

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

TAIWAN FUND INC
Form N-CSR
November 10, 2004

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number: 811-4893

THE TAIWAN FUND, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

225 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON, MA 02110

(Address of principal executive offices in the United States) (Zip code)

(Name and Address of Agent for
Service)

Copy to:

The Taiwan Fund, Inc.
c/o State Street Bank and
Trust Company
Attention: Ann M. Carpenter
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110

Leonard B. Mackey, Jr.
Clifford Chance US LLP
31 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019-6131

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (800) 636-9242

Date of fiscal year end: August 31, 2004

Date of reporting period: August 31, 2004

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

2

THE TAIWAN FUND, INC. (R)

ANNUAL REPORT
AUGUST 31, 2004

THE TAIWAN FUND, INC.

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

WHAT'S INSIDE

	Page

Chairman's Statement	2
Report of the Investment Manager	5
Portfolio Snapshot	10
Investments	11
Financial Statements	13
Notes to Financial Statements	16
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	20
Other Information	21
Summary of Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan	22
Directors and Officers	24

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Dear Shareholders:

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of The Taiwan Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004.

During the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, the Fund's net asset value ("NAV") decreased by 0.85% (as restated) in U.S. dollar terms and decreased by 1.20% in New Taiwan ("NT") dollar terms. During the same period, the Taiwan Stock Exchange Index (the "TAIEX") increased by 2.38% in U.S. dollar terms and increased by 2.03% in NT dollar terms. The NT dollar depreciated against the U.S. dollar by 0.35% during this period. The Fund underperformed the TAIEX by 3.16% during the year.

On August 31, 2004, the Fund was trading at US\$10.99 per share, reflecting a discount of 14.00% to the Fund's NAV per share of US\$12.78. The Fund's shares were trading at a discount of 13.96% (as restated) on August 31, 2003. During the past year, the Fund's shares traded at an average discount of approximately 12%, which was lower than the average discount of approximately 15% in the previous year. We believe that the narrowing of the discount reflects investors' growing optimism about the prospects for the Taiwanese market.

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

The global economy is expected to grow at above trend levels of 4.2% in 2004 and higher than the 2.8% growth rate recorded in 2003. In the United States, for example, growth has been driven by increased private consumption, improving employment opportunities and better corporate earnings. Real GDP growth is forecasted to be 4.3% in 2004, up from 3.0% in 2003. Strength has also been seen in the leading indicator for U.S. manufacturing activity, the Institute for Supply Management ("ISM") Index, which has shown sustained growth of above 60 points in the first half of 2004. The unemployment rate has declined from 6.1% in September 2003 to 5.4% in August 2004. In China, the economy has also shown strong growth. The country's real GDP growth rate reached 9.7% in the first half of 2004, after growth of 9.1% in 2003. This is largely attributable to a significant rise in fixed investments, strong domestic demand and exports. The Japanese economy is projected to grow by 4.0% in 2004, after expanding 2.5% in 2003 on the back of stable domestic demand and strong exports.

Looking forward, disruptive oil price hikes and expected rising short-term interest rates may increase the level of concern and interrupt the recovering global economy. However, although we anticipate that the global rate of growth will slow during the second half of 2004 and into

2

the first half of 2005, recent data provides evidence that in the U.S. real GDP has slowed from 4.5% in the first quarter to 2.8% in the second quarter. The current rising interest environment in the United States is one of a normalization of rates from a previously untenable situation, and we do not believe that the economic recovery will not be curtailed by this. We concur with the Federal Reserve assumptions of an easing in oil prices and a declining unemployment rate, which should position the U.S. economy for a mild expansion. In turn, this will benefit the Taiwanese economy. According to the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. economy is forecast to grow at around 4.3% in 2004 and 3.6% in 2005, whilst global economic growth is expected to remain at 4.2% in 2004 and 3.1% in 2005.

Taiwan's real GDP growth is expected to continue on its upward trajectory in 2004 (3.3% in 2003) as strong domestic demand and exports have seen Taiwan's real GDP growth rise to 7.7% in the second quarter of 2004 from 6.7% in the first quarter. Export orders have displayed double-digit growth rates of 25.7% in the first half of 2004, buoyed by surging order growth from China, the United States and Europe. These orders are projected to rise 21.3% in 2004 compared to 10.4% in 2003. Private consumption is also projected to expand from 0.6% in 2003 to 4.0% in 2004. For the full year, both Taiwan's private and government investments are expected to jump to 24% in 2004 from a negative 0.7% in 2003. Despite the forecast of U.S. interest rate rises, we expect the Taiwan Central Bank to keep real interest rates low in the upcoming quarters in order to facilitate economic growth.

We believe that Taiwan's economy is very resilient and strong exports and domestic demand combined with a positive outlook for both the U.S. and Chinese economies will support the market. China's real GDP is forecast to slow from 9.1% in 2003 to 8.6% in 2004 and 7.2% in 2005. In this context, Taiwan's investment outlook remains favorable due to the economic links that exist between China and Taiwan, with exports continuing to grow. According to the Directorate General of Budget Accounting and Statistics, Taiwan's real GDP is expected to grow 5.9% in 2004 and 4.5% in 2005. However, should the U.S. economy slow down unexpectedly or if China were to impose additional macro-economic cooling measures, then this would have an adverse impact on Taiwan. Other uncertainties that could unsettle the market would be unfavorable cross-strait relations or continuing oil price rises. However, at this juncture we do not

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

believe that any of these scenarios are likely, although we will continue to monitor the situation.

3

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (continued)

Political tensions following the Taiwanese presidential elections in March 2004 have increased investor concerns about the cross strait relations. The current focus is on Taiwan's Legislative Yuan election in December 2004 because it is a very highly fought race between each party and the implications that this may have on relations. In addition, the United States supports a one-China policy and not Taiwan's independence, which should be another stabilizing factor. We believe that a cautious approach by the United States, China and Taiwan has always been taken when dealing with political crisis between them and they will continue to do so. Therefore, we do not expect a significant impact to be felt by the market from this year-end election as we believe that economic development will remain the key priority for both Taiwan and China. Despite some short-term concerns over the global economic slowdown, we believe Taiwan will remain a favorable market for long-term investment. Against the uncertain political backdrop, and slowing corporate earnings growth in the coming year, Taiwan companies' long-term competitiveness should remain the same. This competitive strength on a global basis, plus their leveraging of lower cost production in China, will underpin the positive longer term outlook for the stock market.

Taiwan's stock market will remain one of the more favorable places for global investors in the future. The Board is confident about Taiwan's investment outlook and the Fund's performance should provide satisfactory returns for investors over the longer term.

We appreciate your support and look forward to sharing with you our improving results over the longer term.

Sincerely,

/s/ S.Y. Wang

S. Y. Wang
Chairman

Returns for the Fund are historical total returns that reflect changes in net asset value per share during each period and assume that dividends and capital gains, if any, were reinvested. Returns for the TAIEX are not total returns and reflect only changes in share price but do not assume that cash dividends, if any, were reinvested, and thus are not strictly comparable to the Fund returns. Past performance is not indicative of future results of the Fund.

4

REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGER

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

The Fund's net asset value ("NAV") decreased by 0.85% (as restated) in U.S. dollar terms and decreased by 1.20% in New Taiwan ("NT") dollar terms during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004. During the same period, the Taiwan Stock Exchange Index (the "TAIEX") increased by 2.38% in USD terms and increased by

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

2.03% in NT dollar terms. The Fund underperformed the TAIEX by 3.16% during the year. Relative to its peers, the Fund's performance was ranked in the second quartile in the twelve months up to the end of Fiscal Year 2004.

