

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

R O C TAIWAN FUND
Form N-CSR
March 03, 2003

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0570
Expires: Nov. 30, 2005
Estimated average burden
hours per response.....5.0

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: 811-05617

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

17th Floor
167 Fu Hsing North Road
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Citigate Financial Intelligence
62 West 45th Street
4th Floor
New York, New York 10036
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 1-800-343-9567

Date of fiscal year end: DECEMBER 31, 2002

Date of reporting period: MARCH 3, 2003

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS:

DEAR STOCKHOLDERS
=====

Dear Stockholders

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

The net asset value per share (NAV) of The R.O.C. Taiwan Fund declined 19.1% in 2002, slightly outperforming the Taiwan Stock Exchange Index (TAIEX), which fell 19.8%. During the year the New Taiwan dollar appreciated 1.0% against the U.S. dollar.

The year proved deeply frustrating for Taiwan investors. Most of them had harbored great expectations that the stock rally in late 2001, following terrorist attacks in the U.S., would continue through 2002. Optimism sprang from the belief that a rebounding American economy would spur demand for Taiwan's technology companies. Additionally, the appointment in January of a new premier, known as a pragmatic leader, raised hopes that the government would focus on boosting the economy after its first-ever yearly contraction in 2001.

The market performed well in the early months of the year as a result of improving fundamentals, especially in the semiconductor industry. Rising prices of memory chips lifted producers into profitable territory again for the first time in about a year. Taiwan's two foundries separately entered into international alliances to help maintain their global leadership in contract manufacturing of semiconductors.

The improved outlook extended into other areas of technology. Flush with bulging order books, numerous makers of personal computer components raised their forecasts for the year. The American economy also seemed to be recovering well, prompting many U.S. economists to hike first-quarter growth projections to 5% or more. Even Taiwan's government showed a willingness to eliminate previous indecisiveness by disclosing its plan to partially lift the ban on Taiwan's semiconductor firms investing in China. As a result of these developments, the TAIEX climbed more than 16% to the year's high in April.

It then entered a long slump, however, declining each month during the second and third quarters as earlier positive trends unraveled. The steep fall in late April of the Nasdaq -- which declined 20% in the second quarter -- aroused misgivings about an American-led technology recovery. More unnerving U.S. news came in May with the first fall in seven months in leading economic indicators and a rise in the unemployment rate. Adding to these woes was the spate of U.S. corporate accounting scandals that rattled markets worldwide.

Confirmation of investor fears came repeatedly over the next few months. International technology giants Intel and Microsoft slashed annual forecasts amid signs of weakening demand. The second-quarter decline in memory-chip prices was greater than expected in the industry's traditional slow season while prices of some major computer components leveled off after rising earlier. At mid-year Taiwan's two largest semiconductor companies warned of falling revenues and reduced capital spending.

These trends deepened in late summer. A slew of Taiwan computer-related companies cut earnings targets and cautioned that customers were pressing for lower prices after sales had failed to rebound. Meanwhile, as signs of a weakening U.S. economy accumulated with repeated monthly dips in consumer confidence, the Federal Reserve expressed concern about slowing growth.

By early October the Taiwan market had reached the year's low after falling 40% from April. A surge in the U.S. markets then sparked a fourth-quarter rally, supported by heavy foreign institutional buying. Anticipation of the U.S. Fed's November interest-rate cut also helped boost Taiwan equities. The rally, however, was short-lived and failed to lift the TAIEX back into positive territory for the year. Among the main factors breaking the market's advance was the

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

Taiwan government's backtracking from its financial reforms in an attempt to placate vested interests. Investor concerns in the last few weeks of the year were dominated by rising oil prices due to labor strife in Venezuela, as well as increasing geopolitical tensions over possible war with Iraq and North Korea's resumption of its nuclear program.

