



法務部新聞稿

發稿日期：100 年 12 月 7 日

發稿單位：法規委員會

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以人權兩公約和國際接軌—「2011 年國際人權公約研討會」新聞稿

發稿單位：法務部

為了讓國際社會看見我國在人權保障上的努力，並瞭解國際人權保障機制之運作，由行政院人權保障推動小組、法務部主辦；東吳大學承辦；財團法人江許筭文教基金會協辦的「2011 年國際人權公約研討會」，於 12 月 8、9 日一連兩天假臺灣大學霖澤館國際會議廳舉行。該會議邀請 8 位國外人權學者專家，就當前國際社會特別關注之人權保障議題進行專題演講；另外與會的 10 多位國內人權學者專家並就我國落實兩公約相關問題發表論文；副總統蕭萬長並蒞臨主持研討會開幕式。

副總統蕭萬長於開幕式致詞時引用世界人權宣言起草人羅斯福夫人的話，指出人權必須從自身周遭的小地方做起：「如果在自家附近，人們都無法團結一致，以行動維護自己的權利，那麼，在更大的世界裡，我們的期待也必將落空。」副總統並強調，我國雖已非聯合國之會員國，但仍積極遵行聯合國相關人權公約及其他專門性國際人權公約的規定，致力提升我國的人權保障標準及範圍，才能為臺灣人民創造更詳和的生活。

該研討會邀請多位在國際間享有盛名的人權學者來臺，其中多位並曾於聯合國擔任人權相關職務，包括日本的安藤仁介教授（前聯合國公民與政治權利國際公約下的人權事務委員會主席）、荷蘭 Theodoor Cornelis van Boven 教授（前聯合國人權委員會酷刑特別報告員）、加拿大 Allan Rock 校長（前加拿大駐聯合國大使及加拿大法務部長）、

韓國安京煥教授(前南韓國家人權委員會主席)、美國 James D. Seymour 研究員(香港中文大學中國研究服務中心高級榮譽研究員)、馬來西亞 Edmund Bon 律師(人權律師)及菲律賓 Jefferson Plantilla 研究員(大阪「亞洲人權資訊中心」首席研究員)等人。此外多位總統府人權諮詢委員會委員、行政院人員保障推動小組委員、國內關心人權議題之民間團體組織、學者專家及公務人員亦前往參加。

馬總統於 98 年 5 月 14 日批准了兩項重要的人權國際公約「公民與政治權利國際公約」及「經濟社會文化權利國際公約」，樹立我國人權發展之重要里程碑；我國並於 98 年 12 月 10 日施行兩公約施行法，促進人權保障之落實；今年更首度依聯合國之準則提出兩公約國家人權報告。為使國際社會看見臺灣為保障人權所做的努力，該研討會之舉辦將是我國以實際行動參與國際人權保障的重大指標。

難得國際間多位重量級之人權學者專家齊聚，吸引國內眾多關心人權議題之人士參與，會場座無虛席。其中許多公務人員亦前往聆聽，顯示政府部門致力提升公務人員之人權保障意識，俾免其於執行職務時侵害民眾權利。

PRESS RELEASE

Connecting to the World with Two International Human Rights Covenants - 2011 Conference on International Human Rights Covenants

Time: Dec. 8 and 9, 2011 (Thursday & Friday)

Venue: Tsai Lecture Hall (NTU Law School International Conference Hall) at the intersection of Xinhai Rd and Fuxing S. Rd.

Sponsored by: Human Rights Protection and Promotion Committee, Executive Yuan & the Ministry of Justice

Organized by: Chang Fo-Chuan Center for the Study of Human Rights & Department of Political Science, Soochow University

Co-organized by: Chiang Education Foundation

Taiwan has made tremendous progress in the protection of human rights since 2009. In 2009, President Ma Ying-jeou signed two international human rights covenants, that is, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Legislative Yuan also approved the two covenants, and the "Act to Implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" was passed into law. In addition, the Presidential Office Human Rights Consultative Committee submitted a National Human Rights Report based on international human rights standards established by the U.N. It is only fitting that this conference is held against this backdrop right before Human Rights Day celebrated annually on December 10th across the world.

In order to showcase to the world what Taiwan has accomplished in human rights protection as well as to better understand how international human rights mechanisms operate, we have invited world-renowned scholars in the field of human rights to this conference to share their thoughts and experiences on the issue of human rights. Among them are Professor Nisuke Ando from Japan (former chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Committee), Professor Theodoor Cornelis van Boven from the Netherlands (former Special Rapporteur on Torture of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights), President of the University of Ottawa Allan Rock (former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations & the Minister of Justice of Canada), Professor Kyong-Whan Ahn from Korea (former chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea), James D. Seymour from the United States (honorary senior research fellow at the Chinese University of Hong Kong), Edmund Bon from Malaysia (human rights lawyer), and Jefferson Plantilla from the Philippines (Chief Researcher, Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center (HURIGHTS OSAKA)). Members of the Presidential Office Human Rights Consultative Committee also present at the conference. We hope to learn from their theoretical knowledge and practical experiences so as to take the implementation of human rights in Taiwan to the next level.

More than 500 people are expected to attend this two-day conference, many of whom are working in the public sector, an indication that our government, across different departments and at various levels, is highly concerned with the promotion and implementation of human rights.

During his opening remarks, Vice President Vincent Siew stated that human rights begin in small places close to home. He quoted Eleanor Roosevelt, who wrote part of the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as saying,

"Where, after all, do universal rights begin? In small places, close to home ... Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." He also underscored that while Taiwan is not a U.N. member, we have been committed to abiding by the international human rights covenants created by the United Nations and dedicated to enhancing our human rights standards. Only by applying international human rights values, principles and standards can we create a safer and more peaceful living environment.

This conference will help raise human rights awareness and contribute to the development of democracy in Taiwan. It will also take Taiwan a step closer back to the international human rights community, where we can contribute to the performance of international human rights duties. Due to various historical reasons, Taiwan has been barred from the international human rights community. As Vice President Vincent Siew pointed out, we need to actively participate in international human rights affairs to connect Taiwan to the world. We hope that by organizing such an international conference, the world will see the endeavor we've made to enhance and implement human rights.

