



Deutsches Wirtschaftsbüro
German Trade Office
Taipei
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Press Information

German Trade Office Taipei

The German Trade Office Taipei (GTO) was established by the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) as the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in 1981 to promote economic relations between Taiwan and Germany and to represent the interest of German business in Taiwan. The GTO is the first point of contact in Taiwan for German companies, provides information on Taiwan and Germany, informs about investment opportunities in Germany and arranges seminars, networking events and symposia.

DEinternational Taiwan Ltd.

DEinternational Taiwan Ltd., the service unit of the GTO, organizes business delegations and market survey trips, represents German trade fair companies and offers bilateral market entry support as well as recruiting, training, office-in-office and other value added services.

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GTO Outlook 2018 & Wirtschaftsstammtisch concluded

Senior German representatives share their outlook on Taiwan's politics, economy, and industries for 2018.

Yesterday, the German Trade Office Taipei hosted its annual GTO Outlook event, which brought together members of the Taiwanese-German business community, including business partners, experts, and professionals from different industries to discuss and evaluate on Taiwan's economic and political perspectives in 2018. The discussion was followed by the Wirtschaftsstammtisch, a joined dinner that provided opportunity to meet new contacts and network among the German-Taiwan business community.

Mr. Axel Limberg, Executive Director of the German Trade Office Taipei welcomed the over 80 guests at the event, including the 5 speakers of the event: Mr. Martin Eberts, Director General of the German Institute Taipei; Mr. Jürgen Maurer, Representative of Germany Trade & Invest GmbH; Erdal Elver, President & CEO of Siemens Limited Taiwan; Eckart Mayer, President & CEO of Mercedes Benz Taiwan Ltd., and Rainer Allgeier, Managing Director DB Schenker (H.K.) Ltd. Taiwan Branch.

In his presentation, Mr. Limberg referred to the GTO Business Confidence Survey conducted in November and stated that the overall economic outlook among German companies in Taiwan looks positive and promises a stable investment climate within the next two years. He further noted that the focus of the German Trade Office Taipei this year will be on Renewable Energy, Infrastructure and Smart Machinery, and pointed to several upcoming projects, including the Smart Grid Business Delegation to Germany in April and the Export Initiative- Energy efficiency in buildings.

Speaking on the political outlook in Taiwan, Mr. Martin Eberts, Director General of the German Institute Taipei stated that he hopes that Taiwan will continue to play its role in contributing to the international community and seek cooperation. With regards to cross-strait relations, he noted that Germany hopes to see more dialogue between Taiwan and China.

Mr. Jürgen Maurer, Representative of Germany Trade & Invest GmbH, talked about Taiwan's economic outlook. He pointed out Taiwan's unexpected high economic growth rate of 2.84% in 2017 and stated that he expects Taiwan's economy to grow 2.4% this year. He noted that trade between Germany and Taiwan will remain relatively unchanged.

Erdal Elver, President & CEO of Siemens Limited Taiwan, focused on the manufacturing and energy industries. He stated that the Energy sector in Taiwan is entering a golden period due to the government's plans to phase out nuclear power, and shift to an energy mix of 50% gas, 30% coal, and 20% renewable energy by 2025. He expects Taiwan's manufacturing sector to remain strong in 2018, pointing to last year's strong export growth (highest since 2010) and the second-highest outbound sales in history.

Elaborating on the automotive industry, Mr. Eckart Mayer, President & CEO of Mercedes Benz Taiwan Ltd., pointed out that German automotive brands continue to dominate the imported sector. He forecast several changes in Taiwan's automotive industry, including the ban on ICE vehicle sales from 2024 due to a move towards sustainable energy, an improving public electric charging infrastructure, and increasing ride-sharing services. In his final remarks, he praised the recently concluded 2018 Taipei International Auto show, noting that it is now on par with the international standard.

Rainer Allgeier, Managing Director DB Schenker (H.K.) Ltd. Taiwan Branch, shared his forecast on the logistics industry. Focusing on the major developments in 2017, he noted that exports via air transport increased by 6 % and imports by 8%, the figures via ocean transport were very volatile, while contract logistics grew at a double-digit rate. For 2018 he expects volumes in air freight to be flat, while the number of shipments will increase due to growing e-commerce. Rates for ocean freight are expected to maintain an upward movement in the first two quarters and that environmental regulations are becoming increasingly important for shipping lines.



He also expects additional capacity demand for local distribution due to e-commerce activities.

Germany is Taiwan's largest trading partner in Europe, with a total trade volume of USD 15.65bn in 2017.