

I, and the South African Government, have enormous appreciation for the contribution that the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has made to the commitment of the Government sector in the economic development in Africa. The ROC (Taiwan) further, made a generous and much appreciated contribution to South Africa's transition to democracy .

Statement by President Nelson Mandela—27 November 1996



President Tsai States Stance on Termination of Diplomatic ties with El Salvador

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the government worked tirelessly to maintain official relations with El Salvador and prevent the Central American nation from becoming a casualty of cross-strait politics.

El Salvador's interest in establishing ties with China was known for quite some time, Tsai said. Despite the assistance of like-minded countries and partners, diplomatic efforts failed to avert this sad outcome, she added.

Tsai made the remarks during a special news conference at the Office of the President in Taipei City on the termination of Taiwan-El Salvador relations announced earlier the same day by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jauhsieh Joseph Wu.

According to Tsai, the development is not an isolated incident but part of a campaign by China to suppress Taiwan's international space. This includes influencing the East Asian Olympic Committee into stripping Taichung City in central Taiwan of the 2019 East Asian Youth Games, pressuring airlines to change the country's website designation and sending military aircraft to encircle the island,



President Tsai Ing-wen details the government's position on the ending of Taiwan-El Salvador relations in Taipei City. (CNA)

she said.

Taiwan is entitled to its place in the world and the people have the right to equality, dignity, freedom and sovereignty, Tsai said. Threats will not force the people to give up these rights, nor dampen a desire to engage with and contribute to the global community, she added.

The existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan) represents the status quo and is the bedrock upon which the people's unity is founded, Tsai said. Undermining the government's ability to carry out

foreign diplomacy in the country's official name violates national sovereignty and crosses the red line for Taiwan's major political parties, she added.

Political issues between the two sides of the strait no longer unfold in isolation, Tsai said. By attempting to overthrow the international order led by traditional powers, China is threatening cross-strait peace and risking serious global instability, she added.

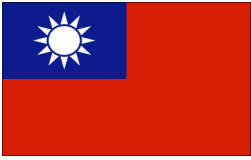
According to Tsai, China never loosened its stranglehold over Taiwan nor abandoned attempts to diminish its status at every opportunity. But the people continue to show the world they will not be cowed and are galvanised in the face of such a challenge, she said.

The president urged the allies to celebrate their long-standing friendships with Taiwan and cherish the country's contributions to achieving sustainable national development. She also called on like-minded countries to stand with Taiwan on the front-line in defending democracy, freedom and rules-based order from incursions by China. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Snapshots



Left: Mr. Yun-Bo Chen, First Secretary at the Taipei Liaison Office, presents the Huayu Scholarship to Ms. Nomakhaya Mahlaule, who applied on behalf of Mr. James Ochieng from Kenya. **Centre:** Mr. Yun-Bo Chen, First Secretary at the Taipei Liaison Office, presents the Huayu Scholarship to Ms. Bunnita Gubo Tsamang from Botswana. **Right:** Director Ang Lee is one of six awardees selected to receive the Directors Guild of America DGA Honors Oct. 18 in New York. (CNA)



With From Taiwan

On behalf of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Representative Matthew W. Chou of the Taipei Liaison Office in the RSA handed over 3,000 blankets and 10 wheelchairs on 24 August, 2018 to aid the under-privileged communities throughout the country. Members of parliament, community members and officials from the Taipei Liaison Office attended the ceremony held in Thaba Nchu Community Hall.

Representative Chou indicated that Taiwan is a country that values human rights and an equal society, and the Taiwan Government is honoured to join forces with Taiwan's NGOs to make a contribution to the local people.

The Puhsein Educational Foundation is a non-profit organisation funded and run by the Taiwanese Buddhist community, with the aim of supporting charitable activities launched by the Amitofo Care Centre (ACC) since 1992.

The ACC and the Puhsein Foundation have dedicated their numerous efforts in building orphanages and providing education to African orphans.

Their combined humanitarian work over the entire continent has had a massive impact and helped improve the lives of thousands of people.

"By giving away and spreading 'Love from Taiwan'," Representative Chou said he hoped the donated goods would go a long way to ease hardships of the under-privileged and that there will be further friendly relations between South Africa and Taiwan.

