Electronic Environmental Policy Monthly

Environmental Protection Administration, R.O.C. (Taiwan)

ISSN: 1811-4008 GPN: 2008600068

The EPM is available at https://www.epa.gov.tw/ENG/BE5D11C9F277E893

Feature Article

Promoting Cooperation in International Environmental Protection

The world is currently wrapped in anxiety over the COVID-19 pandemic, which does not discriminate according to national borders. Likewise, environmental protection is an issue that knows no borders. Taiwan has to always hold itself to the standards of all international environmental protection conventions and protocols and has been actively forming bilateral or multilateral agreements with neighboring and developed countries. Taiwan will continue to deepen and expand its influence in international environmental cooperation into the future, so as to protect the sustainability of the planet and work with other countries towards improving human health and welfare.

The following are the EPA's continuous efforts in advancing international cooperation for environmental protection:

I. Signing memorandums of understanding (MOU) for environmental protection exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and Japan

An MOU for environmental protection exchanges and cooperation was signed by representatives from both the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association. It includes cooperation on fields such as environmental education, environmental impact assessment (EIA), air quality control and monitoring, marine pollution control, waste management (including recycling), climate change mitigation and adaptation, and so on. Also, Taiwan and Japan shall take turns holding the

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Taiwan-Japan Bilateral Environmental Meeting every one or two years.

II. Promoting International Environmental Partnership programs

The EPA and USEPA has been promoting the International Environmental Partnership (IEP) program since 2014. The EPA also cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to expand environmental diplomacy and promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation. By conducting various seminars and exchanges under the IEP, Taiwan accumulates and builds experience and capabilities in regional environmental services and exchanges. The ongoing partnership programs focus on environmental issues that are of global interest and with which developing countries urgently need Taiwan's assistance. They include programs for air quality management, atmospheric mercury monitoring, e-waste recycling, environmental education, environmental law enforcement, and more.

(1) The EPA will continue to promote the Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network (APMMN) by planning mercury monitoring works in the Asia-Pacific region, and assisting countries with analyses of mercury wet deposition samples.

(2) The EPA will continue to promote global environmental education partnership programs by strengthening the environmental education networks in each country and in the region, establishing the Asian-Pacific Environmental Education Network and promoting regional cooperation. The purpose is to strengthen cooperative relations with other countries and carry out Taiwan's New Southbound Policy with respect to environmental education issues.

(3) With the 9th International E-waste Management Network Meeting held, the EPA will continue to promote the international e-waste recycling and management network, establish e-waste management partnerships, develop recycling and management systems, accumulate experience in developing innovative technologies and foster the exchange of international e-waste management information.

(4) The 2019 IEP-Vietnam Workshop was held to share practical experiences and deepen

The 20th APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment

environmental law enforcement cooperation in the Asian region. The EPA also held the 2019 Taiwan-US Environmental Protection Technological Cooperation Agreement Workshop, during which practices in the US to enforce laws related to waste were elaborated. The participants also received hands-on experience with inspection and sampling equipment.

(5) The Annual New Southbound Countries Air Pollution Control Conference was held to discuss, exchange ideas and work out a mutually beneficial cooperation model to improve control of regional air pollution in Asia.

(6) The EPA organized the 2019 International Chemicals and Mercury Control Seminar, where participants discussed chemical management policies and their implementation, as well as exchange ideas on future challenges and developments.

(7) The 2019 Asia-Pacific Seminar for Environmental Health for Children took place for medical, healthcare, public health, and environmental protection personnel to exchange ideas with each other. The goal was to raise public understanding and awareness of environmental health for children.

(8) With the EU, the EPA co-hosted the 2019 Taiwan-EU Circular Economy Seminar, sharing experiences and achievements in plastic recycling, solar panel design and recycling and circular construction.

