

VISION FOR TAIWAN: HOMELAND PLANNING

Localization, Sustainability, and Innovation

In the face of economic globalization and environmental challenges caused by extreme climate change, Taiwan as a country needs a comprehensive national spatial development vision. Our think tank will concretely review and analyze Taiwan's past national spatial planning and development, the predicaments the country has faced in this area, and related experiences under the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) administration from the perspective of practical ecology and social life.

First, in light of Taiwan's unique ecological environment and island economic system as well as frequent global economic interactions, we propose "localization, sustainability, and innovation" as the core ideas for national development and spatial planning. Based on these ideas, the two major perspectives on and frameworks for spatial analyses shall be constructed and shaped—the horizontal level concerns the redistribution of space for daily lives and production activities and the vertical level the conservation and sustainability of natural and ecological space. Under these guidelines, we will employ the three major characteristics of our planning system—idea, comprehensiveness, and technicality—when carrying out the actual planning, and will apply them to the policy instrument for "growth management." Only when we do so can

we build up national spatial planning and new development perspectives for the new era.

Secondly, our think tank's vision of national spatial planning is to rebuild a beautiful ecological island, create diverse urban and rural municipalities, and revitalize the economy for local living. The government should improve the people's quality of life and realize green living through public policies and the regulation of land and living spaces. Therefore, concerning the vision of national spatial planning, our think tank asserts that, when it comes to the planning and development of industries, the priority should be given to the environmental carrying capacity of land resources and reasonable land spaces should be carefully distributed as industrial resources. With regards to actual practices, our think tank emphasizes on "reduction" and "regeneration." As to the people's living spaces, we should actively seek more possibilities of regeneration and development instead of resorting to demolition as the only means to develop and use land spaces. At the same time, we also make a political declaration: the government should have a devolution plan to allow local governments, with the participation of the central government and local citizens, to take the reins of regional development. Furthermore, as far as long-term policy planning is concerned,

our think tank actively proposes that there should be a new national spatial plan, related laws and regulations should be integrated, and the dual national spatial planning logic should be abandoned.

In short-term national spatial planning policies, through measures such as the correction of the use of Taiwan's environmental resources, growth management mechanisms, the regulation of different ecological environments and living spaces, the effective management of public lands, the active decompression of the capital, Taiwan's precious land resources can be readjusted and conserved. In mid-term national spatial planning policies, the features of event economy can be used to create possibilities of the development of local economies. Through materials employed in holding "Environmental Expos" and through the correction of the use of environmental resources, local communities can find their own environmental uniqueness. In long-term national spatial planning policies, all large and small administrative zones in Taiwan should be redrawn under the principles of "reasonable living spaces, comprehensive ecological systems, and complete production chains" so that there can be a tenable distribution of national resources.

Land resources are a nation's precious treasures and are cherished heritage the ancestors left to their descendants. Traces of our forefathers' diligent cultivation and wisdom to co-exist and prosper with the ecological system of this island are still clearly manifested in our living spaces, lands, and environment. In the face of the challenges brought by economic

globalization and the ecological crises caused by severe climate change in this new century, we must have a national spatial planning policy that contains clear ideas, careful approaches, and sound strategies in order to really transform and solve Taiwan's current predicaments in handling national lands. This is a responsibility that the authorities cannot shun. As Taiwan's citizens, we also need to clearly understand the challenges that Taiwan's ecological environment and lifestyle systems face when land resources are being distributed. We should call on the future government to positively respond to our actions and initiatives and to effectively solve related problems so that this beautiful island that had protected and nurtured our forefathers will continue to be a lasting shelter for generations to come. **BT**