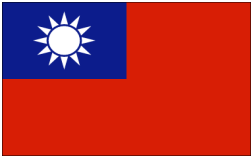
Taiwan has proven time and time again that it is a small country with a big heart. The global reach of its charitable and humanitarian organisations can be seen worldwide. **(Audrey Wang)**



Representative Matthew Chou (third from right) handing out blankets to community members. (Photo Courtesy Audrey Wang)



Representative Matthew Chou (third from left, back row) with some of the donated wheelchairs. (Photo Courtesy Audrey Wang)



Tsai Touches Down in Taiwan, Touts Success of Paraguay, Belize State Visit



President Tsai Ing-wen details the success of her nine-day state visit to allies Paraguay and Belize as Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (left) and other senior officials look on at TTIA in northern Taiwan. (CNA)

President Tsai Ing-wen said that her state visit to Paraguay and Belize was a success and underscores the government's commitment to broadening Taiwan's engagement with the world.

This nine-day trip reflects the enduring friendships between Taiwan and the allies

in South and Central America, Tsai said. At the same time, it spotlights the value of front-line efforts by the country's technical missions in advancing agriculture, education and medical care development abroad, she added.

The president made the remarks upon deplaning at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport in northern Taiwan. It was her fifth official overseas visit since taking office in May 2016.

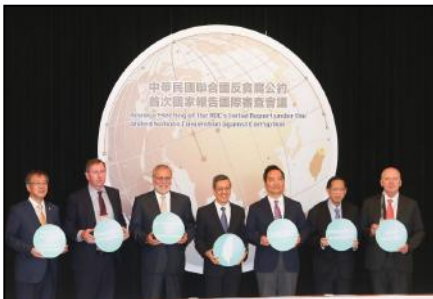
During Tsai's stay in Paraguay, she attended the inauguration of President Mario Abdo Benitez after meeting with him the day before at his private residence to discuss ways of deepening and expanding bilateral relations. She also held talks with heads of states attending the ceremony such as President Jimmy Morales and Vice President Olga Alvarado of Central American allies Guatemala and Honduras, respectively.

While in Belize, Tsai met with Governor-General Colville Young and Prime Minister Dean Barrow to identify new opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation, as well as addressed a special joint session of the Belize National Assembly.

The president took the opportunity to express her gratitude for Paraguay's and Belize's support of government efforts to secure a bigger role for Taiwan in multilateral organisations, adding that the country will never buckle under the weight of adversity.

No amount of pressure can dampen the people's desire to engage with the world, Tsai said, adding that Taiwan will continue working with like-minded countries in promoting freedom, democracy and prosperity for the benefit of all. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

International Review of UNCAC Implementation Report Kicks Off in Taipei



Vice President Chen Chien-jen (center) and Minister without Portfolio Lo Ping-cheng (third right) at the opening of the international review of Taiwan's first UNCAC implementation report in Taipei City. (CNA)

The international review of Taiwan's first national report on implementation of the U.N. Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) kicked off in Taipei City, underscoring the country's commitment to refining measures aimed at ensuring clean governance and corporate practices.

A panel of five foreign experts is scheduled to hold discussions with local officials and nongovernmental organisation representatives about the nation's legal framework and related policies. Comments and sug-

gestions will be announced at the conclusion of the four-day process.

Speaking at the opening of the review, Vice President Chen Chien-jen said that the nation is committed to working with the international community in preventing corruption. In addition to codifying the convention into domestic law, Taiwan has amended the Company Act to bolster anti-money laundering enforcement, promulgated an act on mutual assistance in transnational crime, and strengthened measures to tackling influence peddling, he added.

According to the vice president, Taiwan's recent achievements in fostering clean governance have been recognised by the global community, as evidenced by the nation's ranking of 29th, its best performance in the past decade, in the latest Corruption Perceptions Index released Feb. 21 by Transparency International.

While considerable progress has been made, there is room for further improvement, Chen said. Recommendations from the review will inform government efforts to boost integrity across the public and private sectors, he added.

Panel member Jose Ugaz, who served as special prosecutor in the investigation of former Peru President Alberto Fujimori for corruption and human rights abuses, lauded the government's commitment to enhancing enforcement and prevention measures. Taiwan has undertaken dedicated efforts to eliminate inconsistencies with the convention, he said, adding that the review is expected to help advance this process.

UNCAC was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 2003 and entered into force two years later. Taiwan's Act to Implement UNCAC was promulgated in 2015.

