

Taiwan Industrial Fasteners Institute (TIFI) was established 45 years ago in 1969. Currently it has 660 member companies. Its critical role is to unite and develop the fastener industry, offer suggestions for the government to orchestrate economic policies, help the industry develop its international market, obtain consultation from the government and arrangement for industry upgrade, and be the assignee for the government. It is the benchmark organization in Taiwanese fastener industry. This time Fastener World Magazine is honored to interview TIFI chairman Mr. Anchor T. H. Chang, president of both Anchor Fasteners Industrial and Allianz Group (dental implant), who shared with us the recent strategy of the fastener industry and how he thinks the industry can do to respond to the recession.



## Interview with TIFI Chairman Mr. Anchor T. H. Chang on Industry Status

by Konnor Lee, Fastener World

Faced with the advent of the era without antidumping measures against Chinese carbon steel fasteners, and the crowding out effect of China in Europe and the global market, Chairman Chang thinks that Taiwanese fastener industry is still competitive to some extent. The government, China Steel Corp., and fastener companies must join forces and seek a different way out. The top priority is that the government should encourage and help the returning Taiwanese fastener companies set up plants and expand investment in Taiwan within legal regulation. Additionally, the government should actively speed up the territorial planning to fully utilize land, help some existing factories become legal and normal, and integrate with the industry and academia to assist in corporate growth. In this way the government can not only create more jobs but also effectively prevent the industry and talents from turning to work for China and southeast Asian countries.

When it comes to "Industry 4.0" integrated and applied in the fastener industry, Chairman Chang thinks that the industry should join in the fastener industrial upgrade and transformation program promoted by the government and figure out new ways of operation. Besides developing characteristic and high-value added products, there are other goals that the industry, government and academia can work on together, including introducing more intelligent equipment to the domestic market, training specialized talents, and developing green manufacture.

Regarding the environment, problems with waste oil, polluted water, and acid discharge have been the bottlenecks for the fastener industry for a long period of time. Nowadays, factory waste discharge is held and controlled by many financial groups. The price of discharging process is costly and this often becomes the pressure behind costly production costs. In light of this, Chang suggests the government should help companies invest in industrial waste processing equipment and provide technical consultation and together do their parts for the Earth and the next generation. Chang adds that his company (Anchor Fasteners Industrial, specialized in special products) is recognized by buyers for its product quality because over the last 30 years it has overcome tough issues in forming fasteners by machinery, die and technical application. He

substantially reduces the production cost by reducing the portion of products that require machining and secondary processing. Furthermore, he has recently invested in establishing the dental implant maker Alliance Global Technology to reduce users' burden and benefit the whole human race by developing technological and bio-technological products. In light of the challenges in operating a business, Chang stated that he would work hard with TIFI members to improve the business environment.

"Taiwanese fastener industry must find its own approach to developing its unique characteristics. Take our TIFI member Gem-Year for example, it was invited for cooperation by a high speed railway company from China, and through technological management it has become the biggest supplier of high speed railway fasteners for China. In another example, in light of the energy crisis and the development of renewable energy, Boltun dedicates itself to the development of wind power. Jinn Her, Tong Hwei, LCSY, and Chun Yu from Taiwan are all ranked in the top 100 companies in the world and all demonstrate their product features to facilitate global sales. Besides them, there are many other small but strong companies growing their reputation through continuous endeavors. These are the best examples for industrial transformation," said Chang in a firm tone. Facing the recent competition from India, Vietnam, and Thailand with their lower labor and land costs, Chang hopes that the government will pay more attention to industry upgrade and boost the fastener industrial again.

The success of Taiwan International Fastener Show in the first half of this year was a shot in the arm for Taiwanese fastener

industry. Chang said the 3-day show attracted a total of 1,996 buyers from 75 countries to visit and purchase. Excitingly, over 20 thousand visitors flooded in the show.

In addition, to foster interaction within the second generation of the fastener industry. TIFI formed a social gathering for the new generation in the fastener industry which currently has 78 members. TIFI has held 3 successful training sessions for the social gathering where members had close interaction. In the second half of this year, TIFI will take Taiwanese fastener vendors to the Five Regions Fastener Association Conference, National Industrial Fastener & Mill Supply Expo, TIFI Annual Member helping them get out of the current adversity in traditional industries. ■

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