域合作，建立區域共同品牌及通路。

未來跨區域合作不以行政區為限，以擴大生產與市場規模。劉憶如鼓勵地方間相互合作，或進行區域間異業結盟，如都市更新可與綠建築結合，發展綠能產業；而觀光、美食與國際醫療等可於整合後，共同行銷海外市場。

與會的產業代表及學者也提出多項建議，包括：配合觀光、文創等產業發展，強化基礎設施建置；推動雙語教育產業，開放設立民營之國際雙語住宿學校，並借重在地大學的先進資源；拓展觀光海外市場，應結合節慶或國際賽事等，進行聯合行銷。

經建會表示，綜觀第一階段 10 場座談會，與會各縣市政府大都爭取發展高價值、低污染的產業，產業類別具高度重疊性。但各區域發展條件不同，未來產業細項將有所差異。因此，未來縣市政府如何分工合作，產業如何作最妥適的布局，為政府重要課題。

後續將由地方政府檢視本身的基本條件，列出發展產業的優先順序，而各部會則將針對主管產業，排出發展區域的優先順序，中央與地方將於 4 至 7 月間持續討論，進行產業與區域配對，共同決定區域的主軸產業。

劉憶如表示，希望藉由「產業有家，家有產業」一系列座談會，找出新興產業未來最適當的區域，還有如何發揮產業整合、加值及群聚效果，未來將與國內外招商計畫相互搭配，將資金及資源引介至各區域。

■ 智慧型手持裝置上看兆元商機

經濟部宣布成立智慧型手持裝置產業推動小組，由部長施顏祥擔任召集人，以 2014 年達到新台幣 1 兆 6,800 億元產值為目標，推動將台灣發展為全球智慧型手持裝置創新與製造中心，創造高附加價值產業鏈及就業機會。

經濟部指出，智慧型手持裝置是台灣資通訊（ICT）產業下一階段發展重點，「未來著重的不是手機，而是後續的應用技術」，包括面板、記憶體及電源模組等。而智慧型手持裝置的多元發展，同時也將加速無線寬頻與雲端技術的應用。

工業局長杜紫軍表示，目前智慧型手持裝置的產業鏈，從晶片設計、零組件、手機製造到應用軟體開發都在台灣，政府將協助業者擘劃智慧型手持裝置未來 3 到 5 年的發展願景，發展核心技術與製程，以建構全球最完整產業鏈。

經濟部表示，為爭取智慧型手持裝置龐大應用商機，未來政府部門與產業界將共同聯手推動智慧型手持裝置資源整合與策略協調，由產業主導發展方向，政府則配合制定與落實政策，以建置適合智慧型手持裝置發展的環境。

同時，經濟部將導入業界科專補助，並規劃將智慧型手持裝置列為產業創新條例的高度創新投資抵減適用項目，以鼓勵產業進行研發。此外，政府也將提供經費補助與協助引進人才，並促使工研院資通所與光電所等法人組織，投入晶片、無線通訊、液晶及觸控等整合技術研發。

配合目前政府推動全球招商，智慧型手持裝置已列為招商主軸項目之一，積極吸引國際大廠來台投資。經濟部將爭取全球前 5 大品牌公司和關鍵零組件主要供應商來台，與台灣廠商合作發展關鍵元件。

■ 經合會首次例會 獲 3 項結論

兩岸經濟合作委員會（以下簡稱經合會）2 月 22 日在桃園舉行第 1 次例會，雙方完成 3 項結論，第一是於經合會下設立 6 個工作小組，第二是檢討 ECFA 早期收穫清單，第三是啓動貨品、服務業貿易、爭端解決等 3 項協商。

此次會議，雙方各派出 14 位代表，我方召集人是海基會副董事長高孔廉，首席代表為經濟部次長梁國新，大陸方面則由海協會副會長鄭立中擔任召集人，主談代表是商務部副部長姜增偉。

梁國新指出，為使 ECFA 後續執行更為順暢，經合會將設置貨品貿易、服務業貿易、投資、爭端解決、產業合作、海關合作等 6 個工作小組。其中貨品貿易、服務業貿易、投資及爭端解決，將於 3 月中旬展開第一回合談判，而由於貨品貿易涉及 5 千多項貨品項目，梁國新表示，我方將以爭取立即降稅，而非階段性降稅為目標。

