

**2014** Advantech Co., Ltd.

# Corporate Social Responsibility Report

Altruistic Management  
Social Contribution  
Advantech Beautiful Life









# About Advantech's 2014 Corporate Social Responsibility Report

## ■ Editorial Principles

Advantech's 2014 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) report is aimed at transparently presenting the company's CSR-related practices, outcomes, managerial guidelines, and strategies for public and stakeholder review, as well as outlining and extending our environmental and social care activities. Published in 2015, Advantech's 2014 CSR report was edited according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G4 guidelines to ensure effective communication with our various stakeholders.

## ■ Report Boundary and Scope

The boundary of Advantech's CSR report is the performance of Advantech's branch offices in Taiwan (Neihu, Donghu, Xindian, and Linkou), as well as its Kunshan office in China. The scope of information disclosed in this report encompasses Advantech's financial, environmental, and social performance. Depending on future circumstances, the company will successively disclose information of subsidiaries with production and operation control (Advantech GPEG, AdvanPOS, and Advantech-LNC), and their CSR performance. Advantech's other branch companies are primarily involved in marketing and sales activities, and are therefore excluded from this CSR report. (Please refer to Advantech's annual report for an organizational chart of the company's affiliated partners.)

## ■ Reporting Period

This CSR report presents performance data for the year 2014, specifically, data from January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014. Relevant information from previous periods, and any strategies, objectives, and plans to be implemented after this period, will also be discussed in this report.

## ■ Reporting Criteria

This CSR report has been compiled in accordance with the Core option of the GRI G4 guidelines for disclosing CSR-related strategies, concepts, measures, and performance. The financial values included in this report are expressed in New Taiwan Dollars, and environmental protection, safety, and health management performance are measured using internationally recognized indicators. Any estimations or assumptions will be noted in the respective chapter. Compared with Advantech's CSR report for 2013, this report does not revise misleading data from previous reports.

## ■ Report Verification

To ensure the provision of reliable and transparent information, this report was independently verified by SGS Taiwan Ltd. and found to conform to AA1000AS1 standards. The verification statement is provided in the Appendix section of this report.

Note: AA1000AS: AA1000 Assurance Standard for sustainable development and accountability developed by UK's Accountability is now used as the international standard for verifying CSR reports.





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#### **Report Release Date (expected annual reports)**

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#### **Report Issuance**

This report can be accessed online at the Advantech website. For any questions or suggestions related to this report, please contact us.

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# 01

## CEO Expectations and Sustainability Management

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1.1 Core Products, Services, Joint Ventures, and  
Subsidiaries

1.2 Stakeholders and Sustainability Management

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# Promoting Corporate Sustainability Through Altruism and Shared Prosperity

Considering the current global economic development and accelerated population growth, over 70% of the world's population is expected to be living in urban areas by 2050. According to statistics published by the United Nations, the number of people aged 60 and above worldwide amounts to approximately 700 million. By 2025, that number is expected to reach 2 billion and account for more than 20% of the world's total population. Excessive urbanization and population aging inevitably exacerbate issues such as traffic congestion, air and water pollution, medical resource shortages, and energy wastage, and can potentially threaten people's livelihoods.

Despite the aforementioned social, economic, and environmental instability, Advantech has consistently adhered to the three guiding principles; that is, altruistic management, social contribution, Advantech beautiful life, and leveraging corporate strengths to assist society in addressing various challenges. As an Advantech CEO, I have realized that companies must achieve balance among the various stakeholders (employees, customers, society, and shareholders) to enable all parties to build a beautiful life on the same platform.

At Advantech, we believe the growth of a corporation can be compared to the growth of a tree — a tree that provides shade and bears fruit for all. In Chinese, this altruistic concept is called Li Ta, which literally means “benefiting others”. Thus, we call the altruistic corporate tree the LiTa Tree. For the tree to grow strong, it must be firmly rooted in the earth. Strong corporate governance and stakeholder balance root the corporation and provide a solid foundation. Sound organizational development becomes a strong trunk that supports corporate operations. Active talent cultivation enables a corporation to flourish and expand, much like a tree grows new branches full of green leaves that represent market growth. The LiTa Tree then bears profitable fruit that can be shared with the entire corporation. Ultimately, a portion of ripened fruit drops to the ground, nourishing the earth. Similarly, a LiTa Tree corporation undertakes its full social responsibility to contribute to improving society. In keeping with this altruistic LiTa Tree model, Advantech established the following short-, mid-, and long-term corporate social responsibility (CSR) goals:

## ■ Short-Term Goals

Achieve stakeholder balance to enable all parties (employees, customers, society, and shareholders) to build a beautiful life on the same platform.

## ■ Mid-Term Goals

Leverage the company's core competencies to address global societal needs in the fields of intelligent retail, intelligent transportation, digital healthcare, and smart manufacturing.

## ■ Long-Term Goals

Through the ABLE Club, encourage all employees to practice CSR and contribute to achieving a reputation of corporate excellence; establish an Advantech CSR office for conducting strategic development and sustainable management.

With its professional expertise regarding the Internet of Things, Advantech plans to enter the Intelligent Building, Intelligent Retail, Digital Healthcare, and Smart Manufacturing markets and resolve various industrial and social issues using ICT. Therefore, in addition to expanding its product applications, Advantech has adjusted its management strategies and established various collaborative partnerships aimed at promoting the IoT industry and delivering smarter living to realize mutual prosperity. We recognize that it is only with mutual prosperity that sustainability can be achieved.

For Advantech, CSR is not simply a buzzword; it involves practices based on the company's core competencies. By leveraging its professional expertise to address global societal needs, the company can give back to society through its products, services, and innovations. I truly believe that companies focused solely on maximizing shareholder profits can never achieve sustainable innovation because “self-interest” has limitations and is only temporary. Only by connecting and balancing the interests of a company's four main stakeholders: society, employees, customers, and shareholders, can an altruistic social corporate value be established and sustainable development and progress be achieved.

Therefore, using the Advantech Foundation as a platform, Advantech plans to continue encouraging its employees to implement CSR practices and strive towards corporate excellence. Concurrently, Advantech established an Advantech CSR steering committee and invite CEOs, public relations, human resources, and manufacturing executives to participate in formulating strategic directions for sustainable management.



CEO of Advantech



## 1.1 Products, Services, Joint Ventures, and Subsidiaries

As a leading provider of intelligent systems, Advantech has demonstrated consistent innovation in the development and manufacturing of high-quality, high-performance computation platforms since its founding in 1983. Advantech offers comprehensive hardware and software system integration, customer-centric design services, and global logistics support.

Advantech and its affiliates primarily provide production, assembly, sales, and after-sales services for industrial computers and related products. A portion of its affiliates participate in the research and development of technologies associated with the aforementioned products and business activities. A

chart depicting Advantech's organizational structure is provided as Figure 1.1.

The labor conditions, environmental factors, and safety/health concerns associated with Advantech's manufacturing center in Kunshan, China, must be considered because of the company's industrial characteristics. Additionally, according to the results of a survey (regarding stakeholders' key concerns) presented in Section 1.2 of this report, several aspects related to the Kunshan Center will be of interest to stakeholders. Therefore, information regarding the performance of Advantech's Kunshan Center is also disclosed in this CSR report.

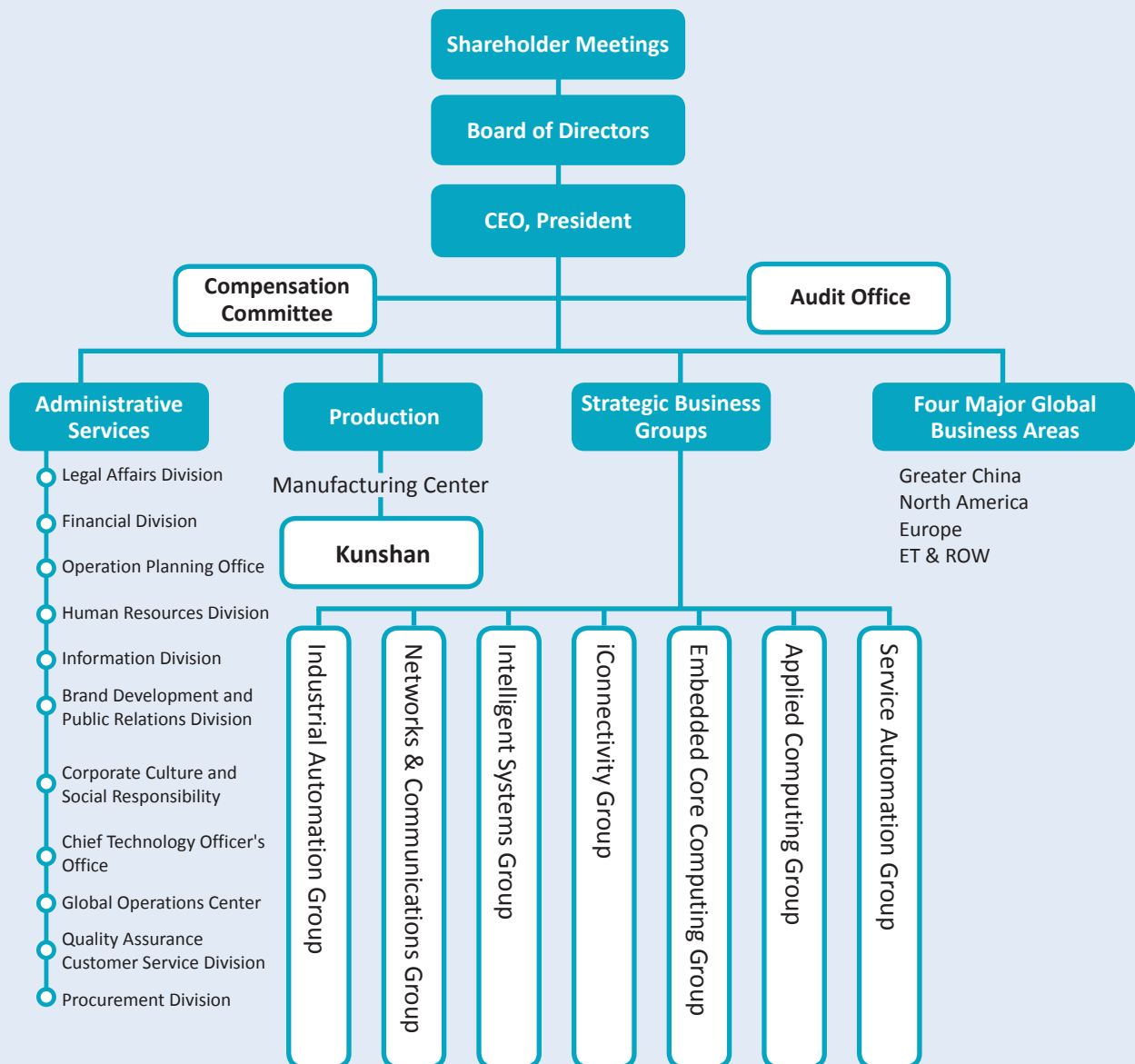


Figure 1.1 Advantech's organizational structure





Since 2010, Advantech has defined its corporate vision as “Enabling an Intelligent Planet” and made “Partnering for Smart City and IoT Solutions” its corporate development goal. Therefore, whether participating in government or private organization activities, Advantech always prioritizes the promotion of Smart City and IoT solutions.

In 2012, using the topic of smart cities as a starting point, Advantech assisted the Taipei Computer Association in gradually transforming the Telecommunications Exhibition into what is currently known as the Smart City Expo. Then in early 2014, the Taipei Computer Association seized the opportunity, together with Taiwan’s main IoT supply chain vendors, including IBM Taiwan, Tatung Company, Chunghwa Telecom, Asus Cloud, Advantech, the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), and the Institute for Information Industry (III), to jointly establish the

Taiwan Smart City Solution Alliance (TSSA), with KC Liu, CEO of Advantech, serving as the TSSA’s first president.

During his term as TSSA President, KC has actively promoted Taiwan as the best source of smart city development knowledge. Subsequently, the concept of a real demonstration site was developed with the goal of allowing visitors to experience various smart solutions at an actual site. Furthermore, in recent years, Advantech has also joined multiple government and non-government organizations, such as the Taiwan Automation Intelligence and Robotics Association (TAIROA), Cloud Computing Association in Taiwan, and the National Information and Communications Initiative (NICI) Committee, with the aim of providing recommendations regarding the overall industry development and construction of a smart city. See Table 1.1 for a list of Advantech’s affiliated organizations.

Table 1.1 Advantech’s affiliated organizations

Participating Unit	Regular membership subscription	No. of seats occupied	Strategic meaning
Taipei Computer Association	Yes	-	-
Taiwan Smart City Solution Alliance (TSSA)	Yes	-	Founding member Promoting Real Site Demos in Taiwan Promoting the Smart City Expo Playing a key role in promoting Taiwanese businesses to adopt the concept of smart cities
Petrochemical Industry Association of Taiwan	Yes	-	
Cloud Computing Association in Taiwan	Yes	Type B member/2 seats	
Taiwan Automation Intelligence and Robotics Association (TAIROA)	Yes	Grade 1 member/5 seats	
Taiwan Smart City Development Association	Yes	Corporate members	Assisted with the establishment of the preparation committee
National Information & Communications Initiative (NICI) Committee, Executive Yuan	-	1 seat	Assisted with the promotion of smart development and innovation among various industries in Taiwan
Taipei Neihu Technology Development Association	Yes		



## 1.2 Stakeholders and Sustainability Management

Advantech maintains that the foundation of sustainable operations is achieving a balance between the interests of shareholders, employees, customers, and society, as well as establishing strict and comprehensive corporate governance.

Only with a solid foundation can Advantech fully commit to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects, and steadily advance toward sustainable coexistence and social prosperity. In Advantech's (altruistic) LiTa Tree corporate model, society is the land that nourishes the tree. For a tree to grow, sufficient sunshine, air, water, nutrients, and a suitable environment are required. We believe that comprehensive corporate governance and a balance of stakeholder interests provide a solid foundation that enables a company to establish deep roots. Sound organizational development becomes the strong trunk that supports operations, and active talent cultivation enables the corporation to flourish and expand, much like a tree grows new branches full of green leaves. The LiTa Tree then bears profitable fruit that can be shared with the entire corporation. Finally, the ripened fruit that drops to the ground also nourishes the earth. Similarly, a LiTa Tree corporation should fulfil its social responsibility and contribute to improving society.

Regarding its commitment to altruism, Advantech considers the LiTa Tree concept to be the core value guiding its corporate operations. We believe that as a social organism, a corporation must plant good seeds in the form of altruistic deeds to organically reap generous rewards through the continuous operation of this virtuous cycle. Figure 1.2 illustrates Advantech's LiTa Tree concept.

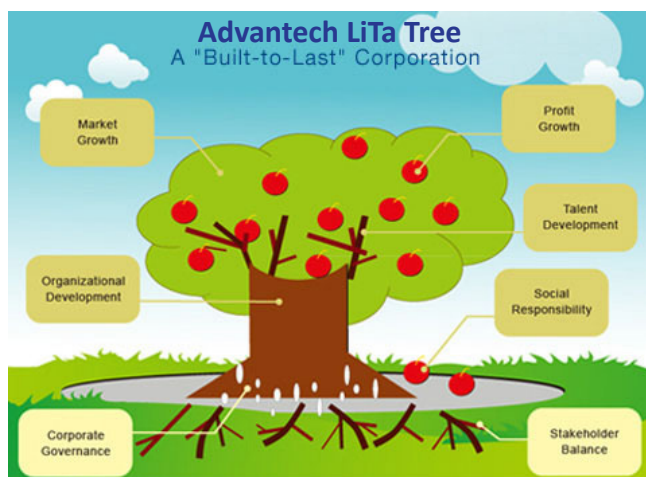


Figure 1.2 Schematic diagram illustrating the Advantech (altruistic) LiTa Tree concept

Advantech asserts that the keys to realizing a never-ending spirit of altruism are stakeholder participation and balancing stakeholder interests. Departing from the conventional business focus of maximizing shareholder profits, we believe that the growth of a corporation depends on shareholder support, active employee involvement, customer satisfaction and trust, as well as mutual/shared benefits.

Regarding the shareholders who have provided long-term support, Advantech is committed to maintaining honest and ethical business practices, delivering stable dividend returns, and achieving sustainable development. Regarding the employees who have devoted most of their lives to Advantech, we are committed to molding Advantech into an open development platform that provides them with a life of success and contentment. Regarding customer trust, Advantech reaffirms its drive to become a leader of the global systems integration market, and has set "Enabling an Intelligent Planet" as its long-term vision for future development. Regarding coexistence and social prosperity, Advantech is committed to being an example of corporate excellence, actively promoting altruism, benefiting society with our industrial achievements, and honoring our roots by boosting local economic growth.

### ■ CSR Development and Implementation Strategy

Since 2013, Advantech has published a CSR report to present its corporate stance and initiatives regarding corporate social responsibility, as well as to disclose the company's internal outcome verification methods for all relevant stakeholders.

Regarding the organizational framework of Advantech's CSR program, the CSR Steering Committee is led by CEO who convenes regular meetings to review and confirm the status of and strategies for CSR promotion and approve the company's annual sustainability reports. The CSR Steering Committee manages a main office (known as the CSR Promotion Office) and the following six subcommittees: Corporate Governance Committee, Labor Relations Committee, Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Committee, External Communications Committee, Social Care Committee, and Industry-Academia Collaboration Committee.



The CSR Steering Committee provides guidance regarding CSR management indicators in the economic, environmental, and societal dimensions. A chart depicting the CSR program organizational framework is shown in Figure 1.3. By actively coordinating CSR activities, the committee members successively integrate the three indicators into the company's daily operations, while also considering previously neglected issues.

The CSR Promotion Office uses the “Plan-Do-Check-Act” (PDCA) Cycle management approach to regularly identify stakeholders, obtain and examine stakeholders' key concerns, and report these concerns during annual meetings to ensure all material aspects are covered. After approval from the CSR Steering Committee, the CSR Promotion Office executes action plans for CSR activities. The progress and outcome of these activities are then reported to the CSR Steering Committee and company executives. Additionally, the company executives participate in annual discussions regarding industry-academia collaboration and social welfare projects.

### ■ Stakeholder Identification

Advantech places considerable emphasis on identifying and communicating with stakeholders, which is conducted by the CSR Steering Committee. Following an evaluation of material topics, the promotion team mobilizes personnel from every department to identify stakeholders during operational interactions, select priority targets, and respond to their key concerns. According to the preliminary determinations, the following seven types of stakeholders were identified: customers/partners, employees, investors, media, suppliers, communities, and nonprofit organizations.

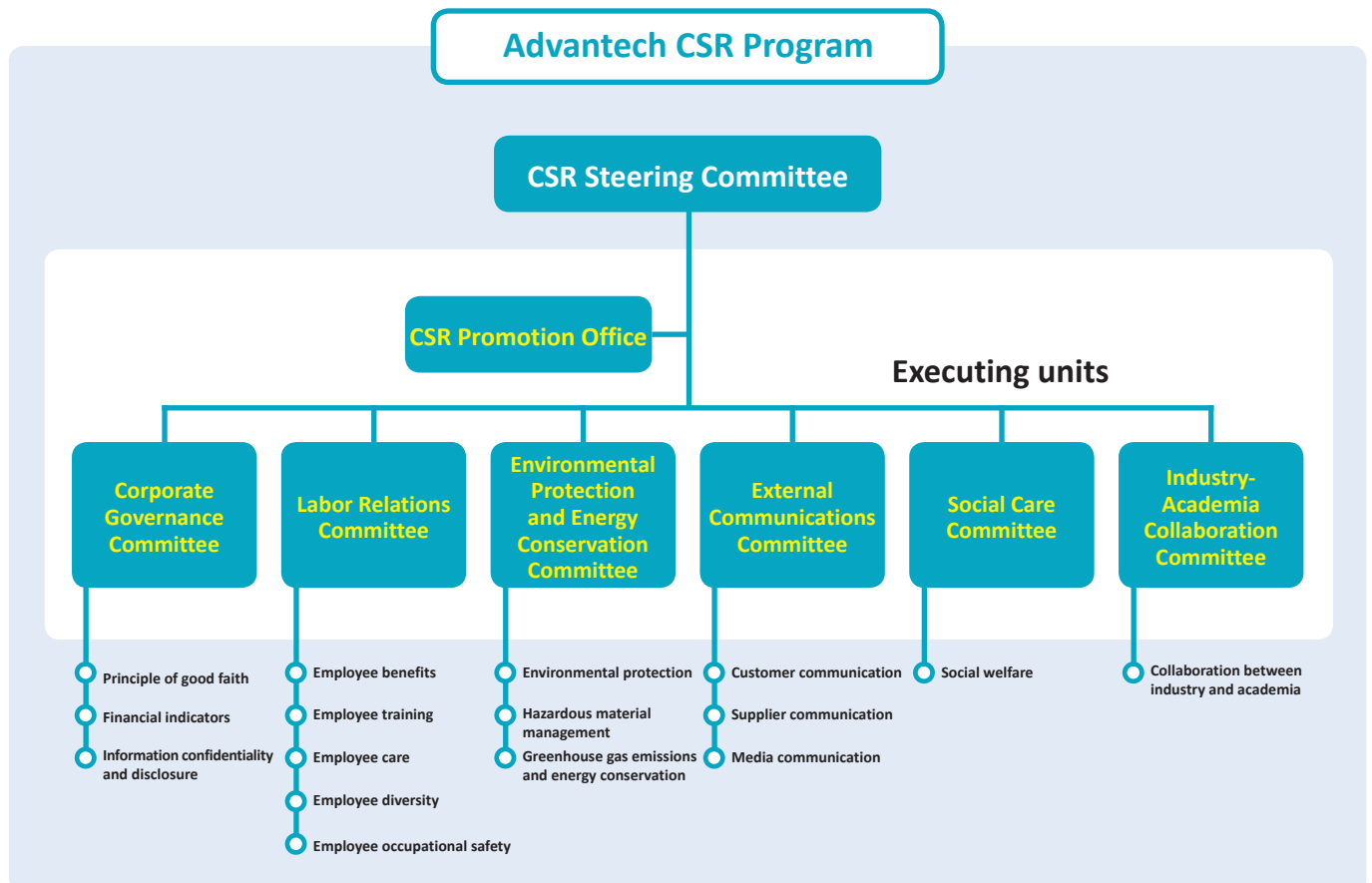


Figure 1.3 Advantech's CSR program organizational framework



## ■ Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is a crucial aspect of Advantech's sustainability management. Besides daily operations and engagement activities, we also use additional channels such as telephone communications, meetings, satisfaction surveys, onsite interviews, and public association participations to interact with stakeholders. In response to the initiation of organizational sustainability management this year, Advantech established a CSR mailbox (csr@advantech.com.tw) for designated personnel to communicate and respond to various stakeholders.

The level of concern regarding material topics in 2014 was based on the results of our annual questionnaire, which provided in-depth analyses of two factors, namely, the level of stakeholder concern regarding specific topics, and the economic, environmental, and social impacts of such concerns. Subsequently, key stakeholder concerns and their level of impact were identified, as shown in Table 1.2, for disclosure in relevant chapters of this CSR report.

Table 1.2 Advantech stakeholder key concerns and communication channels

Stakeholder	Key Concern	Communication Channel	
Customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Product service and labeling</li> <li>Customer privacy management</li> <li>Marketing communications</li> </ul>	KA QBR review meeting	Satisfaction survey regarding various business operations and services
		Interactive seminars	MyAdvantech magazine published by Advantech
		International and domestic exhibitions	Customer CSR audits
		Assisting local business activities and engineers	CSR webpage on company website
Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labor relations and employee welfare</li> <li>Anti-corruption and fair competition</li> <li>Customer privacy management</li> </ul>	Employee welfare committee	Employee e-news
		Online and in-person employee conferences	Employee satisfaction surveys
		Employee portal and community website with an employee complaint mailbox	
		Global digital signage	CSR education and training
		Employee complaint mailbox	
Investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with product-related laws and regulations</li> <li>Ethical corporate management and market image</li> <li>Procurement practices</li> </ul>	Investor service mailbox on company website	Investor conferences
		Market observation post system	Investor webpage on company website
		Shareholders' committee	
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethical corporate management</li> <li>Economic performance</li> <li>Compliance with product-related laws and regulations</li> </ul>	In-person or telephone interviews	Company-specific activities
		Media gatherings	Designated media contact person
		Revenue announcements	Media-exclusive investor conferences
		Press conferences and press releases	
Suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement practices</li> <li>Supplier social impact assessment</li> <li>Supplier environmental protection assessment</li> </ul>	Supplier CSR promotion and performance evaluations	Supplier evaluations
		Supplier environmental protection evaluations	Anti-corruption report mailbox
		Supplier conferences	
Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic performance</li> <li>Product and services labeling</li> <li>Marketing communications</li> </ul>	Designated unit responsible for communicating with the community	CSR mailbox on company website
		ABLE club	Disclosure of CSR report on company website
Nonprofit organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration between industry and academia</li> <li>Industry alliances</li> </ul>	Collaborative activities	Disclosure of CSR report on company website
		Art galleries	



## Identified Material Aspects and Boundaries

For this report, relevant units analyzed the material aspects to identify Advantech's stakeholders and collect their key concerns regarding sustainability. The collected information forms the basis of this information disclosure, informs our efforts to achieve

more effective communication, and provides a reference for future CSR initiatives. The overall analysis process is illustrated in Figure 1.4.