III. Promoting environmental cooperation with countries targeted in the New Southbound Policy

Taiwan-Vietnam Environmental Education Youth Exchange activities were organized. Participants from different backgrounds exchanged their expectations and responses related to environmental issues, learned from each other, shared cross-country and cross-field knowledge, and created openings for future cooperation.

Courses on “Responding to Climate Change for Sustainable Development” were organized to promote the government’s New Southbound Policy, strengthen exchanges on environmental protection

2019 Asia-Pacific Children's Environmental Health Symposium held in Taiwan

between Taiwan and Vietnam, and improve regional environmental quality.

IV. Taiwan-Germany Environmental Forum

The second Taiwan-Germany Environmental Forum was held to discuss issues such as circular economy, energy conservation and carbon reduction, climate change and energy transformation, and source reduction for plastic wastes. The forum provided an opportunity for representatives from industry, government, academia and the research community to exchange ideas, and allowed Taiwan to learn from the experience of and approaches adopted by Germany. It also helped to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the environmental field.

V. International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The International Conference on a Sustainable Taiwan: Accelerating the Localization of UNSDGs, was held to address three main topics: SDG promotion, SDG promotion strategies and result assessment, and social consensus building. Via discussions and experience sharing, the international community, central and regional governments, industry, academia, the research community and civic organizations worked together to formulate a new vision for the new generation.

Outlook

As a member of the global village, Taiwan strives to play its part alongside all other countries to promote world peace, pursue sustainable development and contribute to maintaining the global ecological balance. With a total of 12 conferences or events organized under IEP in 2019, as well as events scheduled for the years to come, initial progress has been made in raising the level of Taiwan-US cooperation, solidifying cooperation objectives and expanding international participation. Not only will the EPA continue showcasing Taiwan's environmental protection achievements to the international community, it will strengthen relationships with other countries through assisting regional partners with improving environmental quality, gradually establishing positive interactions with high-level officials in partnering countries and building mutual trust.

General Policy

Taiwan's 2030 Environmental Protection Goals Set In Line with International Sustainable Development Goals

The National Environmental Protection Plan approved by Executive Yuan on 14 February 2020 was formulated based on the structure and responsibilities of the Ministry of Environment and Resources. Echoing the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and considering the environmental protection trends and key issues both within and outside of Taiwan, the Plan sets out short, medium, and long-term implementation strategies and goals, aiming to achieve the visions of "reducing carbon and disasters", "relaxing and breathing well", "enjoying clear water", "transforming waste to resources", "zero forest loss", and "co-existing with wildlife" by 2030.

The National Environmental Protection Plan is based on the *Additional Articles of the Constitution of the Republic of China* (中華民國憲法增修條文) Article 10 paragraph 2, which states "environmental and ecological protection shall be given equal consideration with economic and technological development", and the strategies under the *Basic Environment Act* (環境基本法). The Plan was

formulated first by bringing relevant departments together to come up with response strategies and mechanisms, with the main focus on the overall environment and ecosystem. Then these strategies were thoroughly discussed by scholars and experts, government agencies, regional governments and civic organizations to reach a consensus. The EPA noted that the Plan addresses 13 environmental issues under five areas, namely, climate action, environmental quality, nature conservation, green economy, and sustainable development partnerships. Key performance indicators (KPIs) were set for each environmental issue to track progress and results and to help with implementation of national environmental protection tasks. In the future, it is expected that the implementation results will be disclosed on an annual basis through environmental white papers or other suitable channels.

Setting 2030 goals

The National Environmental Protection Plan will be implemented towards achieving the 2030 goals and the visions of "reducing carbon and disasters", "relaxing and breathing well", "enjoying clear water", "transforming waste to resources", "zero forest loss", and "co-existing with wildlife" in Taiwan.

