

TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

Lai outlines Taiwan's global role on 1st anniversary of presidency

President Lai Ching-te delivered his first anniversary address, May 20, emphasising Taiwan's pivotal role in technological development, international supply chains, global trade, and regional security.

The President highlighted achievements across three key areas, namely, climate change response, health promotion, and social resilience. He noted Taiwan's progress toward net-zero emissions with 20 flagship carbon reduction projects and a new 2035 target of 38 ± 2 percent emissions reduction, supported by over NT\$1 trillion (€29.44 billion) in government investment.

On health initiatives, President Lai announced the establishment of a national centre for disease prevention and con-



trol, and the NT\$48.9 billion (€1.44 billion) Healthy Taiwan Cultivation Plan, alongside a significant NT\$71.2 billion (€2.01 billion) increase in National Health Insurance funding.

Addressing economic challenges, the President outlined Taiwan's strategy of remaining rooted domestically whilst expanding globally. He also announced

plans to establish a fund to boost economic momentum and a sovereign wealth fund.

Regarding whole-of-society defence, the President further announced NT\$410 billion (€12.05 billion) in special budget allocations, with NT\$150 billion (€4.41 billion) specifically targeting enhanced national resilience.

MOFA thanks Flemish Parliament for resolution supporting Taiwan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) expressed appreciation for a resolution adopted by the Flemish Parliament calling for stronger economic ties and supporting Taiwan's meaningful international participation, May 22.

Passed with no opposing votes, the resolution emphasises Taiwan's key role in global trade whilst calling for deeper exchanges in culture, economy, education and medical care. It also urges the EU to conclude investment protection agree-

ments with Taiwan and expand supply chain resilience cooperation.

The resolution further expresses concerns that China's military threats against Taiwan could seriously impact global supply chains and regional stability.

The MOFA noted this follows a similar 2021 resolution and a 2023 cooperation consultation meeting covering business, education, employment, health, energy, and technology. The Ministry said it will continue to enhance mutually beneficial partnerships with the region.

Taiwan urges WHA inclusion

Health and Welfare Minister Chiu Tai-yuan continues to advocate for Taiwan's World Health Assembly (WHA) participation during sideline activities in Geneva, May 17-27, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said.

Thus far, the Minister has held bilateral meetings, press conferences and seminars to demonstrate Taiwan's health contributions. At a joint news conference with the World Medical Association, WMA President Ashok Philip warned that excluding Taiwan would greatly impact

the integrity of the global database of public health information.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted that 11 allies submitted proposals requesting Taiwan's observer status, whilst the U.S. Trump administration has supported Taiwan's participation 10 times. The Ministry also expressed sincere appreciation for support from the G7, the executive and legislative branches of government of over 50 countries, the EU, the European Parliament, and like-minded nations' representative offices in Taiwan.

Former President Tsai undertakes European tour

Former President Tsai Ing-wen concluded her week-long European tour emphasising Taiwan's commitment to safeguarding democracy and working with global partners against authoritarian expansion.

During a historic speech to the UK Parliament, May 15, Tsai praised bilateral cooperation in offshore wind power and the 2023 Enhanced Trade Partnership, whilst thanking the House of Commons for recognising that UN Resolution 2758 does not mention Taiwan.

The tour also included visits to Lithuania and Denmark, where she addressed Vilnius University and the Copenhagen Democracy Summit.



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