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YOUR BEST INVESTMENT CHOICE

—— **BRAVO!**  
**TAIWAN**



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# **BRAVO! TAIWAN**

Taiwan is centrally located in the Asia-Pacific, with Continental America across the Pacific to the east, Japan to the north, the massive interior of Mainland China to the west, and the emerging markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to the south. Whether for shipment by sea or air, Taiwan is in an excellent position for linking to the Asia-Pacific and global markets.

Taiwan's products are marketed worldwide, its technology industry is a world-leader, and it has innovative research and development (R&D) capabilities, an entrepreneurial spirit in constant search of improvement, a friendly investment environment that is world class, and mature and rational citizens. Its industrial sector possesses outstanding production capacity, and its investment environment has performed strongly in international rankings. Taiwan has the world's densest collection of industrial clusters, each rich in innovative R&D capabilities and production experience. Investors who choose Taiwan to serve as their Asian regional innovation center or operational headquarters will quickly be able to penetrate the emerging markets of the Asia-Pacific.

Among Taiwan's leading soft powers is the innovative abilities of its citizens. Their achievements are frequently recognized in international competitions, especially in the areas of innovation, invention and design. In past years, they have excelled in world-leading design competitions, including Germany's Industrie Forum Design Hannover and Red Dot, Japan's Good Design, and the United States' IDEA.



Taiwan also features world-class medical technology and service quality. Its medical resources and management meet the standards of advanced nations, and it has a national health insurance system that is highly praised around the world. International tourists tout the friendly tourism environment. Taiwan is not only one of the world's great bicycle manufacturing centers but also a popular destination for round-the-island cycling tours.

Investors who come to Taiwan can benefit from competitive advantages and support, together with a rich culture and a hospitable living environment. A convenient transportation network provides smooth and seamless travel between the north and south. Widely distributed convenience stores that are open year-round without a break combine with hypermarkets to provide a favorable shopping environment. Overall, life in Taiwan is relaxed and free. Foreign nationals who come to Taiwan to work, live or travel praise the food, scenery, architecture, culture and convenient lifestyle. Their deepest impressions are of the warm nature of the Taiwanese people, a quality that also constitutes Taiwan's most enticing soft power. Taiwanese are not only hardworking, innovative, friendly and generous, but also tolerant and helpful to others. Such characteristics infuse Taiwanese society with vigor and promote relentless advancement.

The purpose of this report is to help investors understand Taiwan's industrial development strategies, investment opportunities and locations, benefits and incentives. An appendix lists company establishment procedures, investment service organizations and contact information that can serve as a reference for investors.

# 布局

## Business Climate

Taiwan is located at the southernmost point of Northeast Asia, at the center of the East Asian island arc and the western edge of the Pacific Ocean, with Japan and the Ryukyu Islands to the north and the Philippines to the south. It is not only an important Asia-Pacific trade and logistics hub but also a major strategic base. Across its 36,000 km<sup>2</sup> are diverse natural elements and rich cultures.



# Getting to Know this Asia-Pacific Hub

## A Diverse Natural Environment

Taiwan is an island that consists of nearly two-thirds mountainous and hilly terrain and one-third tablelands, plains and basins. Mountain ranges that dominate the land contain more than 200 peaks over 3,000 m and run mostly north to south. Counted among them is the Central Mountain Range, which cuts a vertical swathe down the island and serves as its east-west watershed.

The combination of the Tropic of Cancer running through Taiwan and the high-mountain terrain creates a natural ecology comprising at least three distinct climate zones: tropical, sub-tropical and high-elevation temperate. Living in this diverse environment are nearly 4,000 endemic species, including the Formosan landlocked salmon, Formosan macaque, Formosan black bear and Swinhoe's pheasant. These animals thrive in world-class conservation areas spread among Taiwan's nine national parks and 13 national scenic areas.

Elements that dot the marine landscape include capes and bays, rocky banks and beaches, and lagoons. This rich natural environment fosters exciting, growing recreational industries such as climbing, hiking, river tracing and rafting in the mountains, as well as scuba diving, surfing, snorkeling and whale watching at sea.

## A Pleasant Climate

Generally speaking, Taiwan remains warm throughout the year, with spring and winter seeing greater temperature variations than fall and summer. The average annual temperature is 22°C, with lows typically hovering around 12-17°C. The south is usually warmer than the north, with average January temperatures of approximately 16°C in Taipei and 20°C in Kaohsiung.

Stationary fronts during the change from spring to summer (March - May) bring frequent precipitation to northern and eastern regions, while summer (June - August) is hot with the occasional typhoon. Autumn features clear skies and cool weather, while the arrival of the occasional cold front in winter (December - February) provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy hot springs. Overall, Taiwan's climate makes it a pleasant place to live and travel. The hospitable weather during each of the four seasons sustains a wide range of fruits, vegetables and flowers that satisfies culinary and aesthetic desires.

## A Diverse History and Culture

A diverse range of peoples and ethnic groups makes up Taiwanese society, from aboriginals and Han Chinese to the recent new immigrants from Southeast Asia and other regions. Their history, languages, culture and religious beliefs blend into the everyday culinary, architectural and lifestyle habits of Taiwan, contributing to the rich and colorful culture of the island. The resulting stimulation brings endless vitality and creativity to Taiwanese society and opens valuable new cultural possibilities in the areas of music, art, industrial arts, architecture and lifestyle aesthetics.

Mandarin is the lingua franca of Taiwan, and various ethnic groups use Taiwanese Hokkien, Hakka or one of 16 indigenous languages in everyday speech. Many members of the older generations who were educated during the Japanese colonial period can also speak Japanese. In terms of religions and belief systems, Taiwan is a tolerant society that welcomes traditional Buddhism and Taoism, folk beliefs, Christianity, Islam and other religions. Each entered Taiwan at a different time and subsequently prospered in an accepting environment.



## A Stable Political System

Taiwan is a free and democratic country that enjoys a high level of political freedom and stability. In four-year cycles citizens participate in democratic elections to directly elect the president, lawmakers, local leaders and local councilors. These rulers and representatives must act in accordance with popular opinion, accept public oversight and be responsible toward citizens.

Taiwan is currently a member of several international economic organizations, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Taiwan engages in frequent trade and exchange with over 140 countries worldwide. As the global economy becomes freer and undergoes rapid development, Taiwan is constantly adjusting its industrial strategies, easing regulations and removing investment restrictions. As it strengthens intellectual property rights protection regulations, Taiwan moves in line with international trends.

Taiwan's overall trade performance remains stable. In the "2021 Index of Economic Freedom," compiled by the Heritage Foundation, United States, Taiwan ranked 10th among the 184 economic entities covered and sixth in the Asia-Pacific area, trailing only Singapore. Whether in terms of business freedom or trade freedom, Taiwan's performance was excellent.

## Foreign Investment

As of the end of 2020, 61,487 investment projects worth US\$187.275 billion had been approved since Taiwan began acquiring foreign direct investment in 1952. The leading five sources of foreign investment in Taiwan are the Netherlands, the British territories in the Caribbean, the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom; and the top five invested industries have been finance and insurance, electronic component manufacturing, wholesale and retail, information and communications, and professional, scientific and technical services.

In 2020, Taiwan approved 3,418 foreign investment projects representing total investment of US\$9.144 billion. The five leading sources of foreign investment were Denmark, the British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Luxembourg, accounting for approximately 70.15% of total overseas investment for the year. The five leading invested industries were finance and insurance, professional, scientific and technical services, wholesale and retail, power and gas supply, and electronic components manufacturing, accounting for about 77.76% of total foreign investment.

### Major Economic Indicators, Taiwan 2020

GDP	US\$6,690 billion
GDP per Capita	US\$28,383
Economic Growth	3.11%
Export Value	US\$3,452.8 billion
Import Value	US\$2,864.9 billion
Foreign Exchange Reserves	US\$5,299.11 billion (end of 2020)
Unemployment	3.68% (end of 2020)
Labor Participation Rate	59.14%

Sources: 1. Invest in Taiwan website (<http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw/>)  
2. National Statistics, ROC (Taiwan) website (<http://www.stat.gov.tw/>)

## Forward-Looking Global Vision

The manufacturing and high-tech sectors drive Taiwan's economic development. Many of Taiwan's products and industries, such as motherboards, integrated circuit packaging and testing, semiconductor foundry, functional fabrics, desktop and notebook computers, and bicycles, rank number 1 worldwide in terms of output value. Faced with global competition pressures and industrial transformation challenges, the government and private sector have stepped up the pace of industrial structure adjustments with the aim of overcoming development bottlenecks while also sowing the seeds for the next wave of economic growth.

### Transforming Economic Structures via Deregulation and Innovation

Taiwan enjoys many advantages that other countries lack. Besides the vibrancy and resilience of a maritime economy, it features a high-quality labor force, well-developed industrial chains, nimble and agile small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and a relentless entrepreneurial spirit. In the future, Taiwan will pursue a new economic model for sustainable development based on the core values of innovation, employment and equitable distribution.



#### About Taiwan

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Land Area: 36,000 km<sup>2</sup>

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Population: 2,383.4 million

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Primary Ethnic Groups: Han Chinese, Aborigines, New Immigrants

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Languages: Mandarin, Taiwanese Hokkien, Hakka, Indigenous Languages

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Religions/Belief Systems: Buddhism, Taoism, Folk Beliefs, Christianity, Islam

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Capital: Taipei

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## Four Core Factors Leading the Way to Economic Development and Upgrading

### ■ Promoting Industrial Innovation

The goal of industrial transformation is to upgrade the manufacturing and service industries. Based on the three principles of "Connect Locally," "Connect to the Future," and "Connect Globally," Taiwan will promote the following 5+2 Industries: the "Asian Silicon Valley," "Smart Machinery," "Biomedicine," "Green Energy," "National Defense," "New Agriculture," and the "Circular Economy" along with the "Digital Economy," "IC and Semiconductor Design," and "Cultural Innovation" industry innovations using existing 5G, artificial intelligence, big data, Internet of Things, blockchain, and other digital technologies to promote the 5+2 Innovative Industries Program, strengthen the development of emerging industries and new technologies, promote the upgrading of existing industries, and inject new energy into economic growth. This will create an environment friendly to the close integration of investment, technology, and human resources, and will spur industry to develop industrial clusters based on local demand, while tapping into the drive for global innovation and embracing global markets. Taiwan has high surplus savings. To integrate capital, technologies, and industries, the government will actively optimize the investment environment in the five key areas of financial assistance, talent mobilization, relaxed regulations, international networking, and development of innovative fields to optimize the investment environment for new ventures and build a visible future for youth.

Support for SMEs will aid the pursuit of innovation, international sales and capital acquisition. Through the encouragement of cooperation between industry and academia, universities and research institutions will provide SMEs and local industry with R&D, talent and technology.

### ■ Management of Sustainable Energy and Resources

Taiwan is fully committed to developing green energy sources to achieve the goal of increasing the share of electricity generated from renewables to 20% of total power generation by 2025. Construction of the third liquefied natural gas receiving facility will be accelerated to increase the use of natural gas for power generation and reduce pollution and carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants, to provide stable and clean electrical

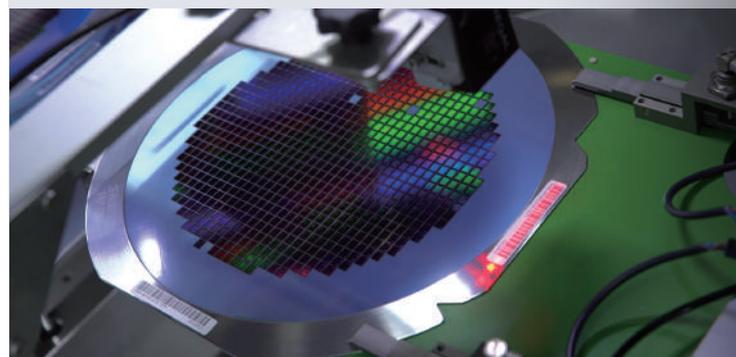


power and energy while achieving the policy goal of transforming our energy industry.

Taiwan is strengthening river flood control systems and promoting joint disaster prevention and relief mechanisms to implement comprehensive flood control and disaster prevention management. Moreover, the government is targeting the four areas of developing water sources, reducing leakage, improving allocation and improving emergency backup systems to develop a more diversified and sustainable water supply system. At the same time, the government is promoting water conservation, improving water supply management, and improving reservoir dredging to renew storage capacity and establish backup water supplies to effectively manage and flexibly allocate water resources, ensuring a reliable water supply.

### ■ Trade Expansion

Taiwan not only sells high-quality products to the international market; more importantly, it aims to strengthen mutually beneficial exchanges with other countries to promote the circulation of technology, capital and goods. Specific measures underway to enhance Taiwan's external economic and trade network and diversify trading partners include the promotion of comprehensive economic and trade relations through strengthening and expanding New Southbound markets while continuing to cultivate markets in advanced countries and emerging economies, active participation in multilateral and bilateral economic cooperation and free trade agreements, pursuit of entry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), strengthening of cooperation with Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies to expand global business opportunities, and promotion of the New Southbound Policy and strengthening of links with advanced industrial nations.





## ■ Building an Excellent Business Environment

The government continues to push forward with relaxing legal constraints, removing investment barriers and creating a healthy investment environment so as to boost the momentum of investment in Taiwan. Aside from undertaking major revisions to the Company Law and Statute for Industrial Innovation, and creating a friendly business and industrial innovation environment, the government is accelerating public infrastructure development projects to inject new life into domestic markets while actively addressing land, labor, water and electricity issues to resolve operational bottlenecks, thus boosting investor confidence, attracting increased investment and more talent, and invigorating economic growth in Taiwan. The Commodity Labeling Act has also been significantly revised, to find a balance between consumer protection and business operator efficiency, as well as to be in line with international standards.

Furthermore, in order to speed up investments, the government has established the Invest in Taiwan Office to enable foreign investors to clearly understand the qualifications and procedures for applying to invest in Taiwan through a single investment promotion and review process. This office adopts a business-oriented model of operations, establish a contact network between foreign chambers of commerce, domestic industry and commerce groups, overseas offices, central government agencies, and local governments, and recruit a diverse range of international talent, thereby adopting a proactive instead of passive stance with regard to investment promotion efforts.

## Promoting the New Model for Economic Development 2.0

The President proposed the next stage of financial policy objectives, "New Model for Economic Development 2.0" to build out six core strategic

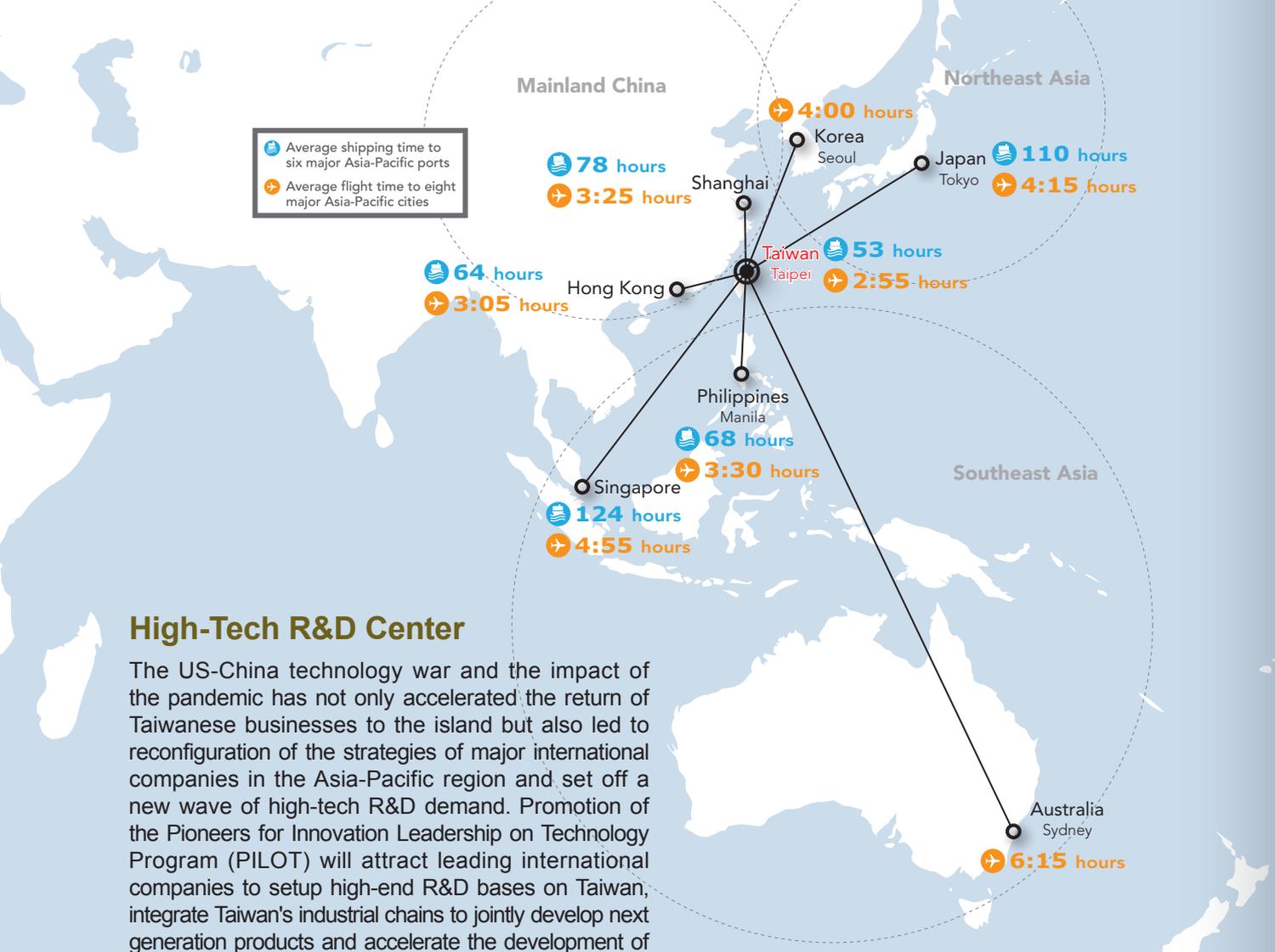
industries on the base of the 5+2 Innovative Industries Plan to secure opportunities for Taiwanese and foreign investment in Taiwan in line with the restructuring of global supply chains, and to comprehensively support the six major industries to prepare the talent, funding, regulations and brands they need. Going forward the government will continue to promote optimized transformation of industrial innovation and optimization of Taiwan's industrial ecosystem to build a digital nation and smart island. By cultivating a new generation of top quality talent, and through building out of the four cores of a high-end manufacturing center, advanced semiconductor processing center, high-tech R&D center and a green energy development center, bring another 20 years of prosperity to Taiwan's economy.

### High-end Manufacturing Hub

In response to the US-China trade war, high-end servers and other components of high-end manufacturing supply chains continue to return operations to Taiwan, as the coronavirus pandemic highlights the importance of decentralized organization. Through investment tax credits under the "Three Major Programs for Investing in Taiwan" and the "Statute for Industrial Innovation" manufacturers will be encouraged to engage in high-value-added production and introduce smart manufacturing to build Taiwan into a high-end manufacturing hub.

### Advanced Semiconductor Processing Center

AI and 5G are the tools of the next-generation industries, and semiconductors are the foundation advancing digital transformation. To ensure that Taiwan maintains its lead in the field of process technologies, TSMC, Micron Technology, Winbond Electronics, PSMC, and other semiconductor manufacturers continue to grow their sizable investments in Taiwan, which now total more than NT \$2.7 trillion. Taiwan will use this opportunity to attract key foreign semiconductor equipment and materials companies to invest in Taiwan and support Taiwan in establishing a complete semiconductor industry cluster, leverage the benefits of the industry cluster, and build Taiwan into an advanced semiconductor processing center.



Average shipping time to six major Asia-Pacific ports  
 Average flight time to eight major Asia-Pacific cities

## High-Tech R&D Center

The US-China technology war and the impact of the pandemic has not only accelerated the return of Taiwanese businesses to the island but also led to reconfiguration of the strategies of major international companies in the Asia-Pacific region and set off a new wave of high-tech R&D demand. Promotion of the Pioneers for Innovation Leadership on Technology Program (PILOT) will attract leading international companies to setup high-end R&D bases on Taiwan, integrate Taiwan's industrial chains to jointly develop next generation products and accelerate the development of emerging industrial clusters, building Taiwan to become a global high-tech R&D center.

## 10 Investment Advantages in Taiwan

Over the past several decades, economic development in Taiwan has been driven by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing industry. Traditional and technological products manufactured in Taiwan have earned international praise and have spread around the world. Taiwan's excellent geographic location, sound infrastructure, complete industrial supply chains, large numbers of R&D professionals and safe legal environment attract investment by international enterprises that choose Taiwan as a base to establish regional headquarters, research centers or logistics centers.

## An Asia-Pacific Logistics Hub

Taiwan is geographically located at the Asia-Pacific transportation hub connecting Northeast and Southeast Asia. Convenient travel from its world-class international airports makes it possible to fly in an average of just 2 hours 55 minutes from Taipei to six major cities in the western Pacific: Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong

Kong and Singapore. Convenient transport from its world-class harbors makes it possible to ship goods in an average of just 53 hours from the Port of Kaohsiung to five major ports in the region: Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo. Taiwan serves not only as an important bridge connecting Europe, America and Japan to emerging Asia-Pacific markets but also as a preferred location for multinationals to establish Asia-Pacific headquarters.

## A Platform Linking to the World

Neighboring Taiwan to the west is the engine of global economic growth and the world's second-largest economy, Mainland China. To the north is the world's third-largest economy, Japan, and to the east is the world's largest economy, the United States. To the south are the 10 states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Taiwan's excellent location places it in an ideal position to compete economically in Asia.

As the center of the global economy gradually moves from west to east, attention is shifting from mature to emerging markets. Whether in terms of language, geography or culture, Taiwan's proximity to the Mainland China market is indispensable. Other advantages, such as the ability to innovate, manufacturing strength, and the integration of Taiwanese businesses into Asian industrial chains, lead international enterprises to

choose Taiwan as their base for entering Mainland China and the emerging markets of Asia. They then use Taiwan as a platform to expand worldwide.

