Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to a great man who has dedicated much of his life to improving relations between Taiwan and the United States. Dr. Lyushun Shen has served as Deputy Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) for the past four years and will be leaving Washington soon to face a new challenge as Director General of TECRO in Geneva. At his new post, he will be working on, among other things, finally bringing Taiwan into its rightful place as a member of the World Health Organization, a development I strongly support.

As the Deputy Representative of TECRO, Dr. Shen has carried out many responsibilities ranging from interacting with Members of Congress to serving as a senior liaison with the large and vibrant Taiwanese community in the United States. As almost all of our colleagues know, TECRO—Taiwan's unofficial embassy here in Washington—and its employees are devoted to making certain the United States and Taiwan work closely on matters of mutual concern and importance in the areas of trade, investment, commerce, culture and security.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Shen is an old Washington hand. He is presently serving his third tour of duty in Washington, where he previously was Director of TECRO's Public Affairs Division from 1994 to 1996, as well as a Staff Consultant for Congressional Liaison from 1982 to 1986. In between his postings in Washington, Dr. Shen remained focused on U.S.-Taiwan relations. From 1996 to 1999 he was Director General, Department of North American Affairs at Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from 1991 to 1993 he headed the Kansas City office of the Coordination Council for North American Affairs, the predecessor organization. This important position gave Dr. Shen a firsthand perspective on America's heartland, which oftentimes offers a different perspective than Washington.

Dr. Shen's professional experience has been built on a strong academic foundation. Dr. Shen received both his master's degree in international relations and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. While working in Kansas City, he was a visiting professor of international relations at the University of Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Shen has developed many friendships and a wealth of goodwill on Capitol Hill. He has served as a trusted resource of information regarding Taiwan and Cross Strait relations. Many fellow members of this body have been fortunate to have traveled to Taiwan with Dr. Shen.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that our colleagues will join me in extending our best wishes to my good friend Lyushun as he takes up his new assignment. We also hope that he will be able to make his way back to Washington in the future. In the meantime, we expect many great things from this tireless advocate for Taiwan's interests. He is indeed an important asset for the 22 million people on Taiwan.