The first national report on the implementation of the convention was released March 30 by the Agency Against Corruption under the Ministry of Justice. It outlines the country's progress across the five main UNCAC areas of preventive measures, criminalisation and law enforcement, international cooperation, recovery of illegally obtained assets, and technical assistance and information exchanges. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



MOFA-Organized Southern Africa Investment Seminar Held in Taipei

A seminar aimed at fostering Taiwan investment in southern Africa was staged in Taipei City, with about 100 officials and business representatives gathering to explore potential tie-ups and market opportunities in the region.

The one-day event was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in conjunction with Taipei-based Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association and auditing services firm KPMG Taiwan. It comprised discussions and speeches on emerging commercial and industrial sectors, state support programs, and the investment climates in diplomatic ally Kingdom of Eswatini as well as Mozambique and South Africa.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, MOFA Vice Minister Jose Maria Liu said that Africa is expected to become the engine of global growth. Given the high degree of complementarity between Taiwan and emerging African economies, the expansion of business and trade collaboration would lead to substantial benefits for all parties, he added.

According to Liu, the government offers a



MOFA Vice Minister Jose Maria Liu (left) shakes hands with Robert Seraki Matsebe, representative of the Liaison Office of South Africa in Taiwan, during the investment seminar in Taipei City. (Staff photo/Huang Chung-hsin)

host of assistance programs for Taiwan enterprises eyeing this region. Related services span corporate protection and market information, research and analysis, and are delivered through the nation's diplomatic, economic and trade promotion offices across the continent, he said.

Eswatini is an excellent base for companies seeking to bolster their presence in eastern

and southern Africa, Liu said, noting that the country is a member of the Southern African Customs Union and signed a bilateral economic cooperation agreement with Taiwan during King Mswati III's state visit in June.

According to the MOFA, the forum was organised under the Africa Project, a government initiative aimed at strengthening Taiwan's trade ties with Eswatini and neighbouring countries launched after President Tsai Ing-wen's tour of the diplomatic ally in April.

Speakers at the seminar included Eswatini Charge d'Affaires Lindiwe Kunene, Robert Seraki Matsebe, representative of the Liaison Office of South Africa in Taiwan, and Achilles Yeh, representative of Mozambique Investment Promotion Centre.

The event was attended by members of the Africa Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce, Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research and World Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce, as well as local banking corporations, consultancies, investment companies and technology firms, the MOFA said. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Tsai Sows Seeds of Success for Sustainable Organic Farming in Taiwan

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the government is sowing the seeds of success for sustainable organic agriculture, vowing to cultivate the sector into one of Taiwan's signature regional and global exports.

Organic farming is an important component of the government's New Agriculture undertaking given its pivotal role in promoting environmental protection, food safety and industry upgrades, Tsai said. It will add value to local produce and help safeguard the income and welfare of agricultural workers, she added.

The president made the remarks while opening an organic agriculture forum in Taipei City. Organised by Yilan County-headquartered Youngsun Culture and Education Foundation in north-eastern Taiwan with support of the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture (COA), the daylong event involved participants from around the country discussing challenges and opportunities stemming from the potential-laden sector.

According to the president, tremendous progress has been made in advancing organic agriculture since she took office in May 2016. This is evidenced by the nearly 10,000 hectares of land dedicated to eco-friendly and



President Tsai Ing-wen shows off a hand of Taiwan-grown bananas in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

organic farming as of July, with the figure set to grow to 15,000 hectares by the end of 2020, she said.

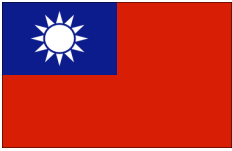
A cornerstone initiative in this regard is the organic agriculture promotion act passed by the Cabinet in May. Expected to come into law in the first half of 2019, the legislation enables the government to quickly adjust rules and regulations, as well as allocate additional resources to pressing issues like acquiring land for certified farming and ensuring neighbouring fields are free of contaminants. The COA is also stepping up efforts in marketing locally produced crops at home and

abroad, Tsai said, citing progress such as including organic produce in meals for members of the armed forces and 1.48 million students in 2,200 schools nationwide.

At the same time, the council is raising public awareness—especially among the younger generations—of the valuable contribution organic farming can make to promoting lifestyles of health and sustainability, or LOHAS, and strengthening food safety, the president added.

