



Press Release from the Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice

Date of Issuance: December 28th, 2023

Issuing Unit: Institute of Forensic Medicine, MOJ

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Texas scholars and experts visited Institution of Forensic Medicine to exchange experience in forensic science in Taiwan and American

Dr. Peter Stout who is CEO and president of Houston Forensic Science Center, senior officer Celestina Rossi from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and professor Jorn Yu from Sam Houston State University visited Institution of Forensic Medicine in the morning of December 19, 2023. The visit was hosted by general Hou, and presented them with souvenirs. Both sides exchanged opinions and experiences. Moreover, we are grateful to director Gao, Li-Ji and the team from the Taoyuan Police Department Forensic Science Center for facilitating this event.

Dr. Peter Stout has more than 15 years of experience in forensic science and forensic toxicology and has served as the president of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT). Senior officer Celestina Rossi has 21 years of law enforcement experience and is an expert in latent print examination, bloodstain pattern analysis, crime scene reconstruction, and shooting incident reconstruction. Dr. Jorn Yu specializes in criminal chemistry, with 8 years of crime scene investigation experience and over 15 years of teaching and research. During discussions, the Forensic Toxicology Division questioned Dr. Peter Stout about the difficulty of blind tests, the reliability of

proficiency tests, and the challenges about transparency. Dr. Peter Stout said that the greatest challenge in blind tests is to make real blind samples. He emphasized blind tests provide in identifying issues within laboratory systems, and proficiency tests which examine laboratory details. Additionally, Dr. Peter Stout explained the policy of transparency legislated by the Texas government in 2015.

Forensic Biology Division asked them about the origin of OSAC (Organization of Scientific Area Committees) and why fields such as medical, vehicular accidents, engineering, and environmental areas were not included in OSAC. They answered that these fields already had well-established methods in United States. Furthermore, they elaborated on the purpose and functioning of OSAC. General Hou inquired about the possibility of dispatching forensic medical examiner for autopsy internship in their departments, and they enthusiastically assisted in facilitating such internships.

Finally, Forensic Toxicology Division guided them on a tour of toxicology chemistry laboratory, providing introduction of the equipment and identification procedures. Both parties had a very pleasant international exchange experience.