



U.S. Under Secretary of State Krach arrived in Taipei on a 3-day visit

American Under Secretary of State Keith Krach arrived in Taipei on a three-day visit to attend a memorial service for former Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui. Krach and his delegation arrived on a commercial charter flight at Songshan Airport, which is also a military airbase. Taiwan's Deputy Foreign Minister Harry Tseng and Director of the American Institute in Taiwan Brent Christensen were at the airport to meet Krach, the highest-ranking State Department official to visit Taiwan since Washington cut diplomatic ties with Taipei in 1979. During the three-day visit, Krach will attend a memorial service for former President Lee, who died July 30 at the age of 97. The delegation's itinerary also includes meetings with several government officials and businesspeople, as well as a banquet hosted by President Tsai Ing-wen.

MOFA unveiled Taiwan's new passport design

The new front cover design for Taiwan's passport was unveiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a special press conference Sept. 2 in Taipei City, with the official launch date set for January 2021. The design will help ensure the dignity and rights of Taiwan's citizens when travelling abroad, the MOFA said, adding that it will also mitigate inconvenience caused by other countries mistaking ROC (Taiwan) passports for those of China. It follows a resolution passed by the Legislature in July requiring the government to make Taiwan more prominent on the passport, a move prompted by a desire to distinguish the country more clearly from China following the coronavirus pandemic. According to the MOFA, since the word "Taiwan" was added to the passport cover in 2003, the country's global visibility has been greatly enhanced, with citizens enjoying visa-

free, landing visa or e-visa privileges in 170 countries and territories.

President Tsai included in TIME's list of the 100 most influential people of 2020

President Tsai Ing-wen has been selected for TIME's 100 most influential people of 2020, primarily because of her administration's effective measures to contain the coronavirus outbreak in Taiwan. Tsai is among the 54 women listed by the magazine as having considerable influence in shaping the world. "President Tsai Ing-wen is a signal lamp casting out China's looming shadow, conveying to the world that Taiwan will not acquiesce to the Chinese Communist Party. While Taiwan stands a mere 100 miles from mainland China, under President Tsai's leadership, it is neither adrift nor drawn in. Freedom is its North Star, which has been clear in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan has proved that the virus can be controlled—without emulating China's drastic policies. When cynics said Taiwan was too small and too isolated to stand up against China's regional ambitions, President Tsai stood tall. When China lured Taiwan's allies into cutting off ties with the island nation, President Tsai was undeterred. I had the honor of meeting President Tsai last year during Taiwan's National Day celebrations, and I witnessed firsthand how she stands up for the rights of Taiwan's people. China is the world's largest communist regime, and this self-made woman is determined to resist it. She does not cower."

EU member states launched a 'milestone' investment forum in Taipei

More than a dozen key European countries, including Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain, launched their first joint campaign to promote investment between the EU

and Taiwan in a signal of their warming ties with the democratic island amid escalating U.S.-China tensions. The landmark investment forum, which involves 15 European countries and is organized by the European Economic and Trade Office, the de facto European Union embassy in Taiwan, comes as the continent also grows more skeptical of China. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said that the EU is Taiwan's biggest foreign investor and that her administration has created a robust investment environment not just to serve domestic needs but to build stronger international ties. "Like the EU, we encourage mutually beneficial global partnerships by providing a fair and predictable business," she said.

Face masks donated by Taiwan to Australia arrived in Victoria

A total of 500,000 surgical face masks donated by Taiwan to Australia arrived in the state of Victoria, the hardest-hit Australian area in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. The donation was the latest in a variety of cooperation between the two countries on COVID-19 prevention since the beginning of this year and an example of the slogan "Taiwan is helping" in the fight against the virus, the ministry said. Taiwan and Australia exchanged key disease prevention supplies in March and held online seminars under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, an initiative launched by Taiwan and the United States in June 2015, the ministry added. Australia is an important partner in Taiwan's New Southbound Policy and shares the values of democracy and freedom. The two countries will continue to strengthen cooperation in areas such as preventive medicine and biotechnology, the ministry said.