Based on the performance attribution report generated by FactSet (an investment research service), the Fund saw overall negative performance contributions from both sector allocation and from stock selection during the year. On the sector level, we received positive contributions from our overweight position in the steel/construction sector but this was offset by the overweight positions in the integrated circuit ("IC") design and handset sectors, which detracted value. At the stock level, the portfolio benefited from good stock selection in the financial sector but we suffered from poor selection in some technology stocks (mainly memory IC and IC design companies), which hurt performance.

INVESTMENT OUTLOOK

At this juncture, our macro-economic outlook is mixed. However, we believe that Taiwan's healthy economic condition indicates that the economic recovery cycle still has some way to run. Thus, this should offer reasonable investment opportunities for investors in the foreseeable future. There are four major factors that will drive the market over the next year:

- Economic conditions,
- Market liquidity,
- Corporate earnings and valuations, and
- The Morgan Stanley Capital International's ("MSCI") re-weighting changes.

Taiwan's economic fundamentals remain supportive and are on track for continued economic growth, although we expect this momentum to slow in the latter part of 2004 and 2005. This is due to our concerns related to external factors, including high oil prices, rising U.S. interest rates and China's efforts to cool its economy. For 2005, we believe

5

REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGER (continued)

that ongoing private investments will foster domestic consumption and private investment. These investments will be bolstered by historically low interest rates and the government's policy incentives, an improving employment market and asset price reflation that has been seen over the past year. For the rest of 2004, the Taiwan government is projecting a quarterly real GDP growth of 5.3% in the third quarter of 2004 and 4.1% in the fourth quarter of 2004, compared to 6.7% and 7.7% in the first and second quarters of 2004, respectively. For real GDP growth in 2005, the government's projections are 4.8% in the first quarter of 2005, 4.4% in the second quarter of 2005, 4.8% in the third quarter of 2005 and 4.1% in the fourth quarter of 2005.

Following the recovery in the property market and decline in non-performing loans in 2004, we expect M1b (the most narrowly defined measure of a nation's money supply excluding time deposits and foreign currency deposits) and M2 (the broadest measure of a nation's money supply) to stay at high levels. The Taiwan government is projecting M1b growth of 18.5% in 2004 from 11.8% in 2003 and M2 at 7.6% in 2004 from 3.8% in 2003. Although higher oil costs may erode nominal income and drain liquidity, the liquidity that the Taiwan Central Bank has accumulated in the past should provide a significant buffer to cushion the impact from the Fed's interest rate moves. We expect the Taiwan Central Bank's

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

loose monetary policy to remain in place and that foreign fund inflows will continue to be an additional source of liquidity.

The consensus estimates indicate that Taiwan's corporate profit growth will be over 54% in 2004, but a low single-digit growth is forecast in 2005 due to a higher comparative base and slower growth momentum in exports. We expect that Taiwan's economy will be supported by ongoing domestic demand, but due to the forecasted slowdown in the global economy believe that this will have an impact on growth in Taiwan. From a valuation perspective, we believe the TAIEX is not stretched as it is trading at the lower end of its range, the current price-to-earnings ratio is approximately 11.0 times (as of the end of August 2004) as compared to its historical five-year mean of 19.0 times. We believe that the short-term downside risk for the Taiwanese market should be relatively low. Moving into 2005, the market may start to discount the more moderate economic growth and weak corporate earnings growth for certain sectors.

6

In addition, MSCI's re-weighting adjustments should come as a potential catalyst later this year and in the first half of 2005. As a result of MSCI's decision to remove the limited investability factor ("LIF") on Taiwan, Taiwan will become the country with the largest weighting within the MSCI Emerging Market Index -- a weighting of more than 20% in May 2005. These adjustments are scheduled to take place in two phases: starting from November 30, 2004, and May 31, 2005. In the first phase, the LIF will rise to 75% from 55% and to a full weighting from 75% in the second phase.

However, a number of risks remain, related to some upcoming events and current situations that may impact the market and create some uncertainty; the results from the U.S. presidential election and Taiwan's Legislative Yuan election, subtle cross-strait relations, slower economic growth in the United States and China and oil price movements. In our view, many of these events and the subsequent results have been widely debated and to a certain extent such risks have already largely been discounted by the Taiwanese market.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Our investment strategy will focus on five themes in the latter part of 2004 and in 2005, including domestic consumption, liquidity, seasonal returns, new product development and defensive and yield themes. Defensive and yield stocks will constitute some of our investment ideas in the near-to-mid term should the macro picture remain uncertain. We expect Taiwan's ample liquidity, NT dollar strength and historical low interest rates to be major catalysts for domestic consumption and companies' asset price reflation in Taiwan. At the end of August, we witnessed steady share price performance within domestic-focused sectors, namely cement, finance, property, transportation and retailing. As fundamentals of these sectors further improve, share performance should continue as we head into 2005.

We also embrace the positive effect of MSCI's phased re-weighting changes, which are expected to draw foreign capital inflows, further boosting the Taiwan market in the coming months. We should see large-cap stocks enjoying relatively stronger performance as adjustment dates approach. We will continue to look for opportunities to accumulate large-cap stocks in diverse sectors.

For the second half of 2004 and into 2005, we hold a conservative view on the technology upstream players (Dynamic Random Access Memory

7

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGER (continued)

("DRAM"), foundry and IC packaging and testing) for two reasons; first, we expect the utilization rate to fall to a 70%-80% level in 2005 from the current full capacity and secondly these semiconductor companies may scale back their 2005 CAPEX (capital expenditure) plans. However, in process technology for IC fabrication, the combination of the trend towards increased outsourcing and Taiwan's outstanding capability in this sector should still favor IC foundry and packaging companies to drive long-term growth. Although, DRAM companies' capacity expansion in the second half of 2004 and 2005 may result in oversupply concerns. To a large extent, we favor niche and selective downstream consumer and hardware stocks in the year ahead, as some companies are likely to continue their market share expansion through leveraging their broad product offerings and market penetration for further earnings growth. In addition, softening component costs will serve as another share stimulus to the downstream players. Another positive factor for the Taiwan technology sector is the historic low valuation at around 10 times price-to-earnings ratio, suggesting that much of the earnings risks have been discounted in share prices.

As for the key cutting edge products, TFT-LCDs (thin film transistor-liquid crystal displays), which are at the incubating and incremental growth stages, should still draw market attention as prices becomes more affordable, thus stimulating demand in 2005 and beyond. The increasing adoption of monitors, notebooks and TVs has led to the proliferation of TFT-LCD products and increased investors' interests. Despite this, there still remains some concern over price falls due to production output increases and production yield improvements somewhat hampered the market sentiment. Consensus estimates suggest that TFT-LCD panel makers may suffer around a 25%-35% profit drop in 2005. In the longer-term, the TFT-LCD industry is expected to double its growth to reach US\$42 billion in 2007. Such eye-catching growth is hard for one to ignore when considering investment in technology stocks. The chief catalyst for this sector will come from growth in the TFT-LCD TV segment whose growth is projected to be at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 41% in the four years leading to 2007. Other interesting areas within the new product theme include DSCs (digital still cameras), camera handsets and optical storage media. We believe these three industries are somewhat less attractive, owing to severe competition, dangerously low margins, and the constant need for investments in new technology in order to stay competitive.

8

While the financial sector has gone through the ongoing process of balance sheet cleanup over the past few years, the sector's noticeable fundamental improvement should be further enhanced from continued growth in the consumer and commercial loan sectors. While a cyclical headwind in the technology sector will naturally lead to default concerns, we doubt that the situation will pose any systemic risk to financial stocks. As of the end of August 2004, the financial sector traded at a fairly low price-to-book ratio of around 2 times, compared to the sector's ten-year average of 3.4 times. Improving consumption trends and asset price reflation should also benefit the financial sector.

