



Picture 1: Minister Hsu Ming-chun led a labor inspection team on a spot inspection tour and declared 2021 as the “Year of Strengthening Prevention of Occupational Disasters in the Construction Industry.”



Picture 2: Vice Minister of Labor Lin San-quei and Shih Chen-Yang, Director General of the Workforce Development Agency, Ministry of Labor in group photo with representatives from TDA (Australia) and TGI (Thailand), present and online delegations during the “Taiwan-Australia/Thailand-MOU Exchange Ceremony and Skills Transformation for Post-Pandemic Workforce International Forum.”

Highlights for the First Quarter of 2021 (January to March)

01.01.2021 The minimum monthly wage in Taiwan increased from NT\$23,800 to NT\$24,000 effective from January 1 onwards. The “Table of Grades of Insured Salary” and the “Monthly Contribution Classification Table of Labor Pension” took effect on the same day. The 1st Grade of monthly insured wages for labor insurance was revised to NT\$24,000. To protect the rights and interests of the insured, the insured person whose monthly insured wage was NT\$23,800 in December 2020 (including full-time work, partial working hours, and low-income members of professional unions, persons with disabilities in sheltered employment, and insured persons trained by vocational training institutions), had their monthly wage adjusted to NT\$24,000. This is expected to benefit more than 2.82 million workers. The monthly insured wage for labor pensions of workers, which was originally NT\$23,800, has also been adjusted to NT\$24,000, in total benefiting more than 1.11 million people.

01.01.2021 Since January 2021, labor insurance premiums (including employment insurance premiums, wage arrears payment fund withholding fees), labor pensions, and National Pension insurance premiums can be paid at the four major convenience stores, including 7-11, FamilyMart, Hi-Life, OK-Mart, etc. The maximum amount of each payment has been increased from NT\$20,000 to

NT\$30,000.

- 04.01.2021 By official announcement issued by the Ministry of Labor on December 23, 2020, interest rates for relief loans taken by the insured under the “Relief Loans for Workers” Program during 2018, 2019, and 2020 shall adopt an annual interest rate of 1.28% starting from the first business day of January 2021.
- 04.01.2021 In view of the high risk of occupational disasters in the construction industry, the Minister of Labor Hsu Ming-chun led a team to a large-scale construction site in Linkou District, New Taipei City to conduct spot labor inspections. During the inspection, Minister Hsu also declared 2021 as the “Year of Strengthening Prevention of Occupational Disasters in the Construction Industry,” requiring institutions to implement construction safety management and other disaster reduction measures.
- 08-22.01.2021 Implemented the “2021 Insured Person Hardship Loan Program under Labor Insurance,” benefiting 72,000 workers with total loans amounting to NT\$7.5bn.
- 14.01.2021 Amendment of Article 2 of the “Organizational Regulations for the Management Committee of the Wage Arrears Payment Fund of the Ministry of Labor”.
- 14.01.2021 Notice is given that “Practitioners Engaged in the Supply of International Marine Supplies” Are Approved as the Type of Workers Specified in Article 84-1 of the Labor Standards Act.
- 18.01.2021 To reinforce the safety of year-end operations, the Ministry of Labor implemented a “Spring Festival Simultaneous Joint Safety Inspection,” urging the industry to strengthen disaster prevention measures for high-risk operations and comply with relevant regulations on overwork prevention. The inspection period lasted from January 18 to February 26, 2021. A total of 8,865 institutions were inspected, 274 work suspension orders were issued, and 945 fines were imposed. The fine amounted to NT\$47.38mn.
- 18.01.2021 To enforce Chapter 3 of the “Regulations Governing Employment Enhancement of Unemployed Middle-Aged Persons and Elderly Persons” the

Ministry of Labor gave notice that the “Key Points of Business Loans and Interest Subsidies for Unemployed Middle-aged and Senior Citizens” shall be issued to assist unemployed middle-aged and senior citizens in micro-entrepreneurship and promote employment.

