



Taiwan
**Economic
Forum**

經濟新訊

NEWSLETTER

台灣新經濟簡訊

經建會法協中心

專題報導

發展電子商務第三方支付儲值上路

在兼顧扶植電子商務產業發展與保護消費者權益的原則下，行政院於日前同意第三方支付儲值服務在國內開辦。為順利推動此業務，短期內將先以《電子票證發行管理條例》做為法源依據，准予金融與非金融機構（如網路平台業者）提供第三方支付網路儲值服務；長期規劃上，將研訂兼顧「產業發展」及「金流管理」之電子商務第三方支付服務管理專法，以協助國內電子商務平台業者跨國營運，擴大市場商機並加速產業創新發展。

網路儲值交易9月上線

金管會已於8月底完成相關法令修正，並核定銀行公會所訂之「銀行受理客戶以網路方式開立儲值支付帳戶作業範本」及相關自律規範，9月起業者即可提供第三方支付服務網路儲值服務。

依據《電子票證發行管理條例》，未來第三方支付儲值服務可有2種營運模式。一種是網路平台業者與銀行合作，先由銀行進行消費者實名認證作業，如

自然人憑證、銀行帳號及手機電子郵件等認證，之後第三方支付業者可依認證強度高低，給予消費者不同之儲值額度，額度最高為新台幣 20 萬元，最低 1 萬元。另一種則是非金融機構自行成立電子票證發行機構，資本額為新台幣 3 億元，其儲值金額須全部交付信託，而消費者最高儲值上限為 1 萬元。

給定第三方支付服務開辦，為充分保障消費者權益，經濟部將依據《消費者保護法》第 17 條取得授權，訂定「第三方支付服務定型化契約應記載及不得記載事項」。另為防範不正當之資金流動，政府也將依據《洗錢防治法》規定，將「第三方支付服務」納入洗錢防制管理。

健全產業發展制定第三方支付專法

行政院政務委員張善政表示，為讓非金融機構業者可立即提供線上儲值服務，目前先以《電子票證發行管理條例》為短期措施之法源。未來則由經濟部主政，會同金管會及相關部會組成專案工作小組，在與產業界充分溝通下，研議訂定電子商務第三方支付服務管理專法，以健全電子商務產業發展。

經濟部表示，目前已研訂「第三方支付服務業管理規範」及專法大綱，未來將參酌國際間立法案例及業者意見，待帳戶之儲值上限與電子商務第三方支付業者之資本額門檻等重點確認後，於年底前將草案送行政院審查。

行政院表示，電子商務第三方支付儲值業務上路後，可提供消費者便利及安全的網路支付服務，強化消費者對網路交易的信賴度，並將帶動金融與資訊服務業跨業合作，刺激電子商務多元發展，進一步拓展跨境交易之電子商務市場。

示範區推動進展

自由經濟示範區第一階段啟動

自由經濟示範區第一階段推動計畫已獲行政院會正式核定，首波 6 海 1 空加上屏東農業生物科技園區之示範區，將以「前店後廠」方式推動，招商目標金額 2014 年為新台幣 200 億元。

行政院院長江宜樺指出，自由經濟示範區透過大幅鬆綁人流、物流、金流相關限制，發展具前瞻性的高端產業活動，自 8 月 8 日起正式啟動第一階段推動工作。

江宜樺表示，示範區第一階段包含智慧運籌、國際醫療、農業加值及產業合作等 4 項產業。未來進駐產業不侷限於這 4 項產業，將開放外界與各部會提案，只要符合自由化、國際化及前瞻性的理念，都可納入自由經濟示範區。

江宜樺指出，自由經濟示範區以「境內關外」結合「前店後廠、委外加工」的營運模式，擴大港區腹地，並利用後廠之資源與產能提高加值效果。

對於未來示範區產業合作發展模式，經濟部舉例，業者可引進國外創新技術與智慧財產權（IP），合作加值成新的 IP 再輸出。而示範區內的關務系統再行簡化後，可進一步發展產業檢測、驗證、維修等服務。經濟部說，未來國外業者委託檢測的物品可進口至 6 海 1 空及屏東農科園區示範區，完成檢測後，再輸出寄回委測公司，不必再提出申報，對檢測業者將是一大利多。