## Excellent Performance in International Rankings

Taiwan's investment environment scores highly in numerous international rankings. In the "Global Competitiveness Report 2019," issued by the World Economic Forum, Taiwan came in 12th out of 141 economies and fourth in the Asia-Pacific. The Economist Intelligence Unit ranked Taiwan's business environment to be 13th best in the world in its projection for the 2019 period.

In the second "Business Environment Risk Intelligence" report of 2021, Taiwan ranks as the world's fourth best investment destination. In the World Bank's "Doing Business 2020" report, Taiwan finished 15th out of 190 economies for ease of doing business.

## Strong Industrial Clusters

The distribution of industrial clusters in Taiwan can generally be broken down into electronics and technology in the north, precision machinery in central regions, and petrochemicals and heavy industry in the south (Key industry distribution is further described in the attachments section of this book). The World Economic Forum's "Global Competitiveness Report 2019" named Taiwan's "State of Cluster Development" as fifth best in the world. From upstream to midstream to downstream, Taiwan offers sound industrial supply chains that can meet client needs, offer fast response times and quickly provide customized components. In terms of quality and quantity, the competitive nature of Taiwanese products is a major reason why foreign investors choose the island as an investment destination.

The highly developed nature of its industrial clusters has made Taiwan the world's second-largest information hardware producer. The island's semiconductor foundry industry and semiconductor packaging and testing industry are first in the world. Its IC design industry is ranked second in the world and its PC products industry is third. Another success story is the bicycle industry. Taiwan's two leading bicycle companies, Giant and Merida attracted over 80% of their industry to central Taiwan (Taichung City and Changhua County), leading integration of up, mid and downstream supply chains and forming the world's strongest high-end bicycle supply base. In particular, the export volume and export value of electrically assisted



bicycles have grown steadily year on year since 2016 and are expected to respond even more in coming years due to the pandemic. People's commuting habits have changed, the global demand for bicycles and electrically assisted bicycles has skyrocketed and orders are full for both bicycle and parts manufacturers. Through close cooperation across teams every effort will be made to provide the world with personal infection-prevention means of transportation which in turn will raise Taiwan's recognition.

## Excellent Labor Force

Taiwan has an outstanding workforce. Taiwan's universal education system of colleges, universities, and postgraduate schools produce over 300,000 graduates every year. In 2020, a total of 6.08 million students with at least a university or college education were employed, representing 52.8% of the overall employed population. In the World Economic Forum's "Global Competitiveness Report 2019," Taiwan's ranking for labor market efficiency is number 15 out of 141 economies. This showing is attributed to a tax system that encourages people to work and an increase in the labor participation rate among women. The government continues to promote world-class universities and research centers that will turn Taiwan into an East Asian center for higher education and a major exporter of Chinese language education. By drawing on these resources, multinational enterprises can satisfy the manpower needs associated with entering the Asia-Pacific market.

## Sound Infrastructure

Taiwan has a dense, comprehensive transportation network. External links include highly developed sea and air transport systems that connect via seven international harbors and 17 airports. Internal links include railways and highways, such as the island-wide conventional rail and highway systems, the west coast high-speed rail line, a national freeway system and several east-west expressways that link the north-south freeways.

Coupled with metro systems in Taipei and Kaohsiung as well as the Taoyuan airport metro, these convenient transportation networks make travel to anywhere in Taiwan within a few hours possible and the shipment and storage of commercial goods cost-effective, fast and efficient.

Other advantages include relatively inexpensive water, electricity and telecommunications utilities that approach 100% penetration. In 2016, the World Economic Forum's "Network Readiness Index" placed Taiwan 19th in the world, in part due to the widespread availability of network applications. Taiwan's e-government services are among the best in the world, and its advanced digital technology is another strong attraction for foreign commercial enterprises.

## Sound Legal Environment

Taiwan's Constitution stipulates that issues concerning human rights and contractual obligations and duties should be clearly prescribed by law; therefore, businesses find that regulations relating to taxes and fees are transparent and clear. Taiwan enjoys a healthy and independent legal system, with the average Taiwanese citizen having a high sense of awareness and respect for the law. Predictability and stability in business operations, therefore, are high. At the same time, commercial regulations are quickly adjusted in line with changing international norms and foreign investors enjoy substantial protection under the Statute for Investment by Foreign Nationals.

## Sound Intellectual Property Protection

Taiwan's intellectual property laws are open and transparent. Not only do they meet the basic guidelines established under international treaties, they have also undergone revisions in response to business and



international intellectual property law developments. Furthermore, Taiwan continues to strengthen the efficiency and quality of the patent and trademark application review process while also optimizing online application and status tracking systems to provide companies with even better service.

Taiwan has established a court dedicated to hearing intellectual property cases and an IPR police force dedicated to investigating counterfeiting and piracy. In response to technology and Internet developments and the strengthening of protection for business secrets, Taiwan has focused specifically on enhancing the professional training of law enforcement personnel. Thus, the overall climate for protecting intellectual property is complete and friendly for intellectual property holders and has won the praise of multinational corporations and IPR organizations alike.

In 2010, Taiwan and Mainland China signed the “Cross-Strait Agreement on Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Cooperation,” which provides an official channel for Taiwanese to apply for and claim patents, trademarks and plant variety rights. An official working group and platform have been set up to ensure the operation of the dispute resolution mechanism and help Taiwanese businesses protect their intellectual property rights in Mainland China.

Taiwan is actively expanding international exchange and cooperation in the area of intellectual property and maintains close ties with the various institutions, chambers of commerce and organizations representing intellectual property rights holders. The government is also happy to receive progressive and constructive feedback with regard to intellectual property protection so that we may establish a positive intellectual property environment and provide businesses with safeguards with regard to their R&D and innovations, which in turn boosts business opportunities and economic development.

## A Friendly Fundraising and Financing Environment

Abundant capital, stable exchange rates, and relatively low interest rates and capital costs make Taiwan a friendly environment for fundraising and financing. Policies to attract foreign investment include relaxing restrictions on foreign enterprises that seek to raise capital and simplifying fundraising administrative procedures.

In terms of direct financing, the cost of listing on an exchange or over-the-counter market is lower in Taiwan than in Hong Kong or China. The price-earnings ratio and price-to-book ratio of shares are reasonable and

liquidity is good. As of the end of 2020, there were 77 foreign companies with a primary listing in Taiwan and 33 foreign companies with a primary OTC listing on the island. Opening of the Go Incubation Board for Startup and Acceleration Firms (GISA) and an exchange-based crowd funding program has further diversified Taiwan's fundraising channels.

In terms of indirect financing, Taiwan's high savings rate is a source of abundant capital and its low interest rates reduce the cost of financing. Incentives offered to banks that provide loans to SMEs and key startup firms make bank financing services further available to businesses of all types and sizes.

## A Diverse Culture of Innovation

Taiwan boasts a thriving R&D sector. Innovative elements bring worldwide popularity to its high-tech consumer electronic products, chain store services, bicycles, pearl milk tea and Chinese-language music.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has listed Taiwan as an innovation-driven economy. In the 2019 WEF Global Competitiveness Report's innovation pillar, Taiwan was ranked 4th globally and 3rd in Asia, in terms of company R&D expenditure investment levels, Taiwan was ranked 10th globally. In the Global Entrepreneurship Development Institute's Global Entrepreneurship Index report, Taiwan was ranked 5th in terms of Entrepreneurial Aspirations. These rankings show that whether in terms of actual company R&D expenditures or entrepreneurial aspirations, Taiwan is among the countries leading the way forward. They also show that, coupled with Taiwan's industry cluster development and its long-term competitiveness (5th in the WEF global competitiveness index report), these factors have fostered a diverse and innovative local culture and excellent environment. Aside from this, Taiwan also has more than 10 technology research institutions, including Industrial Technology Research Institute and the Institute for Information Industry, which are not only responsible for leading the island's industrial development but also for cultivating a large number of science and technology research and development talent, making them ideal partners for foreign companies seeking to enter the Asia-Pacific and global markets.

# 脈動

## Right Moment

Through a combination of excellent R&D technology and manufacturing capabilities, Taiwan offers a fast and close-knit division of labor in everything from product R&D and manufacturing to supplies and services. Past successes in production and operations by Taiwanese enterprises not only reduce trial time for new entrants but also lower operating costs. Whether foreign investors interested in expanding into Asia-Pacific markets plan to establish research centers or regional headquarters, Taiwan offers an ideal environment and outstanding opportunities for investment.



## 5+2 Innovative Industries Program

For many years, Taiwan's economic development model focused on contract manufacturing of ICT products for export. This model not only sustained Taiwan's growth momentum, but also established a highly-efficient manufacturing advantage. Nevertheless, in the wake of Industry 4.0, and such global economic shifts as the reindustrialization of European and North American countries, emergence of supply chains in China, and the U.S.-China trade conflict, Taiwan's past "contract manufacturing" industrial development model faces major challenges. In addition, with the rise of the new digital economy, Internet titans such as Google, Facebook, and Amazon have overturned the existing operating models of industries. Furthermore, digital technologies including the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain technology have accelerated the development of such innovative models as Taiwan's platform economy, experience economy, and sharing economy.

Responding to the dual challenges of changes in the global division of labor and rise of the digital economy, Taiwan must seek a new position in global value chains, and must accelerate the structural upgrading and digital transformation of its industries if it is to seize opportunities for development in the digital economy. According to data from the World Economic Forum (WEF), Taiwan's economic development level formally shifted from the "factor-driven" and "efficiency-driven" stages to the "innovation-driven" stage in 2011. In the face of the age of the digital knowledge economy, innovation will be a main driving force behind Taiwan's economic growth, and will be an essential key to industrial transformation and upgrading.

In order to create an innovation-driven economic growth model, and make the most of the advantageous status of domestic industries, the government has promoted the "Asian Silicon Valley," "smart machinery," "green energy," "biomedicine," "new agriculture," "national defense," and "circular economy" industrial innovation programs in line with its three linking principles of "Connect Locally," "Connect to the Future," and "Connect Globally." These programs point the way to future industrial development directions, and build on existing 5G, artificial intelligence, big data, IoT, and blockchain technologies to promote the 5+2 Industrial Innovation Plan 2.0, strengthen the development of innovative industries and new technologies, and promote industrial upgrading to bring new momentum to economic growth.

### Asia Silicon Valley (IoT)

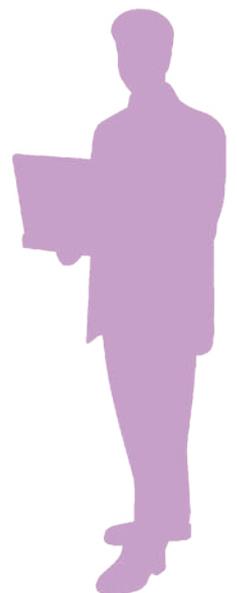
#### Policy Focus

Vision for the Asian Silicon Valley project: Use the industrial advantages of Taiwan's ICT and semiconductor industries to promote development of the Internet of Things and improve the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem as the two main cores. Connect with global advanced technology research and development forces, promote Taiwan's hardware prowess in software applications, and guide Taiwan's future new economic development model. The Internet of Things is expected to upgrade and transform the industry. Innovative business will stimulate economic growth building Taiwan into a key force for digital innovation in Asia.

Two Core Objectives of the "Asia Silicon Valley":

#### ■ Promotion of innovative R&D on the Internet of Things:

This objective includes promoting the development of Internet of Things (IoT) application services through the strengthening of collaboration with Silicon Valley and other global innovation clusters; introducing international R&D initiatives in Taiwan and constructing value chains of the IoT through cross-disciplinary integration; and creating a demonstration area for diverse intelligent applications, developing smart transportation and smart medical applications, and advancing the development of IoT application services.



## ■ Creating a sound innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem:

This objective includes using innovation and entrepreneurship to drive economic growth by invigorating innovative talent, establishing comprehensive financial assistance, optimizing the regulatory environment, strengthening international links, and creating a sound innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

**Asia Silicon Valley Project budget and funding assistance:** A total of NT\$5.693 billion (approximately US\$199 million) was allocated in the 2021 science and technology and public infrastructure budgets to promote the digital economy, the Internet of Things, innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as additional funding provided for investment and financing assistance, including:

- **Investment funds:** US\$ 3.3 billion for industrial innovation and entrepreneurship transition funds and US\$ 330 million for a national investment company (Taishan Investment and Management Co. Ltd.)
- **Startup funds:** Established an angel investment fund which reached NT\$5 billion (US\$175 million) in 2020.
- **Financing assistance:** Banks are encouraged to provide loans for innovative ventures in the 5+N industries. From June 2016 through December 2020 lending was increased to NT\$150 billion (US\$5.263 billion).

## Investment Opportunities

### ■ Collaboration with Taiwanese firms in developing IoT applications

- The Internet of Things (IoT) promises vast potential business opportunities. According to a forecast made by the international research and consulting company Gartner in November of 2018, the number of Internet-linked devices reached 4.8 billion in 2019, and is estimated to grow 21% in 2020 to 5.8 billion. The number of connected devices is expected to further grow 32.6% in 2021 to 25 billion, demonstrating the continued rapid growth of IoT. Taiwan's advantages in hardware manufacturing in the ICT industry (such as small-scale and diversified or large-scale production), allows foreign IoT companies to partner with Taiwanese companies to complement technology or innovate business models, focusing on technology development or business model innovation planning. Taiwan's industry takes on hardware manufacturing (small and diverse or large-scale production), co-creating the IoT value chain through the integration of software and hardware, developing smart application services, and jointly expanding into the international market.
- Micron, a global memory manufacturer, for example, cooperates with Taiwan's Advantech and other companies to develop IoT solutions for smart manufacturing, smart medicine, and traffic control systems to jointly expand the global AIoT market.
- Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and the French telecomm company Orange, for example, both chose to partner with Taiwan's Glory Technology Service to promote smart transportation solutions in the new southbound countries of Thailand and the Philippines, on the Red Line of the Bangkok

rail system and the Manila Light Rail Transit System.

- The domestic IoT industry and the startup community have jointly formed the "Asian Silicon Valley Internet of Things Industry Alliance." Cisco, Microsoft, and IBM have already joined the alliance. Other foreign businesses are welcome to join the alliance and participate in exchanges and collaborate with domestic manufacturers to create new modes of cooperation.

### ■ Taiwan: A Forward-looking Intelligent Demonstration Site for the Asia-Pacific Market

- Taiwan boasts a unique blend of highly-concentrated and diversified industrial clusters, including semiconductor, electronics and petrochemical industry clusters; a broad range of industry knowledge, speedy certification and import services, strict attention to information security, and rich and innovative business resources. These qualities allow manufacturers to use Taiwan as an ideal test site for Asia-Pacific market penetration in terms of feasibility verification of smart logistics, smart medicine, intelligent power grids, intelligent transportation, intelligent manufacturing, intelligent energy, and other application systems prior to entering the greater China and Southeast Asian markets.
- The Taiwanese company AAEON Technology smart street lighting solution is an example of a system that uses Microsoft's cloud platform services and Intel processors to ascertain the status of lighting equipment and sense air quality and traffic flows to lower costs and save energy. The system is has been deployed in Taipei city.





## ■ International Manufacturers, Research Institutions, and Investor-related Institutions are Welcomed to Conduct R&D in Taiwan

- Taiwan has an excellent manufacturing spirit, exceptional technical talent and rich innovation, and a passionate entrepreneurial outlook. Foreign enterprises that come to Taiwan to set up innovative R&D
- Taking Microsoft and Google as examples, Microsoft established an Internet of Things innovation center in Taiwan in October of 2016 to provide consulting and technical services. The company established an AI center in January of 2018 investing NT\$1 billion for the development of AI technologies and applications. The "Microsoft Startup Accelerator" was established in November of 2018 to provide consulting and training services to startup teams in Taiwan. In October of 2020, the company established a regional data center and expanded the cloud system research teams to support domestic development of AIOT and 5G. Google began implementing its "Intelligent Taiwan" plan in March 2018, which has already trained more than 5,000 AI personnel and 50,000 digital marketing personnel, and plans to train 30,000 AI personnel and 100,000 digital marketing personnel by the end of 2020. In January of 2021, Google officially moved into the Banqiao Park, doubling their R&D presence on the island and making Taiwan Google's largest R&D site in the Asia Pacific region. In November 2019, Cisco set up a smart innovation application demonstration center in Qingpu, Taoyuan, partnering with domestic industry players to develop smart retail and smart education solutions. These programs confirm that international firms value the development potential of Taiwan.

## Smart Machinery

### Policy Focus

The government will develop core and application technologies through the Smart Machinery Industry Promotion Program by connecting local, future, and international trends and integrating upstream, midstream, and downstream industries to encourage big businesses to switch to smart manufacturing processes, thus spurring industry expansion and guiding small and medium enterprises to improve their digital capabilities, advancing industrial upgrading, realizing the effects of leveraging and diffusion, and boosting the growth of industrial output value.

The establishment of smart robotics innovative maker sites by the Central Taiwan Science Park and Tainan Science Park has fostered the emergence of many startups and training of specialized R&D manpower.

The "Smart Machinery Industry Promotion Program" passed by the Executive Yuan combines the strengths of the machinery and ICT industries for the purpose of developing smart machinery applications and solutions. The program has begun implementing numerous policy measures geared to accelerating the development of a smart machinery industry:

- Establishment of a "smart machinery promotion office" in charge of integrating and coordinating interagency resources in order to reap gains from cooperation and synergy.
- A smart manufacturing technology verification facility in the Taichung City Precision Machinery Innovation

Technology Park has established a Taiwan smart manufacturing planning center, integrated AI intelligent software, a digital cloud platform and a 5G industrial application verification environment to provide a total solution for strategy transformation with all of the essential technology upgrades needed by domestic operators. European, American, and Japanese Industry 4.0 manufacturers are also invited to demonstrate smart manufacturing technology capabilities, and help accelerate the transformation to smart manufacturing in Taiwan.

- A smart machinery industry park in Fengzhou, Taichung is a manufacturing site for smart machinery products.
- Taichung's planned Shuinan International Convention Exhibition Center will provide a large trade show and conference venue, strengthening international connections.
- A smart manufacturing assistance team provides smart manufacturing consulting and technology matching services and by resolving industry pain points, assists small and medium-sized enterprises to enter into smart manufacturing and move towards digital transformation.
- Promotion of the adoption of smart machine boxes (SMBs), supporting the digitization of SMEs, accelerating the adoption of smart manufacturing, driving the upgrading of traditional industries and enhancing international competitiveness
- Assisting in the interconnecting of information systems, promoting the introduction of AI applications in the supply chain of small and medium-sized manufacturing industries, supporting industry and supply chain operators to integrate production information and employ AI technologies to raise production volumes, efficiencies, decision making quality.
- Add value with smart machinery cloud computing, use equipment to raise the value added; Accelerate the roll out of the smart machinery cloud computing platform.
- Promote the integration of the domestic smart machinery industry with international systems, build an international exchange platform and help with the upgrading of smart applications for SMEs.

## Investment Opportunities

### ■ A Hub for International Smart Machine Research and Development

International research firms and manufacturers can establish new companies or set up research and development centers or production bases in Taiwan, or engage in joint R&D ventures, technology transfer, or other means of joint participation in the development of Taiwan's smart machinery industry and the global smart manufacturing and applications market.

### ■ Participation in Emerging Smart Machinery Development Business Opportunities

- Digital modeling and analysis, product life cycle management, big data analysis, machine learning, artificial intelligence.
- Sensors, industrial and service robots, semiconductor front-end process and advanced packaging equipment, additive manufacturing.
- Integrated sensor and control equipment, production equipment and production lines, total solutions for integrated business intelligence and operations information systems.

### ■ Participation in Opportunities from Sustainable Growth

- In 2020 global industries faced formidable challenges in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the trade war between China and the US. Thanks to early deployment of anti-epidemic measures, Taiwan was able to seize the moment to reorganize supply chains and adjust economic policy. Overall export indicators fared better than neighboring Japan, Korea and Singapore. Strong demand for automation and smart technology applications, the coming on line of new technologies in AI and 5G and the ongoing trade war between China and the US drives manufacturers to setup secondary overseas production sites. At the same time, the results of Taiwanese-owned businesses returning to Taiwan or businesses which have maintained operations in Taiwan, as well as SMEs in Taiwan investing in the three core areas will continue to drive growth of the machinery industry.
- Taiwan's semiconductor industry continues to invest in advanced production processes. Firms in the supply chains of the information and communications, display panel, automotive, and electric vehicle industries are also investing in the installation of smart automated production lines. Lucrative business opportunities will derive from the stable growth in demand for smart machines.

## Green Energy

### Policy Focus

Green energy policies are primarily focused on energy generation, energy conservation, energy storage, and smarting systems integration with the aim of providing stable energy supplies, developing green energy generation, assuring sustainable operations, and reducing pollution and carbon emissions so as to achieve energy security, a green economy, and environmental sustainability.

The proportion of green energy in Taiwan's power supply is projected to increase from 4.8% in 2016 to 20% by 2025. Solar power and wind power are the focus of green energy investments. The two-year solar power promotion program, the green energy rooftop public participation program, the four-year wind power promotion program and the 2020 Photovoltaic Standards Project are all driving the growth of green energy industries in Taiwan. Installed capacity of photovoltaic systems is expected to reach 20GW by 2025, and 6.9GW for wind power.

The Shalun Smart Green Energy Science City will be constructed to serve as the hub of an industrial innovation ecosystem, with a focus on the development of energy conservation, energy generation, energy storage and smart systems integration, creating a green energy industry network and export center.

## Investment Opportunities

### ■ Opportunities for Investment in Green Energy

- Taiwan has set a 2025 target for green energy installed capacity; this will stimulate US\$60 billion of investment in green energy installations by that year, and spur opportunities for investment in related fields.
- Through an amendment to the for green energy installed capacity; this will stimulate US\$60 billion of investment in electric power to encourage liberalization of the market.
- Taiwan hopes to attract investment from foreign manufacturers for fully assembled offshore wind turbines, power conversion systems and undersea cables for wind generation systems; electric power systems, chassis assemblies, and whole vehicles for electric vehicles; and electrical converters and power storage systems for photovoltaic systems.
- Taiwan's government is implementing a ment from foreign manufacturers in the areas of blades, gear boxes, and power generators for offshore wind power turbines, offshore wind power, and the construction of facilities supporting related research and long-term development). Based on domestic needs, Taiwan will attract domestic and foreign investment to transform itself into an important base for the green energy industry in Asia.

