

January, 2025

# Newsletter

The General Chamber of Commerce  
of the R.O.C



Words from Chairman  
Hsu Shu-Po

**The General Chamber of  
Commerce of the R.O.C  
wish everyone a happy new  
year, and wish everyone  
good luck in the year of the  
Snake!**



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## 2024 Premier of the Executive Yuan Cho's Dialogue with Business Leaders Forum (Meeting with the Premier)

## Hsu Shu-Po: Look forward to Collaborating with Government and Business World Driving Domestic Demand Growth Through the Service Industry

General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China hosted the "2024 Premier of the Executive Yuan Cho's Dialogue with Business Leaders Forum" on the morning of December 10 at the Sheraton Grand Taipei Hotel. The event was co-chaired by chairman Hsu Shu-Po and Premier Cho Jong-Tai, with the participation of heads from various government ministries and agencies. Representatives from 16 ministries and over 90 government officials attended the forum. Business leaders, including board members, supervisors, and chairpersons of member associations, represented more than 80 industries and submitted 63 proposals, hoping to have active dialogue and collaboration with the government.



General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China's chairman, Hsu Shu-Po declare that service industry is the cornerstone of Taiwan's economic activity, with a production value exceeding 13 trillion NT dollars in 2022, accounting for over 60% of the total GDP. It also serves as a pivotal axis for social stability and development, employing approximately 7 million people, which constitutes more than 60% of the total workforce, making it a critical foundation for stable employment. More importantly, nation's total tax revenue reached 3.4 trillion NT dollars, with over 2 trillion NT dollars contributed by industrial and commercial enterprises, accounting for approximately 60% of total tax income. This highlights the critical role of industrial and commercial enterprise development in ensuring national stability.



Premier of the Executive Yuan Cho Jong-Tai answered that Executive Yuan attach importance to Meeting with the Premier event, Taiwan's GDP growth rate for this year (2024) is projected at 4.27%, thanks to the collective efforts of the industrial and commercial sectors, In response to the new U.S. administration and evolving U.S.-China relations, the Executive Yuan has established a team of Taiwan-U.S. Economic and Trade to encourage industry exchanges. In terms of business development, a budget of 11.6 billion NT dollars has been allocated, along with the establishment of a one-stop service center for small, medium, and micro-enterprises. As for net-zero transformation, government agencies such as the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Environment, National Science and Technology Council, and National Development Council will provide support for the transition to secondary energy sources. He especially announced that industry and economic development can't exist without central and local, government and nongovernmental collaborate.

As for the labor shortage of service industry, chairman Hsu also investigated during the meeting, shows up that almost every industry has labor shortage problem. For additional information, chairman Hsu remains industries such as motorcycles, automobile freight containers, environmental inspection, furniture, and chemical storage tanks guild presidents submitted proposals, hoping government consider for each industry's property and national workers willingness of engaging, relax standards of policy for foreign workers, and revise working schedule criterion. Ministry of Labor responded, by improving labor conditions, it hopes to encourage willing groups to return to the workforce, while carefully assessing the introduction of migrant workers. Premier Cho emphasized that the government prioritizes protecting local workers and must balance concerns over the inability to address low-wage issues after opening the service industry to migrant workers. He also positively stated that the future plan is to allow service industry employers to introduce migrant workers if they raise local workers' wages to a certain level. Additionally, he mentioned considering how to integrate undocumented workers back into proper procedures to participate in production activities.



**Minister of economic**  
**Kuo Jyh-huei**



**Minister of enviroment**  
**Peng Chi-Ming**



Net-zero emissions are currently the most critical issue in global industry. Government currently focuses on "large carbon emitters" as the primary targets for guidance, but the pressure of the green supply chain and carbon reduction has already extended to the service industry and small and medium-sized enterprises, triggering "carbon anxiety." Chairman Hsu urged government to intensify support to help businesses establish basic carbon inventory capabilities and further inject policy resources to assist companies in achieving low-carbon goals. Ministry of Environment explained that at present day, only some large enterprises, mainly in the manufacturing sector, are required to pay carbon fees. It is noteworthy that "green collar talent" will gain increasing importance, and Ministry of Environment continues to conduct a series of net-zero emission courses.

In terms of tourism, Taiwan's post-pandemic recovery has been sluggish. Chairman Hsu called on Premier Cho to increase efforts and revitalize tourism, proposing peaceful cross-strait exchanges through the reopening of the tourism industry. Premier Cho stated that group travel to mainland China remained open after June this year(2024) and welcomed China groups to visit Taiwan. Ministry of Transportation added that Taiwan continues to target 10 million visitors, with initiatives such as attracting international buyers to combine procurement and tourism consumption and promoting sustainable tourism. Additionally, the hotel industry reported slow post-pandemic recovery and rising food and labor costs, hoping government to consider these issues when adjusting electricity tariffs.

