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IAPMO and MIRDC: Partnering to Make Taiwan Safer, Healthier

IAPMO's name is synonymous with plumbing. When it comes to plumbing products, the UPC® shield mark of conformity comes immediately to mind. It is no coincidence then that when the Taiwanese government-funded plumbing product research and development testing laboratory MIRDC (Metal Industries Research and Development Center) sought to expand its capabilities, they contacted IAPMO.

IAPMO has championed the enhancement of plumbing technologies for more than 80 years. It was truly an honor for IAPMO when MIRDC reached out to us to assist in the expansion of their testing capabilities in plumbing. The new facility was officially opened on Nov. 13 in Taichung, Taiwan, and is called the MIRDC TPL Laboratory, which stands for Taiwan Plumbing Laboratory or also To Perfect Life.

The grand opening ceremony of the MIRDC TPL Laboratory was well attended by more than 100 people, including Taiwanese government officials, industry associations, and manufacturers. With great honor, IAPMO was invited as a VIP and The IAPMO Group CEO GP Russ Chaney, myself, and Barry Tee, client manager of IAPMO R&T Oceana, attended the event. Chaney served as one of several guest speakers, including: Cheng Wei Yu, secretary general of the Industrial Development Bureau of the Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs; Chi-Chuan Huang, chairman of MIRDC; and Yi-Dar Wu, chairman of the Taiwan Plumbing Association.

The main objective of the MIRDC TPL Laboratory is to provide Taiwan with a world-class laboratory so the plumbing products used in Taiwan can be tested to meet health and safety requirements. It can also assist Taiwanese plumbing manufacturers in the development and testing of products to meet the requirements and expectations of the global market.

With industry growth as focus, Yu said, "The establishment of the MIRDC TPL Laboratory will help increase the exports of Taiwanese-made plumbing products into other international markets. Taiwanese products account for about 3 percent of the global plumbing products market now." He sees great potential to increase the Taiwanese market share in plumbing products globally.

"The IAPMO Group has had numerous opportunities to cooperate with MIRDC staff and leaders," Chaney said. "That cooperation has resulted in a very consistent and very useful collaboration. Public health and safety throughout the world is achieved through the important work that is done at MIRDC."

During a speech he gave at the ceremony, Wu thanked IAPMO for helping Taiwanese manufacturers prepare their products for entry into the North America market through IAPMO's product certification program. Many of his association members are either listing their products to the cUPC standards with IAPMO or designing products for local use in Taiwan, with health and safety in mind.

As the publisher of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®), the provisions of which protect more than half of the world's population, IAPMO certainly takes great pride in being part of this important milestone for MIRDC and the Taiwanese plumbing industry. IAPMO's primary objective is always international public health and safety with environmental awareness. The work that has been done at MIRDC certainly fits that objective. 📌

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