Launched in 2017, the four-year New Agriculture undertaking aims to firm up the foundations of Taiwan's agricultural sector and transform it into a globally competitive player. Other objectives include increasing the country's food self-sufficiency to 40 percent, creating NT\$43.4 billion (US\$1.42 billion) in added-value production and generating 370,000 new jobs.

The undertaking is a key component in the government's five-plus-two industrial innovation program, which targets the five high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national defence, smart machinery and Internet of Things, as well as promotes the circular economy. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Taiwan's Top Digital Content Expo Marks 10th Year With AR/VR Focus



IDB Deputy Director-General Yu Chen-wei (back, center) is joined by officials and business representatives in giving the thumbs-up to Digital Taipei at TICC. (Courtesy of Institute for Information Industry)

Digital Taipei (DT) opened its doors with more than 100 exhibitors from home and abroad taking part in the 10th edition of Taiwan's top digital content trade show. Technological trends in augmented and virtual realities, animation, digital payments, education, gaming, intellectual

property and online media are the focus of the two-day event, organised by the Industrial Development Bureau under the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

More than 200 overseas buyers from 20-plus countries and territories are invited to the fair at Taipei International Convention Centre.

Since its launch in 2009, DT has served as a great platform for bringing Taiwan and overseas digital content creators, investors and publishers together,

according to IDB Deputy Director-General Yu Chen-wei. Taiwan has many talented professionals in the digital content sector and the expo will strengthen their international profile, he said.

Taiwan creators and companies are

showcased at two pavilions. DIGI+ Creative Content Market, organised by the state-backed Institute for Information Industry, is centred on AR and online gaming. DCIPO x IDEA Light up your Dream pavilion by IDB and Taipei City-based International Digital Entertainment Creative Association is focused on animation.

Academics, business representatives and other professionals from countries including Australia, Thailand, the U.K. and the U.S. are giving speeches on topics such as gaming, IP, new media and education technology.

Last year the fair attracted over 6,000 participants from 23 countries and territories and generated over NT\$1.2 billion (US\$39.1 million) in business opportunities, according to IDB. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Taiwan, Poland Sign Deal on Science, Higher Education Cooperation



TECO in Warsaw head Weber V. B. Shih (third left) and Director General of the Polish Office in Taipei Maciej Gaca (second left) display the signed deal on improving cooperation in science and higher education alongside Poland's MSHE Undersecretary of State Piotr Dardzinski (fourth left) in Warsaw, Poland. (MOFA)

Taiwan and Poland signed an agreement to strengthen their cooperation in science and higher education in Warsaw, Poland.

conduct joint research projects and organise conferences and workshops. The agreement also covers the running of scholarship programs and exchanges between language teachers from both

Under the deal the Ministries of Education and Science and Technology will work with Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education to increase the number of exchanges between their university students, postdoctoral scientists and scientific and educational institutions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said.

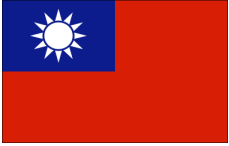
In addition, the two countries will

countries.

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Warsaw Representative Weber V. B. Shih and Director General of the Polish Office in Taipei Maciej Gaca inked the deal, with Piotr Dardzinski, undersecretary of state for Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education, witnessing the signing.

The MOFA described the deal as an important milestone for the two nations as it assures greater cooperation in the fields of education and scientific research in the future.

Taiwan and Poland enjoy a close relationship that covers a broad spectrum of fields, the ministry said, noting robust investment and economic cooperation between the two sides. The nations have also worked together successfully in the fields of scientific research and higher education, including establishing sister school partnerships and conducting joint research. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



MOC Opens Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab at Former Air Force Headquarters

Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab (C-Lab) was officially launched at the site of the former air force command headquarters in Daan District of Taipei City, the Ministry of Culture (MOC) announced.

The facility, overseen by the MOC, is an innovation and experimentation space for creators and researchers from a diverse range of fields including architecture, art, dance, design, digital media, film and history.

At the launch ceremony, MOC Minister Cheng Li-chiun said C-Lab has transformed the complex into a people-friendly site where the public can engage in artistic and cultural activities after many years of being off limits to civilians while under military control.