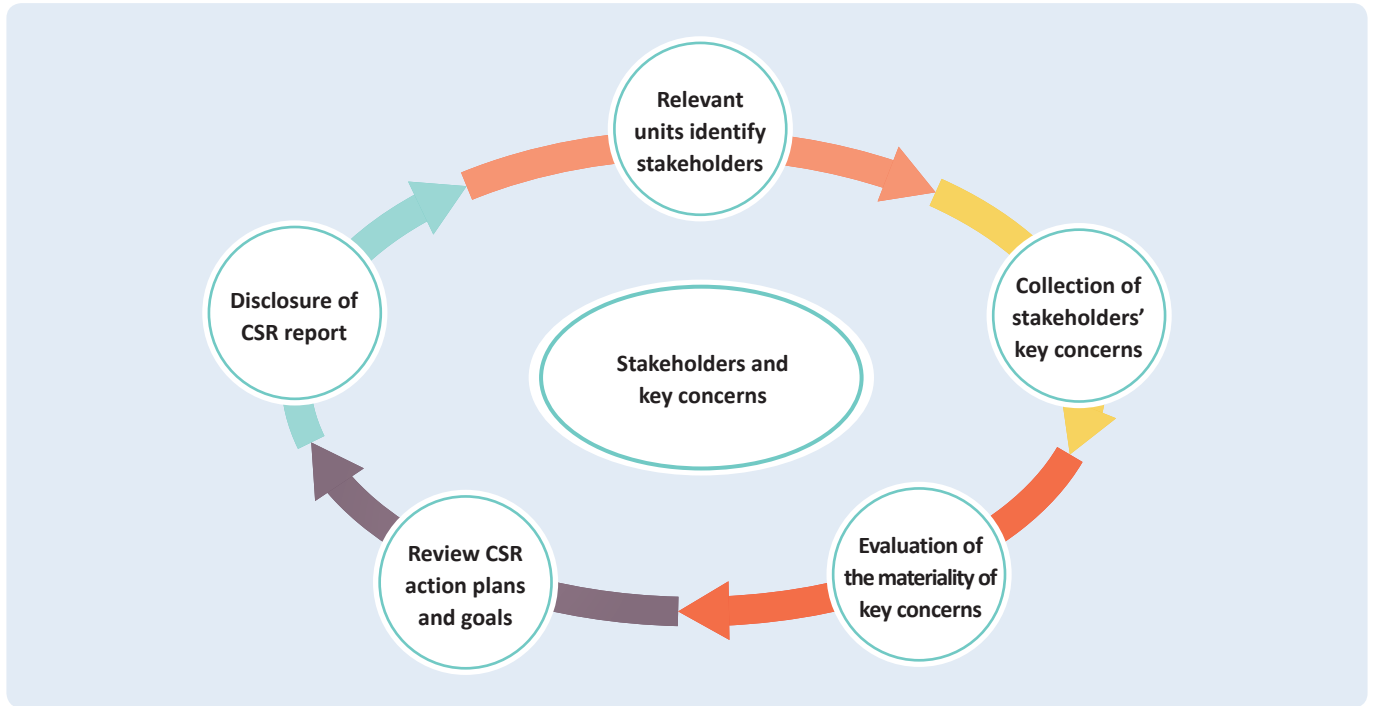


Figure 1.4 Advantech's CSR materiality analysis process

## Sustainability Topic Sources

Advantech adhered to the reporting principles outlined in the GRI G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines when defining the material aspects. Because of the wide range of sustainability topics, only topics that are material to the organization, according to the sources shown in Table 1.3, were collected.

Table 1.3 Advantech Sustainability Topic Sources

External	GRI aspects and indices Stakeholder communication and feedback
Internal	Advantech's CSR policy Corporate strategies and goals

## Priority of Material Topics

In accordance with the evaluation mechanism for material topics, Advantech conducted a questionnaire and retrieved 72 valid responses. By using the AA1000 Accounting Principles to measure the relationship between Advantech and its stakeholders, we averaged the scores and relationship degree for each topic to determine the level of stakeholder concern. Regarding the economic, environmental, and social impacts of each topic with respect to Advantech, Advantech's CSR Promotion Team further evaluated the degree of influence from the perspective of managerial administrators. Based on the collected scores, a list of material topics pertaining to Advantech's sustainable development was derived. The materiality threshold was determined according to the coverage of information disclosed for the first time. Topics with a score of at least 3.89 for stakeholder concern and 3.00 for degree of influence on Advantech were included in this CSR report as material aspects. The relevant results are shown in Figure 1.5.



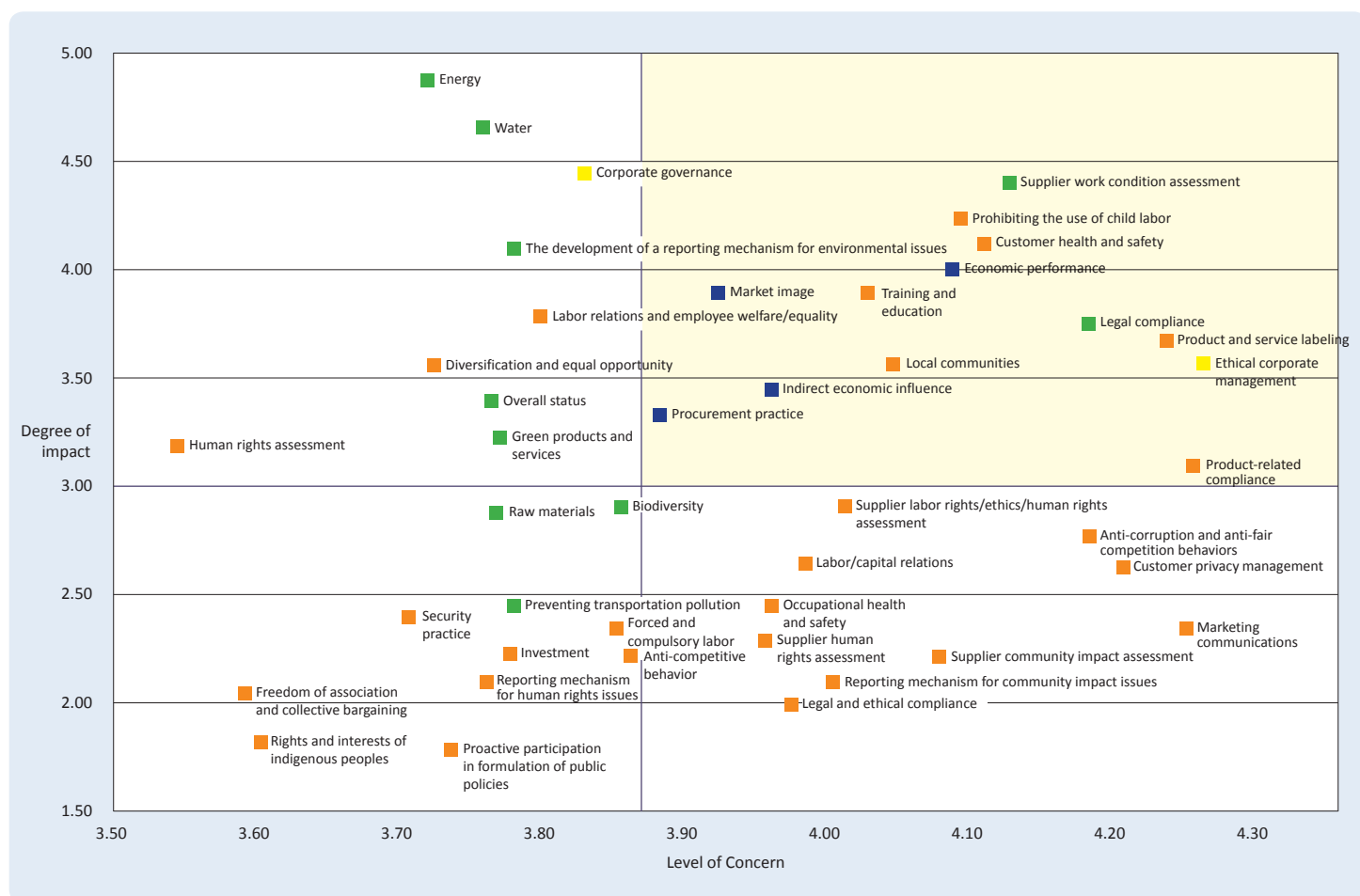


Figure 1.5 Advantech's CSR aspect materiality analysis results

Cross analysis was conducted on the degree of CSR conflicts and key concerns of stakeholders, yielding a total of 13 material topics, as shown in the first quadrant of Figure 1.5. However, after referencing Advantech's corporate characteristics and management strategies,

the CSR Steering Committee identified a further 8 topics, for a total yield of 21 material topics. The actual practices implemented by Advantech with respect to each topic will be discussed in subsequent chapters of this report.

Table 1.4 Material aspects presented in this CSR report

Environmental	Economic	Social
Product and Services Supplier environmental assessment Compliance with environmental protection laws	Economic performance Market Presence Indirect economic impacts Procurement practices	Prohibiting the use of child labor Local communities Training and education Customer health and safety Product service and labeling Compliance with product-related laws and regulations



## Identifying Aspect Boundaries

For every material topic identified, we evaluated its impact to determine whether the aspect influences the organization either internally or externally. The table presented below shows the internal/external organizational boundaries encompassed in each aspect; the external parties that may be affected, including customers, suppliers, and contractors; and the internal subjects that may be affected, including the Kunshan Production Center and other joint ventures.

■ : Material    
 ● : Fully disclosed in this report    
 ◐ : Partially disclosed in this report    
 ○ : Cannot be disclosed due to lack of information

Boundary Aspects to consider		Internal (G4-20)			External (G4-21)		
		Advantech Taiwan	Advantech Kunshan	Other joint ventures	Supplier	Contractor	Customer
Environment	1. Product and Services	●	●	○			
	2. Supplier environmental assessment	●	●	○	◐		
	3. Compliance with environmental protection laws	●	●	○	◐	◐	
	4. Emissions management**	●	●	○			
	5. Energy and resource consumption**	●	◐	○			
	6. Effluents and waste**	●	◐	○	○		
	7. Green products and services*	●	●	○	●		
Economics	1. Economic performance	●	●	●	○		○
	2. Market presence	●	●	○			
	3. Indirect economic impact	●	●	○			
	4. Procurement practices	●	●	○	◐		
Society	1. Local communities	●	◐	○			
	2. Employer/employee relations**	●	◐	○			
	3. Training and education	●	●	○			
	4. Occupational health and safety**	●	○	○	◐	◐	
	5. Compliance with product-related laws and regulations	●	●	○	◐		
	6. Labor/capital relations**	●	◐	◐			
	7. Customer health and safety	●	◐	○			
	8. Prohibiting the use of child labor	●	●	◐	◐	◐	
	9. Product and service labeling	●	●	○	●		
	10. Customer privacy management**	●	●	◐	○		

Note: \*Other joint ventures include Advantech GPEG, AdvanPOS, Advantech-LNC, as well as joint ventures with control rights over business operations that may affect CSR.

\*\*Indicators that were voluntarily disclosed by Advantech but not included in the material aspects.



# 02

## Corporate Management and Governance

2.1 Corporate Governance

2.2 Risk Management





## Establishing the Taiwan IoT Alliance Together with Partners to Promote the Construction of Smart Cities

Welcoming in the era of the Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud computing, Advantech adopted “Enabling an Intelligent Planet” as its corporate vision. In addition to enhancing product applications, Advantech adjusted its management strategies with the intention of emphasizing the promotion of IoT solutions. In 2013, Advantech set “partnering for smart city and IoT solutions” as the company goals. We called on our partners in the IoT industry to establish an IoT Alliance, with the aim of creating an IoT ecosystem that facilitates the transformation of Taiwanese industries. Furthermore, Advantech plans to invest substantial resources and personnel into strengthening its visibility in vertical markets. Supported by this cross-industry service platform, Advantech aims to fully utilize advanced network software technologies in the development of IoT-based smart applications.

The IT industry typically undergoes a major transformation every 15 years. According to recently observed trends, the wider industrial environment is currently experiencing a transition under the influence of several key industrial phenomena. Additionally, following years of preparation and subtle transformation, the era of IoT and cloud computing has officially arrived. Consequently, IT vendors must now develop cloud infrastructures and offer cloud-based smart services, as well as services related to the IoT and smart city industries, to satisfy the demands of each industry during this period. Although the IoT is an innovative concept, it does not involve entirely new industries. Conversely, the IoT involves the integration of three traditional industries, namely, the automation, telecommunication, and computing industries.

Within the IoT’s three-layer structure (instrumented, interconnected, and intelligent), the automation industry will provide the basic infrastructure by compiling and converting information to form the first layer of complete perception. Subsequently, the telecommunication industry uploads the converted information to the cloud, thereby forming the second layer of interconnection. Finally, the IT industry combines software for data analysis to provide the third layer of intelligent. The results are then integrated with service industry operations to transfer the benefits of the information to end users.

Thus, three major industries that were previously unrelated are now interconnected through the IoT. Advantech believes that it can become one of the most influential global organizations in the fields of IoT, automation, and embedded computing. The company will continue providing diverse customized products and services that offer added value in order to achieve its aim of creating an intelligent living environment and enhancing the welfare of mankind. A summary of Advantech’s products and their 2014 sales performance is presented in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Advantech products’ sales performance in 2014

Main products	Proportion	2014	
		Unit of total sales (NT\$1,000)	%
Industrial control		5,325,310	15
Industrial application computers		8,929,026	25
Embedded boards and chassis		14,305,236	40
Industrial computers		3,127,125	9
After-sales services and others		4,045,002	11
Total		35,731,699	100

### 2.1 Corporate Governance

Advantech feels deeply that sustainable corporate development can only be achieved with comprehensive corporate governance. Consequently, Advantech not only selects industry and academia leaders to serve on its Board of Directors, responsible for developing strategies and management mechanisms, but also emphasizes long-term corporate development, investments in organizational culture, and the cultivation of senior-level managerial talent. The establishment of an Audit Committee and Compensation Committee also further expanded the responsibilities of the Board through the professional division of labor.

Using its internal auditing system, Advantech reviews and appraises the efficiency of internal control systems and implementations to assist the Board and management in achieving the company’s revenue, performance growth, and asset preservation goals, as well as to ensure the reliability of financial reports and regulatory compliance.



In response to major global economic fluctuations in recent years, Advantech established a Risk Management Committee in 2009 to comprehensively assess all environmental, economic, and social risks in order to prepare for and minimize the impact of potential disruptions to operations.

Besides publishing monthly revenue reports, Advantech also hosts investor conferences every six months and a shareholders' meeting every year. Shareholders can submit written proposals every year during the shareholders' meeting. Furthermore, updated financial information and investor conference presentations are available on the company website (available in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and English) to provide a reference for investors. Shareholders and investors can also submit queries and feedback via the investor mailbox. All relevant information can be found in the investor section of the company website or on the Market Observation Post System. We believe that through dedicated effort, we can enhance the transparency of Advantech's business performance information to provide investors with more relevant information for decision making.

#### ■ Corporate Financial Performance

Founded in 1983 and headquartered in Taipei, Taiwan, Advantech has become a leading global manufacturer of industrial computer systems, distributing its products throughout Europe, the Americas, and Asia.

By the end of 2014, Advantech's revenue reached approximately NT\$26.3 billion. The key to its success is the continuous development of new products, customization to satisfy customer demands, as well as the provision of comprehensive after-sales service.

To better respond to customer demands, Advantech organized its business sectors into the following groups: Industrial Automation, Networks and Telecommunications, Intelligent Systems, Intelligent Connectivity, Embedded Computing, Applied Computing Platforms, and Service Automation. To effectively formulate optimal strategies for business management, Advantech established a Board of Directors. In addition to the duties outlined in relevant shareholder meetings, the Board is responsible for formulating policies and initiatives, and monitoring their implementation and outcomes. A summary of the company's recent financial information, including revenue, expenditure, and profit, is shown in Table 2.2.

Advantech qualified for a tax deduction of approximately NT\$200 million. In 2014, the five-year tax exemption amount totaled NT\$403 million, reducing the amount of tax payable by approximately NT\$69 million (NT\$68,547,611). Additional tax deductions resulting from investments in equipment, technology, R&D, and talent cultivation totaled NT\$131 million (NT\$131,822,040).

Table 2.2 Advantech Taiwan's financial performance for 2013 and 2014 (Unit: NT\$1,000)

Item		2013	2014
Financial revenue/expenditure	Business revenue	22,017,597	26,297,138
	Operating costs	15,979,891	19,267,227
	Gross profit	6,037,706	7,029,911
	Net income (loss) before tax	4,822,498	5,649,672
	Net profit (loss)	4,106,397	4,907,782
Profitability	Net profit per share	6.59	7.80
Employee salary and benefits	Total salary	2,118,215	2,412,736
	Total benefits	220,857	243,372
Payable to investors	Stockholder cash dividends	2,763,586	3,017,820
Payable to the government	Income tax	398,689	457,490



In addition to improving corporate governance schemes, Advantech emphasizes long-term corporate strategy development, investments in organization culture, and the cultivation of senior-level managerial talent. To accomplish these tasks, the Board of Directors invites each department manager to present a report at one of its regular meetings to enhance the Board's understanding of company operations. The Directors question each manager and make strategic decisions based on the responses received. The projects are then handed over to the Chairman and President of the Board for follow up.

The Board is also responsible for the Audit and Compensation committees. The Audit Committee consists of supervisors who lead the company's internal auditing in verifying that the nine main areas of daily operations, including finance, business, production, and expenses, all conform to corporate policies to prevent fraud. The Compensation Committee is responsible for establishing internal remuneration and reward systems, and creating feasible schemes for cultivating senior-level talent. The Board employs various means to enhance its understanding of the company, expand its involvement in operations, and implement corporate governance in order to assist Advantech in becoming an exemplar corporation for Taiwan.

## 1. Board of Directors

The current Board consists of five directors and three supervisors. To increase the efficacy of corporate governance, the company's articles of association clearly state that two director positions will be reserved for independent external personnel. With inclusion of impartial, external advisors, Advantech hopes to further increase transparency and fairness for crucial policy decisions.

Regarding the selection of independent external directors, existing board members will nominate suitable candidates. These candidates should be individuals who possess appropriate expertise in sustainable development and management, or have held the position of CEO or other similar seniority within the IT industry. The current members of the Board all have solid backgrounds. We hope that they can contribute their extensive knowledge and experience to the formulation of long-term corporate development strategies.

For independent supervisors, experience in supervision and financial auditing is more heavily emphasized. Suitable candidates are also invited to join the Audit Committee as trial members. The Audit Committee and Compensation Committee are also responsible for ensuring smooth business operations.

## 2. Member information and qualifications

Details of the current Board members are provided in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Supervisors and members of Advantech's Board of Directors in 2014

Title	Name	Term	Experience/Education
CEO	KC Liu	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founder of Advantech</li> <li>• B.S. in Communication Engineering, National Chiao Tung University</li> </ul>
Director	Advantech Foundation Representative: Donald Chang	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President of 3M China Region</li> <li>• B.S. in Chemical Engineering, Chinese Culture University</li> </ul>
Director	Ted Hsu	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chairman of Pegatron Corp. Ltd.</li> <li>• Founder of ASUSTeK Computer Inc.</li> <li>• Vice President of ASUSTek Computer Inc.</li> <li>• B.S. in Electronic Engineering, National Taiwan University</li> </ul>
Independent Director	Jeff Chen	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VP of Stanley Black &amp; Decker; President of Stanley Black &amp; Decker Asian Division</li> <li>• Chairman of Stanley Investment Co. Ltd.</li> <li>• Chairman of Stanley Security Co. Ltd.</li> <li>• Chairman, Besco Pneumatic Corp.</li> <li>• Chairman, Stanley Black &amp; Decker Co. Ltd.</li> </ul>
Independent Director	Chwo-Ming Joseph Yu	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor of Business Administration, National Chengchi University</li> <li>• Ph.D. in Business Administration, University of Michigan</li> </ul>
Supervisor	James K. F. Wu	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founder of KPMG Taiwan</li> <li>• B.L. at National Chung Hsing University</li> </ul>
Supervisor	Thomas Chen	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former GM of Advantech U.S.</li> <li>• MBA, Indiana University</li> </ul>
Supervisor	AIDC Investment (Corp.) Representative: Gary Tseng	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former CFO of TSMC</li> <li>• CFO of Foxconn Electronics</li> <li>• MBA, University of Missouri-Columbia</li> </ul>



## ■ Compensation Committee

Aside from improving corporate governance, strengthening the compensation management power of the Board, and assessing and determining the compensation for directors, supervisors, and managers, the Compensation Committee must also assist Advantech with project consultation and training of senior-level managers.

### 1. Roles and responsibilities

- Define the policies, systems, standards, and structures related to the performance and compensation of directors, supervisors, and managers.
- Evaluate and determine the salaries for directors, supervisors, and managers.
- Conduct regular reviews of the compensation policies, systems, standards, and structures relating to directors, supervisors, and managers based on factors such as corporate goals, operating performance, and competitive environment.

The Compensation Committee is expected to follow the principles listed below when fulfilling the aforementioned responsibilities.

- When evaluating director, supervisor, and manager performance and compensation, consider the industry compensation standard as well as the individual's personal performance, corporate performance, and potential derailment risk.
- Directors and managers shall not be guided toward risky business behaviors in the pursuit of remuneration rewards.
- The ratio of short-term performance bonuses, as well as the timing of payments for variable compensation components for directors and executives, should be determined in consideration of industry characteristics and the nature of the company's business.

### 2. Composition and selection

The Compensation Committee members are appointed by the Board of Directors, which includes two independent directors and an external advisor, with one of the independent directors acting as convener. In 2014, the Compensation Committee convened two meetings with an attendance rate of 100%. All members of the Compensation Committee must abide by independent and professional specifications and regulations; the term of office for committee members is the same as that for the Board of Directors.

## ■ Internal Audit System

The purpose of internal auditing is to monitor and evaluate the efficiency and implementation of our internal control system. Advantech requires all auditing personnel to maintain an independent and objective attitude when reviewing the nine main operation areas and relevant regulations to assist the board and management in achieving the company's revenue, performance, and asset protection goals, and reasonably guarantee the reliability of financial reports and regulatory compliance.

Advantech has a designated email address (audit.direct@advantech.com.tw), inquiry form, and report mailbox, the details of which are publicized on the company website, employee portal, and at supplier meetings that serve as communication channels for internal and external stakeholders to submit ethical and legal enquires and report unethical behavior. The auditing unit is responsible for handling all enquires and referring all reports to the chairman, who assigns an independent investigator to conduct an investigation. The reported information and identity of the informer are protected and kept strictly confidential.

Under the leadership of the Board of Directors and Audit Committee, Advantech's internal audit process is aimed at thoroughly examining the company's operations and identifying improvement opportunities. The auditing unit conducts audits according to the findings of previous operation audits, risk assessments, and key project initiatives relating to the company's operating strategy. Thematic audits based on various real-work functions are also conducted by using a specific indicator to compare the performance of all global units, or conducting a thorough audit of operations for specific area or department. The ultimate aim is to establish solid operating strategies that build a strong foundation for long-term corporate development. The internal auditing principle is illustrated in Figure 2.1.



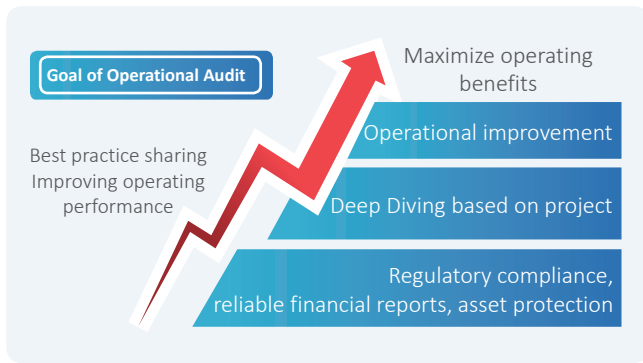


Figure 2.1 Advantech internal auditing principle

### 1. Organization and aims of the audit team

The audit office is an independent unit attached to the Board of Directors, reporting directly to the Board and the Audit Committee. The internal auditing process involves the group partners of each company unit altruistically assisting in improving process efficiency, eliminating operational bottlenecks, importing all necessary resources, and sharing the best practices adopted at other units to further enhance the efficiency and optimization of the entire company.

- Ensure the smooth operation of all business units
- Improve operating efficiency by introducing guest auditors
- Emphasize improvements and results tracking

- Integrate cross-unit resources and establish open communication channels
- Actively outsource to provide value-oriented auditing services

### 2. Internal auditing operations

- Draft and implement annual auditing plans
- Review the implementation of self-inspections for all units and subsidiaries
- Supervise and promote the revision and conformance of internal control systems
- Identify work items that should be executed according to relevant laws and regulations
- Monitor items that are deficient and review improvement results

If an audit check identifies major deficiencies or items with insufficient improvement, the internal audit committee will invite unit managers to attend meetings with the board and audit committee to discuss improvement plans. All findings related to the company's resource allocation and operating strategy should be reported to the chairman for determining an improvement strategy to ensure effective implementation. The procedure for conducting internal audits is shown in Figure 2.2.