Considering the fairly mixed outlook in the year ahead, our investment focus will be in areas such as the cyclical industries which have steady earnings growth, and non-cyclical industries (e.g. domestic consumption and retailing), the financial and property sectors, as well as downstream technology stocks with un-demanding valuations. We believe these sectors should show relatively strong

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

performance as evidenced in these companies' stable operating cash flows and expected attractive cash dividend payout in 2005. We still like the China theme, as companies with China exposure should still be the beneficiaries of China's soft landing and relatively high economic growth in the years to come.

In the year ahead, we intend to continue our strategy of maintaining a balanced portfolio to take advantage of these diverse themes. We will continue to strive to beat the benchmark through a process of bottom-up stock selections. We are confident that the Taiwanese stock market and healthy economic conditions will provide significant investment opportunities for investors in the foreseeable future. Thank you for your support and we look forward to presenting our strategy again in coming reports.

Sincerely,

/s/ Victor Shih
Victor Shih
Portfolio Manager

/s/ Sally Chang
Sally Chang
Deputy Portfolio Manager

Returns for the Fund are historical total returns that reflect changes in net asset value per share during each period and assume that dividends and capital gains, if any, were reinvested. Returns for the TAIEX are not total returns and reflect only changes in share price but do not assume that cash dividends, if any, were reinvested, and thus are not strictly comparable to the Fund returns. Past performance is not indicative of future results of the Fund.

9

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT*

TOP TEN EQUITY HOLDINGS

HOLDINGS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2004	%
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.	7.9
Asustek Computer, Inc.	6.1
Chunghwa Telecom Co. Ltd.	6.0
Cathay Financial Holding Co. Ltd.	5.3
Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Ltd.	4.5
Mega Financial Holding Co.	4.3
Chinatrust Financial Holding Co. Ltd.	4.2
China Steel Corp.	4.0
Taishin Financial Holdings Co. Ltd.	3.8
United Microelectronics Corp. Ltd.	3.6

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

TOP TEN EQUITY INDUSTRY WEIGHTINGS

WEIGHTINGS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2004	%
----- Financial Services	17.7
----- Semi-conductor	17.6
----- PC & Peripherals	14.3
----- Electronics	11.5
----- Telecommunications	9.9
----- Plastics	4.6
----- Iron & Steel	4.0
----- Textiles & Apparel	2.6
----- General Merchandise Stores	2.4
----- Petroleum Services	2.1

TOP TEN EQUITY HOLDINGS

HOLDINGS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2003	%
----- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.	9.3
----- Au Optronics Corp.	3.8
----- MediaTek, Inc.	3.5
----- Quanta Computer, Inc.	2.9
----- Compal Electronics, Inc.	2.8
----- Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Ltd.	2.5
----- Chunghwa Telecom Co. Ltd.	2.5
----- Asustek Computer, Inc.	2.4
----- Formosa Chemicals & Fibre Corp.	2.4
----- United Microelectronics Corp. Ltd.	2.3

TOP TEN EQUITY INDUSTRY WEIGHTINGS

WEIGHTINGS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2003	%

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

Semi-conductor	20.4
PC & Peripherals	16.6
Electronics	12.1
Financial Services	9.5
Telecommunications	7.8
Plastics	5.2
Automobiles, Tires & Accessories	5.0
Textiles & Apparel	4.0
Iron & Steel	3.1
Others & Miscellaneous	2.4

* Percentages based on total investments at August 31, 2004 and August 31, 2003.

10

THE TAIWAN FUND, INC.
 INVESTMENTS/AUGUST 31, 2004 (SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VALUE OF INVESTMENT
 IN SECURITIES)

	SHARES	US\$ VALUE (NOTE 1)
	-----	-----
COMMON STOCKS - 93.7%		
BASIC INDUSTRIES -- 13.6%		
CEMENT -- 1.3%		
Asia Cement Corp.	4,899,000	\$ 2,834,204

CHEMICALS -- 1.6%		
Oriental Union Chemical Corp.	3,333,900	3,309,228

IRON & STEEL -- 4.0%		
China Steel Corp.	9,062,460	8,463,122

PETROLEUM SERVICES -- 2.1%		
Formosa Petrochemical Corp.	2,774,020	4,399,068

PLASTICS -- 4.6%		
Formosa Plastic Corp.	2,818,540	4,221,354
Nan Ya Plastics Corp.	3,776,780	5,212,870
Taiwan Green Point Enterprises Co. Ltd.	70,892	195,696

		9,629,920

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

TOTAL BASIC INDUSTRIES.....		28,635,542	

DURABLES -- 5.2%			
AUTOMOBILES, TIRES & ACCESSORIES -- 1.4%			
Cheng Shin Rubber Industry Co. Ltd.	2,193,096	2,833,790	

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT -- 1.2%			
Fu Sheng Industrial Co. Ltd.	1,700,000	2,620,992	

TEXTILES & APPAREL -- 2.6%			
Formosa Chemicals & Fibre Corp.	3,372,840	5,398,208	

TOTAL DURABLES.....		10,852,990	

FINANCE -- 17.7%			
FINANCIAL SERVICES -- 17.7%			
Cathay Financial Holding Co. Ltd.	6,400,000	11,182,896	
Chinatrust Financial Holding Co. Ltd.	8,476,812	8,936,848	
Mega Financial Holding Co.	15,000,000	9,074,357	
Polaris Securities Co. Ltd.	71,779	33,727	
Taishin Financial Holdings Co. Ltd.	10,625,574	8,081,827	

		37,309,655	

TOTAL FINANCE.....		37,309,655	

	SHARES	US\$ VALUE (NOTE 1)
	-----	-----
RETAIL & WHOLESALE -- 2.4%		
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES -- 2.4%		
President Chain Store Corp.	3,344,800	\$ 4,960,425

TECHNOLOGY -- 53.3%		
ELECTRONICS -- 11.5%		
Asia Vital Components Co. Ltd. (a).....	1,314,000	1,582,110
Au Optronics Corp.	4,605,300	5,910,126
Chi Mei Optoelectronics Corp.	3,470,836	4,393,076
Everlight Electronics Co. Ltd.	1,650,000	1,788,001
Tripod Technology Corp.	2,297,764	2,618,150
Unimicron Technology Corp.	3,604,456	2,222,882
Walsin Technology Corp.	1,515,291	1,005,685
Wus Printed Circuit Co. Ltd.	4,921,316	2,399,091
Ya Hsing Industrial Co. Ltd.	2,606,260	2,426,243

		24,345,364

PC & PERIPHERALS -- 14.3%		
Asustek Computer, Inc.	5,780,000	12,900,270
Benq Corp.....	4,000,000	4,087,866
Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Ltd.	2,876,247	9,417,994
Quanta Computer, Inc.	2,200,858	3,748,672

		30,154,802

SEMI-CONDUCTOR -- 17.6%		

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

Advanced Semiconductor Engineering, Inc.		
(a)	6,316,907	4,600,590
Nanya Technology Corp. (a)	3,600,000	2,653,589
Sunplus Technology Co. Ltd.	3,850,000	5,562,669
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. ...	12,069,230	16,658,458
United Microelectronics Corp. Ltd. (a)....	11,238,480	7,623,895

		37,099,201

TELECOMMUNICATIONS -- 9.9%		
Chunghwa Telecom Co. Ltd.	8,000,000	12,686,479
Ichia Technologies, Inc.	1,786,500	3,095,369
Zyxel Communications Corp.	2,530,000	5,052,273

		20,834,121

TOTAL TECHNOLOGY.....		112,433,488

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements. 11

INVESTMENTS/AUGUST 31, 2004 (continued)

