

Resilient Taiwan for Sustainable Democracy International Forum

Introduction and Summary

I. Forum Sessions

Session	Moderator, Speakers, Panelists
Opening Ceremony	Welcome Address by the President
Session 1 Civilian Force Training and Utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Moderator: Enoch Wu, Member of the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee➤ Speaker: Po-wen Yen, Member of the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee➤ Panelists: Benson Wu, Deputy Director of The Mustard Seed Mission Global Disaster Reduction & Relief Div. Bert Schinkel-Mommsen, EU Civil Protection Expert of the Federal Agency of Technical Relief (THW) Huan-Chang Hsiao, Director-General of National Fire Agency, Ministry of the Interior
Session 2 Strategic Material Preparation and Critical Supply Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Moderator: Wen Liu, Member of the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee➤ Speaker: Aki Laiho, Director for Implementation Unit. National Emergency Supply Agency➤ Panelists: James Barros, Administrator of Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HEMA) Jas Huang, Department Chief of Taiwan FamilyMart Membership and Data Innovation Research Dept. Te-Chin Liu, Senior Advisor of National Security Council

Keynote Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moderator: Thompson Chau, Chair of Taiwan Foreign Correspondents' Club and Correspondent of Nikkei Asia ➤ Panelists: Lutz Güllner, Head, European Economic and Trade Office in Taiwan Karin M. Lang, Acting Director of American Institute in Taiwan Ruth Bradley-Jones MBE, Representative of British Office Taipei
Session 3 Energy and Critical Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moderator: Kenny Huang, Member of the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee ➤ Speaker: Wen-Sheng Tseng, Chairman of Taiwan Power Company ➤ Panelists: Ian Satchwell, Senior Fellow of Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), Australia Patrick Kong, GE Vernova Gas Power Tsai-Ying Lu, Research Fellow of the Research Institute for Democracy, Society and Emerging Technology
Session 4 Social Welfare, Medical Care, and Evacuation Facility Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moderator: Fei-Fan Lin, Deputy Secretary-General of National Security Council ➤ Speaker: Felix Lotan, Head of Emergency Preparedness Department/Magen David Adom ➤ Panelists: Ching-Yi Lin, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Health and Welfare Ya-Wen Hsiau, Member of Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee

	Sami Loppi, Area Sales Director of Temet International Oy Ltd.
Session 5 Information, Transportation, and Financial Network Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moderator: Hsu-Chun Hsiao, Member of the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee ➤ Speaker: Carl Wegner, President of AmCham Taiwan ➤ Panelists: Adam Amara, Chief Scientist of UK Space Agency Yuh-Jye Lee, Senior Advisor of National Security Council Wen Lii, Deputy Secretary-General of National Security Council
Closing Remarks	➤ Remarks by Joseph Wu, Secretary-General of National Security Council
Forum Dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remarks by the Vice President ➤ Reports: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report by Minister of the Interior Shyh-Fang Liu: Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience: Development and Preparedness 2. Report by Deputy Secretary-General Fei-Fan Lin, National Security Council: In Case of Crisis: Taiwan's National Public Safety Guide

II. Forum Highlights

1. Rapidly Fostering Solidarity and Engagement in Volunteer Service

In “Session 1: Civilian Force Training and Utilization,” speaker Po-Wen Yen outlined the mobilization mechanisms and volunteer training system that Tzu Chi has developed since its founding. Several participants raised questions about enhancing civilian participation in volunteer service, and expressed hope that the true spirit of the whole-of-society approach can be fully realized.

At present, the structure and composition of volunteer service teams differ slightly across different counties and cities in Taiwan. For example, Deputy Director Benson Wu of The Mustard Seed Mission observed that in Taitung County, most participants in volunteer training are aged 65–70; while participants in the National Fire Agency’s Disaster Relief Volunteer (DRV) training range from teenagers to people in their 90s. The THW expert stressed the importance of specialized training for different age groups and valuing the participation of diverse communities. He said that the key is taking action, not worrying about whether or not you can do it.

2. Institutionalizing Logistics Mechanisms and Conducting Regular Inventories of Supplies Are Both of Critical Importance

Currently, the stockpiling, inventory management, and distribution of strategic materials are handled by separate ministries and agencies; there is no central platform for integrated oversight. As a result, during an emergency it might be difficult to quickly obtain accurate information on the types, quantities, and precise storage locations of materials. This also requires substantial communication costs for coordination and ultimately makes resource allocation less flexible.

During the discussion, experts recommended exploring the establishment of a fixed, unified stockpiling and distribution mechanism, and taking a resilient governance approach in order to plan a more forward-looking framework. Taiwan is currently planning a dual-track allocation and distribution network, which will establish stockpiling and distribution mechanisms through a smart material management system integrated with private-sector retail outlets and logistics systems. Further discussions will continue on how to refine these efforts, incorporating expert recommendations.

3. Energy Resilience Relies Heavily on Supply Chain Stability and International Cooperation

Australia is also facing a transitional period in renewable energy development, with coal-fired power plant retirements and slow energy storage deployment, requiring investment in various types of infrastructure to boost the stability of the domestic power supply. In terms of energy supply chains, Australia's predominant reliance on maritime transport poses rather significant risks, prompting it to seek closer cooperation within the AUKUS framework. ASPI Senior Fellow Ian Satchwell suggested that Taiwan could explore cooperation with Australia and other Asian democracies in emerging sectors such as green steel, green iron, and autonomous underwater vehicles to jointly strengthen maritime capabilities and power system resilience.

4. Air Defense Shelters and Go Bags Help Build Public Safety Awareness

While air defense shelter systems differ by country, constructing shelters and conducting regular drills can help build public safety awareness. Additionally, encouraging citizens to prepare go bags enhances individual self-protection and enables more rapid response capability during times of crisis.

5. Long-term Public Communication and Accurate Information Dissemination

The head of Magen David Adom's Emergency Preparedness Department, responding to a question from a participant, emphasized that Israelis remain calm and cooperate with government guidance during crises because the government consistently educates the public on correct sheltering procedures and ensures transparent and accurate information dissemination, thereby building public trust. These long-term efforts have, over time, fostered the public's capacity for calm response and strengthened overall societal resilience.

Many participants remarked that Taiwan should more proactively address disinformation and misinformation, as information warfare can undermine societal consensus across an entire generation. Building psychological resilience is a key component of whole-of-society defense. Ensuring that society is not overwhelmed by dis/misinformation during a crisis requires long-term, sustained efforts. Enhancing public vigilance and strengthening citizens' ability to verify information will be an important focus for the government moving forward.

6. Building Public-private Partnerships

International experts shared a number of successful cases and advantages of public-private collaboration. For example, amid the Russia-Ukraine war, US energy company GE Vernova worked with the Ukrainian government to establish a dedicated task force to accelerate emergency response and restore electricity supply following the destruction of multiple power generation facilities. The UK Space Agency's chief scientist noted that Taiwan should adopt a public-private partnership approach in space technology, leverage its strengths in electronics manufacturing, treat mass-produced satellites as critical infrastructure,

and thereby position itself as a leader in edge computing.

Achieving a sound balance between institutional resilience and societal resilience requires not only feasible policy design, but also public participation, engagement from civil society, and close collaboration between the public and private sectors. Regularly reviewing the dynamic relationships between the public and private sectors, and between government and citizens, is essential to building a truly resilient society.