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The Control Yuan Newsletter

R.O.C. (Taiwan)

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2024 IOI World Conference


Control Yuan President Chen Chu and CY international affairs committee members Lin Wen-cheng and Jao Yung-ching took part in the 13th International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) World Conference in The Hague from May 12 to 17. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous 12th World Conference was delayed until 2021 and held online. With the return of an in-person meeting this year, it was the first opportunity for the president and the sixth-term Control Yuan Members to meet with ombudsmen as well as representatives of human rights commissions from countries in all six world regions. The delegation exchanged views with other participants and discussed current key global issues regarding government oversight and human rights.

The IOI is the only international organization that promotes cooperation between ombudsman institutions worldwide and advocates for good governance and human rights. The IOI currently has a membership of 257 national and regional ombudsman and human rights institutions. →




 President Chen Chu (first left) meets with APOR Regional President Nicki Rattle (first right) at the APOR conference



 CY delegation meets with IOI Secretary General and Austrian Ombudsperson Gaby Schwarz (second right) at the IOI World Conference



 CY delegation poses for a photo at the 2024 IOI World Conference



2024 IOI World Conference

CY President Chen leads delegation to 13th IOI World Conference



Top: CY President Chen Chu (fifth left) and IOI members take group photo at the IOI World Conference (Photo courtesy of the IOI)

The themes of the three-day conference from May 15 to 17 were climate change and living conditions, value dilemmas, inclusiveness and outreach for vulnerable and marginalized groups, and future generations. Events included concurrent breakout meetings, keynote speeches by prominent guests, and talks and question and answer sessions with ombudsmen from around the world. On May 16, CY member Lin Wen-cheng spoke in a breakout session on outreach to indigenous peoples, tribes, and minorities. He introduced the results of efforts by Taiwan and the CY to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and shared his experiences in exercising control powers.



Center: CY President Chen Chu (first left) and CY member Lin Wen-cheng (second left) attend the IOI World Conference

The National Ombudsman of the Netherlands hosted the 13th IOI World Conference, which was titled “Act together for our tomorrow.” The agenda included a world board meeting, regional meetings, a general assembly, and a conference. On May 13, Chen addressed a meeting of the Australasian and Pacific Ombudsman Region—of which the CY is a member. She thanked APOR members for their long-standing support of the CY and warmly invited them to Taiwan for the 37th APOR annual conference in September 2025. During the general assembly on May 14, Chen interacted with ombudsmen from countries including Ukraine, Japan, Belgium, Sweden, Austria, Australia, and Cook Islands. Chen said she looked forward to greater opportunities for exchanges and friendly interactions between Taiwan and ombudsmen worldwide to jointly address global issues.




Left: CY delegation at the APOR meeting

Bottom right: Ombudsmen and delegates from around the world attend a session





 The CY delegation meets with Dutch parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee

Dutch Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee

As The Hague is an important center for numerous international human rights organizations, Chen called on several institutions in her capacity as the first chairperson of Taiwan's National Human Rights Commission. She engaged in discussions on the experiences of Taiwan and the Netherlands in protection of human rights in separate meetings with Raymond de Roon, acting chairman of the Dutch parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee (which oversees human rights issues) and Mariëtte Hamer, Dutch government commissioner for combatting inappropriate behavior and sexual violence.

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 CY president Chen Chu gives remarks at opening ceremony of the Council of Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce in Europe

Council of Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce

At the invitation of MOFA and the Overseas Community Affairs Council, the CY delegation also took part in the opening ceremony of the annual meeting of the Council of Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce in Europe. Chen thanked the chamber members for the services they offered Taiwanese nationals traveling in Europe, their collective efforts in expanding business opportunities, as well as their outstanding and productive contributions to enhancing trade and cultural exchanges between Taiwan and European countries.



 CY president Chen Chu shares her past experience of fighting for democracy

The Hague Humanity Hub

Chen took part in an event jointly organized by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Hague Humanity Hub, watching the documentary *Invisible Nation* about the history of Taiwan's democratic development with other guests and audience members. As one of the people interviewed in the film, Chen herself took part in a post-screening discussion on Taiwan's struggle for democracy, freedom, and human rights as well as the continuing determination of Taiwanese people to defend their democratic country.





 The CY delegation visits the International Court of Justice

Chen Meets with Lithuanian Parliamentarians

On January 24, National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Chen Chu met with a delegation from the Lithuanian Seimas. She thanked the parliamentarians for publicly expressing support for Taiwan. Chen noted that the two countries had much in common, with both pursuing democracy and peace under threat from a major power. The 11-member delegation was led by Lithuania-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Chairman Matas Maldeikis. He praised Taiwan's democratic achievements, arguing that its story should be widely shared. Maldeikis said the ideal of world peace would only be achieved when more countries recognized the values of human rights and liberal democracy.

 Top right: Chen presents Maldeikis with a gift (Jan 24, 2024)


 Center right: NHRC members attending the meeting with delegation members

 Bottom right: Delegation members from the Lithuanian Seimas



Seminar on Exercising CY Powers

On April 1, the Control Yuan held a seminar on “When the CY Exercises its Investigative Powers against Government Agencies.” Chaired by CY Vice President Lee Hung-chun, the seminar was attended by six constitutional experts who engaged in an exchange of opinions with CY members on questions relevant to when and how the CY can exercise its investigative powers from a constitutional or legal perspective and in keeping with the principle of division of power between the five government branches.