Taiwan's economy was just about the only thing that exceeded expectations during the year as foreign demand lifted it out of recession and boosted growth to an estimated 3.4%. Merchandise exports -- equivalent to about 40% of gross national product -- increased 6.3%. Most notable was a 29% jump in shipments to China (including Hong Kong), which took almost a third of total exports. Although domestic demand was fairly weak, there were signs of improvement. Private investment grew at a double-digit rate in the second half of the year after contracting in the first six months. Despite the poorly performing stock market and unemployment that hovered near record-high levels, private consumption advanced slightly in 2002.

Our outlook for the year ahead remains positive. The U.S. economy is, in our analysis, healthier than the projections of some economists, especially those who are beginning to mention the possibility of a "double-dip" back into recession. Even if there is war in the Middle East, it is not expected to affect Taiwan as much as the U.S. or Europe. In addition, government efforts in Taiwan to boost employment should produce some moderate improvement even though the jobless rate may still remain above historical levels of 1.5%-3.0%. We are thus forecasting that Taiwan's economy in 2003 should better last year's performance.

Strong Asian demand centered in China will continue to be the primary economic growth engine. As a result, about half of the Fund's portfolio is made up of stocks of Taiwanese companies whose business ties are growing with China, and we expect to continue exploring new opportunities in this regard. Taiwan's financial services companies, for example, are in the early stages of entering the Chinese market. Given their long experience, they stand to benefit as restrictions on their activities are eased. Taiwan's producers of industrial materials such as steel, petrochemicals and paper are also enjoying strong growth, largely because of surging demand from China. Although the prospects for technology are somewhat uneven, the Fund is focusing on several bright spots. These include makers of cellular phones and related components, broadband networking equipment and digital cameras.

We appreciate your support over the past year and look forward to discussing our market outlook and portfolio strategy with you in future reports.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael Ding

Michael Ding
President

January 27, 2003

2

Portfolio Highlights
Year Ended December 31, 2002

=====

TEN LARGEST HOLDINGS

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

COMPANY -----	PERCENT OF NET ASSETS -----
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	6.00%
Taiwan Green Point Enterprises Co., Ltd.	5.75
Pihsiang Machinery Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	4.40
Synnex Technology International Corp.	4.27
Chunghwa Telecom Co., Ltd.	4.15
Zyxel Communications Corp.	3.84
Lite-on Technology Corp.	3.78
Sonix Technology Co., Ltd.	3.78
United Microelectronics Corp.	3.71
Taiwan Paiho Ltd.	3.51

INDUSTRY DIVERSIFICATION

COMPANY -----	PERCENT OF NET ASSETS -----
Electronics	16.96%
Semiconductors	16.71
Banking	9.93
Computers & Office Equipment	8.28
Communications Equipment	6.73
Plastics	5.36
Chemicals	4.40
Retailing	4.27
Telephone Services	4.15
Textiles	3.86

3

[This page intentionally left blank.]

4

=====

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND

Consolidated Schedule of Investments / December 31, 2002

=====

COMMON STOCKS -- 96.48%		% OF NET ASSETS	MARKET VALUE (U.S. DOLLARS)
Automobile -- 1.94%			
193,004 shs.	Yulon Motor Co., Ltd.	0.15	221,588
1,400,000	* China Motor Corp.	1.79	2,558,053

			2,779,641
Banking -- 9.93%			
8,000,000	* Bank of Kaohsiung Co., Ltd. ..	3.08	4,396,743
4,768,860	* Fubon Financial Holding Co., Ltd.	2.65	3,787,314
8,714,164	* Sinopac Holdings Co.	2.55	3,648,349
2,900,000	Chinatrust Financial Holding Company Ltd.	1.65	2,361,523

4

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

			14,193,929
Other Financials -- 3.38%			

6,200,290	Yuan Ta Securities Co., Ltd. .	2.08	2,979,450
6,500,000	* Asia Securities Inc.	1.30	1,851,639

			4,831,089
Chemicals -- 4.40%			

2,134,626	Pihsiang Machinery Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	4.40	6,295,835

			6,295,835
Communications Equipment -- 6.73%			

1,270,000	Ambit Microsystems Corp.	2.89	4,129,428
2,576,000	* Zyxel Communications Corp. ...	3.84	5,485,109

