Joint Press Release

The German Institute Taipei, Siemens, the German Trade Office and the Taiwan Institute of Sustainable Energy

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Smart∞ 2018 Taiwan Sustainability Summit

Taiwan and Germany collaborate on leading Taiwan's digital transformation

- Taiwan and German decision makers to gather and hold in-depth discussions on Taiwan's digital transformation to promote the "Digital Nation, Smart Island" vision.
- Promoting industrial digitalization & upgrading and developing digital talents will realize Taiwan's digital transformation and sustainable development.

Digitalization has reshuffled the world's industrial framework and has reshaped the developmental core of economies, causing governments to actively promote the upgrade and transformation of their respective economies in an effort to maintain economic and industrial strength. Taiwan's government has formulated the "Digital Nation, Smart Island" vision, under which it is implementing the Digital Nation and Innovative Economic Development Plan (2017-2025), known as DIGI+. The initiative will promote Taiwan's industrial upgrading and the digital transformation of the island's infrastructure, thereby accelerating development of Taiwan's digital economy and sustaining its international competitiveness.

Committed to growing together with Taiwan, Siemens, the German Institute Taipei (GIT), the German Trade Office Taipei (GTO), and the Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy (TAISE) today were jointly holding the "Smart∞ 2018 Taiwan Sustainability Summit: Leading the Digital Transformation". Over 200 influential representatives from Taiwan's and Germany's industrial, official, academic, and research communities, with the key themes of “New Digital Economy” and...
“Innovations and Digital Transformation” in mind, examined the importance of digitalization to Taiwan's economy. They also shared success stories from Taiwan and Germany to this end. Seven Core Statements for further cooperation and actions were agreed and concluded by The Taiwanese and German public and private sectors at the end of the Summit, focusing on the key factors in achieving digital transition here and suggestions for substantive moves to achieve such. Taiwan Premier William Lai graced the event with his presence and re-emphasized the government's support to the development of digital economy and its determination to transform Taiwan into a smart island.

Distinguished speakers, including Taichung City Mayor Lin Chia-Lung, Taoyuan City Mayor Cheng Wen-Tsan, National Development Council Deputy Minister Dr. Chiou Jiunn-Rong, Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs & Energy Markus Hess, Aerospace Industrial Development Corp. Chairman Anson Liao, SYSTEX Corp. President & CEO Frank Lin, and Audi Volkswagen Taiwan Director Group After Sales Prinz Joachim were invited to the Summit. These individuals presented examples of government policy and planning, national development plans, and industry success stories in explaining how to best use digital technology and implement digitalization in cities, energy infrastructure and manufacturing. They furthermore advanced ideas on expanding the scale of Taiwan's economy and the extension into even more innovative applications that will assist in Taiwan's digital transformation and sustainable development.

Markus Hess from Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs & Energy specially shared Germany's experiences and introduced the bold digital policies set forth by Germany that provide comprehensive support to industry and encourage the training of talent and scientific research to realize Industrie 4.0. His professional perspectives and German success stories will serve as outstanding reference for Taiwan in its effort to promote digital transformation. Erdal Elver, President and CEO of Siemens Taiwan, analyzed the opportunities, challenges, and change management presented by the accelerated use of digital technology, as well as how the integration of resources using digital platforms will create value in industrial upgrading, thus further promoting the growth and transformation of Taiwan's digital economy.
Mr. Elver said, “Siemens is committed to providing advanced technologies in Taiwan and establishing a rich ecosystem of partners through a digital platform to contribute to the digital transformation of Taiwan.” GIT Director General Martin Eberts stated, “Germany and Taiwan are ideal partners in shaping the digital future: Both countries are leaders in innovation, and as free and democratic societies they know about the responsibilities linked to these technologies.” GTO Executive Director Axel Limberg further pointed out, “The digital transformation is a game changer in business and has an enormous potential to create and strengthen partnerships between Taiwanese and German companies.” Ambassador Dr. Eugene Chien stated, “Taiwan and Germany are working hand in hand to promote industrial transformation and upgrading as well as creating a favorable environment for Taiwan’s sustainable future through digital innovation.

To further strengthen the cooperation and co-create value for Taiwan in realizing the digital transformation, the organizers jointly summarized seven Core Statements:

Statement 1: Providing platforms where German and Taiwanese enterprises can exchange technical know-how and co-create industrial applications and digital services.

Statement 2: Supporting Taiwan’s manufacturing industry in gaining technology advancements both in automation and digitalization to enhance the nation’s competitiveness.

Statement 3: Building up an Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) ecosystem to cope with the high demand of IoT-based solutions and services in Taiwan.

Statement 4: Providing subsidies as incentives to building developers and corporations that adopt intelligent digitalization technologies.

Statement 5: Speeding up the development of IoT in smart grids and ensuring that proven energy management systems and software platforms are in place for better grid stability and efficiency.

Statement 6: Enhancing and promoting digitalized applications in Taiwan’s railway industry when implementing the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program.
Statement 7: Developing digital talent and skills are a prerequisite for Taiwan in mastering the digital wave.

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