

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre

It has been half a century since the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre was established. The Metal Industries Research and Development Centre has taken responsibility for supporting industrial upgrading and transformation in accordance with the development of national industrial policies and environmental changes. In the year of the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre's 50th anniversary, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on this special occasion.

Looking back on the history of Taiwan's economic development, from the beginning the construction of water conservancy and the development of agriculture set a solid foundation. With the support of the United Nations and the U.S. as well as the hardworking Taiwanese, the development of domestic industry opened the door to Taiwan's industrial development after World War II. In the early 1960s, the national production value of industry exceeded that of agriculture for the first time and the national income increased dramatically at the same time. For the purpose of pushing the further development of domestic industries forward, the Council for Economic Planning and Development and the Ministry of Economic Affairs cooperated to initiate the "Metal Industry Development Program" and applied to the United Nations for a subsidy for the program. In 1963, the Metal Industries Development Centre was subsequently established. It not only founded the base for the processing technology of key metal materials, but also became an important cornerstone for the future development of heavy industry.

During the early stage Taiwan's industrial development mainly focused on domestic industry. Through its secondary metal processing technology capability, the Metal Industries Development Centre not only assisted in the establishment of the China Steel Corporation, but also provided domestic metal processing industries with technical assistance. In this way, the Metal Industries Development Centre successfully turned

Taiwan into a production kingdom of fasteners, hand tools, valves and bicycles. It also fostered a successful upgrading of Taiwan's manufacturing industries and established a key position for Taiwan's metal processing related industries in the global market. After the 1990s, Taiwan's manufacturing industries started to face new challenges in technical upgrading and structural transformation. In order to reinforce its independent R&D capability and support industrial transformation, the "Metal Industries Development Centre" changed its name to the "Metal Industries Research and Development Centre" in 1993. Through the execution of government research projects, the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre invested in the R&D of innovative technologies, promoted industrial R&D alliances and clusters, introduced innovative business models and accelerated the optimization of industrial value chains by means of system integration. Moreover, it successfully prompted the technical upgrading of domestic metal processing key industries and fostered a rapid growth of high-tech intensive industries, such as the automobile and precision machinery industries.

Over the last decade, with the development of emerging industries and the rise of China and Southeast Asian countries, the R&D and the service range of the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre has gradually extended from traditional metal processing industries to emerging industries, including medical devices, electric vehicles, wind power, and optoelectronic devices. At the present stage, the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre is proactively involved in advanced metal materials and products, micro mold & die and its components, smart vehicles, and the key modules and technical R&D of precision equipment. Along with the above efforts of consistently developing industrial technology capability, the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre also promotes applications of medical devices, chassis of electric vehicles

and high-value equipment, and at the same time integrates related resources, including inspection and certification, carbon footprinting, innovative services, service oriented manufacturing industries, and technology. It has always been the goal of the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre to assist industries in developing potential key products or new operating service models in order to accelerate the development of high-value industries and give strong impetus to industries.

In the era of fiercely global competition, the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre upholds its core values of forward-looking innovation, value creation and industry priority. In accordance with the government policy on technology development and the goal of spurring industrial innovation by the R&D of metal technologies, the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre will be playing a key role in value creation and aiming to become a world-class research institute and a critical base for industrial innovation and value creation in southern Taiwan. In the future, an investment in high-level manpower should be maintained, and international talents should be fostered actively in terms of human resources. As for core technology, related resources should be integrated while key industries should be deepened and valued. In the light of the creation of technical value, the original technology licensing mode should be turned into a technology transfer way of regarding patents as the core in order to expand the application value of intellectual rights. And regarding international cooperation, the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre will make use of its core capability to proceed with a diverse and equal way of international cooperation instead of past patterns which mainly introduced

foreign technologies. It is foreseeable that the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre will forge ahead and achieve its mission of uplifting the added value of the domestic metal industry and international competitiveness.

At this joyful moment, I would like to congratulate the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre on its 50th anniversary and I look forward to the brilliant results of its innovative research and development. Undoubtedly, the Metal Industries Research and Development Centre will continue to play the engine role for industries and bring tremendous contributions to Taiwan's economic growth.

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