



June 2, 2016  
For Immediate Release

## **AmCham 2016 *White Paper*: “New Government, New Opportunities”**

In the 2016 *Taiwan White Paper* published today, the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei urges the newly installed Tsai Ing-wen administration to “focus with intensity on ways to reinvigorate the economy.” While a rapid turnaround is unlikely given Taiwan’s heavy dependence on the international economy, the paper notes, action at the very beginning of an administration – the proverbial “first hundred days” – can make a big difference in setting directions and lifting both business and consumer confidence.

The 2016 *Taiwan White Paper* urges the new government to:

- ***Establish a high-level task force under the Executive Yuan to oversee reform of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).*** This piece of legislation is not widely known to the public, but it can have a major impact on the efficiency and transparency of the government’s rules-making process and on the quality of the regulations that emerge from that process. Taiwan’s existing procedures could be improved by allowing more time for public comment on proposed regulations, setting up a common notification and comment platform for use by all government agencies, and stipulating that the agencies consider the major public feedback and provide their response. A more open process would enhance government communications, promote more public engagement in public affairs, and help ensure that final regulations are practical and well-considered. With such a system in place, many of the issues that wind up in the *Taiwan White Paper* could be resolved early.
- ***Move expeditiously to prepare Taiwan to pursue membership in the TPP.*** The Ma administration already completed a gap analysis of discrepancies between Taiwan’s current laws, regulations, and practices and TPP requirements. Those gaps need to be closed, and the TPP spirit of breaking down trade barriers embraced. Such changes will be good for Taiwan’s global competitiveness regardless of TPP.
- ***Provide a detailed energy plan to assure the business community that Taiwan will continue to enjoy sufficient, stable, and cost-competitive electrical power.*** The Chamber supports efforts to promote energy conservation, use of renewable power, and abatement of carbon emissions. But industry needs greater assurance that these goals can be achieved without undermining Taiwan’s competitiveness.
- ***Revise rigid regulations on working conditions to make them more appropriate for a knowledge-based economy.*** To encourage the innovation and creativity that Taiwan needs, the working environment for professional and technical employees needs to be more flexible.

The document notes that tackling these problems effectively will be possible only within a political environment that fosters rational, open-minded discourse of issues, followed by collaborative efforts to work toward practical solutions.

Part of the *White Paper* process is to review the progress made on issues raised in the previous year’s edition. The scorecard on the 2015 *White Paper* shows that of the 76 specific suggestions made by AmCham committees on ways to improve the business climate, six were rated as “Solved” and another 8 as showing “Good Progress.”



In the Messages to Washington section, the *White Paper* recommends that the U.S. government seek to broaden and deepen the bilateral relationship with Taiwan by supporting Taiwan's efforts to prepare its candidacy for TPP membership; continuing to help Taiwan participate in pertinent international organizations such as the WHA, ICACO, and Interpol; increase visits to Taiwan by high-ranking U.S. officials; making optimal use of the TIFA process; and further expanding areas of bilateral cooperation.

AmCham Taipei's 2016 "Doorknock" delegation will visit Washington the week of June 20 to meet with U.S. government officials and Congressional offices to explore ways to advance the U.S.-Taiwan economic relationship.

### **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 approximately 1,000 members representing more than 500 companies and 24 committees advocating for various industry interests, AmCham speaks with collective authority on international business matters in every sector of the economy.

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