



CALD Women's Caucus Conference & Workshop

*Women Empowering Women:*  
**EXPERIENCES ACROSS ASIA**

10-14 August 2017 | Taipei and Taichung, Taiwan

**Session III**

Women Empowering Women:  
Civil Society and Local Government

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# I. How did civil society practices & local government structure support women participation in Taiwan?

## 1. Tradition of Mutuality in Rural Areas

- Reciprocity in Rural Society
- Women's Flexibility & Practical Involvement in Households and Public Areas



CASE INTRO Nantou Life Reconstruction Association

(南投縣生活重建協會), having offered elderly meal service since the 921 earthquake, later on expands their service to the vulnerable families in KuoShin Township (國姓).

I. How did civil society practices & local government structure support women participation in Taiwan?

## 2. Movement towards Greater Gender Equality

### Legalization & Progressive Amendments

- Amendments of the Family Part (IV) in Civil Code, including custody rights, children's surname, community of property, sharing payment of living expenses, and etc.
- Acts like Act of Gender Equality in Employment & Gender Equity Education Act
- CEDAW effective from 1 January, 2012

### Women's Rights Campaign with Periods of

### Progressiveness

- Activists including former vice president Annette Lu, MP Mei-nu Yu, Bi-Khim Hsiao, etc.
- NGOs devoting to the issue such as Awakening Foundation, TransAsia Sisters Association, Yam-Leaves Peasants Society, Peng-Hsiang Foundation, Taiwan Women's Rescue Foundation, etc.

## II. What do we do to advance women interests?

### 1. Documenting Rural Women's Life Story

- via photography, writing, picture books
- Folk-targeted
- Empowering to recognize their own values and capacity

### 2. Organizing workshops to inspire Rural Women

- Connecting individual life experiences to history progress and policy
- Inspiring social awareness
- Encouraging involvement in public areas



### III. Face Challenges, Overcome Challenges!

#### 1. To Deal with Unfriendly Immigration Policy on Foreign Spouse

- More than 90% of the naturalizing immigrants are women from South East Asia
- Naturalizing = owning ID cards = having social welfare resources
- Those who apply for naturalizing have to satisfy the Regulations for Assessment Criteria of Good Moral Character (歸化國籍無不良素行認定辦法), which implies discrimination mainly in three aspects:
  - ✓ Assessment with commercial sex trade & sexual morality
    - › ignoring differences in various vulnerable families
  - ✓ Required obligations to raise their spouses and children
    - › ignoring vulnerable cases without social welfare supports
  - ✓ Restriction with habitual domestic violence
    - › without clear and cautious methods for determination,  
and ignoring immigrants' weakness in legal resources and language

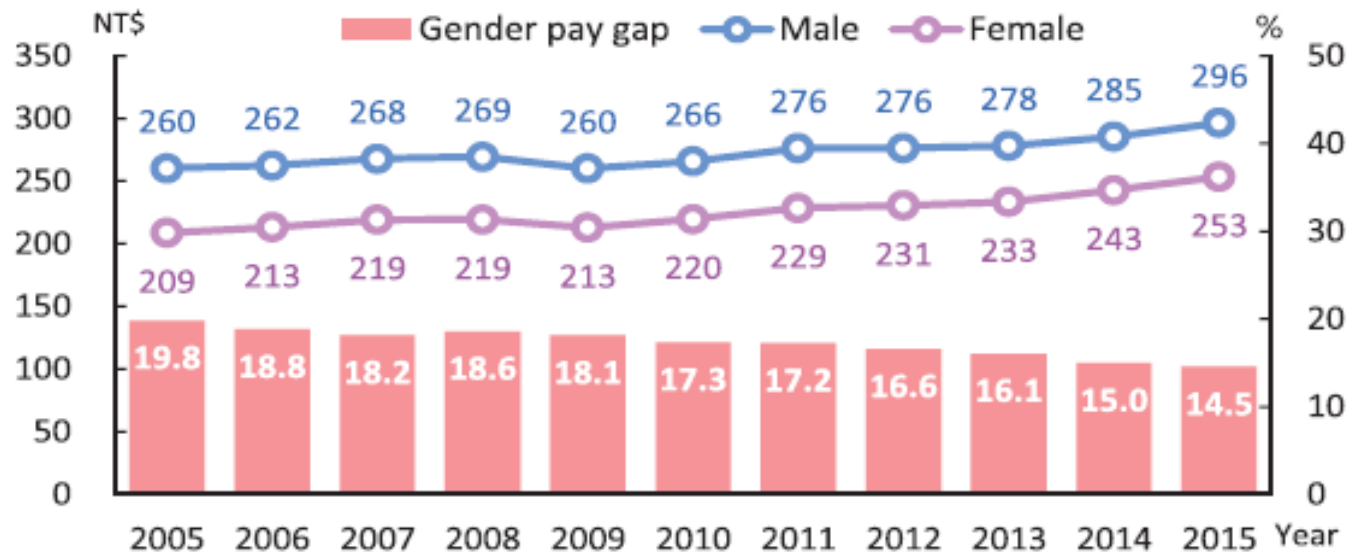
**New Immigrants play a very important role  
in labor force supply & social stability in rural  
areas!**