### ■ Business Opportunities in Photovoltaic Energy

- Taiwan aims to increase its installed photovoltaic energy capacity to 20GW by 2025, bringing opportunities to supply NT\$50 billion worth of large converters.
- The demand for photovoltaic power storage systems is expected to grow steadily after 2020, providing a favorable environment for Taiwanese and international energy storage system manufacturers to engage in joint ventures.

### ■ Business Opportunities in Offshore Wind Power

- The government has announced 36 sites for offshore wind power development in the Taiwan Strait, providing domestic and foreign companies that intend to invest in offshore wind power development with an opportunity to invest in preliminary planning. This will attract domestic and foreign players to submit competing applications. Currently, projects totaling approximately 10GW of generation are under review by the Bureau of Energy, for which the Ministry of Economic Affairs has completed grid connection loading distribution work for 5.5GW of potential power generation sites and will gradually complete industrial and commercial transformation by 2025, creating domestic demand for offshore wind power.

The government has constructed a heavy machinery terminal in Taichung harbor dedicated to offshore wind power construction and a special industrial zone for the production of parts and components for offshore wind turbines, equipment related to the assembly of wind turbines, and construction companies. The government will also set up underwater infrastructure manufacturing plants at the Taipei and Xingda harbors and a transport and maintenance platform in Changhua's Lugang to support offshore wind turbine deployment with a complete industrial chain.

## Biomedicine

### Policy Focus

The implementation of the "Biotech and New Pharmaceutical Development Act" in July 2007 provided more tax incentives to companies engaging in new drug research and development in biotech. The scope of high-risk medical devices and the definitions of emerging biopharmaceutical products were announced on January 18, 2017.

In Nov. 2016, Taiwan adopted the "Biomedical Industry Innovation Promotion Program". The program focuses on biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, and health and well-being as well as three key developmental efforts: "Development of Niche Precision Medicine," "Development of International Grade Medical Treatment," and "Promotion of Health and Well-being."

The industry's targets for 2025 call for an output value of more than NT\$1 trillion, development and international marketing of 20 new drugs, introduction to the international market of 80 new medical devices, and fostering of at least 10 flagship health-service brands. The effort to achieve these targets will stimulate breakthrough growth in the output value of Taiwan's drug, medical device, and health and wellness industries.

### Investment Opportunities

#### ■ Opportunities in the Rapid Growth of the Domestic Market

Taiwan's 2018 biotech and health and wellness sector business volume reached NT\$ 514.8 billion, growing at an annual average rate of 5.6%.

#### ■ Investment in Taiwan for Asia-Pacific Deployment

With the growth Asia's elderly population and the rise of emerging economies in China and Southeast Asia, the demand for basic medical care, home care, health improvement and disease medication in the Asia-Pacific market has increased significantly. Foreign investors can make use of Taiwan's geographical advantage, talent, and technology parks, as well as government support measures such as tax incentives and R&D subsidies as specified in the "Act for the Development of Biotech and New Pharmaceuticals Industry" with the intention of positioning Taiwan as a production base and regional headquarters venue for accelerated entrance into the Asia-Pacific market.

#### ■ Investment Opportunities in Medical Devices

The supply chain for the development of Type II medical devices (including smart assistive devices, minimally invasive surgical imaging, orthopedics, dental materials, cell therapy, cranial and cardiovascular medicine and ophthalmology) in Taiwan is mature, and opportunities are actively being sought for cooperation in system integration and the development of high-end and high-value medical equipment. Foreign companies that invest in Taiwan will be able to accelerate the development and marketing of products with high quality and fair prices. Backed by Taiwan's marketing experience, they will be able to sell their products in China and other emerging markets.

#### ■ Investment Opportunities in Health Care

- Taiwan in 2018 has an aging population, with the elderly accounting for more than 14% of the total population. Taiwan is laying a foundation





for medical trials, and is adapting its policies and regulations to provide for more flexibility. These changes, combined with innovative service models from both domestic and foreign companies, will open the door to new business opportunities in the senior citizen market.

- Taiwan's high-quality of medical-care systems and solid ICT foundation are conducive to the establishment of infrastructure for supporting environmental systems, such as monitoring service platforms, information system services, and an integrated platform for intelligent health services.

## Circular Economy

### Policy Focus

With the advantage of Taiwan's comprehensive industrial clusters, the waste management system will be reformed and application technology for the circular economy will be developed so as to reduce the negative impact on the environment caused in the process of utilizing resources, as well as to improve the efficiency of resource and energy use. This can help achieve the goals of balancing the economy, stabilizing development, and minimizing the burden on the environment.

Government-led development of a circular economy: In Taiwan, the government has established a resource recycling system with the enactment of the "Waste Disposal Act" and the "Resource Recycling Act", thereby authorizing the competent authorities for the different industries to draft related rules and regulations governing industrial waste and resource recycling.

"New Material Recycling Industrial Park Application Establishment Plan": In order to promote high-added-value green new material R&D, the government plans to establish a new recycling demonstration park in Kaohsiung, which will serve as a new materials development site.

The recycling technology and materials R&D park will combine existing scientific research with industry parks' emerging R&D mechanisms. In accordance with national policy needs, the government has organized a high-level national materials team, and has taken the promotion of R&D on integrated innovative technologies and manpower training as its goals.

### Investment Opportunities

#### ■ Developing Business Opportunities in the New Materials Market

The government is promoting green production processes by introducing smart production to create environmentally friendly, safe, and high-added-value products, and to develop high-value new materials and environmentally friendly low-carbon new materials. International enterprises are welcome to invest in Taiwan for joint ventures, technology transfer, or joint development for advancement into the new materials market in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### ■ Outstanding Site for Enterprise Development

In accordance with the "Program for Application to Set Up in Nationwide Dedicated Sites for Circular Economy Pilot Projects", the government will set up a "Circular Economy Industrial Park" as a long-term task aimed at providing international enterprises with an all-new site for the development of high-value green materials.

#### ■ Business Opportunities in the Purification of Wastes from High-Tech Production Processes

Taiwan is a vital global base for the export of high-tech parts and components and generates large quantities of chemicals and other wastes from high-tech production processes every year. These chemicals and wastes can be purified or refined for recycling, presenting ideal opportunities for international enterprises with related technological know-how to invest in Taiwan.

## New Agriculture

### Policy Focus

The agricultural sector in Taiwan is faced with internal and external challenges from climate change, international trade liberalization, labor shortages and an aging farming population, and a rigid agricultural industry structure, in addition to dealing with greater public concern for food safety, consumer protections, environmental sustainability, among other issues. The Council of Agriculture has promoted the New Agriculture Innovation Promotion Program since 2017, making continual progress on all agricultural policies with the aim of enhancing farmers' incomes and supplying consumers with safe agricultural products as core objectives. Using the three major axis of government policies to establish a comprehensive farmer welfare system, create a sound foundational environment and improve the competitiveness of the industry, the government will accelerate industry structural upgrading, raise the added-value of agricultural products, expand domestic and overseas sales, increase farmer benefits in pursuit of sustainable agricultural development.

Expected results:

- 90,000 hectares of farm land under organic, eco-friendly and verified cultivation practices by 2024.
- Exports of 2.3 metric tons of agricultural products in 2024.

### Investment Opportunities

The Council of Agriculture is leading the development of the new agriculture industry and has built an Agricultural Biotechnology Park in southern Tainan. Within this 233-hectare park area, the COA is providing 93.6 hectares of land and 90 standard biotech production plants. To date, over 90% of the land and 80% of the production facilities have been leased.

The Agricultural Biotechnology Park has completed a 165 ha expansion, which will provide an additional 90 ha of land for factory buildings and 6.38 ha of land for experimental farms and fish culture facilities. The park provides all-inclusive hardware and software facilities and convenient support services, and is an ideal site for plant investments by domestic and foreign agribusiness investors. It effectively links Taiwan's impressive academic research results with up- and downstream segments of the agriculture industry chain, and boosts the competitiveness of Taiwan's agricultural products in international markets.

## National Defense

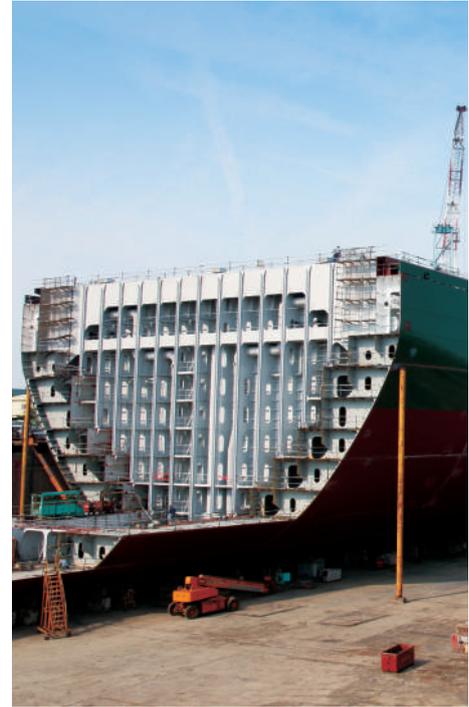
### Policy Focus

The procurement of defense equipment and the upgrading and renewed domestic market will drive the shipbuilding, aerospace and information security industries as well as peripheral machinery, materials, electrical engineering and other related manufacturers to invest in state-of-the-art research and development. This will achieve the goal of technological innovation and help manufacturers to grow.

Government-led leads the development of the defense industry: To promote exchange and cooperation between Taiwanese manufacturers and international enterprises in the defense industry, and to help manufacturers jointly explore the development opportunities offered by Taiwan's defense industry, the government integrates the resources of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Technology to meet the needs of national defense through the joint development of the defense industry.

Promotion of defense industry cluster development: The government is promoting the development of aerospace industry clusters in Taichung, Kaohsiung and Taoyuan; naval vessel industry clusters in Kaohsiung, Pingtung and Yilan; and an information security industry cluster in Shalun, Tainan.

Promotion of projects: The government is in the midst of planning a defense industry policy and phase VI of the National Information and Communications Security Development Program, which will rely on the self-production, procurement, and upgrading of defensive weapons and equipment to stimulate the development of civilian industrial technologies and supply chains in the fields of aerospace, naval vessels, and information security.



## Investment Opportunities

### ■ Business Opportunities in Taiwan's National Defense Industry

Based on its existing defense industry, Taiwan welcomes international research institutes, companies, and investors in the field of defense to collaborate with Taiwanese companies in developing defense products, information software and systems, and industrial services so as to seize business opportunities in Taiwan's industrial development.

### ■ Business Opportunities in Taiwan's Aerospace Industry

Through its indigenous fighter plane program and aerospace industry development policy, Taiwan will continue to promote the development of military and civilian technologies and market opportunities. It is expected that within 20 years, Taiwan will establish itself as a key player in the fields of aerospace systems component manufacturing and aircraft maintenance in the Asia-Pacific region. Specific investment opportunities include advanced aviation manufacturing technologies and equipment, composite material technologies and equipment, maintenance/servicing technology operations and basing, aviation schools, unmanned aerial vehicle development and manufacturing, and innovative applications and services.

### ■ Business Opportunities in Taiwan's Shipbuilding Industry

Taiwan will continue to drive the growth of the military and civilian ship industry supply chain and expand the scale of the industry through national shipbuilding policies and future demand for offshore wind farm construction. Taiwan's shipbuilding industry currently has an annual production value of more than US\$2 billion and it is projected that business opportunities in the shipbuilding industry will exceed US\$3.3 billion annually. Specific investment opportunities include advanced nautical technologies and equipment, development and manufacturing of marine propulsion systems and components, development and manufacturing of ship electronic systems, development and manufacturing of unmanned surface and underwater vehicles, and innovative applications and services.

### ■ Business Opportunities in Taiwan's Information Security Industry

Taiwan encourages overseas and domestic companies to engage in joint investment in developing advanced information security technologies and solutions, and to cooperate in field testing in the Internet of Things and the cloud environment (e.g. Smart Cities, critical infrastructure) to accelerate the development of information security products. It is projected that by 2025, the production value of Taiwan's information security industry will reach TWD\$78 billion.



## Semiconductors

### Policy Focus

Taiwan's semiconductor industry cluster encompasses IC design, IC manufacturing (foundries, memory and other chips), IC packaging and testing and upstream IC equipment and IC materials industry. Of these, Taiwan's foundries and IC packaging and testing operations are the global leaders in terms of production value, while IC design businesses come in second behind the U.S. in terms of production value. Taiwan, as the world's most dense and technologically advanced semiconductor production base, has made the semiconductor industry a key focus of national development to achieve industrial upgrading and an innovative economy, securing opportunities for development in the digital age.

Taiwan's semiconductor policy focuses on expanding interdisciplinary cooperation in semiconductors, with semiconductor chips seen as the common foundation on which the 5+2 Innovative Industries are based. As the link that connects the 5+2 Industrial Innovation Plan with the IoT, the industries involved require chip design and semiconductor technologies. Taiwan hopes to guide Taiwan's semiconductor industry to expand beyond ICT and consumer electronics into cooperation in innovative industries such as green energy, smart machinery, agriculture, biomedicine and electric vehicles. Semiconductors, therefore, is listed as one of the ten major industries of Taiwan's industrial innovation R&D plan.

### Investment Opportunities

#### ■ Continuous Growth in Demand for Semiconductor Materials

The Taiwan IC industry comprises approximately 300 companies, and procurements of semiconductor materials totaled more than US\$11 billion in 2018, making Taiwan the world's largest procurer of semiconductor materials. As Taiwan's IC production value continues to grow, its demand for new materials and equipment will also continue to rise.

#### ■ Specific opportunities in the area of semiconductor materials:

Taiwan currently uses high-end photoresist, metal targets, coating agents, and special process reaction gases in the IC production process. It also uses IC packaging conductor bonding and sealing materials, and filling materials. Because all of these are imported from abroad, the IC industry hopes that international firms will produce them in Taiwan, which will reduce the industry's supply risk for relevant materials. In addition, since Taiwanese firms have begun mass production employing the 7nm IC process, and are preparing to begin 5nm process production, these firms hope to strengthen cooperation with foreign producers in order to ensure supplies of high-end IC manufacturing and packaging materials.

#### ■ Continuous Growth of Demand for Semiconductor Equipment

Taiwan is the site of key global wafer foundries and advanced packaging and testing. Procurement of new equipment reached US\$17.1 billion in 2019, making Taiwan the world's biggest buyer of semiconductor equipment. Thanks to continued investment in logic foundry and advanced packaging processes, Taiwan's equipment expenditures are expected to continue to grow over the next two years.

#### ■ Specific Business Opportunities for Semiconductor Equipment

Primary requirements are for 12-inch wafer process and advanced packaging and RDL equipment. Investment by foreign suppliers in the following areas is welcome:

- Front-end processing equipment: chemical and physical vapor deposition, dry etching, exposure, chemical-mechanical polishing, wet processing, optical and flaw inspection equipment.
- Advanced packaging RDL production equipment: exposure, dry etching, chemical and physical vapor deposition, chemical-mechanical polishing, and copper plating equipment.

## Services

### Policy Focus

#### ■ Promotion of Strategic Services Development

For the implementation of the "Strengthen Investment in Strategic Services Promotion Plan," the National Development Fund of the Executive Yuan has allocated NT\$10,000 million to be invested jointly with funds from fund management companies to promote the development

of strategic services. The project was kicked off in 2013 and is running for a period of 10 years. Government investment in any enterprise under this plan is limited to a maximum of NT\$100 million and may not exceed 49% of the enterprise's capitalization. The purpose is to improve employment opportunities in the service sector, assist the service sector in internationalization and technological development, and increase export volume and production value.

Strategic service industries include information services, Chinese-language e-commerce, digital content, cloud computing, the MICE industry, internationalization of gourmet foods, international logistics, healthcare, design services, chain store franchising, tourism operations, energy technology services, and other approved service businesses.

### ■ A Friendly Digital Environment Accelerates Development of the Smart Services Industry

The government launched the “Digital Nation - Economic Innovation Development Plan (2017-2025)” (known as DIGI+) to cultivate a good economic environment for digital innovation nation-wide and to pave the way for innovative development of the services industry. Among the themes of the DIGI+ Plan is encouragement of the private sector to develop services for smart living, and to offer solutions and business models for a sharing economy.

## Investment Opportunities

### ■ Business Opportunities in the Digital Economy

Taiwan enjoys a healthy hardware and software infrastructure for the information and communications industry, providing international businesses with both a market and a test bed for the development of smart services for the digital economy.

- By 2020 the digital economy will grow from 20.5% (at about US\$110 billion) to 25.2% (about US\$160 billion) of GDP.
- The production value of the software sector will nearly double, from US\$30 billion to US\$56.7 billion.
- The digital living penetration rate for the public is projected to reach 60% by 2020, which will rank Taiwan among the top 12 in the world. By 2020 broadband service will be upgraded to 1Gpbs, 10 times the current speed of 100Mbps, with service coverage at 90%. Disadvantaged families have a guaranteed bandwidth with a data transfer rate of 10Mbps. This will create a huge market for digital services.



### ■ Business Opportunity in eCommerce

Continuing advances in technology increasingly blur the boundary between the cyber world and the real world. Consumers have increasingly varied shopping methods available to them and the resulting business opportunities drive the development of e-commerce at home and abroad, while also promoting cross-border business opportunities.

### ■ Business Opportunities in Logistics

The rise of online shopping has triggered a huge demand for logistic services. Foreign businesses can take advantage of Taiwan's highly convenient and efficient logistics services, as well as its advantageous geographic location and industrial clusters, to strengthen their investment in logistics service networks throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

### ■ Business Opportunities in the Internationalization of Gourmet Food

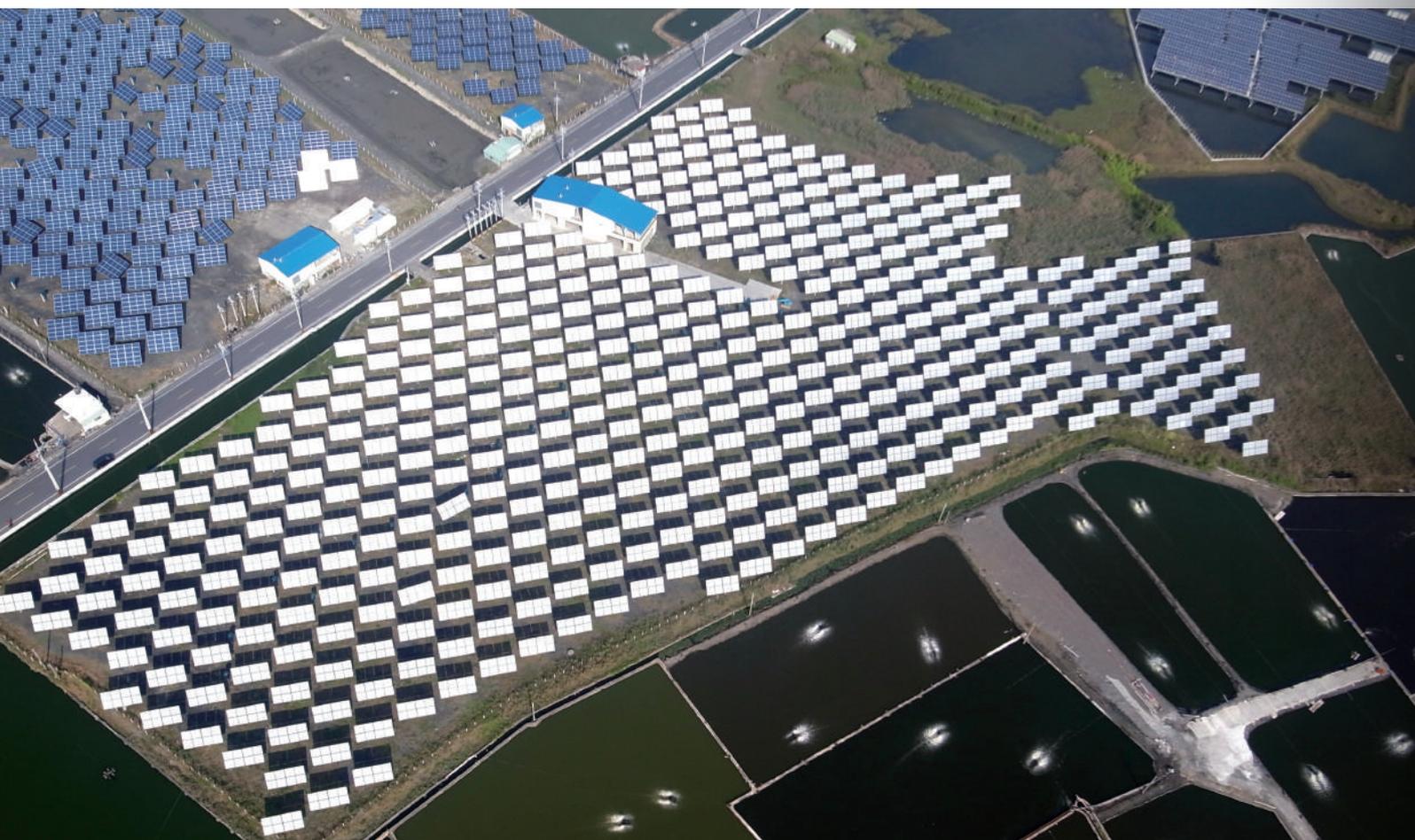
In order to enhance the development of the food and beverage industry and establish the image and international status of Taiwan's food and beverage industry, we will use a diversified marketing approach to attract local and foreign tourists to experience Taiwan's culinary offerings. Highlighting Taiwan's food and beverage characteristics, we will promote cooperation and exchanges with multinational companies, and create more food and beverage service business opportunities.

### ■ Business Opportunities in Health Care

Taiwan has a solid foundation in semiconductor manufacturing and information and communications technology, as well as high-quality medical service personnel and professionals. Foreign firms can make use of these factors to integrate cross-industry resources and take advantage of business opportunities in smart health care together with their Taiwanese partners.

### ■ Business Opportunities in Leisure Lifestyles

LOHAS has emerged as a charming way of life for the public in Taiwan, and this has contributed to the mushrooming of facilities for shopping, pleasure, and food and beverage services. Foreign investors are welcome to invest or engage in joint ventures with Taiwanese enterprises to take advantage of business opportunities in the island's new style of leisure living.



