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Low Impact Hydropower Institute and Hydropower Sustainability Alliance Announce Dual Certification of Ma'an Hydropower Station

JANUARY 15, 2026 – The **Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI)** and the **Hydropower Sustainability Alliance (HSA)** are pleased to announce the successful dual certification of the Ma'an Hydropower Station in Taichung City. This milestone marks the completion of the first dual-reviewed pilot project.

The Ma'an Hydropower Station, a 133.5 MW facility located on the Dajia River, has been recognized for meeting rigorous environmental, social, and sustainability standards under both organizations' certification frameworks. LIHI has approved the project for [Low Impact Hydropower Certification](#) (LIHI #207-I), while HSA has awarded the project Certified Silver status under the [Hydropower Sustainability Standard](#).

"We're excited for this collaborative effort," said LIHI's Executive Director Shannon Ames. "The reason we've been successfully doing what we do for over two decades is because of our partnerships. Even though each organization has its own special skillset, we have a shared vision for the future of hydropower, and we're going to get there faster and more prepared if we go together." The joint assessment, conducted between May and November 2025, evaluated the facility across comprehensive criteria including river flows, water quality, fish passage and protection, watershed protection, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, recreation access, governance, environmental management, and stakeholder engagement.

The Ma'an project was assessed against LIHI's comprehensive eight-criteria certification framework, covering river flows, water quality, fish passage, biodiversity, cultural resources and public benefits. As part of the assessment, year-round ecological flows were confirmed to support aquatic habitat along the bypassed section of the river, alongside active sediment management to protect downstream water quality. Multiple fish passage routes are also in place to support a range of species and life stages.

The assessment further confirmed safeguards for three protected fish species, and recognition of the cultural heritage of the Atayal Indigenous people through community engagement and support for traditional activities. Certification was granted with conditions, including ongoing consultation with regulators and technical experts to ensure river flows and fish passage measures continue to perform as intended, reflecting LIHI's focus on continuous improvement.

"Collaborating with LIHI for the first time is an exciting step for us," said Alain Kilajian, Deputy Executive Director of the Hydropower Sustainability Alliance. "We've known and respected one another's work for years, and this pilot has been a great opportunity to show how sustainability certification schemes can complement each other and advance shared goals."

“Ma’an achieving Silver certification shows how the Hydropower Sustainability Standard can be used in a sensitive river basin context to identify gaps, prioritize actions and strengthen performance.”

The HSS certification highlights various areas of high sustainability performance at Ma’an, including strong governance arrangements, ISO 14001-certified environmental management systems, safe dam operations, modern labor practices, and sustained benefits to local communities through mandated funding mechanisms, corporate social responsibility initiatives and improved local infrastructure.

At the same time, the assessment highlighted priority areas for improvement, including biodiversity impacts within the Dajia River valley, the effectiveness of fish conservation measures, and the need for a more structured process to assess potential risks to Indigenous Atayal rights.

Taipower stated: “Achieving dual certification from HSS and LIHI marks a significant milestone in Taipower’s development journey. From an international perspective, this accomplishment fully recognises the company’s efforts and contributions around the Ma’an Hydropower Project in both environmental protection and social responsibility.”

Both LIHI and HSA are now seeking to conduct a second pilot project in the United States. Hydropower facilities interested in learning more about the program or proposing projects for dual certification are encouraged to contact LIHI at info@lowimpacthydro.org or HSA at info@hs-alliance.org.

About the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI)

The Low Impact Hydropower Institute is a nonprofit organization that certifies hydropower facilities that protect environmental, recreational, historical, and cultural resources through rigorous criteria and public input. Its mission is to promote hydropower that puts people and the environment first.

About the Hydropower Sustainability Alliance (HSA)

The Hydropower Sustainability Alliance is a global multi-stakeholder organization that administers the Hydropower Sustainability Standard — a globally recognized framework for assessing the environmental, social, and governance performance of hydropower projects.

For more information about the Ma’an project certification — including the final assessment reports — visit lowimpacthydro.org/maan-dajia-river and hs-alliance.org/published-assessments/maan.