經濟部長張家祝指出，在國家安全無虞下，陸資投資示範區製造業，將比照外人投資規定，股權不受限制。唯一與外資不同之處，是陸資來台需經過事先審核。

經建會主委管中閔表示，示範區自計畫核定到《自由經濟示範區特別條例》立法完成前，為自經區第一階段。至於租稅優惠及其他涉及修法事項，則待第二階段推動。

依據經建會推估，第一階段示範區計畫陸續上路後，2014 年可為國內生產毛額帶來 300 億元活水，並創造 1 萬 3 千個就業機會。

自由經濟示範區設單一窗口

為提升示範區行政效率，行政院院長江宜樺指示交通部，比照科學園區及加工出口區過去成功的經驗，規劃於「6 海 1 空」自由經濟示範區設置招商單一窗口，就現有資源有效整合運用，以提高行政效能。

江院長指出，示範區內的廠商申辦相關證照，大多數須透過地方政府申辦。今後示範區應普設投資招商單一窗口，加強政府部門間的橫向連結，以及中央與地方彼此串聯，協助廠商跑流程，以大幅縮短建照、執照、公司登記、環保、水電及土地等投資申請的行政流程，降低業者投資障礙。

金融業納入自由經濟示範區

針對自由經濟示範區中金融業務開放規劃，金管會表示，將以虛擬境外概念，發展財富管理業務，由國際金融業務分行（OBU）及國際證券業務分公司（OSU）擔任主要銷售通路，提供非居民及本國專業投資人各類金融商品與服務。

金管會將先行開放 OBU 業務，大幅鬆綁未涉及新台幣的商品與業務。由於 OBU 客戶為非居民，不僅信託商品不受現行信託投資範圍及種類限制，衍生性金融商品除複雜的信用類商品外，也都不受限制。此外，OBU 銷售部分境外結構型商品，將改採事後備查方式，以加速商品上市時程。

至於 OSU 部分，金管會研擬開放境外結構型商品連結中國大陸股價指數、債券、利率及人民幣匯率等指標，希望在短期內可定案。

另為滿足國內專業機構投資人對固定收益商品投資業務的需求，並擴大相關交易人才在台業務，金管會也將開放外匯指定銀行（DBU）辦理境外固定收益商品的經紀服務。

金管會指出，配合自由經濟示範區的推動，發展國內金融業財富與資產管理業務，可吸引境外非居民利用台灣 OBU 及 OSU 進行投資理財，擴大台灣金融市場規模，並促使國內金融機構依客戶需求設計開發相關商品。

示範區土地容積率放寬

配合產業進駐自由經濟示範區對土地之需求，內政部通過修正《非都市土地使用管制規則》部分條文，放寬示範區廠房及辦公室之容積率上限。

內政部指出，現行特定目的事業用地容積率上限為 180%，為提高自由經濟示範區土地使用強度，內政部決定將示範區的土地容積率上限調升至 240%。亦即如果業者之廠房、辦公室原來最高可以建 3 層樓，法規修訂後，最高可以建 4 層樓。

此外，示範區土地開發計畫變更程序也將簡化。內政部次長蕭家淇表示，目的事業主關機關如認定示範區土地開發計畫變更與原計畫性質相同，或具高度相容性，且未變更主要公共設施、公用設備或必要性服務設施，及未增加全

區土地容積率與建蔽率，申請人可製作變更內容對照表送中央主管機關備查，不用再經土地變更審議會審議。

以屏東農科園區為例，據內政部表示，該園區成為自由經濟示範區後，如欲進行更為多元之開發，無需依循區外之土地開發計畫變更審查程序辦理，只要經農委會認定，並將土地開發計畫變更內容對照表送內政部備查即可。