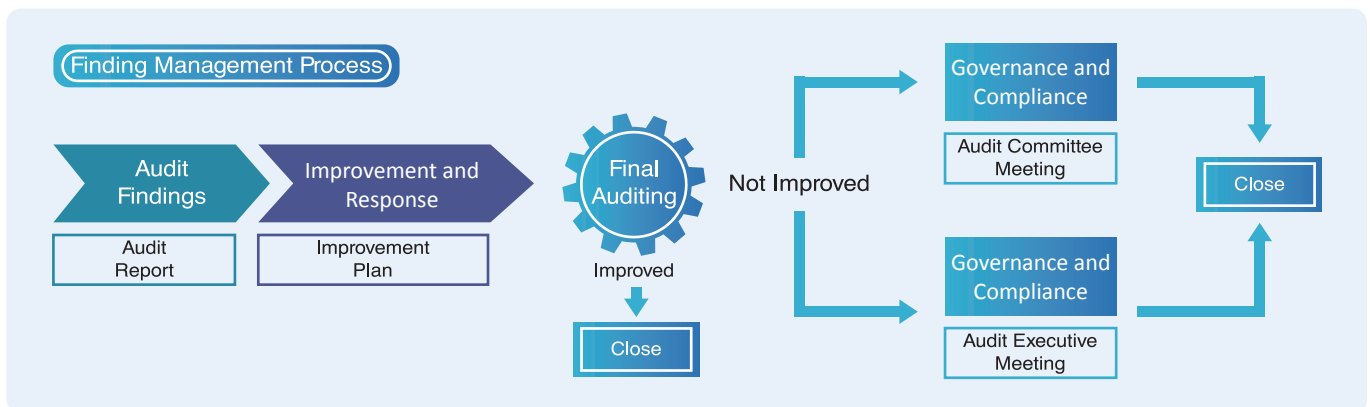


Figure 2.2 Advantech's internal audit procedures

The company continues to conduct internal audits. As of the report publication date, neither Advantech nor any of its employees has been penalized for corrupting, monopolizing, or violating the Fair Trade Act. Furthermore, the company has established a Code of Conduct and provides training

to new employees. All employees are also required to sign and comply with labor agreements. As of the report publication date, the company's employees have not garnered any complaints related to violating customer privacy, disclosing customer information, or voiding regulations regarding internal control systems.



## 2.2 Risk Management

### ■ Risk Management Committee

To prepare for and mitigate the impact of all possible operational risks, in 2009 Advantech developed a business continuity plan (BCP) and established a Risk Management Committee to ensure continuous business operation.

Advantech considers corporate risk management to be the responsibility of every employee. The Risk Management Committee members comprise the chairmen and directors of key departments. The chairman is responsible to oversee all risk management efforts. The department directors are responsible for promoting risk management policies, conducting process training, and managing potential risks within the scope of their position. All employees are instructed to learn the company's risk management policies, incorporate risk management in their daily activities, and report all possible risk factors immediately. Advantech adopts a top-down education and management approach to internalize risk management as an essential part of the organizational culture and thereby minimize the potential for risks.

#### 1. Business Continuity Plan

Advantech developed its BCP by conducting risk assessments, potential business impact analysis (BIA), risk reduction strategic planning, disaster recovery planning, and other measurements.

- **Risk assessment**

To identify potential sources of risk, Advantech divided key risks into the following five categories: Financial risks, operational risks, technological risks, quality risks, and human resource risks.

- **Business impact analysis**

Using a systematic approach, Advantech defined various levels of potential business impact for all possible risks, and formulated corresponding measures.

- **Risk reduction strategies**

Advantech has incorporated risk management into its daily operations, and regularly implements risk reduction strategies. Advantech's risk response strategy includes preventative implementations, adjustments, constant vigilance, and impact reduction/dissipation.

- **Disaster recovery planning and testing**

By dividing management and verifying risk management responsibilities at various operational phases, Advantech has established legitimate disaster recovery measures for various departments, contracted an emergency operating center, and formulated a disaster communication plan to guarantee objective implementation and recovery management should disasters occur.

#### 2. Risk Management Committee Structure

The organizational structure of Advantech's Risk Management Committee is shown in Figure 2.3, and the company's risk response strategies are presented in Table 2.4.



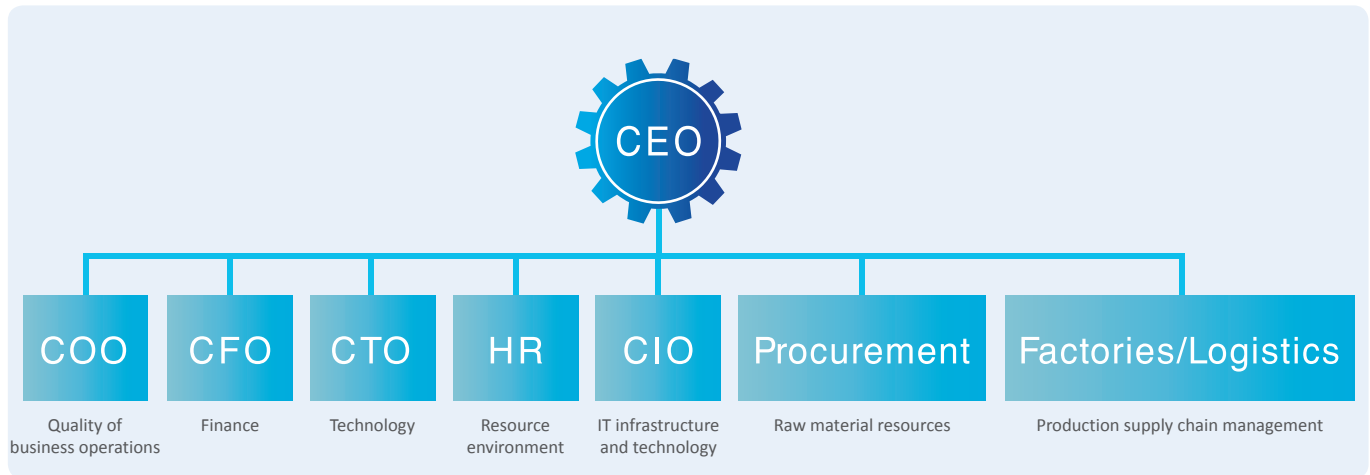


Figure 2.3 Organizational structure of Advantech's Risk Management Committee

Table 2.4 Advantech's risk response strategies for ensuring business continuity

	Emergency Event	Preventive Measures	Corrective Measures	Customer Correspondence	Factory Correspondence	Internal Monitoring
1	Main equipment failure/interruption	1. Preventive maintenance and daily inspection of equipment 2. Prepare backup of important parts and accessories 3. Establish a safety inventory for fixed shipping products	1. OEM by industry competitors 2. Make flexible adjustments to labor force allocation and work hour extension for using equipment at bottleneck stations 3. Establish maintenance and repair resources	Sales	1. Manufacturing unit 2. Production material managers at each plant	1. Manufacturing unit
2	Raw material shortage	1. Establish long-term supply contract 2. Prepare backup of important materials 3. Purchase materials in advance before they are out of stock	1. Order from affiliated businesses 2. Request that vendors deliver products immediately	N/A	1. Production material managers at each plant	1. Production material managers at each plant 2. Warehouse supervisors at each plant
	Water outage	1. Store water in a reservoir as backup	1. Purchase water 2. Adjust work hours	N/A	1. Plant Affairs Division	1. Plant Affairs Division
	Power outage	3. Establish a safety inventory for fixed shipping products 2. Establish an uninterruptible power supply system	1. OEM by other divisions within the plant 2. OEM by industry competitors	Sales	1. Plant Affairs Division	1. Manufacturing unit
3	Labor shortage	3. Establish a safety inventory for fixed shipping products 2. Conduct quarterly human resource evaluations and devise recruitment goals	1. Overtime planning 2. Seek support from relevant department personnel 3. Process outsourcing services	N/A	1. Manufacturing unit 2. Production material managers at each plant	1. Manufacturing unit 2. Production material managers at each plant
4	Product return (general customer complaint)	1. Quality assurance unit provides suggestions for improvement	1. Place an urgent order or arrange for restock 2. Customer feedback, urgent orders, rework, and restocking inventory 3. Strengthen employee training	Sales	1. Quality assurance unit 2. Production material managers at each plant	1. Quality assurance unit 2. Manufacturing unit
5	Customer complaint and product return (e.g., for exceeding the hazardous substance threshold)	1. Conduct regular internal spot checks for X-ray fluorescence	1. Isolate non-conforming materials/ingredients 2. Place an urgent order or arrange for restock	Sales/Quality assurance unit	1. Quality assurance unit	1. Quality assurance unit 2. Manufacturing unit 3. Procurement unit



# 03

## Customer Relations and Supplier Management

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3.1 Customer Services

3.2 Supplier Sustainability Management

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## Building a Green Supply Chain that Benefits all Partners

Advantech's core business philosophies are to create mutual benefits for suppliers and customers, and to ensure that company supply chains and production principles conform to ethical and environmental standards. In addition to regularly evaluating supplier product quality, on-schedule delivery rate, degree of cooperation, labor safety management, and CSR management, Advantech also communicates with outstanding suppliers to adjust its annual procurement distribution and thereby achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. As a manufacturer, Advantech must ensure that its products fulfill user needs and do not pose any health and safety risks. During the critical production and sales stages, Advantech considers the health and safety of its employees as well as sustainable product management. To maintain quality assurance, the company consistently monitors customer satisfaction to ensure the provision of satisfactory products and services.

Advantech's supply chain members can be classified into the following two categories: raw material/packaging suppliers, and security, cleaning, and logistics contractors. In 2014, the procurement expenditure for the first category of suppliers was NT\$15 billion, and that for the second category was NT\$67 million. The suppliers in the first category were prioritized in the report investigation and disclosure because of their greater significance in terms of sustainability and revenue.

Regarding the selection of raw materials and packaging suppliers, Advantech established its Nonhazardous Substance Management Operating Procedures for vendors to follow. All raw materials must conform to international environmental initiatives, laws, and regulations, including the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive, the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation, and the Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) List. In addition to formulating its Nonhazardous Substance Management Operating Procedures to ensure the manufacture hazardous substance free (HSF) products, the company has also successfully managed supplier-related sustainability issues. Concerning the management of procurement processes, Advantech also conducts rigorous screening in order to select suppliers who adhere to corporate social responsibility concepts.

### 3.1 Customer Services

Advantech's service target is to provide services that exceed customer expectations in order to achieve the fundamental goal of fulfilling customer needs. This stance led to establishing the company's core value as "customer-oriented products and services", which involves planning products and service solutions from a customer perspective to understand customer needs.

In 2014, Advantech collected customer opinions using the Key Account Quarterly Business Review (KA QBR) approach, during which a quality project manager (QPM) convened quarterly meetings to consult KA customers and devise solutions that satisfied their expectations regarding product quality, manufacturing quality, sales volume, technical assistance, and after-sales service. The establishing of KAs involved Advantech business groups identifying the customers who accounted for a substantial proportion of their business revenue. In 2014, consultations were conducted with 39 KA customers, some of whom communicated that Advantech's Taiwan and Kunshan operations had enhanced the consistency of their operations by systematically improving their production methods and work flow. These KA customers were also highly impressed by the company's ability to integrate multiple ISO 13485/TL9000/TS16949/ISO 14001/OHSAS18001/QC080000 management system operating procedures.

Because Advantech respects and values its customers, besides providing comprehensive services, the company also implements practices aimed at the protection of customer privacy and intellectual property rights. To ensure that its products comply with international standards and customer requirements, and to reduce the potential impact of products on health and safety, Advantech regularly reviews environmental safety and health regulations and incorporates fair trade and anti-corruption policies in its CSR principles as well as Employee Code of Conduct. All employees are required to strictly comply with these policies. To effectively respond to customer feedback, customer service personnel must adhere to the company's customer service guidelines and respond to customers within 3 business days with a progress update.



## 3.2 Supplier Sustainability Management

Because Advantech's core business philosophies are to create mutual benefits for suppliers and customers, and to ensure that company supply chains and production principles conform to ethical and environmental standards, besides regular supplier evaluations, Advantech also maintains consistent supplier communication and relationship management. For suppliers that have performed outstandingly, the Company provides rewards, such as reduced invoice payment times, to ensure a mutually beneficial outcome. In 2010, the company established a Green Supply Chain management system. With this system, suppliers must guarantee and verify that their products do not contain any of the hazardous substances prohibited by Advantech, and also provide the following information:

- Collection of toxicity data and MSDS /MCD for chemical substances
- Review results regarding our Green Supply Chain management system

Regarding suppliers' environmental management, Advantech has not only incorporated environment protection principles into its supplier management mechanisms, but in 2010 also adopted the EICC® Code

of Conduct in an effort to encourage its suppliers to emphasize and promote the importance of CSR (for example, when encountering conflicting regulations). Currently, the company has integrated key CSR-related indicators, including RoHS (HSF) QC08000, ISO14000, OHSAS18000, and supplier localization, into its supplier evaluation and management criteria. Furthermore, Advantech requires that its suppliers uphold the protection of human rights and comply with relevant labor laws; these requirements are also included in the criteria for new suppliers.

To ensure that suppliers follow the principles of equality prescribed in the Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy established by the International Labor Organization, Advantech implements relevant management measures on suppliers and contractors (including security providers) through its procurement and general affairs units. The company then gradually increases cooperation with the suppliers that satisfy its CSR-related requirements. An overview of the management process is shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Overview of CSR management relating to suppliers and contractors

Category	Management Principles	Implementation Percentage	Subsequent Management Focus
All suppliers	Review CSR practices according to the CSR and Environmental Safety and Health Declaration	72%	Specify CSR-related provisions within contract agreements
2014 new suppliers	Conduct self-evaluations according to the Supplier Audit Sheet	100%	Increase onsite evaluation rate
Contractors	Review human rights policies according to the Contractor Declaration for Environmental Health and Safety and CSR	100%	Specify human rights-related provisions within contract agreements

Advantech prioritizes purchasing from local suppliers whose products conform to RoHS/HSF regulations, which saves energy and reduces the company's carbon footprint. Furthermore, the company maintains long-term cooperative relationships with local suppliers to prevent energy waste during transportation, thereby reducing its GHG emissions. In 2014, Advantech's procurement expenditure totaled NT\$15 billion. The company's Taipei and Kunshan sites source materials, primarily electronic, mechanical,

and peripheral raw materials (product accessories), from a total of 712 suppliers. Compared to that for 2013, the procurement expenditure for 2014 rose by 20%, and is largely attributable to increased material demands. The percentage of total annual purchases made from domestic suppliers for Advantech's Taipei site was 85%, and that for the Kunshan site was 68%. The proportion of local purchases made in 2014 are summarized in Figures 3.1 and 3.2.



### 2014 Local Procurement Rates

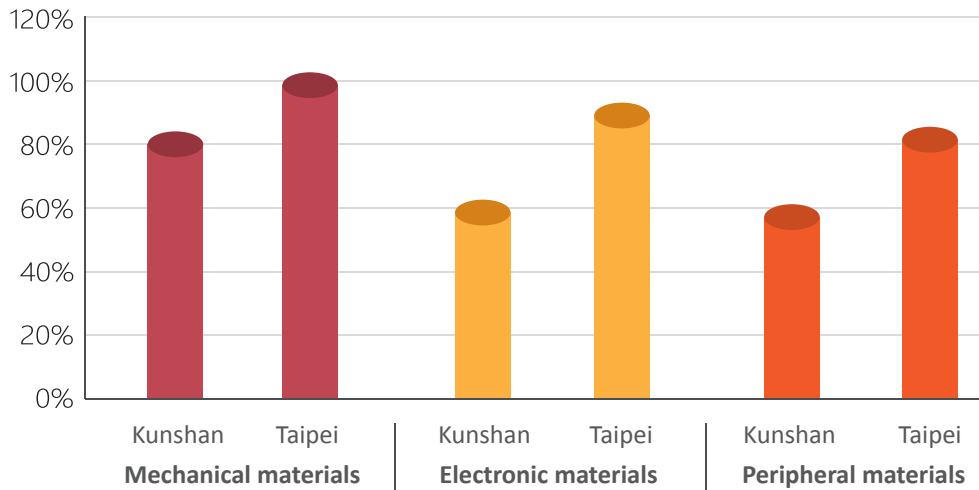


Figure 3.1 Local procurement statistics for Advantech's Taiwan and Kunshan plants

### 2014 Local Procurement Trends

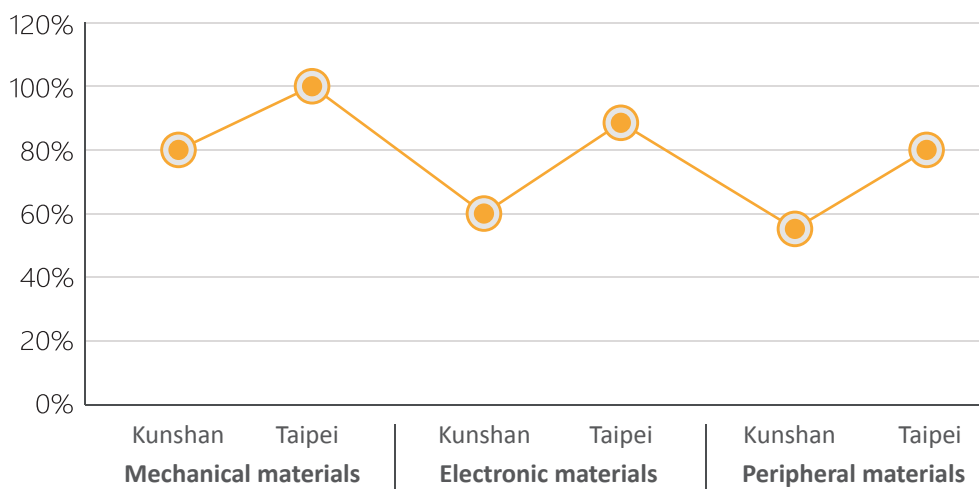


Figure 3.2 Local procurement trends for Advantech's Taiwan and Kunshan plants



# 04

## Visions for a Green Environment

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4.1 Green Product Management

4.2 Greenhouse Gas Management

4.3 Caring for Nature

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# Protecting the Environment by Participating in Smart Energy Management and Carbon Reduction

Advantech ascribes to the altruistic LiTa Tree concept, where the growth of a corporation is compared to that of a tree and society can be considered the soil that provides a foundation and nourishment for growth. Therefore, similar to how fruits that fall from a tree renourish the soil, we must reinvest the “fruits” of our labor back into society. Although Advantech’s achievements can be attributed to over 30 years of dedicated effort, their ongoing success depends on the continued provision of environmental resources. Considering its responsibility to society and aim of creating a beautiful life, Advantech is committed to investing the utmost effort into improving the environment and ensuring labor safety. Accordingly, Advantech not only implemented the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System standards in 1996, OHSAS 18001 Occupational Safety and Health Management System standards in 2005, as well as practices that comply with government regulations for environmental protection, labor safety, and health, but also endeavors to reduce the environmental impact of its GHG management, product design/use, and waste disposal operations. Through these efforts, and the participation and commitment of employees, Advantech has established appropriate strategies that ensure environmental protection and sustainable corporate development.

According to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management standards, and based on the environmental aspects identified and verified by external units each year, Advantech reviews whether its operational activities have a significant impact in order to reduce or even prevent potential or actual negative impacts, and to ensure that major contamination leaks and accidents do not occur.

In 2008, Advantech used the life cycle assessment (LCA) method to define the company’s 10-year sustainable development goals for 2008 to 2017 (shown in Figure 4.1). In the 7 years since then, Advantech has successfully established identification procedures and declarations that conform to relevant laws and regulations, formulated green supply chain management standards, set design criteria for green products, achieved green product certifications, conducted GHG inventory, and published CSR reports. In the future, the scope of corporate disclosure will be expanded from organization-level inventory to include investigations related to product carbon/water footprints. Advantech also aims to identify

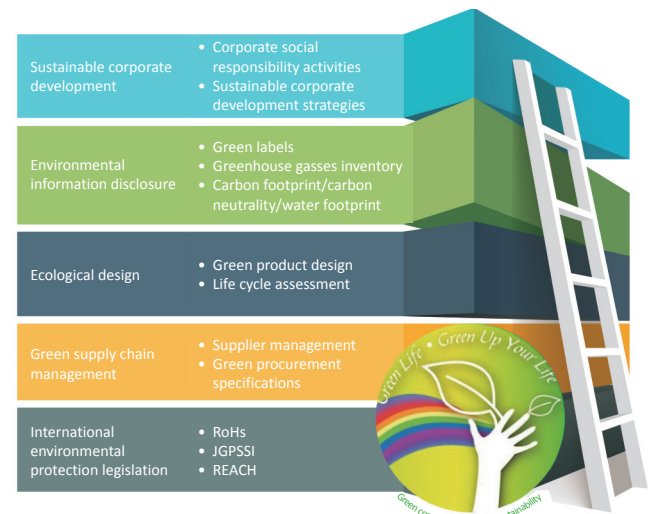


Figure 4.1 Advantech’s 10-year sustainable development goals

additional opportunities for managing GHG and water resources within supply chains, develop low-carbon, water-saving products, and thoroughly implement sustainable corporate development.

## 4.1 Green Product Management

### ■ Eco-Friendly Product Design

Advantech believes in protecting the environment by preventing pollution, using less energy and raw materials, reducing waste generation, and using clean production technologies, which involves modifying production processes to reduce the pollutants generated rather than using end-of-pipe solutions to resolve pollution. Regarding waste reduction, the company recycles packaging materials and minimizes the use of raw materials and energy when designing products and selecting technologies. Additionally, with the adoption of energy-saving designs, products can be recycled and reused. Advantech applies the ISO 14000 Environmental Management System standards regarding pollution prevention and life cycle assessment to improve the company’s environmental protection performance and profitability.

The ENERGY STAR® label was established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 and has been adopted in many countries worldwide including Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union. ENERGY STAR® serves as the international standard for energy efficient consumer



goods (e.g., computers, printers, photocopy machines, monitors, and scanners). Computer equipment is required to conform to the specifications of not only ENERGY STAR® Computer Specifications 5.0, but also ENERGY STAR® EPS 2.0. As of 2014, Advantech has voluntarily achieved ENERGY STAR® certifications

for 14 product lines (Table 4.1). Moreover, all Advantech computer equipment and power supplies conform to the latest ENERGY STAR® regulations and requirements. This evidences Advantech's contribution to the development of green products.

Table 4.1 Advantech product lines with ENERGY STAR® certification

No.	Product Model	Product Type	Certification Date
1	APAX-5343E, APAX-5343, PWR-343	Power supply modules Power supply	08/26/2009
2	FPM-3121G-R3AE, FPM-8121H-R3AE, FPM-3121G-X0AE	Automation panel computers Industrial computers with monitors	05/20/2011
3	FPM-3151G-R3AE, FOM-3151G-X0AE, FPM-8151H-R3AE		04/18/2011
4	TPC-1250H, TPC-1251H		05/05/2010
5	TPC-650H, TPC-651H		05/05/2010
6	POC-W18		01/08/2014
7	POC-W211		01/08/2014
8	POC-W242		10/02/2014
9	UNO-1172A, UNO-1172AE, UNO-1172AH	Embedded automation computers for control system applications Industrial computers without monitors	09/02/2011
10	UNO-2173A, UNO-2171		09/08/2009
11	UNO-2174A		05/16/2011
12	UNO-2178A		05/16/2011
13	UNO-3072LA		07/05/2011
14	UNO-3074A		07/05/2011

In recent years, climate change, environmentally hazardous substances in products, labor safety and health, as well as human rights have become key CSR issues. Advantech has incorporated these issues into its green supply chain management (see Section 3.3 for details).

For example, regarding the management of environment-related substances, Advantech amended its internal management standards according to various

environmental protection policies (e.g., RoHS 2.0), and in 2009 incorporated the IECQ HSPM QC080000 Hazardous Substances Process Management standards. A green supply chain information management platform was established for controlling risks. Additionally, Advantech only uses raw materials that are 100% compliant with RoHS 2.0 specifications as well as the regulations listed in Table 4.2.



Table 4.2 Raw material regulations observed by Advantech

1.	China Regulation on the Pollution Control of Electronic Information Products (China RoHS)
2.	The EU's REACH for SVHC
3.	Product recycling regulations
3.1	The EU's WEEE directives (for the disposal of electronics and electrical equipment)
3.2	International standards - ISO 11469 (marking of plastics)
4.	Regulations for Recycling Batteries
4.1	The EU's battery directive
4.2	China's regulation for the energy consumption of batteries
4.3	US/Canada battery regulations
4.4	Battery regulations in Japan
4.5	Battery regulations in Taiwan
5.	South Korea's e-Standby program for minimum energy consumption requirements in display products
6.	Regulations for waste packaging materials
6.1	The EU's packaging material directive
6.2	China RoHS - SJ/T 11364-2006 (labeling of recycled packaging materials)
6.3	Taiwan's waste management regulations
6.4	Japanese regulations for recycling containers and packaging materials
6.5	South Korea's packaging material regulations
7.	Other regulations related to energy conservation
7.1	EU 1275/2008/EC (standby/power off mode requirements)
7.2	Mexico's new energy law
7.3	EU 278/2009/EC (energy performance requirements for external power supplies)
7.4	California Energy Commission (CEC)
7.5	South Korea's MEPS (minimum energy requirement)
7.6	Australia's MEPS (minimum energy requirement)

In addition to the aforementioned green design regulations, Advantech requires that all product design and development activities are assessed for safety to ensure compliance with CE/FCC/CCC safety requirements. Advantech follows international environmental protection laws and regulations regarding natural resource use, hazardous substance restrictions, and life cycle assessment (LCA) related to waste management. All procedures are 100% compliant with international specifications relevant to green product declarations. On the Advantech website <http://www.advantech.tw/ags/>, the company's products are marketed as green products based on the three dimensions of safety, energy conservation, and environmental protection, as shown in Figure 4.2.



