

**STATEMENT BY H. E. AMBASSADOR FU-TIEN LIU
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TAIWAN/ROC
AT THE 31ST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
GOUVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS
AND
2ND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
(NOUMEA, NOUVELLE-CALEDONIE, 14-20 NOVEMBER 2001)**

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Honourable Director-General, Ladies and gentlemen...

Greetings and best wishes from the Government of Taiwan/ROC. My Government appreciates the kind invitation to attend as an Observer the 31st Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Gouvernements and Administrations and the 2nd Meeting of the Conference of the Pacific Community and we extend our thanks to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I am not able to be in this Meeting this morning, however, I support all your efforts for the Meetings.

This Conference does not only enhance the relationship between Pacific nations, but avails the Government of Taiwan/ROC of the opportunity to share the fruits of our economic developments and our achievements as an island nation also. Our commitment is to promote and strengthen economic progress, mutual understanding, collaboration and friendly relations among the countries and peoples of this region, both bilaterally and through the various regional organisations.

Since 1993, under the auspices of the annual Taiwan/ROC–Forum Countries Dialogue Meeting, the Government of Taiwan/ROC has been able to contribute to the region with funding assistance averaging around US\$700,000 to over \$1 million each year.

The Government of Taiwan/ROC has also committed annual funding assistance of US\$500,000 for the Taiwan/ROC–Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Scholarship Scheme, which was launched in the year 2000. This project was formalised this year with combined funding for the years 2000 and 2001 of US\$1 million. The Scholarship Management Committee has selected ten applicants this year.

Last year at the Eighth Taiwan/ROC–Forum Countries Dialogue in Kiribati, total assistance for project funding through the regional organisations committed by the Government of Taiwan/ROC of the year 2001, totalled US\$1,004,500 with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's 13 projects receiving US\$339,000 of the committed total.

This year at the Ninth Taiwan/ROC–Forum Countries Dialogue in Nauru, the Government of Taiwan/ROC committed a total of US\$845,000 for project funding assistance through the various regional organisations for the year 2002. Of this, our contribution to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is US\$333,000 for funding of 17 projects for implementation in 2002.

Mr. Chairman, we thank you once again for the opportunity to share the views at this 31st Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations and the 2nd Meeting of the Conference of the Pacific Community.

Please accept the assurance of the Government of Taiwan/ROC to support project funding, economic development and to strengthen friendly relations among the countries and peoples of the Pacific and Taiwan/ROC.

In conclusion, I would like to express on behalf of the Government of Taiwan/ROC, our congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the 31st Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations and the 2nd Meeting of the Conference of the Pacific Community, for the successful deliberations at this meeting. I also extend to the Director-General, the Deputies and Staff of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, every success in the progressive development of the Pacific Island Nations.

With seasons greetings and goodwill to you all in the coming year.

Thank you!