



Control
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NEWSLETTER

Advancing to Net Zero through Human Rights International Forum



CY President, NHRC Chairperson Chen gives an opening remarks (20 Nov. 2024)

The Control Yuan National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Environmental Rights Foundation held “Advancing to Net Zero through Human Rights - International Forum on Environmental Human Rights in Climate Governance” on 20 November 2024. Professor Thomas Schomerus, member of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, was invited to the forum to talk about global developments in climate and environmental rights and offer suggestions on Taiwan’s climate governance.

In her remarks, NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu said that groups affected by climate change are a high priority for the NHRC, and starting in 2023, the NHRC has included climate change in its medium-term strategic plan. Chen underlined that the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention—access to information, public participation, and access to justice—demonstrated the importance used to examine Taiwan’s protections and relief policies on environmental human rights. In the panel “No One Left Behind on the Path to Net Zero,” Commissioner Liu Tien Chiu-chin argued that the spirit of the Aarhus Convention should be integrated into the administrative procedures of environmental policies. In another panel “Human-Centered Urban Planning Adjustments,” Commissioner Yeh Yi-jin stressed that apart from carbon reduction, more attention should be devoted to vulnerable populations.

The forum attracted participants from home and abroad, including Christoph Saurenbach, head of the trade section of the European Economic and Trade Office (EETO). NHRC Vice Chairperson Wang Yu-ling and Commissioner Yeh Ta-hua, Upay Radiw Kanasaw, and Chi Hui-jung also took part in the event.



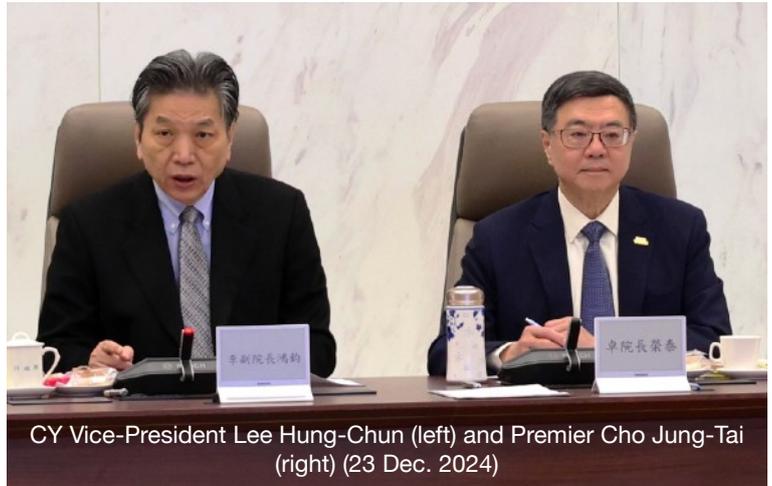
Chairperson Chen (3rd left), Professor Schomerus (2nd left), Mr. Christoph Saurenbach (1st left), NHRC Commissioners and attendees pose for a group photo (20 Nov. 2024)

CY Members Conduct Circuit Supervision of EY

“CY and EY could continue working together in exercising their constitutional duties for the well-being of our nation and our people.”

Members of the Control Yuan, led by Vice President (VP) Lee Hung-Chun, conducted a circuit supervision of the Executive Yuan (EY) on 23 December 2024. In his remarks, VP Lee said that under the constitutional system, the power of supervision exercised by the CY is an external mechanism for government agencies. He explained that CY members focused on suspected negligence in the work and administration of the government as well as investigations into illegal activities and malpractice by central and local civil servants. VP Lee also added that investigation reports released by CY are usually provided for important reference for civil societies to oversight the work of administrative agencies.

During the meeting, Premier Cho Jung-Tai introduced cabinet members in attendance. EY Secretary-General Kung Ming-Hsin briefed on the main policies of the administration. VP Lee presented an overview of the CY's achievements in exercising its powers of investigation, impeachment, censure, correction, and audit in 2024. The conveners or representatives of seven CY standing committees then delivered statements on matters for discussion arising



CY Vice-President Lee Hung-Chun (left) and Premier Cho Jung-Tai (right) (23 Dec. 2024)

from committee cases. Premier Cho and relevant ministers responded to each issue.