	SHARES	US\$ VALUE (NOTE 1)
	-----	-----
COMMON STOCKS - continued		
TRANSPORTATION -- 1.5%		
TRANSPORTATION -- 1.5%		
Yang Ming Marine Transport.....	3,720,193	\$ 3,255,660

TOTAL COMMON STOCKS (Identified Cost -- \$163,102,091).....		197,447,760

	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NT\$	

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT -- 2.6%		
Taishin International Bank:		
0.95%, 10/04/04 (b).....	30,224,808	887,607
0.95%, 10/08/04 (b).....	10,073,849	295,837
0.96%, 10/08/04 (b).....	50,370,286	1,479,217
0.965%, 10/04/04 (b).....	20,150,321	591,752
0.965%, 10/06/04 (b).....	40,301,786	1,183,537
0.975%, 10/08/04 (b).....	40,304,947	1,183,629

TOTAL CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT (Identified Cost -- \$5,637,265).....		5,621,579

COMMERCIAL PAPER -- 3.6%		
Allied Material Technology Corp.		
1.025%, 10/21/04 (b).....	20,133,624	591,261

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

First Taisec Securities		
00.90%, 9/10/04 (b).....	116,862,026	3,431,870
Tai Shin Enterprise:		
0.975%, 10/08/04 (b).....	50,453,783	1,481,669
0.975%, 10/11/04 (b).....	50,397,816	1,480,025
1.00%, 10/08/04 (b).....	20,136,664	591,350

TOTAL COMMERCIAL PAPER (Identified Cost --		
\$7,602,241).....		7,576,175

	Maturity	
	Amount	
	US\$	

REPURCHASE AGREEMENT -- 0.1%		
State Street Bank & Trust Co. at 0.15%		
dated 8/30/04, due 9/7/04		
(collateralized by U.S. Treasury Note		
1.625%, 3/31/05, market value		
\$155,852).....	\$ 148,005	\$ 148,000

TOTAL INVESTMENTS -- 100% (Cost --		
\$176,489,597).....		\$210,793,514
=====		

LEGEND:

US\$ - United States dollar

NT\$ - New Taiwan dollar

(a) Non-income producing

(b) Certificates of Deposit and Commercial Paper that are traded through Bills Finance Corporations must be guaranteed by either a bank, a trust company or a Bills Finance Corporation. Since there is no recognized credit rating system in the Republic of China, the guarantee may not be comparable to a guarantee issued by a U.S. institution.

INCOME TAX INFORMATION:

At August 31, 2004, the aggregate cost basis of the Fund's investment securities for income tax purposes was \$176,701,772.

Net unrealized appreciation of the Fund's investment securities was \$34,091,742 of which \$38,892,788 related to appreciated investment securities and \$4,801,046 related to depreciated investment securities for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004. In addition, as of August 31, 2004, the Fund had a capital loss carryforward of (\$71,371,135) for Federal income tax purposes which may be utilized to offset future capital gains through August 31, 2009 (\$7,374,675), August 31, 2010 (\$39,995,101) and August 31, 2011 (\$24,001,359.)

12 The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

August 31, 2004

ASSETS

Investments in securities, at value (cost \$176,489,597) (Notes 1 and 2) - See accompanying schedule.....	\$210,793,514
Cash.....	719
Cash in New Taiwan dollars (cost \$2,157,649).....	2,155,763
Receivable for investments sold.....	1,644,065
Receivable from Investment Adviser (Notes 3 and 6).....	889,700
Dividend receivable.....	1,258,277
Interest receivable.....	4,650

Total assets.....	216,746,688

LIABILITIES

Payable for investments purchased.....	\$7,164,760
Taiwan withholding tax payable (Note 1)...	279,310
Other payables and accrued expenses.....	136,814

Total liabilities.....	7,580,884

NET ASSETS..... \$209,165,804

Net Assets consist of (Note 1):

Paid in capital.....	244,846,401
Undistributed net investment income.....	1,597,555
Accumulated undistributed net realized loss on investments in securities and foreign currency.....	(71,583,311)
Net unrealized appreciation on investment securities and foreign currency.....	34,305,159

NET ASSETS..... \$209,165,804

NET ASSET VALUE, per share (\$209,165,804 /
16,365,572 shares outstanding)..... 12.78

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Year Ended August 31, 2004

INVESTMENT INCOME

Dividends.....	\$ 6,296,065
Interest.....	45,618

	6,341,683
Less: Taiwan withholding tax (Note 1)....	(1,250,771)

Total Income.....	5,090,912

EXPENSES:

Management fee (Note 3)	
Basic fee.....	\$ 2,878,682
Performance adjustment.....	(599,029)
Custodian fees and expenses.....	377,790

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

Administration and accounting fees (Note 3).....	222,150	
Directors compensation (Note 3).....	412,655	
Legal.....	479,446	
Audit.....	112,334	
Shareholder communications.....	5,554	
Insurance fees.....	74,617	
Delaware franchise tax.....	49,679	
Miscellaneous.....	16,016	
Transfer agent fees.....	16,511	
Taiwan stock dividend tax (Note 1).....	569,342	

Total expenses.....		4,615,747

NET INVESTMENT INCOME.....		475,165

REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS (NOTE 1)		
Net realized gain (loss) on:		
Investment securities.....	23,795,853	
Foreign currency transactions.....	(34,517)	

		23,761,336
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:		
Investment securities.....	(26,013,323)	
Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies.....	(6,070)	

		(26,019,393)

Net realized and unrealized loss.....		(2,258,057)

NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS.....		\$ (1,782,892)
		=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements. 13

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year Ended August 31, 2004	Year Ended August 31, 2003
	-----	-----
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS		
Operations:		
Net investment income (loss).....	\$ 475,165	\$ 19,021(a)
Net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions.....	23,761,336	(18,213,889)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and foreign currency transactions.....	(26,019,393)	43,111,605
	-----	-----
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from		

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

operations.....	(1,782,892)	24,916,737 (a)
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of period.....	210,948,696 (a)	186,031,959 (a)
End of period.....	209,165,804	210,948,696 (a)
Undistributed net investment income		
End of period.....	\$ 1,597,555	\$ 1,099,472 (a)

(a) Restated (Note 6).

14 The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	Year Ended August 31,			
	2004	2003	2002	2001
SELECTED PER SHARE DATA				
Net asset value, beginning of period....	\$ 12.89 (c)	\$ 11.37 (c)	\$ 10.81 (c)	\$ 10.81 (c)
Income from Investment Operations				
Net investment income (loss) (a).....	0.03	0.00 (c)	(0.12) (c)	(0.12) (c)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments.....	(0.14)	1.52	0.68	(10.12)
Total from investment operations.....	(0.11)	1.52 (c)	0.56 (c)	(10.12)
Less Distributions				
From net realized gains.....	--	--	--	(0.12)
Total distribution.....	--	--	--	(0.12)
Net asset value, end of period.....	\$ 12.78	\$ 12.89 (c)	\$ 11.37 (c)	\$ 10.81 (c)
Market value, end of period.....	\$ 10.99	\$ 11.09	\$ 9.27	\$ 9.27
TOTAL RETURN				
Per share market value.....	(0.90)%	19.63%	(6.17)%	(43.17)%
RATIO AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA				
Net assets, end of period (000 omitted).....	\$209,166	\$210,949 (c)	\$186,032 (c)	\$176,032 (c)
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (b).....	2.07%	2.05% (c)	2.20% (c)	2.20% (c)
Ratio of expenses to average net assets, excluding stock dividend tax expense...	1.82%	1.76% (c)	1.98% (c)	2.00% (c)
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets.....	0.21%	0.01% (c)	(0.97)% (c)	(1.00)% (c)
Portfolio turnover rate.....	76%	148%	167%	167%

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

- (a) Based on average shares outstanding during the period.
- (b) Expense ratio includes 20% tax paid on stock dividends received by the Fund.
- (c) Restated (Note 6).
- (d) Unaudited.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements. 15

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Taiwan Fund, Inc. (the "Fund"), a Delaware corporation, is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "Act") as a diversified closed-end management investment company.

