

Foreword by the Minister

Pearl of Hope in Southern Taiwan - the Southern Taiwan Science Park

The Minister of the National Science Council, Chien-jen Chen

Taiwan was fifth in growth competitiveness and third in technological competitiveness in the Global Competitiveness Report 2005-2006 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in September, 2005. The WEF specifically pointed out Taiwan's outstanding performance in technology development and innovation such as innovation capabilities, industry-academia cooperation, cell phone popularity, and the application of new technology to Internet services. Because of its powerful technological strength, overall industries in Taiwan are being led into new era with the best example of the development of the science parks.

Together, we have witnessed the achievements of the Southern Taiwan Science Park (STSP). In 2002, when I was then the Deputy Minister of the National Science Council (NSC), the STSP approved the entry of 93 enterprises, creating a turnover of US\$3.2 billion and 15,071 jobs. Within just a short period of three years, the STSP's tenants increased to 178, reaching a turnover of more than US\$10.9 billion and employment level of over 41,000 people. The integrated optoelectronics and IC industry clusters in the STSP contain a growing amount of processing equipment and key component industries. Consequently, we have seen a complete integrated supply chain develop from downstream to upstream including peripherals. In particular, the world's leading optoelectronics industry is in the STSP. In order to facilitate the development of the STSP as the headquarters of the high-tech industry in Southern Taiwan, the growing biotechnology and telecommunications industries are also being cultivated as rising stars in the STSP.

With outstanding performance in overall operations, the building of a high quality environment in the STSP is also in process. Continuous work in the High Speed Rail Vibration Reduction Program guarantees a safe and secured production environment for STSP tenants. The successful transfer of Community Center and Health Hub operations to the private sector brings more convenient and comfortable services to the lives of STSP staff. The establishment of National Nanke International School meets educational demands and the extension of administrative services outside the STSP such as high public participation rate for neighborhood initiatives provide recognition of the development of the STSP from its neighbors.

Today Taiwan's science and technology industry is facing competitive pressure from the rise of developing countries. Cheap labor costs and material supplies in these countries, indeed, pose a threat to Taiwan and to solve this issue, the science and technology industry has to give up the notion of "quantity is better than quality," and upgrade itself gradually from "Made in Taiwan," or "Made by Taiwan," to "Designed by Taiwan" in order to add value to products and enhance international competitiveness. Accordingly, it should be the goal of the high-tech industries in the science parks to work for the promotion of the "value added" mindset. We expect that the STSP will create more turnover growth and enhance value added services through the improvement of research and development thereby developing the STSP in the headquarters of the world's most important technology industries.