由於雙方對兩岸投保協議仍有分歧，經此次會議溝通，雙方同意列入第 7 次江陳會優先會談議題。梁國新說，經合會半年後將舉行第 2 次例會，檢視 ECFA 早期收穫清單執行情形，並聽取 ECFA 後續 4 項協議磋商的進度報告。

■ GDP 破 10% 台灣投資環境亞洲第 2

行政院主計處公布去（2010）年經濟成長率為 10.82%，主計長石素梅表示，這是自 1987 以來最佳紀錄（1986 年為 11%）；出口、民間投資及消費間的良性成長，為去年國內經濟表現優異的重要關鍵。

石素梅表示，去年輸出與民間投資分別大幅成長 25.6% 及 32.8%，帶動經濟成長率創 20 多年來的歷史新高。主計處指出，全球景氣反彈回升，國際科技大廠持續擴大委外代工，大幅推升國內出口與投資；而消費性電子產品推陳出新，也帶動去年民間消費成長達 3.69%，為近 6 年來最高。

主計處表示，隨國際經濟持續好轉，國內廠商去年擴增投資，產能擴充效果將在今年陸續顯現，加以兩岸簽署經濟協議（ECFA）與早期收穫關稅優惠正式上路，預計出口將穩定成長；新台幣升值壓力雖使出口動能略減，預估今年出口金額仍將突破 3,000 億美元。

此外，政府一連串經商環境改善措施，也有助強化投資人信心，促進此波經濟成長。根據美國商業環境風險評估公司（BERI）2010 年 12 月的「投資環境風險評估報告」（Profit Opportunity Recommendation），台灣投資環境評比總分 71，在全球 50 個評比國家中，僅次於瑞士、新加坡及挪威，全球排名第 4；在亞洲地區，僅次於新加坡，排名第 2。

BERI 評比的 3 項主要指標分別為營運風險、匯兌風險及政治風險指標。BERI 認為台灣經商環境有明顯改善，是適合投資的地點之一。

BERI 展望台灣 2011 年投資環境評分將上升為 72 分，維持全球排名第 4 名。BERI 認為，台灣政局穩定，政治風險「被有效地控制」，預估台灣未來 2 年將維持良好評價。



Taiwan New Economy Newsletter

Special Report

■ Taiwan's investment mission to India returns with rich results

Dr. Christina Liu, minister of the Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD), reaped a rich harvest with the investment mission she led to India on February 21-25 as part of Taiwan's global investment promotion effort. The minister points out that two-way investment between the two countries is relatively low, and that her recent mission has built a bridge that brightens the future of bilateral trade and investment relations. She also expresses the hope of reaching the target of doubling trade within five years.

The Executive Yuan chose India as the first destination in this year's overseas investment initiative. The corporate sector reacted enthusiastically and almost a hundred business people joined the mission, making it the largest and highest-level mission ever mounted to India. During its five-day trip it held three investment seminars, visited more than 30 Indian enterprises, and called on Indian government officials.

The investment seminars were held in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Ahmedabad. They attracted more than 1,000 participants, among them representatives of numerous large enterprises. During the seminars, Dr. Liu pointed out that bilateral trade between Taiwan and India amounted to US\$6.47 billion in 2010, representing to only 1.2% of Taiwan's total trade value. In addition, Taiwanese investment in India from 2001 through 2010 accounted for just 0.04% of Taiwan's overall outward investment; at the same time, Indian investment in Taiwan amounted to no more than 0.05% of the island's total foreign direct investment. Obviously, there is a huge space for improvement.

Dr. Liu emphasized to the participating Indian enterprises that according to a forecast by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), economic growth in Asian countries, including South Korea, Singapore, and Hong Kong, will decline year by year, while Taiwan's growth rate will grow annually thanks to improving relations with mainland China as well as the signing with China of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA). Moreover, the “i-Taiwan 12 Projects” that the government is now implementing will draw investment estimated at US\$132 billion, of which 30% will be open to private investment. Indian businesses, she said, were welcome to participate in that investment.

The Taiwan mission was received with enthusiasm by the Indian corporate sector. The Tata Group, India's largest conglomerate; Hiranandani, a prominent real estate developer; and JSW, India's second largest steel manufacturing group, expressed strong interest in cooperating with Taiwanese companies and a hope to visit Taiwan soon for further talks on potential cooperative projects.

