



Tsai Ing-wen and Chen Chu at the Human Rights Day Exhibition; Dec. 10, 2020

President visits CY twice! Tsai: “Human rights are key values”

Tsai Ing-wen is the first Taiwanese president to visit the Control Yuan, and in just 4 months and 10 days she has been twice. Showing her commitment for human rights, Tsai first visited on August 1 to unveil the National Human Rights Commission’s sign, and came again on December 10 for Human Rights Day.



Tsai Ing-wen (left) and Chen Chu (right) at the Taiwan Human Rights Upgrade event; Dec. 10, 2020

Human Rights Day! Taiwan Human Rights Upgrade

On December 10, Control Yuan (CY) president and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chair Chen Chu invited Taiwan’s president Tsai Ing-wen to attend a Taiwan Human Rights Upgrade event.

After first inspecting a Human Rights Exhibition in the CY building, in her speech President Tsai mentioned the conceptual origins of human rights, and Taiwan’s struggle for democracy and human dignity. That arduous process has been condensed in the Human Rights Exhibition. “Since Taiwan has become a model Asian democratic nation, we have to collectively commemorate the contributions of our predecessors,” said Tsai.

Tsai praised NHRC in its first four months of existence for launching many human rights initiatives, including cooperation with the National Academy of Civil Service to produce human rights teaching materials for civil servants, attending Constitutional Court oral argument sessions, proposing suggestions on independent assessment of human rights covenants, holding a video conference with the secretariat of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, making plans for a major national conference on human rights, and other tasks.

Chen thanked various departments, groups, advisors and other forerunners and friends for their support of NHRC, ensuring it is not alone in working for human rights.



CY inauguration group photo; Aug. 1, 2020

New CY president and members inaugurated, NHRC sign unveiled

Taiwan's vice president Lai Ching-te presided over the inauguration of the sixth president of the Control Yuan (CY) and 26 new CY members, at a handover ceremony on August 1. Incoming CY president Chen Chu said the CY would work on being more in line with the spirit of modern democracy and in step with the times. Chen said she also would perfect the powers and mechanisms of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).



NHRC sign unveiling; Aug. 1, 2020

In a milestone for human rights development, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen led the unveiling of the NHRC sign together with Chen, who is also the NHRC chair, former CY president Chang Po-ya, and NHRC member Upay Radiw Kanasaw. Thanking everyone for their efforts in establishing the NHRC, Tsai said she hoped the commission would be the nation's conscience, mechanism to enable stable and long-term human rights work, and a platform to share Taiwan's human rights experience with the world.

Chen said human rights work should be independent, diverse and efficient. The NHRC will protect social equity, be a voice for the disadvantaged, systematically and comprehensively monitor human rights, strengthen human rights protection mechanisms in all levels of the government, and become an important force for change in Taiwan.



Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen (third left), CY president Chen Chu (third right) and NHRC member Wang Jung-Chang (left) adopt new human rights logo; Dec. 10, 2020



New human rights logo adopted

The design of the National Human Rights Commission's logo is inspired by the five major ethnic groups of Taiwan. The main color is purple, signifying awareness of suffering. The sign also represents Taiwan's steadfast pursuit of the five values of equality, freedom, diversity, justice and democracy.

CY president & members promise reform at briefings

After taking office as the sixth Control Yuan (CY) president, Chen Chu and other CY members were briefed by department staff. Another briefing and exchange of opinions was held with the National Audit Office (NAO).

Chen personally chaired each briefing, which were well attended by CY members. There was a lively exchange of questions and opinions on matters regarding the CY's powers, including handling of complaints, the process and mechanism of investigation, and procedures on deliberation of commission cases. The briefings produced suggestions and ideas on the future direction of CY work and reform.

Chen also showed her concern for CY staff and facilities, including improvement of accessibility for people with disabilities. She encouraged staff to communicate and engage with the public in active, open and diverse ways, so that at the turn of a new page at the CY, the outside world would be able to appreciate the reforms taking place.

