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### **President Ma Addresses AmCham's 2016 Hsieh Nien Fan**

As he has done each year of his presidency, President Ma Ying-jeou delivered the keynote address at AmCham Taipei's annual Hsieh Nien Fan banquet this evening at the Grand Hyatt Taipei. The purpose of the banquet is to thank Taiwan government officials, as well as local business leaders and scholars, for their constructive interaction with the foreign business community over the past year.

Another special guest speaker was Kurt Tong, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the State Department's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. He was introduced by American Institute in Taiwan Director Kin Moy.

This year's event, the 48<sup>th</sup> annual, was attended by nearly 700 people, including some 100 government officials and other dignitaries. The Chamber presented President Ma with a trophy expressing appreciation for his participation in 15 Hsieh Nien Fan banquets, both as president and as mayor of Taipei.

In pre-dinner remarks, AmCham Taipei Vice Chairman Margaret Driscoll (substituting for Chairman Dan Silver who is out of the country) said: "AmCham Taipei recognizes the significant steps taken in Taiwan by the current government toward bringing Taiwan's laws and regulations in line with international standards and practices. A welcome start has also been made toward devising a more transparent rules-making process based on soliciting comments from all potentially impacted stakeholders and taking that feedback into account. We are confident that progress in these areas will continue under the new administration to be inaugurated in May. Given the heavy dependence of the Taiwan economy on world trade, it is essential for Taiwan to provide as welcoming an environment as possible for those engaged in international commerce, whether domestic or foreign companies."

Noting that support from the legislative branch will be indispensable as well, Driscoll said: "Laws, just as much as regulations, need to be consistent, well thought-out, and in conformity with international practice."

#### **About AmCham Taipei**

Founded in 1951, the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei (AmCham Taipei) is a non-profit, non-partisan business organization dedicated to promoting the interests of international business in Taiwan. With around 1000 members from more than 500 companies and 24 committees representing various industry interests, AmCham speaks with collective authority on business issues as they affect its member companies operating in Taiwan.

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