

Opening Speech delivered by Dr. Lou-Chuang LEE, Minister of the National Council of Taiwan, at the US-Taiwan MCMD Workshop, May 6, 2010.

Workshop Title: US-Taiwan Workshop on the Advancement of Societal Responses to Mega-Disasters Afflicting Mega-Cities (in Chinese: 台美大都市巨型災害防治研討會)



Good morning, Ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the National Science Council of Taiwan, I would like to express my warmest welcome to all of you, in particular, our prestigious guests from overseas, including delegates from the United States, Japan, and Hong Kong. I am pleased to see that many world renowned research leaders gather here today joining us in the Workshop on the Advancement of Societal Responses to Mega-Disasters Afflicting Mega-Cities to share their precious experience and most recent findings, and with utmost importance, to explore new technological advances and pioneering strategic measures for emergency response, recovery and rebuild against mega-city mega-disasters (i.e., MCMD in short). In order to identity and define pioneering new research areas for future research and implementation, the workshop is organized into four working groups: (1) Forecasting methods and expected socio-economic impacts; (2) Assessment techniques to quantify the risk; (3) Technology to increase societal and infrastructure resiliency; (4) Post-event management plans to minimize the socio-economic impacts. The MCMD workshop is unique in its program as it requires full commitment from international delegates to join working group discussions within a two-day agenda and will propose a portfolio of research and policy recommendations in a two-day agenda rather than each delegate simply gives an oral presentation like we commonly see in most workshops and conferences. The MCMD Workshop is taking place here to further promote international collaborations and to facilitate exchange of state-of-the-art and state-of-the-practice research findings in view of the needs for pre-event

preparedness, emergency response, and post-event recovery. I personally believe that the long-time partnership between US and Taiwan in many research fields will be further strengthened.

The recent tragic landslide on the Formosa Freeway (National Freeway No. 3) took four lives and families of the victims deeply suffered from such a disaster. This tragedy has substantially raised public concerns for a safer living environment and has highlighted the importance of the main theme of today's workshop. Taiwan also sustained other types of natural disasters in the past, such as Typhoon Morakot in August last year and the well-known 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake, etc. I am confident that a set of feasible and detailed resolutions can be reached at the end of the workshop on many identified critical issues related to nature hazard mitigation and emergency response in a broader picture to shape the allocation of future research investment in MCMD technology, and will also identify short- and long-term actions government agencies should take to be better prepared for future mega-disasters. I want to thank the organizing committee for their big efforts in planning such an important and meaningful workshop. Thanks are given to the organizers including Dr. Shih-Chi Liu, Professor Bill Spencer, Professor Michael Goodchild, and Professor Jerome Lynch on the US side, and Professor Chin-Hsiung Loh (羅俊雄), Professor Chang-Yu Ou (歐章昱), Director Liang-Chun Chen (陳亮全), Director Kuo-Chun Chang (張國鎮), Director Cheng-Shang Lee (李清勝) on the Taiwan side. I also believe that through all your enthusiastic participation and full support will make this workshop a great success. And finally, I would like to wish all of you a wonderful time in Taipei.