

Sustainable Development & Environmental Protection

The pursuit of “sustainable development” is a global effort in 21st century. The idea of the sustainable development is not only about whether to protect the environment but is also interrelated with all human activities in the land we live. It is impossible to ignore the economic development strategy without discussing sustainable development since the traditional economic strategy that encourages the rapid accumulation of capitals, products, and human resources is built up on the excessive exhaustion and deterioration of the natural resources. Yet, the latter is always cognized as an irreversible process which makes a great impact on the human security in modern society and also increases the living risks and challenges for future generations.

Taiwan had long regarded its economic development as the top priority of the policymaking in the past. Therefore, the fundamental problem between economic development and environmental protection had been ignored and thus the unsolved problems kept being accumulated and deteriorated. Moreover, due to the global climate change and the decrease of natural resources, existing problems of energy, food shortage, water supply, communicable diseases, medical resources, and etc. are further aggravated. It is the necessity to realize the effect caused by the changing of natural and social environment rather than it has been a hot issue of the international society so that we have to face the environmental problems more seriously. Accordingly, the core value proposed by the Taiwan Brain Trust (TBT) is that the government should take the responsibility to build up a sustainable development shared altogether by all people and across generations and by which the TBT brings up the following four goals to achieve the “sustainable development”: set health and ecology as the first priority of the national development; adjust the industrial structure to incorporate “green economy”; make better use of the energy while reduce the pollution; and form a non-nuclear nation.

In our sustainable environment policy, the TBT first expounds the current conflicting situation in international society caused by climate change and the shortage of energy supply and further indicates the fact that Taiwan is vulnerable to the damage resulted from natural disasters. Then, the TBT criticized on certain existing serious problems including: Taiwan relies excessively on energy import which will put national security in danger; high energy-intensive industrial structure is the main source of the pollution; use the nuclear energy to reduce CO₂ emission is a

policy seeking only temporary relief regardless of the consequences; and the unsolved problem of nuclear wastes. Only by understanding and analyzing those ongoing problems can we make the right choice on Taiwan's future development and toward the goal of building up a sustainable environment shared by all people and across generations

Furthermore, to follow the international effort on pursuing sustainable development, the TBT suggests: 1. establish the exploitative limit of resources and environment; 2. Adjust the industrial structures to lower the ratio of the energy-intensive industries; 3. Save the energy, develop green energy, and establish non-nuclear nation; 4. Develop green economy, and etc. We believe that the government should resolve to suspend the dangerous Fourth Commercial Nuclear Power Plant and shut down the First, the Second and the Third Plant for safety inspection, then develop the green energy, and establish the non-nuclear nation. Besides, the government should be a leading authority to redistribute the wealth to reach the social justice where individual and public interests are balanced. Therefore, the policy regarding fiscal divisions which provide subsidies to the business activities that cause the damage to the environment should be changed into the policy encouraging public investments on green industries and green government procurement, revising relevant laws and regulations concerning the environment, developing green economy, and in the end moving toward the broad road of the "sustainable development."