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For Immediate Release

AmCham survey: Optimism about economy mixed with worries about labor, energy

TAIPEI, Taiwan – Most member companies of the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei are optimistic about Taiwan’s economy and their own profitability over the next three years, a new survey said Wednesday.

But the business leaders had serious concerns about energy, the labor law and the way regulations are made, according to the 2018 Business Climate Survey, conducted for AmCham over the past two months by PwC Taiwan.

The survey showed that AmCham companies have deep roots in Taiwan, with two-thirds of the respondents working for firms that have been operating here for more than two decades, said Albert Chang, chairman of AmCham.

“The views in this survey are extremely important because they come from business leaders with broad international experience and valuable expertise in sectors crucial to Taiwan’s continued success,” Chang said.

“The executives feel a sense of urgency for innovation as the world becomes more competitive,” Chang added. “They’re eager to strengthen their partnership with the government and local businesses to secure Taiwan’s stability and prosperity. We hope to begin discussing concrete ways to do this soon.”

Some of the key positive responses from AmCham member companies included:

- 55% are confident about Taiwan’s economic outlook this year, and 50% are confident about the three-year outlook.
- 81% expressed optimism about revenue growth this year, and 79% were optimistic about the three-year outlook.
- Nearly 40% intended to increase their employee headcount this year.

William Foreman, president of AmCham, said, “Another key finding was that AmCham companies’ objectives are well aligned with the government’s vision in many ways.”

A majority regard the “5+2 Innovative Industries” and “Forward-looking Infrastructure” plans as likely to benefit Taiwan’s economic development, Foreman added. Nearly half of respondents view the initiatives as “likely to impact” their companies’ decisions on future business expansion in Taiwan.

Some key areas of concern included:

- Nearly 50% said the labor law isn’t flexible enough.



- 84% were concerned about the power supply being sufficient.
- 58% were dissatisfied with policymakers' attention to business needs.

Respondents were also critical of the U.S. withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. They were concerned Washington's foreign policy and trade-related initiatives are putting American companies at a competitive disadvantage in the Asia-Pacific.

“The Chamber is eager to work in close partnership with Taiwan's government to help secure continuing stability and prosperity through increased investment,” Chang said. “We have already raised this idea with the Taiwan authorities and look forward to cooperating with them to develop concrete plans over the coming weeks.”

The results of the online survey, which had a 51.3% response rate, were based on responses from 198 members polled this year between Jan. 10 and Feb. 23.

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.

For more information, please contact:

Erica Lai
ericalai@amcham.com.tw
(02) 2718-8226 Ext. 213

Amy Chang
amychang@amcham.com.tw
(02) 2718-8226 Ext. 314