The Fund is not permitted to invest directly in the securities of Republic of China ("ROC") companies. Therefore, it invests through a contractual securities investment trust fund arrangement. This arrangement was established by means of the Securities Investment Trust, Investment Management and Custodian Contract ("Management Contract") among HSBC Asset Management (Taiwan) Limited ("Adviser"), the International Commercial Bank of China (Custodian) and the Fund. Under the Management Contract, the Adviser manages and invests the assets of the Fund and the Custodian holds the assets. The Fund is the sole beneficiary of the assets held under the Management Contract and, as required by ROC regulations, its interest in the assets is evidenced by units of beneficial interest.

The Fund concentrates its investments in the securities listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange. Because of this concentration, the Fund may be subject to additional risks resulting from future political or economic conditions in Taiwan and the possible imposition of adverse governmental laws of currency exchange restrictions affecting Taiwan.

The policies described below are consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Security Valuation. All securities, including those traded over-the-counter for which market quotations are readily available, are valued at the last sales price prior to the time of determination of the Fund's net asset value per share or, if there were no sales on such date, at the closing price quoted for such securities (but if bid and asked quotations are available, at the mean between the last current bid and asked prices, rather than such quoted closing price). In certain instances where the price determined above may not represent fair market value, the value is determined in such manner as the Board of Directors may prescribe. Short-term investments, having a maturity of 60 days or less, are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value, with accrued interest or discount earned included in interest receivable.

Repurchase Agreements. In connection with transactions in repurchase agreements, it is the Fund's policy that its custodian take possession of the underlying collateral securities, the fair value of which exceeds the principal amount of the repurchase transaction, including accrued interest, at all times. If the seller defaults, and the fair value of the collateral declines, realization of the collateral by the Fund may be delayed or limited by legal proceedings.

Foreign Currency Translation. The financial accounting records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Investment securities, other assets and liabilities

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

denominated in a foreign currency are translated into U.S. dollars at the current exchange rate. Purchases and sales of securities, income receipts and expense payments are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate on the dates of the transactions.

Reported net realized gains and losses on foreign currency transactions represent net gains and losses from disposition of foreign currencies, currency gains and losses realized between the trade dates and settlement dates of security transactions, and the difference between the amount of net investment income accrued and the U.S. dollar amount actually received. The effects of changes in foreign currency exchange rates on investments in securities are not segregated in the Statement of Operations from the effects of changes in market prices of those securities, but are included in realized and unrealized gain or loss on investments in securities.

Forward Foreign Currency Transactions. A forward foreign currency contract ("Forward") is an agreement between two parties to buy or sell currency at a set price on a future

16

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

date. The Fund may enter into Forwards in order to hedge foreign currency risk or for other risk management purposes. Realized gains or losses on Forwards include net gains or losses on contracts that have matured or which the Fund has terminated by entering into an offsetting closing transaction. Unrealized appreciation or depreciation of Forwards is included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and is measured by the difference between the forward foreign exchange rates at the dates of entry into the contracts and the rates at the reporting date. The portfolio could be exposed to risk of loss if the counterparty is unable to meet the terms of the contract or if the value of the currency changes unfavorably. As of August 31, 2004, the Fund had no open Forwards.

Indemnification Obligations. Under the Trust's organizational documents, its Officers and Trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Trust. In addition, in the normal course of business the Trust enters into contracts that provide general indemnifications to other parties. The Trust's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Trust that have not yet occurred.

Taxes. As a qualified regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code, the Fund is not subject to income taxes to the extent that it distributes all of its investment company taxable income and net realized capital gains for its fiscal year. In addition to federal income tax for which the Fund is liable on undistributed amounts, the Fund is subject to federal excise tax on undistributed investment company taxable income and net realized capital gains. The Schedule of Investments includes information regarding income taxes under the caption "Income Tax Information." The Fund is organized in Delaware and as such is required to pay Delaware an annual franchise tax. Also, the Fund is currently subject to a Taiwan security transaction tax of 0.3% on equities and 0.1% on mutual fund shares of the transaction amount.

The Fund's functional currency for tax reporting purposes is the New Taiwan

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

dollar.

Investment Income. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date or, for certain dividends from foreign securities, when the Fund is informed of the ex-dividend date.

Taiwanese companies typically declare dividends in the Fund's third fiscal quarter of each year. As a result, the Fund receives substantially less dividend income in the first half of its year. Interest income, which includes amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts on debt securities, is accrued as earned.

Dividend and interest income generated in Taiwan is subject to a 20% withholding tax. Stock dividends received (except those which have resulted from capitalization of capital surplus) are taxable at 20% of the par value of the stock dividends received.

Distributions to Shareholders. The distributable income from the assets held under the Management Contract, which is limited to cash dividends and interest income received, may be distributed to the Fund only once in each year at the Fund's discretion and is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Realized capital gains and stock dividends may also be distributed to the Fund. Within the above limitations the Fund will, under current ROC regulations, be able to remit out of the ROC the proceeds of income and capital gains distributions, unit redemptions and other distributions of assets held under the Management Contract.

The Fund distributes to shareholders at least annually, substantially all of its taxable ordinary income and expects to distribute its taxable net realized gains. Pursuant to the Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan (the "Plan"), shareholders may elect to have all distributions automatically reinvested in Fund shares. (See the summary of the Plan.) Shareholders who do not participate in the

17

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Plan will receive all distributions in cash paid by check in U.S. dollars. Income and capital gain distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. These differences are primarily due to differing treatments for foreign currency transactions, losses deferred due to wash sales and excise tax regulations. Permanent book and tax basis differences relating to shareholder distributions will result in reclassifications to the Fund's components of net assets and capital.

Security Transactions. Security transactions are accounted for as of the trade date. Gains and losses on securities sold are determined on the basis of identified cost.

Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

2. PURCHASES AND SALES OF SECURITIES

For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, purchases and sales of securities, other than short-term securities, aggregated \$161,200,856 and \$162,482,929, respectively.

3. FEES AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES

Management Fee. As the Fund's investment adviser, HSBC receives a fee that is computed daily at an annual rate of 1.30% of the Fund's average net assets. The basic fee is subject to a performance adjustment (up to a maximum of +/-0.30%) based on the Fund's investment performance as compared to the Taiwan Stock Exchange Index over a rolling 36-month period.

For the year ended August 31, 2004, the management fee, including the performance adjustments, was equivalent to an annual rate of 1.02% of average net assets.

Directors Fees. No director, officer or employee of the Adviser or its affiliates will receive any compensation from the Fund for serving as a director or officer of the Fund. The Fund pays each of its directors who is not a director, officer or employee of the Adviser an annual fee of \$10,000 plus \$2,000 for each Board of Directors meeting or Audit Committee meeting attended, and \$1,000 for each meeting attended by telephone. In addition, the Fund will reimburse each of the directors for travel and out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with Board of Directors meetings.

Administration Fees. State Street Corporation ("State Street") provides or arranges for the provision of certain administrative and accounting services for the Fund, including maintaining the books and records of the Fund, and preparing certain reports and other documents required by federal and/or state laws and regulations. The Fund pays State Street a fee at the annual rate of 0.11% of the Fund's average daily net assets up to \$150 million, 0.08% of the next \$150 million and 0.05% of those assets in excess of \$300 million, subject to certain minimum requirements.