 Bottom: Seminar in progress (April 1, 2024)



Estonian Parliamentarians Visit NHRC

A seven-member delegation from the Estonian Riigikogu (parliament) led by Estonia-Taiwan Support Group Chairman Kristo Enn Vaga met with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for an in-depth exchange of views on March 8. The discussion revolved around shared human rights values, promoting marriage equality, and online human rights, with the two sides reaching a consensus on cooperation. NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu thanked Estonia for engaging in exchanges with Taiwan, underlining that the two countries pursued democracy and peace despite their authoritarian neighbors.



Top: Chen presents Vaga with a gift (March 8, 2024)

Middle: NHRC members attending the meeting



Bottom: The delegation from the Estonian Riigikogu poses for a photo with Chen Chu and NHRC members (March 8, 2024)

Recalling Taiwan's 38 years under martial law, Chen said democratic free will had pushed Taiwan toward democratization and steady progress in women's empowerment and gender equality. Chen praised Estonia for its achievements in digitalization of public services. Vaga said online freedom, good governance, and transparent parliamentary debate were essential to preserving human rights. Noting the serious challenges that hate speech and disinformation pose to social trust and support, he hoped to deepen exchanges and cooperation with Taiwan.

CEDAW 45th anniversary—NHRC International Forum on Women’s Employment and Economic Security

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted 45 years ago. On June 5, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) held the CEDAW 2014 International Forum on Women’s Employment and Economic Security at the GIS MOTC Convention Center in Taipei. The event was attended by former CEDAW Committee Vice-Chair Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, former committee member Niklas Bruun, and representatives of government agencies, NGOs, and academia. Participants discussed the results and challenges of Taiwan’s implementation of CEDAW.

In her remarks to the forum, NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu said that in response to CEDAW international review committee concluding recommendations, Taiwan had undertaken a wide range of reforms including legalizing same-sex marriage, decriminalizing adultery, establishing a human rights commission, and amending laws to combat gender-based violence. She added that the forum would draw on the experiences of other countries in seeking solutions to the lack of progress on economic equality in employment, marriage, and families in Taiwan.

Recalling the process of locally implementing CEDAW, Chen said that since its adoption in December 1979, CEDAW had been ratified by 90 percent of the world’s countries. After the first transfer of power between political parties in Taiwan in 2000, women’s groups successfully lobbied the government to introduce the convention. Over the past 15 years, CEDAW has provided common standards and language on gender equality as well as a clearly defined definition of discrimination for the government and society.



Top: Seminar in progress

Middle: Chen delivers remarks (June 5, 2024)

New Australia Rep Visits NHRC

On January 25, National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Chen Chu met with the new Australian Representative in Taiwan Robert Fergusson. She congratulated him on assuming his post and thanked former Representative Jenny Bloomfield as well as the many human rights experts at the Asia Pacific Forum—an organization based in Australia that promotes national human rights institutions—for all their support and assistance for human rights development in Taiwan.

Chen said she deeply admired the government of Australia for incorporating the core values of human rights, gender equality, and attention to indigenous peoples in its foreign policy and international cooperation work. She added that Taiwan could learn from this. Fergusson said he was impressed by Taiwan’s ability to solve problems in creative ways and looked forward to expanding collaboration in the future.






Bottom: Robert Fergusson meets with Chen Chu (Jan 25, 2024)



EY Designated Historic Site of Injustice

This year marks the 77th anniversary of the 228 Incident. On February 26, National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Chen Chu as well as NHRC commissioners and other guests were invited to attend a ceremony to unveil a monument at the Executive Yuan designating it as a historic site of injustice. She also listened to a guided tour of the site, which was previously the Office of the Taiwan Provincial Administration.

According to the Act on Promoting Transitional Justice, places where the regime engaged in large-scale human rights abuses during the period of authoritarian rule shall be preserved or rebuilt, and plans shall be made for their designation as historic sites. Premier Chen Chien-jen, who hosted the ceremony, announced that the government would promote a proposal for an act on preserving historic sites of injustice. He said this showed how seriously the government took historic mistakes and demonstrated its determination to ensure they never happened again. The Ministry of Culture is making plans to designate 42 sites of historic injustice.

-  Top background: Chen attends the unveiling ceremony
-  Top right: Chen at the ceremony
-  Bottom: CY 2023 annual work review meeting



2023 CY Annual Review

The Control Yuan held its annual work review meeting on January 18, 2024. CY President Chen Chu thanked the entire staff for their efforts in 2023 and encouraged CY members to maintain rigor and independence in undertaking their responsibilities as ombudsmen in the new year. She said this would include working on the challenges facing vulnerable groups and the impacts of human rights violations. Chen urged the CY to fully demonstrate the value of its contributions to Taiwan by jointly creating a society that was kind, corruption-free, well-governed, and a haven for the weak.

Chen welcomes ICERD implementation

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) took part in the international review of Taiwan's first report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), held by the Executive Yuan on April 22. The meeting underlined that equality and respect for all groups in Taiwan was essential for social progress. She said she was happy to see the government fulfill its obligations by producing a national report.

The NHRC submitted an independent opinion on Taiwan's initial report to the international review committee. The publication compiled racial and ethnic issues in Taiwan, including problems facing indigenous peoples, new immigrants, migrant workers, and noncitizens. It also spelled out government measures and challenges in ICERD implementation. In her remarks, NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu noted that ICERD was the first human rights convention to be signed and ratified by the government of Taiwan.



The chair of the international panel was Manfred Nowak, who also served on the review committee for Taiwan's third reports on the covenants in 2022. Other members were Rosslyn Noonan, Keiko Ko, and Sheryl Lightfoot.

- Top: Chen and NCHR commissioners at the meeting (April 22, 2024)
- Right: Chen delivers remarks (April 22, 2024)
- Left: Chen and government officials pose for a photo at the review meeting of the R.O.C.'s initial report under the ICERD (April 22, 2024)