20.01.2021 Notice given of amendments to partial provisions of the “Regulations on Technician Skills Certification and Issuance of Certificates” to revise the relevant provisions such as the training qualifications of supervisors, the qualifications and conditions for participating in supervisory evaluation seminars, the upper limit of the number of experts recruited for creating question banks, and the extension of the qualification period of test supervisors due to non-human factors, so as to recruit talents to participate in skills verification supervision, evaluation, and question bank editing work.

20.01.2021 Notice is given of the amendments to partial provisions of the “Regulations for Technician Skills Certification Administration and Test Site,” mainly to amend the upper limit of the number of standard-setting personnel to recruit so as to expand industry participation. Further amendments were also made on relevant regulations on the refund of academic test fees to protect the rights of examinees who cannot participate due to certain reasons. The addition of supervisors and assessors in the Regulations allows them to monitor fieldwork and revise the relevant provisions of field rules for technical tests to match the adjustment of the technical test methods so that the skills certification can be synchronized with the industry needs.

03.02.2021 The 3rd Taiwan-EU Labor Consultation was held by video conference, focusing on occupational safety and health issues. It was jointly opened by Joost Korte, Director-General of the EU Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Directorate, Taiwan Minister of Labor Hsu Ming-chun, and diplomatic representatives of both parties - Filip Grzegorzewski, the EU Representative in Taiwan and Head of European Economic and Trade Office and Ambassador Tsai Ming-yen of the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium.



Picture 3: Minister Hsu Ming-chun led a delegation of officials from the Ministry of Labor to attend the 3rd Taiwan-EU Labor Consultation.

08.02.2021 Convened the “2021 1st Quarter National Public Enterprise Disaster Reduction Inter-Ministerial Platform Meeting.” Members of the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance, the Council of Agriculture of the Executive Yuan, and the Public Construction Commission of the Executive Yuan were invited to review the implementation status of disaster prevention work in public enterprises and public projects. Through inter-ministerial cooperation, it is hoped that the energy and momentum of disaster reduction work can be accelerated to effectively protect workers' workplace safety and well-being.

09.02.2021 Notice is given on amendments to “Scope of Application of Proviso Clauses Article 34, Paragraph 2, of the Labor Standards Act,” which took effect on February 9, 2021.

20.02.2021 Revised and promulgated the “Technical Guidelines for Maternity Health Protection in the Workplace,” in line with the amendments to the “Regulations of the Maternity Health Protection at the Workplace ” in September 2020, to expand the scope of application and specify that institutions with more than 100 workers should provide for maternity health protection plans and

strengthen tiered management measures.

22.02.2021 Notice given on “Subsidy Program for Reemployment Assistance Measures for Middle-aged and Senior Citizens after Retirement,” “Subsidy Program for Hiring Retired Senior Citizens to Pass on Professional Skills and Experience,” “Subsidy for Local Governments to Set up Talent Service Base Program for Senior Citizens,” “Subsidy for Continued Employment of Senior Citizens” to implement measures related to the Middle-aged and Elderly Employment Promotion Act , and strengthen the use of human resources of middle-aged and senior citizens.

22.02.2021 Announcement of the “Pilot Plan for Job Redesign Service for Unilateral Hearing Impaired Persons” that provides redesigned job opportunities for hearing impaired persons who have not obtained a certificate of disability and who have a hearing threshold of 40 decibels or more on the impaired ear and a difference of more than 25 decibels from the hearing threshold of the normal ear. The pilot project will run until December 10, 2021.

23.02.2021 In accordance with Point 4 of the Ministry of Labor’s “Standard Operating Procedures for the Designated Safety Inspection of Imported Dangerous Machines and Equipment” and the Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health of the Ministry of Labor’s “Operational Specifications of the Working Group for Technical Assessment of the Appropriateness of Foreign Standards for Hazardous Machinery or Equipment,” a working group meeting was convened to discuss and analyze the suitability of the “designated international standard ISO 11515 type II as the inspection standard for high-pressure gas containers.”