At the NAO briefing, CY members posed questions and offered suggestions on greater balance between central and local government finances, bridging of the urban-rural divide, better monitoring of government agencies, management of state-owned enterprise budgets and other issues. Chen said she hoped to deepen cooperation between the CY and NAO. She encouraged NAO officials to listen to the people, and make a positive impact on life in Taiwan while facilitating audit duties.

There was a full discussion in a follow-up meeting two days later, resulting in decisions on cooperation and communication on the powers and duties of the CY and NAO.

CY briefings

A total of 20 briefings took place from August 10 to September 23.



CY president Chen Chu (right) and secretary general Judy Fu-meei Ju (left)

Complaints Receipt Center upgrades facilities

To protect the right of people with disabilities to submit complaints, and establish an enabling environment, the CY's Complaints Receipt Center is upgrading its facilities and services. The interview room, steps, doors and other facilities are being remodeled; and a video magnifier, LED magnifying glasses and other tools have been purchased. There are also dictation or transcription services, and in the future there will be a screen-reading hotline.



CY president, members, secretary general, deputy secretary general and NAO officials

Chen Chu launches videoconference complaints system



Chen Chu said good morning to the complainant from distant Hualien, and officially launched the digital complaint service; Dec. 25, 2020

Since taking over as Control Yuan (CY) president, Chen Chu has made diverse services a policy goal. In a first for the Taiwanese government, the CY can now process public complaints by videoconference. On December 25, the Complaints Receipt Center received its first video-conference petition since it was established 26 years ago.

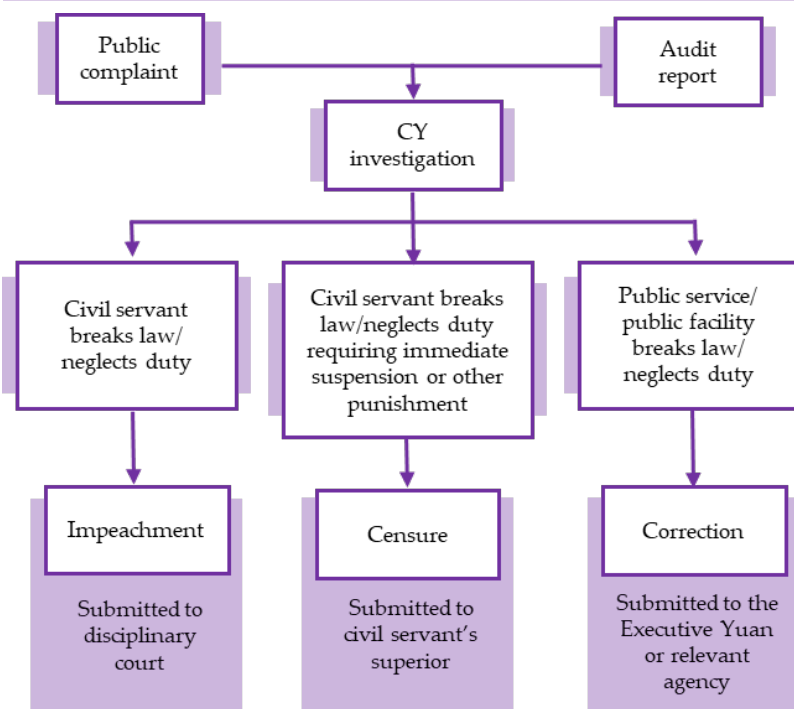
The CY receives up to 15,000 complaints

a year, so Chen has prioritized using technology to make submitting complaints user-friendly, convenient and accessible. Taking the first step to digitization, the CY received its first videoconference complaint.

In the trial month of December, a total of two videoconferences were held. The service will officially launch in January 2021 in each city and county in rotation. Relevant information has been posted on the CY website for the public to make online appointments.

Videoconference complaints overcome the barrier of physical distance, offering a channel for rural residents, the elderly and the disabled to file complaints. Especially in the COVID era, the service offers a channel for face-to-face petitions. Illustrating its new face of service diversity and technology, CY offers the public “petitioning without distance and communication without barriers”.

