

The Promotion Conference for the “Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals”

Date: Monday, March 5, 2018

Venue: R617, National Development Council

Opening Remarks by NDC Minister Chen Mei-ling

Honored guests, representatives of government agencies, and friends from the media: Good day!

First, on behalf of the National Development Council, I heartily welcome your attendance at this meeting to publicize and explain the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals.

As we all know, Taiwan is a small country that needs to compete for talent with the rest of the world. If we want to develop, we must depend on talent to do so. In the past, while we have had legal provisions for the recruitment of foreign nationals, these have all been rather conservative in tendency, and have, we might say, been rigidified. But now, as we face the new conditions of the digital economy era, we feel that Taiwan must take a big step forward.

Therefore, after the new government came to power on May 20, 2016, we focused attention on how we could make Taiwan into a welcoming destination with good and friendly conditions for foreign nationals. Having thoroughly assessed how we needed to cater to foreign talent coming to work in Taiwan, and then drafted a law to enact it all, we owe the greatest appreciation to our Legislative Yuan for making this the first bill passed in its most recent session. Thus became the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals, which passed its 3rd reading in the Legislative Yuan on October 31, 2017.

This is a law that involves the responsibilities of many different central government agencies. That is to say, it requires a joint and concerted by all of these agencies in order for it to show its true effect. There are, altogether, a dozen ministries and commissions involved in its implementation. And besides the Act itself, there are a number of subsidiary regulations that had to be made to put it into effect.

We are extremely grateful to each of the ministries and commissions concerned. Everyone collaborated closely to ensure that all of the preparatory work was completed in a remarkably short time. With the subsidiary regulations made and announced one after another, everything was ready ahead of the Chinese New Year, and the Act officially went into effect on February 8 this year (2018). That is to say, we can already begin to process applications for foreign nationals to come to work in

Taiwan under the provisions of this Act, and we can let their children and other family members begin to enjoy the enhanced national treatment provided for by the Act.

I believe that all of the foreign chambers of commerce and other foreign representative entities represented here today will consider this law to be very important to Taiwan. I am sure it will strongly attract everyone's interest, and that you will wish to know how it is to be put into effect. Therefore, we greatly welcome and are very pleased at having so many friends come to join us here today for this meeting to explain – or I might say to publicize – this new legislation.

The way we have arranged this meeting is that a representative of the ministry or commission responsible for each part of the Act will deliver a brief explanatory report, after which we will open the floor to your questions. We hope this will enable everyone to gain a clear and full understanding of all that this new law entails, enabling it to be carried into effect most smoothly and successfully.

I repeat my welcome to all, and here just wish to add assurance that Taiwan indeed offers a very friendly environment, and that we sincerely open our arms to highly able talent from around the world who come to Taiwan to work, come to Taiwan to live, and come to Taiwan to pitch in their abilities side by side with us. Thank you so much for coming, and I hope that this gathering today will achieve the whole of its purpose with the greatest success. Thank you!