法規鬆綁

專業投資人可信託買賣外幣債券

為活絡債券市場，金管會表示，將放寬專業投資人透過信託業買賣外幣計價債券，如寶島債等。

金管會採行信託公會建議，發布《信託業營運範圍受益權轉讓限制風險揭露及行銷訂約管理辦法》相關函令，核准信託業者受理專業投資人委託，買賣初級市場及次級市場之外幣計價債券。

金管會表示，原本專業投資人僅可透過券商，買賣境內發行的外幣計價債券；法令開放後，專業投資人可透過銀行或信託業者，投資包括銀行發行的境內外幣計價金融債券，及公開發行公司所發行的外幣計價公司債。

金管會說明，所謂專業投資人，包括法人及個人。若為法人戶，則最近一期經會計師查核的資產需達新台幣 5,000 萬元；若為個人，則需提供總資產大於新台幣 3,000 萬元的財力聲明書。對於一般民衆，目前仍未開放信託投資。

金管會指出，目前櫃買中心（OTC）有國內銀行發行以人民幣計價的 2 檔金融債券，以及 2 家國內上市公司發行以人民幣或日幣計價的公司債。開放專業投資人透過信託買賣外幣計價債券後，可提供更多元的投資管道，並活絡債券市場。

陸客自由行多次入出境上路

內政部移民署宣布修正《大陸地區人民來台從事觀光活動許可辦法》，自 8 月 1 日起，開放中國大陸觀光客來台自由行一年內可多次入出境，此項開放措施預計可帶動我觀光產業市場。

移民署表示，要取得我國一年多次入出境許可，陸客必須符合從申請日起之過去 12 個月內，自由行來台 2 次以上，或是持有個人旅遊多次簽註的「大陸居民往來台灣通行證」。

此次辦法修正也一併開放第 3 類大陸觀光客持多次入出境許可來台，針對旅居海外的中國大陸留學生，以及擁有海外居留權或工作權的中國大陸人士，移民署將發給一年多次入出境許可。

另外，為強化兩岸教育及藝文人才交流，移民署也配合修正《大陸地區專業人士來台從事專業活動許可辦法》，同意大陸優秀教育、藝文及大眾傳播等專業人士，來台從事專業活動，可取得 1 年效期的多次入出境許可證。

新修正的小三通辦法也規定，陸客經由小三通到金馬及澎湖觀光，自 8 月 1 日起，可取得移民署核發多次入出境簽證。

根據觀光局統計，自 2011 年 6 月開放中國大陸部分城市旅客來台自由行後，至今年 6 月底，自由行之中國大陸旅客累計已達 43 萬人次，僅今年上半年即超過 20 萬人次。1 年多次入境許可政策上路後，來台自由行人次可望再創高峰。

安平港申設成為自貿港

自由貿易港區再添新成員，行政院 8 月 20 日核定「安平港申請設置自由貿易港區案」，安平港成為國內第 7 個自由貿易港區，可望在 10 月起對外招商。

安平港是繼基隆港、台北港、台中港、高雄港、蘇澳港和桃園航空城 5 海 1 空自貿港區後，第 7 個申設為自貿港區的海港。經建會指出，隨著兩岸直航及兩岸經濟合作架構協議（ECFA）簽訂後，台南相關產品銷往大陸的比重逐漸增加，安平港距大陸廈門港及泉州港僅 145 浬，成為自貿港區後，有助於南部農工產業擴大發展。

經建會表示，安平港鄰近安平工業區、南部科學園區、台南科工區等製造區位，且雲嘉南地區為我國農漁產業重鎮，未來進一步申設成為自由經濟示範區後，將可整合周邊產業供應鏈，並與對岸相關產業進行跨境合作。

目前台灣港務公司已與相關業者展開接洽，涵蓋的業別範圍包括：倉儲與國際物流、石化產品、非鐵金屬、體育休閒用品、空調設備、汽車零組件、農產品、中藥食材加工等產業。港務公司同時將招攬貨櫃及客貨兩用輪航商，開闢安平至廈門、泉州等航線，未來並將透過單一服務窗口，提高招商效率。