Figure 4.2 Example of environmental declarations provided on Advantech's website

## Environmental Protection Management

To sustain human life and protect the earth's natural environment, Advantech endeavors to reduce the impact of its product design/application and waste disposal operations. In addition to complying with relevant regulations, the company encourages all employees to participate in environmental protection and sustainable corporate development. To accomplish these goals, Advantech has initiated environmental

protection management projects that emphasize energy conservation, carbon reduction, and waste reduction. The company's environmental protection achievements for 2014 are shown in Table 4.3. Looking ahead to 2015, Advantech plans to continue implementing management programs aimed at reducing energy consumption and promoting energy conservation and sustainable management.

Table 4.3 Overview of Advantech's environmental protection investments for 2014

Environmental Protection Management Targets	Environmental Management Targets	2014 Achievements
Energy saving and carbon reduction programs	Monthly power consumption at each factory reduced by 5% per capita	Power consumption reduced by 13.49% (achieved)
Waste reduction program	5% waste reduction at the Donghu plant 5% waste reduction at the Xindian plant	Waste reduction > 5 % (achieved) Waste reduction > 5 % (achieved)



Including verification fees, the company's environmental protection investments for 2014 totaled NT\$128,570,000 (as shown in Table 4.4).

Table 4.4 Overview of Advantech's environmental protection investments for 2014

No.	Item	Fees (NT\$10,000)
1	ENERGY STAR®/environmental certification fees	837
2	ISO 14001/OHSAS18000 environmental safety and health management system certification fees	20
3	Over NT\$5 billion was investigated in the construction of green buildings at the Linkou Smart Industrial Park; the construction project was divided into three phases, with the first phase already completed and open to the public. Linkou Smart Technology Park is expected to receive the LEED certification in 2018.	12,000
	Total	12,857

Advantech's environmental declarations and policies are as follows:

- 1. Reduce impact on the environment:** Use appropriate production and pollution-prevention technologies; design more products that are energy efficient and reduce waste; avoid designing and using products that generate pollutants; effectively utilize resources; and reduce the environmental impact of product development activities and service processes.
- 2. Fulfill environmental protection responsibilities:** Prohibit and limit the use of restricted raw materials, parts, accessories, and packaging materials to protect environmental resources and reduce the company's ecological impact.
- 3. Implement resource recycling:** Implement energy resource recycling and provide education and training to increase awareness of energy conservation and environmental health and safety.
- 4. Promote industrial waste reduction:** Introduce design concepts based on environmental protection to effectively utilize resources; reduce the environmental impact of production activities and service processes to satisfy regulations related to consumer products.
- 5. Comply with environmental protection regulations:** Adhere to environmental protection laws, regulations, and other requirements; comply with government policies on environmental protection; actively research and develop green products in response to international eco-friendly trends; and satisfy customer demands for green products.

- 6. Implement environmental management:** Provide education on environmental protection; encourage employees to participate in environmental management; identify deficiencies and implement improvements through regular audits and environmental management reviews; and establish an effective and lawful environmental management system.

By regularly monitoring air pollutants and other measures, Advantech prevents the occurrence of serious pollutant leakages and accidents. The company's key environmental concerns are explained below.

### ■ Water Resource Usage and Management

In Taiwan, the amount of precipitation that falls during the wet and dry seasons differs significantly. Because of the challenge involved in storing water resources, when water reserves are low, various industries can face severe water shortages. Advantech has implemented various water conservation strategies, including the use of water-saving faucets and toilets, to reduce the average water consumption per capita. Advantech's campuses are located in developed industrial zones or technology parks in urban areas. For all of these campuses, tap water serves as the primary source of water, no extraction of underground or well water is conducted, and water consumption activities exert no negative impact on the surrounding water resources.

The total water consumption at Advantech campuses and branches for 2009 to 2014 is summarized in Figure 4.3. In 2014, the company's total water consumption was 77,245m<sup>3</sup>. The company's water consumption per capita for 2009 to 2014 is shown in Figure 4.4. The values show that the water consumption per capita for 2014 declined by 0.11 points compared to that for 2013. Advantech's main initiatives regarding water conservation are listed below.

- Monitor/manage cooling water towers (Donghu/Neihu)
- Monitor/manage the conductivity of cooling water towers (Donghu/Neihu)
- Install water-saving faucets (Xindian)
- Install an intelligent water-saving irrigation system (Linkou)
- Monitor/manage cooling water and chiller systems with intelligent air-conditioning systems (Linkou)



## Total Water Consumption

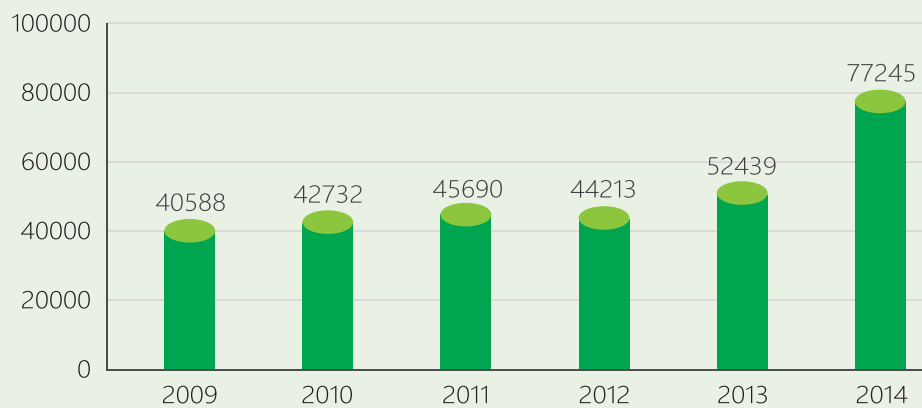


Figure 4.3 Advantech Taiwan's total water consumption for 2009 to 2014

## Average Monthly Water Consumption Per Capita

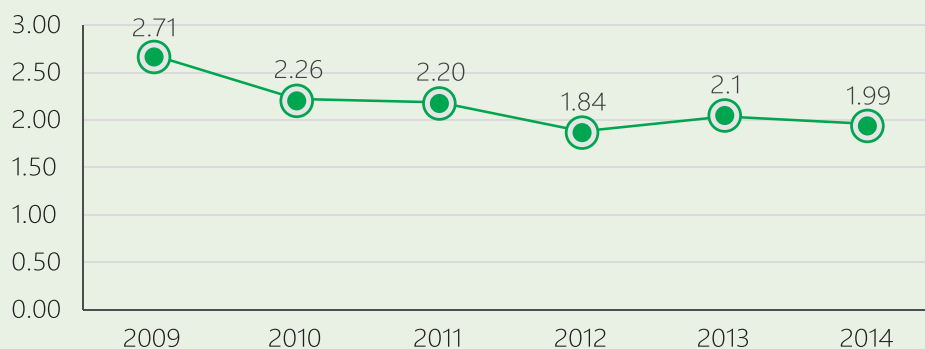


Figure 4.4 Advantech Taiwan's water consumption per capita for 2009 to 2014

In 2014, the total water consumption for Advantech Kunshan was 137,293 tons, which is within the reasonable range. This was due to the use of water-saving faucets as a water conservation measure.

### Waste Management and Resource Recycling

Generating minimal waste is Advantech's ultimate goal for waste management. More specifically, by reducing the total amount of waste produced, recycling waste into resources, and implementing source management measures (e.g., reduce raw material use), Advantech aims to output less waste, replace end-of-pipe treatment with recycling-and-reuse solutions, convert trash into useful resources, achieve resource recycling, and reduce the energy consumption and cost of waste treatment. The company's waste management model is presented in Table 4.5.



Table 4.5. Waste management model for Advantech's Taiwan and Kunshan campuses

Waste Types and Treatment Methods for 2014	Waste Type	Description	Treatment Method	Final Treatment Method
	Aluminum and tin cans	PET bottle/Styrofoam/aluminum and tin cans	Recycled by professional vendors	Reuse
	Paper	Newspaper/magazines/photocopy paper/printing paper/paper boxes (large)/paper boxes (small)	Recycled by professional vendors	Reuse
	Glass	Beverage bottles	Recycled by professional vendors	Recycled
	General plastic	Beverage bottles/waste containers	Recycled by professional vendors	Recycled
	Other recyclable resources	Batteries/cartridges/light bulbs	Recycled at headquarters/by photocopier vendor	Recycled
	Kitchen waste	Compost/pig feed	Recycled by management committee	Fertilizer
	Domestic waste	Office waste	Recycled by management committee	Incineration/sanitary landfill
	General industrial waste	Waste soldering iron/waste sponges/waste tapes	Recycled by professional vendors	Sanitary landfill/incineration
	Hazardous industrial waste	PCB scrap material/scrap tin slag/discarded electronic parts/chemical wastes	Recycled by certified waste disposal operators	Solidified burial/incineration

The amount of waste produced by Advantech Taiwan in 2014 was 120.8 metric tons (Figure 4.5). Because the company's operations are primarily assembly related, the amount of industrial waste generated is comparatively lower, accounting for only 6.34% of total waste. The amount of domestic waste was 112.85 tons, accounting for approximately 93.66% of total waste.

Regarding the use of raw materials, electronic materials accounts for approximately 90% of total materials used, with the remaining 10% comprising packaging, plastics, mechanical materials, and other non-metal mechanical materials. The amount of industrial waste generated by Advantech Taiwan totaled 7.64 metric tons, and can be divided into four categories: PCB waste, tin slag, chemical waste, and other. The waste produced primarily consisted of electronic components and tailings (Figure 4.6). In the future, Advantech will continue efforts to increase its process yield, reduce the output of electronic waste and tailings, and achieve efficient industrial waste reduction.

The industrial waste reduction strategies conducted at Advantech's Kunshan campus include

1. Establishing an area for storing and drying waste paint for disposal by qualified recycling vendors.
2. Exchanging industrial tin slag for tin wires with raw material suppliers, who then recycle and reuse the tin slag.

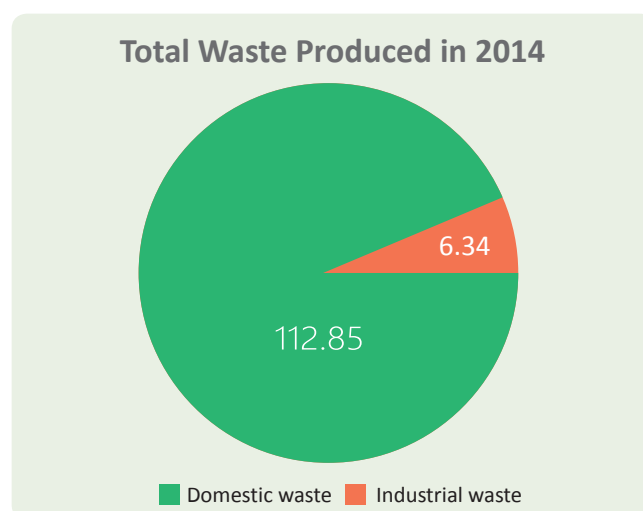


Figure 4.5. Advantech Taiwan's overall waste production in 2014

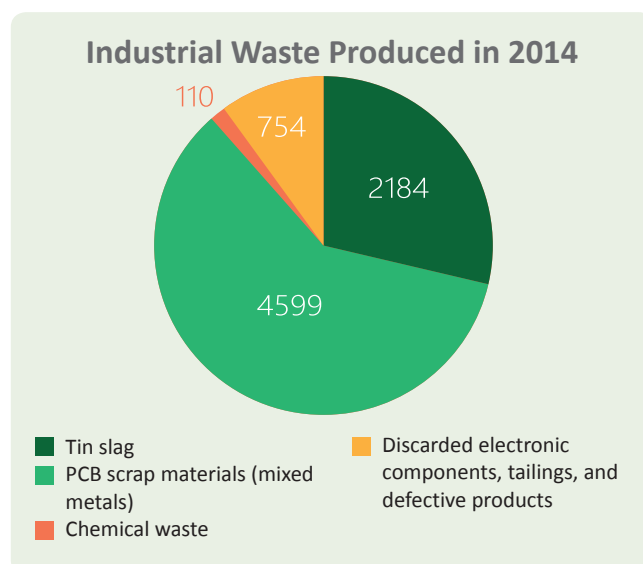


Figure 4.6. Advantech Taiwan's industrial waste output in 2014



## 4.2 Greenhouse Gas Management

Since 2009, Advantech has contributed to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), the world's largest database related to global climate change. Every year, questionnaires are distributed to understand businesses' responses to climate change and efforts to reduce GHG emissions. The survey results are used to evaluate the potential business risks and opportunities caused by climate change. Through the CDP's annual information disclosure, Advantech carefully reviews climate-related issues such as climate regulations and hazards caused by climate change. To mitigate potential business management risks, Advantech adopts effective reduction and elimination strategies, and thereby conforms to the GHG management requirements specified by international clients.

Also in 2009, at the Donghu plant in Taiwan, Advantech conducted the first GHG emissions inventory and reduction planning based on the ISO14064-1 standard. The outcomes of which were published in relevant reports and on the company website. Figures 4.7 and 4.8 summarize the direct (diesel fuel consumed by power generators) and indirect (electricity power usage) energy consumption of Advantech's Taiwan campuses and offices, providing source data regarding GHG emissions. Because the Linkou building was only officially opened in 2014, the amount of diesel fuel consumed shows an increase compared to that for previous years.

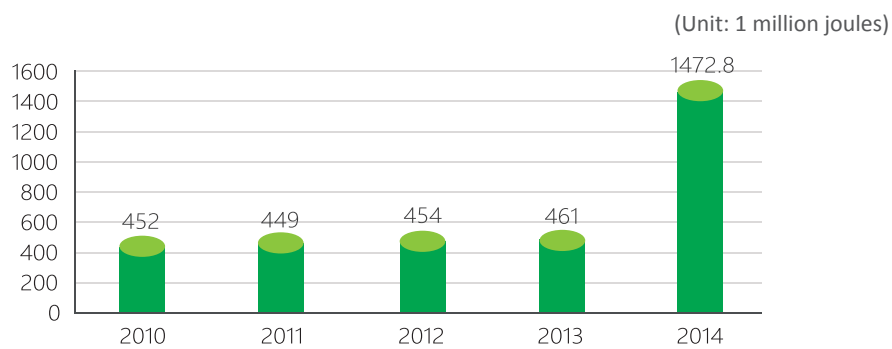


Figure 4.7 Direct energy consumption for Advantech's Taiwan campuses and offices (diesel fuel used by emergency power generators)

Note: 1. 1 J = 0.239 cal, 1 MJ = 239 Kcal  
 2. 1 kl of diesel = 8.8 million Kcal  
 3. 1 kl of fuel = 9.6 million Kcal  
 4. 1 m3 of natural gas = 9.0 million Kcal

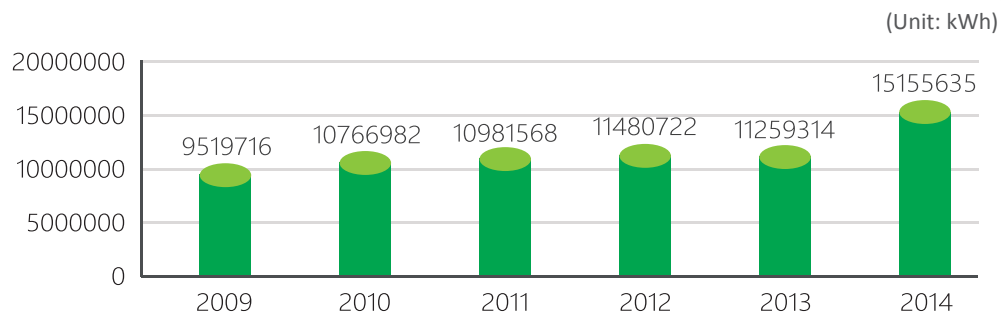


Figure 4.8 Indirect energy consumption for Advantech's Taiwan factories and offices



In 2014, Advantech Taiwan consumed a total of 15,155,635 kWh of electricity, as well as 40 liters of diesel fuel for emergency operations. To understand the status of GHG emissions and ensure effective reduction of GHG emissions, Advantech Taiwan implemented the following energy-saving projects:

- Advantech's Linkou Intelligent Campus features building energy management and people-sensing energy management systems. By ensuring instrumented, interconnected, and intelligent IoT three layers, as well as cloud systems for convenient use, Advantech successfully constructed an intelligent building. Through intelligent management, effective energy conservation can be achieved and resource wastage prevented.

- Intelligent power management is implemented by using a single button to control the lights and projectors in the conference room; various different settings such as presentation mode or discussion mode are also provided. This prevents unnecessary resource waste should employees forget to switch off the power supply.

These intelligent energy-saving projects were officially implemented at Advantech's Linkou Campus in August 2014. Between August and December of 2014, 220,000 kWh of electricity was saved, reducing energy consumption by 16%. Intelligence-based estimates indicate that power consumption can be reduced by 17% in 2015.

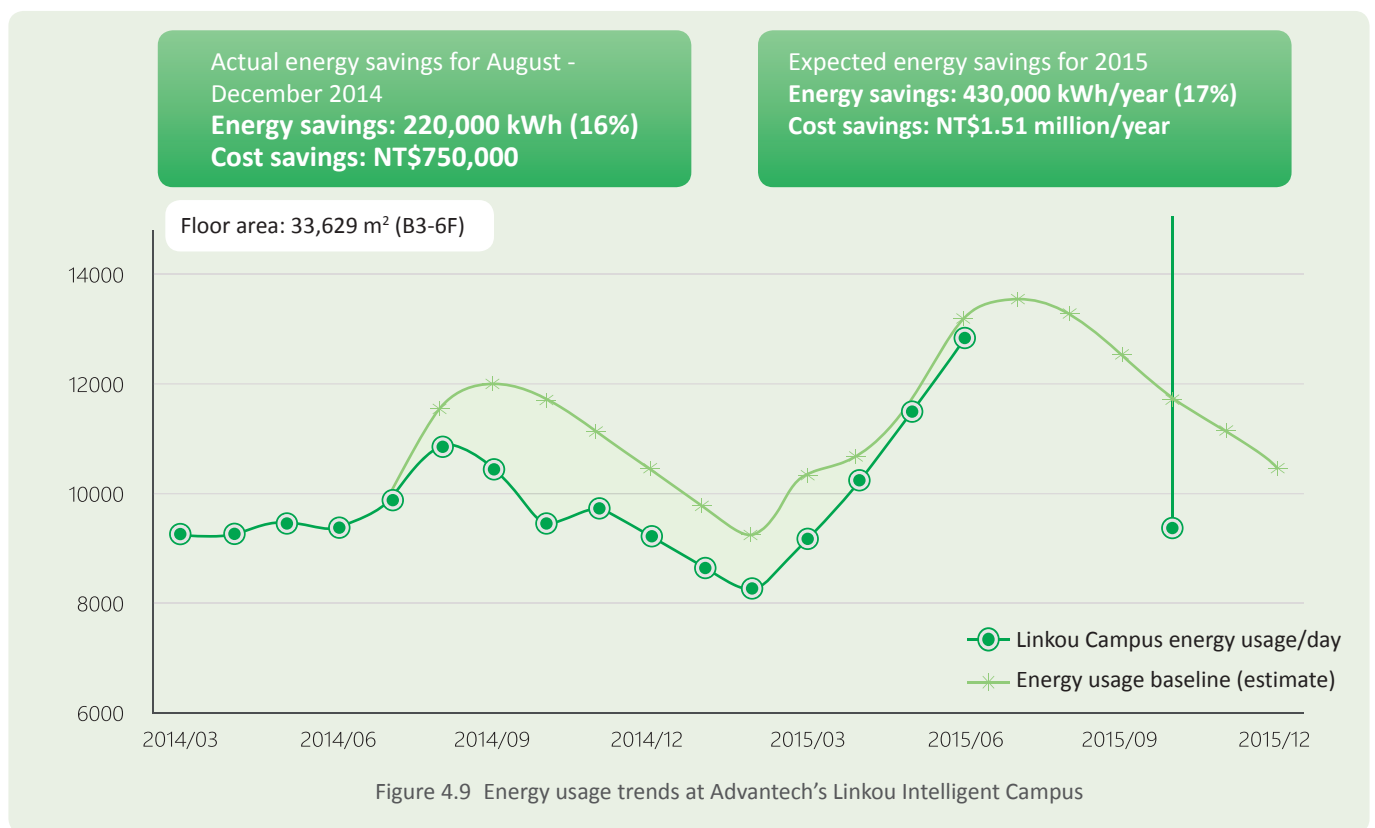


Figure 4.10 Intelligent parking system at Advantech's Linkou Campus



Figure 4.11 Intelligent offices at Advantech's Linkou Campus



### ■ Advantech's Linkou Intelligent Campus

Advantech Linkou Intelligent Campus officially started its operation in 2014; its construction divided into three phases, and the total area spans 34,470 m<sup>2</sup>. Currently, the completed first-phase covers an area of 9,983 m<sup>2</sup>, and its main buildings include a R&D center, production center, and offices. Advantech has developed the Linkou Campus into an innovative experimental site for Intelligent Building, where two major smart-building solutions, smart-building energy management, and smart contextual space management are implemented. By cooperating with partners from the smart-building industry, Advantech has developed the Linkou Campus into an innovative experimental site for intelligent-buildings, where two major intelligent-building solutions, intelligent BEMS, and intelligent space management are implemented. By cooperating with partners from the intelligent-building industry, Advantech has established a close-knit intelligent-building collaboration system, where consulting teams are available to provide sales services. For our partners from the building industry, Linkou Campus is an experimental site where collaborative R&D can be performed. To clients, Linkou Campus is a place where they can experience building solutions. When customers walk into Advantech's Linkou Campus, they can experience various intelligent building solutions developed by the collaboration system, including the central management, intelligent parking, intelligent reception, and intelligent meeting rooms.

Several smart sites have already been developed inside Linkou Campus, all of which have incorporated the concept of smart energy conservation. Furthermore, Linkou Campus continuously engages in innovative development to increase the smart-capabilities of the intelligent buildings. Relevant designs are described as follows:

1. **Intelligent parking:** Smart parking is a smart service system that combines various functions such as reserving a parking space, identifying license plates, eTag, welcoming guest messages, guiding a vehicle to its parking space, parking area control and management, and finding a vehicle. The smart parking system is equipped with an automated system that uses lights to guide vehicles forward, as well as an air conditioner system for air quality control to provide excellent

smart parking services and parking environment, as well as conserve energy.

2. **Intelligent reception:** When visitors arrive, the big monitor in the lobby will display a welcome message. As soon as visitors touch the automated visitor registration system, relevant personnel are notified of their arrival via mobile phone messages. Visitors are then issued with an electronic identification card that enables them to interact with the multimedia facilities within the building. With interactive multimedia signboards featuring centralized control management and regional connectivity, park-related information, weather, and traffic data can be viewed. Thus, businesses with branches in other regions can easily announce their management information. Furthermore, through an interactive e-Catalog system, visitors can browse product catalogs and advertisement videos, use their emails online and share information with others; they can also read QR codes with their mobile phones. At night, these signboards automatically enter sleep mode and automatically turns on the next day, thereby achieving the effects of energy conservation.
3. **Intelligent meeting rooms:** At the entrance of the conference room, a signboard is installed to display meeting information. Users will be given the rights to use each conference facility, and they can automatically switch the situational configurations within the conference room with a single touch of a button depending on their needs. Concurrently, air quality sensors and automatic regulating fans are also installed to enhance the indoor air quality. If no one is detected to be present in the room for 15 minutes, the system automatically issues a command to switch off all power and the air-conditioning system in the room to conserve energy.
4. **Human sensing control:** In addition to the air conditioning system automatically detecting and regulating the air quality, the people sensing energy conservation system will also divide the office area into several regions and generate a schedule based on work hours and lunch breaks. During off hours, smart office connects with the access control system and the entry card reader automatically activates the lights in the room.



In addition to introducing smart solutions for reducing energy consumption, Advantech continues to promote and implement the following energy-saving measures:

- Migrate to high-performance lighting. Currently, Advantech uses only energy-saving light bulbs at its Linkou Intelligent Campus and Sunny Building offices, and is in the process of switching over to energy-saving light bulbs at its Xindian and Donghu offices. All new Advantech buildings are equipped with energy-saving bulbs.
- Conduct video conferences rather than on-site meetings whenever possible.
- Prioritize the purchase of green-label office equipment and electronic products.
- Maintain an indoor temperature of 25 °C.

- Encourage employees to develop the habit of switching off lights when leaving a room.

Advantech hired a greater number of employees and increased its production by a larger capacity in 2014 compared to that in 2013. Therefore, in 2014, 3,896 MWh of additional power was used compared to 2013. However, the average monthly power consumption per capita in 2014 was 391 kWh, which represents a 13.49% reduction (61 kWh) from the 452 kWh average in 2013 (Figure 4.12). In the future, Advantech will continue striving to reduce power consumption by 5% per unit product every year. By implementing relevant projects and promotional efforts, the company hopes to reinforce the concept of energy conservation in the mind of every employee, thereby making energy conservation an integral part of corporate culture.

