

World Ceramic Tiles Forum

20th meeting, Rio de Janeiro

National Context

Taiwan



National Context – TAIWAN

- I. General economic situation and trend in the construction sector/demand
- II. Trend in production, consumption and trade in ceramic tiles
- III. Latest developments in standardization, regulation, and taxation at national level affecting ceramic tiles

I. General economic situation, trend in the construction sector.

	2011	2012
GDP GROWTH RATE	4.07%	1.32%
NUMBER OF COMPANIES	33	33
MANPOWER EMPLOYED	5,200	5,200
CAPACITY (Million m ²)	65	65
PRODUCTION (Million m ²)	38	40.9

- **The construction and housing sector in Taiwan is quite stable to slightly increased in recent years.**
- **Due to the constrain of local market size and the difficulty to export, most of the manufactures in Taiwan change their business model from whole product lines produce to specialty products focus .**

II. Trend in production, consumption and trade in ceramic tiles

	2011	2012
TOTAL TURNOVER (Million USD)	324.8	345.1
- Domestic Market	320.8	342.4
- Exports	4.0	2.7
IMPORTS (Million USD)	98.2	79.9

- **Lack of energy resources and raw materials, Taiwan makers should focus their production on high quality or high value added. So that the medium to low end tiles have chances to be imported to Taiwan from Vietnam, Indonesia, and India.**
- **With the plan to increase the capacity of quality and innovative products, Taiwan makers will extend their support to both local and global markets. In recent years, Taiwan ceramic tiles have been exported to U.S., Korea, and South Africa significantly.**

III. Latest developments in standardisation, regulation, and taxation at national level affecting ceramic tiles.

Adopting to the global ceramic industry standard, Taiwan manufactures and government have several efforts to revise some standard, regulation, and taxation :

- (1) The level of water absorption: Taiwan Standard (CNS) follow ISO 10545-3.
- (2) Discussion on revision HS code 69.07 and 69.08, the nomenclature for ceramic tiles: four categories now applied in Taiwan, and we also suggest to WCTF adopt this classification.
 - 6907.10- ceramic tiles with (extra) low water absorption E% ($E \leq 0.5$)
 - 6907.20- ceramic tiles with low water absorption E% ($0.5 < E \leq 3.0$)
 - 6907.30- ceramic tiles with medium water absorption E% ($3.0 < E \leq 10$)
 - 6907.40- ceramic tiles with high absorption E% ($10 < E \leq 50$)
- (3) Taiwan ceramic tile import duty has reduced to 8.5%, lower than most of ASEAN countries.