據台灣港務公司初估，安平港自貿港區營運初期可直接創造 250 個就業機會，增加新台幣 1,800 萬元稅收；未來如採自由經濟示範區之前店後廠模式運作，可望增加更多就業機會與稅收。

新聞快遞

廠房再活化 經濟部加速釋地

為協助業者取得投資用地，經濟部宣布自今年起，執行為期 6 年的園區老舊廠房再興計畫，加速媒合老舊廠房買賣，以活化閒置土地，供廠商建廠使用。業者之老舊廠房更新重建並啟動營運後，預計將可創造 1,500 個工作機會，每年產值約增加新台幣 170 億元。

廠房用地不足是業者訴請政府協助排除的主要投資障礙之一。為協助業者覓地，經濟部清查全台產業用地後，估算未來 5 年可釋出的產業用地共 2,814 公頃，其中工業園區、加工出口區及科學園區等可釋出 946 公頃，地方政府可釋出 1,762 公頃，民間可釋出 106 公頃。而目前可立即提供廠商建廠使用之土地約 524 公頃。

為提高土地使用效益，經濟部加工出口區管理處表示，園區老舊廠房再興計畫將鎖定楠梓、高雄及台中等 3 地園區，透過拆除老舊閒置廠房及整合週邊用地，以加速提供產業運用。初步估算，高雄園區可釋出 1 萬多平方公尺的產業用地，待引進業者進駐後，將可創造新台幣 25 億元的營業額。

國發會組織法立法通過

立法院 8 月 6 日三讀通過《國家發展委員會組織法》，未來將整併經建會、研考會與工程會部分業務，成立國家發展委員會，統籌負責國家發展、經濟與產業、建設等政策規劃，各政策計畫從預算審議到控管形成「一條鞭式」管理，明年元月將正式施行。

國發會將整併經建會、研考會及附屬機關檔案管理局全部業務，同時納入工程會公共建設審議業務，以及原行政院主計處之電子處理資料中心業務。

國發會肩負國家發展之規劃、協調與審議，並具有跨部會整合功能。規劃的政策涵蓋各業別，與其他中央機關偏重主管業務之執行、及政策工具之研擬等執掌有別。國發會以國家整體發展角度，辦理經濟、社會、產業、人力資源、離島區域等發展政策之綜合性規劃、協調及審議；並配合管制考核、政府資訊管理及法制革新等政策規劃，強化政府決策效能。

依國發會組織法規定，國發會共設 17 到 27 名委員，將納入客委會、原民會、衛福部及文化部等部會首長。考量國發會業務涉及跨部會政策協調，且具政策統合功能，主任委員由行政院政務委員兼任，以利機關間政策的凝聚與推動。

過去經建會掌管經建規劃與計畫預算業務；研考會負責社會發展領域計畫管考，工程會負責工程發展領域計畫管考。未來計畫、預算及管考將一併納入國發會職掌範疇，採取計畫到管考「一條鞭式」的作法，可提升行政效率，促進國家整體發展。📍

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Special Report

Internet third-party payments: a boost for e-commerce

The Executive Yuan has decided, under the principles of supporting the development of e-commerce and protecting the interests of consumers, to put third-party payment services online. The Executive Yuan reports that, using the Act Governing the Issuance of Electronic Stored Value Cards as the legal basis, financial and non-financial institutions (such as internet platform providers) will first be allowed to provide third-party payment services; in the longer term, a special law governing third-party e-commerce payments will be worked out to provide for both the development of the industry and cash-flow management so as to help domestic e-commerce platform providers engage in cross-border operations, expand market opportunities, and speed up the development of innovation in the industry.

Internet payments beginning in September

The Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) completed the necessary legal revision at the end of August and approved the relevant self-discipline standards contained in the Bankers Association's rules for handling the opening of online payment accounts by their customers. Businesses are able to offer third-party online payment services beginning in September.