During its trip, the Taiwanese mission visited Syamal Gupta and Janaki Chaudhry, former chairman and current chief strategic officer, respectively, of Tata International. Ms. Chaudhry indicated that the Tata Group would study the feasibility of cooperating with Taiwanese enterprises in the fields of photovoltaics, hotels, semiconductors, and electric vehicles, with special focus on the electric bus that Taiwan has developed and is about to put on the road.

Theodore M. H. Huang, chairman of Taiwan's TECO Group, noted that India's infrastructure has developed at an extraordinary speed in the past few years, and that TECO would like to cooperate with the Tata Group; TECO is now evaluating the establishment of an electric motor plant, and the project will be finalized in June at the earliest. TECO is also considering the potential of expanding cooperation with India in the development of the automotive, shipbuilding, or financial industries.

JSW expressed a high degree of confidence in China Steel's advanced technology for the production of electromagnets, and a desire to import the technology, possibly via cooperation through the contribution of technology as equity. The JSW Group is also strongly interested in the cooperative development of solar power equipment.

In the field of land development, Yeh Chun-Yao, chairman of the Farglory Free Trade Zone, reported that many Indian companies have contacted the zone about setting up distribution centers or chemical products logistics centers there. One of those companies, HP Chemicals, has already established offices in Kaohsiung and Tainan and intends to extend its reach to Taipei. The company's president will visit Taiwan in March to investigate the environment for establishing a chemical products logistics center.

There is also good news about cooperation in technology industries. Taiwan's Sunner Solar Corporation, for instance, has already decided to cooperate with five Indian companies by providing or selling modules and module production technology to them.

Arthur Yu-Cheng Chiao, chairman of the Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (TEEMA), said that a "Taiwan-India model" could be formed by combining the use of India's corporate operating power with Taiwan's technology. He feels that Taiwan holds a leading position in the fields of information technology, R&D, and innovation; that India can look on the island as an "Asian Silicon Valley," establish R&D centers in Taiwan, and make use of Taiwan's high-tech human resources and innovation capabilities to develop technologies that India needs. Taiwan and India have already reached a consensus on the establishment of contact windows and cooperation platforms.

At present, TEEMA and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) are serving as windows for the two sides.

The mission also visited central and local government officials in India. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communications and Information Technology and Minister of Human Resource Development, indicated that the two sides should further strengthen exchange in technology. His deputy, Sachin Pilot, pointed out that India's technological strength is in software but it is somewhat backward in hardware; if it could use Taiwan's semiconductor manpower and technology, its own semiconductor industry could develop rapidly. Energy development is another field in which the two countries could profitably cooperate; India's economy is experiencing fast growth but its supply of electricity is insufficient and, in addition to traditional energy, it needs to find alternative sources and one choice is renewable energy—a field in which Taiwan is particularly strong.

Narendra Modi, chief minister of the economic stronghold Gujarat, said that his state is especially notable in India's rapid economic growth. Taiwan possesses advanced production technology, he noted, and Gujarat is known for its venturesome entrepreneurship; if the two sides would integrate their separate advantages in software and hardware, they could together capture the global market.

Dr. Liu said that the state of Gujarat occupies a strategic geographic position that offers a link with India's markets and even with the markets of the Middle East and Europe. Taiwan has its own key position as a major gateway for companies from all over the world to enter the mainland Chinese market. In the future, she promised, she will do everything she can to bring about further communication and cooperation between Taiwan and India.

Deregulation Progress

■ Taiwan's patent examination information now available online

To enhance the quality of patent examination and the transparency of related information, the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (TIPO) made patent examination information available online beginning March 1. Besides making it easier to obtain timely information on the progress of patent examinations, this also helps reduce waste caused by redundant research, because of insufficient information, on patents that already exist.

TIPO began installing its electronic patent examination information service last year. It was made available first to patent applicants and their agents, who could gain quick online access to their information through such security mechanisms as smart-card authorization and encrypted connection.

The scope of the online enquiry service has been expanded so that the public as well as patent applicants can gain access to examination information (including basic application information, the application itself along with attachments, specifications, and documents issued by TIPO).

According to the results of a survey conducted by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the proper use of patent information can shorten research time by 60% and reduce research costs by 40%. TIPO points out that because such information is not popularized enough, people who are unfamiliar with it frequently invest their resources into patent research that has already been done. The recent expansion of public patent information services will help reduce research spending.

