EU Strategies, Interventions and Future Prospects for Support to Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan

Brussels, 14 November 2012 - Taiwan’s promising development, democratisation and minority rights records in recent years have positioned the island as a model for the South-East Asia region. Taiwan being the European Union’s fourth largest trade partner in Asia, whilst the EU is also Taiwan’s fourth largest trade partner, these solid economic and trade relations are further consolidating, holding positive significance for deeper levels of global engagement.

Taiwan’s progress has opened up opportunities to enhance the breadth of its developmental agenda and to pursue a full transition to an open society founded on the rule of law and respect for human rights. Taiwan’s aboriginal peoples have been instrumental in campaigning for greater representation and democratic rights and in ensuring Taiwan’s regional lead in catering for the political representation and recognition of its aboriginal citizens. Contemporary consideration of Taiwan’s national identity, development and democratisation that fails to take into account the considerable contribution of the island’s indigenous peoples to these processes, can only ever offer partial insight into Taiwan’s progress.

Consequently, in an effort to promote a more developmentally-minded framework for future EU engagement with Taiwan in which the native aboriginal population may better reap the benefits of Taiwan’s growing international engagement, Metin Kazak, MEP, will convene the conference “EU Strategies, Interventions and Future Prospects for Support to Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan” in the European Parliament, ASP room A3G-2, Brussels on 28 November 2012 from 13.00-14.30.

A selection of speakers from academia, NGOs and various institutions from Europe and Taiwan will address a varied audience on topics including the history and position of the Austronesian peoples in Taiwanese society, indigenous participation in democratisation and development processes, the EU-Taiwan trading partnership, as well as the various EU instruments and strategies available to promote a more socially responsible framework for EU relations with Taiwan.

To attend, please send full name, nationality, date of birth, passport/ID number, place of residence and organisation to e.chippendale@unpo.org or call +32 251 314 59.

Deadline for registrations is 22 November 2012.

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The conference is organized by Metin Kazak, MEP
in collaboration with the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization