



Foreign Ministry reaffirms Taiwan's sovereignty after Chinese comment

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced China Sunday (March 21) for distorting the facts during its meeting with the U.S. last week by claiming Taiwan as part of its territory. During the first high-level talks between U.S. and Chinese officials under the Biden administration in Alaska on Thursday, Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi erroneously suggested that "Xinjiang, Tibet, and Taiwan are all inseparable parts of China's territory." He emphasized that Washington has no right to interfere in matters that Beijing considers its internal affairs.

MOFA responded by describing Yang's comment as a "fallacy" in a press release on Sunday. It said the remark was not in line with mainstream public opinion in Taiwan.

The ministry stressed that Taiwan is an independent sovereign state with a vibrant democracy and that only 23.5 million Taiwanese can determine its future. It also pointed out that the country has never been under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party.

The ministry said it is an established fact that Taiwan exists independently in the global community. No effort by Beijing could possibly shake the Taiwanese people's determination to pursue democracy, it insisted.

Palau 'travel bubble' to open in April

The bubble is a first for both countries, Minister of Foreign Affairs Joseph Wu said, adding that the deal highlights the impressive success of Taiwan's and Palau's fight against COVID-19, and symbolizes the stable friendship, mutual respect and trust between them. Palauan President Surangel Whipps Jr is to visit Taiwan on a chartered flight from Sunday this week to April 1, which would be his first overseas visit since he took office on Jan. 21, Wu said. Whipps would be the first head of state to visit Taiwan since the COVID-19 pandemic began last year, Wu said. According to the Minister of Health and

Welfare Chen, five principles must be upheld to keep the risk of COVID-19 infection as low as possible while reopening tourism and economic activities between the two countries.

Taiwan keeps key interest rate unchanged, lifts GDP growth forecast to 4.53%

Taiwan's Central Bank raised its forecast for the country's economic growth in 2021 and announced, as expected, that it will keep the key interest rate at a historic low, following its quarterly monetary policy meeting on Thursday (March 18). Increased vaccinations are expected to boost a rapid global recovery, which has the potential to lead to inflation, says a new report by the bank released Thursday. The Central Bank is anticipating higher but still mild GDP growth compared to last year.

"Demands for 5G communications, high-performance computing, automotive electronics, and other emerging technologies from overseas will remain strong, with the country's growth momentum expected to continue to build this year." The bank has lifted its forecast for GDP growth in 2021 to 4.53 percent, which had been 3.68 percent after the previous meeting.

Taiwan ranked happiest country in East Asia

Taiwan has been ranked as the happiest country in East Asia and the 24th happiest in the world, according to the World Happiness Report 2021. The report, released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations, places Finland in the top spot for the fourth year in a row, followed by Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, and the Netherlands. Meanwhile, sitting at the bottom of the list are Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Afghanistan.

Regionally, Taiwan ranked as the happiest country in East Asia and the second happiest in all of Asia, behind only Israel (12). It bested its East Asian neighbors Singapore (32), Japan (56),

South Korea (62), Hong Kong (77), and China (84) to maintain its top spot since 2015.

The rankings include a total of 149 countries and are based on GDP per capita and healthy life expectancy, plus four factors from global surveys including social support, social freedom, generosity, and perceptions of corruption. In the surveys, people were asked to give scores for how much social support they feel they have if something goes wrong, freedom to make their own life choices, their sense of how corrupt their society is, and how generous they are.



Taiwan expects major investment projects by 8 foreign corporations

At least eight prominent multinationals are expected to invest in Taiwan this year, Economics Minister Wang Meihua told lawmakers on Wednesday (March 17). Due to its safe and stable supply chain, the country has already succeeded in attracting extra investment from Google, Microsoft, and ASML in the recent past, UDN reported the minister as saying. The projects helped Taiwan expand its reputation as a center for electronics, green energy, and high-tech research and development.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) has prepared the necessary infrastructure, water, power supply, and land for foreign investment projects to go ahead, Wang told legislators. State-owned Taiwan Sugar Corporation was scheduled to free up 423 hectares of land in four cities and counties in south Taiwan by the end of the year to help with investors' needs.