Reducing carbon and disasters
Working towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to the baseline year 2005

Relaxing and breathing well
Increasing the ratio of days (from 84% to 93%) with air quality good enough for outdoor activities

Enjoying clear water
Lowering the ratio of seriously polluted sections of 50 rivers from 3.8% to 0%

Transforming waste to resources
Increasing the general waste recycling rate from 55.69% to 60%

Zero forest loss
Maintaining the forest coverage rate at 60.7% or higher

Coexisting with wildlife
Keeping the percentage of statutorily protected land area at 19.2% or higher of the total national land area, with the water quality compliance rate across all marine water quality monitoring stations at 99.7%

Planning for the 13 environmental issues under five areas
Planning for the short, medium, and long-term strategies and goals for the 13 environmental issues under five areas addressed by the Plan, and setting key performance indicators for tracking.

・Climate action: responses to climate change, mountain conservation and disaster prevention and management

・Environmental quality: EIAs, atmospheric environments, watershed management, chemical substance management

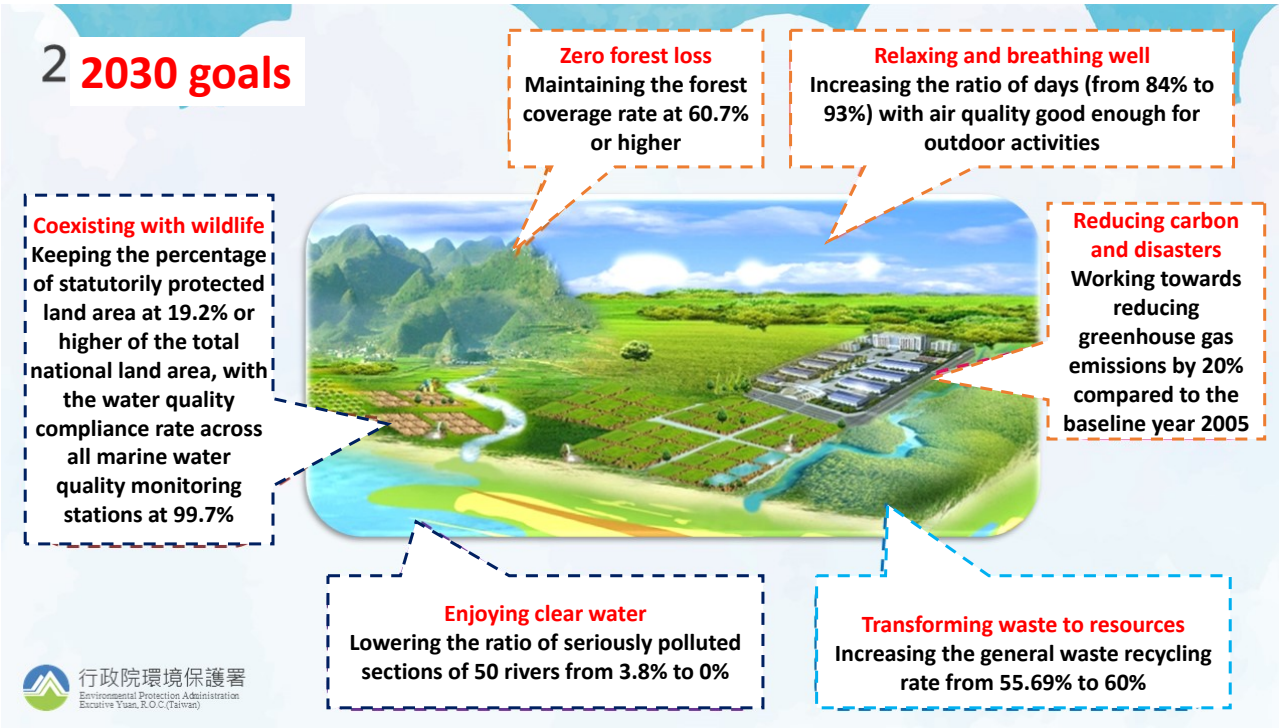
・Green economy: resource recycling, environmental technology

・Nature conservation: terrestrial ecosystem conservation, marine conservation, environmental resource investigation and monitoring

・Sustainable development partnership: environmental education, social participation

Follow-up tasks include inviting relevant ministries to hold meetings with local governments to explain what is approved under the Plan and the actions to be taken in the future, and holding seminars in northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan to help local governments formulate localized environmental protection plans. The central government will join forces with local governments in implementing the environmental actions and regularly publish environmental white papers to disclose implementation progress and results in the future.