MOC Minister Cheng Li-chiun addresses attendees at the C-Lab launch ceremony in Taipei City. (Courtesy of MOC)

C-Lab will encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, such as upcoming exhibition "The Alternative Guide to Time," which has writers and musicians working together, starting Sept. 1. Cheng added that the facility will also forge links with

foreign art and cultural organisations.

A total of 16 creators and art groups in five main areas spanning audiovisual experimentation, digital humanities, modern art, historical restoration and preservation, and social innovation are currently in residence at the site. Running from Sept. 8-16, the facility will host the 2018 C-Lab Summer Festival featuring art shows, circus-style performances, movies and music.

The 7-hectare complex was the Ministry of National Defence's air force command headquarters for 62 years before it moved to Taipei's Zhongshan District in 2012. The MOC took over the site in 2017. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Taipei Culture Award Winners Announced



Peking opera performer Chu An-li is one of three winners of the 22nd Taipei Culture Award, according to TCG. (Courtesy of GuoGuang Opera Company)

Peking opera performer Chu An-li, writer and filmmaker Lei Hsiang and Taipei City-based Taishin Bank Foundation for Arts and Culture are the winners of the 22nd Taipei Culture Award (TCG), the Taipei City Government announced.

ing with contemporary forms including experimental theatre and a percussion ensemble.

Lei is credited for his impressive output of award-winning books and films and his work as an arts educator, the city

The three were chosen for their long-term contributions toward enriching the city's cultural landscape as well as for encouraging more residents to get involved in arts-focused activities, TCG said.

Chu, a leading actor with state-backed GuoGuang Opera Company, is being honoured for dedicating more than four decades of her life to Peking opera and invigorating the tradition by work-

government said. Born in 1939, he has published 35 books and produced around 300 documentaries, TV shows and short films. Lei is an adjunct arts professor at Taipei National University of the Arts, taught filmmaking and literature at community colleges, and has conducted painting classes for the hearing impaired.

TCG said it chose the foundation because it established the Taishin Arts Award in 2002 and for its efforts to strengthen Taipei's creative landscape by holding dozens of exhibitions and music concerts every year.

The winners will receive their award certificates and a cash prize of NT\$500,000 (US\$16,229) from Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je at the end of October. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Jordanian Schools to Benefit from TaiwanICDF, Mercy Corps Water Project



Students in Jordan will soon enjoy improved access to water thanks to a project run by TaiwanICDF and U.S.-based Mercy Corps. (Courtesy of TaiwanICDF)

Schoolchildren in Jordan will soon be getting better access to water under a new project by the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) and U.S.-based Mercy

Corps.

TaiwanICDF said that it is working with the nongovernmental organisation to install and repair rainwater harvesting systems in 11 public schools and community centres in the northwest of the Middle Eastern country where many Syrian refugees have fled.

The program will run for 10 months and also includes activities to educate young people about water conservation. TaiwanICDF is providing US\$500,000 in funding for the project, which started in July and is expected to benefit more than 13,200 students and their family members.

Jordan is the second most water-poor country in the world and the arrival of

1.4 million Syrian refugees—of which more than half are school-aged children—has stretched water resources even thinner.

Taiwan’s foremost foreign aid organisation has run a number of other humanitarian programs in Jordan, including projects to repair wells and to improve waste management.

Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taipei City-headquartered TaiwanICDF provides humanitarian assistance and technical support to alleviate poverty, strengthen human rights and well-being as well as accelerate social and economic development in partner countries around the world, primarily in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Foreign Ministry to Host Monthly Seminars with Taiwan-Based International NGOs



The MOFA is set to host monthly seminars with Taiwan-based international NGOs. (Staff photo/Chin Hung-hao)

Monthly nongovernmental organisation seminars will be staged at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Taipei City as part of government efforts to deepen cooperation with local NGOs and help the groups expand their international presence, the MOFA announced.

Set to commence in August, the events are intended to serve as a platform for diplomats and NGO representatives to share experiences and expertise in areas spanning disaster relief, humanitarian aid, medical assistance and women’s rights, the MOFA said. The seminars will also explore potential collaborative projects, the ministry added.

According to Lai Ming-chi, director-general of the MOFA’s Department of NGO International Affairs, the government is committed to helping Taiwan aid groups boost their reach overseas. This is evidenced by ministry sponsorship of 744 and 790 NGO projects in 2016 and 2017, respectively, he said.

