

Welcome Remarks
The 36th International Small Business Congress
(ISBC)
Gala Dinner

大會晚宴
施部長顏祥致詞參考稿

時間：10月6日(三)晚間7時

地點：台北國際會議中心3樓宴會廳

Yen-Shiang Shih
Minister
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Republic of China

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests and members,

Good evening. On behalf of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, I sincerely welcome you all to this banquet. Thank you for coming to this splendid Gala Dinner, and thank you for contributing to this year's International Small Business Congress. Your participation and hard work during the Congress have made this event so successful.

Under the theme of "Striding Across the Uncertain Age to New Opportunities and New Future", government officials, industry leaders and respectful scholars have shared with us their valuable experiences and opinions. Therefore, I am very proud to say that the event has been very fruitful to all of us in learning new concepts, sharing experiences, and identifying promising niches for our business and the economy as a whole.

In the previous sessions we tried to understand the changing environment from different perspectives. For example, first we studied the case of Taiwan's SMEs development in detail. Then we looked into the rising China and the growing importance of the Great-China market, viewing the issue from the angle of regional development. Also, as speakers from matured economies talked about SMEs' future of transformation, entrepreneurs in emerging countries expected start-up business to grow amid greater uncertainty. In fact, throughout many discussions, we have made for each others in blending new ideas and forming new strategies.

Still, we have one more session to attend tomorrow morning before we celebrate the ending of this Congress. In the fifth plenary session, we will be talking about the subject of "SMEs and Emerging Industries" and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight certain emerging industries in

Taiwan in the hopes of providing you with information concerning investment and cooperation in the future.

Taiwan came to be known to the world for its prosperous ICT industries. We take the lead in manufacturing semi-conductors, flat-panel displays, laptops and so on. Therefore, the economy of Taiwan relies heavily on the exports of ICT products. This imbalanced industrial structure leaves Taiwan vulnerable to external changes.

Accordingly, in 2009, the government devoted itself to six emerging industries so to boost Taiwan's competitiveness in the global market. These six emerging industries included biotechnology, healthcare, high-end agriculture, green energy, tourism and creative and cultural industries. Taiwan's achievements in the ICT industry and its favorable investment environment have laid a solid foundation for these emerging industries.

In addition, the government has also come up with effective plans to boost the development of the six industries. It is estimated that from 2009 to 2012, a total of NT\$200 billion will be allocated to them. While putting the plans into action, the government proposed developing another four emerging "smart industries" this year, including cloud computing, green architectures, electric vehicles and industrialized patents and inventions. Another NT\$15 billion will be devoted to these industries over the next six years, and the government encourages investments from the private sector.

I believe that the government ought to create a fair, secure business environment and set up dedicated agencies to provide SMEs with the assistance they need. So SMEs can build on these foundations to form

consensus, integrate peripheral resources, and make effective use of government supports.

Finally, having that said, let me thank the organizing committee of this event, Chairman Lin, and the National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, as well as our private-sector sponsors. I much appreciate your efforts to make this event possible and this Gala Dinner so wonderful. Now the dinner is being served, so please waste no time and enjoy the night. Thank you very much.