			9,614,537
Computers & Office Equipment -- 8.28%			

3,800,000	BenQ Corp.	2.98	4,253,446
2,530,000	Quanta Computer Inc.	2.90	4,149,570
3,000,000	* Amtran Technology Co., Ltd. ..	2.40	3,427,042

			11,830,058
Electrical & Machinery -- 1.86%			

3,046,000	China Metal Products Co., Ltd.	1.86	2,655,707

			2,655,707
Electronics -- 16.96%			

4,800,000	Lite-on Technology Corp.	3.78	5,400,397
1,000,500	Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd.	2.42	3,454,666
3,186,000	Phihong Enterprise Co., Ltd. .	1.84	2,631,088
5,600,000	* Taiwan Green Point Enterprises Co., Ltd.	5.75	8,217,996
4,500,000	* Glotech Industrial Corp.	0.64	919,345
845,000	* XAC Automation Corp.	1.23	1,762,797
1,135,000	* I-Sheng Electric Wire & Cable Co., Ltd.	1.30	1,861,566

			24,247,855

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

5

Schedule of Investments (Cont'd.)

		% OF	MARKET VALUE
		NET ASSETS	(U.S. DOLLARS)

Paper -- 0.67%			
2,800,000 shs.	* Chung Hwa Pulp Corp.	0.67	950,709

			950,709

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

Plastics -- 5.36%

2,809,578	Formosa Plastics Corp.	2.58	3,686,495
4,602,149	Nan Ya Plastics Corp.	2.78	3,972,735
			7,659,230

Retailing -- 4.27%

4,041,675	Synnex Technology International Corp.	4.27	6,105,601
			6,105,601

Semiconductors -- 16.71%

8,736,837	* United Microelectronics Corp.	3.71	5,304,499
7,000,000	* Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd	6.00	8,580,554
560,560	Mediatek Inc.	3.22	4,597,002
2,700,000	Sonix Technology Co., Ltd. ...	3.78	5,399,534
			23,881,589

Steel & Other Metals -- 0.07%

194,677	China Steel Corp.	0.07	108,674
			108,674

Telephone Services -- 4.15%

4,000,000	Chunghwa Telecom Co. Ltd	4.15	5,927,546
			5,927,546

Textiles -- 3.86%

10,000,000	* Shinkong Synthetic Fibers Corp.	1.11	1,582,597
3,710,000	Formosa Chemicals & Fiber Corp.	2.75	3,928,524
			5,511,121

Others -- 7.91%

3,700,000	* Great China Metal Industry Co., Ltd.	1.10	1,570,368
2,310,000	Taiwan Secom Co., Ltd.	1.22	1,748,137
10	Kang Na Hsiung Enterprise Co., Ltd	0.00	4
2,250,000	* Giant Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	2.08	2,971,686
4,616,000	Taiwan Paiho Ltd.	3.51	5,020,712
			11,310,907

TOTAL COMMON STOCKS (COST \$158,454,793) 137,904,028

* Non-income producing: these stocks did not pay a cash dividend during the year.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND
 Consolidated Schedule of Investments (continued) / December 31, 2002

SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS -- 2.01%		% OF	MARKET VALUE
Commercial Paper -- 2.01%		NET ASSETS	(U.S. DOLLARS)
Principal Amount	Issuer (Guarantor)		
\$1,438,725	GE Capital (JPMorgan Chase Bank), 1.30%, Due 01/13/03	1.01	1,438,111
1,438,725	Prodisc Technology Inc. (Citibank, N.A.), 1.25%, Due 01/15/03.....	1.00	1,438,036
Total short-term investments (AMORTIZED COST \$2,876,147)			2,876,147
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES AT MARKET VALUE (COST \$161,330,940)		98.49	140,780,175
OTHER ASSETS (LESS LIABILITIES)		1.51	2,155,542
NET ASSETS		100.00	\$142,935,717

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

7

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND
 Consolidated Statement of Assets and Liabilities
 December 31, 2002 (Expressed in US Dollars)