VP Lee raised the recent disturbing number of reports of child abuse and the unreported cases involving children aged six or younger. Pointing out that many of the perpetrators were parents, cohabitants, childcare workers and care center staff, Lee said that this demonstrated shortcomings in appropriate family education, school counseling, and the public health system. In the circuit supervision, CY members brought up concerns arising from child abuse cases, calling on the EY to prioritize the problem, initiate comprehensive measures to address the issue, and establish a sound social security net. VP Lee called on the EY to urge ministries and agencies to develop improvements and workable solutions.



CY Members participate in the circuit supervision of EY (23 Dec. 2024)

FIO President, Paraguay Ombudsman visits CY

Rafael Ávila, president of the Federación Iberoamericana del Ombudsperson (FIO) and Paraguay ombudsman, visited Taiwan for five days at the invitation of the CY and called on President Chen on 2 September 2024. He delivered a speech at the CY on the topic of the current roles and challenges of human rights defenders. Paraguay Ambassador to Taiwan, H.E. Carlos Fleitas also attended the event.

Chen thanked Paraguay for being a steadfast diplomatic partner of Taiwan for nearly 70 years. Taiwan's CY and the Ombudsman's Office in Paraguay both have promoted good governance, protected human rights, and defended hard-won democracy. To respond to the major international challenges of the technological age, Chen added that she would strengthen cooperation with Paraguay and other FIO member countries to jointly advance innovation and development of good governance. While in Taiwan, President Ávila also called on the International Cooperation and Development

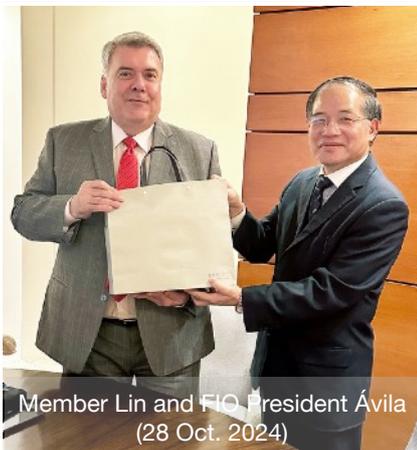


President Chen presents a gift to Ávila



Group photo of the speech by FIO President Ávila (2 Sep. 2024)

Fund and visited the Knbung indigenous cultural community in Yilan. A tour of the Jing-Mei White Terror Memorial Park gave President Ávila an overview of Taiwan's promotion of democracy and human rights landscape.



Member Lin and FIO President Ávila (28 Oct. 2024)

CY Joins FIO in New Milestone

Lin Wen-Cheng, CY member and convener of the International Affairs Committee, attended the 28th FIO Annual Conference in Asuncion, Paraguay, from 29 to 31 October 2024. The theme of this year's congress was "Global human rights challenges: the environment, the right to water, climate change, indigenous peoples, and justice for women." Convener Lin engaged in in-depth exchanges with other representatives, shared the Taiwan experience, and expressed the desire to collaborate more closely with other countries.

After collaboration between multiple parties, CY and FIO signed a cooperation agreement in Asuncion, making the CY a non-regional member of the FIO and marking a milestone in their relationship. In the FIO congress, members unanimously passed a motion on the agreement with a round of applause. The vote was further recognition from the international community of CY's achievements. The FIO congress demonstrated how Latin American countries are cooperating to jointly promote the development of ombudsman and human rights works within and outside the region.



Member Lin (4th right) at the FIO opening ceremony (29 Oct. 2024)

NHRC Attends APF Conference in Thailand

NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu, Vice Chairperson Wang Yu-ling, Commissioners Kao Yung-cheng and Lin Wen-cheng attended the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) in Bangkok from 24 to 25 September 2024. The delegation spoke in the capacity of an observer and delivered a report on the issue of gender equality.

Chen congratulated Samar Haj Hasan, chairperson of the Jordan National Centre for Human Rights, for becoming the new APF chairperson, as well as Loukinikini Lewaravu, director of the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, for being selected as host of the 2025 APF AGM. Chen said she looked forward to working more closely with them in the future. The forum's three priority issues were gender equality, the environment and climate change, and



Chairperson Chen greets with Ms. Samar Haj Hasan (24 Sep. 2024)

human rights defenders and civic space. During the meeting, Commissioner Kao Yung-cheng spoke to nearly 30 national representatives on the NHRC's handling of a complaint brought by flight attendants against Taiwanese airlines. He explained how the NHRC had followed up by calling on the government to take action to improve the working conditions and safety for female cabin crew and prevent discriminatory employment practices.