The passing of the National Environmental Protection Plan allows government agencies to join forces with corporations, organizations, and the general public in carrying out environmental protection actions, so as to advance towards ensured environmental security, green lifestyles shaped through a circular economy model, and ultimately a harmonious coexistence between people and the environment.



Echoing the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the EPA set Taiwan's 2030 Environmental Protection Goals

Waste

Waste Tire Recycling Rate Reaches 93.6%

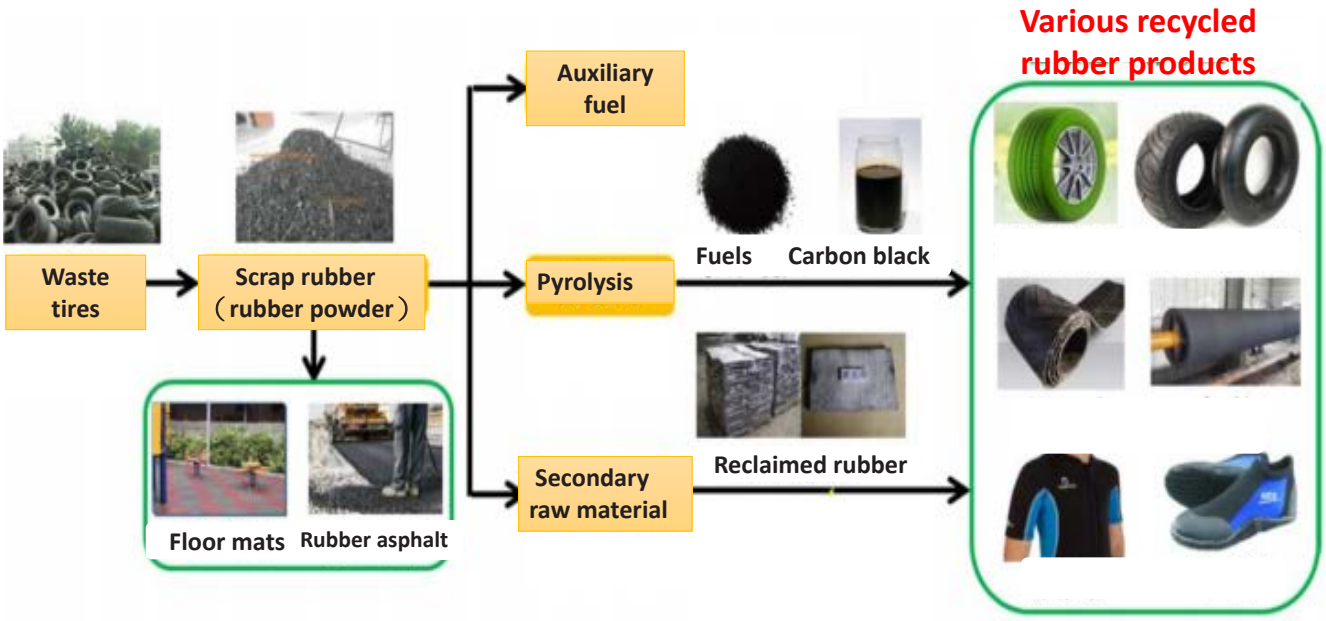
Waste tires do not decompose easily in natural environments and are a pollution source if disposed of randomly. The EPA has put much effort into tire recycling, leading to a total of 13 tire processing enterprises in Taiwan. Between January and November 2019, 133,000 metric tons of waste tires were recycled, achieving a 93.6% recycling rate. The EPA has also worked with industry and academia to develop continuous waste tire devulcanization recycling technologies, which could to be used in the future to mass produce recycled products and help develop a circular economy.

