

# The 7<sup>th</sup> Inter-ministerial Meetings on Boosting Investment in Taiwan

## Highlights from the Premier

### **The action plan for a quality startup investment environment**

- 1、 First of all, thanks for the briefings from the National Development Council (NDC), Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), and Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC). I'd also like to express my appreciation for all the support from every colleague in each department, council, and ministry. Economic growth is our primary focus, and thus I have been hosting the "Inter-ministerial Meetings on Boosting Investment in Taiwan" ever since I took on this position. Thanks again for all your help along the way. Through this meeting, we've tackled various issues from the five industrial shortages, public infrastructure spending, to the business environment for startups. All these efforts aim at the same goal: boosting economic development in Taiwan.
- 2、 Our topic today is the action plan for a quality startup investment environment. As its name implies, it's about how to create a decent ecosystem for emerging companies. Apart from NDC, which represents 10 ministries and councils to present their work, other organizations such as MOEA, MOST, and FSC prepared their reports as well. What it tells us is that forming a friendly environment for startups requires collaboration from at least a dozen of government agencies, and that it's not going to happen without support from all of you. Every organization plays an equally essential part in this. There's no such a thing as "the supporting role."
- 3、 It's good to see that each agency has come up with its action plan according to NDC's 5 policy directions and the 21 corresponding strategies, and that you have started to solve the problems from respective functions. Among all, FSC has not only included e-commerce as one of the applicable business types to the list of eligible stocks for trading, but has also planned to offer greater flexibility regarding the listing requirement. We've received positive feedback from the startup communities for these measures, and for that I'd like to recognize FSC's accomplishment and all your efforts.
- 4、 Human resource is key to industrial development. Nowadays we see nations around the world competing for international talents; Companies

from Japan, China, and Singapore have cast their eyes to Taiwanese talents. Although we recently passed the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals, which lifts restrictions for foreign professionals to work and stay in Taiwan, our work is not yet done. For the future, I'd like to enhance talent cultivation and recruitment from the following three aspects:

First, speed up the pace to attract international enterprises to Taiwan, nurture more talents in R&D, and bring in funds from abroad.

Second, we should invite business accelerators, startups, and outstanding students from all over the world, hunting for talents at the earliest stage possible.

Third, encourage students to undertake internship in industry so as to foster innovative energy for the nation's long-term development.

MOST's proposal about sending our talents to take international accelerator programs is a good idea. To gather a wider range of talents, I expect to see more active actions from MOEA, Ministry of Labor (MOL), MOST, and Ministry of Education (MOE) as soon as possible.

- 5、 To bring our startups to the global stage, the government must adopt more strategic approaches, improve lateral communication, and facilitate resources integration. We must reinforce policy and inter-ministerial coordination to form a complete, thorough system. Only through communication and coordination can we come to know our shortcomings and fight shoulder to shoulder. In addition to the integration and reinforcement among ministries, I also need NDC to conduct research on how to raise Taiwan's profile and make our country an international brand for innovation and entrepreneurship.
- 6、 Besides, we've seen industrial consensus on helping startups to work on international business development. We need Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and MOEA to integrate resources from agencies such as overseas embassies and Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA); by taking the Israeli method as an example, we can pick our target market layer by layer, and, through a systematic approach, attract foreign businesses to come to Taiwan and to work with our startups and other companies.

- 7、 For its agility and high market responsiveness, the startups tend to be more efficient and effective than an R&D department within a company; hence, for large enterprises, they can improve their innovation capabilities by acquiring startups. That's becoming a common trend in other countries around the globe, but still rare here in Taiwan. I haven't seen any practical measure from MOEA and Ministry of Finance (MOF) for this matter; please draw experience from other countries and propose an incentive mechanism that can encourage corporations to acquire startups.
- 8、 To attract the young and the ambitious to join startups, we must get the business environment and supporting channels ready for emerging companies to freely explore their possibilities, be it to grow into a large corporation or to be acquired by one. Furthermore, we shall welcome all startups either derived from schools or enterprises, at home or abroad. Once we build a friendly environment and provide sufficient nutrition for startups, they will spring up and thrive.
- 9、 As I said, every agency plays an important part in this, just as each position matters in a game play. Every one of you should come up with a new methodology to shape a quality startup environment, and review the result on a rolling basis. Let's improve our weaknesses, strengthen our advantages, and together create a good ecosystem for startup and innovation development.
- 10、 The president has recently instructed to solve the problem of low wages for young people, and this action plan plays a significant role for that goal. To present to the public as soon as possible our result of boosting innovation and entrepreneurship, we need each agency to develop a more proactive approach and timeline, and then submit your input to NDC, which should synthesize the entire action plan and report to the Executive Yuan.