■ Taiwan-issued electronic stored-value cards to go international

On January 25 this year the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) implemented the review standards and rules for the “issuance of international stored-value cards” and the “issuance of electronic stored-value cards in cooperation with overseas institutions” , formulated in accordance with the Act Governing Issuance of Electronic Stored-value Cards, with the aim of broadening the scope of stored-value card use in Taiwan and boosting the conformity of the island's financial industry with international practice.

The FSC notes that with the implementation of this new measure, domestic institutions may apply to issue electronic stored-value cards on their own or in cooperation with international institutions. Whichever method is used, the domestic issuer must have had a capital adequacy ratio of at least 10%, a non-performing loan ratio no higher than 2%, and bad-debt coverage of at least 60% for the most recent half fiscal year.

Domestic banks wishing to issue international electronic stored-value cards must also obtain permission from the competent authority, must have been in operation for at least three years, and must have had no losses or violation of financial regulations, or been subject to disciplinary action, for the previous three years.

Foreign institutions issuing international electronic stored-value cards in cooperation with domestic banks must have paid-in capital of at least NT\$300 million, must have received permission from their home country to issue domestic and international electronic stored-value cards, and must have issued international stored-value cards for at least one year.

The FSC further points out that electronic stored-value cards will be able to be used overseas only at contract stores. For this reason, domestic issuers of international electronic stored-value cards will likely cooperate with foreign issuers having a lot of contract stores around the world, such as VISA and MasterCard.

In addition, since electronic stored-value cards can be used by anybody, the FSC notes that to protect consumers the amount of value that can be stored in them will be limited to NT\$10,000 in accordance with the provisions of the Act Governing Issuance of Electronic Stored-value Cards.

■ **Government opens sub-brokered trading in mainland Chinese securities**

Taiwanese securities firms that handle sub-brokered securities investment are currently not allowed to deal in mainland Chinese securities, but the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) agreed on February 10 to allow professional institutions to engage in such trading. This relaxation will bring significant benefits to domestic insurance and investment trust companies that are not recognized by mainland China as qualified foreign institutional investors (QFIIs).

The FSC notes that under existing rules, domestic insurance and investment trust firms may deal directly in mainland Chinese securities. Because it is difficult to obtain QFII status from mainland China, only two Taiwanese investment trust firms currently enjoy such recognition and other local investment trust and insurance companies can invest in mainland Chinese securities only through overseas securities firms.

The FSC decided to accept a recent suggestion by the Taiwan Securities Association that securities firms be allowed to engage, on a conditional basis, in sub-brokered investment in mainland Chinese securities, with first-stage opening

applying only to trading that is sub-brokered by domestic professional institutions that have received permission to invest in such securities. Domestic financial holding groups that include insurance, securities, and investment trust businesses can deal in mainland Chinese stocks through securities firms with QFII status that operate under their banner, thus enhancing their operating efficiency.

Such brokered investment by individuals will have to wait until the next stage of relaxation, the FSC indicates, because it involves policy issues such as the direct ownership of mainland Chinese stocks by ROC nationals.

■ Building permit application further simplified

The Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD), Ministry of the Interior, and Taipei City Government have reached a consensus on expanding and strengthening the function of the single window for building permits and developing it into a rapid service center that will make related procedures more simple and convenient, and make Taiwan more attractive to foreign investors.

Taipei City Government expects to open its new rapid service center for warehouse construction next month. For warehouses no more than two stories tall, application for building, construction, and use permits, as well as for conduits for electrical, water, and other connections, will be accepted and reviewed, and the required permits issued, through a simplified procedure and a single window. At the same time, more convenient and rapid service will be provided through a dedicated web page for application forms and information on related procedures.

In line with the revised Taipei Municipal Building Management Statute that was promulgated at the end of 2010, for buildings that do not exceed a certain size, construction inspection of each floor may be applied altogether at the same time when all floors are completed. In addition, Taipei City Government has integrated

the “inspection of building layout on the site base,” “foundation inspection,” “second-floor inspection,” and “roof structure inspection” to shorten procedural time.

The CEPD notes that the reform measures to simplify building permit application are based on the precondition of not affecting public safety. After studying international experience and carrying out necessary interministerial consultations, procedural integration and simultaneous execution will be promoted, one-stop windows for various kinds of applications will be established, documents required for submission will be simplified, and a divided-level administration system will be employed to carry out reform step by step and continue boosting the efficiency of building permit application.