Taiwan produces roughly 140,000 metric tons of waste tires annually. At present there are two types of tire recycling channels, depending on the source. Those produced by the general public, motorcycle shops, or bicycle shops are classified as general waste and can be given to local cleaning crews or disposed of in accordance with regulations. As for tires produced by tire shops and the vehicle maintenance industry – which are statutorily designated enterprises – they must be disposed by the enterprises themselves or by commissioned enterprises. The EPA Resource Recycling Website has been disclosing real-time waste tire recycling and processing capacity in Taiwan to facilitate the utilization of disposal channels.

Recycled tires are shredded and sorted into scrap rubber, rubber powder, steel wires, etc. at processing plants. Scrap rubber can substitute for coal as an auxiliary fuel or be used to produce fuels and carbon black through pyrolysis, while rubber powder is made into secondary raw materials that can be added to reclaimed rubber, soundproofing materials, floor mats, and various rubber products. Rubber powder can also be used in rubber asphalt road pavement or for making diving suits. All of the above are examples of waste tires being given renewed value through processing and reutilization technology.

The EPA stated that waste tires should be properly recycled as they do not decompose easily in the natural environment and could cause pollution if disposed of randomly. There are a total of 13 disposal enterprises currently in operation, which recycled 133,000 metric tons of waste tires between January

and November 2019 for a recycling rate of 93.6%. Diversification of disposal and recycling channels has been promoted by the EPA. More than 120,000 metric tons of secondary raw materials made from waste tires are utilized every year. Moreover, in an attempt to improve recycling technology and develop high-value applications, the EPA has been working with industry and academia on developing continuous waste tire devulcanization recycling technologies. These technologies can be used to produce high-quality recycled rubber suitable for making various rubber products. The next step is collaborating with factories for mass production to further diversify processing technologies, increase reutilization values, and creating more green business opportunities.



Waste tires are given renewed value through processing and reutilization technology

Inspection

EPA Conducts Large Pollution Source Joint Inspections with Central and Southern Counties

From 24 to 26 February, Taiwan was under the influence of easterly wind patterns for three consecutive days causing low wind speeds, poor air dispersion, and increased accumulation of pollutants in the western half of the island, which led to poor air quality. The EPA issued a warning of poor air quality four days in advance and mobilized relevant response measures. In addition, ten counties/cities south of Miaoli County, along with the central and southern branches of the Bureaus of Environmental Inspection, were placed under the EPA's command in a joint inspection of large stationary pollution sources in the central and southern regions. A total of 165 personnel were deployed, who found 14 violations that are expected to result in a total of NT$1.4 million in fines.

Since October 2019, the EPA has regularly held the Inter-regional Cooperation, Prevention, and Response Team Against Air Pollution Meeting with counties and cities in Taiwan in order to coordinate local environmental bureaus' response measures. The measures carried out in November and December 2019 included joint operations such as cross-county drone inspections on open-air burnings and inspections of large stationary pollution sources. These were the EPA's first joint operations with local environmental bureaus south of Miaoli County as well as the central and southern branches of the Bureaus of Environmental Inspection. A total of 165 personnel were deployed to carry out joint permit

inspections and test equipment components used in 60 processing procedures at 33 public and private venues of 27 industries. The inspections focused on stationary sources of large amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are $PM_{2.5}$ precursors. The inspections also targeted major construction projects prone to emit fugitive dust, in an effort to prevent such pollution sources from causing more harm in times of poor air quality.

The EPA stated that the joint inspections found 14 violations, which will all be charged and penalized accordingly. Seven violations involved operations not in accordance with what is approved under the stationary pollution source operating permits. For example, one company in Taichung City installed equipment and operated without necessary permits. Two incidents were due to incompliance with pollutant emission standards, two failed to keep air pollution control or monitoring facilities from operating normally, and the rest included three violations against the *Air Pollution Control Act* (空氣污染防制法) and the *Waste Disposal Act* (廢棄物清理法).