Assets

Investments in securities at market value (Notes 2B, 3 and 6):	
Common stocks (cost -- \$158,454,793)	\$137,904,028
Short-term investments (amortized cost -- \$2,876,147) ..	2,876,147
Total investments in securities at market value (cost -- \$161,330,940).....	140,780,175
Cash	3,460,405
Prepaid expenses	61,413
Other receivables	1,188
Total assets	144,303,181

Liabilities

Payable for investment securities purchased	999,385
Management fee payable (Note 4)	171,548
Custodian fee payable (Note 5)	19,061
Professional fees payable	129,620
Accrued Republic of China taxes (Note 2G)	1,013

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

Other payables	46,837

Total liabilities	1,367,464

Net assets	\$142,935,717
	=====

Components of net assets

Par value of shares of beneficial interest (Note 7)	326,990
Additional paid-in capital	306,671,110
Accumulated net investment income	4,945,551
Accumulated realized loss on investments	(104,176,303)
Unrealized depreciation on investments (Note 6)	(20,550,765)
Cumulative translation adjustment (Note 2E)	(44,280,866)

Net assets	\$142,935,717
	=====
Net asset value per share (32,698,976 shares, par value \$0.01 issued and outstanding)	\$4.37
	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

8

=====

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND
Consolidated Statement of Operations
For the Year ended December 31, 2002 (Expressed in US Dollars)

=====

Investment income (Note 2C)	
Dividends	\$2,557,925
Interest	72,116
Others	25,195

	2,655,236
Republic of China taxes (Note 2G)	1,078,370

	1,576,866

Expenses	
Management fee (Note 4)	2,231,267
Custodian fee (Note 5)	248,033
Professional fees	603,058
Administrative fee	101,000
Insurance expenses	69,192
Trustee fees	65,000
Other expenses	288,265

	3,605,815
Net investment loss	(2,028,949)

Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currencies (Notes 2 and 6)	

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

Net realized loss on:	
investments (excluding short-term investments)	(10,154,829)
foreign currency transactions	(63)

net realized loss on investments and	
foreign currency transactions	(10,154,892)

Net changes in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on:	
investments (excluding short-term investments)	(23,135,792)
translation of assets and liabilities in	
foreign currencies	1,729,215

Net realized and unrealized loss from	
investments and foreign currencies	(31,561,469)

Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations	\$ (33,590,418)
	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

9

=====

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For the Years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 (Expressed in US Dollars)

=====

	2002	2001
	-----	-----
Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations		
Net investment loss	\$ (2,028,949)	(1,768,293)
Net realized loss on investments and foreign		
currency transactions	(10,154,892)	(66,658,671)
Net changes in unrealized appreciation/depreciation		
on investments	(23,135,792)	68,725,588
Net changes in unrealized appreciation/depreciation		
on translation of assets and liabilities in		
foreign currencies	1,729,215	(12,711,118)
	-----	-----
Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations	(33,590,418)	(12,412,493)
	-----	-----
Net assets, beginning of year	176,526,135	188,938,628
	-----	-----
Net assets, end of year	\$ 142,935,717	176,526,135
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

10

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND
 Consolidated Financial Highlights
 (Expressed in US Dollars)

=====

	YEARS ENDED DECEMBER		
	2002	2001	2000
	-----	-----	-----
Per share operating performance:			
Net asset value, beginning of year	5.40	5.78	10.23
Net investment loss	(0.06)	(0.05)	(0.11)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions	(1.02)	0.06	(3.56)
Net changes in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on translation of foreign currencies ...	0.05	(0.39)	(0.41)
	-----	-----	-----
Total from investment operations ..	(1.03)	(0.38)	(4.08)
Distributions to Shareholders from:			
Capital	--	--	--
Net investment income	--	--	--
Net realized gain on investments	--	--	(0.37)
	-----	-----	-----
Total distributions*	--	--	(0.37)
	-----	-----	-----
Net asset value, end of year	4.37	5.40	5.78
	=====	=====	=====
Per share market price, end of year	4.05	4.75	4.56
Total investment return (%):			
Based on the Trust's market price	(14.74)	4.17	(41.71)
Based on the Trust's net asset value	(19.07)	(6.57)	(39.94)
Ratios and supplemental data:			
Net assets, end of year (in thousands)	142,936	176,526	188,939
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%)	2.19	2.01	1.67
Ratio of net investment loss to average net assets (%)	(1.23)	(1.01)	(1.09)
Portfolio turnover ratio (%)	107	173	165

