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[International Engagement][Agriculture] Asian Seed Congress 2010 Took Place in Taiwan [International Engagement][Agriculture] Asian Seed Congress 2010 Took Place in Taiwan (Chinese Version)

RTI (2010/11/09) The Asian Seed Congress 2010 took place in Kaohsiung on November 9. This was the first Asian Seed Congress held in Taiwan, and Asian Seed Congress had been widely regarded as a significant event in seedlings; hence, although during the preparation period several typhoons occurred, the host organizations spent great effort overcoming difficulties and presenting the spectacle with more than five hundred species of significant vegetables and twenty-one floral species. The preparation for the event was recognized and applauded by Asia & Pacific Seed Association (APSA).

Taiwan joined in APSA in 1994 and won the hosting for Asian Seed Congress 2010 in 2007. Since then, a national preparatory committee was formed with representatives from Council of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the other relevant official organizations. The subordinate agencies of Council of Agriculture, including the branches of the Seed Improvement and Propagation Station, the branches of the Agricultural Research Institute, etc., invested a three-year elaboration in the widely-praised four-day congress.

With the regional advantages, Taiwan could present more than five hundred important vegetable species and twenty-one floral species in the Kaohsiung site. Besides, two demonstration zones were set in Shinshou Township, Taichung County, and Kaohsiung Floral Company respectively. Council of Agriculture said, restricted with the limited farming space, seedling industry is the foundation of Taiwan's agricultural development. In order to enhance the industry's international competitiveness, the industry was included in the ten top agricultural research topics in 2008. The council planned to make Taiwan the Asia-Pacific center for seedling industry.

Reference: <u>RTI 2010/11/09</u> (Chinese)
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