The EPA stressed that it is necessary to tighten control of all pollution sources because of poor air quality as well as poor dispersion commonly seen in central and southern Taiwan during fall and winter. Also, the recent air quality in central and southern Taiwan reached the “orange alert” level, with high levels of VOCs, which are the precursors of $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone, both major indicator pollutants of this level. As a result, enterprises were urged to operate in accordance with environmental regulations, and do their best to protect air quality.

The EPA worked with local governments to monitor changes in air quality, and implemented regional control and response measures in a timely manner based on the *Regulations Governing Emergency Measures to Prevent Severely Deteriorated Air Quality* (空氣品質嚴重惡化緊急防制辦法). These measures include tightening controls to lower air pollution caused by major factories and construction sites, controlling fugitive dust by covering dumped materials at major dumping sites and washing and cleaning roads, and by patrolling and inspecting the restaurant industry and open-air burning. The EPA has also coordinated with Taipower’s Taichung and Hsinta Power Plants, both coal-burning power plants, to reduce air pollutant emissions in advance. Results of all environmental agencies’ measures will

One enterprise was fined due to incompliance with pollutant emission standards after a joint inspection of conducted by the EPA and the local environmental bureau on large stationary pollution. sources

be posted on the Severe Deteriorating Air Quality Warning Information Platform (https://goo.gl/mtRBJ6) for all to see.

Since air quality is greatly influenced by meteorological factors, the EPA cautioned the public to keep an eye on the latest air quality information as weather conditions are still unstable. People can visit the Taiwan Air Quality Monitoring Network (http://taqm.epa.gov.tw) and the i-Environment website (http://ienv.epa.gov.tw) to check on the latest air quality changes, or set up different alert levels with the "Environment Info Push" app on smartphones for better protection.

Air

Loan to Replace Old Trucks Adjusted to Cope with Coronavirus

In response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPA has been working with banks to provide temporary loan relief for new vehicle purchases that have been made to replace old diesel trucks. The relief plan allows vehicle owners who have difficulty meeting these loan payments to extend the interest-only payment periods to up to two years, or loan terms to five years. The EPA is prepared to face the current predicament with other enterprises and will continue providing interest subsidies for applicants to the diesel vehicle replacement incentive program.

To encourage the phasing out of old diesel vehicles and reduce the financial burden of individuals and small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the EPA amended the Low Carbon Sustainable Homeland Program Implementation Guidelines Regarding Loans and Guarantees on 28 May 2019. The revised guidelines provide credit guarantees for individuals or enterprises that wish to purchase a new vehicle to replace their old diesel trucks categorized under Phase 1 to 3 of the vehicle emission standards. Furthermore, the Subsidy Regulations for Replacing Large Diesel Vehicle Loans were promulgated on 31 May 2019 to subsidize up to one percent of loan interest for vehicle purchases that fall under Phase 1 to 3 diesel truck trade-ins. As of February 2020, the EPA approved 22 credit guarantees and 105 subsidized loan applications.

Since the recent coronavirus outbreak, many vehicle owners are unable to make payments due to the loss of income. To cope with this issue, the EPA has sought assistance from all relevant government agencies and 12 domestic banks and came up with a relief package that allows those in need to adjust loan terms and payment methods..

EIA

Qiaotou Science Park Enters Second Phase EIA

The EPA recently announced that the development project of the Qiaotou Science Park is to undergo the second phase of environmental impact assessment (EIA). The planned Qiaotou Science Park, located adjacent to the Chishan Fault and Gunshueiping Mud Volcano, is part of the Kaohsiung Urban Plan. The EPA has determined that the project could have "significant adverse impact on environmental resources and special environmental characteristics" and might "cause local environmental conditions to exceed environmental standards or the carrying capacity of the local environment". Hence, after careful evaluation of the gathered opinions from the EIA review committee, experts, scholars, and other quarters, the EPA has decided that the project is subject to the second phase of EIA.