## The Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program

Looking to future economic development in Taiwan, in response to the emerging industries, new technologies, and new life trends at home and abroad, the government will implement the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program to advance overall local development along with regional balance. The program includes 8 areas: safe and convenient “Railway Projects”, “Water Management” in response to climate change, “Green Energy” to promote environmental sustainability, “Digital Infrastructure” to build up a smart nation, “Urban and Rural Projects” to balance regional development, “Child Care Facilities” in response to reduced fertility, “Food Safety”, and “Talent Cultivation to Promote Employment,” which together will lay the foundation for Taiwan’s development for the next 30 years.

This government-led program has the goals of providing economic stimulus, accelerating Taiwan's economic transformation and upgrading, promoting the country's long-term competitiveness, and fostering public well-being. By sharing the results of expanded infrastructure development with citizens, the program will continue to build a new Taiwan. This four-year program has three stages and a government budget totaling NT\$420 billion; it is expected to increase GDP by NT\$470.5 billion over the next four years, and add an extra 0.1% to GDP growth. The first stage, which extended from September 2017 to December 2018, had a budget of NT\$107.1 billion; the second stage will last from January 2019 to December 2020, and has a budget of NT\$222.9 billion.

## Infrastructure Development

Project	Phase 1 Funding	Stage II Funding	Key Construction Projects	Goal
Green Energy	NT\$8 billion	NT\$11.4 billion	Solar energy, wind power, the Shalun Green Energy Science City and other related R&D and long-term infrastructure development.	Build Taiwan into an important Asian center for green energy production.
Digital Infrastructure	NT\$15.9 billion	NT\$27.2 billion	Accelerated digital grid development of a domestic ultra-wideband network.	The digital economy will account for 29.9% of GDP by 2025, and digital cultural creativity will become an NT\$1 trillion industry.
Water Environments	NT\$25.1 billion	NT\$582 billion	Accelerated infrastructure construction to manage water treatment, flood control, and water area accessibility.	Creation of a bright future without water shortages and without flooding, with good drinking water and access to water areas
Railway Development	NT\$16.6 billion	NT\$416 billion	Promotion of five key rail development programs: "Linking the high speed and conventional rail systems into an integrated network," "Upgrading and improving conventional rail services in Eastern Taiwan," "Moving tracks above or underground, speeding up commuter services," "Promoting urban mass rapid transit," and "Building tourism-oriented rail systems for Central and Southern Taiwan."	Building of a transport service that is friendly and seamless, creates industrial opportunities, is charming to tourists, and is the backbone of an integrated rail transport services.
Urban-rural Development	NT\$35 billion	NT\$720 billion	Ten major projects: resolve parking issues, improve road quality, renewal projects in small cities and towns, develop local industry parks, develop culture and lifestyle areas, renovate campuses for community access and use, set up public service bases, support leisure-fitness lifestyles, develop the Hakka Romantic Avenue along Highway 3, and build infrastructure for indigenous tribes.	Improvement of the quality of public spaces, promotion of balanced development of urban and rural areas, and enhancement of the overall image of Taiwan.
Child Care Facilities	NT\$2 billion	NT\$22 billion	Accelerated expansion of private pre-school child care, promotion of private 0-2 child care, and creation of child-friendly child care spaces.	Creation of friendly child care spaces, reduction of barriers to women's employment, and reversing of the declining birth rate crisis.
Food Safety Infrastructure	NT\$300 million	NT\$5 billion	Construction of a modern national-level food and drug laboratory building and education & training building, enhancement of the performance of the border inspection and customs clearance management system, strengthening of health agencies' food safety audit and inspection capabilities, and strengthening of central food safety inspections capabilities.	Improvement of Taiwan's food safety by strengthening inspection capacity and the food safety management system.
Human Resources Infrastructure	NT\$4.2 billion	NT\$98 billion	Promotion of international industry-academic alliances, establishment of a youth technology innovation incubation site, training and employment of high-level manpower in key industries, cultivation of young scholars, assistance to leading scholars, and improvement of the vocational school laboratory environment.	Creation of a world-class entrepreneurial cluster in Taiwan by attracting international professionals to help young Taiwanese engage in international industrial, academic, and research exchanges, and start their own businesses.



# 動力

## Advantageous Environment

Several factors make Taiwan a suitable location for investment by foreign enterprises: a friendly tax system, the provision of incentives, high-quality human resources and stable financial markets. Various industrial development zones satisfy the investment needs of foreign enterprises.



## A Transparent, Friendly Tax System

Much like the tax systems in Europe and the United States, Taiwan has a separate tax law for each type of tax. Tax laws are clearly defined, and filing requirements are relatively simple and straightforward. Taiwan has concluded 32 comprehensive tax agreements that are designed to encourage cross-border investment and economic activities. After Taiwan joined the WTO in 2002, it gradually began to reduce the average nominal and effective tariff rates for customs duties in order to meet WTO standards. The Taiwan tax system is characterized by its friendly environment, open and transparent collection and auditing procedures, and reliable taxpayer protection.

### Taiwan Tax System

National Taxes	Income Tax, Business Tax, Commodity Tax, Customs Duties, Estate Tax, Gift Tax, Securities Transaction Tax, Futures Transaction Tax, Tobacco and Wine Tax, Specifically Selected Goods and Services Tax
Local Taxes	Land Value Tax, Land Value Increment Tax, House Tax, Agricultural Land Tax, Deed Tax, Amusement Tax, Stamp Tax, Vehicle License Tax

### Profit-Seeking Enterprise Income Tax

A profit-seeking enterprise having its head office in Taiwan (including a subsidiary of a foreign company) is subject to profit-seeking enterprise income tax on its worldwide income. A foreign tax credit is available for income tax paid in other countries on income derived from outside Taiwan in accordance with the tax act of the source country of that income. The credit may be used to offset the foreign tax paid against the enterprise's Taiwan income tax liability, but the credit may not exceed the tax liability that would result if the foreign-source income were added to the Taiwan taxable income and taxed at the applicable domestic rate.

A profit-seeking enterprise whose head office is outside Taiwan (such as a Taiwan branch of a foreign company) is subject to profit-seeking enterprise income tax on its Taiwan-source income, in accordance with the Income Tax Act.

### 2020 Profit-Seeking Enterprise Income Tax Rates

Taxable Income Bracket (NT\$)	Tax Rate
Up to 120,000	None
Over 120,000	20% tax shall be levied on total taxable income; however, tax payable may not exceed half the amount of taxable income on NT\$120,000.

### Alternative Minimum Tax

Profit-seeking businesses are required to include tax reductions and deductions, and income from securities and futures transactions, in their alternative minimum tax calculation. Since 2013, 50% of capital gains from transactions of shares held for at least three years by a profit-seeking enterprise (after allowance for losses from share transactions) have been tax exempt. In Taiwan, however, the alternative minimum tax does not apply to businesses without a fixed place of business or to agents for profit-seeking enterprises.

### Basic Tax Amount Formula

Basic tax amount =  $([\text{taxable income as described in the Income Tax Act} + \text{exempt income}] - \text{NT\$}500,000) \times 12\%$



## Individual Income Tax

### ■ Tax on Residents

An individual whose domicile is in Taiwan and who regularly lives in Taiwan, or an individual whose domicile is not in Taiwan but who has resided in Taiwan more than 183 days during the tax year, shall file an income tax return between May 1 and May 31 (extended in the case of holidays) detailing income, exemptions, and deductions for the filer and the filer's spouse and dependents during the previous year.

### Progressive Tax Rates of Individual Income Tax

Tax Bracket (NT\$)	Tax Rate	Progressive Difference (NT\$)
0~540,000	5%	0
540,001~1,210,000	12%	37,800
1,210,001~2,420,000	20%	134,600
2,420,001~4,530,000	30%	376,600
4,530,001 or more	40%	829,600

Note: The maximum individual income tax rate is 40%.

Since January 1, 2016, an integrated housing and land tax system has been in effect. Profits from housing and land sales are taxed at different rates depending on how long the owner has held the property.

Resident		Non-Resident	
Time of Ownership	Tax Rate	Time of Ownership	Tax Rate
1 year or less	45%	1 year or less	45%
Between 1 and 2 years	35%		
Between 2 and 10 years	20%	More than 1 year	35%
More than 10 years	15%		
Owner-Occupied Residence	10%		

### ■ New taxation system for dividend income

The new dividend income taxation system went into effect on January 1, 2018. Individual residents who receive dividends or surplus earnings may consolidate these into their comprehensive income, and the tax deductible is calculated at 8.5% of the dividend amount (each declaring household is capped at NT\$ 80,000) to deduct the tax payable amount, or they may choose to calculate the dividend tax separately at a tax rate of 28% and combine this with their other income tax.

### ■ Calculation of salary income

Beginning on January 1, 2019, when calculating salary income, individuals may choose to apply the special fixed salary deductions, or itemize three necessary expense types (occupational clothing expenses, advanced training fees, and occupational tool expenditures). Each deductible amount is limited to 3% of salary income.

### ■ Tax on Nonresidents

An individual who is not domiciled in Taiwan and who stays in Taiwan for less than 183 days in a calendar year will be deemed a nonresident. Income tax on nonresidents, which is generally collected through withholding at the source, is typically subject to a tax rate of 20%. If a nonresident individual is in Taiwan for less than 90 days in a calendar year, compensation received from a foreign employer is exempt from Taiwan income tax.

### ■ Alternative Minimum Tax

If an individual enjoys investment tax credits, has overseas income, or claims a tax exemption, and has a basic income over NT\$670 million, he or she should file as a household unit and declare basic income. The alternative minimum tax does not apply if the person is non-resident, or although a resident does not meet the criteria above.

Basic income = net consolidated income + overseas income (amounts less than NT\$1 million are exempted) + life insurance and annuities insurance for beneficiaries and policyholders (the portion of total annual household death benefits up to NT\$33.3 million is exempted) + income from transactions of beneficiary certificates of privately offered funds + non-cash donations

Basic taxable amount = (basic income – NT\$6.7 million) x 20%

## Tax Treaties

In accordance with the Income Tax Act, non-resident individuals and foreign profit-seeking enterprises having no fixed place of business in Taiwan shall have 21%, 15%, or 20% withheld on payouts for dividends, interest, and royalties.

Taiwan has concluded 32 comprehensive income tax agreements. Withholding tax rates for dividends, interest and royalties under these treaties are as follows:

Country	Items		
	Dividends (%)	Interest (%)	Royalties (%)
Non-treaty countries	20	15, 20	20
Europe			
Austria	10	10	10
Belgium	10	10	10
Denmark	10	10	10
France	10	10	10
Germany	10,15	10,15	10
Hungary	10	10	10
Italy	10	10	10
Luxembourg	10,15	10,15	10
Republic of North Macedonia (originally "Macedonia")	10	10	10
Netherlands	10	10	10
Poland	10	10	3,10
Slovak Republic	10	10	5,10
Sweden	10	10	10
Switzerland	10,15	10	10
United Kingdom	10	10	10
Asia			
India	12.5	10	10
Indonesia	10	10	10
Israel	10	7,10	10
Malaysia	12.5	10	10
Singapore	40(See Note)	Undecided	15
Thailand	5,10	10,15	10
Vietnam	15	10	15
Japan	10	10	10
Oceania			
Australia	10,15	10	12.5
Kiribati	10	10	10
New Zealand	15	10	10
Americas			
Canada	10,15	10	10
Paraguay	5	10	10
Africa			
The Gambia	10	10	10
Senegal	10	15	12.5
South Africa	5,15	10	10
Eswatini(formerly Swaziland)	10	10	10

Source: Taxation Administration, Ministry of Finance

Note: The total of the issuing company's corporate income tax liability and the tax withheld will not exceed 40% on a weighted basis. "Company income tax payable" includes corporate income tax excluding deductions provided by legal provisions established to promote economic development.

## Business Tax

All sales of goods, including imported goods or labor, within Taiwan are subject to the business tax. Foreign enterprises that do not have a fixed place of business in Taiwan and that purchase goods or services for exhibitions or temporary business activities (such as business trips, inspections, market surveys, investment promotions, marketing, or marketing presentations) within a period of one year may qualify for a VAT refund on the goods or services provided reciprocal treatment or an exemption from similar taxes is granted to the same institutions of Taiwan by the foreign country in which they are performing such activities.

Value Added Business Tax (VAT)	The VAT is levied by the business during the sales process. Except for items for which zero-rate or tax exemptions apply, the current rate is 5%.
Non-Value Added Business Tax	Industries in which the non-value-added business tax is levied include finance, pawn broking, special food and beverage services, small-scale businesses, and business operators that by Ministry of Finance regulations are exempt from reporting sales. Businesses in the above industries pay the non-value-added business tax based on their total sales, without deducting input tax. The highest rate is 25%, and the lowest is 0.1%. However, some types of businesses may apply for approval to change to value-added type business tax according to regulations.

## Specifically Selected Goods and Services Tax

In accordance with the Specifically Selected Goods and Services Tax Act, a special tax of 10% shall be imposed on the sale, manufacture, and import of specifically selected goods or services within Taiwan, except where other laws apply. (Effective January 1, 2016, this tax is no longer collected on real estate.)

## Commodity Tax

All commodities listed under the Commodity Tax Act, whether manufactured in Taiwan or imported, are subject to the commodity tax, except where other laws apply. Tax rates or amounts are different for each category of commodity.

## Customs Tariffs

Customs duties, including valuation and classification, are levied in accordance with the Agreement on Customs Valuation, World Trade Organization, and Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

(HS) of the World Customs Organization. In calculating customs tariff, ad-valorem tariff is primary; specific tariff and compound tariff are secondary. The customs value of imported goods subject to ad valorem duties shall be determined and calculated on the basis of the transaction value. The term "transaction value" means the price actually paid or payable for the imported goods sold from the exporting country to Taiwan.

## Tobacco and Alcohol Tax

Tobacco and alcohol products, whether manufactured domestically or imported, are subject to the tobacco and alcohol tax. A health and welfare surcharge is also levied on tobacco products.

## Estate Tax and Gift Tax

When a Taiwan national who is a resident of Taiwan dies or presents a gift, the estate tax or gift tax is levied on his or her entire estate and all property transferred by gift, whether domestic or foreign. For a Taiwan national who is a non-resident or a non-Taiwan citizen, only the portion of property which is inside Taiwan is subject to the estate tax and gift tax.

A taxpayer who inherits property through death must file an inheritance tax declaration within six months from the date of death.

The inheritance amount exempt from the estate tax is NT\$12 million. Furthermore, if the investment in Taiwan made by the inheritor meets the provisions of the "Regulations on Preferential Estate Tax on Approved Investment by Returning Overseas Chinese," then the approved value of the inheritance may be estimated by the rules of the "Estate and Gift Tax Act," of which 50% is deducted and exempt from the "Estate and Gift Tax Act."

### Estate Tax

Value of Inheritance (NT\$)	Tax Rate	Progressive Difference (NT\$)
50,000,000 or less	10%	0
50,000,001 - 100,000,000	15%	2,500,000
100,000,001 or more	20%	7,500,000

When the taxpayer of the gift tax is the donor party, the annual tax exemption for each donor party is NT\$2.2 million. For gifts exceeding the exempted amount, the gift tax declaration shall be filed within 30 days of the giving of the gift.

### Gift Tax

Taxable Value of Gift (NT\$)	Tax Rate	Progressive Difference (NT\$)
25,000,000 or less	10%	0
25,000,001 - 50,000,000	15%	1,250,000
50,000,001 or more	20%	3,750,000

## Securities Transaction Tax

Trading of securities, including shares issued by companies, corporate bonds and other securities offered to the public with government approval, are subject to a securities transaction tax payable by the seller.

## Futures Transaction Tax

A futures transaction tax is assessed on all those who engage in futures transactions in Taiwan.

## Introduction to Local Taxes

Type of Tax	Explanation
Land Value Tax	Except for land that is subject to the agricultural land tax (currently suspended), land that has been assigned a value in Taiwan is subject to the land value tax.
Land Value Increment Tax	Land that has been assigned a value in Taiwan is subject to the land value increment tax based on the total amount of land value increment at the time of transfer of the land title.
House Tax	The house tax is levied on all houses that are attached to land within the Taiwan territory and on such other buildings which enhance the utility value of those houses.
Deed Tax	For building transactions involving sale, the creation of lien, exchange, bestowal, partition, or acquisition of ownership by virtue of possession, the taxpayer is required to report the transaction and pay the deed tax.
Stamp Tax	Various kinds of documents as specified in the Stamp Tax Act and drawn up in the Taiwan territory are subject to the stamp tax. If a document has been drawn up in several countries and is signed by one of the parties within Taiwan territory, it is legally subject to the stamp tax.
Vehicle License Tax	The owner or user of transportation equipment that uses public roads or waterways in Taiwan, regardless of purpose, whether public, private, or military, is required by law to obtain a vehicle license and pay the vehicle license tax in addition to obtaining required permits and paying fees as provided by various laws.
Amusement Tax	Amusement tax shall be levied on tickets sold or fees charged by amusement places, facilities or activities; if the amusement places, facilities or activities do not sell tickets but supply drinks or entertainment facilities for a fee, the amusement tax shall be levied on the amount of charges

Source: Taxation Administration, Ministry of Finance (<http://www.dot.gov.tw>)

## Benefits and Incentives to Attract Investors

In order to encourage investment by domestic and foreign investors, Taiwan offers a variety of benefit and incentive programs. These provide for income tax exemptions and R&D subsidies based on a company's R&D investment. To increase investment and develop trade, the government has created science parks, technology industrial parks, agricultural technology parks, and free trade zones to increase incentives for investment and lower operating costs for companies.

### Tax incentives

The following tax incentives are offered to businesses in science parks, technology industrial parks, agricultural technology parks, bonded factories, bonded warehouses, businesses in logistics centers, and free trade zones.

Indirect Tax Incentives	Technology Industrial Parks	Science Parks	Agricultural Technology Parks	Bonded Factories	Bonded Warehouses	Logistics Centers	Free Trade Zones
Import of Raw Materials and Machinery	Duty free Commodity tax free VAT free No trade promotion service fee				Duty free Commodity tax free VAT free Tobacco and alcohol tax free No tobacco health and welfare surcharge No trade promotion service fee No port dues		-
Import of Goods for Use in Operations							Duty free Commodity tax free VAT free No trade promotion service fee No port dues No Tobacco and Alcohol Tax No Tobacco Products Health and Welfare Surcharge (including setup period)
Import of Fuel, Materials and Semi-Finished Materials	Duty free Commodity tax free VAT free No trade promotion service fee			-	Duty free Commodity tax free VAT free No trade promotion service fee No port dues		-
Import of Self-Use Machines, Equipment	Duty free Commodity tax free VAT free No trade promotion service fee			Duty free Commodity tax free VAT free No trade promotion service fee		-	Duty free Commodity tax free VAT free No trade promotion service fee No port dues (including setup period)
Export of Products/ Services to a Foreign Country	Zero business tax rate and exemption from excise tax						
Purchase of Raw Materials, Fuel, Supplies, Semi-Finished Materials, and Machinery from a Non-Bonded Area in Taiwan	Zero business tax rate and exemption from excise tax						
Profit seeking enterprises (limited to ROC enterprises engaging in preparation or supporting actors within the national territory) engaging in cargo purchasing, import, storage, or transport within free trade port areas							Income from the sale of goods is exempt from income tax for profitable businesses

Source: Maritime and Port Bureau, MOTC (<http://www.motcmpb.gov.tw>)

## Other Tax Incentives

Type	Explanation
R&D	According to Article 10 of the Statute for Upgrading Industries, to encourage companies, limited partnerships, and SMEs to invest in innovative R&D, companies or limited partnerships with no severe violations of environmental protection, labor, or food health and safety laws over the last three years, these enterprises may enjoy a 15% tax credit rate for 1 year or a 10% tax credit rate for 3 years against their income tax where the tax credits may not exceed 30% of their payable profit seeking enterprise income tax in any one year.
	Taiwanese individuals, companies, and limited partnerships may deduct R&D expenditures in any one year within the scope of their income from the assignment or authorization of all intellectual property rights derived from their own R&D from taxable income for the year where that income is up to 200% of R&D expenditures for that year. Applicants may use either this tax incentive or the previous investment tax credit, but not both.
Biotechnology and New Pharmaceutical Industries	For biotechnology and new pharmaceutical companies, 35% of R&D and employee training expenditures may be claimed as a deductible expense against the current year's payable business income tax. If the current fiscal year's expenditure on R&D or employee training exceeds the average amount spent in the previous two fiscal years, half of the excess amount may be claimed as a deductible expense.
	When for-profit enterprises invest in the founding or expansion of biotechnology or new pharmaceutical companies and also have been or become such a company's registered shareholder for a period of three years or more, 20% of the amount invested may be claimed as a deductible expense against their payable business income tax.
	When professionals or technology investors of biotechnology or new pharmaceutical companies receive income in the form of newly issued stock or the subscription of shares through stock option certificates (with the subscription value being lower than the face value), the amount is exempt from the current fiscal year's taxable income. However, if such stock or shares are transferred, gifted, or part of an estate settlement, they shall be listed as income for the current year and declared once cost has been deducted.
Private Participation in Major Infrastructure Projects	Private-sector companies that participate in major infrastructure projects are eligible for a five-year business income tax exemption, investment tax credits, and exemption from tariffs on imported construction machinery not manufactured or supplied within the country.
	For private companies participating in major infrastructure projects, appropriate deductions may be granted for land value tax, house tax, or deed tax due upon acquisition during the construction and operation periods.
Tourism Industry	A tourism enterprise with a corporate organization may claim 10% - 20% of international tourism promotion expenditures as a deduction against payable business income tax for the current year. Unused deduction amounts can be claimed within a period of four years; however, the amount may not exceed 50% of the current year's total business income tax payable (the amount deductible in the final year is not subject to this restriction).
	A company in the amusement park industry, tourist hotel industry, or travel agency industry that raises the quality of its services in line with tourism policy may, subject to the approval of the central competent authorities, be eligible for an appropriate reduction of the land value and building tax on real estate used directly by these operations.
Film Production	A private company that invests in the establishment or expansion of a domestic motion picture production enterprise of a designated size, is a holder of an original share subscription or by solicitation of registered shares issued by said domestic motion picture production enterprise, and holds the shares for three years or more, may credit a maximum of 20 percent of the amount paid for the share acquisitions against the amount of the profit-seeking-enterprise income tax payable each year within a period of five years from the then-current year.

