ROCCOC

NEWSLETTER

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中華民國全國商業總會

General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China

1.Exchange Forum between the General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China (ROCCOC) and the Industrial Development Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs

The General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China (ROCCOC) and the Industrial Development Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), held the "Exchange Forum between the ROCCOC and the Industrial Development Administration, MOEA" on the morning of June 11, 2026, at the ROCCOC's conference room.

The meeting was chaired by ROCCOC Chairman Hsu Shu-po, and attended by Deputy Director General Chen Kuo-hsuan of the Industrial Development Administration, Deputy Director Tseng Chih-hsiung of the Consumer and Chemical Industries Division, and Deputy Director Chang Wei-sheng of the Sustainable Development Division, among other officials. The ROCCOC also invited representatives from the National Union Association of Plastics Products Commerce of R.O.C., Taiwan Electrical Appliance Association, the National Federation of Machinery Commercial Associations of the R.O.C., and the National Federation of Horticulture and Flower Trade Associations of the R.O.C. to attend.

The forum focused on issues related to the Industrial Development Administration, MOEA, that had been raised at the 3rd Industrial Advisory Forum of the 12th ROCCOC Board of Directors, and provided an opportunity for exchange and discussion.

In his remarks, ROCCOC Chairman Hsu Shu-po noted that many of the recommendations put forward by industry representatives involved long-term issues. He expressed the hope that, through phased implementation, each issue could be managed differently at different stages.

Therefore, industry and the government must continue to communicate and resolve problems step by step. Deputy Director General Chen Kuo-hsuan of the Industrial Development Administration stated that, given the long-term nature of some of the issues, he hoped the forum could help move matters forward and further support industrial development.

The National Union Association of Plastics Products Commerce of R.O.C. raised concerns that the new crisis arising from the war in the Middle East had led to rising prices and adversely affected people's livelihoods and the economy.

It urged relevant government agencies to pay closer attention to the current shortage of materials faced by the plastics products manufacturing industry. In particular, due to sluggish market conditions over the past two years, many manufacturers had maintained zero or low inventory levels. As a result, once supply became tight, panic buying and stockpiling could occur, further driving up prices. Ultimately, rising plastics prices would have to be absorbed either through reduced production by factories or higher costs borne by consumers. The federation therefore urged the government to ensure the resilience and diversification of the supply of petrochemical raw materials.

Regarding the resilience of petrochemical raw material supplies, Deputy Director General Chen Kuo-hsuan of the Industrial Development Administration cited plastic bags as an example, noting that as long as crude oil supplies remain stable, Taiwan possesses the technological capability for independent production. However, domestic production costs cannot compete with those in mainland China.

Under normal circumstances, the market therefore relies on both domestic production and imports. When special situations arise, such as the war in the Middle East, the government’s response becomes particularly important, including coordinating supplies and ensuring the dispatch and allocation of upstream crude oil supplies, especially for essential consumer products.

Deputy Director General Chen also reassured industry representatives that the Executive Yuan’s Price Stabilization Task Force continuously monitors Taiwan’s industrial supply resilience and the reasonableness of prices during normal times and, through cross-ministerial coordination mechanisms, takes appropriate response measures when necessary.

In addition, regarding the simplification of import customs clearance procedures, Deputy Director Tseng Chih-hsiung of the Consumer and Chemical Industries Division of the Industrial Development Administration stated that the Administration would further coordinate with the Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance, on ways to simplify the procedures. ROCCOC Chairman Hsu Shu-po emphasized that policies must be formulated from the perspective of consumers nationwide, rather than solely from that of manufacturers, in order to give the government greater policy flexibility.

The National Federation of Machinery Commercial Associations of the R.O.C. put forward recommendations concerning the "definition of the scope of professional practice in the refrigeration and air-conditioning industry." Industry representatives pointed out that, in government procurement and public works practices, the provisions of the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Act are frequently cited to require that any work involving the installation, maintenance, or servicing of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment for public use must be undertaken by businesses holding a refrigeration and air-conditioning industry registration certificate and holding membership in a refrigeration and air-conditioning engineering industrial association.