The following is the list of information to be covered in the EIA report for the second phase of review:

1. The developers are required to submit a detailed report on the estimation of water and energy consumption and emissions of various types of pollutants (including air pollutants, wastewater and

other wastes) based on the type and characteristics of the industries to be introduced. Based on the estimation, the developers should then estimate the amount of hazardous substances that would be released by the science park during the operation, conduct a health risk assessment, and formulate total quantity control and other relevant environmental management plans.

2. The developers are to assess the potential impacts on air quality during the construction and operation periods and devise air pollutant reduction and monitoring measures accordingly. The calculation method and control strategies for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the achievable ratio of renewable energy use and implementation plans thereof should also be reported to the EPA.

3. The report should cover water sourcing plans, the feasibility of increasing the wastewater recycling rate, wastewater treatment processes, and potential impacts of wastewater discharge on Dianbao River. In addition, the developers should also come up with a thorough plan on the recycling and reuse of wastewater.

4. The developers are to assess the impacts of the waste that would be generated by the science park on current waste treatment capacity, set waste recycling goals and devise plans to install treatment facilities. Information on construction spoil calculation methods, planned temporary storage of the construction materials and other related environmental protection measures should also be covered.

5. The developers are to submit an assessment report on the impacts of the development activities towards neighboring drainage systems and on the risk of flooding. The report should also include the planning of drainage and flood detention systems, the impacts of climate extremes, as well as adaptation measures and emergency response plans.

6. The developers should investigate the environmental characteristics of the Chishan Fault and Gunshueiping Mud Volcano, and perform seismic hazard and soil liquefaction assessments for the area.

7. The developers are to strengthen investigation of ecosystems around the area and formulate conservation strategies and compensation measures for protected species.

8. The report should include planning for parking services and facilities and traffic improvements (including public transportation and shuttle services when operational) based on the estimated traffic volume during both construction and operation periods.

9. The developers are required to conduct polls of residents near and within the planned park location and to explain how the project can affect the residents' movement and other aspects of life.

Water

Taichung City Subsidized for Dongda River Water Environment Improvement

The EPA is subsidizing the Dongda River Water Environment and Neighboring Area Environmental Improvement Project. Hosted by EPA Deputy Minister Hung-Teh Tsai and Taichung City Mayor Shiow-yen Lu, the groundbreaking ceremony marked the rebirth of Dongda River.

As part of the third phase of the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program, the Fazi River Water Environment Improvement Plan - Dongda River Water Environment and Neighboring Area Environmental Improvement Plan has been allocated a budget of NT$300 million, of which NT$210 million is subsidized by the EPA. The EPA plans to install an underground gravel contact oxidation treatment facility with a daily water treatment capacity of 10,000 metric tons at the area downstream of Tunghai Night Market. Combined with the existing in-situ water treatment facility that can treat up to 2,000 metric tons daily, all upstream wastewater can be intercepted for treatment, which will significantly reduce the water pollution in Dongda River.

Dongda River, situated in Xitun District, Taichung City, is one of the major branches of Fazi River which flows through the Tunghai Night Market and Taichung Industrial Park. With the growing population and the rising industrial and business development in the region, the water quality of Dongda River and the general environment of the area have been gradually deteriorating over time due to increased human activity. The water quality of the river is significantly affected by the rainwater runoff from both the industrial park and Tunghai University, as well as by wastewater discharge from households and businesses along the riverbanks.

To foster eco-friendly river environments, the Taichung City Government has been actively reviewing the environmental planning for Fazi River and its neighboring areas, and has collaborated with the EPA on the Dongda River Remediation Plan since 2015. This time, as part of the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program, the remediation plan will enter the second phase of implementation to further improve river water quality. Since the target area covers the campus of Tunghai University, the university is also participating in the formulation and design aspects of the plan to create superior water environment education venues for its students.