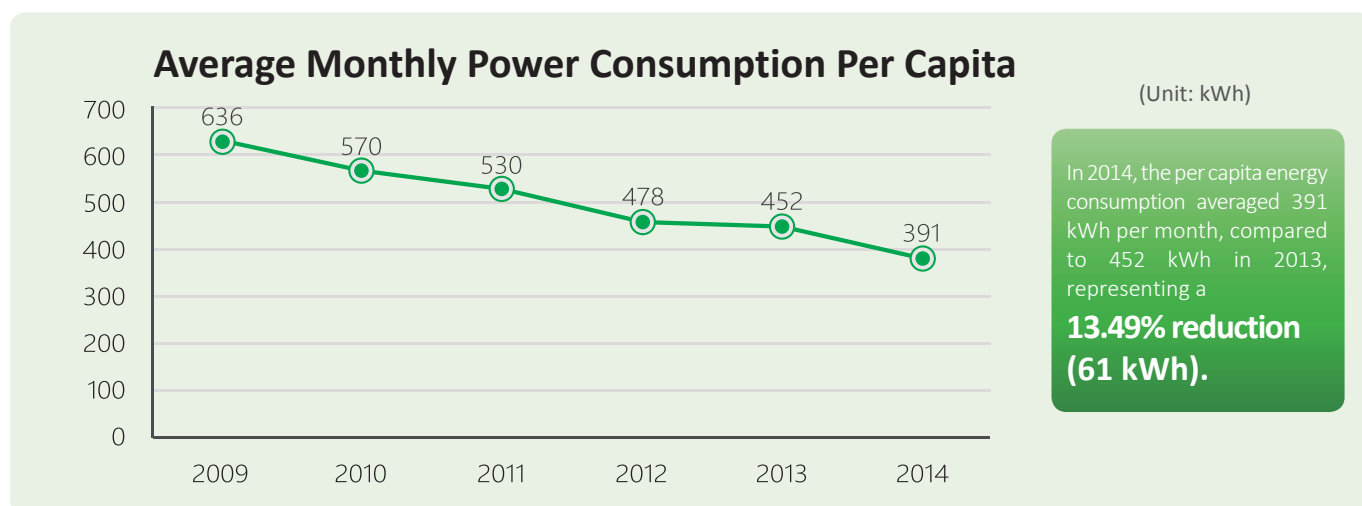


Figure 4.12 Energy saving trends at Advantech Taiwan's factories and offices for 2009 - 2014

In keeping with the ISO14064-1 and GHG Protocol requirements, Advantech compiled a detailed list of GHG emissions to serve as the qualitative and quantitative inventory for Scope 1 (direct GHG emissions) and Scope 2 (indirect GHG emissions), as well as the qualitative inventory of primary emission sources for Scope 3 (other indirect GHG emissions). Advantech set 2010 as the baseline year for the GHG emissions list. Annual emissions in 2010 amounted to 6,740.6 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Advantech's GHG emissions are primarily CO<sub>2</sub> that results from the use of electricity. This emission source accounted for more than 95% of total emissions in 2014. The GHG emissions inventory results between 2010 and 2014 are summarized in Figures 4.13 and 4.14. Figure 4.15 shows the average monthly emissions per capita for Scope 2 GHG emissions from 2010 to 2014.

Scope 3 emissions are primarily attributed to emissions resulting from supply chains, employee business trips, product use and disposal, outsourced waste treatment, and external delivery and logistics operations. Currently, Advantech employees are encouraged to commute using public transportation in order to reduce GHG emissions. Emissions resulting from raw material sourcing and product shipments are handled by government-approved contractors. Because Advantech's Scope 3 emissions primarily result from supply chains, in the future, relevant emissions inventories will be conducted in accordance with PAS2050/ISO14067 standards.

In 2015, Advantech conducted an ISO14064-1 GHG emissions inventory for the year 2014 at the Kunshan Plant for the first time. On March 20, 2015, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted third-party onsite inspections.



The results indicated that Scope 1 emissions amounted to 1,557 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> e/year, and Scope 2 emissions totaled 17,715 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> e/year. Scope 3 emissions were not inventoried

because various transport activities could not be determined. Finally, Advantech's Kunshan Plant has set 2014 as the baseline year for GHG emissions as it begins implementing GHG emission reduction plans.

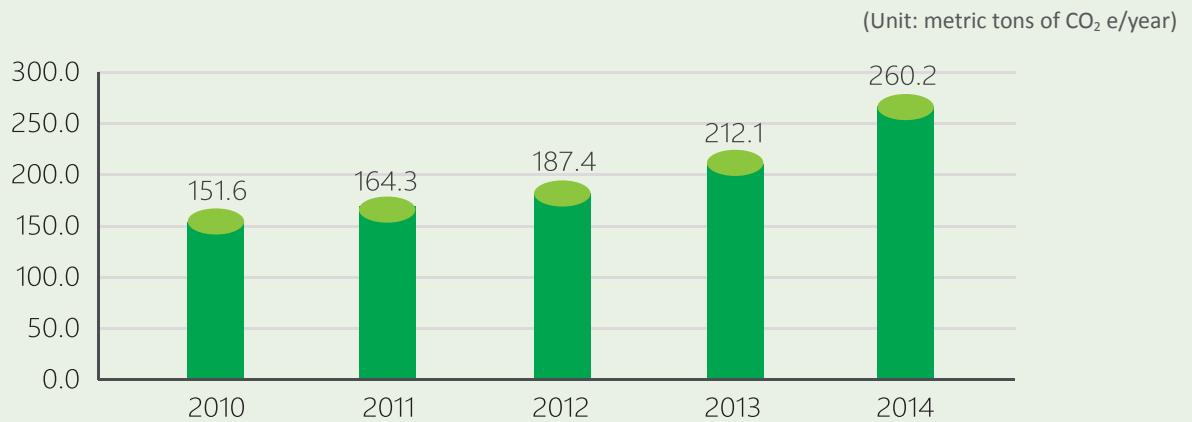


Figure 4.13 Scope 1 GHG emission statistics for Advantech Taiwan's factories and offices for 2010 - 2014

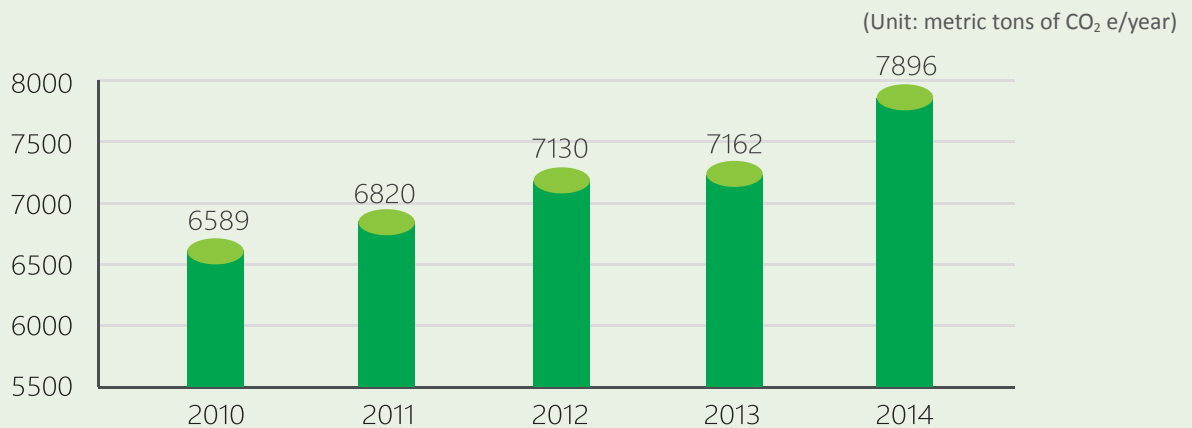


Figure 4.14 Scope 2 GHG emission statistics for Advantech Taiwan's factories and offices for 2010 - 2014

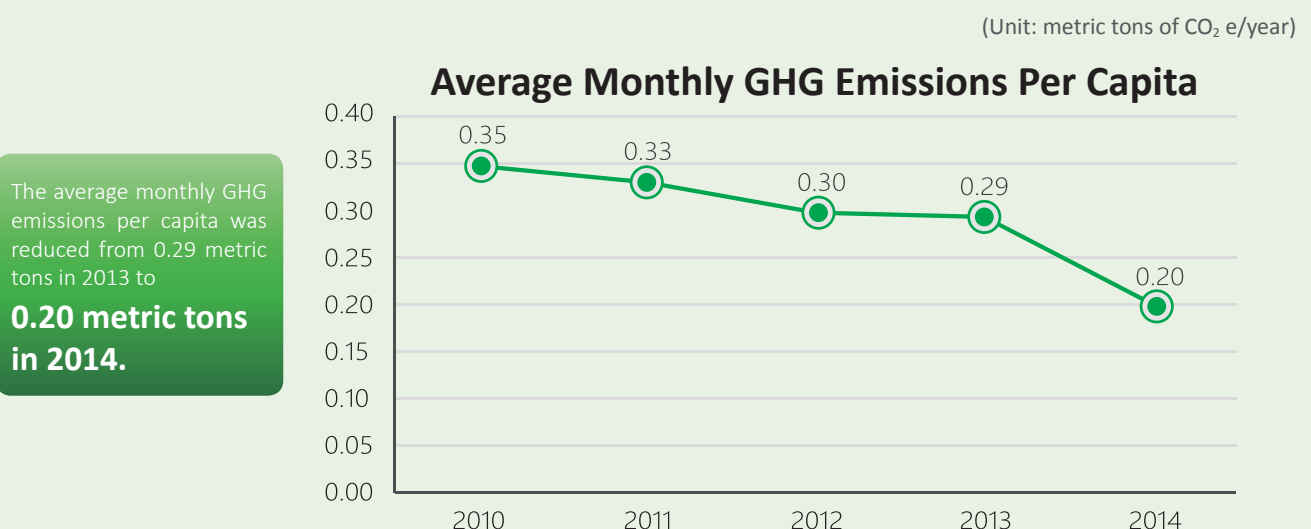


Figure 4.15 Scope 2 GHG emission statistics for Advantech Taiwan plants and offices for 2010 - 2014

Note: Source of coefficients

- Carbon emissions were calculated based on the 0.521 power coefficient announced by the Bureau of Energy in 2014.
- Considering global warming trends, the coefficient for the radiative impact of specific GHGs was adopted from the Fourth Assessment Report by the IPCC (2007).



## 4.3 Caring for Nature

Environmental protection is a crucial challenge facing today's society. Accordingly, Advantech not only invests in nurturing local communities, but also assumes its responsibility to protect the environment by creating a sustainable green industry. Regarding the Linkou Intelligent Campus, from its initial planning through to construction and business operation, Advantech endeavored to create an eco-friendly building without negatively affecting local residents' quality of life. The company considered ways to reduce the disturbance and inconvenience of construction works, and implemented official water and soil conservation strategies, environmental assessments, and traffic evaluations. Advantech also signed an agreement with the Linkou Industrial Park Service Center to maintain the roads, sewage systems, sidewalks, and roadside trees located in front of the Advantech Co., Ltd. building (on Wende Road) from November 1, 2012, to December 31, 2014.

Furthermore, the energy management programs introduced at the Linkou Campus are expected to save approximately 430,000 kWh of electricity by 2015. This equates to NT\$1.5 million in cost savings and a 224-ton reduction in annual carbon emissions, equivalent to planting 22,000 trees. Additionally, Linkou Campus adopted optimal energy-saving strategies formulated according to user needs. Besides providing a quality work environment, the strategies actually enhance employee comfort and work efficiency, while reducing unnecessary energy consumption. Following the implementation of these energy-saving strategies, the total power consumption for Linkou Campus declined by 17%. Furthermore, the Linkou Campus' energy management system undergoes regular optimization in the hopes that the campus can serve as a benchmark for Taiwan's green enterprises.

Since April 2014, Advantech has invited partners from all over the world to attend over 10 international forum events (with each session attracting more than 100 attendees) at the Linkou Intelligent Campus. At these forums, attendees have the opportunity to experience the intelligent building and various IoT applications first-hand. To further promote energy conservation, carbon reduction, and the development of smart cities, Advantech has designated the last Friday of every month as Open House day, where up to 1,000 guests are invited to visit the Linkou Intelligent Campus and experience its various IoT solutions.

Advantech's Linkou Campus has attracted the attention of industry, government, academia, and research experts. The success of Advantech's efforts to have the Linkou Intelligent Campus recognized

as one of Taiwan's intelligent buildings, smart city examples, and IoT tourist attractions is demonstrated by the following achievements:

- Served as a demonstration site for the 2015 Taiwan Smart City Exhibition.
- The Seventh National Information and Communications Initiative (NICI) Committee of Taiwan's Executive Yuan held its first meeting at the Linkou Campus, which it also listed among the must-visit destinations for the Taiwan Smart City Development and Promotion Group.
- On January 10, 2015, President Ma Ying-Jeou visited the Linkou Campus for discussions regarding its contribution to Taiwan's smart city and IoT development. The discussion outcomes were subsequently submitted to various government departments for execution.

In addition to the Linkou Campus, the Advantech+ Technology Campus in Kunshan was opened in November 2013. The building's red-brick exterior and diverse smart city and IoT application demonstrations have made it a must-visit destination, as recommended by Kunshan City to affiliated government units. In 2014, reception records had registered over 1,000 visitors from various industry, government, academic, and research organizations. Together with its partners, Advantech aims to continue developing its Linkou and Kunshan campuses into smart building demonstration sites that promote smart energy-saving and carbon-reduction concepts, alter conventional thinking through experience, and encourage the implementation of smart cities.

### ■ Organic Farm

At Advantech, we believe that because nature gives life to all things, it is essential to develop a respectful and humble appreciation of nature.



Figure 4.16 Advantech's organic farm



Therefore, all employees are encouraged to experience and enjoy the natural environment by participating in various sustainable conservation activities organized by Advantech. These activities serve to bring employees and their families closer to nature without damaging the environment or natural ecosystems. Advantech also encourages employees to adopt a plot of land at its organic farm. Planting and tending to a garden provides an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of this planet as well as the joys of a rich harvest.

The concept of “organic, natural, and eco-friendly” has always been a passion of Advantech’s. Being close to and feeling nature’s vitality energizes Advantech employees. In 2009, CEO KC Liu visited an organic farm in Yilan County, where he gained first-hand experience of natural, chemical-free agriculture. This visit inspired the idea of providing all employees with an opportunity to interact with nature and enjoy organic fruits and vegetables. This idea was the seed that led to Advantech’s organic farms.

After careful investigation and planning, the Advantech Organic Farm - Work Holiday program was launched in 2010. Every month, Advantech employees can sign up for an ecological tour of the organic farm. Furthermore, since 2011, plots of land have been made available for employee adoption in order to offer a richer organic farming experience. In addition to providing eager gardeners with organic fertilizer, seeds, and seedlings, Advantech also offers organic produce and eco-friendly daily necessity rewards to employees who take a serious interest in organic horticulture. The annual organic farm adoption events and harvest activities are some of the happiest times for Advantech employees and their families. Regarding operational costs, company financial reports indicate that the cost of sponsoring and supporting the organic farm between 2010 and 2014 exceeded NT\$5 million.

The aim of Advantech Taiwan’s organic farm is to provide employees, their families, and other individuals the opportunity to experience organic farming and healthy recreation. The farm also encourages employees to take better care of themselves, their families, and the planet through sustainable agriculture. The outcomes of Advantech’s Taiwan organic farm project are summarized in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Outcomes of Advantech’s organic farm in Taiwan

Year	Adopting Families	Over 1,000 visitors every year
2011	60 families	
First half of 2012	50 families	
Second half of 2012	50 families	
First half of 2013	50 families	
Second half of 2013	50 families	
First half of 2014	50 families	
Second half of 2014	45 families	

Referencing Advantech’s organic farm experience in Taiwan, the Kunshan Campus has also established an employee farm project, thereby enabling more Advantech employees to enjoy the pleasures of farming. In 2014, the Advantech Kunshan organic farm also made plots available for adoption (the adoption period is measured in years). Since 2014, Advantech has contributed ¥5,000 to supporting the farm in Kunshan. The outcomes of the Kunshan organic farm project are summarized in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Outcomes of Advantech’s organic farm in Kunshan

Year	Adopting Families	Over 1,000 visitors every year
2014	141 families	

In the future, Advantech’s organic farms will provide professional training and guidance for participating families to enhance their understanding of agriculture and plant cultivation skills. Through this program, Advantech employees learn not only how to plant organic fruits and vegetables, but also the value and joy of protecting and caring for the natural environment.



# 05

## Working and Learning Toward a Beautiful Life

5.1 A Harmonious Workplace

5.2 Advantech Institute

5.3 Advantech Beautiful Life

5.4 Occupational Health and Safety





## Employee-Oriented Altruistic Enterprise

Talent is our most important asset. Advantech's steady growth since 1983 can be attributed to employee achievements and effort. Consequently, Advantech regards its employees as crucial players in the stakeholder balance.

According to the core values of "working and learning toward a beautiful life," Advantech provides its employees with diverse, interdisciplinary, and cross-border work opportunities to develop their careers. We encourage our staff to fulfill their potential and expand their world view and experience through job rotation to enhance their workplace competitiveness.

Besides increasing employee competencies, Advantech offers diverse learning opportunities, from basic education to management philosophy programs, as well as mid/high-level management training courses. Through internal training and passing on its corporate culture and business philosophies, Advantech aims to

cultivate outstanding talents and ensure sustainable business.

Additionally, we believe that achieving a good balance between work and physical/mental health is essential for employee happiness, which is a driving force in the company's continuous improvements. Behind every employee is a family and friends. The Advantech ABLE Club (Advantech Beautiful Life) program is focused on employees and cultivating an altruistic and beautiful life. The ABLE Club hosts various activities such as sports days, LOHAS initiatives, and art events, which are aimed at deepening communication between Advantech employees and their families, promoting unity, and contributing to a beautiful life, where work and health are in perfect balance. Table 5.1 summarizes Advantech's goals and practices for realizing the core values of "working and learning toward a beautiful life".

Table 5.1 Advantech's social management goals and practices

	Corresponding Issues/Items	Practices
<b>Work</b>	Human rights	Prohibits the use of child labor and forced labor; ensures equal employment opportunities; no human rights complaint cases reported; and all employee jobs are protected under the Labor Safety Act, which ensures reinstatement after parental leave
	Employer/employee communications	Labor meetings, departmental meetings, seminars, MyAdvantech magazine, suggestion boxes, as well as other communication channels
	Compensation and benefits	Adheres to the minimum base salary specified in the Labor Standards Act, provides various insurance benefits, contributes to a pension fund, and conducts periodic performance appraisals
	Occupational health and safety	Holds relevant certification for occupational health and safety, and management systems; the proportion of labor representatives in the Environmental Safety Committee conforms to the basic requirements of the Labor Safety Act; and minimizes occupational injuries by providing annual employee health examinations (as mandated by the Labor Standards Act)
	Employee code of conduct	Prohibits unethical business practices and insider trading; complies with employee labor and environmental regulations; conducts self-examinations according to the Electronic Industry Code of Conduct (EICC); and ensures that all employees refuse bribes and follow equal labor rights requirements
	A happy workplace	Maintains an employee cafeteria and employee parking lot; implements Vegetarian Thursday and tea time breaks; and adheres to the notification deadlines for work position shifts required by the Labor Standards Act
<b>Learn</b>	Talent development	Advantech Institute, training seminars, reading clubs, and overseas business assignments
	Industry and academia collaboration	TiC100, EDC, EACC, campus visits, and lectures
<b>Beautiful life</b>	ABLE Club	Sports, arts, charity, and LOHAS activities
	Employee relations	Sports day, talent contest, year-end party
	The Welfare Committee	Arts appreciation regulations, cross-departmental gathering regulations, birthday celebrations, and the employee bonus points (ABLE points) scheme
	Social welfare	Art and culture sponsorships, ACT Story MOM, and volunteering programs



## 5.1 A Harmonious Workplace

Because Advantech believes that its ongoing success and advancement depend on the collective efforts of employee talents, the company treats all employees equally and with respect. Additionally, Advantech welcomes job seekers who identify with the company's corporate philosophies and culture and are willing to grow and work for mutually beneficial achievements. Currently, no labor unions have been established. However, Advantech strictly adheres

to labor regulations. Advantech's Staff Welfare Committee is responsible for ensuring the protection of employee rights and benefits and strengthening employee communication and feedback by providing satisfaction surveys and complaint mailboxes and conducting labor association meetings/negotiations. In the event of a major operational change, the Staff Welfare Committee is also responsible for notifying staff according to minimum notice period regulations.



	Item	Number and percentage (%) of male employees		Number and percentage (%) of female employees		Total
<b>Hired employees</b>	Total number of employees	2,069	62.1%	1,261	37.9%	3,330
<b>Senior executives</b>	Managers, directors, and above	360	10.9%	63	1.9%	423
<b>Age of employees</b>	Under 30	472	14.2%	276	8.3%	748
	31-49	1,516	45.5%	861	25.9%	2,377
	Above 50	81	2.4%	124	3.7%	205
<b>Full time/ contract hire</b>	Full-time	1,947	58.5%	1,166	35.0%	3,113
	Contract hire	122	3.7%	95	2.9%	217
<b>Job type</b>	PM/RD	1,182	35.5%	258	7.7%	1,440
	MKT/Sales	136	4.1%	144	4.3%	280
	Infra	82	2.5%	182	5.5%	264
	MFG/Quality	669	20.1%	677	20.3%	1,346
<b>New employees</b>	Under 30	238	7.1%	133	4.0%	371
	31-49	263	7.9%	178	5.3%	441
	Above 50	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	4
<b>Departing employees</b>	Under 30	117	3.5%	73	2.2%	190
	31-49	219	6.6%	120	3.6%	339
	Above 50	13	0.4%	8	0.2%	21
<b>Foreign labor</b>	Still employed as of December 31, 2014	0	0%	28	0.8%	28

Table 5.2 Advantech Taiwan's human resource status in 2014



Between 2012 and 2014, a total of 146 employees applied for maternal leave and 31 applied for unpaid parental leave, resulting in a leave application rate of 21%. Statistics regarding applications for unpaid paternal leave are presented in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3 Statistics regarding employee applications for unpaid parental leave

	Number of applicants	Number of employees due reinstatement in 2014	Number of employees reinstated in 2014	Reinstatement rate*	Number of employees reinstated after unpaid parental leave in 2013	Number still employed after reinstatement in 2014	Retention rate**
Male	3	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
Female	28	20	14	70%	10	7	70%

\*Reinstatement rate = Actual number of reinstated employees in 2014/expected number of reinstated employees after unpaid paternal leave in 2014

\*\*Retention rate = Actual number of employees reinstated in 2013 who subsequently worked for 12 months by the end of 2014/number of employees reinstated after unpaid parental leave in 2013

Advantech Kunshan has 2,408 employees, and all of its high-level executives are of Taiwanese nationality. Table 5.4 shows the distribution of employees by work location, occupation, age, and gender.

Table 5.4 Advantech Kunshan's human resource statistics for 2014

	Item	Number and percentage (%) of male employees		Number and percentage (%) of female employees		Total
<b>Hired employees</b>	Total number	1,269	52.7%	1,139	47.3%	2,408
<b>Senior executives</b>	Managers/deputy managers or above	63	2.6%	25	1.0%	88
<b>Age of employees</b>	Under 30	857	35.6%	767	31.9%	1,624
	31-49	404	16.8%	370	15.4%	774
	Above 50	8	0.4%	2	0.1%	10
<b>Full time/contract hire</b>	Full time	1,269	52.7%	1,139	47.3%	2,408
	Contract hire	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
<b>Job type</b>	Product manager/ Research and development	92	3.8%	92	3.8%	184
	Marketing/Sales	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
	Infrastructure	106	4.4%	101	4.2%	207
	Manufacturing/Quality	1,071	44.5%	946	39.3%	2,017
<b>New employees</b>	Under 30	713	29.6%	537	22.3%	1,250
	31-49	107	4.4%	105	4.4%	212
	Above 50	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
<b>Departing employees</b>	Under 30	237	57.1%	178	43%	415
	31-49	315	54.6%	262	45%	577
	Above 50	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0



## ■ Compensation and Benefits

Employees are a company's most valuable asset. Because Advantech's consistent and continued growth is largely due to the achievements of its employees, Advantech is happy to share the rewards reaped with its employees. Through its competitive compensation structure, Advantech attracts, retains, cultivates, and motivates diverse outstanding talents.

Advantech's management policies regarding employee salary and benefits include offering employee benefits that exceed those of competitors; ensuring employee salaries are based on their education background, performance, and market conditions; and treating all employees equally regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, political affiliations, and/or marital status.

The company provides the various legally required insurance and pension benefits, as well as group and travel insurance for overseas business trips to ensure the work/life safety of its employees. In order to achieve operational, departmental, and individual objectives, Advantech conducts annual employee performance appraisals that provide a reference for employee promotion, development training, and salary disbursement decisions.

During these appraisals, supervisors and employees jointly review work performance, formulate development plans, and set future goals.

Regarding the distribution of pension funds, please refer to the Annual Report. Advantech stores accumulated pension funds in a designated account at the Bank of Taiwan.