Chairperson Chen and NHRC commissioners at the APF annual meeting (24 Sep. 2024)

VP Lee Hung-Chun Leads a Delegation to Study the Crime Victim Protection System in Japan

A delegation from the Control Yuan's Committee on Judicial and Prison Administration Affairs, led by VP Lee Hung-Chun, visited Tokyo from 17 to 21 June 2024 to conduct a general investigative research on the rights of victims to participate in legal proceedings and receive protection. The delegation met with several organizations including the Japanese Association of Victimology, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, the National Network for Victim Support, the Heart-band crime victims' network, the Japan Legal Support Center, and the Victim Support Center of Tokyo. Both sides engaged in in-depth discussions



and exchanged views on issues such as victim participation in litigation, psychological counseling, and financial compensation.

Front row: VP Lee (3rd right) and Nozomu Asukai (3rd left), chairman of the Victim Support Center of Tokyo (20 Jun. 2024)

Chen Chu: Ending Death Penalty Does Not Mean Abandoning Justice

NHRC and the European Economic and Trade Office co-held a forum on Taiwan's capital punishment system and human rights protections on 19 July 2024. The event aimed to raise public understanding about abolishing the death penalty and expand the space for rational dialogue on the issue.

In her remarks, NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu underlined that ending capital punishment would not mean abandoning the pursuit of justice. She urged the government to use restorative justice to establish approaches centered on the families of victims. Chen said these could include compensating family members, responding to their needs, and holding offenders accountable for life.



Chairperson Chen in her opening remarks (19 Jul. 2024)



Group photo of Chairperson Chen and the attendees at the forum (19 Jul. 2024)

NHRC Highlights Impact of Climate Change on Vulnerable Groups

On 1 October 2024, NHRC contributed to GCTF workshop on the impact of climate change on the ocean. Chairperson

Chen Chu underlined that the climate change disproportionately affected vulnerable populations, especially people who were economically disadvantaged, disabled, indigenous, or living in remote areas. Their predicaments and government policies to help them were priority issues for the NHRC. Looking ahead, the NHRC had included climate change in its medium-term strategic plan and would continue to focus on the consequences of global warming, protect the human rights of vulnerable groups, and promote sustainable development. NHRC



Chairperson Chen exchanges with Chief Representative Katayama, Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association

Commissioner Yeh Yi-jin addressed challenges facing and response strategies to Taiwan on the impact of climate change. The

workshop was cohosted by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United States, Japan, Australia, and Canada. Some 21 participants from the industries, governments, and academia joined the event.



Chairperson Chen and NHRC Commissioners at the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) workshop (1 Oct. 2024)

Children's Rights Expo Opens with Fanfare

Celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the NHRC and NGO "CRC Watch" co-organized the "Push My Children's Rights" Expo at Kaohsiung's Pier-2 Art Center on 16 November 2024. The event brought together 14 children and youth civil society organizations from across Taiwan, advocating for children's rights through interactive booths, short talks, and performances. Chairperson Chen Chu stated that children's rights to survival, development, protection, and participation should be guaranteed without discrimination based on region, identity, or class. She emphasized that the NHRC will strengthen support for children and youth in non-metropolitan areas to ensure fair access to education, healthcare, and social resources.



Chairperson Chen exchanges with NGO leaders (19 Nov. 2024)



Chairperson Chen makes an opening address (16 Nov. 2024)

NHRC Symposium Marks CRC 35th Anniversary

An International Exchange Symposium of commemorating the CRC 35th anniversary was held by NHRC on 20 and 21 August 2024. It was attended by representatives for children and adolescents from home and abroad as well as officials from relevant government agencies. Participants engaged in a special in-depth exchange of views with experts from countries including Scotland, Ireland, Australia, and the Philippines.

