



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

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Ma urges greater green productivity



ROC President Ma Ying-jeou delivers an address at the inauguration of the Asian Productivity Organization's Center of Excellence on Green Productivity Nov. 5 in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Presidential Office)

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ROC President Ma Ying-jeou said Nov. 5 that the process for Taiwan to become a low-carbon, green energy society may be painful, but the objective can be achieved through concerted efforts and hard work.

“We must raise our green productivity under the premises of cutting down on energy consumption, while still being able to achieve our national production goals,” Ma said.

The president's comments came at the inauguration of the Asian Productivity Organization's Center of Excellence on Green Productivity in Taipei City.

According to Ma, Taiwan established the China Productivity Center in 1955 and became a founding member of the APO in 1961, so the nation has a long history of involvement in such undertakings. “The APO has long helped its members raise productivity in the industrial, agricultural and service sectors. Its focus on greening production in recent years has been in line with Taiwan's promotion of low-carbon and green energy policy,” he said.

“ROC government policy concentrates on six main emerging industries: green energy sources, biotechnology, tourism, health care, high-end agriculture and cultural innovation,” Ma said. “A further four emerging smart industries—cloud computing, smart electric vehicles, smart green construction and industrial application of patents—have been added to the green industry push.”

Ma said that the nation cut its carbon emissions by 6.1 million metric tons last year, equivalent to the planting of 61,000 trees. The Environmental Protection Administration is set to establish New Taipei, Taichung, Tainan and Yilan as low-carbon cities by 2014, as well as transforming outlying Penghu and Kinmen counties into low-carbon islands. Further expansion of the plan will include the north, center, south and east parts of Taiwan by 2020, demonstrating the nation's commitment to emission reduction.

"Last year Taiwan disposed of 3.38 million metric tons of trash," the president said. "Compared with the peak year of 1998, this is a reduction of 62 percent. Meanwhile, recycling has risen from 42 percent in 2007 to 65 percent in 2012.

"The government has also saved 20 billion kilowatt hours of electricity since instituting an economy plan five years ago."

The APO is one of the few international organizations in which the nation participates under its official title of the ROC, the Ministry of Economic Affairs said. Earlier this year, Taiwan won the right to host the body's Center of Excellence on Green Productivity.

The center will draw on the resources of the APO and domestic academics, industry representatives, officials and researchers, the MOEA said. Local and international experts will be invited to provide training seminars and exchanges, as well as compile and publish technical manuals to promote best practices, so that APO member states with relevant skills and expertise can support other members in enhancing green competitiveness. (SDH)

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