Under the Act Governing the Issuance of Electronic Stored Value Cards, third-party payment services can be operated using two different models. One is via cooperation between Internet platform providers and banks, with the banks first carrying out real-name authentication for their customers and third-party payment businesses then providing the customers with stored-value quotas of NT\$10,000 to NT\$200,000 according to the strength of the authentication.

The other model provides for the establishment of electronic stored value card issuers by non-financial institutions. The issuers are to have a capitalization of NT\$300 million; the entire amount of their stored value is to be paid into a trust, and the stored value of their customers is capped at NT\$10,000.

To provide full protection of consumers' interests, the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) will, under the authorization provided by Article 17 of the Consumer Protection Law, set up the mandatory and prohibitory provisions of standard third-party payment contracts. To prevent improper cash flows, the government will take third-party payment services under anti-money-laundering management in accordance with the provisions of the Money Laundering Control Act.

Special law to provide for healthy development of third-party payments

Minister without Portfolio San-cheng Chang reports that to allow the provision of online payment services by non-financial institutions, the Act Governing the Issuance of Electronic Stored Value Cards will first be used as the legal basis for short-term measures. Later on, to provide for the healthy development of the e-commerce industry, the MOEA will work with the FSC and other relevant agencies to organize a working group that will work out, in consultation with industries, a special law for third-party e-commerce payments.

The MOEA indicates that it has already formulated rules governing the third-party payment business and has mapped out a framework for the required special law. In the future, it will consider cases from international legislation as well as the opinions of operators and, once such major points as the maximum amount to be stored in accounts and the amount of capitalization for third-party payment providers are confirmed, the drafts will be submitted to the Executive Yuan for review. This is expected to happen before the end of the year.

The Executive Yuan also notes that the inauguration of third-party e-commerce payments will provide consumers with more convenient and more secure Internet payment services. This will reinforce their trust in Internet transactions, stimulate cooperation between the financial and information services industries, spur the diversified development of e-commerce, and further expand the market for cross-border e-commerce.

Free Economic Pilot Zone Developments

Taiwan kicks off first stage of free economic pilot zone program

The Executive Yuan has approved the first-stage implementation plan for the development of free economic pilot zones (FEPZs) in Taiwan. The first wave of seven such zones, including six harbors and one airport, will be carried out based on the "store in front, factory in the rear" concept and aim at attracting T\$20 billion in investment.

Premier Jiang Yi-huah points out that FEPZs are designed to develop forward-looking high-end industrial activities through the loosening of restrictions on the flow of people, goods, and capital. The first stage of implementation was formally kicked off on August 8.

Premier Jiang notes that the first stage of FEPZ development encompasses intelligent logistics, international medical care, value-added agriculture, and industrial cooperation. The zones will not be limited to these four types of operations, however, but will be open to proposals from government ministries and other parties. So long as they conform to the principles of liberalization, internationalization, and forward-looking vision, the proposals will be adopted.

The zones will operate on the "within national territory but outside customs territory" model combined with the "shop in front and factory in

the rear, with outsourced processing" concept, expanding the hinterland of the ports involved and using the resources and production capacities of "factories in the rear" to enhance added value.

Regarding business models of the zones, the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) gives the example of a business bringing in innovative foreign technology and intellectual property (IP), and through value-adding process, producing new IP for export. The further simplification of customs systems in the zones will encourage the development of industrial testing, verification, maintenance, and other services. The MOEA explains that goods commissioned for testing by foreign companies will be able to be shipped into one of the zones and then, after testing is completed, shipped back to the commissioning companies without the need for further reporting. This promises great convenience for testing firms.

Economics Minister Chia-Juch Chang stresses that in the absence of any threat to national security, mainland Chinese investment in the FEPZs will be treated like foreign investment, with no restriction on equity. The only difference will be that mainland Chinese investment will be subject to prior review and approval.

Minister Kuan Chung-Ming of the Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD) notes that the first stage of FEPZ development is running from the time the plan was approved until a "Special Act for Free Economic Pilot Zones" is enacted. Tax incentives and other matters involving the amendment of laws will be implemented in the second stage following the completion of the Special Act legislation.