Employees who have worked at Advantech for 3 months or more must undergo a performance appraisal; meanwhile, those who have worked for less than 3 months must undergo a performance evaluation for new employees. In 2014, 93% of Advantech Taiwan's employees and 90% of Advantech Kunshan's employees participated in a performance appraisal. The average base salary for entry level male and female employees at Advantech Taiwan is 1.37 times higher than the minimum salary required by law. The average base salary for entry level male and female employees at Advantech Kunshan is 2.8 and 2.62 times higher, respectively, than the minimum salary requirement for Kunshan residents.



Figure 5.1 New employees participating in Advantech's LEAP Camp training program



## ■ Employer/Employee Communications

Currently, Advantech has not established a workers' union. However, to ensure that its employees can communicate effectively and resolve problems, Advantech holds regular labor negotiations and departmental meetings for employees.

Advantech also publishes the MyAdvantech magazine, in which the company's business expansions and management directions are disclosed. Furthermore, a suggestion box function was added to the Advantech Employee Portal to encourage employee feedback and suggestions.

Regarding sexual harassment and gender-related complaints, employees of all levels can submit reports via the CSR mailbox at [csr@advantech.com.tw](mailto:csr@advantech.com.tw).

Advantech's provision of the aforementioned communication channels serves to discourage and minimize harassment and discrimination, thereby ensuring that working conditions satisfy employee needs and protect employee rights. This supportive environment enables all employees to apply their skills and reach their full potential.



Figure 5.2 Participants of the Advantech Institute's Champion Program

## 5.2 Advantech Institute

Advantech values the individual characteristics and potential of its employees, and hopes that each employee can achieve their ambitions and fullest potential at Advantech. In keeping with the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition's (EICC) management criteria, Advantech publishes its anti-bribery and equal labor rights policies on the company website and in the new employee handbook. All employees are required to comply with these regulations.

To facilitate the cultivation of high-level talent, Advantech has established the Advantech Institute and designed a series of elite training programs.

In 2014, these programs received investments totaling NT\$20.5 million and attracted over 3,500 participants, delivering approximately 1,207,500 hours of training. Table 5.5 shows the distribution of training hours for 2014. Figures 5.1 and 5.2 are photographs taken during employee training events.

Table 5.5 Number of hours training completed by Advantech employees in 2014

Advantech employee training hours for 2014	Item	Hours	Percentage of total hours
Comparison by gender	Female	369,373	30.60%
	Male	838,127	69.40%
Comparison by job position	PM/RD	483,000	40%
	MKT/Sale	160,598	13.30%
	Infra	117,127	9.70%
	MFG/Qual	446,775	37%



The training programs offered at the Advantech Institute encompass a 10-Core Courses program, case studies, a reading club, e-Learning, the Champion Program, LEAP Camp, and the Temporary Coverage Assignment Program (TCAP). The Advantech Institute provides a global development platform that emphasizes learning and encourages all Advantech talent to continually grow and improve. The structure and content of various training programs are shown in Table 5.6 and Figures 5.3 to 5.5.

Table 5.6 Overview of training programs offered at the Advantech Institute

Item	Overview of course content	Target participants/objectives
<b>10-Core courses program</b>	This program was developed by Advantech's senior executives based on the most essential knowledge skills. The content of the 10-Core Courses program covers quality commitment, business marketing, human capital, R&D management, and the creation of financial value while maintaining Advantech's systems and regulations. The 10 core courses are designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of Advantech's core values and systems.	General employees
<b>Case studies</b>	Advantech's decision-making business management level selects themes and factors that influence the company's future development. Experts from various domains and business management academics are invited to discuss theories, propose recommendations, and compose a business case study as a reference for strategic integration.	Business management-level employees
<b>E-learning (Learning@advantech)</b>	The Advantech Institute's e-learning platform was established for teaching professional expertise and skills, announcing crucial information and events, and disseminating Advantech's knowledge, core values, and corporate culture. Advantech's employees worldwide can study at their own pace without location or time limitations. From this information-rich platform, employees can obtain diverse information that effectively expands their world view and maximizes their learning. The website contains information regarding Advantech's corporate philosophy, business leadership model, professional courses, new employee orientation, Advantech knowledge specialists, and important events.	General employees
<b>Champion program</b>	The Champion Program was established in July 2011. Through the concept of brand design, the program teaches Advantech's business philosophies and operational practices. Group discussions and essay writing are used to explore the development of innovative practices while cultivating elite talent and future industry leaders for Advantech.	Mid-level managers
<b>Leap camp</b>	Advantech employees from around to world are selected to attend the LEAP Camp training program held at Advantech headquarters. The program is aimed at increasing employees' knowledge and skills, allowing them to experience Advantech's corporate culture and core values, and providing opportunities to interact with global partners for greater coordination. The program courses are designed for different domains and according to diverse job responsibilities.	New employees (less than 1 year)
<b>Reading club</b>	Advantech believes that collectively reading and discussing books can strength the relationship between team members. Therefore, Advantech established a reading club for employees. External experts, business management and operational planning academia representatives, as well as mid- to senior-level managers from associated organizations are also invited to introduce innovative management concepts. Through these discussions, Advantech continuously refines its business management models and formulates key business strategies.	According to the reading topic, relevant employees and supervisors
<b>Temporary coverage assignment program (tcap)</b>	To broaden the world view and experience of Advantech's elite talent, the company established the TCAP to target major or emerging markets and new opportunities. The overseas assignment period is typically 3 to 6 months, during which employees face a number of different challenges. By changing work environment and job responsibilities, employees have the opportunity to broaden their perspective, achieve short-term goals, and acquire valuable practical experience.	Advantech's employees worldwide/employees undertaking the TCAP for 3-6 months



## Talent Development Model of Advantech



Figure 5.3 The Advantech Institute's course structure

## Advantech's 10-Core course Program

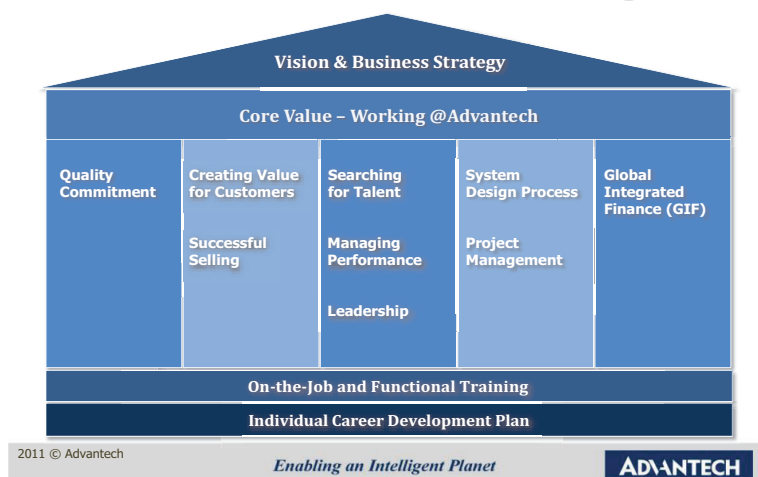


Figure 5.4 Structure of Advantech's 10-Core courses program

The screenshot shows the Advantech Institute e-learning website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (Home, About Advantech, ACL), a language selector, a search bar, and a user greeting 'Hi, Nicole'. The main content area features a large group photo of staff. Below this, there are sections for '最新發布' (Latest Releases) with links to L013-KT Problem Solving Method, L012-The 4 Disciplines of Execution, L011-Time Management, and L010-Service Skill and Mindset. A '熱門' (Popular) section includes 'Cycling with Advantech@30', 'Advantech CSR & Human Right', 'Advantech Beautiful life Club', and 'Progress the Advantech Story'. On the right, a '學員專區' (Learner Area) lists links like '我的必修課程', '我的學習紀錄', '研華知識庫', and '新進人員學習手冊'. A left sidebar lists various course categories like 'Advantech Philosophy', 'Leadership & Management', 'Branding & Marketing', etc.

Figure 5.5 Advantech's e-learning website



## 5.3 Advantech Beautiful Life

We believe that only happy employees who are physically and mentally healthy can drive business growth and advancement. In keeping with its people-oriented and altruistic corporate culture, Advantech actively promotes various ABLE Club activities. Through effective employee relationship management by the CSR department, as well as the efforts of ABLE Club managers and the Staff Welfare Committee, Advantech successfully organized several ABLE Club events involving diverse activities customized for specific groups. The goal was to facilitate social interactions between Advantech employees and their families to thereby contribute to achieving a beautiful life. Figure 5.6 shows the organizational structure of Advantech's ABLE Club.



Figure 5.6 Advantech's ABLE Club organizational structure

### Employee Relations

Advantech actively encourages employee interaction and relationship development. The company is committed to creating an open development platform based on the core values of “working and learning toward a beautiful life” and enabling all employees to experience a beautiful life through various employee activities.

Advantech hosts various employee events and encourages active participation. With the ABLE Club Sports Day, Voices of Advantech, and year-end Party party, we hope to provide employees with diverse avenues to demonstrate their talents.

The company's large-scale employee events typically attract nearly 6,000 participants each year. We hope that by organizing various team-building activities, our employees can experience greater unity, teamwork, and cooperation to ultimately transform Advantech into an altruistic and successful enterprise.

In 2014, over 1,500 employees participated in the Advantech Sports Day, and over 1,000 employees and their families attended the Family Party event. The company's year-end party was organized according to Advantech's five major business groups and attended by almost 3,000 employees. Advantech invests over NT\$8 million into hosting annual large-scale employee events, which typically attract at least 6,000 participants. Figures 5.7 to 5.9 are photographs of some of Advantech's employee events/activities.



Figure 5.7 Advantech's 2014 sports day



Figure 5.8 Advantech's 2014 family party



Figure 5.9 Advantech's 2014 year-end party



### ■ ABLE Club Community Activities

The name ABLE Club is derived from “Advantech Beautiful Life” and refers to the aim of creating a beautiful life for every Advantech employee through participation in various club activities, including sports days, LOHAS initiatives, arts events, and community programs. These club activities provide a means for employees and their families to communicate and interact with society while achieving our core values of “working and learning toward a beautiful life”.

After years of dedicated promotion, the ABLE Club events have become a highlight for Advantech employees. The diverse activities organized by the ABLE Club, which include sporting events that involve strenuous exercise and skill competitions, outdoor

organic LOHAS activities that involve cycling along a coastline or mountain hikes to discover secret places, art events (photography and aesthetics) that encourage employees to cultivate their artistic skills, and community programs that involve volunteering and charitable contributions, all enable Advantech employees to live a rich and colorful life.

In 2014, Advantech invested NT\$9 million into the ABLE Club, which now boasts 1,530 members. Through the year, more than 10,000 people participated in ABLE Club activities. Figures 5.10 to 5.12 are photographs of some of Advantech’s ABLE Club events/activities.



Figure 5.10 Photo highlights of Advantech’s ABLE Club activities



## ■ The Welfare Committee

Advantech's Welfare Committee organizes various employee events/activities, which can be divided into the categories of growth, fellowship, tours, and arts and culture, according to the event focus. Table 5.7 provides a summary of the overall event/activity contents. Employees can select the activities they prefer. Additionally, to increase the flexibility of distributing employee welfare funds, Advantech established an employee bonus points program that converts welfare funds into bonus points that employees can use to participate in diverse leisure activities.

Table 5.7 Events organized by Advantech's Welfare Committee in 2014

Category	Content focus
<b>Growth</b>	Subscription to magazines and books, organize lectures and courses on personal development
<b>Fellowship</b>	Departmental fellowship activities, quarterly birthday celebrations, friendship activities, health and LOHAS activities
<b>Tours</b>	Domestic and international tours, theme tours, cultural tours, one-day leisure tours
<b>Arts and culture</b>	Movie viewings, arts and culture lectures, Arts and culture shows and exhibits, artistic and cultural creations

## 5.4 Occupational Health and Safety

To prevent occupational injuries, in 2006 Advantech implemented an occupational health and safety management system according to OHSAS18001 specifications, formulated standard operating procedures for responding to workplace emergencies, introduced autonomous equipment inspections, and enhanced employee health and safety and fire-prevention training.

To comply with environmental health and safety standards, Advantech conducts regular evaluations of drinking water quality, noise levels, temperature, humidity, and light intensity in the work environment. Additionally, every 6 months, professional inspection companies are commissioned to measure the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in buildings with centralized air conditioning system to ensure a safe work environment, protect employee health, and prevent occupational hazards.

In addition to labor safety issues, Advantech emphasizes employee health. To ensure health management, Advantech provides annual employee health assessments that are more detailed than that required by the Labor Standards Act. Besides organizing employee health examinations and health-promoting activities (e.g., marathons), we also enforce a no-smoking policy and provide breastfeeding rooms, sports and leisure facilities, as well as a safe and healthy dining environment.

In addition to improving employees' health and safety awareness through training programs, Advantech has also established a Labor Health and Safety Committee in accordance with legal requirements. The Committee comprises one director, one employer representative, and 15 employee representatives, as mandated by relevant labor regulations (must account for one third of the total members). Tables 5.8 and 5.9 provide a summary of work-related injuries that occurred at Advantech in 2014.

Table 5.8 Absentee and injury rate at Advantech Taiwan in 2014

2014	
Frequency of workplace injuries rate (FR)	0.89
Occupational diseases rate (ODR)	0
Disabling injury severity rate (SR)	8
Number of occupational deaths	0
Absentee rate (AR)	0.69

Table 5.9 Absentee and injury rate at Advantech Kunshan in 2014

2014	
Frequency of workplace injuries rate (FR)	1.45
Occupational diseases rate (ODR)	0
Disabling injury severity rate (SR)	30
Number of occupational deaths	0
Absentee rate (AR)	0.74

Note:

1. Absence Rate (AR) refers to the total absent days as a percentage of number of work days in 2014. Absence = Employee is absent from work due to their lack of ability to work, not limited to work-related injuries or diseases. Excluding approved leave of absence such as national holidays, training, maternity/parental leave, and funeral leave.
2. Disabling Injury Severity Rate (SR) = (number of work days missed/total work hours)\*1000000. Number of work days missed = The number of work days lost due to work-related accidents or diseases. The number of work days lost excludes the number of days an employee performed limited duties or served as a temporary replacement within the same organization
3. Work-related injury frequency (FR) = (total number of work-related injuries/total work hours)\*1000000
4. SR and FR statistics include traffic accidents but exclude contractors.
5. Absence rate (AR) = (Total number of sick days + total number of work days missed)/Total work hours\*100%





Figure 5.11 Photo highlights of Advantech's ABLE Club activities (Softball)



Figure 5.12 Photo highlights of Advantech's ABLE Club activities (Golf)



# 06

## Innovation and Sustainable Development

6.1 Advantech's Internal Innovation Mechanism - IMAX

6.2 TiC 100 Smarter City and IoT Competitions

6.3 Early Design Campaign

6.4 Enterprise-Academy Cross-Over Collaboration





# Industry and Academia Collaborations Promote Innovation and Sustainable Development

As a responsible corporate citizen, Advantech has always sought to identify the optimal approach for giving back to society. After attempting many strategies, we eventually found that incorporating innovation-based enterprise and academia collaborations into talent development enables employees to better leverage their professional knowledge and skills, produce quantifiable results, maximize output, and effectively share corporate competencies with society.

In 1997, Advantech foundation established “innovative learning” as its core value, “industry-academic cooperation” as its methodology, and “talent discovery” as its objective. Through initiatives such as the TiC100, EDC, EACC, and Elite Internship Program, Advantech has combined corporate and academic resources with practical business experience to provide students with an understanding of the commercial business market and facilitate their development in a workplace environment.

Additionally, over the many years Advantech has promoted industry and academia collaboration, the students’ creative ideas have injected new vitality into the company by inspiring Advantech employees to pursue personal fulfillment, learning, and development, and thus create a corporate culture of innovation. For Advantech, the establishment of an internal innovation system, continuous optimization of this system, and the use of industry-academia collaborations to contribute to society and promote innovation exemplify the company’s approach to achieving sustainable development.

## 6.1 Advantech’s Internal Innovation Mechanism - IMAX

Advantech implements altruistic practices and develops business management strategies through continuous learning and innovation in an effort to surpass its current success and become a leading provider of industrial computing systems. By promoting internal and external alliances and partnerships, Advantech hopes that its employees, customers, shareholders, and society can all benefit from the company’s successes.

At Advantech, the Annual Business Plan (ABP) is an integral part of corporate learning. After ABP internalization, IMAX serves as the developmental engine for formulating corporate strategies. The term IMAX originated as an acronym of “incubation (internal cultivation), mergers and controlling joint ventures, alliances/outsourcing, and extreme product development”.

In 2008, in response to the company’s continued growth and internationalization, and following IBM’s example, Advantech implemented the ABP strategy to assist supervisors with mid-scale business planning. This strategy includes market competition analysis, future trend research, product planning, and organizational adjustments. However, after using this approach for 3 years, Advantech determined that the ABP strategy was overly focused on making micro-adjustments to existing products and systems, which hindered the generation of new ideas and breakthroughs.

In 2010, CEO KC Liu conceptualized the IMAX mechanism for promoting continuous innovation within the company. Every year in May, all product business units, together with financial partners, are responsible for proposing an annual IMAX-based business plan, which is then submitted to CEO and relevant management for evaluation. Additionally, IMAX proposals are categorized into three levels according to importance and innovation potential. The first level, known as the product division (PD) level (denoted by ●), refers to proposals that concern the product R&D units. The second level, known as the group level (denoted by ★), covers proposals that concern business groups. The third level, also known as the corporate empowerment level (denoted by ★★), is for proposals that are managed at headquarters through interdepartmental coordination.

The IMAX strategy is aimed at establishing a bottom-up mechanism, where frontline units can propose projects from which promising ideas for cultivating future talents can be identified. Through Advantech’s ABP activities, the company’s product department supervisors were able to categorize innovative initiatives into the matrix shown in Figure 6.1 (according to their IMAX level), develop strategic actions for every proposal, set specific schedules, assign responsible persons, and conduct ongoing management and evaluations.



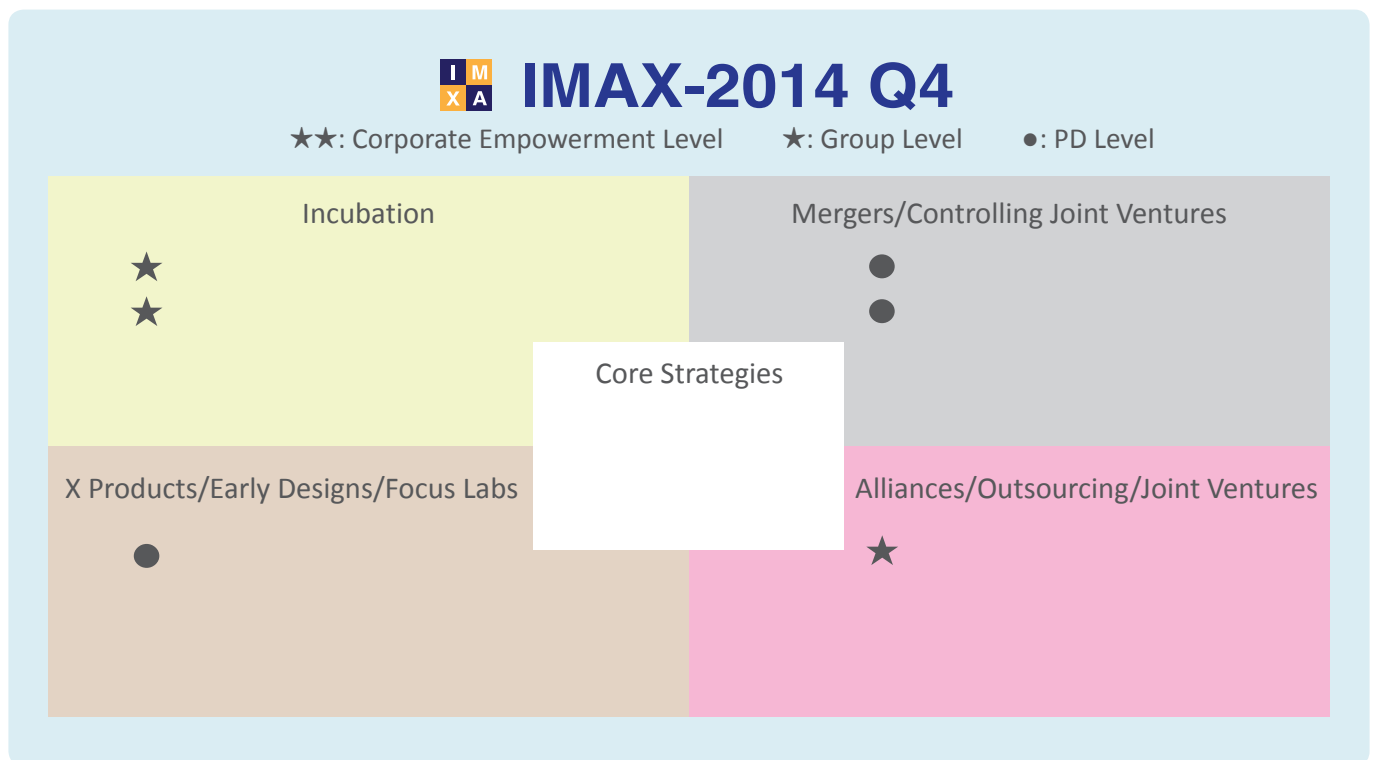


Figure 6.1 Advantech's IMAX Matrix

The innovative IMAX mechanism can be considered according to its four dimensions - internal incubation, mergers and joint ventures, strategic alliances, and new product R&D, as well as the concept of inside-out and outside-in development. An inside-out development approach combines internal incubation with new product R&D, whereas outside-in development combines mergers and joint ventures

with strategic alliances. Regarding the four IMAX dimensions, "I" to "X" involve inside-out development, and "M" to "A" involve outside-in development. This concept is aimed at enabling division managers to devise resource acquisition strategies using IMAX and to analyze how resource flows can be strategically induced.

## 6.2 TiC 100 Smarter City and IoT Competitions

### ■ Program Overview

Established in 1998, the TiC100 is now in its 16th year of operation. With laboratory-based entrepreneurship emerging as the latest trend, TiC100 encourages students to engage in academic entrepreneurship and commercialize their dreams and creativity.

In 2010, in response to social trends, the TiC100 was transformed into an innovative business model competition that teaches students how to effectively integrate resources, connect with businesses, build innovative business models, and devise innovative solutions to major social issues. In 2011, TiC100 organized the first ever corporate cooperative entrepreneurial competition. Various businesses were invited to suggest topics and multidisciplinary cases, thereby providing students with the opportunity to

gain actual marketing experience and apply what they have learned. In 2012, the Advantech foundation hosted the first TiC100 Competition in China, officially expanding the TiC100 initiative into China.

In 2013, in order to make even greater contributions through the leveraging of Advantech's expertise and industry strengths, "smarter cities and IoT" was set at the TiC100's core focus. For two consecutive years (2013 and 2014), leading domestic and overseas IoT enterprises were invited to suggest the competition topics, while various industry experts offered guidance regarding the creation of innovative IoT business models for promoting smarter cities and IoT integration.



## Program Scope

### 1. Invested resources

The total TiC100 expenditure in 2014 was NT\$7.75 million. Expenditures included competition awards, event promotions, campus lectures, platform establishment, competitions, training activities, and outsourced activities.

### 2. Number of contestants

- 2014: 150 teams from Taiwan and 233 teams from China, for a total of 1,975 contestants
- 1998 (competition start year) to 2014: 8,762 contestants
- Top 5 participating schools (in descending order): National Taiwan University, National Chiao Tung University, National Cheng Kung University, National Chengchi University, and National Tsing Hua University

### 3. Competition structure

The competition involves matching topics and reviewing proposals, and includes preliminary, semifinal, and final rounds. The duration of the competition is approximately 6 months, during which topic discussions, workshops, company visits, and guidance are provided to assist students with refining their presentation skills and adjusting their proposals according to corporate needs. Consequently, each proposal gains greater practicality and business value.

