



Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific

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BIN-NAN EIA REVIEW UPDATE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) review process for the Bin-nan Industrial Complex continues amidst the aftermath of Taiwan's recent earthquake. On October 13, the Bin-nan developer presented another downsized plan that would reduce the use of Chiku Lagoon from 23% to 19.8% (288 hectares). However, the review committee and environmental groups continue to insist on the previous recommendation of zero use of the lagoon.

The serious geologic impacts on the coastal region that resulted from the October earthquake have added new concerns about Bin-nan. One review committee has raised the question of liquefaction at the proposed site. The quake has also increased concern over the safety of the dams proposed to supply water to Bin-nan. Other EIA issues such as water consumption and the impact on the black-faced spoonbill also remain unresolved.

After the conclusion of the recent Climate Change meeting in Bonn, Germany, government officials in Taiwan also expressed worry over the impact of CO2 emissions from Bin-nan and the proposed Naphtha Cracker No. 8. Together with Bin-nan, CO2 emissions in Taiwan will be 70 million tons over the allowable amount per year by 2015. A decision on the Bin-nan EIA is expected by the end of this year.

TAIPEI VIGIL SUPPORTS SPOONBILL

By Christie Coffin, Taipei Correspondent

The black faced spoonbill may be endangered, but the sense of community fostered by the August 25th vigil at Eslite Bookstore in Taipei suggests that there is still hope. With an invigorating mix of seriousness and humor, music and theater, politics and journalism, the Friends of the Black Faced Spoonbill demonstrated that a large and mixed crowd could enjoy supporting a serious environmental cause.

Many came to hear participants sing a spoonbill song and perform a skit including ingenious spoonbill masks developed by a joint University of California Berkeley and National Taiwan University class. Many of us lit candles as part of the vigil and were urged to think what we might do to support both the endangered bird and the endangered way of life in the lagoon.

The elegant stone-faced lobby of Eslite Bookstore on upscale Ren Ai Boulevard may seem like an unusual place to demonstrate for an environmental cause. It is not. In the last year Eslite has opened its doors to late evening activity. Open 24 hours a day, the store is becoming a forum for artistic and social discussion, as well as a social meeting place and an excellent bookstore.

The spoonbill vigil was an unusually successful example of this community gathering, which drew students, faculty, community members, politicians, entertainers, neighbors, and print and television journalists. The vigil and the concurrent environmental hearings were well covered in the local press and widened local awareness of the issues. The new English-language *Taipei Times* published a full-page article by SAVE member Jeff Hou, along with coverage of the on-going environmental hearings.

In the weeks since the vigil, the 921 Earthquake has claimed the headlines and introduced new priorities. The challenge will be to include environmental goals as a beneficial result of recovery for those who have lost so much in the earthquake.

SPOONBILLS MIGRATE TO UC BERKELEY



Spoonbill Sculpture

In October, Randy Hester's ED1 class participated in the 3rd Last Great Spoonbill Migration at UC Berkeley. About 120 students built models of the endangered bird and displayed them on campus in what has become an annual art show. Models

were constructed of a huge variety of materials and reflected possible futures for the spoonbill, ranging from protection to extinction. A panel made up of designers and bird enthusiasts presented awards.

SAVE International hosted the People's Choice award. Over 100 observers voted for the sculptures of Christina Liau and Fred Deouzman-Gilluatine. SAVE also distributed spoonbill masks, decorated the art show with carved spoonbill-pumpkins, led a song about the spoonbills, created a lagoon to represent Chiku, and held a successful fundraising bake sale.



SAVE PUBLISHES BOOK

Over the past two years, students in the Environmental Planning Studio at Berkeley have continued to conduct research and refine alternative development proposals for Tainan while advocating for the denial of the Bin-nan Industrial Complex. This summer several members of SAVE worked to combine the research into a technical report. The overall conclusion of this report leaves researchers no doubt that the Bin-nan Industrial Complex



SAVE's Report

should be rejected in any form or size and an alternative sustainable development plan pursued.

The report was sent out to members of the EIA committee in Taiwan in October. It details the dangers of industrial development in this region and hopefully will encourage the national government to look for other alternatives. According to our sources the report impressed EPA Director Dr. Tsai enough to make additional copies

for staff and the committee. Copies of the report are available for \$50.

SAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION TRAINING

This winter SAVE International will participate in a training session on wetlands protection with two other Earth Island Institute projects, Baikal Watch and China Biodiversity Project. Baikal Watch promotes ecotourism and conservation in the Lake Baikal region of Russia. The Biodiversity Project works to protect biological diversity in China. The two projects obtained funding to bring officials from these countries to the United States for training in wetlands protection and conservation of waterfowl.

Because SAVE International has similar interests in saving the black-faced spoonbill, they were invited by the sponsors to bring individuals from Taiwan to participate. Two Taiwanese involved in the effort to protect the Tseng-wen Estuary wetlands have been invited. The Exchange will take place on December 10-22, 1999 and will consist of a series of field trips and meetings with governmental and non-profit experts in protecting wetlands and waterfowl habitat in the United States. The exchange will also feature SAVE's spoonbill expert Malcolm Coulter, who also has expertise in the oriental white stork, an endangered bird in both Russia and China.

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SAVE UPDATE

SAVE Presents to Audubon Society

SAVE Coordinator Barbara Butler will give a talk on the black-faced spoonbill to the Golden Gate Chapter of the Audubon Society on November 18th. SAVE members are invited to attend. Doors open at 7 p.m. for refreshments and the program begins at 7:30 at the Northbrae Community Church in North Berkeley, located at 941 The Alameda.

Spoonbill Auction Planned for Chinese New Year

The planning for a silent spoonbill auction in early 2000 is currently under way. Student sculptures from the Migration will be auctioned at a SAVE gala as a part of the Chinese New Year's celebration. Stay tuned for further information.

HELLO FROM CHI-CHAO THE SPOONBILL



Hi you guys -- how are you? I don't know, but things in Chiku are A LOT more fun this year. I met this really cute bird. His name is Junichi. He is really handsome and big and strong and much smarter than all

his dumb friends that he likes to hang out with. I'm not sure if he likes me but I have a plan for catching his attention.

I know you heard about the earthquake but what about the impact on the coast. Some of the older spoonbills are really worried about their future in Taiwan. If there is another catastrophe and there's all of this bad new development we could be in trouble! Thanks for sending the pictures from the migration. You guys are really cool. Gotta Go.

Love, Your Friend, Chi-chao.



Black-Faced Spoonbills at Tseng-wen Estuary