

## Wang Zhenhua, John Hsuan: Essential that policy should actively support SMEs

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The "Creative Entrepreneurship Forum," established yesterday, is hoping to build Taiwan into a global center for innovation and entrepreneurship. The forum and press conference was attended by (from left) Jimmy Fang, general manager of Real Venture Capital; former chairman of the FSC Kung Chao-sheng; the former General Manager of Quanta Computers Wang Zhenhua; Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum adviser Dr. Hal Raveché; UMC Honorary Vice Chairman John Hsuan; and Pegatron Vice Chairman of the Board and Deputy General Chief Executive Officer, Shichang Xu.

Mr. Wang Zhenhua, former chief executive of Quanta Computers, and the Tate Group announced today the creation of an Industrial Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum for Taiwan. Mr. Wang pointed out that Taiwan's industry is grappling with uncertainty, and the forum is hoping to find ways to promote Taiwan's continued industrial development. The forum called for Taiwan's government to maintain assistance to the development of Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs), owing to the 80-percent contribution to Taiwan's employment from SMEs, fostering hope that the development of SMEs will see more support from government policies.

UMC Honorary Director John Hsuan agreed: SMEs will prove important to the future of the economy and should be accorded opportunities to grow into bigger businesses. He also stressed that, in addition to support for SMEs in Taiwan, the development of a culture of innovation will enable SMEs to benefit from the value of innovation and

generate new business opportunities. The forum also pointed out with unanimity that the student movement has recently seen the young embrace the idea of innovation as a means to increase Taiwan's capabilities in the global competitive environment.

Wang compared Taiwan's economic growth in the past to catching a fast train and benefiting from rapid development. Viewing the current economic situation in Taiwan, Wang asserted that he was very worried about the future of development, innovation and entrepreneurship, and for this reason he decided to convene the forum, including many industry partners, to attract government and industry proposals for Taiwan's strategic development.

Wang also said he hoped that, after graduation, in addition to the option to find a job, students would also be able to choose entrepreneurship and as a means to create new jobs. He also believes that the excessive investment in Taiwan of too many resources to achieve monolithic industrial goals puts the country at a disadvantage for industrial innovation.

Wang stressed that the government should actively support SMEs in its official policies, including the policies of the Education Ministry, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finance, so that the younger generation has good opportunities to develop its skills in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

John Hsuan also believes that the recent student protests show the discontents of young people, but that the free expression of that discontent will serve ultimately to improve and strengthen the quest for solutions to Taiwan's current challenges. Taiwan's economy is currently experiencing problems, and open platforms for discussion such as the innovation and entrepreneurship forum can only assist in the effort to devise new strategic concepts.

He also recognized Wang Zhenhua's idea that SMEs are a very important part of Taiwan's economy, and that many great businesses also thrive from the growth of SMEs. He agreed that Taiwan's government should encourage the development of SMEs. In addition, he also saw the intense involvement of young people through the student movement as proof that, in the current global competitive environment, Taiwan is still a vibrant force.