

Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific

The Official Newsletter of SAVE (Spoonbill Action Voluntary Echo)

SAVE Forms

Over the past year faculty and students from the University of California Berkeley's College of Environmental Design (UCB) and National Taiwan University's Building and Planning Research Foundation (NTU) have worked to defeat a petrochemical plant proposed for coastal Taiwan. Organized as SAVE (Spoonbill Action Voluntary Echo) this group is in the midst of an international campaign to bring attention to the issue in hopes that public pressure will convince the Taiwanese government to deny the project. The grassroots group is working with the fishermen of Chi-gu District (proposed plant location) and national legislator Su Huann-Chi.

Spoonbill Migration a Hit



It appears that the public stir is contributing to the awakening of an environmental consciousness—in a country with a poor protection record. Student creativity has been a major factor. In October, UCB students staged the "Last Great Spoonbill Migration" art show. Over 100 handmade birds were displayed on the campus lawn providing the artists' interpretation of urban development effects on the environment. The event featured a contest during which the birds were judged in seven categories including most politically

powerful, most accurate, and easiest to ship to Taiwan.

Adoring Crowd Greet Birds



The International Black-face Spoonbill Rescue Coalition was formally established in front of National Taiwan University on October 31, 1997. More than 19 national and local environmental organizations in Taiwan joined in a statement pledging to save the endangered black-faced spoonbill and oppose the building of the Bin-nan industrial complex. Members of SAVE, US witnessed the event on video-conferencing screens as the black-faced spoonbill models made by UCB students were unloaded from the DHL trucks. In a written statement, the Nobel Laureate and Chair of SAVE, Taiwan, Dr. Lee Yuan-Tze, said "Taiwan as a member of the international community shall carry the responsibility for its impact on the global environment." The NTU students, dressed in black masks and white gowns, staged a street drama showing the impact of the proposed plant on the fate of the black-faced spoonbill.

Smeltzer Seeks European Aid

At a recent conference hosted by the Portuguese Association of Environmental Engineers in Lisbon, Portugal, SAVE, US Coordinator Matthew Smeltzer spoke about the alternative economic development movement arising in coastal Tainan County and the activities of SAVE. Smeltzer presented a brief paper

citizen involvement in environmental decision-making effective in Taiwan, R.O.C.," which emphasized the positive effect international citizen involvement can have on the local issues in Tainan County and on democratic decision-making in Taiwan. Audience members were impressed with the scope and achievement of the campaign to date given limited funding sources.

Spoonbill CD Released



"Revenge of the Black Ducks," a song written for the black-faced spoonbill, was released as a compact disk on October 31, 1997. The song was written and performed by the famous Taiwanese pop singer, Chen Sen. The song combines 4 languages in Taiwan - the indigenous Paiwan, Ho'lo, Hakka, and Mandarin. The lyrics of the song describe the fear of a young black-faced spoonbill as it begins its long winter journey to its uncertain future in Taiwan.

SAVE

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We Need YOU!

If you would like to participate in SAVE activities, let us hear from you. We need people to:

- recruit new SAVE members
- write letters to President Lee opposing the petrochemical plant
- lend SAVE your mailing list if you are part of a group
- contact and/or put us in touch with groups that can exert international pressure
- make presentations to colleagues or students on the Chi-gu Lagoon story and solicit support
- help us identify grant sources to supply start-up capital

SAVE is an international organization whose goal is to protect Chi-gu Lagoon from being developed and in doing so, prevent the extinction of the black-faced spoonbill.

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