The CEPD estimates that the implementation of the first stage of zone development will add NT\$30 billion to Taiwan's gross domestic product (GDP) and generate 13,000 new jobs in 2014.

Free economic pilot zones to set up single-stop windows

Based on the experience of success in science parks and export processing zones, Premier Jiang Yi-huah has instructed the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to set up single windows to boost the efficiency of free economic pilot zone (FEPZ) administration and promote investment in the zones by integrating existing resources.

The Premier points out that companies in the zones (currently established at six harbors and one airport) generally have to apply to local governments for the licenses they need. In the future, FEPZs will set up single windows to reinforce horizontal links in the government sector and strengthen links between the central and local governments. These windows will help firms with the required procedures and greatly shorten the administrative process for building permits, company registration, environment protection, utilities, and land, thereby making it easier to do business in FEPZs.

Financial businesses included in free economic pilot zoning

The Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) says that it will adopt the "virtual offshore" concept for the development of wealth management by financial businesses in Taiwan's free economic pilot zones (FEPZs). Offshore banking units (OBUs) and offshore securities units (OSUs) will act as the main sales channels in providing various kinds of financial products and services to non-residents and domestic professional investors.

The FSC will first open up the OBU business by greatly relaxing restrictions on products and businesses that do not involve the New Taiwan

Dollar. Since OBU customers are not residents of Taiwan, this will free its trust business from existing restrictions on the scope and categories of trust investment and, with the exception of complex credit products, on derivative products. In addition, some offshore structured products sold by OBUs will be switched to after-the-fact reporting, thereby accelerating the speed to market.

The FSC is holding an intensive series of meetings to work out the opening up of offshore structured products linked to mainland Chinese stock indexes, bonds, interest rates, and renminbi (RMB) exchange rates. Results are expected to be achieved soon.

To meet the demand of domestic professional investors for investment in fixed-income instruments and to expand the Taiwan business of related traders, the FSC also plans to open up offshore fixed-income instrument brokerage services to designated forex banking units (DBUs).

The FSC points out that the development of domestic financial services and the asset management business along with FEPZs will attract non-residents to carry out investment through Taiwan's OBUs and OSUs, expand the scale of Taiwan's financial market, and encourage domestic financial institutions to design and develop products that meet the needs of their customers.

Floor area ratio rules relaxed for pilot zones

The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) has amended the Regulations on Non-urban Land Use Control to better meet the needs for land by enterprises in free economic pilot zones (FEPZs) by relaxing the floor area ratio for factories and office space.

The MOI indicates that the existing floor area ratio by target enterprises is capped at 180%. To increase the utility of land use in FEPZs, the MOI has decided to boost the ratio in such zones to 240%; this means

that if factory or office buildings could originally be built to a maximum of three stories, they will now be able to build to four stories.

The procedure for changing land development plans has also been simplified. Deputy Interior Minister Hsiao Chia-chi notes that if the competent agency for the target enterprise determines that a changed land development plan in a pilot zone is the same as or has a high degree of compatibility in nature with the original plan, and does not involve a change in major infrastructure, essential public facilities, or essential service facilities, and does not increase the overall floor area ratio and building coverage ratio, the applicant can produce a modification comparison chart and submit it to the competent agency of the central government for reference and the change need not undergo review by the land change examination committee.

Citing the Pingtung Agricultural Biotechnology Park as an example, the MOI indicates that if an applicant wants to undertake a more diversified development following the park's conversion into a FEPZ, a change in the land development plan will not have to follow the examination procedure required for land outside the zone. All the applicant will have to do, so long as the Council of Agriculture approves, is to submit a land development plan change and comparison chart to the MOI.

Deregulation Progress

Professional investors allowed to trade in foreign currency-denominated bonds

The Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) has indicated that, to enliven Taiwan's bond market, it will allow professional investors to trade in foreign currency-denominated bonds, such as Formosa bonds, through the trust business.