4. FUND SHARES

At August 31, 2004, there were 20,000,000 shares of \$0.01 par value capital stock authorized, of which 16,365,572 were issued and outstanding.

5. DISTRIBUTIONS

The Fund did not pay any distributions to shareholders during the year ended August 31, 2004. As of August 31, 2004, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis were \$498,083 of Undistributed Ordinary Income, \$0 of Undistributed Long-Term Capital Gain, \$34,092,984 of Unrealized Appreciation and (\$70,271,664) of accumulated capital and other losses.

The difference between book basis and tax basis unrealized appreciation and depreciation is attributable primarily to the tax deferral of losses on wash sales.

18

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6. PRIOR PERIODS RESTATEMENT

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

The Fund has restated its statement of changes in net assets for the year ended August 31, 2003 and its financial highlights for the years ended August 31, 2000 through 2003 to reflect correction of errors in the calculation of management fee performance adjustments recorded by the Fund during these years and prior. The incorrect performance adjustments were calculated based on average net assets of the Fund over a period different than that stipulated in the management contract and resulted in overpayments being made to the investment adviser. The Fund recorded a receivable at August 31, 2004 for these net overpayments. The cumulative effect at September 1, 1999, and the yearly net effect, of these corrections on net assets, net asset value per share and the ratio of expenses were as follows:

	NET ASSETS	NAV PER SHARE	EXPENSE RATIO
	-----	-----	-----
Cumulative effect at			
September 1, 1999....	\$1,088,492	\$ 0.06	n/a
Effect on Year Ended			
August 31, 2000.....	58,392	0.01	(0.02)%
Effect on Year Ended			
August 31, 2001.....	(163,948)	(0.01)	0.06%
Effect on Year Ended			
August 31, 2002.....	(4,479)	0.00	0.00%
Effect on Year Ended			
August 31, 2003.....	121,015	0.01	(0.07)%

19

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Shareholders
The Taiwan Fund, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of The Taiwan Fund, Inc., including the Fund's investments, as of August 31, 2004, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, statements of changes in net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended and financial highlights for each of the years in the four-year period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of August 31, 2004 by correspondence with the custodian. As to securities purchased or sold but not yet received or delivered, we performed other appropriate auditing procedures. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of The Taiwan Fund, Inc. as of August 31, 2004, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended and financial highlights for each of the years in the four-year period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

[KPMG LOGO]

Boston, Massachusetts
October 27, 2004

20

OTHER INFORMATION (unaudited)

SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAM

The Board of Directors of the Fund, at a meeting held on April 23, 2001, authorized the Fund to repurchase up to 15% of the Fund's outstanding shares of common stock. The Fund will purchase such shares in the open market at times and prices determined by management of the Fund to be in the best interest of stockholders of the Fund. As of August 31, 2004, no shares have been repurchased by the Fund.

PRIVACY POLICY

PRIVACY NOTICE

The Taiwan Fund, Inc. collects nonpublic personal information about its shareholders from the following sources:

- [] Information it receives from shareholders on applications or other forms;
- [] Information about shareholder transactions with the Fund, its affiliates, or others; and
- [] Information it receives from a consumer reporting agency.

THE FUND'S POLICY IS TO NOT DISCLOSE NONPUBLIC PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT ITS SHAREHOLDERS TO NONAFFILIATED THIRD PARTIES (OTHER THAN DISCLOSURES PERMITTED BY LAW).

The Fund restricts access to nonpublic personal information about its shareholders to those agents of the Fund who need to know that information to provide products or services to shareholders. The Fund maintains physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal standards to guard its shareholders' nonpublic personal information.

PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A description of the policies and procedures that are used by the Fund's investment adviser to vote proxies relating to the Fund's portfolio securities is available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-636-9242; and (2) as an exhibit to the Fund's annual report on Form N-CSR which is available on the website of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") at <http://www.sec.gov>. Information regarding how the investment adviser votes these proxies is now available by calling the same number and on the Commission's website. The Fund has filed its first report on Form N-PX covering the Fund's proxy voting record for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2004.

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO ON INVESTMENTS

Beginning November 30, 2004, a Portfolio of Investments will be filed as of the end of the first and third quarter of each fiscal year on Form N-Q and will be available on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Additionally, the Portfolio of Investments may be reviewed and copied at the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 1.800.SEC.0330. The quarterly Portfolio of Investments will be made available with out charge, upon request, by calling 866.443.6337.

21

SUMMARY OF DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND

CASH PURCHASE PLAN

WHAT IS THE DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND CASH PURCHASE PLAN?

The Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan (the "Plan") offers shareholders of The Taiwan Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") a prompt and simple way to reinvest their dividends and capital gains distributions in shares of the Fund. The Fund will distribute to shareholders, at least annually, substantially all of its net income and expects to distribute annually its net realized capital gains. Equiserve Trust Company, N.A. ("Equiserve" or the "Plan Administrator"), a federally chartered trust institution, acts as Plan Administrator for shareholders in administering the Plan. The Plan also allows you to make optional cash investments in Fund shares through the Plan Administrator.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAN?

If you own shares in your own name, you can elect to participate directly in the Plan. If you own shares that are held in the name of a brokerage firm, bank, or other nominee, you should contact your nominee to arrange for them to participate on your behalf.

WHAT DOES THE PLAN OFFER?

The Plan has two components; reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions, and a voluntary cash purchase feature.

REINVESTMENT OF DIVIDENDS AND CAPITAL GAINS DISTRIBUTIONS

If you choose to participate in the Plan, your dividends and capital gains distributions will be promptly invested for you, automatically increasing your holdings in the Fund. If the Fund declares a dividend or capital gains distribution payable in cash, you will automatically receive shares purchased by the Plan Administrator on the New York Stock Exchange or otherwise on the open market.

If a distribution is declared which is payable in shares or cash at the option of the shareholder and if on the valuation date (generally the payable date) the market price of shares is equal to or exceeds their net asset value, the Fund will issue new shares to you at the greater of the following: (a) net asset value per share or (b) 95% of the market price per share. If the market price per share on the valuation date is less than the net asset value per share, the Fund will issue new shares to you at the market price per share on the valuation date.

All reinvestments are in full and fractional shares, carried to three decimal

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

places. In the case of foreign (non-U.S.) shareholders, reinvestment will be made net of applicable withholding tax.

VOLUNTARY CASH PURCHASE OPTION

Plan participants have the option of making investments in Fund shares through the Plan Administrator. You may invest any amount from \$100 to \$3,000 semi-annually. The Plan Administrator will purchase shares for you on the New York Stock Exchange or otherwise on the open market on or about February 15 and August 15. If you hold shares in your own name, you should deal directly with the Plan Administrator. We suggest you send your check to the following address to be received on or about February 5 or August 5 to allow time for processing: Equiserve, c/o The Taiwan Fund, Inc. at P.O. Box 43010, Providence, RI 02940-3010. The Plan Administrator will return any cash payments received more than thirty days prior to February 15 or August 15, and you will not receive interest on uninvested cash payments. If you own shares that are held in the name of a brokerage firm, bank, or other nominee, you should contact your nominee to arrange for them to participate in the cash purchase option on your behalf.

22

SUMMARY OF DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND

CASH PURCHASE PLAN (continued)

IS THERE A COST TO PARTICIPATE?

Each participant will pay a pro rata portion of brokerage commissions payable with respect to purchases of shares by the Plan Administrator on the New York Stock Exchange or otherwise on the open market. Otherwise, there is no charge to participants for reinvesting dividends and capital gains distributions, since the Plan Administrator's fees are paid by the Fund. Brokerage charges for purchasing shares through the Plan are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charges for individual transactions, because the Plan Administrator will purchase stock for all participants in blocks, resulting in lower commissions for each individual participant.

