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NEWSLETTER



NEWS



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2 • The Ministry of Economic Affairs and the National General Chamber of Commerce Hold a Forum on "Responding to Trump Tariffs".



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

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R O C C O C

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Chairman and Supervisors of the General Chamber of Commerce Visit Kyushu, Japan to the TBSC(Taiwanese Business Service Center) inaugurate in Buzen City, Fukuoka.

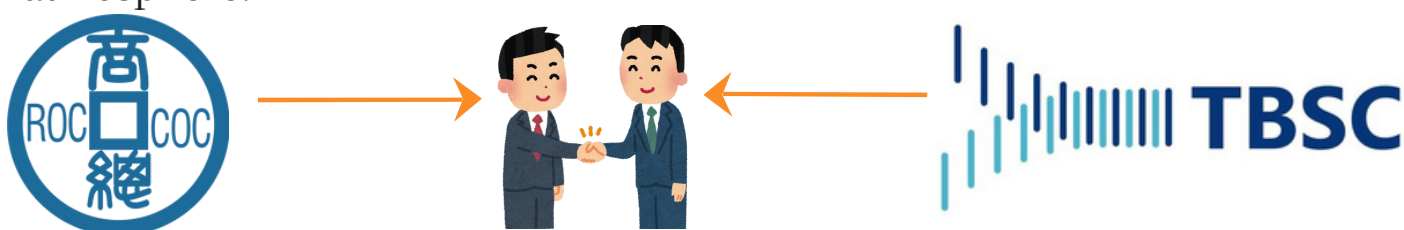


The General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China (hereinafter as ROCCOC) organized the 12th Board of Directors and Supervisors Delegation to Kyushu, Japan, from April 11 to 15, 2025. The delegation was personally led by Chairman Hsu Shu-Po and included 63 participants, comprising board members, their family members, and staff. This five-day, four-night journey combined cultural exploration with industrial exchange. A key highlight of the trip was the inauguration of the “Taiwan Business Services Center (TBSC)” in Buzen City, Fukuoka Ken.

The delegation's first stop was in Kumamoto, by visiting “Tsūjun Sake Brewery,” the oldest sake brewery in the area, gaining insight into the traditional craftsmanship and culture of sake brewing. They then proceeded to Shirakawa Springs, one of Japan’s “100 Famous Waters,” to experience the purity of Kyushu’s natural water sources. Other memorable cultural landmarks included the historic Aso Shrine, the breathtaking Kokonoe Yume Otsurihashi Bridge, and the artistically rich Lake Kinrin in Yufuin.

The itinerary's real goal is.....

Beyond these cultural highlights, the itinerary featured a visit to Mojiko, the northernmost port of Kyushu; Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, a symbol of scholarship and cultural heritage; and a scenic boat tour through Yanagawa, often referred to as the “Little Venice of Kyushu.” The journey concluded at Sakuranobaba-johsaen, a historical shopping area adjacent to Kumamoto Castle. Throughout the trip, participants not only admired the diverse charm of Kyushu but also strengthened their camaraderie and unity in a relaxed and engaging atmosphere.



In addition to the sightseeing itinerary, another major mission of this delegation was the official inauguration of the “Taiwan Business Services Center” (TBSC). This center, jointly established by the National Association of Commerce of the Taiwan and Buzen City in Fukuoka Prefecture, was the result of nearly six months of planning and coordination. The opening ceremony was held on the morning of April 14, 2025, in Buzen City, co-hosted by Chairman Hsu Shu-Po and Mayor Motohide Gotō of Buzen. The event was witnessed by Director Bruce Chen of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Fukuoka Office, President Chi-Yuen Lee of the Japan International Exchange Association, and multiple representatives from the Buzen City Government, all members of the visiting delegation, marking a new milestone in Taiwan-Japan collaboration.

As for Chairman Hsu's speech, he emphasized that ROCCOC has long been dedicated to assisting Taiwanese businesses in expanding into overseas markets, serving as a bridge between the government and enterprises. The collaboration with Buzen City to establish the Taiwan Business Services Center addresses the practical challenges often faced by Taiwanese businesses setting up operations abroad—such as company registration, taxation, legal matters, bank account opening, and visa applications. The center aims to function as a one-stop support platform, helping businesses quickly establish themselves and focus on growth with peace of mind.