* See Note 2F for information concerning the Trust's distribution policy.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

=====

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements / December 31, 2002 (Expressed in US Dollars)

=====

Note 1 -- Organization and Acquisition of The Taiwan (R.O.C.) Fund

The R.O.C. Taiwan Fund (the "Trust") is a Massachusetts business trust formed in July 1988 and registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a diversified, closed-end management investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

The Trust was formed in connection with the reorganization (the "Reorganization") of The Taiwan (R.O.C.) Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund, which commenced operations in October 1983, was established under the laws of the Republic of China as an open-end contractual investment fund pursuant to an investment contract between International Investment Trust Company Limited ("IIT") and Central Trust of China, as custodian. Pursuant to the Reorganization, which was completed in May 1989, the Trust acquired the entire beneficial interest in the assets constituting the Fund.

As required by the Trust's "Declaration of Trust," if the shares trade on the market at an average discount to NAV of more than 10% in any consecutive 12-week period after the most recent such vote, the Trust must submit to the shareholders for a vote at its next annual meeting a binding resolution that the Trust be converted from a closed-end to an open-end investment company. The affirmative vote of a majority of the Trust's outstanding shares is required to approve such a conversion.

Note 2 -- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A -- Basis of presentation and principles of consolidation --

The accompanying financial statements of the Trust have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Trust and the Fund. All significant inter-company transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

B -- Valuation of investments --

Common stocks and convertible corporate bonds represent securities that are traded on the Taiwan Stock Exchange or the Taiwan over-the-counter market. Except when price movements are constrained by collars imposed by Republic of China regulations, in which case the Trust's Board of Trustees has provided for the use of fair valuation procedures, such securities are valued at the closing market price, or, if not quoted at the end of the period, generally at the last quoted closing market price. Short-term investments are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. Under this method, the difference between the cost of each security and its value at maturity is accrued into income on a straight-line basis over the days to maturity.

C -- Security transactions and investment income --

Security transactions are recorded on the date the transactions are entered into (the trade date). Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date, and interest income is recorded on the accrual basis as it is earned.

D -- Realized gains and losses --

Realized gains and losses on security transactions are determined for financial reporting purposes using the average cost method for the cost of investments.

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

For federal income tax purposes, realized gains and losses on security transactions are determined using the first-in-first-out method. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002, the Trust generated a net capital loss of \$16,589,494, which includes a post-October 31, 2001 net capital loss of \$7,449,824, and maintained a cumulative prior year capital loss carryover of \$89,141,756, resulting in a total capital loss carryover of \$105,731,250. This capital loss carryover may be used to offset any future capital gains generated by the Trust, and if unused, \$89,141,756 of such loss will expire on December 31, 2009, and \$16,589,494 of such loss will expire on December 31, 2010. In addition, the Trust generated a post-October 31, 2002 net capital loss of \$253,890, which, if unused, will expire on December 31, 2011.

12

=====

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements / December 31, 2002 (Expressed in US Dollars)

=====

E -- Foreign currency translation --

Substantially all of the Trust's income is earned, and its expenses are largely paid, in New Taiwan Dollars ("NT\$"). The cost and market value of securities, currency holdings and other assets and liabilities which are denominated in NT\$ are reported in the accompanying consolidated financial statements after translation into United States Dollars based on the closing market rate for United States Dollars in Taiwan at the end of the period. At December 31, 2002, this rate was approximately NT\$34.753 to \$1.00. Investment income and expenses are translated at an average exchange rate for the period. Currency translation gains or losses are reported as a separate component of changes in net assets resulting from operations.

The Trust does not separately record that portion of the results of operations resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in market prices of securities held. Such fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss from investments.

