

Hi All US Participants of US-Taiwan MC/MD Workshop:

I am following up on the US organizers (Spencer, Goodchild, and Lynch) message below with my blessings and to express deep appreciation for your participation in this critically important workshop. With your demonstrated expertise and willingness to contribute, I see that there is a high probability that your contributions will make a big difference in our efforts to significantly reduce the loss and suffering from future MC/MD events occurring anywhere around the world.

What I'd like to call your attention to are as follows:

1. My experience is that the success of a workshop with clearly defined objectives generally depend on: (i) whether it has the most capable and highly respected organizers--which we clearly do in Prof. Bill Spencer, Mike Goodchild, and Jerry Lynch and their Taiwanese counterparts (Prof. C. H. Loh), (ii) whether it has recruited the most knowledgeable, visionary, team-oriented and broad minded participants available to attend--which we sure do in you now, and (iii) whether all participants are well prepared in advance.
2. Because we have points (i) and (ii) well-covered for this workshop, the ultimate success of this meeting is dependent on your preparation before you get to the meeting. I know most of you are extremely busy specialists, and what I worry about is that serious preparation will not begin until you board your outbound flight. Please read your organizers' messages carefully so that you can fully understand what the **objectives** of this workshop and prepare accordingly. This workshop is fundamentally different than typical meetings where the primary responsibility of each person is simply to make a presentation. In this workshop, we are all expected to work with our Taiwanese colleagues to produce a set of concrete recommendations in terms of **new/emerging** research challenges and **organized/ coordinated** governmental action plans that would minimize the impact of future MC/MD catastrophic events.
3. I wish to emphasize that this specific workshop will be watched very closely by the Taiwanese public through their news media (due to public interest being heightened after Typhoon Morakot). As such, the public expects our delegation to provide something fresh, new, and exciting that will have a sustainable impact. People (including me) would be discouraged to see a final list of old research ideas as our recommendations. We need to propose bold new initiatives that are technically rational, non-conventionally scientific, engineering constructive, and implemenatable! Let your imagination go and run free! But first of all, prepare, prepare, and prepare!

4. Reminder: Please be timely in submitting your position papers to the WS organizers – they truly are the first step in finding new and transformative advances that protect society from future MC/MD catastrophes. I am personally anxious to read your 1-page position papers (see Prof. Spencer's email below). The Taiwanese organizers will need that material from you for printing and distribution at the WS. Start working on it now and do not wait till the last minute.

Thank you again for your attention and I am very much looking forward to seeing you soon in Taipei!

--Chi

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