



Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific

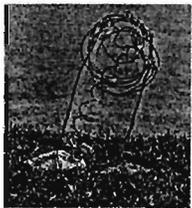
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BINNAN UPDATE

Dramatic events are unfolding in Taiwan as the newly elected DPP (Democratic Progressive Party) Government pushes forward with new energy and environmental policies. One controversy has been the country's 4th Nuclear Power Plant (NPP4), a US\$5.6 billion project that is already 30% completed. In late September, the Minister of Economic Affairs recommended scrapping the NPP4. As part of the government's energy and industrial development policy, Minister Lin Hsin-yi also said that the development of the Binnan Industrial Complex and the 8th Naphtha Cracker Complex (NCC8) should be reassessed, in light of their impact on water resources and CO2 emissions. In late October, Premier Chang Chun-hsiung formally announced the cancellation of NPP4 just minutes after the President had a reconciliatory meeting with the leader of the KMT (Kuomintang) party. The announcement was met with a strong backlash in the KMT-dominated Legislative Yuan, which called for a recall of the President.

While the recall effort has faded, it is difficult to tell whether the DPP Government will retreat from its policy. In the meantime, the state-owned China Steel, which took over Yieh-Loong as the developer of the Binnan steel complex, announced a joint venture with seven other countries to develop a major steel-manufacturing complex in Malaysia, a move widely seen as an alternative to Binnan. In addition, there are also reports about renovating the existing petrochemical facilities in Kaohsiung as an alternative to Binnan and NCC8. While the Binnan developers still stand firm in their intention to develop the project, the project's EIA is still pending on final verification by the review committee.

THE GREAT SPOONBILL MIGRATION 2000



Student sculptures

The fourth great spoonbill migration took place on October 10th and was a big success! Continuing the trend of past years, U.C. Berkeley students in Professor Randy Hester's Introduction to Environmental Design course made sculptures of spoonbills to symbolize the debate between nature and urban development pressures. Luckily, this year many of the students made waterproof sculptures, because rain began to fall as the awards ceremony began. Nearly 200 faithful students and spectators stood through the rain to see which spoonbills won awards and to hear an update of the situation in Taiwan. SAVE had a successful day raising money and signing up new members. The best sculptures will be auctioned off next year to help raise money for SAVE.

ECOTOURISM PLAN MOVING FORWARD

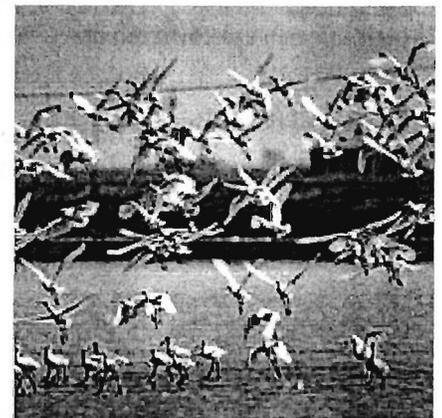
By Taiwan correspondent Wan-chih Yin

Since May 2000, a studio at National Taiwan University (NTU) has been working on a project commissioned by Tainan County to promote ecotourism planning in Chi-ku. This is the first time students have faced the local government directly, which has been a great opportunity to see their dreams realized.

In the past few months, the NTU group worked with local people, environmental groups, and government staff closely. They realize that only if the local people understand that protecting their natural resources can promote rather than hinder development, can ecotourism occur. The group is excited to see more and more local people changing their minds about ecotourism planning and participating actively. The local citizens have become the most powerful force pushing the planning forward. The NTU group welcomes any comments and can be reached at savetaiwan@tomail.com.tw.

OKINAWA CONFERENCE ADDRESSES BLACK-FACED SPOONBILL FLYWAY

In October, SAVE's expert scientist Malcolm Coulter participated in the Asian Migratory Flyway Network meeting in Okinawa, Japan. The goal was to include the spoonbill in the planning process and to increase cooperation within the larger Asian conservation network. Although SAVE is still focused on protecting the black-faced spoonbill's wintering site in southwest Taiwan, our long-term goals are to protect the entire spoonbill habitat.



Black-faced spoonbills take flight

The Network currently includes Russia, China, the Koreas, Japan, Taiwan, The Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia and will include more inland countries farther west in the future. The emphasis has been to identify important migratory or winter stopover areas and to protect these areas. The Network includes large governmental participation, but with equal and instigating participation from BirdLife International and Wetlands International, two NGOs that are very active in the region.

Coulter called a special meeting on the spoonbill, which was attended by representatives from Korea, mainland China, Hong Kong, and Japan. Participants shared information on sites in need of protection and how this might be achieved. Although more work remains to be done, SAVE believes this type of international cooperation is crucial to the spoonbill's survival.

PASSING OF A GREAT ENVIRONMENTALIST

David Brower, recognized around the globe for his pioneering leadership in protecting the environment, died on November 5th, at his home in Berkeley, CA, surrounded by his family. Brower was 88 years old, and died from complications related to cancer.

Brower was the first Executive Director of the Sierra Club and later founded the Earth Island Institute (EII) in 1982. EII is an umbrella organization that supports innovative environmental projects around the world, including SAVE.

Among his other accomplishments, Brower led campaigns to establish nine new national parks and seashores and helped gain passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which protects millions of acres of public lands in pristine condition. Many consider him the founder of the modern environmental movement, alongside John Muir and Rachel Carson.

HELLO FROM CHI-CHAO THE SPOONBILL



Hi guys!

So--this is really exciting to think about making friends with people all along the flyway! Who knows, maybe some more cross-cultural romances will start up! Junichi and I could use some "couples friends". Hope you aren't working too hard. Write when you have time. Gotta go.

Love, Your Friend, Chi-chao.

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SAVE UPDATE

SAVE Elects New Coordinator

Jessica Owley was recently named as SAVE International's coordinator. Owley has been on the executive committee for the past two years, helped SAVE publish a major report, and presented research on the spoonbill in Taiwan. SAVE would like to thank outgoing coordinator Barbara Butler for her hard work over the last several years.

Grant Awarded to Spoonbill Education Center

The Tainan Environmental Protection Union received a \$3,000 grant from the Global Greengrants Fund. The grant, submitted by SAVE International's Jeff Hou, will fund TEPU's volunteer-training workshop for the Black-faced Spoonbill Education Center in Chiku.

Record Number of of Black-Faced Spoonbills Come to Southern Taiwan

The number of black-faced spoonbills migrating to southern Taiwan has reached a record high of 583, up from the previous record of 463 in December 1999. The number of black-faced spoonbills world-wide now stands at just slightly more than 600.

SAVE's Award Makes International Press

A photo of SAVE members receiving a U.C. Berkeley University-Community Partnership award recently appeared in the Taiwanese news.

