

## Cabinet panel to boost private sector involvement in projects

The China Post Staff

The Executive Yuan (Cabinet) recently announced the Committee to Promote Private Sector Participation in Public Works Development in a bid to speed up government projects and create jobs.

The committee was formerly under the supervision of the Public Construction Commission (PCC), but given the government's focus on increased private-sector investment in infrastructure and the extent of reforms required to facilitate this plan, the committee is now placed directly under the supervision of the Cabinet.

The mission of this committee is to formulate and coordinate necessary government reforms and procurement promotion policies. Vice Premier Lin and a number of vice-ministerial level officials from relevant ministries as well as consultants from financial, business and academic sectors are directing the committee.

The Cabinet has identified 16 infrastructure project types as priorities for private-sector participation. The Executive Yuan estimates these

projects will be worth US\$5.8 billion. These 16 sectors includes public education centers, sewerage facilities, highways, large-scale tourism/recreation facilities, medical treatment, facilities, public school facilities, rest homes, train stations, forest recreation areas, desalination plants, wind power generation plants, mass rapid transit facilities (including light-rail), purification facilities and drinking water, and traditional retail markets.

Grace Lei, a founding partner in the Taipei-based full-service law firm Winkler Partners, has been appointed as a consultant to the committee.

"The upgrading of the committee is a solid reflection of the government's commitment to bring world-class construction partners to the island," she said.

Lei stressed that "The Committee will be able to better bring to higher-ranking officials any issues of concern foreign partners might have and gain firsthand knowledge of the government's plans for infrastructure development."

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