



TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

Tsai lauds the work of the military and police

On the first day of the Lunar New Year, February 10, President Tsai Ing-wen called on the public to thank police and military personnel for their work staying at their posts during the course of the holidays.

Officers and soldiers alike play an important role in safeguarding the capital, Tsai stated as she visited the First and Second Zhongzheng District police precincts, as well as the Military Police's Mechanized Infantry 239th Battalion, in Taipei and offered encouragement to all those working through the Lunar New Year.

They bear a heavy responsibility and have a host of complex tasks to fulfil, including maintaining public order, partici-



pating in disaster prevention and rescue efforts, and carrying out special security operations, she added.

In addition to visiting the service per-

sonnel, President Tsai also spent the day calling in on a number of temples where she distributed red envelopes containing NT\$1 coins for good fortune.

Taiwan's aid for trade recognized at WTO global review

Taiwan's Permanent Mission in Geneva reaffirmed Taiwan's commitment to cooperating with all World Trade Organization (WTO) members to support the international body's work during the Global Review of Aid for Trade. At the biennial event, the Taiwanese Mission detailed the country's provision of US\$432 (€401.19) million in official development assistance in 2022, which focused on climate change adaptation, COVID-19 recovery, women's empowerment, and poverty and inequality alleviation, among other areas. They also reiterated that Taiwan is dedicated to helping the least de-

veloped countries and developing economies join the multilateral trading system, while also maintaining focus on achieving United Nations sustainable development goals.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) noted that Taiwan, as a responsible member of the WTO and the international community, is continuously working to deepen cooperation with allies and like-minded partners. The government will go on expanding exchanges with other countries and continue to be a solid partner for global sustainable development, MOFA added.

Taiwan ranked top in Asia and 10th in the world on EIU freedom index

Taiwan is ranked as the top democracy in Asia and the 10th globally, according to the annual Democracy Index published by The Economist Intelligence Business Unit, February 15.

The index ranks countries based on the five criteria of electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation, and political culture. Among these catego-

ries, Taiwan notably received full marks on its electoral process and pluralism.

Receiving an overall score of 8.92 out of 10, the index rated Taiwan as one of only 24 full democracies around the world. In Asia, regional partners Japan and South Korea were also named as full democracies, placing 16th and 22nd, respectively, while China was deemed an authoritarian regime and ranked 148th out of 165 countries assessed.

Taiwan tops the world in Numbeo Health Care Index

For the fifth year in a row, Taiwan has been ranked as the top country in the world in the Health Care Index 2024 released by the international database firm Numbeo. The ranking, which rates countries on a scale of zero to 100, awarded Taiwan a score of 86. In second place, South Korea received 82.7, while Japan placed third with 79.3. Taipei City also led the index's city rankings, beating out 217 other cities covered by the survey. Taiwan's National Health Insurance program, which is regularly ranked as a world leader, covers nearly 100% of citizens, and achieved a 91% satisfaction rate in a 2022 national survey.



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