



# Taiwan Newsletter

## Headline News

### President Tsai praises robust Taiwan-US relations

On Jan. 30 President Tsai Ing-wen said that Taiwan-US relations are going from strength to strength-based on a mutual commitment promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. While receiving the delegation from Washington headquartered think tank The Heritage Foundation led by co-founder Edwin J. Fuelner at the Office of the President, Tsai said that the nation's strategic significance is highlighted by the Taiwan-US-Japan Trilateral Security Dialogue staged last month in Taipei City.



The president expressed her appreciation for the foundation co-organizing the dialogue as well as its in-depth research and analysis on Taiwan-US and cross-strait relations, arms sales and regional security; long-term support for the nation's development; and ongoing measures to bolster ties between the two sides. In its analysis of Beijing's unilateral opening of the M503 flight and extension routes, Heritage vigorously advocated robust US support for Taiwan. A recent foundation article on M503 also called for the US government to back Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization.

## International News

### MOFA thanks allies, like-minded nations for supporting Taiwan's WHA participation

The staunch support of Republic of

China (Taiwan) diplomatic allies and like-minded countries for the nation's participation in the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organization, is greatly appreciated and underscores Taiwan's major contributions to international medical development, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jan. 29. Representatives from ROC diplomatic allies Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Swaziland as well as like-minded nations Japan and the US reiterated the importance of Taiwan's engagement in global health and disease prevention networks at the 142<sup>nd</sup> session of the WHO Executive Board on Jan. 22-27 in Geneva.



The MOFA urged the WHA to recognize Taiwan's medical and health expertise and experience, as well as uphold the universal right to health. Only the democratically elected government can represent the 23 million people of Taiwan, the ministry said, adding that it will continue to work with the Ministry of Health and Welfare as well as related organizations to promote Taiwan's meaningful participation in the assembly.

## Domestic News

### National Health Insurance enters new era of cloud-based records management

According to the National Health Insurance Administration (NHIA) under the Ministry of Health and Welfare on Jan. 30, Taiwan's National Health Insurance system is entering a new era of efficiency and upgraded services following the recent launch of a cloud-based medical

records management platform. Taiwan is a recognized global leader when it comes to universal health care coverage. The new platform will further strengthen the country's standing in this regard, and is to be a focus of government promotional campaigns at global events such as the 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva, said NHIA Director-General Dr. Lee Po-chang. The platform will aid Taiwan in smoothly implementing a hierarchical medical system. Access to diagnoses, test results and treatments at major hospitals enables physicians at primary health care clinics to better understand an individual's condition and quickly deliver suitable services during regular and emergency visits, he said.

## Economical News

### Taiwan Dendrobium orchid exports green-lighted for US market



Following the recent classification of the Taiwan-cultivated Dendrobium orchids, potted in growing media, as safe by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) the plant can be exported to American market commencing March 1. The USDA ruling makes Taiwan the first country in the world to enjoy this privilege and is welcomed by the government, the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture said, Jan. 30, adding that it promises to create large-scale business opportunities for local exporters. Taiwan-cultivated Dendrobium orchids are highly prized in the world over for their diverse colors, shapes and sizes. The bulk of local production in the form of cut flowers is sent to Japan, a trend that may change as US shipments of the plant come on line.