26.02.2021 The Ministry of Labor allocated NT\$22bn to supplement the labor insurance fund and increase its income flow.

01.03.2021 The Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health of the Ministry of Labor obtained a Taiwan utility model patent for its self-developed the “Intelligent Image Security Identification System.”

- 09.03.2021 Amendment of “Article 45 of the Labor Standards Act regarding the determination criteria, review procedures, and other measures for determining the nature and environment of the work that will not do any harm to the worker’s mental and physical health, as well as work application forms for review of applicable subjects and corresponding review procedures.”
- 11.03.2021 Amendment to the “Common Principle of Calculation of Fines for Violations of Labor Standards Act ” by expanding the scope of applicable persons and organizations subject to increased penalties and other important provisions. The amendments shall come into effect on May 1, 2021.
- 16.03.2021 Convened the “Disaster Mitigation Meeting for Senior Executives of the Taiwan Railways Administration,” co-chaired by Chi Wen-Jong, Administrative Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and Acting Director of the Taiwan Railway Administration, and Tzou Tzu-lien, Director-general of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Ministry of Labor, and invited senior supervisors of relevant departments of the Taiwan Railways Administration to attend and discuss relevant disaster reduction strategies and improvement actions.
- 20-21.03.2021 The Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health (ILOSH) of the Ministry of Labor and Ergonomics Society of Taiwan jointly organized the “28th Ergonomics Society of Taiwan Annual Meeting and Conference”, where ILOSH presented 9 papers, including “Ergonomics and Interdisciplinary Worksite Musculoskeletal Hazard Prevention and Control” and “Ergonomics in Medicine.” The positive outcomes include improving the evaluation and improvement strategies of human and physical hazards in the workplace and promoting the research and development results of ILOSH.
- 22.03.2021 Notice given on amendments made to Article 19 of the “Labor Union Act” in line with the lowering of the majority age in the Civil Law to 18, and amended the current requirement that union members who can be elected as union directors and supervisors must be “20 years old” to “be of majority age.” The amendments shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

- 22-25.03.2021 Workshop on Working and Living Conditions for Fishers - Phase 3 Planning and Expert Meeting was held through video conference and was organized by Andriana Sukova, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Directorate and Filip Grzegorzewski, the EU Representative in Taiwan and Head of European Economic and Trade Office. Vice Minister of Labor Lin San-quei and Chen Tien-Shou, Deputy Minister of the Council of Agriculture of the Executive Yuan, jointly opened the ceremony.
- 25.03.2021 To celebrate the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Vocational Education and Training between Workforce Development Agency (WDA) of Ministry of Labor, and TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) and Thai-German Institute (TGI), the "Taiwan-Australia/Thailand -MOU Exchange Ceremony and Skills Transformation for Post-Pandemic Workforce International Forum" was organized by WDA on March 25 2021, to continue to drive digital transformation and the establishment of international cooperation and exchange platforms to promote the high-quality growth of vocational training systems in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 29.03.2021 In order to provide youth with diverse career assistance channels, the "Youth Career" employment consulting platform has been launched to serve 18- to 29-year-old youths since March 29, 2021. Professional employment consultants have been introduced and combined with a digital website to enable youths to receive answers to career and employment questions through video, text, voice, audio, and video content on their mobile devices.
- 31.03.2021 In conjunction with the online operation of the Data Exchange Platform run by the Administrative Enforcement Agency of the Ministry of Justice, the data required for enforcement action on the insured organization, or on those who are members of professional unions and fishermen's unions and who have accumulated personal arrears, are now transmitted and handled through the Platform.
- 31.03.2021 Amendment and promulgation of the "Foreigners Change of Workplace Determination Standards for Foreigners Undertaking the Jobs Specified under

Items 8-10, Paragraph 1, Article 46 of the Employment Service Act.” In order to coordinate with the “Qualifications and Criteria Standards for Foreigners Undertaking the Jobs Specified under Items 8-11, Paragraph 1, Article 46 of the Employment Service Act” and to promote major national public infrastructure projects, projects approved by the Executive Yuan can apply for hiring foreigners based on the approved ratio with regulations amended on the off-site deployment of foreign construction workers.