

The
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Newsletter



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NHRC Attends APF Human Rights Conference

The National Human Rights Commission participated in the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) for the first time as an observer at the coalition's annual meeting and biennial conference in New Delhi from September 20 to 21. NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu and members Wang Yu-ling, Wang Jung-chang, and Liu Tien Chiu-chin attended the event and conducted direct exchanges with APF members.

The theme of the biennial conference was "Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Principles, along with the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." In her remarks during the conference, Chen thanked the APF and the many national human rights institutions that had assisted Taiwanese civil society organizations when they were pushing for the NHRC to be established.



NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu makes remarks during the conference; Sep. 21, 2023



NHRC delegation meets with the Nobel Peace Prize Winner Kallash Satyrthi; Sep. 22, 2023



Group Photo with Director of APF Secretariat Kieren Fitzpatrick; Sep. 21, 2023

International Ombudsman Institute President Receives CY Award

Chris Field, president of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) and Western Australian ombudsman, was awarded the First Grade Control Yuan Medal in a visit to the CY on July 24. He also delivered a speech on the topic of “The Modern Institution of the Ombudsman and Good Governance, the Rule of Law and Human Rights.”

In her remarks, CY President Chen Chu noted that both the CY and the Office of the Western Australian Ombudsman are members of the Australasian Pacific Ombudsman Region (APOR). She and Field met in



October last year at the APOR annual members' meeting in New Zealand, so seeing him again in Taiwan was extra special, she added. Field praised the CY for its long-standing support for and active participation in the IOI as well as its dedication to advancing good governance practices and safeguarding human rights. He said the CY was a valued and cherished partner of the IOI.

FIO President and Dominican Republic Ombudsman Pablo Ulloa Visits Taiwan

Iberoamerican Ombudsman Federation (FIO) President and Dominican Republic Ombudsman Pablo Ulloa and Mrs. Ulloa visited the Control Yuan on October 18 to deliver an address on the role and function of public protectors in fostering national harmony. As the first trip to Taiwan by an FIO president since 2017, the visit was especially significant. In his welcoming remarks, CY Vice President Lee Hung-chun said the FIO was the



largest exchange platform for public protectors and national human rights commissions in Latin America. The CY has been invited to attend FIO annual meetings as an observer since 1999, participating in a total of 23 events. In 2020, the CY and FIO remotely signed a cooperation agreement by mail. During their trip to Taiwan, the Ulloas were also scheduled to visit the International Cooperation and Development Fund, the Jingmei White Terror Memorial Park, and other sites.



Amnesty International Secretary General Pleaded Rescued Prisoners Have Contributed to Human Rights

National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Chen Chu met with Amnesty International Secretary General Agnès Callamard on June 27. Chen thanked AI for saving numerous Taiwanese prisoners of conscience in the past—including herself. The two also exchanged views on mechanisms to handle cases of human rights violations, the death penalty, and other issues.

Callamard said she was very happy to see a previously rescued activist go on to chair a national institution to promote human rights, adding that this was an extremely virtuous cycle. She also expressed a high degree of concern over the difficulties and challenges regarding Taiwan's international status.

Norwegian Parliamentary Delegation Hopes to Deepen Ties with Taiwan

Guri Melby, second vice chair of the Norwegian Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and chair of the Liberal Party, led a four-person delegation to meet with National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Chen Chu on November 21. Melby said that Taiwan was not only a technology giant, but had also made admirable achievements in gender rights. She expressed the desire to deepen substantive bilateral ties in education, trade, technology, national defense, and other areas. Melby also hoped Norway and Taiwan would



jointly defend the universal values of democracy and human rights. Chen said that according to Freedom House's *Freedom in the World 2023* report, Taiwan, Germany, and Iceland jointly ranked 17th worldwide. She added that it was a special honor to meet with a delegation from Norway, which took the top spot. The meeting was attended by Control Yuan members including Tsai Chung-yi, Wang Jung-chang, Liu Tien Chiu-chin, and Lai Ting-ming.



NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu with Ms. Charlotte-Anne Malischewski; Oct. 16, 2023

NHRC Visits Canada to Strengthen Human Rights Exchanges

National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Chen Chu; NHRC members Liu Tien Chiu-chin, Chi Hui-jung, Kao Yung-cheng, and Pu Chung-cheng; and Human Rights Consultant Awi Mona visited Canada from October 14 to 23 to conduct human rights exchanges.

During the trip, they met with Charlotte-Anne Malischewski, interim chief commissioner of the Human Rights Commission, and Jennifer Khurana, chairperson of the Human Rights Tribunal. The delegation also called on eight members of parliament from the ruling and opposition parties, including Judy Sgro, chair of the Canada-Taiwan Friendship Group; Alexis Brunelle-Duceppe, vice chair of the Subcommittee on International Human Rights; and Jamie Schmale, vice chair of the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Paris Deputy Mayor Visits Taiwan to Discuss LGBTQ+ Issues

Jean-Luc Romero-Michel, deputy mayor of Paris, visited Taiwan at the invitation of the National Human Rights Commission to take part in the 21st pride march on October 28 and an international forum on LGBTQI+ human rights on October 30. His visit helped enhance bilateral exchanges on gender diversity and human rights.

The NHRC and the French Office in Taipei signed an agreement on human rights cooperation just over a year ago. Since then, the two sides have engaged in numerous exchanges and partnerships. Last December, NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu led a delegation to France. She was impressed by Romero-Michel's efforts to promote gender diversity, so invited him to Taiwan. Speaking at the forum in Taipei, Romero-Michel shared the French perspective on advocating for LGBTQI+ human

rights and promoting policy change. Other speakers included representatives of many long-standing human rights groups in Taiwan, who outlined the current domestic situation and raised suggestions on various issues rights and promoting policy change. Other speakers included representatives of many long-standing human rights groups in Taiwan, who outlined the current domestic situation and raised suggestions on various issues.





Group photo of CY Vice President Lee Hung-chun (sixth from right) and APOR ombudsmen, Oct. 31, 2023.

CY Delegation Attends APOR 2023 Conference

Control Yuan Vice President Lee Hung-chun led international affairs committee members Wang Li-jen, Lin Wen-cheng, Su Li-chiung and executive secretary Uang Lin-ling to take part in the Australasia and Pacific Ombudsman Region (APOR) 2023 conference and the Victorian Ombudsman 50th anniversary reception from October 30 to November 1 in Melbourne, Australia.

The theme of the conference was “Through the Ombudsman Looking Glass: Now and Into the Future.” Deborah Glass, Victorian ombudsman and APOR president, hosted the meeting. Important current issues on the agenda included reflecting on the role of an ombudsman in a crisis, whether people care about government integrity, the balance that an ombudsman must strike when deciding whether to exercise coercive powers, and the impact of emerging technologies on oversight bodies.



CY Vice President Lee Hung-chun presents Deborah Glass wild Lily porcelain cup, Oct. 30, 2023.



Group photo of CY delegation and APOR president, Deborah Glass, Oct. 30, 2023.

Chen Chu: Urgent Need to Respond to Climate Change

Chen Chu, chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), said climate change was disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups. Speaking at the opening of an international conference titled “Climate Change and Human Rights—the Role of National Human Rights Institutions,” Chen said highly polluting industries had to transform, but in the process, there must also be a fair transition to protect the rights of workers. These were all urgent human rights issues, she added. The focus of the two-day international conference hosted by



NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu delivers a speech at the opening of the conference; Nov. 22, 2023

the High Commissioner’s thematic spotlight for the month of November. Over 200 people attended the event. Representatives of the Asia Pacific Forum and the Pacific Community as well as human rights institutions of the European Union, France, the Philippines, Malaysia, Mongolia, Denmark, and other countries exchanged views with local human rights academics and experts and representatives of government agencies and NGOs.