Mayor Motohide Goto express new possibilities

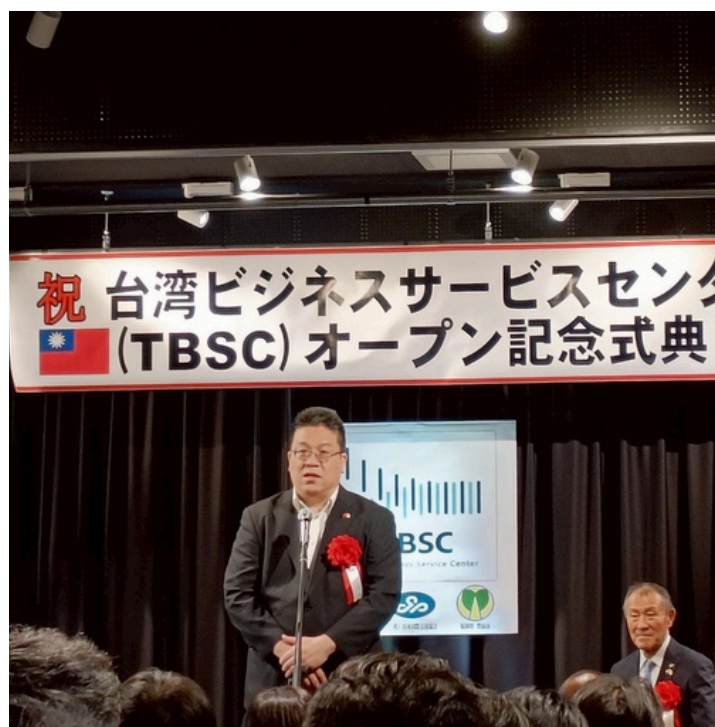
Mayor Motohide Goto highlighted that Buzen City, as a key municipality in Fukuoka Prefecture, is strategically located just about 30 minutes from Kitakyushu City, offering excellent accessibility. The city government recognizes the growing opportunities for deep cooperation between Japanese and Taiwanese industries and warmly welcomes Taiwanese investment.



In particular, with ASE Group (Advanced Semiconductor Engineering) planning to establish a plant in Kitakyushu, the semiconductor supply chain is expected to follow, positioning Buzen as a remarkable spot for integration with Taiwanese industry.

Mayor Goto expressed special gratitude to Mr. Chi-Yuen Lee, President of the Japan International Exchange Association and a municipal advisor to Buzen City, for playing a key role in facilitating this collaboration. Going forward, the Taiwan Business Services Center will be operated by the Japan International Exchange Association in partnership with the city government. Together, they will form a service team combining local administrative support and Taiwanese professionals to provide comprehensive assistance for Taiwanese businesses in Japan. This includes entrepreneurship guidance, company setup consultations, office space rental, and language support.

Chi-Yuen Lee's also mentioned...



President Chi-Yuen Lee also mentioned that the establishment of the Taiwan Business Services Center not only symbolizes the cooperation between local government and Taiwanese industries, but also directly addresses the real-world needs of Taiwanese businesses seeking to establish a presence in Japan. The center will offer one-stop services covering company registration, bank account setup, legal and tax consultation, and visa applications.

Following recommendations by the National Association of Commerce and approval from the Buzen City government, the first Taiwanese businesses to move in—DiTian Co. and WayFong Pork Floss—highlight the center's readiness and effectiveness. More Taiwanese enterprises are expected to join soon, fostering a clustering effect and forming a vibrant community of Taiwanese industries in the area.

Director Bruce Chen of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Fukuoka Office also noted that the Taiwan Business Services Center will complement the upcoming "Taiwan Trade and Investment Center" being established in Fukuoka by Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs. While the former represents collaboration between the private sector and local government, the latter is part of central government policy. Together, they will create a full support system for Taiwanese businesses overseas, enhancing their competitiveness and visibility in the Japanese market.

Forward to the future!