Control Yuan powers



According to the Constitution of the Republic of China and the Control Act, the powers of the Control Yuan (CY) include impeachment, censure and correction. If the conduct of a civil servant, the work of a public sector agency, or any public facility violates the law or is in dereliction of duty, the public may file a complaint with the CY. When audit offices find misconduct by a civil servant, or unacceptably poor performance by an agency, they must report to the CY. After investigating the case, the CY may impeach or censure the civil servant, or call for the agency to correct or improve its services.



Chen Chu (left) and Su Tseng-chang (right); Dec. 28, 2020

Chen Chu leads CY members on inspection of Executive Yuan

Members of the sixth Control Yuan (CY) led by CY president Chen Chu inspected the Executive Yuan (EY) on December 28. With COVID-19 still raging around the world, Chen started by thanking premier Su Tseng-chang, the EY and other government ministry officials for their efforts over the past almost one year to quickly react, prepare prevention measures in advance, and halt the spread of the virus, allowing Taiwanese people to live and work normally.

Su gave a briefing on the EY's main work in 2020 and Chen gave a general report on the results of the CY exercising its powers, then CY committee conveners or their representatives spoke about issues of concern.

The CY visit focused on topics of common interest, including: "police and prosecutor culture" and "autocracy in the legal system", a review of the citizenship and residency rights of children of migrant workers, review and development of a legal science verification system, improving medical treatment in correctional facilities: raising the standards of prison medical treatment and the rights of prisoners to medical treatment, defining the status of prison mental health units, and other questions.

Su and ministry officials responded by outlining key items, and after the meeting will give the CY detailed written replies. Although the two branches of government have different powers and responsibilities, they share the common desire to serve the national interest, create general wellbeing and meet people's expectations.

Circuit supervision

According to Article 3 of the Control Act, the Control Yuan (CY) can conduct circuit supervision. Circuit supervision at the central level is performed by the CY standing committees relevant to their operations.

CY Committee inspects Judicial Yuan

Members of the Control Yuan's Committee on Judicial and Prison Administration Affairs inspected the Judicial Yuan on November 24. Because this was the first inspection by members of the sixth Control Yuan (CY), apart from committee convener Tsai Chung-Yi and a group of 20 other CY members, CY president Chen Chu also attended to hear work reports from the Judicial Yuan, High Court, and Disciplinary Court. In a fruitful discussion, inspection committee members raised a number of questions and suggestions on court judgments, legal administration, constitutional court hearings, civil servant discipline and legal aid.



Committee on Judicial and Prison Administration Affairs inspected the Judicial Yuan; Nov. 24, 2020

British representative Nettleton meets CY president Chen

Control Yuan (CY) president Chen Chu met with British Office Taipei representative Catherine Nettleton on the afternoon of October 5. Noting how the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) demonstrated the government's concern for human rights, Chen hoped there would be more opportunities to collaborate with equivalent UK institutions, to jointly work for human rights.



Catherine Nettleton (third left), Chen Chu (middle), Kao Yung-Cheng (third right) and Fu-Meei Ju (second right)

Chen Chu in APF video call: "NHRC to deepen cooperation in Asia Pacific"

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chair Chen Chu had an online meeting with Asia Pacific Forum (APF) representatives on November 11. The two sides exchanged opinions on human rights issues, organizational matters, national reviews, raising civil servants' awareness about human rights, and other topics. They also reached consensus on continuing to strengthen APF's provision of expertise and cooperation on personnel training.

APF has a long history of close cooperation with Taiwanese human rights groups, and has followed the process of establishing NHRC with interest. When NHRC officially launched on August 1 this year, APF director Kieren Fitzpatrick sent a letter of congratulations and an invitation to a conference call.

Aside from Fitzpatrick, APF consultant Rosslyn Noonan, principal advisor Pip Dargan, and legal and policy manager Phillip Wardle took part in the call. As well as praising Taiwan's response to the pandemic, they welcomed the establishment of NHRC, congratulated Chen on becoming its first chair, and affirmed that this was a new milestone for human rights in Taiwan.