This has had a practical impact on procurement projects involving household appliances, air-conditioning systems, and energy equipment for government agencies, schools, state-owned enterprises, and general public venues.

However, the current Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Act and related regulations do not clearly define the scope of application, yet the provisions have been broadly interpreted in procurement practices, resulting in unfair competition in the market. ROCCOC Chairman Hsu Shu-po emphasized that, although there may be differing opinions and views within the same industry, differentiated management should be adopted.

In response to this issue, Deputy Director General Chen Kuo-hsuan of the Industrial Development Administration stated that the Public Construction Commission of the Executive Yuan and other relevant agencies would be asked to clarify that the installation of general household air-conditioning equipment that does not reach a scale of 10 refrigeration tons or 5 horsepower per individual unit falls outside the scope of the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Act, and may therefore be carried out by businesses that have not obtained refrigeration and air-conditioning professional registration.

As for establishing a legal distinction for simple installation work or amending the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Act, Deputy Director Chang Wei-sheng of the Sustainable Development Division of the Industrial Development Administration explained that factors such as industry workforce allocation, labor mobility, and overall industrial development must still be taken into consideration.

Relevant communication and discussions with related groups will continue. It is noteworthy that, on June 25, 2026, the Industrial Development Administration issued an official letter to the National Federation of Electrical Appliances Commercial Associations of the R.O.C. and relevant commercial associations at the provincial, county, and municipal levels to provide clarification.

On June 29, 2026, it also sent an official letter to the ROCCOC regarding the determination of the scope of application of the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Act, with a copy forwarded to the Public Construction Commission of the Executive Yuan. These developments indicate that the concerns raised by the electrical appliances associations have gradually received the attention of the competent authorities and that the relevant issues are moving toward concrete solutions.

The National Federation of Machinery Commercial Associations of the R.O.C. recommended that the government review the review system and related supporting measures for “specific factory registration” (formerly temporary factory registration). The federation noted that the review period for some cases handled by local governments is excessively long.

Even after multiple requests for supplementary documentation, on-site inspections, and visits by the competent authorities, factory improvement plans have yet to be approved. During the review period, however, businesses must continue to invest in improvement costs and bear various fees, placing pressure on their operations and, in turn, affecting financing plans and related rights and interests, such as applications to employ foreign migrant workers. ROCCOC Chairman Hsu Shu-po emphasized that the reasons for the slow review process should be clarified, including whether local governments lack sufficient manpower or whether there are other causes.

The issue of excessively long review periods should be resolved first so that subsequent matters, such as applications for foreign migrant workers, can continue to move forward.

Regarding this issue, Deputy Director Chang Wei-sheng of the Sustainable Development Division of the Industrial Development Administration explained that the law has been amended twice to legalize unregistered factories, with phased requirements established for improvements in areas such as fire safety and soil and water conservation.

Only after local governments have reviewed and approved improvement plans and completed on-site inspections can specific factory registration be granted. Businesses then have a 10-year period to complete land-use changes. Once the land has been legalized, the buildings can obtain occupancy permits, after which applications can be made for general factory registration.

At present, more than 40,000 unregistered factories have been identified, of which approximately 33,000 have been brought under management, with a review rate of 99.1%. The main reason for the slow review process is insufficient manpower at local governments.

For example, three to five staff members may be responsible for reviewing more than a thousand cases. The central government is currently continuing to urge local governments to improve, while local governments have also established KPIs for tracking progress.

With regard to foreign migrant workers for specific factories, a special mechanism is currently in place under which the Ministry of Labor has opened 6,000 quotas.

However, the utilization rate has been poor. As of a review conducted in April this year (2026), 2,516 quotas remained unused. If the utilization rate remains low, there will be insufficient grounds to request additional quotas from the Ministry of Labor. In addition, the ROCCOC has forwarded supplementary documents regarding the concerns raised by the machinery association to the MOEA for reference and consideration, with the hope of jointly and gradually improving issues such as excessively long review periods.

The National Federation of Horticulture and Flower Trade Associations of the R.O.C. expressed the hope that the industry could be permitted to employ foreign migrant workers and that the MOEA could provide relevant policies for subsidies and guidance concerning labor-saving machinery and equipment.