F -- Distributions to shareholders --

It is the Trust's policy to distribute all ordinary income and net capital gains calculated in accordance with U.S. federal income tax regulations. Such calculations may differ from those based on accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). Permanent book and tax differences primarily relate to the treatment of the Trust's gains from the disposition of passive foreign investment company shares as well as the nondeductibility of net operating losses for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, accumulated net investment income was increased and additional paid in capital was decreased to reflect the impact of the aforementioned permanent differences in accordance with GAAP. Such reclassification does not impact the net asset value of the Fund. Temporary book and tax differences are primarily due to differing treatments for certain foreign currency losses.

G -- Taxes --

The Trust intends to continue to elect and to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). If the Trust complies with all of the applicable requirements of the Code, it will not be subject to U.S. federal income and excise taxes provided

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

that it distributes all of its investment company taxable income and net capital gains to its shareholders.

The Republic of China ("R.O.C.") levies a tax at the rate of 20% on cash dividends and interest received by the Trust on investments in R.O.C. securities. In addition, a 20% tax is levied based on the par value of stock dividends (except those which have resulted from capitalization of capital surplus) received by the Trust. For the twelve months ended December 31, 2002, the total par value of stock dividends received was \$2,685,351.

Realized gains on securities transactions are not subject to income tax in the R.O.C.; instead, a securities transaction tax of 0.3% of the market value of stocks sold or transferred, and 0.1% of the market value of bonds and beneficial certificates sold or transferred, is levied. Proceeds from sales of investments are net of securities transaction tax paid of \$501,461 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2002.

H -- 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 consolidated financial statements, consolidated financial highlights and the accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Note 3 -- Investment Considerations

Because the Trust concentrates its investments in publicly traded equity and debt securities issued by R.O.C. corporations, its portfolio involves considerations not typically associated with investing in U.S. securities. In addition, the Trust is more susceptible to factors adversely affecting the R.O.C. economy than a fund not concentrated in these issuers to the same extent. Since the Trust's investment securities are primarily denominated in New Taiwan Dollars, changes in the relationship of the New Taiwan Dollar to the U.S. Dollar may also significantly affect the value of the investments and the earnings of the Trust.

13

Note 4 -- Investment Management

Pursuant to an investment contract (the "Investment Contract"), IIT (the "Manager"), an R.O.C. corporation, is responsible, among other things, for investing and managing the assets of the Trust and administering the Trust's affairs. Through December 31, 2002, the Trust paid the Manager a fee in NT\$, which is accrued daily and paid monthly in arrears, at the annual rate of 1.35% of the net asset value ("NAV") with respect to Trust assets held in Taiwan under the Investment Contract up to NT\$6 billion, 1.15% of such NAV in excess of NT\$6 billion up to NT\$8 billion, 0.95% of such NAV in excess of NT\$8 billion up to NT\$10 billion, and 0.75% of such NAV in excess of NT\$10 billion.

Note 5 -- Custodian

Pursuant to the Investment Contract, the Central Trust of China ("CTC") serves as custodian of the assets of the Trust held in the R.O.C. CTC owns 7.74% of the outstanding capital stock of IIT. Through December 31, 2002, the Trust paid CTC a monthly fee in NT\$ at the annual rate of 0.15% of the NAV with respect to

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

Trust assets held in Taiwan under the Investment Contract up to NT\$6 billion, 0.13% of such NAV in excess of NT\$6 billion up to NT\$8 billion, 0.11% of such NAV in excess of NT\$8 billion up to NT\$10 billion, and 0.09% of such NAV in excess of NT\$10 billion, subject to a minimum annual fee of NT\$2.4 million.

Note 6 -- Investments in Securities

Purchases and proceeds from sales, excluding short-term investments, for the twelve months ended December 31, 2002, included approximately \$171,984,139 for stock and bond purchases and approximately \$170,287,677 for stock and bond sales, respectively.

At December 31, 2002, the cost of investments, excluding bonds and short-term investments, for U.S. federal income tax purposes was \$159,522,103. At December 31, 2002, the net unrealized depreciation on investments of \$18,741,928 computed on a U.S. federal income tax basis consisted of \$5,655,911 of gross unrealized appreciation and \$24,397,839 of gross unrealized depreciation.

