

What has the government learnt from ASE's misconduct?

There are two reasons that resulted in a light sentence being given to Advanced Semiconductor Engineering for their apparently serious crimes involving pollution. One reason centers on the evidence that the Kaohsiung City Government and Prosecutor's Office provided to the court and the judge's decision that resulted. The other is that the Water Pollution Control Act and the Trash Clearance Act have their own restrictions, so that they could not provide social justice and positively prevent fiscal abuse. There is an apparent need to change the law.

The first cause also involves another problem, which is that Advanced Semiconductor Engineering accumulated 25 violations within 3 years. There's no keeping track of the history of violations nor an operational logbook to sort out evidence of crime. As a result, the judicial verdict was not in keeping with the goal of social justice and it was never determined who should be held responsible.

No Further News Regarding Donation of the Chairman of the Board

Besides the controversy between law and penalty, an important issue that we should not ignore is: Has the environment improved? Who should do what to restore the health of the environment to avoid the same tragedy happening again?

Due to the fact that the pollution of the Houjin River is not only sourced from Advanced Semiconductor Engineering, without the help of related research to assess the appropriateness of the verdict, it is hard to conclude that Advanced Semiconductor Engineering committed offenses against public safety. The key fact behind this is that the government was not able to provide the environmental background information describing the Houjin River's pollution source. Perhaps, this is the reason why there's not any related research unit that would dare to assist the government's commission by clarifying the responsibility for the pollution over a short time period. And we have to question further: Houjin River has not only been being polluted for a year or two, and the ASE incident happened almost a year ago; Since the incident, has the Kaoshiung City Government, Environmental Protection Department and the Department of Health invested any resources in documenting the Houjin River's pollution fingerprint? Have any health survey and risk assessments been done downstream on the river's agriculture and fishery residents.

The chairman of the board of Advanced Semiconductor Engineering claimed to donate NT\$3 billion, yet there is no news about this matter so far. Advanced Semiconductor Engineering spent money on helping schools with installing LED, planting trees and issuing green bonds. These minor works are just like "greenwashing", and do not correspond to the restoration of the Houjin River that was polluted. If the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Chang is sincere, why not deliver the NT\$3 billion donation to the public

welfare trust, and let an impartial third party and related research units make assessments for Houjin River's pollution spread and risk to health. This would help clarify Advanced Semiconductor Engineering and other firms' responsibility for the pollution as well as invest resources to help with the river recovery; instead of putting the environmental cost of the pollution that the firms should pay, on all of the people.

Reconcile Law and Regulation. Perform Basic Environmental Investigation

As a result of the pollution, what people really want to know is: What is the impact of Advanced Semiconductor Engineering on the environment? What effect will it have on Houjin River's nearby residents? What strategies and monitoring mechanisms should the government implement? In addition to a basic environmental investigation, the Environment Protection Administration is proposing installing a water quality continuous monitoring system in industrial zones and large polluting factories. The monitoring data must be published simultaneously online allowing people to view the current water quality status and alert people to any adverse changes. This information will enable everyone including the public, government and businesses to come together to protect our environment.

The environment has been damaged and people's health is thereby threatened. In addition to trace accountability, we hope that people in Taiwan can learn from the pain, recondition insufficient law and regulations system, reinforce basic necessary environmental research, and create transparent public information to let everyone not only see Taiwan, but also take a step further to recover damaged Taiwan.