Transportation was also a major focus of this forum, such as proposals including incentives for tour buses engaging in shuttle operations to be granted secondary public transportation status, electricity discounts for electric buses, and revising weight standards for containers used in importing and exporting goods. Ministry of Transportation stated that it would further discuss granting secondary public transportation status for shuttle tour bus operations with industry stakeholders within a month. Regarding container weight regulations, previously only container trucks were exempt from weight checks, but due to frequent highway accidents, weigh station checks are being implemented. The policy has been extended for another year to discuss suitable measures.



**Deputy minister of Transportation  
CHEN, Yen-Po**



**中華民國全國商業總會**  
*General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China*



# 行政院 卓榮泰院長 與 商業領袖

## 座談會

主辦單位：  中華民國全國商業總會



**Picture of Premier of the Executive Yuan Cho Jung-tai (left) & General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China's chairman, Hsu Shu-Po (right)**

Hsu Shu-Po particularly emphasized, that Taiwan is predominantly composed of small and medium-sized enterprises, and under the consideration of enhancing public interests and order, the background and necessity of implementing "mandatory membership in trade associations" cannot be ignored. Trade associations have long struggled with ineffective self-regulation and management. As the bridges of communication between the government and industries, trade associations, if integrated with industry cooperation, could better fulfill "economic capability," "social functions," and the "communication efficiency between the government and businesses."

This forum addressed 63 proposals, with 18 discussed during the session. Premier Cho stated that he highly values the opportunity to converse with business leaders and immediately instructed ministries to provide detailed follow-up responses for proposals not addressed during the forum. For those issues that cannot be resolved through administrative measures, future discussions on legislative amendments will be considered.

Chairman Hsu sum up that the General Chamber of Commerce has 162 member associations across various service industries, resulting in a wide range of issues requiring government assistance. He expressed gratitude to Premier Chuo for leading his cabinet team to participate in the forum and hoping that government ministries would continue to engage in post-forum communication on each proposal. Strengthening cooperation between the government and businesses can enable the service industry to drive domestic demand growth and jointly create a brighter economic future for Taiwan.



## Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Trade Forum Opens the New Chapter in Tourism Cooperation

To motivate travel economic between Taiwan and Hong-Kong and promote Taiwan tourism market, Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council(ECCPC) present a new trade forum on December 5, 2024, inviting 18 representatives from Hong Kong, including representatives of The Kowloon Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong tourism industry professionals, media representatives and key opinion leaders(KOL). From visiting several renowned attractions in Kaohsiung, to join the delegation participated in the "Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Trade Forum" on December 6.

The forum featured discussions on tourism market development and collaboration between Taiwan and Hong Kong, with participation from the Tourism Administration, MOTC, Taiwan Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council member, and industries from Taiwan's tourism sector.

According to Deputy Minister of the Mainland Affairs Council and convener of the council's Economic Cooperation Committee, Ms. Lee Li-Chen stated Taiwan Tourism Bureau's statistics shows in 2019, over 1.75 million visitors from Hong Kong and Macau traveled to Taiwan.



**Hong Kong members  
and fourm exchange group**



As international tourism progressively recovers post-pandemic, tourists from Hong Kong and Macau have emerged as the largest group of inbound tourists to Taiwan in 2023. In the end of this year's September, nearly 970,000 Hong Kong and Macao visitors came to Taiwan. Which is also the top group of inbound travelers and continuing to inject significant motivation into Taiwan's tourism market.

The forum commenced with a presentation by Deputy Director-General of the Tourism Administration, Mr. Lin Hsin-Jen, who shared insights into Taiwan's tourism promotion strategies and marketing efforts for the Hong Kong and Macau markets. Key speakers included Mr. Lee Kwong-Wah, Supervisor of the Kowloon Chamber of Commerce, and Yau Pui-Man, Managing Director of Tung-Nam Tours(S.E.A.)Ltd are also invited to explore the cultural tourism appeal and business opportunities between Taiwan and Hong Kong. Additionally, Mr. Lee Chi-Yueh, Chairman of the High Quality of Travel Association, and Mr. Lin Fu-Nan, President of the Kingship Hotel Kaohsiung Inter Continental, discussed the integration of innovation and tourism. The Economic and Trade Forum lively exchanges among representatives from the tourism sectors of both regions added vibrancy to the prospects for tourism development's future.

The visiting delegation also access on an exploration of Taiwan's key landmarks, including the iconic Kaohsiung Port, a harbor cruise to learn about the port's historical development, and a hands-on workshop to create fish-flag silk-print placemats. Other highlights included a visit to Kaohsiung Port Warehouse No.2, an exemplary redevelopment of Taiwan's largest old warehouse; the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts Weiwuying and a significant cultural hub; fusion of a cutting-edge immersive flight simulator experience combining virtual reality with tourism called i-Ride. Creating Taiwan's One-and-Only Immersive 3D Full-Perspective Flight Experience.



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