Type	Explanation
Deductibility of Paid Foreign Royalties	According to Article 4, Subparagraph 21 of the Income Tax Act, those persons who acquire new production technologies or products from overseas, or use the patent rights, trademark rights, or various concession rights of foreign profit-seeking enterprises in order to improve product quality or lower production cost, shall be exempt from income tax on royalties paid to foreign enterprises upon approval by the government competent authority.
Development of New Towns	A joint stock limited liability company investing in satellite town development may claim up to 20% of total investment as a deduction against business income tax payable on development income for the current year.
	When a company limited by shares invests in a designated applicable tax-incentive zone and engages in an industry facilitating satellite town development, the company may claim up to 20% of the total amount of actual purchases of new machinery, equipment, and buildings used for business purposes in accordance with the company's investment plan after beginning operation as a deduction against payable business income tax for the current year.
	Limited liability companies investing in the construction of new towns are exempt from land value tax during the period of construction.
Urban Renewal	When urban renewal enterprises organized as joint-stock companies invest in urban renewal undertakings designated or changed to areas requiring urban renewal by the competent authority, such enterprises may receive a tax credit of up to 20% of their total investment against their payable profit-seeking enterprise income tax in the year the urban renewal project is completed; when the enterprise's profit-seeking enterprise income tax during that year is insufficient for the tax credit, it may take the credit during the subsequent 4 years. The total amount of the tax credit in any one year may not exceed 50% of payable profit-seeking enterprise income tax for that year; however, the credit during the final year shall not be subject to this restriction.
	When the competent authority or other agency (organization) that has received the competent authority's consent performs urban renewal work itself in accordance with the Urban Renewal Act, if a joint-stock company assists in the implementation of the urban renewal project and has been selected through an open bidding process, that company may apply the foregoing investment tax credit regulations to its urban renewal project implementation expenditures within the division of powers and responsibilities and content of the urban renewal project explicitly stated in the urban renewal plan or rights change plan.
Import of Machinery Not Manufactured Domestically	Imported machinery of a kind not yet manufactured domestically is eligible for tariff-free treatment following verification by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
Hiring Additional Employees	During a period when the Composite Leading Indicators are above certain levels, if an SME that hires a certain number of additional people and increases its aggregate gross salary payments, it can deduct up to 130% of the annual gross salary payments to the additional domestic hires from its current year profit-seeking enterprise income.
	Of the additional domestic hires who are 24 years old or younger, the small and medium enterprise can deduct up to 150% of the annual gross salary payments to these young domestic hires from its current year profit-seeking enterprise income.
Salary Raises	During the period when the composite leading indicators are above designated levels, if an SME raises the average salary paid to domestic junior employees, it can deduct up to 130% of the incremental annual gross salary payments, excluding statutory basic wage adjustment, to the junior employees from its profit-seeking-enterprise income for the current year. However, the additional salary paid to the new hires shall not be deducted redundantly here as it has been used for tax benefit under the provisions in the preceding two paragraphs.
Stock-Based Employee Compensation	In accordance with Article 19-1 of the Statute for Upgrading Industries, company employees who receive share-based payments (issuance of shares as compensation to employees, share subscription warrants issued to employees, issuance of repurchased treasury stock to employees, issuance of stock options to employees, and new restricted employee shares compensation), may, within an amount of up to NT\$5 million calculated on the basis of current value for the year in which the shares were obtained, choose to pay tax on income calculated from the transfer price at the time of actual transfer. Furthermore, if such employees hold such shares and continue to work at their company for more than two years from the day on which employees obtain the shares, they may calculate their income tax on the basis of the lower of the two: "market value at time of acquisition" or "actual transfer price."

Type	Explanation
Pricing of intellectual property rights as shares	In accordance with Article 12-1 of the Statute for Industrial Innovation, when a Taiwanese individual, company, or limited partnership provides intellectual property rights in exchange for company shares, regardless of whether the company in which investment is obtained is a listed (OTC) or emerging stock company, such a party may choose to calculate their income tax on the basis of the transfer price at the actual time of transfer. Those who hold shares and have provided services related to the application of the intellectual property rights of the stock issuing company for a total of 2 years may be taxed on the basis of either the "stock acquisition price or the actual transfer price," whichever is lower.
	In accordance with Article 12-2 of the Statute for Industrial Innovation, when a Taiwanese academic research organization receives company shares as compensation for intellectual property rights, which are distributed to domestic inventors, the inventors may choose to calculate their income tax on the basis of the transfer price at the actual time of transfer. Those who hold shares and serve in industrial, academic, or research institutions in Taiwan and have engaged in research and development for a total of 2 years may be taxed on the basis of either the "current stock acquisition price or the stock transfer price," whichever is lower.
	SMEs or individuals who contribute their intellectual property in exchange for shares in companies which are not listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange or traded on the OTC emerging market shall be exempt from income tax for the current year. Instead, income tax shall be calculated on the basis of the transfer price and deferred until the actual time of transfer.
Pass-through Taxation for Limited Partnerships	In accordance with Article 23-1 of the Statute for Upgrading Industries, limited partnership startup investment enterprises meeting the required conditions shall be exempt from profit-seeking enterprise income tax during the applicable period, and income for the year is distinguished as operating income deriving from securities trading income and operating income not deriving from securities trading income, each partner may calculate his or her income tax for the year in accordance with his or her predetermined earnings distribution ratio, where operating income deriving from securities trading income shall be exempt from tax in the case of individuals and foreign profit seeking enterprise partners.
Tax Incentives for Angel Investors	In accordance with Article 23-2 of the Statute for Upgrading Industries, when individuals have invested in the establishment of high-risk startup companies that have been in existence for less than 2 years, and hold shares in those companies for at least 2 years, they may deduct up to 50% of the invested amount from their total income, where such deductions shall be limited to NT\$3 million in any one year.
Investment tax credits for smart machinery or 5G mobile communication systems	According to Article 10-1 of the Statute for Industrial Innovation, for a company or limited partnership investing in smart machinery from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, or investing in 5G telecommunications systems from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2022, if the total amount spent on such investments in the same taxable year is between NT\$1 million and NT\$1 billion, then the company or partnership may take a tax credit of either 5% deducted completely for the current year or 3% deducted completely over three years starting with the current year, deductible against profit-seeking enterprise income tax payable. The chosen tax credit may not exceed 30% of the profit seeking enterprise income tax payable for the current year.
Incentives for reinvestment of retained earnings	According to Article 23-3 of the Statute for Industrial Innovation, beginning in 2018 the declaration of undistributed earnings for profit seeking companies or limited partnerships that make substantial investments using undistributed earnings may include the investments in their calculation of undistributed earnings for exemption from the 5% profit-making business income tax for deduction items.
Tax concessions for specific foreign professionals	According to Article 9 of the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals, a foreign professional engaged in professional work who meets specific criteria (is a first-time resident in Taiwan; has stayed in Taiwan for over 183 days; and income exceeds NT\$ 3 million in a tax year) is eligible to pay tax only on half of income exceeding NT\$ 3 million and any overseas income is exempt from basic tax in Taiwan.

## Land Incentives

### ■ Land Incentives for Industrial Parks

The “Preferential Land-lease Program for Industrial Estates” is based on the two principles of “parallel lease and sale” and “leasing is preferable to sale.” The program provides rent-free leasing for the first two years for land in industrial parks being developed under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Changhua Coastal Industrial Park, Tainan Technology Industrial Park, Hualien Hoping industrial Park, Yunlin Offshore Industrial Park, and Yunlin Technology-based Industrial Park); a company that signs such a lease, however, must prepay a two-year rental fee at the time of signing, in the form of cash, bank guarantee, or negotiable certificate of deposit. A lessee who completes utilization in accordance with the approved plan within two years will enjoy free land rental for the first two years, and may apply for the interest-free return of the two-year rental fee that was prepaid in cash or use it to offset future rental fees. The determining standard for the above-mentioned “completes utilization” requires that the building coverage ratio must not be less than 30% of the land area called for in the pre-registered lease application.

### ■ Science park rent incentive measures

The establishment of science parks in Taiwan has sought to promote the development of high-tech industries. Science park land may only be leased, and not sold, and science park rents are assessed on the basis of land rent plus public infrastructure cost. Land rent is calculated by multiplying the announced price of science park land by the annual rental rate, and may be adjusted when new land prices are announced by county and city governments once every two years. However in order to ensure that major fluctuations in announced land prices do not exceed the figures in tenant companies' financial plans, and affect their operations, the amount of upward adjustment shall be limited to a maximum of 10% of the announced land price. Public infrastructure costs shall be set by the science park administrations on the basis of actual park infrastructure development costs amortized over a period of 20 years. When development expenses have been obtained for public facilities for a full 20 years, such expenses shall no longer be included in calculations.



■ **Technology Industrial Parks land and management fee incentive measures**

**1. Establishment of a quality investment environment for technology industrial parks - Old science park space renewal program**

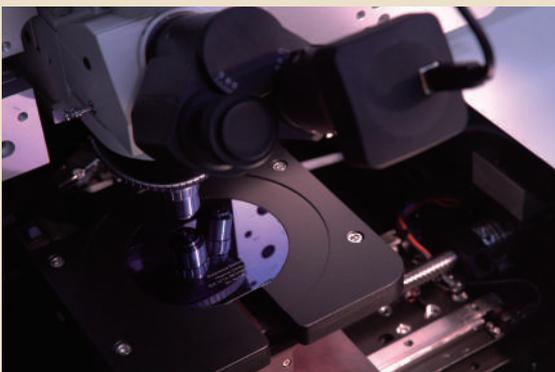
(1) Rent incentive: Provision of 006688 land rent incentive measure: At the time of demolition and rebuilding, firms shall receive an exemption from land rent during the first 2 years, a 40% discount on land rent during the 3rd and 4th years, and a 20% discount during the 5th and 6th years from the project starting date in the construction permit report.

(2) Applicable subjects:

Applicable to land within the Kaohsiung, Nanzi, and Taichung science parks, when one of the following conditions applies:

- A tenant firm is participating in the demolition and rebuilding of an old building. A public or private enterprise that engages in the demolition and rebuilding of an old factory and invests in and builds new buildings.
- A private enterprise is participating in the demolition and rebuilding of an old building, and invests in new building construction.
- A tenant firm takes over and performs construction work on a building that has been rebuilt after demolition, but not yet completed, and has not enjoyed any the land rent incentive measures.
- An old building purchased for price has been demolished but not yet rebuilt, and the land has never benefited from any the land rent incentive measures.

(3) Incentive period: from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2024. (6 years)



**2. Kaohsiung Software Park Incentives**

Land Rent Incentive Measure	Incentives
Enterprises in the Park (That Lease-to-Build) 555 Incentive 6688 Incentive	50% discount on land rental during construction. Limit of three years, and can only be used one time for each plot of land.
	The “6688” land rental incentive plan is offered at the start of operations. Can only be used one time for each plot of land.
	The plan offers a 40% land rental discount during years 1 and 2 and a 20% discount during years 3 and 4. Standard rent is charged starting in year 5.
Enterprises in the Park (That Purchase a Buildings from a Developer) 6688 Incentive	The “6688” land rental incentive plan is offered at the start of operations. Can only be used one time for each plot of land.
	The plan offers a 40% land rental discount during years 1 and 2 and a 20% discount during years 3 and 4. Standard rent is charged starting in year 5.

In order to prevent enterprises that enter the park from terminating their contract on completion of these incentives, restrictions are placed on the rental period. The minimum rental period in the Kaohsiung Software Park is six years.

### 3. Incentives in Taichung Software Park

Land Rent Incentive Measure	Incentives
Developers 555 Incentive	50% discount on land rental during construction. Limit of three years, and can only be used one time for each plot of land.
	Standard rent is charged starting from when the first enterprise begins to use the building (when the enterprise completes tax registration with the National Taxation Bureau).
Enterprises in the Park (That Purchase a Buildings from a Developer) 6688 Incentive	The “6688” land rental incentive plan is offered at the start of operations. Can only be used one time for each plot of land.
	The plan offers a 40% land rental discount during years 1 and 2 and a 20% discount during years 3 and 4. Standard rent is charged starting in year 5.
Enterprises in the Park (That Lease-to-Build) 006688 Incentive	The “006688” land rental incentive plan is offered at the start of construction and operations. Can only be used one time for each plot of land.
	The plan offers free land rental during years 1 and 2, a 40% discount during years 3 and 4, and a 20% discount during years 5 and 6. Standard rent is charged starting in year 7.
Park Management Fee (Limited to Business Operators Approved to Operate in the Taichung Software Park Before December 31, 2021)	Years 1 and 2: 40% discount on the management fee
	Years 3 and 4: 20% discount on the management fee
	Year 5 and After: Standard fee is charged

Source: Export Processing Zone Administration (<http://www.epza.gov.tw>)

### Low-Interest Loans

- Preferential loans to firms entering the Agricultural Technology Park: Loans are provided to firms occupying sites in the park for the construction, or purchase of plants or related facilities or equipment, or working capital; the maximum loan amount is NT\$80 million (NT\$10 million in the case of working capital loans). However, loans shall not be subject to this restriction when the Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan has approved capital expenditures for plant construction within the park on a special case basis.
- Preferential Loans for Companies in Agricultural Technology Parks: Loans of up to NT\$80 million are available for the development or purchase of factories or related facilities and equipment, along with operational revolving funds. If the company is 50% or more foreign-owned, its investment in the park must be at least NT\$80 million and its paid-in capital must be at least NT\$30 million.
- Loans for Production, Marketing, Operations and R&D by Farmers’ Associations and Agricultural Enterprises: Loans of up to NT\$50 million are available for production, marketing, operations and R&D by farmers’ associations and agricultural enterprises engaged in businesses that promote government agricultural policy.

- Loans for Machine and Equipment Upgrades:** Loans are available primarily for the purchase of automated machinery and equipment, pollution prevention equipment, and energy efficient equipment. The loans provided for each investment plan shall not exceed 80% of the total cost of the plan, and the total loans provided to each applicant shall not exceed NT\$400 million. For plans for the purchase of pollution prevention equipment, the maximum investment value is NT\$1 billion.



## R&D Subsidies

The Science Park promotes a number of R&D subsidy programs, including the Emerging Technology Application Project, the Biomedical Commercialization Promotion Project, the Central Region Biomedical Industry Innovation Acceleration Plan, and the International Partnership Innovative Incubation Ecosystem Plan to encourage investment in R&D of emerging technologies in the science parks, including in precision health, smart manufacturing, AI chips and other research in emerging technologies to promote industrial innovation and transformation and to expand international markets. How such subsidies are distributed shall be done in accordance with the officially published application materials for each plan

The Department of Industrial Technology, MOEA, promotes a variety of technology-based projects that encourage enterprises to invest in developing promising technologies. It also promotes cross-field integration to strengthen the industrial climate. Subsidies of up to 50% are offered based on project characteristics.



**Please visit the following website for the detailed content of the various research and development funding programs implemented by the Department of Industrial Technology, MOEA:**

A+ Industrial Innovative R&D (AIIP) Program: <http://aiip.tdp.org.tw/index.php>

**Please visit the following website for the detailed content of the agricultural technology program implemented by the Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan:**

Agricultural technology program service network (AGTECH): <https://agtech.coa.gov.tw/>

**Please visit the following website for resources provided by the Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan to agricultural technology firms:**

Scientific and Technological Agribusiness Advisory Services: <http://agr-consulting.atri.org.tw/index.php>



## Investment with Government Participation

To accelerate the transformation and upgrading of Taiwan's industries, the National Development Fund invests up to 49% of total equity in enterprises under the 5+2 Industrial Innovation Plan - Smart Machinery, Asia Silicon Valley, Green Energy, Biomedicine, Defense, New Agriculture, and Circular Economy. The National Development Fund has allocated NT\$10 billion for investment in SMEs, cultural/creative industries, strategic services, and strategic manufacturing industries, with total investment not to exceed 49%. Investment is conducted in conjunction with a professional management company.

In addition, the National Development Fund manages a Business Angel Investment Program to assist innovators and creative entrepreneurs with the funds needed to start their businesses. The NT\$5 billion fund together with angel investor funding provides multiple funding channels for new ventures.

Related policy information can be found in the investment incentives section of the Invest in Taiwan website (<http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw>).



## Investment Locations with Unlimited Potential

In order to boost investment, the Taiwan government has established not only general purpose commercial and industrial zones but also special-purpose zones that can meet changing business needs. At present there are 237 industrial parks, ten technology industrial parks, three science parks, three agricultural technology parks, four environmental science and technology parks, and seven free trade zones. All provide excellent, low-cost business environments. To develop an industrial park or other type of park, an environmental impact assessment is first conducted, allowing enterprises that occupy the park to reduce environmental protection costs. Such parks also provide ready-made basic infrastructure, fast and convenient administrative services, and incentive measures (see the Benefits and Incentives to Attract Investors section), and as a consequence they have become the first choice of location for foreign and domestic firms that are setting up factories, R&D centers, or operations headquarters in Taiwan.

### General Commercial Zones

Taiwan provides a hospitable environment for business operations. In the area of land costs, the lower the cost of leasing commercial office building space, the lower the expenditures for business operators.

In the second quarter of 2017, the average monthly lease price of grade A office space was NT\$2,673 per ping and the vacancy rate was 7.94%. In the second quarter the primary tenants of grade A office space were from the technology, biotech, and finance industries, and were mostly from international backgrounds.

In the second quarter of 2017, the average monthly lease rate for grade B office space was NT\$ 1,702 per ping and the vacancy rate was 4.97%. The typical period of commercial rental contracts is 2 to 3 years, and rent increases are 3% to 5% per year. The area for land and buildings is measured in “pings” (approximately 3.3 square meters). Rent is usually figured on a monthly basis and building management fees, cleaning fees, and energy fees are calculated separately.





## General Industrial Zones

The intent of the government's establishment of ordinary industrial areas has been to provide companies with land for their plants, achieve the economic benefit of industry clustering, and prevent disturbances to industry and the peripheral environment. Taiwan currently has 237 ordinary industrial areas, which are able to satisfy the investment needs of various industries, and are located throughout all counties and cities. The land and plant buildings in industrial areas may be either leased or sold, and land acquisition incentive measures are applicable in some cases. The Ministry of Economic Affairs' Invest in Taiwan website serves as a single-window matchmaking service for industrial land supply and demand (<http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw>), and the Industrial Development Bureau's commissioned land brokerage service can help firms to find plant sites (<http://idbpark.moeaidb.gov.tw>). In addition, the regularly updated "Taiwan industrial land supply and service website" provides online information concerning industrial land administered by the MOEA. (For detailed information about general industrial zones, refer to the Taiwan Industrial Land Supply and Services Information website at: <http://idbpark.moeaidb.gov.tw>).

## Technology Industrial Parks

At present Taiwan has 10 export processing zones (EPZs) with a combined area of more than 500 ha. They are all bonded areas and are distributed across Kaohsiung, Taichung and Pingtung. EPZ land is only for leasing. Investors who lease land from the zone administrator can build their own factories or purchase standard facilities.

Land rent is set at 2.24% to 5% of the government announced value of the land. The land lease period is 10 years in principle, though a lease agreement can be extended up to 20 years depending on the needs of individual enterprises (such as bank loans). To continue the agreement after 20 years, renewal is necessary. Additional fees are collected for public facilities for 20 years, based on the fee standards of each technology industrial park. Monthly rent is US\$0.05 - 2.29 per m<sup>2</sup>, while public facilities fees are US\$0 - 0.53 per m<sup>2</sup>.

Location	Technology Industrial Park	Key Industries	Type
Central Taiwan	Taichung Tanzhi Technology Industrial Park	Photonics and optoelectronics, electronics	Manufacturing
	Taichung Port Technology Industrial Park	Panel-related industries, precision tools	Manufacturing
	Taichung Software Park	Big data, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, cultural/creativity, information and communications technology, systems integration Knowledge intensive industries	Software
Southern Taiwan	Kaohsiung Nanzhi Technology Industrial Park	Semiconductor testing and packaging	Manufacturing
	Kaohsiung Nanzhi Technology Industrial. Park II	LCD optoelectronics	Manufacturing
	Kaohsiung Cianjhen Technology Industrial Park	IC, LCD, LED, automotive parts and components	Manufacturing
	Kaohsiung Chenggong Logistics Park	Storage, transport, logistics	Logistics
	Kaohsiung Software Park	Digital content, information software, and other knowledge-intensive industries	Software
	Kaohsiung Linkuang Technology Industrial Park	IC, LCD, LED, automotive parts and components	Manufacturing
	Pingtung Technology Industrial Park	Value-added metals, water treatment equipment, motors	Manufacturing

Source: Export Processing Zone Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs (<http://www.epza.gov.tw>)



## Science Parks

Science parks established in Hsinchu and in central and southern Taiwan serve as foundations and clusters for high-tech industries. These parks have contributed to Taiwan's global recognition as a hub for high-tech industries.

The land and facilities in science parks are available only on a lease basis.

Hsinchu Science Parks	Hsinchu Park	Integrated circuits, computers and computer peripherals, telecommunications, photonics and optoelectronics, precision machinery, and biotechnology
	Zhunan Park	
	Tongluo Park	
	Longtan Park	
	Hsinchu Biomedical Park	
	Yilan Park	
Central Taiwan Science Parks	Taichung Park	Precision machinery industry, optoelectronics industry, integrated circuits industry, computer and peripherals industry, communications industry, and biotechnology industry
	Houli Park	
	Huwei Park	
	Erlin Park	
	Chung Hsing Park	
Southern Taiwan Science Parks	Tainan Park	Photonics and optoelectronics, integrated circuits, precision machinery, biotechnology, ICT, and computer peripherals
	Kaohsiung Park	

## Free Trade Zones

Taiwan has begun designating free trade zones, and currently has 6 sea port free trade zones and one air port free trade zone. Free trade zones allow 19 varied services, including trading, warehousing,

logistics, container distribution, transshipment, transfer, contracted transport, customs clearance services, assembly, consolidation, packaging, repair, fitting, processing, manufacturing, inspection, testing, exhibition, and technical services. Firms can operate in free trade zones in the form of subsidiaries, offices, or operating departments. When foreign cargo enters or is stored in a free-trade zone, and when cargo is exported overseas from a free-trade zone or transferred to another free-trade zone, only a report must be made, and the movement is exempt from review and inspection. Firms in free-trade zones may engage in a wide range of businesses, such as LME non-ferrous metals storage and transit, sea-air intermodal transport, cross-border e-commerce, and overseas warehousing and distribution. Taiwan can take advantage of the benefits of its free trade zones to attract cargo bound for transfer and induce firms to establish distribution centers in Taiwan. Firms can also employ a "store in front, factory behind" operating model to engage in collaboration with firms outside the free trade zone, which will serve to diffuse free trade zones' advantages to other others. Successful win-win "store in front, factory behind" business models can achieve the goal of diversified operation and facilitate expansion.