According to data from the Bureau of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, the total trade volume between Taiwan and Japan reached USD 75.769 billion in 2023. Japan remains Taiwan's third-largest trading partner and one of its key sources of technology and foreign investment. Taiwanese direct investment in Japan amounted to USD 214 million, while Japanese investment in Taiwan reached USD 620 million, reflecting the deepening economic interdependence between the two sides. Against this backdrop, the establishment of the Taiwan Business Services Center not only brings tangible benefits but also signifies a new phase in industrial cooperation between Taiwan and Japan.

Forward to the future, the National Association of Commerce will continue to integrate domestic and international resources, proactively fostering more cross-border collaboration opportunities. The goal is to assist Taiwanese businesses in expanding their markets, enhancing their global competitiveness, and achieving long-term internationalization objectives. This visit to Kyushu was not only a blend of business exchange and cultural exploration but also a concrete step forward in opening new frontiers and advancing Taiwan's presence on the global stage.



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The Ministry of Economic Affairs and the National General Chamber of Commerce Hold a Forum on "Responding to Trump Tariffs".



Under the impact of the global economic turmoil caused by the Trump administration's "reciprocal tariff" policy and its effects on Taiwan's industries, the Ministry of Economic Affairs convened a "Forum on Responding to U.S. Tariffs" at noon on April 9, 2025, in the conference room of the association.

The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Jiang Wen-Ruo and Chairman Hsu Shu-Po of the association, and representatives from sectors affected by Trump's tariff policy—including import and export, food distribution, confectionery, hardware, plastic products, automotive materials, electronics, and flower exports. These industries were invited to participate and jointly speak on behalf.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs first explained the "Support Program for Taiwan's Export Supply Chain", including three major support directions: First for financial support. A total of NT\$6 billion in preferential guarantees for export loans and NT\$5 billion in additional loans for small and medium-sized enterprises will be provided to strengthen cash flow and stabilize operations.



Second, industrial transformation and R&D subsidies. NT\$20 billion will be invested to enhance technology, marketing, and cross-domain integration; third, securing overseas orders. NT\$10 billion will be allocated to support enterprises in exploring diversified markets, establishing exhibition centers and shipping warehouses to strengthen distributor networks, and enhancing international competitiveness through joint application models. In addition, the Ministry's "Immediate Service Center" provides real-time consultation services to assist SMEs in solving problems.

During the meeting, most industry representatives believed that the transformation and interest subsidies proposed by the government were more of a medium- to long-term measure. If orders were unstable and inventory was difficult to clear, the short-term effect would be limited. The related support measures are merely a process, and subsidies cannot resolve the problem of lacking orders. Furthermore, Trump's tariffs may change domestic consumption and thus impact industries in the future. The fundamental issue still lies in how to negotiate with the United States to reduce tariffs.

Representatives, including the Food Distributors' Associations of the Taiwan and the National Association of Taiwan Federation of Importers and Exporters Chamber of Commerce, suggested reviewing whether Taiwan's import tariffs are unreasonable. Under the premise of protecting domestic industrial interests, they recommended considering the possibility of reducing tariffs.



For example, if tariffs on U.S. imports were reduced, companies might consider importing from the United States. Among them, the National Federation of Auto Parts Dealers of the Republic of China supported the review of import tariffs but also stated that the impact on local automotive-related industries should be taken into account.

Chairman Hsu Shu-Po of the association suggested that the government could make good use of both public and private resources and integrate efforts to respond to Trump's reciprocal tariff policy from two aspects: first, investing the United States, by integrating state-owned enterprises and private companies that are willing to expand investment in the U.S.; second, expanding procurement from the United States, such as purchasing resources that are relatively scarce in Taiwan, including crude oil, natural gas, and coal.

He called on the government to consolidate these elements into strong bargaining chips to negotiate with the U.S. for tariff reductions or exemptions, or at least to achieve the reduced rates obtained by Japan and South Korea after negotiations, so that Taiwan's industries can continue to receive orders and maintain global competitiveness. Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Jiang, Wen-Ruo concluded that Taiwan's U.S. procurement list is already being implemented. The government will carefully weigh the relevant negotiations, consider the best interests of the industries, and incorporate opinions from all parties to do its utmost to help industries reduce impact and assist enterprises in securing orders.