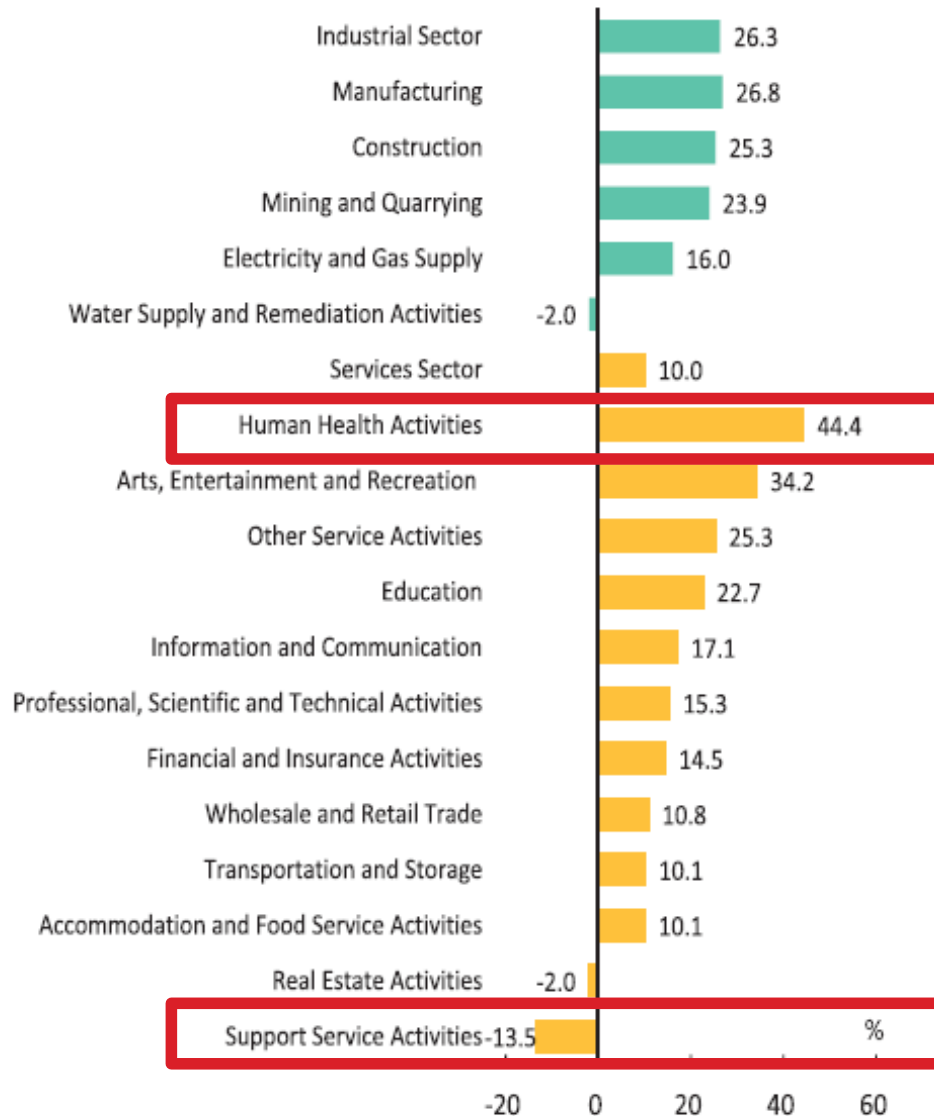
## 2. To Decrease Gender Inequality in Employment

- To promote wage equality
- To promote equal employment opportunity across industries