## Agricultural Technology Parks

Taiwan currently has two industrial parks focusing on agricultural technology, namely the national-level Agricultural Biotechnology Park and Tainan City's Taiwan Orchid Plantation, which is administered by the local government. These industrial areas have successfully brought about the formation of six industry clusters, which are in the respective fields of value-added natural products, aquaculture and value-added products, agricultural materials, livestock biotechnology and value-added products, biotech testing along with contract production services and marketing, and energy-conserving environmental control agricultural facilities. In addition, hardware and software advantages such as single administrative window service, bonded areas with tax incentives, convenient one-stop import/export customs clearance, low-interest loans, funding for R&D and industry-academic collaboration, standard biotech plants, logistics centers, multifunctional warehouse areas, and manpower training centers induced agribusinesses to build plants on leased land or lease standard biotech plant buildings, thus forming industry clusters. Furthermore, the Taiwan Orchid Plantation serves as a high-tech agricultural industry platform offering R&D, production-marketing, processing, and transfer services, and has boosted the

export of high added value products. The Taiwan Orchid Plantation's R&D results have helped nearby farms become satellite farms, which has accelerated the formation of an agricultural technology industry cluster, and promoted the transformation and sustainable management of agriculture in Taiwan.

Keelung Port FTZ	There are seven main external access roads. The zone is 60 km, or about a one-hour drive, from Taoyuan International Airport.
	The zone benefits from its location in the hinterland of Greater Taipei and its proximity to major political, economic, industrial and commercial centers of Taiwan. Suitable enterprises include warehousing, logistics, assembly and installation, reassembly, packaging, simple processing, cargo shipping, re-export and forwarding.
Kaohsiung Port FTZ	The zone is located 3 km from Kaohsiung International Airport and 2 km from the national freeway network. Each of the zone's access roads connects with Provincial Highway No. 17 and National Freeway Nos. 1, 3 and 10.
	Nearby industrial clusters include petrochemicals (led by CPC Corp., Taiwan) and shipbuilding (led by CSBC Corp., Taiwan) along with export processing zones and industrial zones in Kaohsiung and Pingtung, as well as semiconductors, photonics, and optoelectronics in the Southern Taiwan Science Parks.
Taichung Port FTZ	Expressway access to Taichung Airport provides a convenient link between air and sea transport. Nearby clusters include the Taichung area export processing zones, machinery technology industrial park, Central Taiwan Science Parks, and Taichung Industrial Park.
Taipei Port FTZ	At a distance of only 23 km from Taoyuan International Airport, the zone provides a convenient link between air and sea transport.
	Primarily operates as a center for automobile logistics and a major supply chain node for petrochemical, chemical and oil products. In close proximity to the Taipei metropolitan area and the industrial districts of Tucheng, Wugu, Linkou and Shulin.
Su'ao Port FTZ	Links to northern Taiwan metropolitan areas via Provincial Highway No. 2 and National Freeway No. 5 allow for 40-minute road access to the zone.
	Currently adding investments in the green energy industry. Forms industrial clusters with nearby Longde and Lize industrial zones and Yilan Science Park.
Anping Port FTZ	Provincial Highway No. 17 and Expressway No. 86 serve as access roads to National Freeway Nos. 1 and 3. Also, located near Tainan Airport.
	One-hour road access to nearby industrial zones, science park, and agricultural and biotechnology parks.
Taoyuan Air Cargo FTZ	Primarily serves high value-added components and IT-related industries. Combines air cargo transport, logistics, operations, and warehouse management functions. Specialized zones include an air cargo terminal, warehouse office building, value-added park zone, a logistics center, and an operations center.

## Environmental Science and Technology Parks

The primary purpose of environmental science and technology parks is to develop advanced resource recycling technology, advanced environmental protection technology and the eco-industry in order to raise Taiwan's environmental protection standards and promote development of emerging environmental protection industries. Local governments in Taoyuan, Tainan, Kaohsiung and Hualien operate such parks designed to accommodate local industry.

### Overview of Environmental Science and Technology Parks

Area	Location	Major Focus
Taoyuan	Taoyuan High-tech Industrial Park	Located to the southwest of Taoyuan High-tech Park in Tangwei District. Key industries include electrical and electronic equipment, machinery manufacturing, and metal manufacturing.
Tainan	Liuying High-tech Industrial Park	Manufacturing industries predominate, including metals, plastics, textiles, food and electrical devices.
Kaohsiung	Benzhou Industrial Park (Gangshan)	Gangshan District, Kaohsiung is an important domestic site for the production of fasteners (screws, nuts etc.). The park solicits environmentally friendly industries that can help traditional fastener manufacturers reduce pollution. Key enterprises involved with resource renewal, clean manufacturing and environmentally friendly critical equipment encourage surrounding manufacturers to implement environmentally friendly upgrades.
Hualien	Fenglin Environmental Science and Technology Park	The park is located at the center of the East Rift Valley. Surrounding industrial clusters include Heping, Meilun and Guanghua; research institutions and incubation centers include Tzu Chi University and Dong Hwa University.

Source: Environmental Protection Administration website (<http://estp.epa.gov.tw/big5/knownew.htm>)

# Highly Professional Workforce

## Labor Market

### ■ A Quality Labor Force That Continues to Improve

Overall Taiwan's labor market has remained quite stable and the labor force has shown demonstrated long-term growth, growing from 11.07 million in 2010 to 11.96 million in 2020. In 2020 the labor participation rate was 59.14% and the unemployment rate was 3.85%. Thanks to the broad expansion of higher education over the last decade, the percentage of workers with college degrees or higher has continued to rise. In addition, the government has promoted the linking of education and employment, industrial/academic collaboration, and lifelong education policies and programs, which has strengthened the competitive advantage of Taiwan's talent and workforce.

Over 300,000 students graduate from colleges and universities in Taiwan every year, of which close to 60,000 have master's and Ph.D. degrees. In 2020, 6.08 million employees or 53% had a college degree or higher. In 2019 there were approximately 13.8 person-years of full time researchers per 1000 employees. The accumulated technical and managerial talent in the manufacturing and service industries means that ensures that foreign firms investing in operations in Taiwan can meet their need for high-level technical and management personnel.

### ■ Rising Labor Productivity

During the past decade, Taiwan's consumer price index (CPI) has risen by an average of 0.9% per year, while the salaries of industrial and service employees have risen by an average of 2% per year. Although Taiwan's commodity prices and salaries have risen steadily for many years, the productivity of industrial sector employees has increased at an average rate of 2.4% per year, and labor productivity is continuing to rise.

## Average Regular Monthly Wages in the Five Major Industries for Foreign Investment

(Units: NT\$)

	Manufacturing		Wholesale and retail	Publishing, audio-visual production, dissemination, and ICT services	Finance and insurance	Real Estate
		Electronic Components Manufacturing				
Total	39,087	45,504	41,394	58,692	62,963	42,522
Executives and Supervisors	76,150	95,466	75,559	90,787	113,683	63,392
Professionals	59,122	63,531	52,616	63,613	68,170	56,312
Technicians and Associate Professionals	40,678	41,774	39,977	52,233	57,592	42,835
Clerical Support	32,797	39,007	33,195	39,340	48,602	34,272
Service and Sales	33,947	32,821	29,601	36,109	45,728	34,422
Artisans, Machinery Operators, and Assemblers	30,909	33,859	34,510	56,646	45,190	45,223
Basic Laborers	25,136	27,195	28,504	20,591	34,467	25,445

Source: Ministry of Labor (<https://www.mol.gov.tw/>) July 2019 survey of job categories

## ■ Employee Hiring

Over the past 10 years, the number of professionals in various occupations increased by 340,000, an increase of 30.3% . The number of skilled technical workers, and machinery and equipment operators grew by 320,000, an increase of 9.9%. The manufacturing sector added 180,000 people, an increase of 6.3%, the wholesale and retail sector added 150,000 people, an increase of 8.7%, the accommodation and catering sector added 130,000 employees, and the construction and engineering sectors added 120,000 employees, increases of 17.5% and 14.8% respectively.



Advantageous Environment

## Salary Structure

In Taiwan, total annual salary generally includes a basic fixed monthly wage (including normal pay and monthly allowances and bonuses) and variable pay (including overtime, annual bonus, performance bonuses, and attendance bonuses). The average annual bonus is around 1.5 months' wage and is typically paid before the Lunar New Year.

## Labor Regulations

### ■ Wages and Working Hours

Taiwan has a comprehensive labor rights protection system based primarily on the Labor Standards Act, the provisions of which stipulate the basic wage, working hours, weekends and holidays, and other basic working conditions.

With respect to employee salaries and working hours, the base wage is NT\$24,000 per month and NT\$160 per hour. Normal working hours may not exceed 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week.

Category	Regular Working Hours			Days Off			Notes
	Daily	Weekly	Total	Regular Leave	Rest Day	Total	
Regular	8	40	40	At least 1 day every 7 days	At least 1 day every 7 days	2 days	
2-week flexible working hours	10	48	80	Minimum 1 day for each 7 days	Minimum 2 days for each 2 weeks	4 days	Limited to designated industries and must be agreed to by labor union or labor-management conference
4-week flexible working hours	10	--	160	Minimum 2 days for each 2 weeks	Minimum 4 days for each 4 weeks	8 days	
8-week flexible working hours	8	48	320	Minimum 1 day for each 7 days	Minimum 8 days for each 8 weeks	16 days	

Regular working hours plus extended working hours may not exceed 12 hours per day and extended working hours may not exceed 46 hours per month. Overtime pay shall be paid in accordance with the law.

	Overtime Hours	Overtime Pay	Notes
Ordinary work days	2 hours or less	Regular rate plus at least 1/3	Compensatory time off should be selected according to the worker's wishes and approved by the employer. Compensatory time off shall extend hours of work.
	2 to 4 hours	Regular rate plus at least 2/3	
Rest day	2 hours or less	Regular rate plus at least 1 1/3	
	More than 2 hours	Regular rate plus at least 1 2/3	
Work hours during the week may be extended to compensate for natural disasters, unexpected incidents, or emergencies.		plus 1	After such an event, employers should provide workers with appropriate rest time.

Workers who continue to work for an employer or institution for a specified period of time, shall be entitled to annual paid leave as stipulated in the following chart.

Years in Service	Annual paid Leave (Days)	Notes
$0.5 \leq Y < 1$	3	Vacation time may be allotted on the basis of the work schedule. Vacation time that has not been taken must be paid as wages or deferred until the following year by agreement between the employee and employer.
$1 \leq Y < 2$	7	
$2 \leq Y < 3$	10	
$3 \leq Y < 5$	14 days per year	
$5 \leq Y < 10$	15 days per year	
$Y \geq 10$	One day is added per year, up to a maximum of 30 days.	

Wages shall be paid by the employer for regular leaves, rest days, holidays (Labor Day and other memorial or festival days designated as leave days by the government) and annual paid leaves. When a worker agrees to work on a holiday (including holidays and annual paid leave days), the employer shall pay double the regular rate for such work.

Under the stipulations of the "Labor Standards Act," the "Regulations of Leave-taking of Workers," and the "Act of Gender Equality in Employment," workers may apply for maternity leave, sick leave, menstruation leave, personal leave, family leave, pre-natal check-up leave, paternity leave, premature maternity leave, wedding leave, and mourning leave.

In addition, the Act of Gender Equality in Employment provides basic protection for employees through its provisions prohibiting gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace, and other stipulations for promoting equality at work including the right to apply for unpaid parental leave and resumption of employment.





## Insurance and Welfare

### ■ Labor Insurance

Labor insurance is a comprehensive insurance including both general accident insurance and occupational disaster insurance. Insurance premiums are calculated according to monthly insured salary, insurance rate, and sharing ratio. On May 1, 2016 the maximum insured salary was raised to NT\$45,800, and the minimum insured salary is set according to the minimum wage. In 2021, the general accident insurance rate was 10.5% of the monthly insured salary of the insured party. The cost of insurance is borne 70% by the employer, 20% by the employee and 10% by the government. Occupational accident insurance rates for 2019 ranged from 0.11% to 0.96% of monthly salary, and premiums are fully paid by the employer.

### ■ Employment Insurance

The employment insurance premium rate is set to 1% of the monthly insurable salary; 70% of the premium is borne by the employer, 20% by the employee and 10% by the government.

### ■ National Health Insurance

National Health Insurance (NHI) is a compulsory social insurance. It is a universal system that offers equal care to all subscribers and guarantees medical services to all those who are sick, injured, pregnant, or facing other medical needs. People who have a record of participating in the national health insurance program over the last 2 years and have a household registration in Taiwan, those who had a household registration in Taiwan 6 months before participating in the national health insurance program, and those born in Taiwan who have completed household registration must be enrolled in the NHI program.

Foreign nationals (including people from Hong Kong, Macau, and China) who hold an alien resident certificate (ARC) and who meet the requirements of the National Health Insurance Act and regulations announced by the competent authority shall join the NHI program from the date of their hiring if they have a regular employer. Others may participate in National Health Insurance to safeguard their rights to medical treatment after holding a residence certificate for six months (that is having entered Taiwan and resided continuously for six months, or having left Taiwan once for no longer than 30 days and after deducting the number of days outside Taiwan the total number of days is six months).

In order to protect foreign newborns' health rights, since December 1, 2017, foreigners with proof of residency in the Taiwan Area must purchase insurance for their newborn infants from the date of birth. Furthermore, since the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals took effect on February 8, 2018, foreign professionals hired to engage in professional work, their spouses and their minor children who cannot live independently due to mental or physical disabilities should receive health insurance coverage from the date of which the professional receives his or her proof of residency. Please visit the website of the National Health Insurance Administration for further information: <https://www.nhi.gov.tw>.





## ■ Retirement Pensions

In accordance with the Labor Pension Act, under the new labor retirement system, employers must set aside on a monthly basis no less than 6% of their employees' monthly salaries as retirement pensions, which is deposited into a personal employee pension account set up with the Bureau of Labor Insurance. This system has the advantages of portability and employees' ability to claim their pensions after switching jobs, dismissal, or resignation. However, prior to the implementation of the new labor retirement system in 2005, under the old labor retirement system of the same institution, employees (including persons who chose to continue under the old system after implementation of the new system, as well as those who switched to the new system after implementation of the Labor Pension Act, but retained their work seniority under the old system) received retirement fund contributions that varied between 2% and 15% of their monthly salaries, depending on their employer, and which were deposited in dedicated retirement accounts at the Bank of Taiwan by the employer.

## Employment of Foreign Professionals

The Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals drafted by the National Development Council became law on February 8, 2018, with the aim of quickly and comprehensively loosening various laws and regulations related to the work and life of foreign professionals coming to and staying in Taiwan. By relaxing visa, employment, stay, and residence regulations for foreign professionals so as to improve their treatment in the areas of insurance, tax, and retirement, the Act aims to build a friendly environment that attracts foreign professionals to come to work and live in Taiwan, support the accelerated expansion of domestic enterprises into the international marketplace, promote industrial upgrading and transformation, enhance Taiwan's international competitiveness, and establish an important milestone for the nation's legal system. Key points of the Act are as follows:

### I. Key points of the bill

#### 1. Visa and Residency Regulations

##### (1) Foreign Professionals

- (a) Opening to foreign freelance artists: Foreign freelance artists are allowed to obtain work permits without applying for them through employers but directly to the Ministry of Labor.
- (b) Relaxation of rules for cram schools hiring foreign teachers with professional or technical expertise: In addition to foreign language instruction, cram schools in Taiwan may apply to the Ministry of Labor to hire foreign teachers with specialized expertise or professional skills.
- (c) Issuance of job search visas: Foreigners coming to Taiwan seeking professional employment and need long-term job searches may be issued job search visas that allow them to stay up to six months.
- (d) Relaxation of rules for cancellation of permanent residency: The required minimum duration of stay of 183 days per



year for maintaining permanent residency is abolished for foreigners who have obtained permanent residency status from the Ministry of the Interior.

- (e) The issuance of work permits for foreign teachers will be returned to the Ministry of Education, to encourage schools to expand their recruiting of foreign teachers.

## 2. Foreign special professionals

- (a) Issuance of Employment Gold Cards: Relaxation of channels for issuance of the 4-in-1 work permit, resident visa, Alien Resident Certificate, and re-entry permit in the Employment Gold Card (individual work permit), valid for one to three years by the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior for foreign special professionals planning to engage in professional work in Taiwan with re-application prior to expiry permitted to facilitate job search and changing jobs.
- (b) Extension of the validity of work permits for foreign special professionals: The validity of work permits for foreign special professionals hired for professional work is extended from three to five years, and may be further extended before expiration.

## II. Easing of provisions for stay or residence of parents, spouses, and children

- (1) Easing of procedures for spouses and children applying for permanent residency: Taking into

account international standards and human rights considerations, a foreign professional holding an APRC may apply for permanent residency for his or her spouse, minor children, and adult children with mental or physical handicaps preventing them from being self sufficient without financial documentation after five years of continuous legal residency.

- (2) Easing of procedures to allow the spouse and children of high-ranking foreign professionals to apply for permanent residency simultaneously: To meet the recommended amendments to Article 25 of the Immigration Act, simultaneous application for permanent residency may be submitted by the high-ranking foreign professionals along with their spouse, minor children, and adult children with mental or physical handicaps who are unable to live by themselves.
- (3) Issuance of personal work permits to adult children who stay in Taiwan: The adult children of foreign professionals with permanent residency who are qualified to extend their residency, may apply for a personal work permit according to Article 51 of the Labor Standards Act.
- (4) Direct family members of specific foreign professionals can apply for a visitor visa for a stay of up to six months. If the visa must be extended, the extension must be applied for before the visa expires with the Immigration Department of the Ministry of the Interior for a maximum period of up to one year.

### III. Provision of Retirement, Insurance, and Tax Benefits

#### (1) Strengthening of retirement safeguards

- (a) Following implementation of the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals on February 8, 2018, for foreigners hired for professional work who have been issued permanent residency, their retirement will be governed by the new retirement system under the Ministry of Labor. Under the Labor Pension Act as amended on May 15, 2019 foreigners who have obtained permanent residence will integrate into the new labor retirement system.
- (b) The retirement matters of qualified teachers who are currently teaching in a public school and who have permanent alien residency are governed by the retirement rules of public school teachers. Such teachers may choose a one-time pension payment or monthly pension payment upon retirement.

(2) Relaxation of NHI restrictions: Professional foreign talent employed in professional work, along with their spouses, minor children, and adult children with mental or physical handicaps who are unable to care for themselves, who hold residence certificates, are not subject to the six-month waiting period to participate in the national health insurance system.

(3) Other tax benefits: Designated foreign professionals working in Taiwan for the first time with salary income of more than NT\$3 million per year enjoy a 50% tax break on the amount of income over NT\$ 3.0 million for their first three

years in Taiwan.

### II. Results of Implementation

#### 1. Visa and Residency Regulations

- (1) Issuance of Employment Gold Cards: As of the end of February 2021, 2,243 employment gold cards have been issued, including 1,541 to persons working in business, 241 to persons working in science and technology, 169 to persons working in culture and arts, 146 to persons working in finance, 138 to persons working in education, 7 to persons working in architectural design and one to a person working in physical education.
- (2) Relaxing of other regulations related to work, residence, and dependents: As of the end of January 2021, a total of 1,739 5-year work permits have been issued to foreign professionals, 162 job-seeking visas have been issued and 38 individual work permits for adult children have been approved. Free artist work permits have been issued to 172 people, and 385 dependents of foreign professionals who have obtained permanent residence have applied for permanent residence.
- (3) Number of foreign professionals in Taiwan: The number of foreign professionals has grown significantly, reaching 39,522 as of the end of December 2020. After passage of the Foreign Talent Act, the number of work permits issued to foreign professional increased notably, adding 8,595 people for a 27.8% increase to 30,927. Up through the end of December 2019, the number of work permits issued was 33,722, an increase of 9% over the total of 30,927 before the Act was implemented at the end of 2017.





## Stable Development of Finance and Foreign Exchange

### Financial Organizations

Financial organizations in Taiwan are generally divided into deposit monetary institutions such as domestic banks, branches of foreign or Chinese banks, credit cooperatives, and the credit departments of fishermen's and farmers' associations; the Department of Savings and Remittance of the Chunghwa Post Co.; and life insurance companies.

### Administration of Foreign Exchange

Foreign currency exchange in Taiwan is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and is based on the operation of the free market. Currently, inward and outward remittances of purely foreign-denominated capital that do not involve conversion of New Taiwan Dollars are fully free. They can be directly handled by banks, with interest and exchange rates decided by the market. Inward and outward remittances of foreign-denominated capital that involve the conversion of New Taiwan Dollars are subject to a few restrictions. Capital flows on products, services, approved direct investments, and securities investments are fully free; short-term capital movement restrictions requiring approval from the Central Bank apply to the conversion of more than US\$50 million per year by a company, limited partnership, or firm, and to the conversion of more than US\$5 million cumulatively per year by an individual or association. A single transaction conversion of more than US\$

### How to Open a Bank Account

Foreign Individual	With an ARC	ARC and second form of identification, such as a passport, local driver's license or NHI card, needed.
	Without an ARC	Valid passport with entry visa (or stamp) or Overseas Chinese Identification Certification and Record of ID No. in the ROC are needed.
Foreign Corporation	Registered with the Taiwan government authorities	Application can be made using the company registration certificate along with the minutes of the board of directors meeting, articles of incorporation, or financial statements.
	Not yet registered with the Taiwan government authorities	Certificate of incorporation, ID of responsible person, power of attorney appointing its representative or agent in Taiwan, and the Tax Code notice issued by the local tax authorities are needed.