Since the wastewater discharged from the night market upstream contains a large amount of fatty matter, the EPA is strengthening the grease removal capacity of the pre-treatment unit while also enhancing the treatment efficiency of the existing facility. Influent wastewater first goes through the process of screening, desilting, and grease removal. Then, it is transferred to an underground gravel contact oxidation treatment facility for purification before going back to Dongda River to supplement the base flow, and is used for environmental landscaping of the surrounding area. The River Pollution Index is expected to move from being classified as “seriously polluted” to “lightly polluted” after the project is implemented. Some of the purified water will also be discharged to a creek in Tunghai University to create a river park and provide more recreational space for the public.

The EPA is devoted to water environment improvement works and has provided the Taichung City Government with NT$800 million in subsidies for improvements, including: pollution source investigation and control, river patrols, pollution emergency response, pollution source total quantity control, and river remediation of Liu-Chuan Canal and Wuqi River. As a part of the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program, a subsidy of NT$2 billion has been approved for the Taichung City Government for river remediation and water quality improvement.

News Briefs

Public EPA Event Held at Daan Forest Park to Raise Environmental Awareness

On 7 March 2020, the EPA held an air pollution awareness event at Daan Forest Park and invited Dr. Kun-Jun Jiang to speak about how people can reduce health risks from air pollution. The event aimed to raise the environmental awareness of the public by inviting people to come into contact with nature and learn about air pollution sources firsthand.

The event’s theme was “air” and besides Dr. Jiang’s speech it featured: a stage show on air pollution titled “Welcome to Paradise”, a picture book reading session, and a yoga experience activity to learn how to reduce anxiety and clean the respiratory system.

Regulations on Certification and Management for Chemical Emergency Response Organizations Announced

According to Article 6 and Article 37 of the *Toxic and Concerned Chemical Substances Control Act*, the EPA promulgated the *Regulations Governing the Certification and Management of Emergency Response and Consultation Institutions for Toxic and Concerned Chemical Substances*. The regulations aim to strengthen overall emergency prevention and response capacities for environmental accidents.

The regulations aim to increase chemical emergency response and consultation staff competency by establishing a certification system for organizations that provide professional emergency response and consultation support

The EPA held an air pollution awareness event at Daan Forest Park and a yoga experience activity for people to learn how to reduce anxiety and clean the respiratory system.

services. The regulations contain stipulations on the management of professional emergency response staff, covering training qualifications, number of staff, on-the-job training, training record keeping, and training certification issuance, registration, and cancellation. The regulations also establish a certification system to ensure the quality of implementation by organizations with respect to prevention, emergency response, restoration and aftercare related to chemical incidents.

Review Fee Rates for Industrial Waste Clearance and Disposal Plans Amended

The *Regulations Governing the Review of Industrial Waste Clearance and Disposal Plans* were amended on 16 November 2017 to include regulations on the extension of disposal plans. In response to these amendments, and to account for the current price index and the increased cost for the equipment and manpower needed for review procedures, the EPA has revised the *Review Fee Rates for Industrial Waste Clearance and Disposal Plans*. The main points of the revisions include:

1. Adding the fee rates for extensions of disposal plans based on the amendments to the *Regulations Governing the Review of Industrial Waste Clearance and Disposal Plans.*

2. Adding the fee rates for online review and setting them at 80% of rates for the mail-in method.

3. A single fee rate will be applied to the following industries since they produce fewer types of hazardous industrial waste: photo printing businesses equipped with automatic printers, dry cleaning businesses, long-term care centers, care and nursing organizations and nursing homes.

Electronic Environmental Policy Monthly
R. O. C. (Taiwan)

Publisher
Tzi-Chin Chang, Minister

Editor-in-Chief
Shyh-Wei Chen

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