



### Taiwan chosen for The Economist's 2020 most-improved country shortlist

Following its remarkable success in combating the novel deadly virus COVID-19, Taiwan was picked for The Economist's shortlist of improved countries in 2020 and as a candidate for the international weekly journal's country of the year. Taiwan "kept the virus at bay without closing schools, shops or restaurants, much less imposing lockdowns. Its economy is one of the few expected to have grown in 2020," said The Economist in an article titled "Which is The Economist's country of the year". The article highlights the fact that Taiwan has recorded only seven deaths caused by the coronavirus since it emerged in China late last year, and achieved a "far stronger economic performance" than New Zealand, also on the list of most-improved countries with 25 deaths and a relatively normal life amid the global pandemic. Taiwan "also showed courage, refusing to back down despite relentless threats from Beijing," the article says. It mentions China's repeated claim that Taiwan must be reunited with the mainland, and the fact that it has continued to send warships and fighter jets ever closer to the island and with greater frequency.

### Taiwan donates 300K COVID-19 rapid tests to allies, friendly countries

Taiwan donated 300,000 locally developed rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 to the country's allies and like-minded partners at a ceremony Dec. 23 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Taipei City. MOFA Vice Minister Miguel Li-jey Tsao praised the generosity of New Taipei City-headquartered equipment producer TaiDoc Technology Corp. for providing the test kits with the help of Fora Care Foundation, also based in New Taipei. Such public-private collaboration shows how Taiwan Can Help combat

the pandemic and realize the World Health Organization's goal of Health For All, the vice minister said, adding that TaiDoc Technology's commitment to corporate social responsibility is sincerely appreciated. The donation is the second from TaiDoc Technology following 35,000 forehead thermometers and 250 automatic temperature measurement systems it contributed in late April this year to Taiwan's allies, Germany and the U.S., according to the MOFA.

### Taiwan, U.S., Japan announce priority areas of cooperation for 2021

Taiwan, the United States and Japan announced their priority areas of cooperation next year on a platform that can help other countries develop their human resources, according to a joint statement issued by the three sides on Tuesday. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association (JTEA) co-hosted the 6th Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) Joint Committee in Taipei that day, according to the statement. "Next year, we plan to host GCTF workshops in the areas of public health, law enforcement, disaster prevention and mitigation, renewable energy, and workforce and artificial intelligence," the statement said. The GCTF is an initiative launched by Taiwan and the U.S. in 2015 to bring Taiwan's expertise to the global stage, especially in helping other countries develop their human resources. Japan joined the platform as a full partner in 2019.

### Taiwan opens representative office in southern France

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced that its new representative office in France's Provence region has officially opened, with an eye on strengthening Taiwan-

France relations. MOFA issued a press release stating that the office, located in the southern city of Aix-en-Provence, had held an inauguration ceremony co-hosted by Taiwan's envoy to France Wu Chih-chung and Xin Chi-chih, director of the Provence office. The ministry pointed out that many French politicians, including Senator Andre Vallini and National Assembly member Laurence Trastour-Isnart, had congratulated Taiwan on its new representative office via letters and pre-recorded videos. The dignitaries reportedly welcomed Taiwanese to Provence and said they were glad to see the two countries bolster exchanges and cooperation. Foreign Minister Joseph Wu also released a pre-recorded video, calling France an important economic and trade partner and saying the prospects for bilateral cooperation in the aerospace, biomedicine, and technology industries are promising. He also forecast new partnerships in smart healthcare, renewable energy, and circular economy.

### New Entry Regulations are Introduced until February 28<sup>th</sup>

Taiwan's Center for Disease Control has released details of new travel regulations for people entering the country. From December 1 to February 28, all people flying to Taiwan, including those only transiting, must present a negative PCR test for COVID-19 (max. Three days old) prior to boarding. This includes Taiwanese nationals returning home, not just foreign entrants. This comes as a result of large increases in imported cases entering Taiwan recently as the rest of the world continues to struggle with curbing the spread of the virus.

*Taipei Representative Office in Greece sends its' warmest wishes for a Happy and Prosperous 2021!*