Addressing the symposium, Chairperson Chen Chu said technological advancements meant that children and youths faced numerous challenges, such as online bullying and posting of sexual images. With children's issues transcending borders, Chen called for international and intragenerational experience sharing between child human rights defenders.

The symposium explored three leading issues: child's rights monitoring mechanisms, youth participation in public affairs, and youth empowerment mechanisms. The

climax of the event was a global café for Taiwanese youths and foreign guests to brainstorm together. Participants came up with actionable ideas around issues of mental health, student rights, children with disabilities, migrant workers and immigration, digital violence, and the right to rest and leisure. The symposium fully demonstrated the empathy and creativity of Taiwanese young people.



Chairperson Chen at the CRC Symposium (20 Aug. 2024)



Chairperson Chen with the attendees at CRC symposium (20 Aug. 2024)

Taiwanese Association of America Visits CY

The 2024 Taiwan Visit Delegation of the Taiwanese Association of America, led by association president Ms. Chen Kuei-Ling with overseas compatriot leaders from across the United States, visited CY on 13 November 2024. President Chen Chu, along with Vice President Lee Hung-Chun, CY Members Liu Tien Chiu-Chin, Lai Chen-Chang, and Secretary-General Lee Chun-Yi warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed gratitude for the Association's long-term supports and efforts overseas with Taiwan. President Chen urged the Association to continue serving as Taiwan's crucial bridge to the United States and worldwide, exercising their strong communication and advocacy capabilities to strengthen Taiwan's democratic development and economic growth, ensuring Taiwan remains a homeland where overseas compatriots can thrive.



President Chen with delegation leaders Chen Kuei-Ling (left) and Song Ming-Li (right)



Group photo with Taiwanese Association of America (13 Nov. 2024)

International Forum on Human Rights Risks in the Age of AI

Safeguarding Human Rights in the Age of AI - the Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights Trends - was held by NHRC on 12 July 2024. In her remarks, Chairperson Chen Chu stressed that AI advancement has a duty to respect human dignity and allows freedom of personality development. Chen called for better protection of individuals and greater social awareness about human rights in digital age. She warned that generative AI could create disinformation, unemployment, deep fakes, and other

threats to human rights.

Australian Human Rights Commissioner Lorraine Finlay gave a keynote address on "AI and its Human Rights Risks." Sophie Nerbonne, director at the French National Commission on Informatics and Liberty, briefed the audience by videoconference on the EU's AI Act. The event attracted officials from overseas missions in Taiwan, demonstrated the high level of international interest in AI-related human rights issues.



Group photo of the International Forum (12 Jul. 2024)

CY Briefing on Conflict of Interest Act

“Think before you sign to avoid conflicts of interest!”



CY Secretary General Lee Chun-Yi addresses in the briefings (27 Aug. 2024)

The Control Yuan held briefings on the Act on Recusal of Public Servants Due to Conflicts of Interest on 27 and 30 August 2024. In his opening remarks, CY Secretary General Lee Chun-Yi said investigations in recent years had revealed that some of the heads of central government agencies were not familiar with the regulations. When approving funding or transactions for related groups (specialist associations and civil society organizations) they had broken the law by neglecting to recuse themselves. Lee added that following the major cabinet shuffle when the new administration came to office on 20 May 2024, it was even more important to make civil servants aware of the conflict

of interest act. The CY hoped that the briefings would improve civil servants' legal knowledge and reduce the risk of breaking the law.



A CY staff makes a presentation (27 Aug. 2024)

CY Questions EY on Oral Cancer Prevention

On 21 August 2024, the CY Social Welfare and Environment Hygiene Committee held a joint meeting to question the Executive Yuan (EY) officials on the EY's inactivity and possible negligence in combating the harmful effects of betel nut and its failure to make appropriate improvements to address the issue. Minister Without Portfolio Chen Shih-Chung led a team from the EY, including officials from the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture, to respond to the CY.

During the meeting, CY members focused attention on the timeline for drafting a specialist law, inspection of betel nut additives, prevention of harm to children and youths, increased incentives to reappropriate disused betel nut plantations, controls on imports, and other issues. CY members urged the EY and relevant ministries to swiftly implement suitable legal measures to protect people's health.



The CY Joint meeting (21 Aug. 2024)