The federation also emphasized issues concerning industry classification and the designation of the competent authority.

Following the ROCCOC's 2025 forum with the Premier of the Executive Yuan, the MOEA has temporarily served as the coordinating contact point for the industry, but the issue of jurisdiction has not yet been resolved.

ROCCOC Chairman Hsu Shu-po stated that the matter would be raised at the Executive Yuan’s Consumer Protection Committee and that the Vice Premier of the Executive Yuan would be asked to make a ruling, with priority given to resolving the issue of official classification and designation.

Communication at the forum was smooth. Through face-to-face exchanges between the government and industry, a number of issues received concrete responses, and preliminary solutions were proposed.

The ROCCOC will continue to serve as a bridge for communication between the government and industry, promote the refinement of policies, and assist industries in achieving sustainable and stable development. The meeting concluded successfully, with a total of 15 participants in attendance.

2.ROCCOC Directors and Supervisors Visit Tohoku, Japan for an In-Depth Experience of History, Culture, and Natural Beauty

From June 5 to 9, 2026, the General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China (ROCCOC) organized a Tohoku, Japan study tour for the 12th-term Directors and Supervisors. The delegation was personally led by Chairman Hsu Shu-po, with a total of 79 participants, including Directors and Supervisors, their family members, and ROCCOC staff. Together, they embarked on an in-depth journey combining cultural exploration, natural scenery, and fellowship and exchange.

The itinerary first took the delegation to renowned attractions in Fukushima Prefecture, including the First Tadami River Bridge, celebrated as one of Japan’s most beautiful railway landscapes, where participants enjoyed the magnificent view of the railway harmoniously interwoven with the river valley.

The delegation then visited the historic Aizuwakamatsu Castle to learn about the culture of Edo-period castle towns, and traveled to Lake Inawashiro, Japan’s fourth-largest lake, to admire the natural scenery created by the lake and Mount Bandai.

The group also visited Ouchi-juku, a well-preserved thatched-roof village, to experience the historical atmosphere of an Edo-period post town, and explored Goshikinuma, or the Five-Colored Ponds, renowned for the ever-changing colors of its waters and often referred to as the “Jiuzhaigou of Japan,” offering a firsthand experience of Tohoku's unique natural charm.

In addition to historical and cultural attractions, the itinerary included a stroll through the renowned Ginzan Onsen hot spring town in Yamagata Prefecture. Participants walked along the streets that retain the romantic charm of the Taisho era and admired the wooden ryokan and hot spring scenery lining the Ginzan River. The delegation also visited the Sankyo Soko Rice Storehouses, which have a history of more than a century and became widely known through the Japanese television drama Oshin, to learn about the rice warehouse culture and historical development of the Shonai region.

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In addition, a special visit was arranged to Somaro, where participants enjoyed a performance by Sakata maiko, experiencing Tohoku’s valuable cultural heritage and distinctive local traditions through traditional performing arts.

The itinerary also included a leisurely boat ride on the Mogami River, allowing participants to enjoy scenic valleys, waterfalls, and the changing natural landscapes of the four seasons while listening to the boatman sing traditional boat songs and experiencing the relaxing atmosphere of Tohoku’s waterside region. The group also took a sightseeing cruise around Matsushima Bay, one of Japan’s Three Scenic Views, touring the bay’s more than 200 islands and enjoying the beautiful scenery created by the interweaving of pine forests, the bay, and its islands.

In addition, through a matcha-making experience, the Directors and Supervisors gained firsthand insight into Japanese tea ceremony culture and the spirit of hospitality, further appreciating the profound heritage of Japan’s traditional culture.

The Tohoku region of Japan offers a rich combination of history, culture, natural landscapes, and hot spring resources, with each season presenting its own distinctive beauty. It has also become an important travel destination increasingly favored by international visitors in recent years. Through this visit, the Directors and Supervisors not only gained a deeper understanding of Tohoku’s local culture and historical development, but also strengthened their friendships and interaction through their shared participation in various cultural experiences and exchange activities.