Note 7 -- Shares of Beneficial Interest

The Trust's "Declaration of Trust" permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest or additional classes of other securities. The shares have a par value of \$0.01, and no other classes of securities are outstanding at present. At December 31, 2002, 32,698,976 shares were outstanding.

The Fund and its predecessor, The Taiwan (R.O.C.) Fund, have been certified as distributing funds by the Board of Inland Revenue of the United Kingdom for the period from their inception to December 31, 2001. The Fund intends to apply for such status for succeeding accounting periods.

Michael Ding has been portfolio manager of the Fund since July 1999, its President since September 1999 and a trustee since June 2001. He had been the Fund's deputy manager since March 1999. Mr. Ding is also the President and Chief Investment Officer of International Investment Trust Co. (IIT), the Fund's investment manager. He has worked for the past four years at IIT, where he was previously senior vice president.

Mr. Ding served as chief economist and head of research at Citicorp International Securities Ltd. in Taipei from 1996 to 1999 and as head of research and information for the greater China region at McKinsey & Co. from 1994 to 1996.

14

[GRAPHIC OMITTED - LOGO KPMG]

[LETTERHEAD OF KPMG]

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

The Trustees and Shareholders of
The R.O.C. Taiwan Fund:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statement of assets and liabilities of The R.O.C. Taiwan Fund, a Massachusetts business trust (the "Trust"), including the consolidated schedule of investments, as of December 31, 2002, and the related consolidated statement of operations for the year then ended, the consolidated statements of changes in net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the consolidated financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended. These consolidated financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Trust's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements and financial highlights. Our procedures included physical inspection or confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2002, by correspondence with the Trust's custodian and brokers. As to securities purchased but not yet received, 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 consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The R.O.C. Taiwan Fund as of December 31, 2002, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/ KPMG

Taipei, Taiwan
January 10, 2003

15

Information Concerning Trustees and Officers

=====

NAME (AGE) AND ADDRESS	POSITION(S) HELD WITH THE TRUST	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS
------------------------	---------------------------------	--	---

Interested Trustees *

Chi-Chu Chen (60)	Trustee and	Trustee since	Chairman of the M
-------------------	-------------	---------------	-------------------

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

167 Fuhsing North Road Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Chairman	September 2002 and until the 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the special meeting in lieu thereof; and Chairman since September 2002	May 2002; Executive Vice Pr International Com Bank of China, fr 1998 to May 2002
Michael Ding (45) 167 Fuhsing North Road Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Trustee and President	Trustee since 2001 and until the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the special meeting in lieu thereof;and President since September 1999	President of the since February 20 Senior Vice Presi the Manager from 1999 to February Chief Economist a Head of Research, International Sec Taipei, Taiwan, f to 1998 to 1999
Cheng-Cheng Tung (63) 167 Fuhsing North Road Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Trustee	Trustee since February 2002 and until the 2003 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the special meeting in lieu thereof	President, United Chinese Commercia ("UWCCB"), since November 2000; General Manager, since 1998; Executive Vice Pr UWCCB, from prior 1998 to 2000

Non-Interested Trustees

Edward B. Collins (60) China Vest LLC 160 Sansome Street 18th Floor San Francisco, California 94104 U.S.A.	Trustee	Trustee since 2000 and until the 2003 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the special meeting in lieu thereof	Managing Director Vest Group (Ventur Investment), sinc to 1998
Alex Hammond-Chambers (60) 29 Rutland Square Edinburgh EH1 2BW United Kingdom	Trustee	Trustee since June 2002 and until the 2003 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the special meeting in lieu thereof	Chairman, Alex Ha Chambers & Compan (Directorial Serv since prior to 19