For purchases from voluntary cash payments, participants are charged a service fee of \$.75 for each investment and a pro rata share of the brokerage commissions.

Brokerage commissions and service fees, if any, will be deducted from amounts to be invested.

WHAT ARE THE TAX IMPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS?

You will receive tax information annually for your personal records and to help you prepare your federal income tax return. The automatic reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions does not relieve you of any income tax which may be payable on dividends or distributions.

If the Fund issues shares upon reinvestment of a dividend or capital gains distribution, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the amount reportable in respect of the reinvested amount of the dividend or distribution will be the fair market value of the shares received as of the payment date, which will be reportable as ordinary dividend income and/or long term capital gains. The shares will have a tax basis equal to such fair market value, and the holding period for the shares will begin on the day after the payment date. State, local and foreign taxes may also be applicable.

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

ONCE ENROLLED IN THE PLAN, MAY I WITHDRAW FROM IT?

You may withdraw from the Plan without penalty at any time by written notice to the Plan Administrator.

If you withdraw, you will receive, without charge, stock certificates issued in your name for all full shares, or, if you wish, the Plan Administrator will sell your shares and send you the proceeds, less a service fee of \$2.50 and less brokerage commissions. The Plan Administrator will convert any fractional shares you hold at the time of your withdrawal to cash at the current market price and send you a check for the proceeds.

WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

If you hold shares in your own name, please address all notices, correspondence, questions, or other communications regarding the Plan to: Equiserve, c/o The Taiwan Fund, Inc. at P.O. Box 43010, Providence, RI 02940-3010, 1-800-426-5523. If your shares are not held in your name, you should contact your brokerage firm, bank, or other nominee for more information and to arrange for them to participate in the Plan on your behalf.

Either the Fund or the Plan Agent may amend or terminate the Plan. Except in the case of amendments necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable law, rules or policies or a regulatory authority, participants will be mailed written notice at least 90 days before the effective date of any amendment. In the case of termination, participants will be mailed written notice at least 90 days before the record date of any dividend or capital gains distribution by the Fund.

23

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (Unaudited)

The following table sets forth certain information concerning each of the directors and officers of the Fund.

NAME, ADDRESS AND (AGE)	PRESENT OFFICE WITH THE FUND	DIRECTOR SINCE	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION OR EMPLOYMENT DURING PAST FIVE YEARS	DIRECTORSHIPS PUBLICLY-HELD CO
Shao-Yu Wang (80) Apt. 5H No. 56 Tun Hwa South Road, Section 2 Taipei, Taiwan, ROC	Chairman of the Board and Director	1986	Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Soochow University (1987-present); Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Min Chuan University, (1986-present); Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Fu-Dan High School (1986-present) Chairman, Evernew Biotech, Inc. (1985- Present); Director, TSR Corp. (1985-present)	--

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

David Dean (77) 8361 B. Greensboro Drive McLean, Virginia 22102	Director	1991	Senior Advisor of the Chiang-Ching-Kuo Foundation (1990-present)	--
Lawrence J. Lau (58) Room 101, University Administration Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New Territories Hong Kong, China	Director	1998	Vice-Chancellor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (July 1, 2004- present); Kwoh-Ting Li Professor of Economic Development, Stanford University (1992-present); Director, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research at Stanford University (1997-1999)	Director, Media Partners Interna Holdings, Inc. (2001-2004)

24

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (continued) (unaudited)

NAME, ADDRESS AND (AGE)	PRESENT OFFICE WITH THE FUND	DIRECTOR SINCE	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION OR EMPLOYMENT DURING PAST FIVE YEARS	DIRECTORSHIPS PUBLICLY-HELD CO
Joe O. Rogers (55) 2477 Foxwood Drive Chapel Hill, NC 27514	Director	1986	Manager, The J-Squared Team LLC (2003-present) The Rogers Team LLC, Organizing Member (July 2001-present); Executive Vice President, Business Development, Planet Portal Inc. (September 1999-May 2001); President, Rogers International, Inc. (September 1986- September 1999); Vice President, Business Development, Thomson Consulting (1998-1999)	Director, The Ch Fund, Inc. (1992-present)
Jack C. Tang (75) Tristate Holdings Ltd. 66-72 Lei Muk Road Kwai Chung New Territories Hong Kong	Director	1989	Honorary Chairman (April 2001-present), Co-Chairman (April 1999- April 2001), Chairman & CEO (June 1998-April 1999), Chairman Emeritus (January 1997-June 1998), Tristate Holdings Ltd.	--
Lawrence F. Weber (69) 156 Ide Rd. Williamstown, MA 01267	Director	1995	Independent Consultant (1993-present)	--

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

M. Christopher Canavan, Jr. (66) 73 Brook Street Wellesley, MA 02482	Director	2003	Independent Consultant (2000-present); Partner, Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP (Coopers & Lybrand) (1972-1999)	Director and Chairman of Audit Committee, Bruker Bioscience Inc.
Anthony Kai Yiu Lo (55) 1201 Sun Hung Kai Centre 30 Harbor Road Wanchai, Hong Kong	Director	2003	Founder and Director, Advantage Ltd. (August 2004-present); Founder and Managing Director, Advantage Ltd. (1999-August 2004); Vice Chairman, ABN Amro HG Asia Ltd. (1998-1999)	Member of Listing Committee, Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Ltd. (1996-present)

25

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (continued) (unaudited)

NAME, ADDRESS AND (AGE)	PRESENT OFFICE WITH THE FUND	DIRECTOR SINCE	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION OR EMPLOYMENT DURING PAST FIVE YEARS	DIRECTORSHIP PUBLICLY-HELD OR
*Benny T. Hu (54) 30 F, 99 Tun Hwa South Road, Section 2 Taipei, Taiwan, ROC	President and Director	1993	Chairman, China Development Industrial Bank (June 2003-present); Chairman, China Development Asset Management Corp. (June 2001-present); Ambassador-at-Large, Republic of China (May 2001-present)	Director, Compagny Electronics Inc (present); Supervisor, Winbond Electronics Corp. (2002-present); Director, China Development Financial Holding Corp. (2001-present)
**Adelina N.Y. Louie (38) 99 Tun Hwa South Road, Section 2 Taipei, Taiwan, ROC	Secretary and Treasurer	2004	Vice President, Custody & Clearing, HSBC (Philippines) Ltd. (May 1998-June 2000); Senior Vice President, Custody & Clearing, HSBC (Indonesia) Limited (June 2000-February 2002) Area Commercial Manager, HSBC (U.K.) Ltd. (February 2002-February 2004) Chief Operating Officer, HSBC Asset Management (Taiwan) Ltd. (March 2004-Present)	--
***Gloria Wang (48) 99 Tun Hwa South Road, Section 2 Taipei, Taiwan, ROC	Director	1998	President, HSBC Asset Management (Taiwan) Limited (February 2002-Present); Vice President, HSBC Asset	--

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

Management (Taiwan)
Limited (1996-February
2002); Secretary and
Treasurer of the Fund
(1994-October 1998);

-
- * Director is considered to be an "interested person" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) of the Fund or of the Fund's investment adviser. Mr. Hu is considered to be an interested person because he is the President of the Fund.
 - ** Ms. Carol Wang resigned as the Fund's Secretary and Treasurer effective May 25, 2004 and Adelina Louie was elected by the Board of Directors as the new Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund on the same day.
 - *** Ms. Gloria Wang resigned as President of HSBC Asset Management (Taiwan) Limited and Director of the Fund effective June 30, 2004. Ms. Wang is deemed to be an interested person because of her affiliation with the Fund's investment adviser.

