

Editor in Chief: Judy, Fu-mei Ju
Edited by Alison, Yu-chi Liu

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On November 23 to 24, 2021 the National Human Rights Commission held the “2021 International Conference on Human Rights Development.”

Bring contributions to the community

Chairperson Chen Chu said, “Taiwan is very willing to work together with all national governments and civil society organizations in pursuit of the sustainable development of equality, justice, and human rights.

I believe Taiwan’s human rights experience can make a unique contribution to the international community.” The conference was held both online and physically. The agenda included six main issues on equality and development of ethnic groups, gender and human rights, development and strategies of national human rights commissions around the world, human rights protections during the pandemic, a case study of a systematic national inquiry, and human rights education.

Share experiences with international friends

International guests from Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, and the Czech Republic were invited to make presentations. A total of 11 representatives of national human rights institutions from nine countries joined representatives of foreign missions in Taiwan and other human rights experts. “I hope the conference will produce constructive ideas to spread human rights across borders and jointly make them a universal value,” said Chen.



NHRC
Chairperson
Chen Chu
with
presenters and
panelists;
Nov. 24, 2021



▲ NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu (third from left, front row), CY members, foreign diplomats, and human rights experts; Nov. 23, 2021.

Migrant Fishers Human Rights Special Report:

Chen Chu: Human rights are central to the development of the fishing industry

On November 30, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) released the Migrant Fishers Human Rights Special Report. At the briefing, the film *The Course to Human Rights at Sea* was shown. The film records a true picture of the work and lives of migrant fishers.



▲ NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu speaks at the opening; Nov.30, 2021.



“The vast ocean knows no borders, but fishing vessels working at sea must face the legal requirements for global fishing industry governance.”

The NHRC conducted onsite inspections of Chienchen and Suao Fishing Harbors and held numerous seminars with industry, government, and academia representatives. The report recommends that the Executive Yuan reviews the International Labor Organization’s C188 Work in Fishing Convention and bring Taiwan’s Labor Standards Act more in line with the global standard. Other recommendations include requiring a legal structure for inspections of labor rights on fishing vessels, establishing a direct payment salary system, and setting up a cross-agency platform for joint investigations.

NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu said, “The vast ocean knows no borders, but fishing vessels working at sea must face the legal requirements for global fishing industry governance. Taiwan must conform to international standards to improve its competitiveness.”

Series of National Human Rights Activities

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) held a press conference on November 29 to announce the Taiwan Human Rights Plus series of events. NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu said, “This year, the theme of International Human Rights Day on December 10 will be the spirit of Human Rights Plus.”

This means using a gentle and positive approach, and consolidating public and private resources from home and abroad, to continually advance human rights work.



▲ Chairperson Chen Chu delivers a speech; Nov. 29, 2021

CY 90th Anniversary Special issue: A New Chapter in History

The CY officially released “The Control Yuan 90th Anniversary Special Issue”. President Chen remarked in her speech that it covers the history of the CY, progress in the handling of human rights issues, important landmarks and the appearance of the building that houses it past and present.



“CY can take on the mission of the times, keep up with trends and push toward transformation.”

The final chapter of the special issue, “Inheritance and Transformation,” showcases the direction of innovation and reform in the various areas of CY work as it has strived to be an institution that works for the rights of the people with professionalism, technological capability, and transparency.

Chen remarked that work began on collecting information in the year 2020, with CY staff poring over each word and undertaking a constant and tireless process of revision and adjustment until the job was done.



▲ CY Secretary General Juy Fu-mei (editor in chief of the special issue) addresses in the ceremony; July 29, 2021



Attendees of the press conference hold up The CY 90th Anniversary Special Issue; July 29, 2021

Chen Chu Wants Win-Win for Business and Human Rights

On December 6, 2021 the NHRC held the Improving Corporate Governance, Advancing Human Rights — 2021 Taiwan Human Rights and Corporate Activities Forum. The aim of the event was to embed awareness of human rights in corporate culture and make protection of human rights key to raising corporate competitiveness.

In her remarks, Chairperson Chen Chu said, “Economic growth is not the sole goal of national development. Attention must be given to democracy, human rights, and the environment.” The forum theme was inspired by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.



Chairperson Chen Chu Speaks at the opening; Dec. 6, 2021

Chen Chu Leads CY Inspection of Executive Yuan

TWO BRANCHES HOPE TO MEET PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS



CY President Chen Chu (left) and Premier Su Tseng-chang (right); Dec. 28, 2021

The entire membership of the Control Yuan (CY), led by CY President Chen Chu, inspected the Executive Yuan (EY) on December 28, 2021. Chen started by thanking Premier Su Tseng-chang for his hard work in leading the EY team for the past year. “Faced with the severe pandemic situation, the EY has protected Taiwan and allowed its people to lead normal lives,” Chen said.

Premier Su’s briefing and response

Chen is also Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which brought out a study conducted of sites of historical injustice. This meant turning the sites of human rights abuses committed by colonizers during authoritarian rule into locations for education and landmarks. Premier Su presented a briefing on the main work of the EY in 2021. In response to Chen’s remarks, Su said he would prioritize the issues she raised.

The CY comments on key social issues

This involves monitoring the status and national implementation of property and housing rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Other matters include national defense self-reliance, Taiwan Railway safety management, the rights of vulnerable children and adolescents, nuclear disaster anxiety, and public spaces that do not meet the standards of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The CY expects the EY to accelerate research on improving government agencies and conduct formal follow-ups to properly resolve any issues. By working together to contribute to Taiwan and its people, the two government branches hope to meet public expectations.