News Express

■ “Homes for industries” stimulates local job creation

The Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD) is promoting a new “homes for industries, industries for homes” program aimed at mapping out a blueprint for the distribution of Taiwan's industrial development over the coming decade. Ten seminars have already been held for the first stage of the program, “homes for industries” ; the CEPD will collect and sort out the opinions garnered from the seminars, set up a platform for coordination between the central and local governments, and facilitate the formation of a consensus on regional industrial development to serve as a basis for policy formulation.

Premier Wu Den-yih noted in the summing-up meeting that promoting “homes for industries, industries for homes” can assist the central and local governments in establishing partnership and pragmatically planning regional industrial

development direction. And he expressed the hope that each county and city will bring into play their respective advantages and find its key industry to reach the goal of increasing economic growth rate, reducing unemployment rate and shortening the gap between urban and rural areas.

He also proposed that industrial development should focus on the three aims of “strengthening Taiwan, connecting with the Asia-Pacific region, and positioning globally,” and encouraged cities and counties to start from strengthening themselves, and map out new directions for industrial and economic development, giving due consideration to the current state of industrial development, not neglecting existing traditional basic industries, and with careful assessment of climatic, manpower, environmental, and other relevant conditions.

The prime objective of “homes for industries, industries for homes,” says CEPD Minister Dr. Christina Liu, is to stimulate local employment and keep talents at home. Local governments should carefully assess their developmental conditions and local advantages, and cooperate with other county and city governments in setting up joint regional brands and distribution channels. In the future, she comments, inter-regional cooperation should be aimed at expanding production and market scale, and should not be limited to administrative districts.

Dr. Liu encourages local areas to work together or form inter-regional cross-industry alliances. Urban renewal, for instance, can be integrated with green building to develop green-energy industries, and integration of the tourism, cuisine, and international medical care industries can be used in the joint marketing abroad.

Representatives from industries and scholars attending the meeting also presented various proposals, including strengthening the infrastructure in line with the development of tourism, cultural and creative industries; promoting the bi-

lingual education industry, encouraging the establishment of private international bi-lingual boarding schools while drawing on the advanced resources of local universities; and expanding tourist markets by combining holidays and festivals or international events in joint marketing efforts.

The 10 first-stage seminars indicated that most of the participating county and city governments are striving for the development of high-value, low-pollution industries, and that there is a high degree of overlap in such types of industries. However, since development conditions vary from region to region, this will need to be reflected in the particularities of the industries developed in each region in the future. An important issue for the government in the future, therefore, will be how to achieve a proper division of labor and how to effect the most appropriate industrial deployment.

The local governments will follow up by looking at their own basic conditions and then prioritizing industries for development. At the central government level, the ministries will prioritize regions for the development of industries under their administration. The central and local governments will continue their discussions from April through July, and will pair regions and industries; and then, together, they will decide on the core industries for each region.

Dr. Liu expresses the hope that the series of “homes for industries, industries for homes” seminars would pinpoint the most suitable regions for the development of emerging industries, and would help determine how to bring about industrial integration to achieve value-added and cluster effects. This will enable the government, in future investment promotion efforts, to recommend specific areas in Taiwan that are suitable for foreign direct investment.

■ NT\$1.68 trillion in production targeted for smart handheld devices

The Minister of Economic Affairs (MOEA) hopes to boost the annual output of Taiwan's smart handheld device industry to NT\$1.68 trillion in 2014, and has established a task force to help achieve that goal. The task force, for which Economics Minister Yen-Shiang Shih serves as convener, wants to help develop Taiwan into a global innovation and manufacturing center for smart handheld devices, build up a high value chain for the industry, and create job opportunities.

The MOEA points out that smart handheld devices are the key sector for the next stage of development of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry, when the emphasis will be on the follow-up application of technologies for flat panels, memory devices, power modules, and suchlike, rather than cellphone handsets. The diversified development of the smart handheld device industry will also give a boost to the application of wireless broadband and cloud computing technologies.

Director General Tyzz-Jiun Duh of the MOEA's Industrial Development Bureau points out that Taiwan has a complete supply chain for smart handheld devices, from chip design to the manufacturing of parts and handsets and the development of applications technology. The government will help the industry to plan out a development vision for the next three to five years, focusing on the development of core technologies and production processes, with the objective of building up the world's most comprehensive industry chain.

