



Record 200 days with no local case, makes Taiwan world's envy

While many countries around the world are hitting new highs in coronavirus cases, Taiwan has achieved a different kind of record - 200 days without a locally transmitted case. Taiwan holds the world's best virus record by far and -reached the new landmark even as the pathogen explodes anew in Europe and the U.S. Taiwan's last local case came on April 12; there has been no second wave. What did this island of 23 million people do right? It has had 553 confirmed cases, with only seven deaths. Experts say closing borders early and tightly regulating travel have gone a long way toward fighting the virus. Other factors include rigorous contact tracing, technology-enforced quarantine and widespread mask wearing. Further, Taiwan's deadly experience with SARS has scared people into compliance.

Taiwan thanks US for arms sales

The government thanked Washington for another proposed arms sales package to strengthen the nation's defense capabilities. "Taiwan's government thanks the US government for once again providing important defensive weapons in the wake of the announcement of a three-part arms sales package," Presidential Office spokesman Xa said. This year once again constitutes concrete action by the US government to fulfill its security commitments under the 'six assurances' and the Taiwan Relations Act, and also demonstrates that the US government considers assisting Taiwan to strengthen our self-defense capabilities a matter of great importance, «he said. In the face of China's military expansionism and provocation, Taiwan will further modernize its defense capabilities and upgrade its asymmetric combat capabilities, in a bid to maintain regional peace and stability».

The latest package includes up to 100 Harpoon Coastal Defense Systems and related equipment for an estimated cost of US \$ 2.37 billion, the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a news release.

Taipei city, New Taipei city to co-host World Masters Games in 2025

Taipei and New Taipei have won the bid to host the 2025 World Masters Games, an international sporting competition for athletes over 30 years old, top city officials announced. The games, which are held every four years, are open to athletes over the age of 30 in a wide range of sports, competing as individuals rather than part of a national team. At a press conference, Taipei Deputy Mayor Tsai Ping-kun said that his city and New Taipei edged out the French capital Paris and the Australian city of Perth to win the right to host the games, which are scheduled for May 17 -30, 2025. Some 48,000 athletes and their families from 110 countries are expected to visit Taiwan for the games, which will feature 32 sports categories, Tsai said. The cost of hosting the games in Taiwan is estimated at about NT \$ 1.6 billion (US \$ 55.3 million), according to Tsai, who said the central government will fund 40 percent. The Taipei and New Taipei city governments are currently in discussions on how they will share the remaining 60 percent of the cost, he added.

IRI to open Office in Taiwan

The International Republican Institute (IRI) announced it is opening an office in Taiwan as part of its efforts to support democratic governance in the Indo-Pacific. "We are so proud to be establishing a permanent presence in Taiwan, a place that embodies the commitment to democratic values and practices that IRI seeks to support around the world. From our Taipei base, we will work with our partners to highlight Taiwan's hard-won

democratic lessons, strengthen networks of Asia's democratic actors and build resilience against malign authoritarian influence in the region. "As the CCP becomes more aggressive in violating the global rules-based order, now is the time for all democracies - including the United States - to invest in strengthening ties with Taiwan," said IRI President Dr. Daniel Twining. Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced its commitment to establishing the long-term presence of leading international non-governmental organizations on the island, including IRI. IRI looks forward to working with the Taiwanese government, civil society and academia to bolster Taiwan's democratic successes and share them with the world.

Microsoft announces biggest investment in Taiwan in 31 years worth NT\$300 billion

Microsoft announced that it is going to invest in four new digital projects for Taiwan, the company largest investment in the country in 31 years. Microsoft Taiwan CEO Ken Sun announced four new digital investment projects in Taiwan, including building an in-house data center, adding a cloud hardware team, launching an industrial ecosystem, and injecting international security resources. It is estimated that this will bring hundreds of billions in economic output and tens of thousands of job opportunities to Taiwan. According to market research corporation IDC, Microsoft, and the industrial ecosystem it is creating through the four new projects will bring more than NT \$ 300 billion (US \$ 10.48 billion) in economic output and create more than 30,000 job opportunities for Taiwan by 2024.