NHRC to set up Independent Monitoring Mechanism for CRPD

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) held a press conference on September 15, 2021, to announce the independent opinion on the second Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) National Report.

Furthermore, NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu declared that the NHRC will set up an independent monitoring mechanism as required by Article 33 of the Convention to build long-term cooperation between government agencies and representatives for disabled persons, jointly facilitating the implementation of the CRPD.

NHRC one year old!

TAIWAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUE TO ADVANCE

At the press conference to mark the first anniversary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Chairperson Chen Chu said the mission of the NHRC was to be the conscience of the nation and the support of the vulnerable. “On this road, through more effort and application, we can make human rights a force for comfort and a goal that we never abandon” said Chen.



Chairperson Chen Chu speaks at the press conference; Aug. 2, 2021



Chairperson Chen Chu with CY members, secretary general, and other press conference participants; Aug. 2, 2021

Chen underlined that NHRC had shouldered the heavy responsibility of promoting national human rights. “Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the members and supporting staff have worked in unison on their various tasks.” Chen said.

At the press conference, CY members presented the Migrant Fishers Human Rights Midterm Report. Members underlined that the government needed to keep monitoring and tighten controls on broker companies.

NHRC and NAER Cooperate on Human Rights Education

National Academy for Educational Research (NAER) President Lin Chung-hsi, Academic Vice President Yen Ching-hsiang, visited CY President Chen Chu on October 20, 2021, to discuss cooperation between the NAER and the NHRC to jointly promote UN human rights education. The two sides reached consensus on two plans.

First, to develop human right education modules, which will include syllabus content on international human rights

instruments as well as fundamental knowledge, values, practices, and other aspects of human rights. Second, the NAER will use the UN Human Rights Education in Primary and Secondary School Systems: A Self-assessment Guide for Governments to review human rights teaching at the compulsory education level.



◀ NAER President Lin (third from left) visits CY President Chen (fifth from right); Oct. 20, 2021

CY Passes Draft Amendments to Provisions of Control Act

ADDS SPECIAL SECTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO ENSURES NHRC POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

On October 12, 2021, the Control Yuan passed the Draft Amendments to the Control Act, adding a special section to Chapter 5-1, “Exercise of the Powers and Functions of the National Human Rights Commission,” by enacting a special law, sending it to the Legislative Yuan for consideration on the same day. This amendment not only ensures that the National Human Rights Commission will exercise its powers and functions in accordance with the law, but also conforms to the principles of establishing an effective and credible national human rights institution as stated in the UN’s Paris Principles, implementing the constitutional protection of people’s rights.



Seminar in the Digital Era

CY IMPROVES EFFECTIVENESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Keeping in step with rapid social development, CY President Chen Chu is improving administrative effectiveness with digital technology. “Senior managers need to keep up with the times. Creative ideas, improved leadership and management skills, better coordination and opinion exchange between agencies, and consensus building can raise the effectiveness of CY human rights work.” said Chen.

Secretary General Judy Fu-meei JU introduced the topic of technology, human rights provisions, and the constitution. Ju explained constitutional rulings on technological issues in the US and Germany and introduced other examples of technology and human rights related matters from the UN, New Zealand, Australia, and other countries.



▲ CY President Chen Chu (right) and Secretary General Judy, Fu-meei JU (left) in Control Yuan deliberations; Oct. 12, 2021



◀ Chen presents Oudkirk with a wild Lily porcelain cup.

▼ A group photo of CY President Chen Chu (fifth from left) with the delegation of AIT Taipei; Nov. 3, 2021



CY President Meets AIT Director HOPES FOR MORE COOPERATION

On the morning of November 3, AIT Taipei Office Director Sandra Oudkirk visited CY President Chen Chu to discuss issues related to democracy, freedom, human rights, and possible future cooperation.

Chen first congratulated Director Oudkirk on returning to Taiwan and taking up the position of AIT director. The two also discussed the National Human Rights

Commission (NHRC) and the US have co-organized two workshops aimed to share Taiwan's human rights experience with the international community.

AIT affirmed Taiwan's values and progress in democracy and human rights and expressed its hope for further exchanges on human rights issues in the future.

Strengthening Taiwan-UK Cooperation on Human Rights

NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu met British Office Representative John Dennis on the afternoon of November 15 to discuss a wide range of human rights topics. Dennis commended the NHRC for its stance on squaring up to a variety of human rights issues since its inception. Chen said the United Kingdom has had an important influence and a significant stake in the



John Dennis (left) visits Chen Chu; Nov. 15, 2021

history of human rights. Chen hoped the two sides could engage in further exchanges and cooperation on human rights issues.

French Senate visits Taiwan

CY PRESIDENT CHEN WELCOMED DELEGATION

On the morning of October 8, Control Yuan President and NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu received a delegation of French Senators led by Alain Richard, head of French Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group.

During their meeting, she remarked that Taiwan will continue to learn from France in the realm of human rights into the future, and that through cooperation and exchanges, human rights concepts will continue to be rooted in Taiwan society.



Chen and Richard greet with a Covid-safe elbow bump; Oct.8, 2021



President Chen Chu presented the delegation with a "crashing waves" porcelain cup; Oct. 8, 2021

CY President Chen first welcomed Senator Richard and the delegation members to Taiwan, noting that in May this year, Senator Richard had contributed significantly to the French Senate's first resolution to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations. Senator Richard, meanwhile, joined the other members of his delegation in praising President Chen's efforts as part of Taiwan's democracy movement. The visitors expressed their deep admiration for Taiwan's efforts to embed into legislation various international conventions consultations.



French Senate Delegation visits the Control Yuan; Oct.8, 2021