



英華威風力發電股份有限公司
InfraVest Wind Power Co. Ltd.

Statement to the Yuanli Project

- InfraVest is a leader in renewable energy development in Taiwan. It has installed over 150 wind turbines and supplies clean power to around 1 mil people in Taiwan.
- InfraVest has always valued the cooperation with the communities where the wind parks are constructed and likewise has enjoyed the support of these communities. Furthermore these communities profited – besides the green power – from increase touristical profile.
- When there had been issues with the local communities or neighbors that have been always settled in an amicable way.
- The Tongyuan Project is properly approved by all authorities. It has been under development since 2003 and on the different steps of approval there have been mandatory and voluntary public hearings at the wind farm site. The public hearings are mostly protocolled and the people objecting today had been present during these meetings and signed off.
- The local government as well as the central authorities support the project.
- The legal claim against the project has been rejected by court last week and the EIA as well as the whole approval process was proved valid.
- Background of conflict are the local elections that are to be held next year and two groups of people using the construction of the wind park as platform to raise their profile. In addition to that one of them (Mr Chen Chinghai, the self-proclaimed head of the so called “Yuanli Self-help organization” had illegally occupied some coastal area of wind protection forest for a local Theme park and is being ordered by court to leave and he is using the opportunity to make a case for himself and avoid eviction. He succeeded to get support from a group of "professional protesters" who show up where they can get attention
- By several rounds and weeks of negotiations the local residents now mostly understand the facts around the wind farm construction and no longer object the construction. Also the local politicians no longer object. There are no turbines unduely close to habited areas.
- It “Yuanli Self-help organization” is therefore split today. It remains the person that had illegally occupied some coastal area of wind protection forest for a local theme park and who is still using the opportunity to make a case for himself and avoid eviction. And around 10 outside professional "student" protesters that had been called in by him but without the support of the local community.
- They are misleading the public with their claims on the project and InfraVest. That can be seen that the turbines of this project in the neighboring area (less than 1 km) is undisputed and welcome and going ahead as planned.
- The local press hardly reports any more. Thus Mr Chen now tries the foreign language press.

The report in Taiwan Times is highly exaggerated and by full of misunderstanding and misinformation by the foreign reporter.

- To the situation on site: The installation of the wind turbines takes place in leased and/or approved areas for this usage, thus being on clear legal ground. The areas just had been reconfirmed with the authorities last week.

The law requires us during installation to keep these areas free from unrelated people for their own safety since it involves the lifting on heavy components by the big crane. The legal requirement is implemented by security guards to without force block the entry of the construction site during installation. During that time there is a diversion to reach the areas on the other side of the construction side. If necessary the police clears the area, likewise if somebody is blocking public roads. The authorities in Taiwan are not allowing arbitrary use of force and would charge any such case.

- To summarize: Unfortunately the conflict is not about a local community being against a small part of a wind farm. It is about the ups- and downs of local politics where a wind farm is an easy target or at least tool for raising the profile of different agendas. Being sure on legal grounds of the wind farm we feel very sorry about this situation and tried to solve the issue by offering to construct the most disputed turbines only after agreement with the local community. The overwhelmingly part of the local community (though silently) now support the wind farm and does not want outsiders to be involved. Thus the claims from “Yuanli Self-help organization” do no longer represent the local community but only Mr Chen with some of his supporters presses ahead with their own agenda.
- To be considered is also the context that big parts of the Taiwan society are fighting against the construction of the Nuclear 4 Power station and nuclear power in general this year. The pressure is so big that the National Government is planning a referendum on that issue later this year. It was brought to our attention from many directions the strong suspicion that Taipower, the monopoly utility and operator of the Nuclear power stations in Taiwan, is sponsoring the “Yuanli Self-help organization” in their protests since no real reason is visible. This seems logic, at least the Pro-nuclear promoters now regularly mention the protests in their defense (as if the few wind turbines were a national event).