



Starting from March 1, Taiwan reopens to business travel

On February 24, the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) announced that it would again allow people from CECC's list of low- and medium-risk countries/regions who are eligible to enter Taiwan and wish to make short visits for business purposes to apply for shortened quarantine periods in Taiwan. The center explained that travelers who arrive from low-risk countries and have stayed for five days in a quarantine hotel can contact local health authorities to apply for a COVID-19 test at their own expense.

Those from medium-risk countries can do the same after spending seven days in quarantine. If their coronavirus test results are negative, business travelers can apply with local health authorities for permission to end their quarantine within 14 days after entering the country and begin self-health management.

They must then carry out self-health monitoring until they have spent 21 days in the country.

Taiwanese buy entire year's worth of pineapple exports to China in 4 days

On Friday (Feb. 26), Beijing announced it would ban all imports of Taiwanese pineapples, alleging that "harmful organisms" had been found in the fruit.

Taiwan's Council of Agriculture (COA) Minister Chen Chi-chung chastised China for its "unilateral decision," which he deemed "unacceptable." The move prompted Foreign Minister Joseph Wu on Friday to launch a "Freedom Pineapple" campaign on Twitter.

That same day, President Tsai Ing-wen also took to Twitter, calling on the public to buy Taiwanese pineapples and writing that like with Australian wine, "China's unfair trade practices" were targeting Taiwan's pineapples, despite the fact that 99.79 percent of imported batches had passed inspection.

In a Facebook post on Friday, Tsai condemned China for its "ambush-like, unilateral notice that it would ban

imports of Taiwan pineapples." She pledged that the government would allocate NT\$1 billion to ameliorate the impact of the import ban and work to export 30,000 tons of pineapples to the U.S., Japan, Singapore, and other international markets.



US reaffirms Taiwan support in report

On March 4th, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs thanked US President Joe Biden's administration after it issued interim guidance on strategic priorities, including reaffirming support for Taiwan.

The 23-page Interim National Security Strategic Guidance report, published by the White House on Wednesday, said that the US would "support Taiwan, a leading democracy and a critical economic and security partner, in line with longstanding American commitments."

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in first major address in office, promised that the Biden administration would prioritize diplomacy over military action, and build cooperation with the world on global challenges such as climate change and COVID-19. "Our relationship with China will be competitive when it should be, collaborative when it can be and adversarial when it must be, and we will engage China from a position of strength," he said.

Taiwan ranks as sixth-freest economy: survey

Taiwan's economy ranked sixth in this year's Index of Economic Freedom, as its overall score picked up 1.5 points due primarily to an improvement in government integrity, an annual Heritage Foundation survey released on

March 4th showed. The US think tank measures 12 freedoms, from property rights to financial freedom, grouped into four categories: rule of law; government integrity; judicial effectiveness; and regulatory efficiency and open market. Taiwan was fourth among 40 economies in the Asia-Pacific region after Singapore, New Zealand and Australia, with an overall score of 78.6, above the regional and world averages, the survey showed.

The main factor holding Taiwan from the top economic freedom category remains a relative lack of labor freedom, it said, adding that the government raised the minimum wage again last year, despite the possibility of damage to productivity and flexibility for workers.

International Forum on Gender Equality

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Foundation of Women's Rights Promotion and Development jointly planned to hold an online "International Forum on Gender Equality" on March 18 (Thursday) 20:30-22:00 (GMT+8). "Accelerating Women's Economic Empowerment" is the theme, sharing the foresight of Taiwan and the public and private sectors of the United States and Europe to improve women's economic lives, and Taiwan's role and contribution in enhancing the economic status of women in developing countries.

"International Forum on Gender Equality" will be broadcast live on the YouTube channel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Online live broadcast:
<https://reurl.cc/GdjrZ3>