26

UNITED STATES ADDRESS
The Taiwan Fund, Inc.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA
1-800-636-9242
www.thetaiwanfund.com

INVESTMENT ADVISER
HSBC Asset Management (Taiwan) Limited
Taipei, Taiwan

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS
S.Y. Wang, Chairman of the Board and Director
Benny T. Hu, President and Director
David Dean, Director
Joe O. Rogers, Director
Jack C. Tang, Director
Lawrence J. Lau, Director
Lawrence F. Weber, Director
M. Christopher Canavan, Jr., Director
Anthony Kai Yiu Lo, Director
Adelina N.Y. Louie, Secretary and Treasurer
Leonard B. Mackey, Jr., Assistant Secretary

ADMINISTRATOR AND ACCOUNTING AGENT
State Street Bank and Trust Company
Boston, MA

CUSTODIANS
The International Commercial Bank of China
Taipei, Taiwan
State Street Bank and Trust Company
Boston, MA

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

TRANSFER AGENT, DIVIDEND PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR
Equiserve Trust Company, N.A.

LEGAL COUNSEL
Clifford Chance US LLP
New York, NY
Lee and Li
Taipei, Taiwan

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM
KPMG LLP
Boston, MA

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

(a) The registrant has adopted a code of ethics (the "Code of Ethics") that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial and accounting officer. A copy of the registrant's Code of Ethics is attached hereto as Exhibit 11(a).

(b) No information need be disclosed pursuant to this paragraph.

(c) The registrant has not amended the Code of Ethics during the period covered by the shareholder report presented in Item 1 hereto.

(d) The registrant has not granted a waiver or an implicit waiver from a provision of its Code of Ethics.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) (1) The Code of Ethics is attached hereto as Exhibit 11(a).

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

The registrant's board of directors has determined that the registrant has at least one audit committee financial expert serving on its audit committee. The audit committee financial expert is M. Christopher Canavan, Jr. who is "independent" for purposes of this item.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

(a) (b) (c) (d) and (g). Based on fees billed for the periods shown:

2004	REGISTRANT	COVERED ENTITIES
AUDIT FEES.....	\$47,500	N/A
NON-AUDIT FEES		
AUDIT-RELATED FEES.....	\$47,500 (2)	\$ --
TAX FEES.....	\$10,500 (3)	\$ --
ALL OTHER FEES.....	\$ --	\$ --
TOTAL NON-AUDIT FEES.....	\$58,000	\$ --
TOTAL.....	\$105,500	\$ --

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

2003

	REGISTRANT	COVERED ENTITIES
AUDIT FEES.....	\$45,000	N/A

3

NON-AUDIT FEES		
AUDIT-RELATED FEES.....	\$ 5,000 (2)	\$ --
TAX FEES.....	\$ 9,500 (3)	\$ --
ALL OTHER FEES.....	\$ --	\$ --
TOTAL NON-AUDIT FEES.....	\$14,500	\$ --
 TOTAL.....	 \$59,500	 \$ --

N/A- Not applicable, as not required by Item 4.

- (1) "Covered Entities" include the registrant's investment adviser (excluding any sub-adviser whose role is primarily portfolio management and is subcontracted with or overseen by another investment adviser) and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the registrant's adviser that provides ongoing services to the registrant.
- (2) Audit-Related Fees represent procedures applied to the semi-annual financial statement amounts (reading the semi-annual report and valuation and existence procedures on investments) as requested by the registrant's audit committee amounting to \$6,000 in 2004 and \$5,000 in 2003. The 2004 amounts also include agreed-upon procedures engagements performed to the registrant's performance calculations (recalculation of the registrant's performance) included in its monthly reports posted to the registrant's website. Total fees received for the agreed-upon procedures engagements were \$41,500, of which \$20,000 was paid by the registrant's service providers and not charged to the registrant.
- (3) Tax Fees represent fees received for tax compliance services provided to the registrant, including the review of tax returns.
- (e) (1) Before the registrant's principal accountant is engaged to render audit or non-audit services to the registrant and non-audit services to the registrant's investment adviser and its affiliates, each engagement is approved by the registrant's audit committee.
- (e) (2) 100% of the services described in each of (b) through (d) of this Item 4 were approved by the registrant's audit committee pursuant to paragraph (c) (7) (i) (C) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.
- (f) Not applicable.

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

- (g) See table above.
- (h) The registrant's audit committee of the board of directors has considered whether the provision of non-audit services that were rendered to Covered Entities that were not pre-approved pursuant to paragraph (C) (7) (ii) of Rule 2-01 of

4

Regulation S-X is compatible with maintaining the auditors' independence in performing audit services.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

The registrant has a separately-designated standing audit committee established in accordance with Section 3(a) (58) (A) of the Exchange Act. The members of the audit committee are as follows: M. Christopher Canavan, Jr., David Dean, Anthony Kai Yiu Lo, Joe O. Rogers, Jack C. Tang, Shao-Yu Wang and Lawrence F. Weber.

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

A Schedule of Investments is included as part of the report to shareholders filed under Item 1.

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

The registrant has delegated to its investment adviser the voting of proxies relating to the registrant's portfolio securities. The policies and procedures used by the investment adviser to determine how to vote proxies relating to the registrant's portfolio securities, including the procedures used when a vote presents a conflict of interest involving the investment adviser or any of its affiliates, are contained in the investment adviser's Proxy Voting Guidelines, which are attached hereto as Exhibit 11(c).

ITEM 8. PURCHASE OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

REGISTRANT PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit)	(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicity Announced Plans or Programs	(d) Maximum Number Dollar Value Units) that Purchased Un Programs
September	0	N/A	0	0
October	0	N/A	0	0
November	0	N/A	0	0

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

December	0	N/A	0	0
January	0	N/A	0	0
February	0	N/A	0	0
March	0	N/A	0	0
April	0	N/A	0	0

5

May	0	N/A	0	0
June	0	N/A	0	0
July	0	N/A	0	0
August	0	N/A	0	0
Total	0	N/A	0	0

ITEM 9. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's board of directors.

ITEM 10. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) Within 90 days of the filing date of this Form N-CSR, Benny T. Hu, the registrant's President, and Adelina Louie, the registrant's Treasurer, reviewed the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (the "Procedures") and evaluated their effectiveness. Based on their evaluation, Mr. Hu and Ms. Louie determined that the Procedures adequately ensure that information required to be disclosed by the registrant in its periodic reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods required by the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and regulations.

(b) Following the discovery of errors in the calculation of the registrant's management fee performance adjustments dating back to the period when the registrant first began recording management fee performance adjustments, the registrant's administrator, investment adviser and management have modified the procedures used to determine such performance adjustments. Going forward, the registrant's administrator will calculate the monthly management fee performance adjustments based on the average net assets of the registrant over the period stipulated in the management contract. The registrant's investment adviser will independently calculate the registrant's management and performance fees for comparison with the administrator's records, and the registrant's management will review the administrator's monthly calculation of such fees to ensure adherence to the management contract. When conducting their semi-annual review,

Edgar Filing: TAIWAN FUND INC - Form N-CSR

the registrant's independent auditors will verify that the management and performance fees accrued to the registrant during the period are reflective of the policy set forth in the management contract.

ITEM 11. EXHIBITS

- (a) Code of Ethics for Principal Executive and Senior Financial Officers.
- (b) Certifications required by Rule 30a-2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.
- (c) Proxy Voting Guidelines.

6

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE TAIWAN FUND, INC.

By: /s/ Benny T. Hu

Benny T. Hu
President of The Taiwan Fund, Inc.

Date: November 9, 2004

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ Benny T. Hu

Benny T. Hu
President of The Taiwan Fund, Inc.

By: /s/ Adelina Louie

Adelina Louie
Treasurer of The Taiwan Fund, Inc.

Date: November 9, 2004

7