100,000 by a non-resident also requires Central Bank approval. These restrictions are in place in order to maintain the exchange stability of the New Taiwan Dollar. Foreign exchange transactions with a value equal to or exceeding NT\$500,000 must be reported.



## Foreign Investment in Taiwan Securities

The process for overseas Chinese or foreign nationals investing in less than 10% of the equity of companies listed on the stock market, over-the-counter market, or emerging share markets, or other domestic securities, is very convenient. Overseas Chinese and foreigner nationals must entrust a domestic agent (usually a domestic bank or securities firm) or a representative who registers with the Taiwan Stock Exchange.

The overseas Chinese or foreign national may then entrust any local securities firm to handle registration with the Taiwan Stock Exchange. Once the registration is completed, an account may be opened with the securities broker to buy and sell securities. If a single investment exceeds 10% of the equity of an enterprise, the investor must submit an application to the Investment Commission of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the administrative office of any science park, or the Export Processing Zone Administration of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.



## Status of Financial Markets

At the end of February 2021, Taiwan's foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$543.3 billion. Taiwan's savings rate was 39.27% at the end of 2020, and financial industry assets amounted to NT\$105.77 trillion at the end of 2020. The output value of Taiwan's financial and insurance industries in 2020 was NT\$1.32 trillion, accounting for 6.75% of GDP. Companies in the banking, securities, and insurance industries are financially sound, and have enjoyed steadily increasing profits, with pre-tax net profits of NT\$370.8 billion, NT\$81.7 billion, and NT\$223.1 billion respectively in 2020, demonstrating the increasing maturity of Taiwan's financial market.

At the end of 2019, Taiwan had 1,730 listed (OTC) companies, with a total market capitalization of NT\$49.256 trillion. Securities transactions totaled NT\$61,842 trillion during 2020, with a turnover rate of 125.55%. By the end of 2020, the market capitalization and transaction values of Taiwan's listed (OTC) companies accounted for 1.58% and 1.37% of global totals, demonstrating the maturity and high trading volume of Taiwan's securities market. In contrast to the Chinese and Hong Kong stock markets, Taiwan has outstanding R&D talent and strong intellectual property protections, as well as fair and credible financial valuation of high-tech companies. Compared with the Chinese and Hong Kong stock markets, Taiwan has excellent R&D talent and strong intellectual property protection. Its evaluation of technology companies is more fair and credible.

Taiwan has a stable exchange rate and a mature securities market. The revision of relevant laws and regulations in recent years has eased the requirements imposed on fund-raising in Taiwan by foreign companies and simplified administrative procedures, which has attracted many foreign companies to seek listings in Taiwan. As of the end of 2020, there were 948 listed companies in Taiwan, of which 77 were foreign companies, accounting for 8.12% of Taiwan's listed companies. Of the 775 OTC companies, 77 were foreign companies, or 4.22% of all OTC companies. The P/E ratio of the foreign companies listed in Taiwan (27.59 times) was slightly higher than that of all listed companies (22.37 times). The turnover rate (208.79%) for foreign companies is higher than that of all listed companies (123.34%). The market is very accepting of foreign companies and enthusiasm for transactions helps listed companies to conduct secondary offerings.



## Financial Liberalization

Restrictions that prevented foreigners from investing in Taiwan's financial intermediary industry (including banks, credit cooperatives, bills finance firms, credit card issuance companies, and financial holding companies) and insurance industry (including life insurance, property insurance, and reinsurance) have been lifted. Foreigners are now permitted to own up to 100% of the shares of a Taiwan financial institution.

In order to fully develop international financial businesses, 59 banks have been approved to set up offshore banking units (OBUs), 19 securities brokers have been approved to establish offshore securities units (OSUs) and 20 insurance companies have been approved to establish offshore insurance units (OIUs), accounting for 7.91% of the total assets of the banks, securities companies, and insurance companies.

Aligning with trends in the digital development of financial technology and the foreign exchange sector, in terms of foreign exchange business management, Taiwan has simplified the qualification criteria and shortened the required time for banks to apply for a designated bank license and has allowed designated banks domestically issuing foreign exchange financial bonds to be linked to derivative products or structured bonds. These changes have been implemented to enhance the ability of banks to develop and design financial products and to boost diversified development of the bonds market and other financial products.

To strengthen the domestic financial infrastructure, multicurrency foreign currency settlement platforms in line with international standards have been established. This improves remittance efficiency and reduces foreign exchange settlement risk.



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## Vibrant Lifestyle

Taiwan is a hospitable, fun place to live with wonderful spots to relax and travel. We warmly welcome everyone to visit and enjoy the diverse experiences this island has to offer.



## A Convenient, Comfortable Environment

Taiwan has approximately three-thousandths of the world population and less than three-ten thousandths of the world's land area. Despite these limitations, the whole world recognizes the "Taiwan experience." When you come to Taiwan, besides friendly human interactions you can enjoy a convenient lifestyle, diverse cuisine, and a culture composed of elements from numerous ethnic groups. Whether on a short trip or a long stay, you can blend in naturally with locals and experience diverse entertainment and living options.

### A Culinary Paradise Known around the World

Taiwanese cuisine is famed throughout the world for its rich variety. From diverse cooking styles to snacks referred to as "small eats," every dish blends unique qualities. Besides aboriginal-style cuisine, Hakka and southern Fujianese home cooking, and foods from every corner of mainland China, there are also Japanese, Korean, Indian, Southeast Asian, European and American dishes that together make Taiwan a culinary paradise. You can eat whatever your heart desires. From night market snacks to intimate eateries and Michelin restaurants, there is something to satisfy every palate. The diversity and range of Taiwan's cuisine is sure to exceed your expectations.

### A Convenient Lifestyle, Rich in Variety

Taiwan is home to over 10,000 convenience stores, or an average of one for every 2,000 people. In some areas they are seemingly ubiquitous, particularly in metropolises, where you are usually only a short walk away from one of these 24-hour shops. Often referred to as the height of convenience, the many consumer functions they offer range from the sale of everyday items to bill payments, ticketing and shipment proxy services.

Major metropolises feature shopping zones replete with large shopping centers and chain department stores that offer apparel, premium goods, food, books and cinemas. There are also hypermarkets along with recreational and amusement parks to satisfy all consumer needs. According to the consulting firm ECA International, in 2017 Taipei ranked as the 14th most expensive location in Asia for expatriates. It was considered less expensive than Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore, showing that expatriate staff can benefit from a lifestyle that is relatively inexpensive and convenient while still retaining quality and comfort.

### A Friendly Environment That Puts You at Ease

Taiwan benefits from a comprehensive infrastructure, including modern public transit facilities in major metropolises. Outside of major cities, visitors can experience the simple, rustic nature of life in the village or countryside. No matter where one lives, excellent medical care and convenient consumer options are available. Taiwan also has excellent public safety; when walking along major thoroughfares, travelers and shoppers can enjoy themselves without needing to worry about personal safety or their belongings. Whether for travel or living, life in Taiwan puts visitors and immigrants at ease.

### A Seamless Transportation Environment

Transportation in Taiwan is very convenient, with highway and railway networks reaching to every corner of the island. Whether driving or taking public transit, within a period of just a few hours it is possible to reach nearly anywhere you would like to go. At dawn, you could be on a high-elevation mountain peak admiring the sunrise, and by dusk you could have moved onto the seaside to take in the sunset. In the morning, you could be at company headquarters in Taipei for a meeting, and by afternoon you could arrive at the resort town of Kenting at the southernmost tip of Taiwan for a



relaxing vacation. The round-island railway network, the high-speed rail and a dense highway system combine to make all of Taiwan reachable within a day. Whether on business or pleasure, travelers are able to quickly and conveniently reach their destination. Taiwan's comprehensive mass transit network includes buses that travel even to remote mountain settlements and seaside fishing villages. While the quantity of buses that go to these locations does not compare to the frequent service in metropolitan areas, with planning practically all destinations can be reached easily.

### **A Unique, Charming Cultural Grace**

Taiwan is a beautiful Pacific island that is home to Austronesian indigenous peoples. Aesthetic elements from 16 ethnic tribes are reflected in handicrafts, weaving, music and architecture, while indigenous festivals and ceremonies portray a peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between people and nature. Noted festivals and activities that visitors can participate in

or attend include the Amis Harvest Festivals, the Saisiyat Pas-tai, the Yami Flying Fish Festival, the Puyuma Vasivas, and Bunun Mapavkis. In particular, the Bunun eight-part polyphony is a beautiful chorus that has been heard around the world.

In the past, the Spanish, Dutch and Japanese all used Taiwan as a base and subsequently left distinct historic, architectural and culinary heritages behind. Today, Han Chinese customs, festivals, traditional arts, lifestyles and cultures serve as the foundation of Taiwanese culture. Western cultural influences contribute lively modern artistic performances and activities. The diverse ethnic culture makes Taiwanese society tolerant and open toward different groups while giving it a unique set of creative capabilities.

### **An Open, Tolerant Society with Diverse Religious Systems**

Taiwan is a religiously diverse land. Besides traditional polytheistic folk beliefs, Taiwanese society is tolerant and respectful of Buddhism, Taoism, Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, Islam and other religions. The ceremonies that are a part of folk belief systems are known for their bustling nature and reflect the passion and optimism inherent in the Taiwanese people. In particular, the "welcoming Mazu" ceremonies, held at the time of the goddess' birthday, make up the oldest, largest set of religious celebrations in Taiwan.

### **Comprehensive Education in line with International Standard**

Taiwan has 22 foreign schools for foreign residents, including 16 American schools, the Taipei European



School, 3 schools for Japanese residents, and 2 Korean schools. Apart from these foreign schools, the children of foreign nationals may also apply to attend dual-language sections or programs established by schools at the high school level and below, foreign sections or programs established by private schools at the high school level and below, and other schools at the high school level and below authorized by the competent authority to accept foreign students. Students with lawful residency rights in Taiwan can also apply to attend schools at the high school level and below near their place of residence. Students wishing to attend university (or above) may apply directly to attend that school. Taiwan has 61 Chinese language educational organizations attached to universities qualified to enroll foreign students, and these organizations can provide superior Chinese-language study programs. With regard to the general educational system, preschools (and kindergartens) enroll children from the age of 2 until elementary school age. Elementary schools have 6 grades, junior high schools have 3 grades, and high schools have 3 grades. Junior college, college, and university programs are generally 2-7 years in duration. Universities and colleges are classified into universities (general universities and independent colleges) and technical colleges (including two- and five-year technical colleges, and institutes of science and technology). Post-graduate master's programs last for 1-4 years, while Ph.D. programs last for 2-7 years. Taiwan began from the 2014 school year to implement 12-year basic education, from elementary school through graduation from high school.

## Professional High-Quality Medical Care

Taiwan's medical technology standards and quality of health care are world class. Foreign nationals who hold an ARC are required to enroll in the National Health Insurance program during the period of their residence in accordance with relevant regulations, allowing them to benefit from high-quality medical care.

## Leisurely Journeys through Taiwan's Natural Environment

Taiwan's varied natural landscape provides plenty of choices for outdoor recreational activities. Mountain hiking trails and bike paths are everywhere leading to undiscovered adventures. Those who wish to experience varied landscapes and topographies can visit the lakes and mountains of the Central Mountain Range, the Datun Volcano Group in Taipei, the badlands terrain of Kaohsiung's Moon World, the lagoons and sandbars of the west coast, the Penghu basalt columnar formations, Pingtung's coral formations, Green Island's saltwater hot springs, the East Rift Valley and Taroko Gorge. Those interested in plant and animal ecology can choose from bird watching, butterfly watching and other activities to enjoy the unique botanic and wildlife species Taiwan has to offer.

If your passion lies with urban leisure and entertainment pursuits, besides regular and specialty shopping districts that are favorites of consumers, across the island there are cultural centers, bookstores, movie theaters, museums, cultural parks, exhibition and performance centers, and private performance venues that host a variety of cultural and leisure activities. Different localities also feature sites and activities infused with local characteristics that provide visitors with an opportunity to experience the ways culture varies across the island. Popular festivals provide another novel experience, from the Songjiang Battle Array in Neimen, Kaohsiung, to the boat-burning festival in Donggang, the Yanshui Beehive Rockets Festival during the Lantern Festival, the Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival, the races of the Dragon Boat Festival, and the releasing of water lanterns and Grappling with the Ghosts competition during the Ghost Festival. Whether you are drawn to natural landscapes or cultural settings, the beauty of Taiwan awaits your exploration.



# A Handy Guide to Visas and Residenc

## Visas

Various types of visas are available depending on the purpose of the visit and the status of the individual.

- Visitor Visa: A short-term visa that permits stays of up to 180 days.
- Resident Visa: A long-term visa that permits stays of 180 days or more.
- Diplomatic Visa
- Courtesy Visa

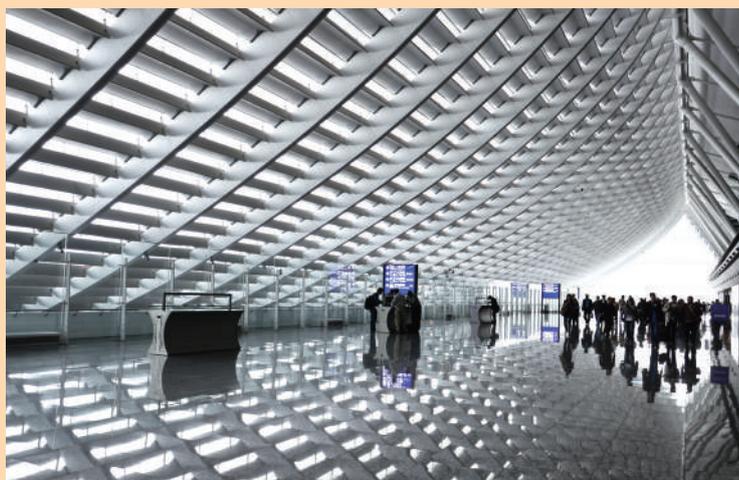


<p>Visitor Visa</p>	<p>Foreign nationals who hold ordinary passports or other legal travel documents and who intend to stay in Taiwan for no more than six months for the purposes of transit, tourism, visiting relatives, interviews, undertaking inspections, attending international conferences, conducting business, short-term study, short-term employment, short-term missionary work, or engaging in other activities approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p>	<p>Visitor visa holders who are permitted to stay in Taiwan for 60 days or more and whose visas do not state that “no extension will be granted” may apply at the local service centers of the National Immigration Agency for an extension of visa.</p>
<p>Resident Visa</p>	<p>Applicable to foreign nationals who hold formal passports, who wish to reside in Taiwan for more than 6 months, and are dependent on family members or engaging in study, employment, accepting employment, investment, missionary activities, public affairs, international interchange, and other activities permitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or other relevant central competent authority..</p>	<p>Resident visa holders must apply for an ARC at the local service centers of the National Immigration Agency within 15 days from the day after arrival in Taiwan or from the day when approval is granted to switch one’s original visa to a residence visa for those who apply in Taiwan. The ARC will state the duration of the stay.</p>

Source: Bureau of Consular Affairs, MOFA (<http://www.boca.gov.tw/>); National Immigration Agency, MOI (<http://www.immigration.gov.tw>).

## Visa-Free Entry

When entering Taiwan without a visa, visitors from Thailand, Brunei, and the Philippines may stay for 14 days, visitors from Russia may stay for 21 days, visitors from Malaysia, Singapore, Nauru, Belize, Dominican Republic, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent may stay for 30 days, and visitors from the remaining countries may stay 90 days, and may not extend their visa or change to another visitor visa or resident visa. Furthermore, visitors bearing British or Canadian passports who are not in Taiwan for employment or long-term residency may apply for a longer stay in accordance with relevant regulations after entering Taiwan without a visa, and may obtain a maximum stay of 180 days.





Europe		
Austria	Andorra	Belgium
Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus
Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia
Finland	France	Germany
Greece	Hungary	Iceland
Ireland	Italy	Latvia
Lithuania	Liechtenstein	Luxembourg
North Macedonia (Trial basis until March 31, 2025)	Monaco	Netherlands
North Macedonia (Trial basis until March 31, 2025)	Norway	Poland
Portugal	Romania	Russia (until July 31, 2020)
San Marino	Slovakia	Slovenia
Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
U.K.	Vatican City State	
Asia		
Brunei (until July 31, 2020)	Israel	Japan
Republic of Korea	Malaysia	Philippines (until July 31, 2020)
Singapore	Thailand (until July 31, 2020)	
North America		
Canada	U.S.A.	
Latin America and the Caribbean		
Belize	Chile	Dominican Republic
Guatemala	Haiti	Honduras
Nicaragua	Paraguay	St. Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Oceania		
Australia (Trial basis until December 31, 2020)	Marshall Islands	Nauru
New Zealand	Palau	Tuvalu
Africa		
Eswatini		

Source: Bureau of Consular Affairs, MOFA (<http://www.boca.gov.tw/>)

## Nationals Eligible for eVisa

An eVisa is an official document issued electronically to qualified foreign nationals who are not eligible for visa-free entry. Applications are completed using convenient "one-stop" online service (submit relevant personal information, pay the required fee by credit card, receive the eVisa after the submitted information is assessed and found to meet relevant criteria).

- General eVisa:  
Nationals of the following 19 countries are eligible for an eVisa: Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kuwait, Mauritius, Montenegro, Oman, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates. These applicants do not need to obtain permission from Taiwan's central government agency in advance.
- Special eVisa: (Requires approval by Taiwan's central government agency)
  1. Foreign nationals from any country invited to participate in international conferences, sports competitions, trade exhibitions, or events hosted or organized by central government organizations.
  2. Tour groups from India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos may apply through the Tourism Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in accordance with the "Southeast Asian Preferential Tour Groups Sightseeing Visas Procedural Guidelines" (on a trial basis until December 31, 2020)
- Business eVisa: Business people from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, and Iran who are recommended by local offices of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council can apply for an e-visa to engage in business activities in Taiwan.

## Landing Visa

Turkish nationals and nationals of countries eligible for visa-exempt entry (except US passport holders) who hold an emergency or a temporary passport valid for at least six months are eligible to apply for a landing visa that permits a stay of up to 30 days. Foreigners who enter Taiwan with a landing visa may not apply for extensions or engage in other activities or convert the visa into a visitor or resident visa.

## Residency for Foreign Nationals

A foreign national who enters Taiwan using a valid passport with a valid visa, visa-free with a valid passport, or a valid travel document, shall acquire the right of stay or residence after having been inspected by the National Immigration Agency of the Ministry of the Interior and allowed to enter the country. Those who acquire permission to reside shall apply to the Agency for an Alien Resident Certificate within 15 days after the date of entry. If a foreign national possesses a visa valid for a visit of 60 days or more and such a visa does not contain extension restrictions or other restrictions marked by the visa issuing authority, he/she may conditionally apply to the National Immigration Agency for residence. After the agency approves the application, it shall issue an ARC.

Foreigners who qualify for the Entrepreneur Visa Qualifications Review Handling Guidelines for Foreign Nationals in Taiwan ([https://www.moeaic.gov.tw/businessPub.view?lang=ch&op\\_id\\_one=6](https://www.moeaic.gov.tw/businessPub.view?lang=ch&op_id_one=6)) may apply to the Bureau of Consular Affairs, MOFA, one of its offices, or an ROC embassy or representative office abroad with required documents attached for an entrepreneur visa. After applications have passed qualifications review by the Investment Commission, MOEA, the Bureau of



Consular Affairs, MOFA, its office, or the ROC embassy or representative office abroad will be notified. After visa review, the Bureau of Consular Affairs, MOFA, its office, or the ROC embassy or representative office abroad will issue an entrepreneur resident visa to the applicant. If the applicant is abroad at that time, he or she may apply to the National Immigration Agency for a resident visa within 15 days of entering the country holding the entrepreneur visa; the visa shall be valid for a stay of 1 year, which may be extended to 2 years upon receiving permission.

Foreigners with a valid Alien Resident Certificate or staying on visa-free entry or on a visitor visa, who have special expertise in the areas of science and technology, economics, education, culture, arts, sports, or other fields of need as announced by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Economic, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, or other central competent authority, may apply for a combined work permit, resident visa, Alien Resident Certificate, and re-entry permit, or 4-in-1 Employment Gold Card via the online Employment Gold Card application platform of the National Immigration Agency. The validity period of the Employment Gold Card is one to three years, and a card holder who remains qualified may reapply before expiration.

A foreign national who has legally and continuously resided in Taiwan for five years and for more than 183 days each year during that period, or the foreign spouse and/or children of a national with registered permanent residence in the Taiwan Area who has/have legally resided in Taiwan for 10 years, during which period they have actually resided in Taiwan for more than 183 days each year for five years, may conditionally apply to the National Immigration Agency for permanent residence within two years of meeting the residency requirements. Individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Taiwan, senior professional personnel needed by Taiwan, and investors can apply to the National Immigration Agency for permanent residence.

Taiwan has established an excellent dispatching system and provides superior training for local domestic workers; foreign nationals possessing the following qualifications may apply to hire 1 domestic worker. Also, in accordance with "Operational Regulations Governing Expedited Immigration Inspection and Clearance of Foreign Business Travelers and Foreign Frequent

Item	Requirements
Amount of Foreign Investment	GM and above: NT\$100 million or more
	Section heads and above: NT\$200 million or more
Last FY's Business Turnover	GM and above: NT\$500 million or more
	Section heads and above: NT\$1 billion or more
Salaried Income	<p>Managers or above of companies, financial juristic persons, corporate juristic persons or international NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last fiscal year's taxable income in Taiwan: NT\$3 million or more</li> <li>Current fiscal year's monthly income: NT\$250,000 or more</li> <li>If the person's annual salary is over NT\$2 million or monthly salary is over NT\$150,000, and the individual employed the same foreign domestic worker while still overseas before arriving in Taiwan for work, the person may apply to bring that foreign national to Taiwan for employment as a domestic worker.</li> </ul>

Note: Managers of foreign branches or representatives attached to representative offices are subject to the requirements given above for general managers.