Group photo of NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu and the attendees at the conference; Nov. 22, 2023.

CY President Chen Chu Leads Members in Circuit Supervision of EY

Control Yuan President Chen Chu led the CY members to perform a circuit supervision of the Executive Yuan on December 18. Premier Chen Chien-jen first gave a briefing on the main work of the EY in 2023. In response, Chen noted that under the current constitutional system, the CY is responsible for external control of government administration. CY members investigate malpractice and administrative negligence by government agencies as well as illegal activities and misconduct by civil servants at the central and local levels. Reports published by the CY are frequently used as key reference materials in outside reviews of government administration.



CY President Chen Chu (left) and Premier Chen Chien-jen (right); Dec.18, 2023.

Quoting National Police Agency statistics, Chen said Taiwanese people lost nearly NT\$7 billion to fraud in 2022. She added that government agencies currently lack effective measures to properly investigate major leaks of personal data by e-commerce companies, virtual currency being used as a channel for money laundering, and communication apps becoming tools for criminals. Pointing out that the CY was investigating cases of fraud at home and abroad in accordance with its powers, Chen urged the EY to instruct government agencies to come up with countermeasures to address the problem.



秘書長歡迎會

CY Secretary General Lee Chun-yi delivers an address; Oct. 2, 2023

CY Welcomes New Secretary General

period. The CY officially introduced Lee to the public at a welcome reception on October 2.

CY President Chen Chu said she hoped Lee would employ his talents to help the CY exercise its powers even more effectively and further advance all aspects of human rights work. Lee said he looked forward to fulfilling his role as chief of staff, helping Chen promote CY business, assisting CY members in carrying out their duties, raising service quality, and actively promoting international exchanges. During the second half of the sixth session of the Control Yuan, Lee said he would redouble his efforts to further build on the CY's achievements.

Ju Fu-meei, former secretary general of the Control Yuan, was nominated as a grand justice by the president and took up her post on October 1. She was replaced at the CY by Lee Chun-yi, former deputy minister of the Ministry of Labor. Lee assumed his new position on the same day, which fell during the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival holiday

Conference on 30th Anniversary of Act on Property Declaration by Public Servants



Group photo of Tsai Ching-hsiang, minister of the MOJ (fourth from left), CY President Chen, CY Vice-President Lee Hung-chun, CY members Chen Chin-jun and Jao Yung-ching at the opening ceremony; Jun. 28, 2023.

The Control Yuan and the Ministry of Justice jointly held a conference to mark 30 years of implementation of the Act on Property Declaration by Public Servants. The event took place on June 28 in room 301 of the NTUH International Convention Center. CY President Chen Chu gave the opening address on the topic of “Sunshine is the Best Disinfectant.” She said she hoped the conference would produce suggestions through in-depth analysis by local experts and academics from relevant fields. The discussion covered a broad spectrum of viewpoints and included legal as well as practical perspectives.

The meeting was moderated by Chen Chin-jun, convenor of the CY’s Committee on Anti-Corruption, and the sessions were separately chaired by Jao Yung-ching and Wang Li-jen, members of the CY; Chen Ming-tang, deputy minister of the MOJ; and Chuang Rong-sung, director general of the Agency Against Corruption. Participants discussed how to strengthen the implementation of Taiwan’s Sunshine Acts and explored future systemic developments.



Photos of the seminar; Aug. 31, 2023

CY Holds Operational Efficiency Seminar for Members

The sixth Control Yuan held the first seminar for its entire membership in July 2022. The training included a mixture of theory and practice, giving members an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn new knowledge. It was also a useful exercise in teamwork and consensus building.

To keep track of recent developments and social trends, and ensure members exercise their powers in a more grounded way, the CY and the National Audit Office (NAO) held the second seminar of the current session from August 31 to September 1 on the theme of “A New Era of Ombudsmanship and Human Rights.” The event helped further smooth operations between the CY and NAO.