A BOOK REVIEW ON “TAIWAN AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION” EDITED BY JEROME A. COHEN, WILLIAM P. ALFORD AND CHANG-FA LO

Jau-Yuan Hwang*

ABSTRACT

This essay reviews and endorses the book entitled “Taiwan and International Human Rights: A Story of Transformation.” Among the thirty-seven chapters published in this book, the reviewer is very impressed by Chapter 2, written by Professor Cohen. Among the various chapters in Parts II to VI, this review would recommend those on transitional justice and national human rights institution, and death penalty, respectively. While the reviewer is supportive of the voluntary compliance approach taken by Taiwan, he nevertheless cautions against the imbalanced rights and obligations on Taiwan’s international status, particularly in other fields such as international trade, environmental and fishery agreements.

KEYWORDS: Taiwan, international human rights treaties, transitional justice, voluntary compliance, death penalty

* Justice of Taiwan Constitutional Court. The author can be reached at jauyuan@ntu.edu.tw.