

TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

President Lai meets Brookings Institution Delegation

On the morning of December 19, President Lai Ching-te met with a delegation from the Brookings Institution. In remarks, President Lai stated that Taiwan is situated at a crucial point in the first island chain, standing on the front-line of a network of island democracies, and will continue to implement the Four Pillars of Peace action plan to ensure Taiwan's security and peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. He pointed out that China's continued military pressure on Taiwan is an attempt to alter the status quo, disrupting peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. President Lai thanked the United States and other democracies for showing support for democratic Taiwan and for publicly expressing concern over China's actions.

He stated that Taiwan will continue to strengthen its national defense and its



economic resilience and stand together with the democratic community to demonstrate the strength of deterrence, prevent war, and achieve peace through strength. The president said that moving ahead through a complex global landscape, Taiwan looks forward to cooperating with the US and other democracies. One such cooperation is the first agreement under the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade

that officially came into effect last week, marking a significant milestone in bilateral trade and economic relations.

President Rouse said that through their meeting with President Lai and other leaders in Taiwan, the delegation looks forward to better understanding perspectives from Taiwan on strengthening US-Taiwan relations and supporting Taiwan's peace and prosperity.

MOFA Response to Speech by NATO Secretary General Rutte drawing Attention to China's Military Buildup and bullying of Taiwan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has taken note of a speech delivered by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Secretary General Mark Rutte at an event in Brussels on December 12 that was organised by the think tank Carnegie Europe.

In his remarks, titled "To Prevent War, NATO Must Spend More," Secretary General Rutte called on NATO members to shift to a wartime mindset and turbo-charge defense production and defense spending.

He used the occasion to draw attention to the nature of China's expansionist actions and ambitions toward Taiwan, as well as to the challenges posed by China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran to global peace and security.

In response to Secretary General Rutte's speech, MOFA stated that Taiwan will continue to work with such like-minded partners as the G7 and NATO in order to jointly safeguard peace, stability, and prosperity across the Taiwan Strait and wider region.

Online Signing Ceremony for Agreement of Cooperation between National Central Library and KU Leuven

The Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium held an online signing ceremony on December 18 for a cooperation agreement between KADOC (Documentation and Research Centre on Religion, Culture and Society) of KU Leuven in Belgium and the National Central Library (NCL) of Taiwan to collaborate on sharing ancient book resources.

The collaboration stems from Ambassador Roy Lee's visit to KADOC on May 6 this

year, where he was welcomed by Bart Raymaekers, President of KADOC's Scientific Committee.

During the signing ceremony on December 18, Ambassador Lee began by congratulating both sides on initiating formal cooperation and highlighting the many similarities shared by Taiwan and Belgium. He also stated that he looks forward to more opportunities for exchange and visits between the two parties in the future.

TRO held an Online Information Session on the EMJMD Program and Scholarships

On December 16, the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium organised an information session on the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) program and various scholarship opportunities offered by Taiwan's Ministry of Education (MOE). The EMJMD and the International Credit Mobility (ICM) are the two key initiatives of the Erasmus+ program, which are of particular interest to Taiwanese students aspiring to study in Europe.

The session concluded with three scholarship recipients sharing their experiences and insights. The event was attended by approximately 175 participants.

教育部歐盟獎學金
The EU Scholarship sponsored by Taiwan's Ministry of Education

About the Scholarship:

- 「新伊拉斯謨計畫」聯合碩士課程獎學金 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) Scholarships 由至少兩個國家的合作大學提供
- 歐盟執委會「新伊拉斯謨計畫」(EU Erasmus+) 下之計畫，由兩校聯合
- 教育部歐盟獎學金：針對 EMJMD 碩士學位，由兩校聯合提供
- 獎學金提供入學前及入學後的各項津貼，由兩校聯合提供

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