

2026 Taiwan International Geothermal Conference: Linking Next-Generation Technology, Moving Towards Scalable Development

Hosted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), the 4th *2026 Taiwan International Geothermal Conference (2026 TIGC)* **opened** on March 26. In his opening remarks, Vice Minister of Economic Affairs Chien-hsin Lai **emphasized** that the MOEA would be committed to developing geothermal energy, highlighting its advantages as a local resource and a provider of stable energy supply. He also **invited** international experts to focus their discussions on Taiwan's specific challenges in geothermal development and to propose solutions to enhance Taiwan's geothermal capacity and strengthen national energy resilience.

Vice Minister Lai **noted** that conflicts in the Middle East had affected the stability of global energy supplies, while CPC Corporation had long implemented a diversified supply strategy for oil and natural gas. Amid ongoing global changes, the government **had remained** vigilant and **continued to respond** with appropriate measures. Each year, the Energy Administration of the MOEA **forecasted** electricity demand over the coming decade, and Taipower's power development plans **indicated** that supply would exceed projected future demand. The Administration also **continued** to strengthen power system stability and resilience, advancing toward the national vision of carbon reduction. Since taking office, President Lai **had introduced** the "Second Energy Transition," actively promoting renewable energy policies to support sustainable green energy development and achieve Taiwan's 2050 net-zero emissions goal. As Taiwan **played** a critical role in the global AI supply chain, geothermal energy **was recognized** as a key contributor to stable green energy supply.

The MOEA **stated** that Taiwan **possessed** significant potential and advantages for geothermal development. To accelerate progress, the MOEA **had introduced** a range of measures spanning early-stage exploration to later-stage development, aiming to reduce risks while balancing environmental protection. These measures **included** providing demonstration incentive grants and **planning to conduct** a central government geothermal investment selection process later in the year.

The Energy Administration **explained** that the conference **had brought together** over 700 domestic and international experts and industry leaders from more than 10 countries, including the United States, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, Iceland, Denmark, and Italy, making it one of the largest geothermal events in recent years. By offering an international platform for knowledge exchange and sharing practical

experience, the event **enabled** global experts to exchange insights and provide valuable recommendations to advance Taiwan's geothermal development.

The core theme of the conference **focused** on “Next-Generation Geothermal Technologies,” including international experience sharing on Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS), Advanced Geothermal Systems (AGS), and Supercritical Geothermal Systems (SGS). Experts from various countries, along with CPC Corporation and the Geological Survey and Mining Management Agency (GSMMA), **engaged** in in-depth discussions on geothermal exploration and drilling strategies tailored to Taiwan's unique geological conditions. The conference also **highlighted** Taiwan's adoption of more efficient exploration techniques and high-temperature-resistant sensing technologies to reduce development risks and shorten project timelines.

The Energy Administration **also noted** that a “Geothermal Technology and Solutions Exhibition” **was held** concurrently, featuring leading geothermal developers, engineering firms, and precision drilling equipment manufacturers from both domestic and international markets. The exhibition **served** as a technical matchmaking platform for industry collaboration.

Furthermore, the Energy Administration **emphasized** that the success of geothermal development depended not only on technological advancements but also on mutually beneficial relationships with local communities. The conference therefore **featured** a keynote presentation by the Council of Indigenous Peoples on “The Role of Indigenous Peoples and Collaborative Visions in Advancing Geothermal Development within the Energy Transition,” highlighting the importance of establishing effective benefit-sharing mechanisms and offering concrete recommendations.

On the second day of the conference (March 27), professional workshops **were held** under three major themes: “Elements of Drilling Team,” “Geothermal Power Plant Engineering Planning,” and “Geothermal Power Plant Operations.” These workshops **welcomed** participants from various sectors and **aimed** to inspire innovation and breakthroughs in geothermal development. The Energy Administration **expressed** its expectation that the conference would serve as a vital exchange platform. Through deeper collaboration with experienced international partners, Taiwan **looked forward** to developing a geothermal model that supports local communities, enhances industrial competitiveness, and advances toward the long-term goal of net-zero emissions.