



## Family Background

President Tsai Ing-wen was born in Taipei on Aug. 31, 1956. She is of Hakka and aboriginal descent, and also has a Paiwan tribal name, Tjuku.

The Tsai family is a success story of Taiwan's vibrant small and medium enterprises; her father single-handedly built a transportation and car maintenance business from the ground up. President Tsai inherited his resilience, professionalism, flexibility, and diligence.

## Education Background

President Tsai grew up in Taipei's Zhongshan District and was a student at the Zhongshan Girls' High School. After graduating from National Taiwan University's College of Law, President Tsai obtained her Master of Laws from Cornell University in the United States. She then went to the United Kingdom for further study and obtained her doctoral degree in law at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

## Academic Achievements

While studying at LSE, President Tsai specialized in international political economy and the redistribution issues caused by globalization and changes in the structure of the global economy. Her doctoral thesis was titled *Unfair Trade Practices and Safeguard Actions* and discusses the extent to which protection mechanisms can be constructed in a rapidly changing global market system.

## Political Experience

President Tsai has impressive and comprehensive political experience. From 1992 to 2000, she served as Chief Legal Consultant for the Bureau of Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA). She was also appointed Commissioner of the International Trade Commission for MOEA. President Tsai spearheaded the drafting of regulations on *Governing Relations with Hong Kong and Macau*, and also served in positions such as Senior Adviser to the Mainland Affairs Council, Commissioner of the Fair Trade Commission, Senior Adviser to the National Security Council, and Research Member of the National Unification Council.

From 2000 to 2004, President Tsai was also appointed to many important government positions, including Chairperson of the Mainland Affairs Council and Minister without Portfolio. In 2004, President Tsai joined the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). She was nominated and served as legislator-at-large in 2005. From 2006 to 2007, President Tsai assumed the posts of Vice Premier and Convener of the Consumer Protection Committee at the Executive Yuan. From 2007 to 2008, President Tsai was National Policy Adviser to the President.

After the DPP returned to the opposition in 2008, President Tsai was elected as the 12th and 13th party Chairperson. In 2010, she ran for mayor of New Taipei City, and in 2012 she represented the DPP in the presidential election. After her defeat in that election, President Tsai dedicated herself to grassroots and community work.

In 2014, President Tsai was elected as the 15th Chairperson of the DPP. She was nominated as the DPP's candidate for the 14th presidential election in 2015 and was victorious in the January 16, 2016, presidential election.

## Governing Philosophy

President Tsai proposes a new model for economic development based on innovation, employment and distribution. Through enhancing the level of industrial productivity and increasing employment opportunities, this model aims to raise salaries to achieve equitable wealth distribution. President Tsai also advocates for political reforms in order to cultivate an effective and cohesive political environment as the top priority of her administration.

President Tsai identifies Taiwan's pension system, housing, food safety, community-based care and crime prevention as the focus in building a comprehensive social safety net.

Most importantly, President Tsai is dedicated to the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. She has also proposed a "New Southbound Policy" to pursue multi-faceted exchanges with ASEAN and South Asian countries. Through pragmatism and the deepening of relationships with nations around the world, Taiwan can fulfill its role as a reliable member of the global community.



# Tsai Ing-wen

PRESIDENT  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)