The FSC adopted the suggestion of the Trust Association to issue a ruling on the Regulations Governing the Scope of Business, Restrictions on Transfer of Beneficiary Rights, Risk Disclosure, Marketing, and Conclusion of Contract by Trust Enterprises to allow trust businesses to deal in foreign currency-denominated bonds in the primary and secondary markets on behalf of professional investors.

According to the FSC, professional investors were originally allowed to deal in domestically is-sued foreign currency-denominated bonds only through securities companies. Following the recent ruling, they will be able to invest in domestic foreign currency-denominated debentures issued by banks, and foreign currency-denominated corporate bonds issued by publicly traded companies, through banks or trust businesses.

The FSC notes that the term "professional investor" refers to juridical and natural persons. For juridical persons, their latest CPA-audited assets need to be at least NT\$50 million; for natural persons, they need to produce a financial statement showing total assets of more than NT\$30 million. Such operations are not yet open to ordinary individuals.

Also, the FSC points out, two RMB-denominated bank debentures have so far been issued on the over-the-counter market by domestic banks, and two domestic listed companies have issued corporate bonds denominated in RMB or the Japanese yen. The opening of trading in foreign currency-denominated bonds through trust dealing to professional investors will provide a greater diversity of investment channels and enliven Taiwan's bond market at the same time.

Multiple entry/exit permits for Taiwan now available to individual mainland Chinese tourists

Under the Regulations Governing the Approval of People of the Mainland Area Visiting Taiwan for Purposes of Tourism as newly amended

by the National Immigration Agency (NIA), individual tourists from mainland China can be issued one-year multiple entry and exit permits for Taiwan, effective August 1. This relaxation will give a boost to Taiwan's tourism industry.

According to the NIA, the new rules require mainland Chinese individuals applying for multiple entry/exit permits to have visited Taiwan at least two times during the 12 months prior to the date of application or to possess a Taiwan travel pass with a multiple endorsement.

The NIA will also issue one-year multiple entry/exit permits to mainland Chinese students living abroad and to other mainland Chinese holding overseas residence or work permits.

In addition, to reinforce educational and art and cultural interchange across the Taiwan Strait, the NIA has agreed that outstanding mainland Chinese educational, art and cultural, mass media, and other professional personnel will be allowed, in line with the amended Regulations, to obtain one-year multiple entry/exit permits.

Newly amended rules governing the "mini three links" also provide that mainland Chinese tourists visiting Kinmen, Matsu, and Penghu via the "mini three links" are also able to obtain multiple entry/exit permits beginning August 1.

According to statistics compiled by the Tourism Bureau, the number of independent travelers from mainland China visiting Taiwan from June 2011, when such travel from certain Chinese cities was first opened up, had reached 430,000 at the end of June this year, with over 200,000 of them arriving in just the first half of this year. With the new multiple entry/exit permits, the number is expected to rise rapidly to new heights.

Anping Harbor becomes Taiwan's 7th free trade zone

With the approval on August 20 of Anping Harbor's application, Taiwan now has seven free trade zones (FTZs). The promotion of investment in the new zone is expected to begin in October.

The island's existing FTZs are Keelung Harbor, Taipei Port, Taichung Harbor, Kaohsiung Harbor, Suao Harbor, and Taoyuan Aerotropolis. The Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD) points out that with the opening of direct transportation links across the Taiwan Strait and the signing of the Cross-Strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA), the ratio of southern Taiwan's exports to mainland China is increasing steadily. Anping Harbor is only 145 nautical miles from Xiamen and Quanzhou harbors in China, so the establishment of an FTZ there will give a boost to the development of agriculture and industry in southern Taiwan.

The CEPD notes that Anping Harbor is positioned close to the manufacturing centers of Anping Industrial Park, Southern Taiwan Science Park, and Tainan Technology Industrial Park, and the Yunlin-Chiayi-Tainan area, where Anping is located, is a major farming and fishery area of Taiwan. Once the FTZ evolves into a free economic pilot zone (FEPZ), it will integrate surrounding industrial supply chains and enter into cross-border cooperation with related industries across the Strait.

