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April 23, 2003

For Immediate Release:

TAIWANESE DIPLOMATS TO DISCUSS CHINA'S FUTURE AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT U.S.

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University's Public Policy Institute will continue its series of forums featuring international government representatives who plan to discuss China's goals for its future and how those plans might affect the United States.

Ben Shao, director, Information Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago, will present a 20- to 25-minute address, "Recent Progress in the Republic of China," at 4 p.m. Friday, April 25, in Lumpkin Auditorium. His address, which will feature discussion about the Iraqi crisis, Taiwan's relations with China, SARS and more, will be followed by faculty responses and a question-and-answer period.

Shao will be accompanied by Carol Li, senior assistant, Information Division, Taipei Office in Chicago (Taiwan Vice Consul). Li also has served on the staff of the Taiwan White House during her government career.

A reception in honor of both Shao and Li will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday in the Lumpkin Atrium. Admission to both the address and the reception is free and open to the public.

Shao, who received his bachelor of arts degree from Tamkang University, Taipei, and his master of arts degree in political science from Northeastern Illinois University, has served in his current position since 2002. Previously, he served as deputy director, Bureau of International Information Service, Government Information Office, 1998-2002; deputy director, Information Division, Taipei Office in New York City (Taiwan Consul in New York), 1995-1998; assistant press secretary, Taiwan Presidential Office (Taiwan White House), 1990-1995; staffer, Information Division, Taipei Office in Chicago (Taiwan Vice Consul), 1986-1990; and section chief, Bureau of International Information Service, GIO, Republic of China-Taiwan, 1982-1986. Shao also served as a second lieutenant with the Taiwan Marine Corps, 1980-1982.

Both Shao and Li reside in Chicago.