

## **Appendix 136 -- President Chen Shuibian's National Day Message (2002)**

Source: Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York. Available at: <http://www.taiwanembassy.org/US/NYC/ct.asp?xItem=30088&ctNode=3483&mp=62&nowPage=4&pagesize=15>

Date: 2002 October 10

The Office of the President of the Republic of China Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

Today is the 91st National Day of the Republic of China. With joyous pride, the 23 million people of Taiwan, together with their compatriots at home and abroad will be celebrating the glorious birthday of our country.

As we look back, we can see that it has been a year of challenges, both at home and abroad, as well as a year of opportunity. Early in the year, the instatement of a new legislature and new cabinet members marked a new chapter in domestic politics and government administration. On January 1, after 12 years of perseverance and determination, Taiwan successfully became the 144th member nation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), thus enabling Taiwan to move toward taking on a broader role in the international community. Later this month, Academia Sinica director, Dr. Yuan-Tseh Lee, will attend APEC's 10th Economic Leaders' Conference in Mexico on behalf of Ah- bian and on behalf of our country, and contribute Taiwan's voice to issues such as sustainable economic development, the digital economy, and mutual benefits of globalization.

Of course, many serious challenges still lie ahead. Regardless of whether they originate at home or abroad, we must bravely confront these problems by enacting active and effective solutions. Together, we will take on the enormous responsibility of national development, and forge our own road, for the sake of all our fellow countrymen.

With half a century of authoritarian rule having culminated in the first transfer of power in our history, we now stand at the crossroad to democracy. It has been an arduous journey, and we find ourselves not only encumbered by the vice and corruption of the past, but, in the international arena, we are further weighted down by current political and economic volatility coupled with Beijing's incessant threat and intimidation. Nevertheless, I have always that, if we work together as one, we can build a solid foundation for our nation's future and ensure lasting prosperity for the 23 million people of Taiwan and for generations to come.

In conclusion, I would like to say Happy Birthday to the Republic of China and wish each one of you good health and continued success.

