

1 6 . Recent Development of Deep Ocean Water in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

It has been more than ten years since Taiwan started the development of deep ocean water (DOW) applications. In the year of 2005, the Executive Yuan of Taiwan announced a well-respected policy on DOW development, and set a bold goal of achieving a value of about 20 billion NTD DOW industries in ten years. However, by the year of 2016, the objective is not achieved, and in fact only a fraction of the projected value has been fulfilled. The situation is a severe setback for the DOW industries, and many criticisms have arrived from general publics, and, in particular, from the media. It is now at the critical point of how to do and where to go about the Taiwan DOW development.

The aforementioned situation has been investigated by the Control Yuan of Taiwan, and it was concluded that there were two major problems resulting in the unsatisfied outcome. The major problem was the failure of DOW promote the development of DOW industry. Fundamental research has been carrying out in the universities through grant supports from Ministry of Science and Technology. International connections with USA, Korea, and, in particular, Japan have been actively engaged. Each year, the DOW community gathers together under the organization of TW-DOW to discuss the important issues and to prepare for opportunities to come.

In order to boost the spirit and enhance strength, recently the DOW community is undergoing a plan to unite all aspects of groups, including industries, government sectors, universities and

intake system, i.e., the facilities established in Taitung County by the governmental sector of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), as well as the Council of Agriculture, have not been able to withstand the typhoons attacks; the water intake system both failed and subsequently the water supply was terminated in the year of 2012. Since then, the development of DOW has come to a halt until now. Despite of the fact there are three civilian companies in Hualien County which have DOW pipeline working properly, but the marketing development has also been affected by the low morale of whole DOW industry.

In spite of facing so many challenges, the DOW community in Taiwan still keeps high spirit. The Society of Taiwan Deep Ocean Water Resource Application (TW-DOW) was established in the year of 2014, partially supported by MOEA, to

research institutes, to form a grand union of DOW. Several legislators also concern about the DOW development, and watch the government for DOW projects and secure the budget for redoing pipeline engineering. It is believed that, after more than ten years attempts, the DOW community in Taiwan has learned enough lessons and obtaining enough experiences, successful or not, to avoid future mistakes. We shall move forward with firm strides and overcome all difficulties to achieve the objective of developing this so-called “blue gold” industry for many years to come.