Others joining the meeting included NHRC members Kao Yung-Cheng, Wang Yu-Ling, Wang Jung-Chang, Tien Chiu-Chin, Chi Hui-Jung, Yeh Ta-Hua, Upay Radiw Kanasaw and Chang Chu-Fang, Control Yuan secretary general Fu-Meei Ju and consultants Prof. Huang Song-Lih (Covenants Watch convener) and Prof. Liu Jing-Sin (former national policy advisor).



NHRC and APF video call; Nov. 11, 2020

Control Yuan Newsletter

To strengthen communication with international partners, the Control Yuan Newsletter features important news from our office, reports on administrative and legislative reforms, and analysis of other issues and trends in Taiwan.

Chen hopes to strengthen Taiwan-France human rights exchanges



Jean-François Casabonne-Masonnave (left) and Chen Chu (right); Dec. 21, 2020

Control Yuan (CY) president Chen Chu met with French Office in Taipei director Jean-François Casabonne-Masonnave on December 21. Welcoming Casabonne-Masonnave, Chen said she admired how France was founded on human rights. “After half a century under authoritarian rule,” said Chen, “as a result of democratic freedom in Taiwan, which was won through many struggles, human rights are a universal value that must not be limited under any circumstance.” On the issue of human rights, Casabonne-Masonnave responded that France was very happy to share experiences with Taiwan. He hoped after the pandemic improved, there could be more concrete exchanges.

32nd APOR Conference: CY shares outcomes

International affairs committee members Lin Sheng-Fong, Chi Hui-Jung, Fan Sun-Lu, Lai Ting-Ming and secretary general Fu-Meei Ju took part in the 32nd Australasian and Pacific Ombudsman Region (APOR) Conference on November 4-5.

This was the first time for members of the sixth Control Yuan (CY) to join an APOR Conference, which due to COVID-19 this year was held online. APOR president Peter Boshier and board member Deborah Glass congratulated new members of the sixth CY and Taiwan’s newly established National Human Rights Commission.

International affairs committee chairperson Lin Sheng-Fong shared CY’s achievements, Chi Hui-Jung spoke on “the ombudsman and its role in protecting women’s rights in the aftermath of COVID-19”, and discussed with other countries how the ombudsman could exercise its functions and powers during the pandemic.



*Freedom is not free:
it comes at a price.
Democracy doesn't
fall from the sky.*



CY members and secretary general join APOR online conference; Nov. 4, 2020



- ▲ Chen Chu (left) and Tsai Ching-Hwa (middle); Nov. 23, 2020
- ▶ First inter-yuan partnership program on human rights education; Oct. 27, 2020



Human rights education starts with teachers

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chair Chen Chu and other Control Yuan (CY) members called on the National Academy for Educational Research on November 23 to discuss human rights education with deputy education minister Tsai Ching-Hwa. They reached agreement on spreading human rights awareness and developing human-rights enabling environments in the process of training school teachers, directors and principals.



Chen Chu uses assistive devices;
Dec. 4, 2020

Human rights education for civil servants

The Control Yuan's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Examination Yuan's National Academy of Civil Service (NACS) organized a "Discussion Meeting on Cooperation to Improve Human Rights Education for Civil Servants" on October 27.

"Civil servants are the driving force of national progress," said Chen, "While training at NACS, if they can recognize the importance of human rights, and understand that these core values apply to everyone, then in their duties they will show more respect for people and empathize with the vulnerable."

First used to train civil servants on November 30, the human rights education supplementary materials were developed from CY cases of human rights related investigations and corrections. By using real cases in the context of international standards, the materials help transform human rights from abstract ideas to concrete provisions, and raise civil servants' awareness and sense of duty for human rights.

NHRC Human Rights Day Exhibition

NHRC chair Chen Chu opened the Human Rights Day Exhibition at the Control Yuan on December 4, inviting the public to visit Taiwan's ombudsman. The theme of the Human Rights Day Exhibition focuses on the progression of human rights history, including the origins of international concern for human rights in Taiwan, awareness of human rights history, and areas to experience disability and watch documentary films.