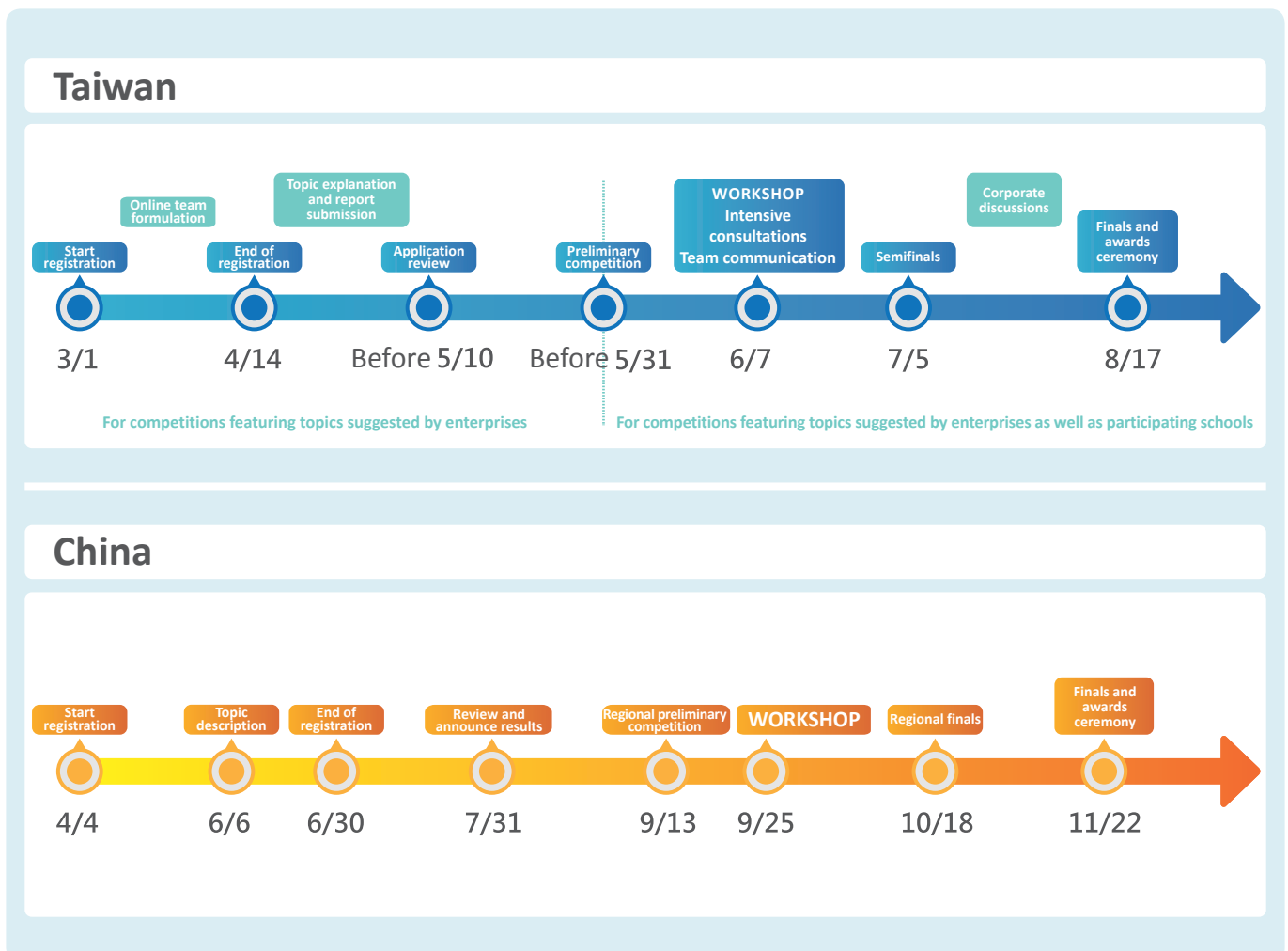


Figure 6.2 Advantech's TiC100 competition events schedule for 2014



## ■ Program Content

### 1. Interdisciplinary cooperative learning

To cultivate interdisciplinary talents, TiC100 has established a website for recruiting contestants with diverse professional backgrounds from various fields. Contestants can also use this platform to find teammates to participate in the competition with.

### 2. Diverse training mechanisms

TiC100 strives to cultivate students' core competency using diverse training methods. In addition to the "expert mentor" work placement training strategy, where teams participate in actual projects and experience real work practice, outstanding consultant companies, venture capitalists, and charity organizations are invited to offer guidance regarding consumer insights, business model design, user scenario-based simulations, entrepreneurial projects, presentation skills, online marketing, and brand management. This provides students with more effective and systematic training, which increases their competitiveness.

### 3. Ideal stage for innovation

The competitions that feature topics suggested by enterprises are aimed at increasing students' ability to follow real work practices and preparing them for their future career. Because the TiC100 provides students with the ideal stage on which to showcase their skills, some competitions have been expanded to include topics suggested by the participating schools. These topics can be anything related to smart cities and IoT. Furthermore, various collaborations between the TiC100 and several science and technology universities located in northern, central, and southern Taiwan have been conducted, yielding many varied and valuable ideas, such as smart medical beds and cultural and creativity apps, all of which can be commercialized.

### 4. External links

The diversity and open innovation encouraged by the TiC100 are also reflected in the sub-contests, external connections, and sponsored events. For example, TiC100 supports charity events by sponsoring the Fu Jen Catholic University Social Enterprise Research Center in hosting the TiC100 Social Enterprise Competition. For other organizations, foundations, and events that actively cultivate core competencies, such as the YEF's International Youth Entrepreneurial Leadership Project, NCTU Hackathon, Mei-Chu Hackathon, NCCUEA, Lite-On Award, YMJ Taiwan, NTHU Social Enterprise Hackathon,

and SITCON, the TiC100 also offers sponsorships to provide students with opportunities for collaboration and interaction.

The TiC100 competition is open to contestants from all countries. Exchange students from China have participated every year. Winning teams from China and Taiwan also have the opportunity to conduct exchanges. In support of the arts, the TiC100's finals event has been transformed into an open performance platform for emerging performing talents.

The TiC100 as an innovative competition and training mechanism has gained the approval of various universities and colleges also involved in the cultivation of innovation talents, including the NTU College of Management, NCCU College of Commerce, NCTU College of Management, NCTU College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, NTHU College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and NTHU College of Technology Management.

## ■ Future Outlook

Smart cities and IoT applications are set to be the major industrial trends for the next 10 years. Fortunately, they are also Advantech's core business strengths. The company is proud to be "enabling an intelligent planet," and has set this phrase as the objective for TiC100 competitions. We called upon Advantech employees, customers, and industry partners to provide students with sincere, in-depth recommendations and assistance, share their core competencies, and develop a strong connection between industry and society.

In 2013 and 2014, TiC100 invited Chunghwa Telecom, IBM, the Institute for Information Industry (III), the Information Technology Research Institute, Taoyuan International Airport, Farglory Group, and China Telecom to conduct smart city and IoT innovative business model competitions in both Taiwan and China simultaneously. This experience revealed that although innovative business models are crucial for the smart city and IoT domain, other technological innovations are also important. Consequently, for the 2015 TiC100 competition, innovations are no longer restricted to business models. Instead, innovations to various smart city and IoT dimensions, such as techniques, R&D methods, and business processes, will be encouraged. Furthermore, the competition topics will be provided by Microsoft Taiwan, MediaTek, Family Mart, the Executive Yuan's Council of Agriculture, the Innovative



DigiTech-Enabled Applications & Services Institute at the Institute for Information Industry (III), China Telecom, as well as Advantech.

Finally, in an effort to expand students' world view, the Taiwanese winners of the 2015 TiC100 competition will have the opportunity to visit China and present their project proposals. These winners will also compete against top teams from Shanghai Chiao Tung University, Peking University, and Xi'an Chiao Tung University.



Figure 6.3 Highlights of the Advantech TiC100 event

## 6.3 Early Design Campaign

### ■ Program Overview

The Early Design Campaign is a prospective design competition jointly organized by Advantech foundation and Industrial Design division. This competition involves Advantech's business units compiling innovation requirements for various industries according to recent market trends, and then inviting students from various fields (industrial design, business design, visual transmission, MBA, and marketing) to design innovative products using a user-oriented innovative design process to enhance user contexts and establish a communication channel between industrial design and the end market.

### ■ Program Content

The Early Design Campaign combines part-time internships with a competition. Students must submit a CV along with their creative proposal, according to the application procedures for summer internship programs. Following stringent screening and assessment, outstanding students are selected and placed into groups to collaborate with Advantech product managers and industrial designers in conducting forward-looking user context research, analysis, and innovation design.

During the summer vacation months, in addition to part-time internships, the students also attend four workshops that involve brainstorming sessions, field surveys, challenges, as well as prompts from industry experts to gain more detailed industry knowledge and devise highly innovative design concepts.

The 2014 Early Design Campaign project topics were as follows:

- Create a next-generation retail chain store - Smart store manager USM2000 exterior design
- Apply wireless sensing network capabilities to smart parking navigation systems
- Smart greenhouse SRP design (exterior control box + web UI)
- BLE sensing and positioning device design (for use in medical and long-term care industries)

The results of the smart store manager project were outstanding and have been incorporated into Advantech's product prototype development.

### ■ Future Outlook

To accurately identify industry demands while providing Taiwanese industrial design talents with actual industry experience, future Early Design Campaigns will emphasize greater investigation into market demands, ecosystems, and competition trends in an effort to transform forward-looking design products into solution-ready platforms and promote the use of summer internships combined multidimensional competitions as an interdisciplinary, industry-academia collaboration mechanism.



## 6.4 Enterprise-Academy Cross-Over Collaboration

The Enterprise-Academy Cross-Over Collaboration (EACC) project comprises the following programs: EACC-Case Study, Focus Lab, and the Elite Internship Program.

### 6.4.1 EACC Case Study

Every year, the Advantech foundation collaborates with various management and business colleges of renowned universities to identify key factors that influence organizational development, including organizational management and corporate development strategies. Participating professors guide students in collecting data and conducting surveys and interviews to identify possible solutions. Advantech managers are also invited to attend workshops to participate in discussions, reach a consensus, and clarify directions for future development.

Because business management education programs in Taiwan currently lack quality Chinese enterprise cases, students are limited to examining foreign cases. Thus, they do not have the appropriate means for examining the domestic business environment. Additionally, compared to leading business schools in foreign countries, business schools in Taiwan do not typically use case studies as a teaching method. To cultivate teachers with extensive case study experience, Advantech collaborated with the NCCU College of Commerce and NTU College of Management to devise the following 5-year plan (starting in 2013):

- Between 2013 and 2017, the Advantech foundation will make annual donations of NT\$1 million to every participating school to sponsor professors in compiling business cases of well-known enterprises in Taiwan and China (five cases per country). Over the five years, 50 cases, including cases for Advantech and other enterprises, will be completed.
- To ensure case quality and promote Chinese business cases to external organizations and schools, participating schools should submit their cases to the Chengchi Business Case Center, Taiwan Management Case Center (TMCC), or other representative Chinese case centers, with at least three cases launched and approved per year.
- Professors must use the compiled cases in classroom teaching. Additionally, cases related to Advantech must be provided to Advantech's department managers for use in employee training.

Table 6.1 Advantech-sponsored case studies conducted by National Chengchi University in 2014

Topics	Enterprise	Professor
O'right - The Erratic Green Giant	O'right	Bing-Shen Kuo
Seeing the Blue Ocean: Are Private Jets Available for Hire?	Hong-Jung Fei (Professional manager)	Yue-Yun Lin
Disclosure of China Airlines Carbon Management	China Airlines	Ling-Tai Chou
Advantech Business Model for the Next 30 Years Advantech Business Model for the Investment Department	Advantech	Rui-Ling Hsiao
Discuss marketplace transformations from customer management perspective	Buynow	Ming-Xiu Luo

Table 6.2 Advantech-sponsored case studies conducted by National Taiwan University in 2014

Topics	Enterprise	Professor
Tencent Holdings Limited	Tencent	Rui-Hsiang Kuo
Returning to Success, from Secondary to Main	MediaTek	Chong-Ren Chen
International Expansion & Challenges of O'right	O'right	Chia-sheng Chen
From "Product Creation" to "Organizational Innovation"	MedicusTek	Hong-Chi Chen
Road to Suning Commerce Group	Suning Commerce Group	Chung-Yao Huang

### ■ Future Outlook

The EACC-Case Study program is aimed at achieving a mutually beneficial outcome for both industry and academic institutions through two-way exchanges. In addition to professors guiding students in conducting research, field surveys, experiments, and/or strategies to identify solutions to business challenges, high-level corporate managers will contribute their knowledge and practical experience and assist with the formulation of valuable case studies, master's dissertations, and feasible market development plans. We hope that through the EACC-Case Study program, businesses and schools can establish strong relationships that benefit industry and provide great examples of enterprise-academia cooperation.

Because Advantech's Case Study and Corporate Internship programs yielded substantial benefits for Taiwan's industries, academic institutions, and students, Advantech offered the NCCU's College of Commerce NT\$1.2 million in annual sponsorship for a



total of three years to finance the improvement of case study-based teaching (using cases from both Taiwan and China) and the recruitment of internship office managers. The objective is to improve the quality of case study-based teaching in Taiwan and encourage business school students to obtain internship experience.

Using the resources provided by Advantech, the NCCU's College of Commerce established the NCCU College of Commerce Elite Brainstorming Club, for which corporate members are recruited to lead brainstorming forums and high-level training sessions. Student internships, MBA scholarships, and project internship programs are also provided. The Club is expected to strengthen cooperation between the NCCU College of Commerce and businesses, reduce the gap between industry and academia, and increase students' workplace competitiveness.

### 6.4.2 Focus Lab Sponsorships Combined with Product/Technology R&D

#### ■ Program Overview

Advantech foundation sponsors professors to conduct laboratory research to bridge the gap between the demands of Advantech's business groups and academic research. Moreover, the Focus Lab provides students the opportunity to experience the industry environment, which ultimately enables "external R&D cooperative mechanisms to guide technological innovation." Since 2012, Advantech has collaborated with NTU and NCTU professors on three R&D projects.

#### ■ Future Outlook

To reduce the gap between industry and academia, develop IoT smart systems and application technologies, enhance the competitiveness of Taiwan's IoT industry, and increase the IoT industry's innovation value, starting from 2015, Advantech will collaborate with NCTU to establish an IoT Smart System Research Center and provide NT\$20 million in sponsorship to finance laboratory R&D for a period of 5 years.

Advantech will invite domestic and foreign IoT industry leaders, such as MediaTek, IBM, ARM, and Microsoft, to cooperatively cultivate Taiwan's IoT talents, integrate R&D efforts and resources, and aggregate R&D applications in an effort to accelerate the industrial development of the IoT amidst the wave of the "next big thing".

### 6.4.3 The Elite Internship Program

#### ■ Program Overview

Through the foundation's Elite Internship Program, Advantech has recruited outstanding students to conduct in-depth research of Advantech's key topics and propose possible solutions. Thus, graduate students are exposed to high-level core business strategies and acquire practical work experience. In other words, Advantech's Elite Internship Program serves as an avenue for elite talent to enter the real-life work environment.

#### ■ Program Content

The Elite Internship Program content for 2014 included online marketing, software programming, app design, e-learning, and early design. A total of 51 students enrolled, 21 of whom were from Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, and Kunshan. Additionally, the program featured 12 projects.

#### ■ Future Outlook

Starting in 2015, Advantech plans to strategically coordinate and promote its internship program worldwide as follows:

- Select clear yet challenging topics that have crucial value for Advantech's development
- Target elite schools, invite specific candidates to enroll, and establish strict screening procedures
- Promote and expand the internship program to foreign subsidiaries



# 07

## Social Contribution

### 7.1 Arts and Culture Sponsorships

### 7.2 Social Welfare





## Promoting Arts and Social Welfare and Encouraging Employee Participation

At Advantech, we believe that exposure to arts and culture is crucial for nourishing one's soul and living a beautiful life. Therefore, the company is committed to promoting arts and culture activities that facilitate mental and spiritual growth, and enable Advantech employees to experience an enriched, aesthetic, and leisurely life.

Advantech's offices in Taiwan and China have designated "art gallery" spaces for exhibiting art work by promising artists. We encourage all employees and visitors to spend time appreciating these artistic creations. We also host several guided art appreciation tours of Advantech's art galleries, which are open to the public and aimed at increasing people's quality of life and art literacy. Additionally, Advantech regularly organizes arts and culture "salons" as well as music festivals that provide opportunities to make new friends and experience Advantech's corporate culture in order to enhance the company's brand image, strengthen external relationships, and share Advantech's vision of a beautiful life.

### 7.1 Arts and Culture Sponsorships

#### ■ Art Salons

The Advantech foundation launched its Art Salon project in 2011, and every year offers each employee two free tickets to art exhibitions. Employees are encouraged to improve their arts and culture literacy, develop an interest in art, and establish a channel for Advantech employees to interact with arts groups.

To provide our employees with the opportunity to enjoy diverse art festivities, Advantech uses a fair and transparent selection process to recruit medium to small-sized art performance groups to perform at various company events. By the end of 2012, the Art Salon project had evolved into "accepting performance proposals and Advantech employees voting for performances they would like to see."

In cooperation with the National Culture and Arts Foundation, Advantech has invited hundreds of art groups nationwide to participate in the Art Salon project, with audition notices posted on the foundation website and National Culture and Arts Foundation website. Every year, nearly 100 groups have applied to participate in the project.

By the end of 2014, statistics for the employee voting scheme showed 1,023 employee logins and 7,649 votes, setting a new record for the Art Salon project. Table 7.1 lists the performance groups that were selected in 2014 and 2015 via the employee voting scheme.

Table 7.1 Performance groups selected in 2014 and 2015 via the employee voting scheme

Sub-committee	No.	2014	2015
Large-scale private performances	1	Performance workshop	Godot Theatre Company
	2	JU Percussion Group/Ju Percussion Group Foundation	All Music Theatre
	3	If Kids Theatre	Song Song Song Children's & Puppet Theatre
	4	Let's Bossa Nova Tonight	Story Works
Small-scale performances	1	Academy of Taiwan Strings	Taipei Percussion
	2	Six Arts Theatre	U-Theatre
	3	Ming Hwa Yuan Tian Zi Theatre	Ming Hua Yuan Tian Taiwanese Opera

In addition to providing free tickets to specific performances, the Advantech foundation occasionally organizes local art exhibitions and movie showings. In 2014, expenditure on Art Salon events amounted to NT\$5.4 million. The events included 36 art performances and attracted a total of 5,718 attendees.

Besides encouraging employees to participate in arts and culture, we distribute satisfaction surveys after each Art Salon event to better understand employee expectations and enjoyment of the events. The results of these surveys also serve as a reference for improving future Art Salon events.



Figure 7.1 An Advantech Art Salon event in 2014



The Art Salon project was not only implemented in Taiwan. In 2014, Advantech Kunshan also introduced an Art Salon project in an effort to promote altruism through art activities. Advantech Kunshan partnered with the Kunshan Art and Cultural Center to promote

a private Advantech Beautiful Life event. With a total investment of RMB 200,000 in 2014, the Kunshan Art Salon project organized three art performances for 2,400 Advantech employees, successfully planting seeds of culture into their lives.

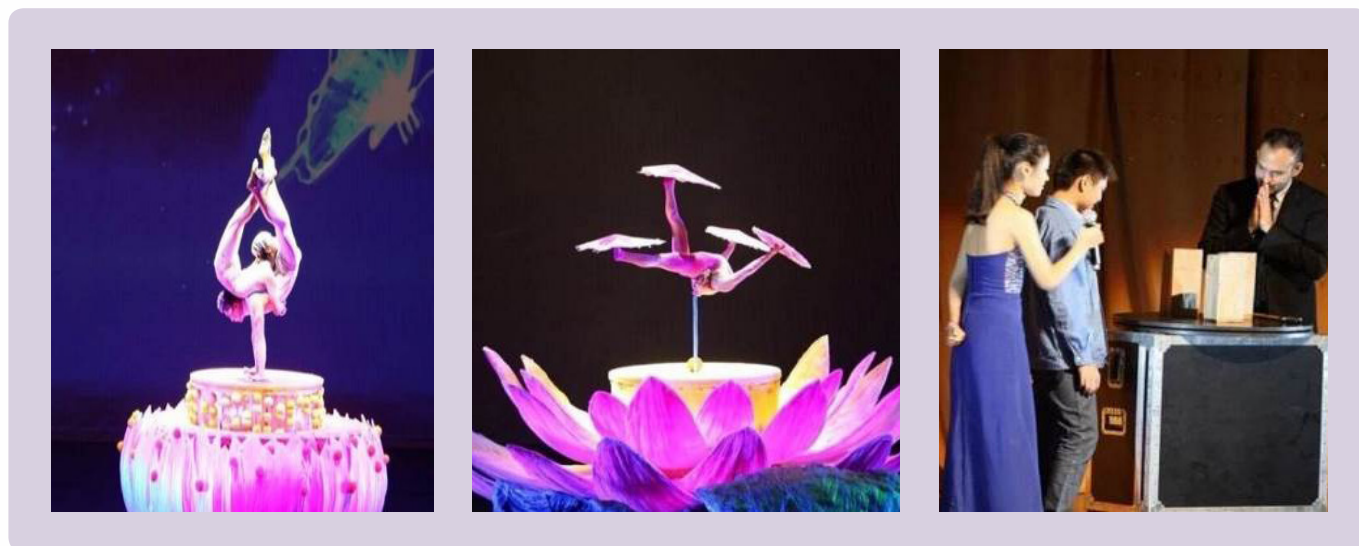


Figure 7.2 Photo highlights from Kunshan Art Salon events

Advantech Kunshan also plans to introduce employees to the art of Kunqu (Kunqu Opera) in 2015 by organizing internal performances to develop their interest and understanding of this art form. By enjoying and promoting Kunqu performance, Advantech hopes to increase public awareness and support for this performance art form. Additionally, local art groups in Kunshan and the surrounding areas will be evaluated, and those with ideologies similar to that of the Advantech foundation will be offered sponsorship to develop further. Moreover, sponsored teams will be invited to perform at Advantech to allow employees to experience diverse art cultures and participate in various art activities.

#### ■ Public Service Art Gallery

To promote artistic talent and support potential artists in Taiwan, Advantech foundation established the Advantech Public Service Art Gallery program in 2000. Spaces in both Advantech's Rueiguang Headquarters

and Sunny Building were designated as art galleries for all types of artists to exhibit their creations free of charge. These art galleries not only serve as a platform for artists to showcase their work, but also provide Advantech's visitors, partners, and employees, as well as local community residents, with a pleasant and artistic work environment.

The artworks exhibited are updated every two months and include colorful watercolor paintings, Chinese calligraphy, oil paintings, photography, composite media images, and sculptures. Additionally, the exhibitions at Advantech's galleries are also designed and arranged around the foundation's scheduled arts and culture activities. For example, Advantech sponsors the Taipei City Yang Chun Watercolor Art Organization, and every year organizes the Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award, with the winning entries exhibited in Advantech's Public Service Art Gallery for all to appreciate.



Table 7.2 Advantech's Public Service Art Gallery exhibition schedule for 2014 and 2015

Year	Month	Rueiguang Building	Sunny Building
2014	January - February	2013 - 2014 Endless Love - Chi-Wei Liu/Chi-Chu Lin art exhibitions	
	March - April	Combined exhibition by Chu-Ping Huang and Meng-Ling Tsai	
	May - June	Splash painter - Hsing-Chi Liu art exhibition	
	July - August	Joe Anderson - traditional oil painting exhibition	
	September - October	Yoshiki Naito oil painting exhibition	Yeh's photography exhibition
	November - December	Ling-Hsiu Yeh's water paint and ink calligraphy exhibition	
2015	January - February	Professor Chu's solo exhibition	
	March - April	Professor Tsai's solo exhibition	
	May - June	Yong-He Huang's solo exhibition	Chang-Fu Liu's oil painting exhibition - Transcendence
	July - August	The Beauty of Taiwan Exhibition by Hsiu-Ming Kao	
	September - October	7th Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-Yang Award winners exhibition	
	November - December	Professor Jian's calligraphy exhibition	

### ■ Advantech's Efforts

Advantech's Public Service Art Gallery provides a free space for artists to exhibit their work, with new artworks exhibited every two months. Advantech foundation assists with the exhibition arrangements, such as transporting artworks, decorating the exhibition area, sending out invitations, providing guest tours, packing artworks, organizing tea parties, and concluding exhibitions. The art exhibition spaces at both the Rueiguang and Sunny Building sites offer sponsorships of NT\$10,000 for every exhibition, totaling NT\$120,000 each year.

### ■ Future Outlook

Currently, the areas allocated to Advantech's Public Service Art Gallery program are the main hall on the first floor and B1 of the Rueiguang building, as well as the main halls on the first and second floor of the Sunny Building. The second phase of construction at the Advantech Linkou Campus will be completed between 2015 and 2016, with a Public Service Art Gallery established at that building as well. We expect to eventually provide more spaces and locations for demonstrations and exhibitions to encourage local residents to visit and enjoy the wonder of community art galleries.



Figure 7.3 Advantech's Public Service Art Gallery at the Rueiguang building



■ Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award

In addition to the promotion of music and performing arts, Advantech has invested considerable effort into promoting painting activities with support from foundation. Advantech foundation supports the Taipei City Yang Chun Watercolor Art Organization by organizing the Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award. The objective of this competition has evolved from its initial aim of “beautifying Taipei” to “beautifying Asia”, and now, in its 7th term (2014 - 2015), to “beautifying the five continents”. Taiwanese watercolor paintings are gradually gaining international exposure, allowing Taiwan’s soft power in the arts to shine on the worldwide stage.

Advantech foundation not only invests NT\$500,000 per year in hosting the Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award, but also offers sponsorships (amounting to NT\$800,000 in 2014) and encourages partners to sponsor as well. In 2014, Pegatron also became an official sponsor of watercolor art activities.

With the active support of sponsors and partners, in just a few short years, the aim of the Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award was transformed from beautifying Taipei, beautifying Taiwan, to beautifying the five continents of the world. We hope that one day, this award can become the largest global watercolor painting competition and inspires public appreciation of watercolor paintings.

The 7th annual competition was initiated in June 2014 with the distribution of promotional posters. Competition submissions were solicited in all five

continents of the world. The competition chairperson and Professor Chen Yang-Chun were responsible for notifying overseas foreign affairs departments, art groups, and practitioners, as well as domestic city and county cultural divisions, colleges, and universities, and posting submission information on the Bounty Hunter website to ensure the event information was rapidly disseminated among young students and the public. Finally, according to statistics collected from 23 countries, including Taiwan, China, and South Korea, the number of competition entries has increased from 700 in 2013 to almost 900 in 2014. The schedule for the Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award is presented in Table 7.3, with the entrant statistics for each country shown in Table 7.4. Figure 7.4 is a photo highlight from the 7th Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award event.

Table 7.3 Schedule of the 7th Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award (2014 - 2015)

Date	Content	Remarks
6/20/2014	Distribute competition posters and brochures	Website promotions
7/1/2014 - 10/31/2014	Collect submissions	
11/23/2014	Preliminary examination	
1/11/2015	Review	
5/2015	Awards ceremony	
5/5/2015 - 5/17/2015	Winners exhibition	Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall
September to October, 2015	Winners exhibition	Advantech Neihu Headquarters' Public Service Art Gallery



Figure 7.4 Photo highlight from the 7th Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award event (2014 - 2015)



Table 7.4 Entrant statistics for the 7th Continental Watercolor Art Hwa-yang Award (2014 - 2015)

Country	Quantity	Country	Quantity
Taiwan	503	Argentina	3
China	269	France	2
South Korea	19	Dominican Republic	2
Philippines	12	Serbia	1
Malaysia	11	United Kingdom	1
Hong Kong and Macau	11	Belize	1
Portugal	8	India	1
Spain	8	Guatemala	1
USA	7	Nicaragua	1
Japan	7	Canada	1
Chile	4	Paraguay	1
Australia	3	Total	877

Table 7.5 Advantech's sponsorship of the TCO from 2007 to 2014

Year	Sponsorship Amount	Remarks
2007	400,000	Annual sponsorships
2008	400,000	Annual sponsorships
2009	400,000	Annual sponsorships
2010	1050,000	400,000 in annual sponsorships/ 650,000 for CD production
2011	1700,000	400,000 in annual sponsorships/ 1.3 million for a European tour
2012	2400,000	400,000 in annual sponsorships/ 2 million for a European tour
2013	2800,000	400,000 in annual sponsorships/ Music concerts
2014	830,000	400,000 in annual sponsorships/ Music concert tickets

## Other Arts and Culture Sponsorships

### Promotion of National Culture - The Taipei Chinese Orchestra

Advantech foundation has sponsored the Taipei Chinese Opera (TCO) since 2007 by funding their training and performance at public service events in an effort to support Taiwan's traditional folk music scene. Advantech also offers its employees tickets to TCO performances to encourage attendance and cultivate their appreciation of traditional folk music.

Since 2007, the Advantech foundation has supported the TCO by providing NT\$400,000 in annual sponsorship as well as financing the TCO's first music album, subsidizing concert venue fees, and purchasing concert tickets. Over the years, the foundation has contributed almost NT\$10 million in sponsorship. We hope to leverage our strengths to promote Taiwan's traditional folk music to a global audience and increase public appreciation of traditional arts.

The foundation will continue to support and sponsor TCO performances to encourage Advantech employees and their families to develop an interest and passion for traditional folk music. In the future, we will continue organizing various performances and large-scale Advantech events, and invite our stakeholders (employees, family members, clients, partners, and the public) to participate in celebrating the arts.

## 7.2 Social Welfare

Advantech regards society as one of its crucial stakeholders, and thus, is committed to being a role model of corporate social responsibility by adopting an honest and modest approach, increase the company's corporate altruism, using our achievements to benefit society, and sharing our successes with local communities.



As of the end of 2014, Advantech has invested approximately NT\$30 million in social welfare projects, which include the ACT Story Mom, “Your Vote Determines the Power of Love” social welfare proposals, rural area scholarships in Hsinchu/Miaoli, as well as more than 60 social groups or activity projects. Furthermore, we also try to give back to society by emphasizing employee participation.

#### ■ Advantech’s Altruistic Tree Lectures

Since 2012, Advantech has hosted lectures on spirituality, personal growth, and life concepts for employees. These lectures are scheduled for every other Monday, and employees and their families are invited to attend. Through sharing their experience and interacting with each other at these lectures, Advantech employees can enhance their physical, mental, and spiritual health.

We believe that excellent discourse and intellectual insights should be shared freely throughout the local community. Therefore, Advantech foundation is planning a series of lectures, “Advantech Altruistic Tree Lectures - Five Lessons on Living a Smart Lifestyle,” which will start in 2014 and be open to all Advantech employees, employees’ families, and members of the public. The lectures are scheduled in the afternoon, and will occur every weekend from March to July. Social experts and Zen masters will be invited to deliver a speech, share their perspective and experience, and stimulate intelligent debate. During these lectures, books of teachings are provided for the audience to savor the profound wisdom within. We hope participants can acquire spiritual satisfaction through the enlightenment of these five lessons.

In 2014, a total of NT\$500,000 was invested in organizing lecture events. Table 7.6 lists the lecture topics and number of attendees for 2014. Table 7.7 shows the lectures scheduled for 2015.



Figure 7.5 Photo highlight from Advantech’s altruistic tree lectures – “Five Lessons on Living a Smart Lifestyle”

Table 7.6 Advantech altruistic tree lecture topics and number of attendees in 2014

Date	Topic	Lecturer	Guest	Employees	Number of Attendees
3/22	Contemplating at Ease	Venerable JianHu	136	67	203
4/19	Kazuo Inamori's Philosophies for Success	Venerable JianHu KC Liu, CEO of Advantech	180	70	250
5/10	Let Go, then be at Ease	Well-known author Eric Wu	148	61	209
6/14	Still attending school	James Jin, founder of Business Weekly	137	72	209
7/19	The Power of Zen	Master JianJu	106	37	143

Table 7.7 Advantech altruistic tree lectures scheduled for 2015

Date	Topic	Lecturer
3/21	Contemplating at Ease - A Life of Zen	Venerable JianHu
4/25	An Expedition for Oneself - Discovering Your Mind	Master JianJu
5/16	Understanding Life - Dream Walker	Venerable JianHu
6/13	Rediscovering Oneself on Every Journey	Eric Wu, author
7/11	Turning Your Life Around - Living a Rich and Free Lifestyle	Master JianJu



## Lita Warriors

A study of Taiwan's development trends indicated that the "fighting spirit" inherent among Taiwanese people has been gradually declining in recent years. The reasons for this decline include excessively negative media reports fostering a negative social climate, the government neglecting state reforms in favor of political infighting, and the tertiary education system lacking appropriate systems for classifying and cultivating talent. Transnational history shows that the formation of "fighting spirit" typically occurs during/after a period of crisis, such as in post-war Japan, contemporary Israel, or 1970s Taiwan when people fought for wealth; and can be initiated by policies associated with charismatic leaders/administrations, such as the Tang Dynasty, Japanese Meiji Restoration period, and in recent years, the tenure of Lee Kuan Yew as Prime Minister of Singapore.

Advantech believes that Taiwan needs a "warrior" who can inspire social reform. Because of this need, the Advantech foundation was inspired to sponsor a "Lita Warriors" show aimed at finding a person who could serve as a role model and achieve the three objectives outlined below. By using their passion as the spark, these role models can inspire us to greater success and re-ignite the fighting spirit inside the people of Taiwan.

1. Create a learning model: Recruit "warriors" from various industries in Taiwan, evoke a thirst for knowledge and ambitious drive, and encourage the public to achieve greater success.
2. Transform the impact of media: Gradually shift negative media culture into a culture that advocates greatness, and increase reports of positive, encouraging, and inspirational news stories.
3. Discourage contentment with insignificant pursuits: Show young students the various perspectives of a warrior. Instead of temporary contentment and protecting their personal interests, encourage students to develop long-term goals, big ambitions, and global perspectives.

The Lita Warriors show produced by the Advantech foundation was first broadcast on Formosa TV (FTV) in November 2014. To date, the show has also aired on FTV Radio, FTV HD, and CTS TV HD. To expand the show's social influence, Lita Warriors is scheduled to air on Chunghwa Telecom MOD, Era Communications, and Top TV in 2015. Furthermore, a series of Lita Warriors DVDs will be launched and released on YouTube. In May of 2015, the Lita Warriors DVDs will go on sale at Eslite stores nationwide, as well as various online bookstores. Through this initiative, we hope that the fighting spirit of a warrior can be spread among Taiwanese citizens. Table 7.8 shows the release schedule, air time, and ratings for Lita Warriors.

Table 7.8 Lita Warriors show information

Episode	Warrior	Date aired	Ratings (based on FTV's first showing)
1.	A Persistent Warrior - Te-Sheng Wei	04/11	0.59
2.	A Deeply Cultivated Warrior - Ching-Chung Chen	11/11	0.45
3.	A Medical Warrior - Jing-Chuang Hsu	11/18	0.56
4.	A Confident Warrior - Yu-Jen Sun	11/25	0.59
5.	A Dancing Warrior - Ke-Lin Mi	12/02	0.38
6.	A Loving Warrior - Pei-Wen Chen	12/09	0.42
7.	A Focused Warrior - Wen-Ming Ke	12/16	0.48
8.	A Local Warrior - Li-Fang Tang	12/23	0.41
9.	A Warrior Reborn - Xiang Yu	12/30	0.44
10.	A Selfless Warrior - Jin Mao	01/06	0.56
11.	A Kind Warrior - Shu-Li Chen	01/13	0.64
12.	A Transformed Warrior - Xing-Guo Wu	01/20	0.36
13.	A Bakery Warrior - Pao-Chun Wu	01/27	0.51

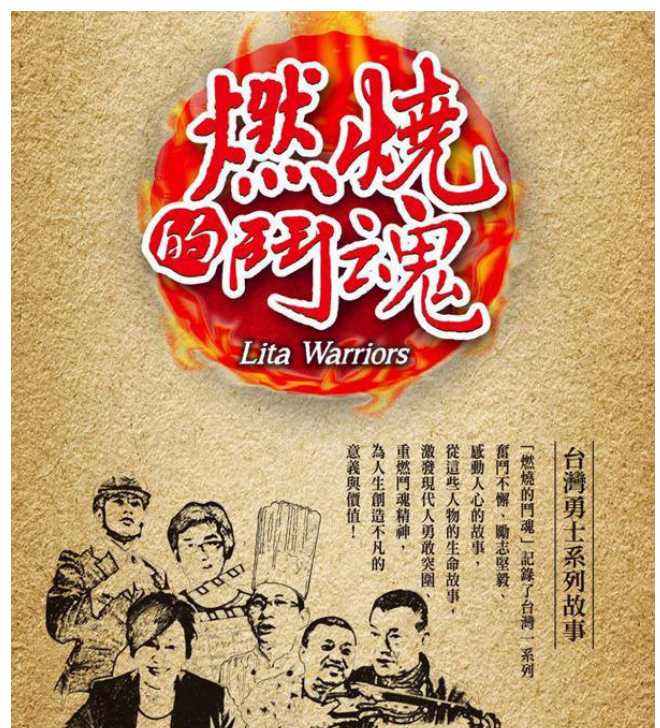


Figure 7.6 Lita Warriors DVD cover art



## ■ ACT Story Mom - A Diverse and Lively Teaching Method

We believe that “education is the foundation of national development.” Because children’s education drives social advancement, delivering basic education and establishing a reading culture are key objectives for Advantech.

At its founding in 1997, the Advantech foundation established the ACT 100 Diverse and Lively Teaching method by integrating elements of drama and adopting creative and active learning strategies to update traditional teaching concepts and practices.

The aim is to use storytelling to assist parents with motivating children’s learning and opening their minds to possibilities. Through listening to stories, children learn to develop their imagination and identify wants and ambitions. With the inclusion of lively and creative drama techniques, static reading transforms into dynamic storytelling, making learning fun and deepening the interaction between parents and children.



Figure 7.7 An ATC story mom visiting Advantech Kunshan to organize a storytelling summer camp

The ACT Story Mom volunteer program is conducted along with well-planned courses and comprehensive campus tour activities. Graduated trainees participate in providing on-campus services, such as class adoptions, story tours, reading clubs, story performances, and activity organization. Advantech’s Story Mom volunteers are committed to life-long learning and using their passion and energy to promote reading education. These volunteers help children show love to their parents at home, and interact positively with teachers at school by caring for people, events, and objects.

Since 1997, the Advantech foundation provided the ACT 100 Diverse and Lively Teaching project with

NT\$800,000 in sponsorship per year, investing more than NT\$10 million over the past decade to cultivate storytelling volunteers. Advantech foundation also enables parents to continue their personal development, reaffirm beliefs, share wisdom, care for their children, and participate in volunteering. Currently, Advantech has recruited thousands of storytelling volunteers at more than 100 schools. In addition to assisting parents and children with developing a life-long habit of reading, the volunteers also explore their own reading interests and capacity. We hope that our efforts to promote a reading culture can contribute to education reform. Table 7.9 summarizes the implementation results for recent years.

Table 7.9 Effectiveness of Advantech’s ACT Story Mom volunteer program

Year	Number of schools visited	Number of volunteers in training	Number of participating volunteers
2008	36 schools and 513 classes	224	1,172
2009	38 schools and 340 classes	197	1,025
2010	39 schools and 316 classes	131	1,675
2011	22 schools and 165 classes	183	1,065
2012	23 schools and 249 classes	180	1,240
2013	24 schools and 188 classes	110	1,380
2014	18 schools and 123 classes	177	1,350

## ■ “Your Vote Determines the Power of Love” Social Welfare Proposal Platform

Despite Advantech employees’ strong showing of love and support for Taiwan society, relying on corporate strengths to help those in need is not enough. Therefore, at the end of 2010, the Advantech foundation participated in the “Your Vote Determines the Power of Love” social welfare proposal program developed by the Taishin Charity Foundation, and then successfully established the Advantech Public Service Award. Each year, six awards valued at NT\$250,000 each are distributed. By the end of 2014, over NT\$6 million in sponsorships had been accumulated. We hope that our efforts enable cultural education groups to complete their projects and provide meaningful contributions to society.



Proposals for education projects are put to a public vote, and the most socially meaningful proposals are selected for implementation. We aim to harness social power and use people's passions to initiate a change, while also encouraging people to understand and interact with disadvantaged social groups, help those in need, and ensure the fair distribution and use of resources. For example, the Creative Science Extracurricular Guidance Team established by the Department of Information Science at Chien Hsin University (team members were elected in 2013 and assumed their role in 2014) comprised students who had assisted financially disadvantaged elementary school children in Taoyuan with designing fun and exciting science games using recycled resources,

inspiring their desire to learn and showcase their creative ideas.

In 2014, this project was implemented in seven elementary schools located in Taoyuan, including Futai, Siwei, Kaojung, Puding, Beishi, Pujen, and Caoluo elementary schools. In addition to environmental protection, the project teaches children to recycle resources by inspiring their desire to protect their hometowns and introduces the concepts of green living, green technology, and creative thinking into everyday activities.

Results of the "Your Vote Determines the Power of Love" social welfare project are presented in Table 7.10. Figure 7.8 is a photo highlight of a social welfare proposal event.

Table 7.10 Results of the social welfare proposal platform sponsored by Advantech foundation

Year	Educational group	Proposal	Location of project execution
Selected in 2013 Implemented in 2014	Department of Information Science, Chien Hsin University	Creative Science Extracurricular Guidance Team	Futai, Siwei, Kaojung, Puding, Beishi, Pujen, and Caoluo elementary schools
	Huafan 4H Club	Artistic mood	Shenkeng District Farmer's Association, New Taipei City
	Rainbow Family Life Education Association	A Different Children's Book	Elementary schools in remote areas in northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan
	Changhua Peiying Elementary School Hope Engineering Guidance Team	Let Love Revolve - Extending a Touching Life	Dili Elementary School, Nantou District Tannan Elementary School, Nantou District Peiying Elementary School Hope Classroom, Changhua District
	Blue John Foundation	"Never Give Up - Fight For Your Life" education program	Yuh-Ing Junior College of Health Care & Management Kaohsiung women's prison Taipei Municipal Zhong-zheng Senior High School Kaohsiung Cultural Center Ming Yang High School National Science and Technology Museum
	Twilight Association	Lighting Up Children's Path of Learning	National Tainan First Senior High School, National Tainan Girls' Senior High School National Yilan Senior High School, National Lo-Tung Senior High School Lan Yang Girls' Senior High School, National Hualien Senior High School National Hualien Girls' Senior High School, National Ping-Tung Girls' Senior High School
Selected in 2013 Implemented in 2014	Kaohsiung City Kiwi Group	"Passionate about Life - Kiwi's Thanksgiving" education program	Kaohsiung Cultural Center, Wei-Wu-Ying Center for the Arts, National Science and Technology Museum
	Peiying Elementary School, Changhua District Hope Engineering Guidance Team	Act for Love - 5-in-1 Service Learning Program	Peiying Elementary School Hope Classroom, Changhua District Nantou Pianxiang Elementary School
	Pet Walker	"Nationwide Speech by Professor Chang"	Nationwide tour
	Rainbow Family Life Education Association	Rainbow Life Education Sailing with Children	Elementary schools in remote areas in northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan
	Shanhsien Foundation	Working for the Future - Protecting Children with Mental Disabilities Project	Taitung
	From Follower to Fellow Association	A new wave of children's poetry	Nationwide
	Tainan City Drumming Association	Public service drumming performance - Extend Your Love Through Drums, Moving Forward Hand-in-Hand"	Taichung, Tainan





Figure 7.8 Photo highlight from the social welfare proposal platform event

The strength of education is a nation's most competitive soft power. The Advantech foundation has made substantial investments into education development. Regarding basic education, because many economically disadvantaged children living in remote areas of Taiwan still do not receive sufficient education, over 10 years ago, CEO KC's wife, with the assistance of volunteers in Miaoli, personally sponsored several children with their school tuition fees. In 2012, the Advantech foundation joined the Chu-Miao Rural Area Caring Scholarship project to assist schools located in remote and economically disadvantaged areas of Hsinchu and Miaoli. After establishing regulations for the scholarship program, the schools formulated an Evaluation Committee to select outstanding, hard-working students for the scholarship and ensure the funds are used to cover miscellaneous fees and extracurricular activities.

In 2014, over 500 children from 12 schools were awarded a scholarship sponsored by the Advantech foundation. We hope that the recipients of these scholarships study diligently, create a virtuous cycle, and develop the conviction to express gratitude and give back to society. Thus, the power of love can be magnified and continuously sustained.

Table 7.11 Recipients of the Chu-Miao Rural Area Caring Scholarship

	Schools subsidized	Subsidies provided in 2014	Students receiving benefit (number of people)	Subsidies provided in 2015
1	Sanwan Junior High School	110,000	63	110,000
2	Nanzhuang Junior High School	110,000	55	110,000
3	Shitan Junior High School	70,000	40	70,000
4	Houlong Junior High School	110,000	50	110,000
5	Yuanli Junior High School	100,000	50	100,000
6	Xihu Junior High School	60,000	44	60,000
7	Daxi Junior High School	70,000	27	70,000
8	Jingshui Junior High School	60,000	34	55,000
9	Dahu Junior High School	100,000	75	100,000
10	Touwu Junior High School	70,000	35	70,000
11	Gegang Junior High School	70,000	30	80,000
12	Beipu Junior High School	70,000	36	100,000
13	Chien Kuo Junior High School	Additional subsidies provided in 2015		70,000
14	Wenying Junior High School			80,000
15	Tongxiao Junior High School			100,000
16	Nanhu Junior High School			80,000
17	Datong Junior High School			100,000
18	Emei Junior High School			70,000
Total	18 schools	1,000,000	539	1,535,000



## Public Service Sponsorships for Investing in Local Communities

We believe that Advantech's outstanding achievements can be attributed to the combined efforts of all employees, partners, friends, and family, as well as society. Therefore, Advantech not only participates in social welfare programs, but also endeavors to give back to the communities surrounding Advantech's offices and factories by creating a bright and prosperous future.

Specifically, in the second half of 2014, Advantech signed an industry/academia cooperation agreement with the Taipei Sanmin Junior High School located near our Rueiguang Headquarters. This agreement involves Advantech providing NT\$30,000 in sponsorship for the school to establish a sports team and international education programs for gifted students. Furthermore, Advantech managers will conduct industry consultation

sessions at the school to offer students an insight into the latest IoT industry trends and technological developments, and provide a reference for their future career choices.

Advantech also established a cooperation agreement with Chang Shu Elementary School located in New Taipei City's Xizhi District near Advantech's Donghu Plant. The agreement included Advantech sponsoring NT\$100,000 to fund two "Riding the Wave" marine education activities and an indigenous folk song dance group performance. We hope our sponsorships can serve as a bright beacon of light for local communities, similar to the sun included in the ABLE Club logo, to enable everyone to enjoy a beautiful life.



Figure 7.9 Industry consultation session at Sanmin Junior High School



### ■ Independent Third Party Assurance Statement



## ASSURANCE STATEMENT

### **SGS TAIWAN LTD.'S INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES IN ADVANTECH CO., LTD.'S CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT OF 2014**

#### **NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE ASSURANCE/VERIFICATION**

SGS Taiwan Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as SGS) was commissioned by Advantech Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as Advantech) to conduct an independent assurance of the Corporate Social Responsibility Report (hereinafter referred to as CSR Report) of 2014. The scope of the assurance, based on the SGS Sustainability Communications Assurance methodology, included the text, and data in accompanying tables contained in this report.

The information in the Advantech's CSR Report of 2014 and its presentation are the responsibility of the superintendents, CSR committee and the management of Advantech. SGS has not been involved in the preparation of any of the material included in the Advantech's CSR Report of 2014.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the text, data, graphs and statements within the scope of assurance set out below with the intention to inform all of Advantech's stakeholders.

The SGS Group has developed a set of protocols for the Assurance of Sustainability Communications based on current best practice guidance provided in the Global Reporting Initiative (hereinafter referred to as GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and the AA1000 Assurance Standard (2008). These protocols follow differing options for Assurance depending the reporting history and capabilities of the Reporting Organization.

This report has been assured using our protocols for:

- evaluation of content veracity at a moderate level of scrutiny for Advantech, subsidiary and applicable aspect boundaries outside of the organization covered by this report ;
- evaluation of the report content and supporting management systems against the AA1000 Accountability Principles (2008); and
- evaluation of the report against the GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (G4 2013) and Financial Services Sector Disclosures.

The assurance comprised a combination of pre-assurance research; interviews with relevant superintendents, CSR committee and the management; documentation and record review and validation with external bodies and/or stakeholders where relevant. Financial data drawn directly from independently audited financial accounts has not been checked back to source as part of this assurance process.

#### **STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE AND COMPETENCE**

The SGS Group of companies is the world leader in inspection, testing and verification, operating in more than 140 countries and providing services including management systems and service certification; quality, environmental, social and ethical auditing and training; environmental, social and sustainability report assurance. SGS affirms our independence from Advantech, being free from bias and conflicts of interest with the organization, its subsidiaries and stakeholders.

The assurance team was assembled based on their knowledge, experience and qualifications for this assignment, and comprised auditors experienced in one or more of the following; AA1000, GRI, ISO 26000, ISO 20121, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, SA8000, SMETA, EICC, ISO 50001, QMS, GPMS, CFP, WFP, GHG Verification and GHG Validation Lead Auditors and experience on the SGS Integrating Sustainability Communications service provision.



**VERIFICATION/ ASSURANCE OPINION**

On the basis of the methodology described and the verification work performed, we are satisfied that the information and data contained within Advantech's CSR Report of 2014 verified is accurate, reliable and provides a fair and balanced representation of Advantech's sustainability activities in 01/01/2014 to 12/31/2014.

The assurance team is of the opinion that the report can be used by the Reporting Organization's Stakeholders. We believe that the organization has chosen an appropriate level of assurance for this stage in their reporting. The report is the second to be assured by an independent assurance team and Advantech has taken a bold step by offering the report to evaluation against both GRI G4 guidelines and the AA1000 Assurance standard. This shows a deserved confidence in their reporting process. In our opinion, the contents of the report meet the requirements of GRI G4 Core Option and AA1000 Assurance Standard (2008) Type 1, Moderate level assurance.

**AA1000 ACCOUNTABILITY PRINCIPLES CONCLUSIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS****Inclusivity**

Advantech has demonstrated its commitment to stakeholder inclusivity and stakeholder engagement. A variety of engagement efforts such as survey and communication to employees, customers, investors, local communities, suppliers, media, NGOs and other stakeholders are implemented to underpin the organization's understanding of stakeholder concerns. It is recommended to have direct involvement of stakeholders during future engagement.

**Materiality**

Advantech has implemented appropriate process for determining issues that are material to the organization. We believe the report has addressed the great majority of Advantech's material issues at an appropriate level to reflect their importance and priority to the stakeholders. It is recommended that the process and criteria applied to assess materiality to be integrated and formalized in Advantech's management framework to ensure better consistent result in future reporting.

**Responsiveness**

The report provides a comprehensive response to the issues and stakeholder concerns relating to Advantech's activities. Future reporting would benefit from more reporting on the results of stakeholder feedback on this report.

**GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE REPORTING GUIDELINES CONCLUSIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The report, Advantech's CSR Report of 2014, is adequately in line with the GRI G4 Core Option. The material aspects and their boundaries within and outside of the organization are properly defined in accordance with GRI's Reporting Principles for Defining Report Content. Disclosures of identified material aspects, boundaries, and stakeholder engagement are correctly located in content index and report. More disclosure on the role of the highest governance body in evaluating environmental and social performance is encouraged in future reporting. In addition, the address of DMA may be further enhanced.

**Signed:**

**For and on behalf of SGS Taiwan Ltd.**



**Dennis Yang, Chief Operating Officer**  
**Taipei, Taiwan**  
**21 August, 2015**  
**WWW.SGS.COM**



**AA1000**  
**Licensed Assurance Provider**  
**000-8**



## ■ GRI G4 Guidelines Content Index

**\*\*Indicators that were voluntarily disclosed by Advantech but not included in the material aspects.**

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