16

Information Concerning Trustees and Officers
=====

POSITION(S) TERM OF OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OCCUPA

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

NAME (AGE) AND ADDRESS	HELD WITH THE TRUST	LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS
Pedro-Pablo Kuczynski (64) 2665 S. Bayshore Drive Suite 1101 Coconut Grove, Florida 33153 U.S.A.	Trustee	Trustee from 1989 to June 2001 and since September 2002 and until the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the special meeting in lieu thereof	Minister of Economic Finance of Peru from to July 2002; President and Chief Officer, Latin American Enterprise Fund Management since 1998; President Chief Executive Officer Latin America Enterprise Capital Corporation prior to 1998; President Chief Executive Officer Westfield Capital prior to 1998
David N. Laux (75) 2560 N. 23rd Road Arlington, Virginia 22207 U.S.A.	Trustee	Trustee since 1992 and until the 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the special meeting in lieu thereof	President, US-Taiwan Forum, since 2000; President, US-ROC Business Council, from 1998 to 2000
Robert P. Parker (61) 44 Montgomery Street Suite 3800 San Francisco, California 94104 U.S.A.	Trustee	Trustee since 1998 and until the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or the special meeting in lieu thereof	Chairman, Parker Capital, Inc. (former Allegro Capital), since prior to 1998

Non-Trustee Officer			

Peggy Chen (40) 167 Fuhsing North Road Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer	Officer since 2000	Vice President (former the Manager since Manager of Financial Shin Fu Life Insurance from prior to 1998)

* These Trustees are considered to be "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended) of the Trust. Mr. Chen is deemed to be an interested person of the Trust because of his affiliation with the Manager. Mr. Ding is deemed to be an interested person of the Trust because of his affiliation with the Manager and his position as President of the Trust. Mr. Tung is deemed to be an interested person of the Trust because of his affiliation with UWCCB, a shareholder of the Manager.

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

[This page intentionally left blank.]

19

[GRAPHIC OMITTED - LOGO THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND]

Annual Report
December 31, 2002

THE R.O.C. TAIWAN FUND
www.roctaiwanfund.com

Manager:
International Investment Trust Company Limited
17th Floor
167 Fuhsing North Road
Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China
Telephone: 886-2-2713-7702
Fax: 886-2-2717-3077

Officers and Trustees:
Chi-Chu Chen, Chairman and Trustee
Michael Ding, President and Trustee
Edward B. Collins, Trustee and Audit Committee
Member
Alex Hammond-Chambers, Trustee and Audit
Committee Member
Pedro-Pablo Kuczynski, Trustee and Audit Committee Member
David N. Laux, Trustee and Audit Committee
Member
Robert P. Parker, Trustee and Audit Committee
Member
Cheng-Cheng Tung, Trustee
Peggy Chen, Chief Financial Officer,
Treasurer and Secretary

Custodian:
Central Trust of China
49 Wuchang Street, Sec. 1
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China

Transfer Agent,
Paying and Plan Agent:
Equiserve Trust Company, NA
P.O. Box 43011
Providence, RI 02940-3011
U.S.A.
Telephone: 1-800-426-5523

U.S. Administrator:
Citigate Financial Intelligence
62 West 45th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10036
U.S.A.
Telephone: (212) 840-0008

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

U.S. Legal Counsel:
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
1285 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019-6064
Telephone: (212) 373-3000

For information on the Fund, including the NAV,
please call toll free 1-800-343-9567.

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS:

This information is not required to be disclosed as the annual report covered by
this Form N-CSR is for a fiscal year that ended before July 15, 2003.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT:

This information is not required to be disclosed as the annual report covered by
this Form N-CSR is for a fiscal year that ended before July 15, 2003.

ITEM 9. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES:

This information is not required to be disclosed as this Form N-CSR is being
filed prior to March 31, 2003.

ITEM 10. EXHIBITS

10(A) CODE OF ETHICS:

Not applicable.

10(B) CERTIFICATIONS:

See Exhibit 99.1 attached hereto.

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 R.O.C. Taiwan Fund

By: /s/ Michael Ding

Name: Michael Ding
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 3, 2003

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/ Michael Ding

Name: Michael Ding

Edgar Filing: R O C TAIWAN FUND - Form N-CSR

Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Peggy Chen

Name: Peggy Chen

Title: Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 3, 2003