

## Foreword by the Minister

When Southern Taiwan Science Park Administration asked me to write the foreword for its 2003 Annual Report, my first thoughts were how staff of the Administration had worked diligently and selflessly together in the midst of seemingly deserted sugarcane fields, and how the seeds that they had so painstakingly sown and watered had grown into a high-tech park that encompasses three major industrial clusters: the semiconductor industry, the optoelectronics industry and the biotechnology industry. As I flipped through pages of memories in my mind, I could see the sweat they had put into sowing but also the joy they experienced in reaping. I saw how problems in the area of flood prevention, High Speed Rail vibration and historical sites preservation had stimulated rather than frustrated them. I saw how their persistence and hard work had resulted in the prosperity of the Southern Taiwan Science Park.

In recent years, the international economy has slowed down. Yet, despite the recession, the Southern Taiwan Science Park Administration has held over 30 enterprises recruitment presentations and exhibitions between year 2000 and 2003 and attained impressive results. In order to create an excellent work environment, they will completed the phase 1 development of Tainan Science Park ahead of schedule and begun to accelerate its phase 2 construction as well as the development of Lujhu Science Park. They have successfully brought about a diversified R&D environment and taken creative measures to sharpen the science park's competitive edge. Many have begun to appreciate their efforts as regards work safety and environmental protection, in planning sound water & power supply systems and transportation networks, as well as in creating satisfactory living conditions.

It is worth mentioning that Southern Taiwan Science Park will accommodate cultural as well as technological features and become one of the very few science parks of its kind in the world. Our ancestors traveled far to settle on this blessed land. So far more than ten different historical sites have been unearthed. The Administration has spared no efforts to preserve these historical treasures. They have also worked with concerned agencies on the establishment of a national-leveled museum to house the historical relics discovered. When this happens, Southern Taiwan Science Park will not only become the core of a high-tech silicon island, it will also be a technological park with cultural heritage where many can enjoy history and recreation.

At present Southern Taiwan Science Park continues to expand various development projects and strengthen its living environment. It is expected to boost the local economy and encourage the development of relevant industries. The Park and the surrounding communities will no doubt prosper together.

For the past seven years, the Southern Taiwan Science Park Administration has followed Hsinchu Science Park in the principles of success and with local characteristics and with due consideration given to trends in technological development. It is my sincere hope that under the systematic leadership of Director-general Tai, the staff of the Southern Taiwan Science Park Administration will do their best and develop the Park into an exemplary facility that is known for its picturesque environment, innovation and vitality; a new technological metropolis that incorporates both cultural and industrial activities.

**Che-Ho Wei**

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