

## Cross-Party Group on Taiwan Meeting

Date: 6:30pm, 31/10/2018

Venue: Committee Room 4, The Scottish Parliament

### Update on CPG on Taiwan's Recent Developments:

- The Co-Convener, Margaret Mitchell MSP, chaired the meeting and warmly welcomed the Taiwanese delegation led by the Vice Minister of Economic Affairs (R.O.C.), Ms. Mei Hua Wang, and all the members and friends to the meeting.
- The Director General of the Taipei Representative Office (TRO) in Edinburgh, Jason C.C. Lien, provided a brief update that since he took office, the Scottish Parliament has proposed and passed four motions, covering topics such as Taiwan's constructive participation in UNFCCC and contribution in WHA. The Director General thanked all the friends in the Scottish Parliament for their continuous support and warm friendship. Furthermore, the Director General noted that the Taiwanese government has embarked on a new economic model with sustainable development in mind. A '5+2 Innovative Industries Programme' that covers intelligent machinery, Asia Silicon Valley, green energy, biomedicine, national defence and aerospace, new agriculture and circular economy has subsequently been launched. As Taiwan and Scotland share the same values such as democracy and human rights, and face similar social and economic challenges, the Director General remarked that we can be firm that Taiwan and Scotland's common goals include developing renewable energy and circular economy.
- The Vice Minister of Economic Affairs (R.O.C. Taiwan), Ms. Mei-Hua Wang, thanked the Scottish Parliament for the invitation to the CPG meeting. The Vice Minister remarked that the UK and Taiwan have had close economic ties with its bilateral trade exceeding \$5.7 billion USD last year. The Vice Minister noted that the recent focus of such bilateral relationship has shifted from discussing issues around trade barriers to opportunities for industrial cooperation, e.g. cooperation within agriculture, green energy, financial sectors, etc. One of the many reasons for such focus is that the Taiwanese government is committed to creating a sustainable environment for the future generations, and has set an ambitious target for Taiwan to go nuclear power free by 2020. The Vice Minister expressed hope that, through industrial cooperation, the UK's renowned expertise in renewable energy, off-shore wind farm in particular, can help Taiwan to achieve its ambitious goal, and that she looks forward to having more opportunities to strengthen the industrial cooperation between the UK and Taiwan.

### Guest Presentation:

- The CEO of Taiwan Circular Economy Network, Ms. Shadow Huilin Chen, gave a presentation on the 'Circular Economy in Taiwan'. Ms. Shadow Huilin Chen noted that the Taiwanese government is keen to "*bring Taiwan into an age of circular economy, turning waste into renewable resources*" (a quote from President Tsai Ing-Wen's inaugural address, 2016). The presentation discussed Taiwan's Circular Economy Framework and its 12 Strategies. The presentation also discussed 'Circular Taipei White Paper' – the initial plan to implement circular economy in 8 areas, covering sustainable housing, shared mobility, industrial innovation, ecosystem enhancement, water recycling, energy optimisation, civic education and zero waste. The presentation was very well received.
- Jamie Greene MSP remarked that Taiwan's effort in creating a circular economy is commendable. He asked how Taiwan would marry the ambition of reducing carbon emission with ambitious economic growth. The Vice Minister of Economic Affairs responded that despite the fact that Taiwan is not part of the UN, Taiwan is still fully committed to meeting the global standards. Taiwan can endeavour to marry the two ambitions through learning from other countries. The Vice Minister noted that she believes that advanced technology can provide some solutions. Ms. Shadow Huilin Chen commented that circular economy is vital to transforming how we deal with waste and is expected to cut 56% of the carbon emission if Taiwan is able to develop a successful circular economy.

**Attendance:**

1. Margaret Mitchell MSP (Co-Convener, Chair)
2. James Dornan MSP (Co-Convener)
3. Jamie Greene MSP
4. Alexander Griffiths
5. Jason C.C. Lien (Director General, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
6. Mindy Chia-Min Chang (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
7. Daniel Wei-Ting Hu (Assistant Director, Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh)
8. Blanca Kao (Secretary, CPG on Taiwan)
9. Shadow Huilin Chen (Guest Speaker)
10. Mei-Hua Wang (Vice Minister of Economic Affairs, R.O.C. Taiwan)
11. Yuan-Chih Chang
12. Mei-Hsing Lin
13. Yi-Chin Chen
14. Ming-Huan Chang
15. Wei-Chih Huang
16. Ching-Lung Hu
17. Ching-Ching Yeh
18. William Tang
19. Tsung-Wen Huang
20. Shin-Je Li
21. Ting-Shuo Chen
22. Su-Yuan Hu
23. Terry Lee
24. Limei Shiu
25. Philip Chan
26. Ian Irvin
27. Hsinyen Lai
28. Thomas Tan
29. Chih-Jen Lin
30. Anny Chen
31. Yen-Ting Lu
32. Hsin-Shao Chang
33. Shao-Hsuan Liu
34. Yen-Fa Chen
35. Miaochen Gray
36. Lucy Cheung
37. Jonathan Corney
38. Gari Donn
39. Jenny Chen
40. Chien-Hung Yang
41. Tuang-Jung Lee
42. David Beards
43. Allan Davidson