

On October 10, 2015, the Republic of China (Taiwan) celebrates its 104th anniversary, an important event marked by Taiwan's drive to play a bigger role in combating global warming.

As a responsible stakeholder in the international community, the ROC is taking aggressive steps to slash carbon emissions. On June 15 this year, the Legislature passed the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Management Act. This legislation, promulgated by President Ma Ying-jeou on July 1, enshrines into law the country's target of reducing its carbon emissions to half their 2005 levels by 2050. Furthermore, in September, Taiwan published its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, or INDC, pledging to cut emissions by 50 percent from business-as-usual (BAU) levels by 2030 to 214 million tons—20 percent lower than the 2005 levels.

Another headline-grabbing Taiwan initiative includes the development of high-tech fabrics and other items from coffee grounds and recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles. These products are highly sought after by international brands. Many of the teams at the 2010 and 2014 FIFA World Cups wore jerseys made from Taiwan's PET-fashioned fabric.

Such a forward-thinking approach is paying handsome dividends. Installation is underway of wind turbines along Taiwan's western coastline and solar roof panels in businesses, homes and public facilities. Top priority is also given to the development of geothermal power facilities and other renewable energy sources. By 2014, electricity generated from renewable energy reached 990,000 megawatts—the equivalent of reducing 5.16 million tons of emissions. Other worthy initiatives include replacing street lights with LED bulbs and providing subsidies for the development and use of electric vehicles.

The ROC is ready, willing and able to directly participate in relevant UNFCCC negotiations and processes. Only by standing shoulder to shoulder with the nations of the world can Taiwan better share its experiences and learn from those of others in building a sustainable green future.