### Average Hourly Earnings of Employees in Non-Agricultural Sectors by Sex



## Gender Pay Gap of Employees in Non- Agricultural Sectors by Industry 2015



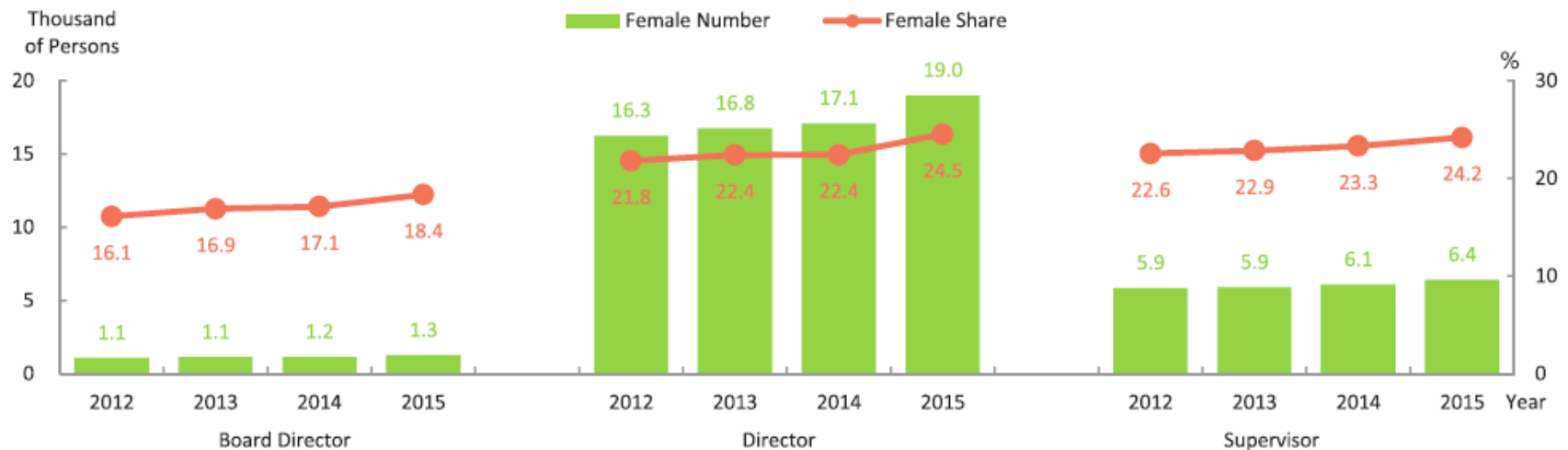
- In most industries, men earn more than women.
- “Human Health Activity” had the greatest gender pay gap by 44.4%.
- “Supportive Service Activities” had apparent gap where women earn more than men

we can work harder at the level of civil society & local government

## 1. To Realize Gender Equality in Cultural Aspect

- To realize gender equality in property inheritance for example
- To promote public participation in spite of gender quotas in politics

**Number & Share of Female Directors and Supervisors of the Community Development Associations**



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Note: The statistics of directors and supervisors of the community development association are collected as of 2012.

