

Statement regarding the imprisonment of Dr. Ching-jyh SHIEH

June 30, 2006

The Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA) hereby expresses its deep concern about the extended detention in Taiwan of Dr. Ching-jyh SHIEH, the former Deputy Minister of the National Science Council in Taiwan, who was arrested on Tuesday, May 23 2006. As of today, Dr. Shieh has not been charged. We find this kind of procedure contrary to the basic principles of due process, justice and the rule of law.

We do firmly believe that the alleged wrongdoings must be dealt with in a fair and open manner. Justice through the rule of law is essential to Taiwan's efforts to consolidate democracy and protect fundamental human rights. But, as the judicial authorities work through this investigation, we hope that they will adhere to the dictum that everyone is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

We also express our concern about the fact that Dr. Shieh is being held in Tainan under rather deplorable circumstances: he is kept in isolation and is not allowed to see friends or family. We do find this unjust and unfair, and not in keeping with the basic principles of human rights which the judicial authorities should proudly protect, instead of violate.

We will not comment on the case itself, but we do wish to state clearly and unequivocally that we regard Dr. Shieh highly. He was an active member of FAPA in its pioneering days in the 1980s. We appreciate his deep dedication and close involvement with our organization as a Board member.

Dr. C.T. Lee MD

President, Formosan Association for Public Affairs