The Taiwan International Ports Corp. has entered into talks with potential investors in the warehousing and international logistics, petrochemical products, non-ferrous metal, sports and leisure products, air conditioning equipment, auto parts and components, agricultural products, and Chinese medicinal food processing industries. The ports company will also recruit investment from container/passenger shipping companies to open routes from Anping to Xiamen and Quanzhou. A single-stop window will be established to enhance the efficiency of investment promotion.

The Taiwan International Ports Corp. preliminarily estimates that the Anping FTZ will create 250 direct jobs and add NT\$18 million in tax revenues in its initial period of operation. If it adopts the "store in front, factory in the rear" mode of operation as an FEPZ in the future, the number of jobs and tax revenues generated can be expected to soar even higher.

News Express

Economics Ministry releases land to revitalize old factory plots

The Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) has announced a six-year plan for the revitalization of old factory building sites in industrial estates. The plan will help businesses find land for investment by boosting intermediary services for the sale of old plant buildings so that the idle land they occupy can be used for the construction of new facilities. The reconstruction of the old buildings and the start-up of operations in the new factories will generate an estimated 1,500 jobs and add approximately NT\$17 billion a year in production value.

The inadequacy of factory land is one of the obstacles that businesses want the government to help remove. To help find the needed land, the MOEA has inventoried industrial land all over Taiwan and pinpointed 2,814.2 hectares for industrial use that will be released over the next five years: 946 hectares by industrial parks, export processing zones, and science parks, 1,762.1 hectares by local governments, and 106.1 hectares by private parties. The MOEA notes that about 524.2 hectares are immediately available for factory construction.

The MOEA's Export Processing Zone Administration notes that to enhance the efficiency of land use, old factories will be pinpointed for reconstruction in the Nanzi, Kaohsiung, and Taichung industrial estates,

with old factory buildings being demolished and peripheral land integrated to speed up the provision of industrial land.

A preliminary estimate puts the amount of industrial land in the Kaohsiung industrial estate to be released at 10,859 square meters, and the company or companies that move in will create a business income of NT\$2.5 billion.

Legislature passes Organic Act of the National Development Council

The Organic Act of the National Development Council was passed by the Legislative Yuan on August 6 and will take effect in January 2014. The National Development Council will be formed by merging the Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD), Research, Development and Evaluation Commission (RDEC), and parts of the functions of the Public Construction Commission (PCC), and will be charged with the overall planning of national development, economic, industrial, and infrastructure policies. The management of all development plans and programs will be conducted from beginning to end, from budget review to control, by just one agency.

The National Development Council will take over all the work of the existing CEPD and RDEC, as well as the public construction review portion of the PCC's tasks and the responsibilities of the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics' Data Management Processing Center. It will also assume all of the functions of the National Archives Administration originally under the RDEC.

The National Development Council will shoulder the mission of national development planning, coordination and review, and will act as integrator across cabinet agencies. It will conduct integrative planning, coordination and review of development policy for the economy, society, industry, manpower resources, offshore islands and regions, from the perspective of the nation's overall development. It will also play a collaborative role in policy planning for control and evaluation, government information management, regulatory reform, and other such areas, to bolster the efficacy of government policy-making. Its policy planning will cover all sectors, in distinction from the execution of authority, formulation of policy tools, and such other matters as are emphasized in the remit of other central authorities.

According to the provisions of the Organic Act, the new commission will have 17 to 27 council members, including the heads of the Hakka Affairs Council, Council of Indigenous Peoples, Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Ministry of Culture. Since its operations will involve inter-ministerial policy coordination and it will have a policy coherence function, it will be headed by a concurrently serving minister without portfolio so as to facilitate policy cohesion and implementation among different agencies.

In the past, the CEPD handled economic development planning and program budgeting, the RDEC was in charge of policy performance evaluation in the area of social development, and the PCC was responsible for project performance evaluation in the field of infrastructure development. In the future, planning, budgeting, and evaluation will all be taken under the National Development Council, from planning to control, to elevate administrative efficiency and promote overall national development. 