The MOEA indicates that to take advantage of the vast range of opportunities in smart handheld device applications that will present themselves in the future, the government and the industry will work together to integrate the related resources and coordinate development strategies. The industry will lead the

direction of development, while the government will map out and implement supporting policy to create an environment favorable to the development of handheld devices.

At the same time, the MOEA will introduce subsidies to encourage R&D of the industry, work to include smart handheld devices among the items eligible for the tax offsets that the Industrial Innovation Act provides for investment in high-level innovation. The government will also provide subsidies for expenditures and help bring in talents, and will encourage such research organizations as the Information and Communications Research Laboratories and Electronics and Optoelectronics Research Laboratories (both units under the government-backed Industrial Technology Research Institute, or ITRI) to carry out technological research in the fields of IC chips, wireless communications, liquid crystal display, and touch control.

Smart handheld devices are among the core items that are included in the government's current global investment promotion program designed to attract major international manufacturers to invest in Taiwan, and the MOEA will promote the cooperation between the world's top five brands and major key part suppliers and Taiwanese companies in developing critical devices.

■ **Cross-Strait Economic Cooperation Committee held first meeting**

The Cross-Strait Economic Cooperation Committee (ECC) held its first regular meeting in Taoyuan on February 22, at which the two sides reached resolutions on three matters: first, to establish six working groups under the ECC; second, to review the ECFA “early harvest” list; and third, to launch three sets of negotiations on trade in goods, trade in services, and dispute settlement.

Fourteen delegates from each side attended the first meeting. For the Taiwan side the convener was Kao Koong-lian, vice chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation, and the chief representative was Francis Kuo-Hsin Liang, vice minister of economic affairs. For the Chinese side the convener was Zheng Lizhong, vice chairman of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, and the chief representative was Jiang Zengwei, vice minister of commerce.

Francis Liang reports that the ECC will set up six working groups, one each for trade in goods, trade in services, investment, dispute settlement, industrial cooperation, and customs cooperation. The first four groups - for trade in goods, trade in services, investment, and dispute settlement - will hold their first round of talks in mid-March. Since trade in goods involves more than 5,000 items, Liang says, Taiwan will seek immediate, instead of staged, tariff reductions.

Since the two sides have differences of opinion on a cross-strait investment protection agreement, it has been agreed to include this as a priority topic for the seventh Chiang-Chen Talk. Liang says that the second regular meeting of the ECC, which will take place six months later, will look at implementation of the “early harvest” list and hear progress reports on talks carried out by the four groups mentioned above.

■ Taiwan's investment environment ranked 2nd in Asia

Statistics recently released by the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS) show that Taiwan's GDP growth reached 10.82% last year. DGBAS Minister Su-mei Shih notes that this was the highest growth rate since 1987 (GDP growth was 11% in 1986). The key drivers of the outstanding economic performance in 2010 were exports, private investments and consumption.

Minister Shih notes that exports and private investment rose by 25.59% and 32.79% respectively last year, boosting GDP growth to its record 24-year high. The island's exports and investments were spurred by the global economic rebound and increased outsourcing by big international manufacturers. The introduction of new models of consumer electronic products pushed private consumption in Taiwan by 3.69% last year, a six-year high.

With the continuous improvement of the international economy, DGBAS predicts that the production capacity will gradually increase following last year's expansion of domestic investment. And with the implementation of the cross-strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) and its "early harvest" tariff preferences, exports are expected to grow at a steady pace. While pressure from appreciation of the New Taiwan dollar has weakened export momentum, exports are still expected to break the US\$300 billion mark this year.

Moreover, the series of measures that the government has instituted to improve the business environment will strengthen investor confidence and help reinforce the current wave of growth. According to the "Profit Opportunity Recommendation" issued in December 2010 by Business Environment Risk Intelligence, BERI, Taiwan composite scored 71 on the index, placing it fourth among the 50 countries evaluated, after only Switzerland, Singapore, and Norway. In Asia Taiwan was second, after only Singapore.

BERI considers three major indicators in determining its rankings: operations risk, exchange risk, and political risk. The firm's assessment given that Taiwan's business environment has improved substantially, BERI indicates the island is suitable for investment.

BERI expects Taiwan's investment environment score to rise to 72 this year, keeping the island in fourth place globally, and believes that during the next two years the island's political situation will remain stable, that its political risk will be effectively controlled, and that its assessment will continue to be good. 