Visitors", four types of foreign businesspeople can enjoy express immigration clearance at designated Speedy Immigration Counters: those who invest at least NT\$50 million in Taiwan, are assigned to serve as supervisors or general managers of foreign-invested firms or international enterprises, are hired to serve as a local supervisor or general manager of a Taiwanese enterprise, or make significant contributions to the Taiwanese economy. To receive this benefit, the businessperson must be recommended by his or her chamber of commerce in Taiwan, approval must be granted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and the National Immigration Agency must publish approval on its website. Spouses and immediate family members can receive the same benefit when accompanying the approved businessperson. Approval for speedy immigration clearance is generally valid for one year, starting from the date that the Ministry of Economic Affairs notifies the National Immigration Agency of its approval. A qualified foreign business person who has already obtained residence in Taiwan can enjoy this benefit over the period for which his or her residence permit is valid.

Holders of an Employment Gold Card who possess an alien resident certificate and multiple entry permit are qualified to apply for and use the automatic inspection customs clearance system. Furthermore, as a courtesy to Employment Gold Card holders, cardholders entering or leaving Taiwan may use the Employment Gold Card counter for inspection and customs clearance.

# 理想

## Optimal Choice

Located at the sea and air transportation hub of the Asia-Pacific, Taiwan serves as an important bridge connecting emerging Asian markets to Europe, the United States and Japan. Its excellent geographic location contributes to its standing as a major Asia-Pacific logistics center.



Taiwan boasts many advantages: a sound legal foundation, comprehensive infrastructure, flexible innovative capabilities and an industrial environment conducive to advanced technological R&D. Its extensive industrial clusters allow international enterprises to commit less time and funding to the integration of global resources.

In response to globalization and the fierce competition it brings, Taiwan is readjusting its industrial structure. As innovation replaces traditional manufacturing, Taiwan is promoting production and manufacturing together with marketing services. It is developing knowledge-intensive enterprises involved in industry, services, and agriculture that can raise profits and build Taiwan's global brand.

Additional changes include deregulation and financial policy reform. Gradually, Taiwan is building a commercial regulatory environment that meets international standards and trends. It is accelerating promotion of regional economic integration and bilateral free trade agreements through initiatives such as the free economic pilot zone plan, in the process demonstrating a commitment to open and innovative economic and industrial strategies.

Among Taiwan's many advantages compared to emerging nations of Asia are a beneficial geographic location, a high-quality work force, complete industrial supply chains, excellent manufacturing technologies, well-developed infrastructure, innovative R&D capabilities, stable financial markets, a sound legal environment and government incentives. At the same time, Taiwan brings together investment opportunities in production, services, creativity, information, logistics, human resources and finance. Its natural landscapes are as abundant as they are splendid, its culture is rich, and its living environment is comfortable and convenient.

As an investment platform, Taiwan is recognized for the excellent resources and wonderful environment it offers. It is an ideal choice for international enterprises seeking to expand into the Asia-Pacific.



# Appendix I Company Establishment

Taiwan has always sought to attract investment from foreign nationals. Along with changes in the domestic development and international trade situations, it has adjusted its laws and regulations. It has eliminated investment barriers to establish an excellent investment climate and to assist foreign investors.

## Investment Laws and Regulations: Statute for Investment by Foreign Nationals, Statute for Investment by Overseas Chinese

These two statutes are virtually identical, apart from a few items in which investment is permitted for overseas Chinese but forbidden or restricted for other foreigners

### Definition of Investment

- Holding shares issued by a Taiwanese company or contributing to the capital of a Taiwanese company.
- Establishing a branch office, proprietary business, or partnership in Taiwan.
- Providing loan(s) to an invested business as referred to in the preceding two items for a period of at least one year.

### Kinds of Investment

- Cash.
- Machinery and equipment or raw materials for own use.
- Patent rights, trademark rights, copyrights, technical knowledge, or other intellectual property rights.
- Other property which may be invested under the competent authority's approval (such as credit through reorganizations, mergers and acquisitions, procurement or stock splits).

### Prohibited or Restricted Areas of Investment

- Investment is forbidden in enterprises that may negatively affect national security, public order, good customs and practices, or national health, and those that are prohibited by law.
- Investors who apply to invest in an industry in which investment is restricted by law or by an order given under the applicable law shall obtain approval thereof or consent thereto from the competent authority in charge of the industry in question.
- In line with the previous two paragraphs, the Executive Yuan has adopted the "Negative List for Investment by Foreign Nationals."

### Guarantee of Exchange Settlement

- An investor may apply for exchange settlement against the interest accrued on his/her annual income, or against the profit surplus distributed to him/her from his/her investment.
- An investor transferring his/her shares or withdrawing or decreasing his/her investment may apply for exchange settlement, in a lump sum, of the total amount of his/her investment as approved. The foregoing clause is also applicable to the capital gains realized from the investor's investment.
- An investor's application for exchange settlement against the payment of principal and interest on his/her loan investment shall be governed by the agreed terms and conditions.

### Protection Against Expropriation

- When foreign investment accounts for 45% or more of the total capital amount of an enterprise, the invested enterprise shall not be subject to requisition or expropriation for a period of 20 years after the commencement of business of the invested enterprise as long as the said capital contribution rate of the investor remains unchanged.
- In case the government expropriates or acquires an invested enterprise for national defense reasons, a foreign investor whose investment is less than 45% of the total capital amount of the invested enterprise shall be entitled to a reasonable compensation.

### Investment Incentives

- Provisions of the Company Law requiring that cash capitalization increases retain a certain proportion of shares for purchase by company employees do not apply to investments which account for more than 45% of the total capital.
- Where an invested enterprise is organized as a company under the Company Law, an investor thereof who serves as a supervisor may be exempt from the restrictions on his/her domicile in Taiwan.

### Protection of Rights

- Except as otherwise provided for in other laws, an enterprise in which the investor has invested shall be accorded the same rights and obligations to which an enterprise operated by local nationals is entitled.

## Investment Application Procedures

### ■ Set up Company (Business Enterprise or Limited Partnership)

#### Checking the Company (Business Enterprise or Limited Partnership) Name

- Investors should first select a Chinese name for the company (business enterprise or limited partnership) that they will be setting up in Taiwan. The company or limited partnership that they set up must then file an application for pre-review of the company or limited partnership name and business scope, and for retention of the company or limited partnership name during the pre-review period, with the Central Region Office, MOEA. If the investors are setting up a business enterprise (proprietary business or partnership), they must file the application with the local county or city government to which the business enterprise being set up belongs.

#### Permission for Investment

- Investors must submit investment applications and related documents to the Investment Review Committee of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Address: 8th Floor, No. 7, Section 1, Roosevelt Road, Taipei City, Tel: 02-3343-5700). If investing in a science and technology industrial park or a science park, then application may be made directly with the park administrative office.

#### Approval of Investment Amount

- For investors making inward remittances of foreign currencies, investment funds may be remitted from abroad after the investment is approved. When the remittance is settled in NT dollars, the original approval documents should be submitted to the domestic bank handling the transaction, and approval of the investment amount must be authorized by the authority which approved the investment according to the paragraph above.

#### Registration of a Company (Business Enterprise or Limited Partnership)

- If the company being established has paid-in capital of NT\$500 million or more, the investor should apply to the Department of Commerce, MOEA for company registration. If paid-in capital is less than NT\$500 million, the investor should apply to the local municipality government or the regional office of the MOEA (for Taiwan, Kinmen, and Matsu), depending on location. If the company being set up is located in a science and technology industrial park, science park, agricultural biotechnology park, or free trade zone, the investor should apply directly to the administrative office in charge of that zone or park.
- Parties applying for business registration should apply with their local country or city government office.
- Applications for limited partnership companies should be registered with the Central Region Office, MOEA.
- Taiwan has cancelled the minimum investment limit for company registration. Apart from some select industries, a company can be established as long as the investment is sufficient to cover reasonable expected costs.

#### Taxation Registration

- Apply for tax registration with the local tax collection authority.

#### Export/Import Business Registration

- The operator of an export/import business must apply first to the Bureau of Foreign Trade, MOEA, for an advance check of its English name, and then apply to that Bureau for registration as an export/import business.

#### Factory Registration

- A company engaged in the manufacturing or processing of goods must apply for factory registration with the local county or city government where the factory is located. If the factory is located in a science and technology industrial park, science park, or agricultural biotechnology park, the company should apply for registration with the administrative office in charge of that zone or park.

#### Application for Businesses Requiring Special Permission

- Before operating a business requiring special permission and before the company (business enterprise or limited partnership) is set up and registered, the investor is first required to obtain permission from the competent authority to set up and equip the intended business.
- After completing the establishment and registration of the company (business enterprise or limited partnership), the investor should obtain a permit from the competent authority for the intended business. Only then may the business go into operation as a specially permitted business.

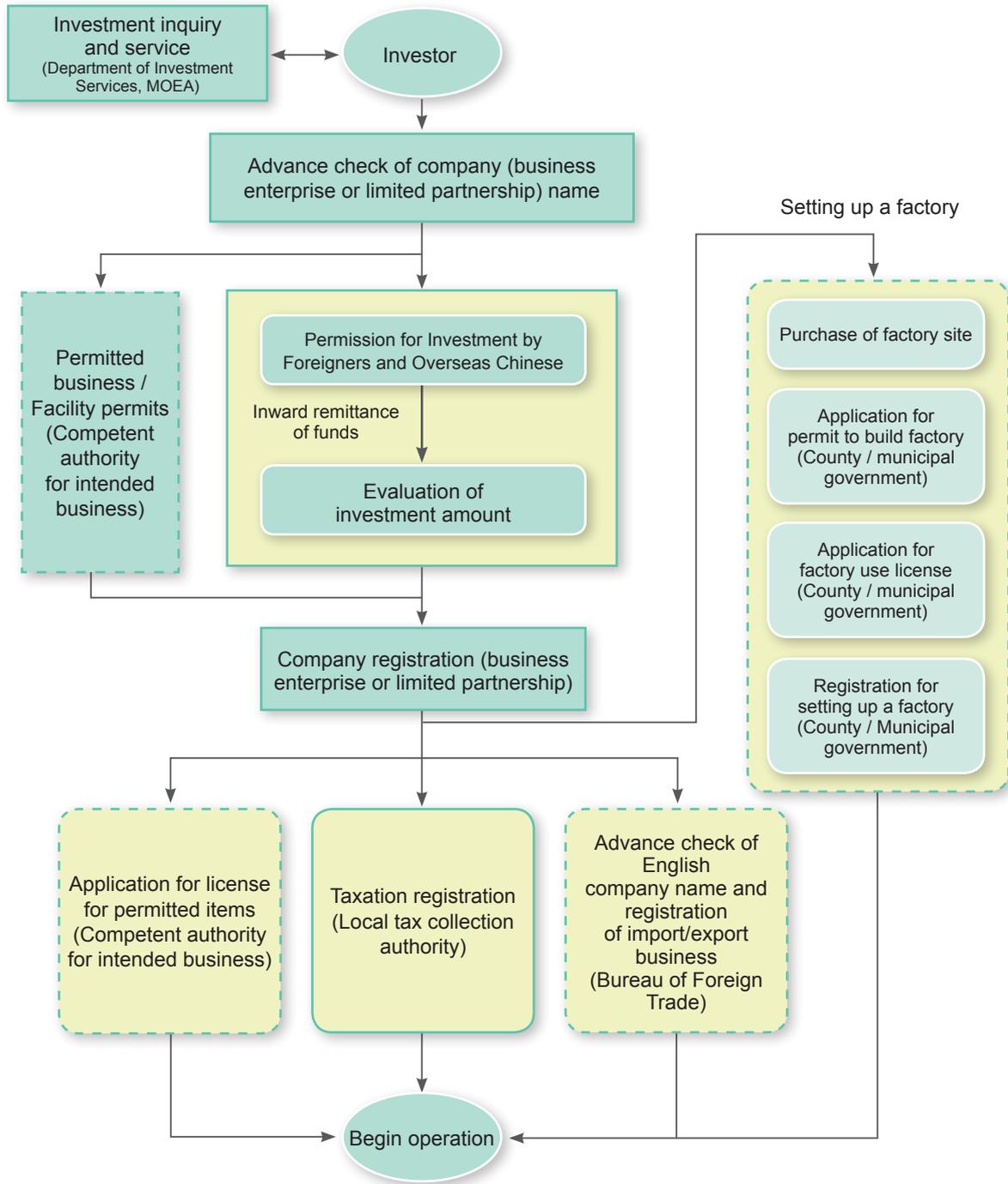
### ■ Establishing a Taiwan Branch of a Foreign Company or Limited Partnership

- The investor should then apply to the Central Region Office, MOEA, for "Recognition of Foreign Company / Limited Partnership" verification of investment amount, and registration as a "Branch of Foreign Company (or Limited Partnership)." If the site of investment is in a science and technology industrial park, science park, agricultural biotechnology park, or free trade zone, after receiving notice of recognition of foreign company from the Central Region Office, MOEA, the investor should apply for registration as a branch company with the administrative office in charge of that zone or park.
- The investor should then apply to the Central Region Office, MOEA, for "Recognition of Foreign Company / Limited Partnership" verification of investment amount, and registration as a "Branch of Foreign Company (or Limited Partnership)." If the site of investment is in an export processing zone, science park, agricultural biotechnology park, or free trade zone, after receiving notice of recognition of foreign company from the Central Region Office, MOEA, the investor should apply for registration as a branch company with the administrative agency in charge of that zone or park.
- The application procedures for taxation registration, registration as an exporter/importer, factory registration, or specially permitted business are the same for a branch company as for setting up an ordinary company.

### ■ Establishing a Representative Office of a Foreign Company

- First, apply to the Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Economic Affairs for office establishment registration then obtain an approval letter.
- The investor should then apply to the local tax collection authority for a taxpayer code number.

## Flow Chart for Applying to Set Up a Company (Business Enterprise or Limited Partnership)



Note: Solid lines and boxes indicate required procedures for all applications, dotted lines and boxes indicate procedures that are required in certain instances, depending on the nature of the business.

# Appendix II Offices for Investment Services

Unit	Services	Contact
Department of Investment Services, MOEA	Acts as the primary service window for consultation services and assistance with investment for foreign and Mainland Chinese investors.	Address: 8 Fl., No. 71, Guanqian Rd., Zhongzheng District, Taipei Tel.: 886-2-2389-2111 Fax: 886-2-2382-0497 E-mail: dois@moea.gov.tw <a href="http://www.dois.moea.gov.tw">http://www.dois.moea.gov.tw</a> <a href="http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw">http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw</a>
InvesTaiwan Service Center	Provides overseas and local investors with start-to-finish service for investing in Taiwan.	Address: 8 Fl., No. 1, Xiangyang Rd., Zhongzheng District, Taipei Tel: 886-2-2311-2031 Fax: 886-2-2311-1949 E-mail: service@invest.org.tw <a href="http://investtaiwan.org.tw/">http://investtaiwan.org.tw/</a>
Investment Commission, MOEA	Handles regulatory, review and application procedures for foreign and Mainland Chinese investors in Taiwan.	Address: 8 Fl., No. 7, Roosevelt Rd. Section 1, Zhongzheng District, Taipei Tel.: 886-2-3343-5700 Fax: 886-2-2393-8829 E-mail: serve@moeaic.gov.tw <a href="http://www.moeaic.gov.tw/">http://www.moeaic.gov.tw/</a>
Department of Commerce, MOEA	Handles inquiries concerning the Company Act and other regulations as well as explanations of company registration applications and other commercial administrative affairs.	Address: No. 15, Fuzhou St., Zhongzheng District, Taipei Tel.: 886-2-2321-2200, Ext 8957 886-2-412-1166 0800-231-314 <a href="http://gcis.nat.gov.tw/">http://gcis.nat.gov.tw/</a>
Export Processing Zones	Zone services, regulatory information, investment information, etc.	Export Processing Zone Administration (including the Kaohsiung Software Park) Address: No. 600, Jiachang Rd., Nanzi District, Kaohsiung Tel.: 886-7-361-2725 Fax: 886-7-361-4713 Email: luofeng@epza.gov.tw <a href="http://www.epza.gov.tw">http://www.epza.gov.tw</a>
		Taichung Branch (including the Taichung Software Park) Address: No. 1, Jianguo Rd., Tanzi District, Taichung Tel.: 886-4-2533-0830 Fax: 886-4-2534-8750 Email : shuchen@epza.gov.tw
		Chungkang Branch Address: No. 6, Dagan Rd., Caonan Village, Wuqi District, Taichung Tel.: 886-4-2658-1215 Ext 611 Fax: 886-4-2658-2325 Email : cepz@epza.gov.tw
		Kaohsiung Branch Address: No. 2, Central 1 <sup>st</sup> Rd., Kaohsiung Export Processing Zone, Qianzhen District, Kaohsiung Tel.: 886-7-823-9310 Fax: 886-7-813-8182 Email : section1@epza.gov.tw
		Pingtung Branch Address: No. 1, Pingjia Rd., Qianjin Village, Pingtung City, Pingtung County Tel.: 886-8-7518212 Ext 102-103 Fax: 886-8-751-8193 Email : pepz0024@epza.gov.tw
Science Parks	Zone services, regulatory information, investment information, etc.	Hsinchu Science Park Administration, Ministry of Science and Technology Address: No. 2, Hsin-Ann Rd., Hsinchu City Tel.: 886-3-577-3311 Fax: 886-3-577-6222 <a href="https://www.sipa.gov.tw">https://www.sipa.gov.tw</a>
		Central Taiwan Science Park Administration, Ministry of Science and Technology Address: No. 2, Zhongke Rd., Xitun District, Taichung Tel.: 886-4-2565-8588 Fax: 886-4-2565-8288 <a href="https://www.ctsp.gov.tw/">https://www.ctsp.gov.tw/</a>
		Southern Taiwan Science Park Administration, Ministry of Science and Technology Address: No. 22, Nanke 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rd., Xinshi District, Tainan Tel.: 886-6-505-1001 Fax: 886-6-505-0470 <a href="https://www.stsp.gov.tw/web/indexGroups?frontTarget=DEFAULT">https://www.stsp.gov.tw/web/indexGroups?frontTarget=DEFAULT</a>

Unit	Services	Contact
Agricultural Technology Parks	Zone services, regulatory information, investment information, etc.	Pingtung Agricultural Biotechnology Park Address: No. 1, Shennong Rd., Dehe Village, Changzhi Township, Pingtung County Tel.: 886-8-774-1031 Fax: 886-8-774-1035 <a href="http://www.pabp.gov.tw">http://www.pabp.gov.tw</a> 
		Taiwan Orchid Plantation Address: No. 325, Wushulin, Wushu Village, Changanli, Houbi, District, Tainan Tel.: 886-6-684-0788 Fax: 886-6-684-0787 <a href="http://top.tainan.gov.tw/">http://top.tainan.gov.tw/</a> 
Environmental Science and Technology Parks	Zone services, regulatory information, investment information, etc.	Taoyuan Environmental Science and Technology Park Address: No. 331, Huanke Rd., Datan Village, Guanyin District, Taoyuan Tel.:886-3-473- 8025 ext.16(Joint Service Center) Fax: 886-3-473-8024 <a href="https://www.tyht.nat.gov.tw/home.jsp?id=9&amp;parentpath=0,1">https://www.tyht.nat.gov.tw/home.jsp?id=9&amp;parentpath=0,1</a> 
		Liuying Technology and Environment Industrial Park Address: No. 7, Gongyi Rd., Danong Village, Liuying District, Tainan Tel.: 886-6-623-2345 Fax: 886-6-623-4005 <a href="http://www.lytp.tw/entry/">http://www.lytp.tw/entry/</a> 
		Kaohsiung Environmental Science and Technology Park Address: No. 2, Siwei 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rd., Lingya District, Kaohsiung Tel.: 886-7- 624-1731 (Service Center) <a href="http://ksbc.kcg.gov.tw">http://ksbc.kcg.gov.tw</a> 
		Hualien Environmental Science and Technology Park Address: No. 1, Zhongke Rd., Changqiao Village, Fenglin Township, Hualien County Tel.: 886-3-823-7575 Ext 320 (Bureau of Environmental Protection) Fax: 886-3-822-4320
Free Trade Zones	Park service, related laws and regulations, investment information	Free Trade Zone Info Address: No. 10, Penglai Rd., Gushan District, Kaohsiung Tel.: 886-7-521-9000ext.3310 <a href="http://taiwan-ftz.com.tw/">http://taiwan-ftz.com.tw/</a> 
		Taoyuan Free Trade Zone Address: No. 101, Hangxiang Rd., Dayuan District, Taoyuan Tel.: 886-3-399-2888 <a href="http://www.farglory-holding.com.tw/dindex.jsp">http://www.farglory-holding.com.tw/dindex.jsp</a> 
Local Business Promotion Organizations – Industrial Development & Investment Promotion Committees (IDIPCs)	Every city and county in Taiwan has an IDIPC, which serves to promote investment and provide services for investors. Investors should contact the local IDIPC for assistance when making an investment in a given locale or when they encounter difficulty.	<a href="http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw/cht/show.jsp?ID=429&amp;MID=8">http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw/cht/show.jsp?ID=429&amp;MID=8</a> 
Overseas Business Promotion Organizations – Overseas units of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)	The Ministry of Economic Affairs and TAITRA have established overseas offices in the world’s leading nations and regions. These provide easily accessible consultation services for those coming to invest in Taiwan; they also assist Taiwanese businesses with investments in overseas areas.	<a href="http://www.trade.gov.tw">http://www.trade.gov.tw</a> <a href="http://www.taitra.org.tw">http://www.taitra.org.tw</a>  



With a vast ocean to the east and Mainland China to the west, Taiwan casts an enchanting, glimmering light from the East Asian island arc.

Taiwan's charm is contained in its rich natural scenery, concealed under the surface of urban life, and portrayed in cityscapes that blend the traditional and modern, technology and culture.

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with your sights set on the world, starts from Taiwan!***





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**Add** | 8F., No. 71, Guanqian Rd.,  
Zhongzheng Dist., Taipei City,  
Taiwan (R.O.C.)

**Tel** | +886-2-2389-2111

**Fax** | +886-2-2382-0497

**Web** | <http://investtaiwan.org.tw>  
<http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw>

**E-mail** | [dois@moea.gov.tw](mailto:dois@moea.gov.tw)

## INVESTAIWAN SERVICE CENTER

**Add** | 8F., No. 1, Xiangyang Rd.,  
Zhongzheng Dist., Taipei City,  
Taiwan (R.O.C.)

**Tel** | +886-2-2311-2031

**Fax** | +886-2-2311-1949

**Web** | <http://investtaiwan.org.tw>

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Dec. 2021

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