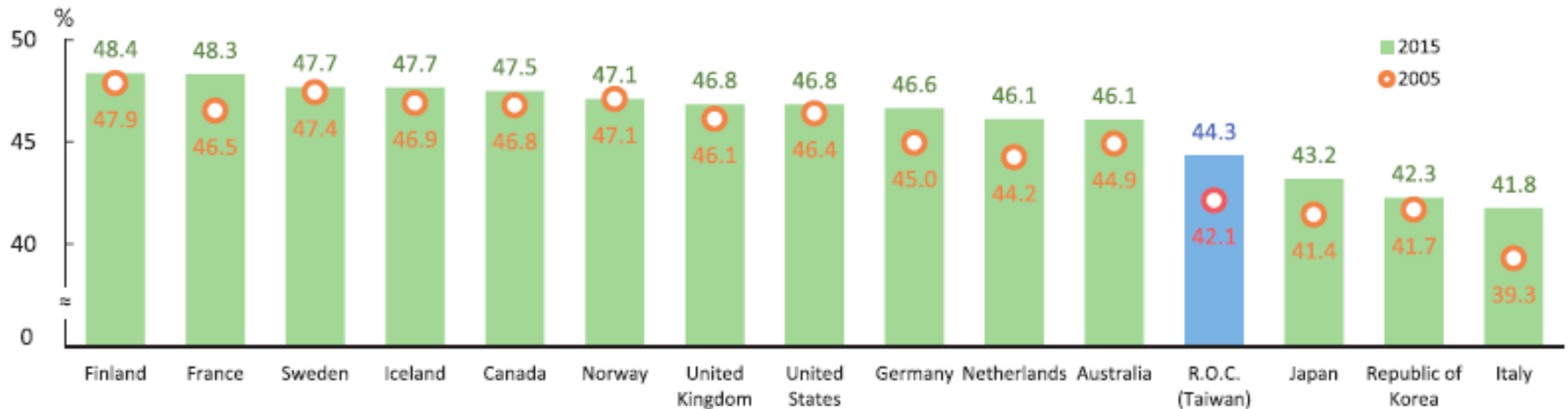


we can work harder at the level of civil society & local government

## 2. To Further Support Women's Entrepreneurship

- Micro-enterprises, cultural and creative industry business, e-commerce, and so on
- To make the approach more accessible, and to allow resources to vary with various needs more flexibly

**Women's Shares of the Total Employment in Major Countries**



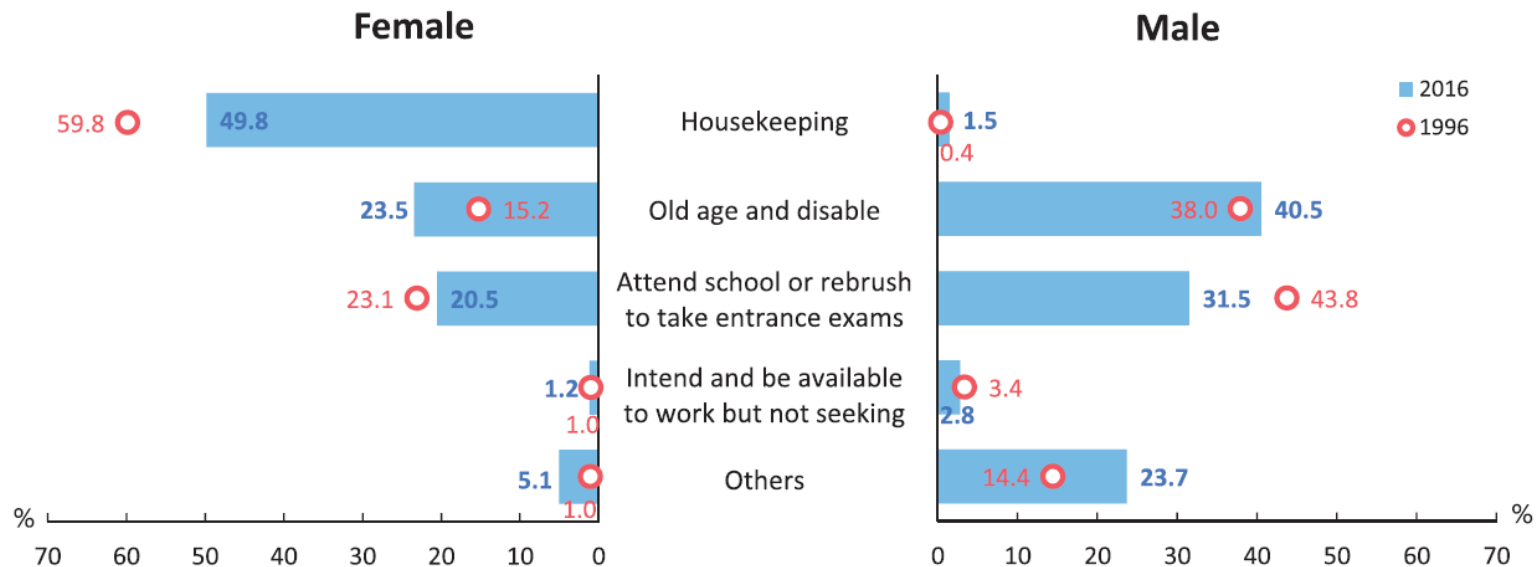
Source: OECD and Manpower Survey, DGBAS, Executive Yuan.

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## 3. To Institutionalize Housekeeping Support System

- Household chores, babysitting, long-term care, and the right to housing

Reasons for Not in Labor Force by Sex



Source: Manpower Survey, DGBAS, Executive Yuan.

Note: Due to the rounding up, the total might not be equal to 100% exactly.





# 小田的阿嬤家

TENDER TOUGHNESS

Thank you & Together Let's Work Hard!

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