



### President Tsai responds to Economist story about 'most dangerous place on earth'

The cover of the latest issue of the Economist, which calls Taiwan "the most dangerous place on earth", prompted a great deal of discussion on Taiwan's security. The article highlights the threat that China's military expansion poses to the Taiwan Strait and surrounding areas. Taiwan hopes that Beijing authorities come to realize that the PLA's actions in this regard contradict their own proclamations of China's "peaceful rise" and are only driving greater international concern. But though Taiwan does face a real threat from China, I want to assure everyone that our government is fully capable of managing all potential risks and protecting our country from danger, the president said.



Over the past few years, Taiwan has stayed on top of shifts in international supply chains and has developed closer economic and security ties with its global partners. We have also actively worked to strengthen our national defense, especially our asymmetric capabilities. Taiwan is fulfilling our responsibility to uphold regional peace and stability. Taiwan stands on the front lines of democracy worldwide. As long as the people of Taiwan remain united and uphold our core values while responding prudently to regional developments, we can overcome the challenges posed by authoritarian expansion.

### G7 communique supports Taiwan's WHA bid, cross-strait resolution

In a communique released following three days of the G7 Foreign and

Development Ministers' Meeting in London, ministers from the U.K., U.S., Canada, Japan, France, Germany, Italy and the EU said they support "Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHO forums and the World Health Assembly (WHA)." "The international community should be able to benefit from the experience of all partners, including Taiwan's successful contribution to the tackling of the COVID-19 pandemic," the communique said. "We reiterate our strong opposition to any unilateral actions that could escalate tensions and undermine regional stability and the international rules-based order, and express serious concerns about reports of militarization, coercion and intimidation in the region," it added. Since 2017, however, China has pressured the WHO not to invite Taiwan, in line with Beijing's hardline stance on cross-strait relations since President Tsai Ing-wen of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party took office in May 2016.

### President Tsai receives John McCain Prize from Halifax International Security Forum

On May 4, President Tsai Ing-wen was announced as this year's winner of the John McCain Prize for Leadership in Public Service by the Halifax International Security Forum. Presidential Office Spokesperson Xavier Chang said that President Tsai is honored to accept this award as a recognition not of her own accomplishments, but of those of all the people of Taiwan. The president emphasized that Taiwan is defined by our core values of freedom and democracy, and that our success in containing the ongoing pandemic proves that a united Taiwan can be a force for good in the international community. Spokesperson Chang noted that the late US Senator John McCain fought for democracy and freedom throughout his life, and sought tirelessly to enhance Taiwan's security. This prize commemorates his unwavering pursuit

of freedom, equality, opportunity, and democratic values, and President Tsai's receipt of the award is an affirmation of the Taiwanese people's success both in protecting our democratic institutions and in using those institutions to contain the pandemic. The Presidential Office thanks the Halifax International Security Forum, and is sincerely grateful to all our friends throughout the international community for their staunch support for Taiwan.

### CECC head appeals to WHO to include Taiwan in American publication

Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) head Chen Shih-chung lauded Taiwan's success in its battle against COVID-19 and called on the World Health Organization (WHO) to let Taiwan join in a recent article in The Diplomat. Chen's article "Whether Fighting COVID-19 or the Next Pandemic, Taiwan Can Help," published on Thursday (May 4), pointed out that Taiwan's response to the coronavirus pandemic has been one of the world's greatest success stories and stressed that the nation cannot remain outside of the global health network. The CECC head said that early and effective public health control measures mitigated the economic impact of the pandemic in Taiwan, as 2020 witnessed a roughly 3.11 percent GDP growth, while the global economy was suffering from a recession. Chen urged the WHO and relevant agencies to acknowledge Taiwan's contribution to the world and support the nation's inclusion in WHO meetings and related events. "No one should be left behind," he said, referring to the UN's sustainable development goals. Taiwan has not yet received an invitation to attend the 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) on May 24 in Geneva, Switzerland. Due to the pressure from China, the nation has been excluded since 2017 after being an observer for eight years. Taiwan continues to launch campaigns to regain its observer status in the WHO and the WHA.