In view of China’s continued efforts to suppress the nation’s international space, NGOs can play an important role in enhancing Taiwan’s profile around the world, Lai added.

The inaugural seminar, will feature an address by Foundation for Women’s Rights Promotion and Development Vice Director Huang Ling-hsiang on the group’s international gender equality projects.

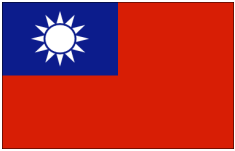
The second forum will welcome representatives from the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation. Operating more than 50 branches or offices in over 90 countries and territories, the Taiwan-based humanitarian aid group was granted special consultative status by the U.N. Economic and Social Council in 2010.

Focused on international medical cooperation, the October event will feature

discussions with the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, dedicated to helping patients with cleft lips and palates as well as craniofacial abnormalities, and central Taiwan’s Changhua Christian Hospital, a regular provider of clinical services in impoverished communities overseas.

Zhi-Shan Foundation Taiwan and Eden Social Welfare Foundation will attend the November seminar to share their experiences in providing educational and health support to children and underprivileged populations. The December forum will explore ongoing efforts by three local organisations—Taiwan Alliance in International Development, Taiwan Health Corps and Tri-Service General Hospital—to rebuild medical infrastructure and train health care personnel following the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

According to the MOFA, Taiwan is home to about 90,000 local and international NGOs in areas like environmental protection, humanitarian aid, medical assistance, public policy and social welfare. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Joint Indigenous Harvest Festival in Hualien Celebrates Tribal Culture



An Amis performer strikes a victorious pose during a show on the second day of the 2018 Joint Indigenous Harvest Festival in eastern Taiwan's Hualien County. (Courtesy of Hualien County Government)

The Joint Indigenous Harvest Festival is one of the largest and most eagerly anticipated annual events in eastern Taiwan's Hualien County. This spectacular showcase gathers the six tribes that call Hualien home for a vibrant celebration of aboriginal culture.

Each edition spotlights the heritage of one of the participating groups: the Amis, Bunun, Kavalan, Sakizaya, Sediq and Truku. For the 2018 festival, the Amis and their folk song "Naluwan" took centre stage. The tune conveys blessings and the warm hospitality of the nation's largest tribe, which has a population of 209,000, according to the Cabinet-level Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Haki Masiw, director of the Indigenous Peoples Department of Hualien County Government, said the festival plays a vital role in promoting cultural preservation. With globalisation eroding customs and young people increasingly leaving tribal villages to study and work in cities, the event provides an opportunity to pass down ancient rites and promote youth engagement in time-honoured cultural practices, he added.

Taiwan is home to 16 officially recognised indigenous peoples, with CIP statistics showing they account for 2.3 percent of the nation's 23.5 million people. Most of these groups mark the harvest festival, typically between July and Septem-

ber, by donning traditional tribal wear, performing songs and dance, and carrying out religious rituals to give thanks for the past year and pray for a prosperous future.

The Joint Indigenous Harvest Festival is the foremost of these celebrations. Attended by some 60,000 participants and spectators, the 2018 edition featured performances by 26 indigenous troupes and 110 booths offering arts and crafts like clothing, jewellery and sculptures, as well as traditional foods such as bamboo rice, glutinous rice desserts and spit-roasted suckling pig.



Thousands of festivalgoers attend the 2018 Joint Indigenous Harvest Festival. (Courtesy of HCG)

At the end of each day's festivities, a group of Amis dancers called Masawupu, which means "coming together" in their native tongue, led thousands of festivalgoers in a joyful rendition of "Naluwan." Haki said that the festival addresses one of the greatest challenges of cultural preservation work: finding appealing and sustainable ways of passing down customs and values. The six tribes forged Hualien's identity and it is vital their traditions are retained for future generations, he added.

According to the director, a total of 120 smaller-scale harvest celebration events will be held in indigenous villages throughout the county until the end of September. These activities aim to build upon the success of the high-profile festival by fostering community-level engagement in cultural preservation.

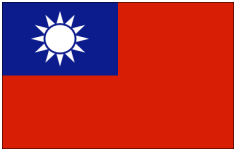
(Source: Taiwan Today)



A spit-roasted suckling pig at the Joint Indigenous Harvest Festival. (Courtesy of HCG)



A craftsperson creates a braided keychain in her booth at the Joint Indigenous Harvest Festival July 20 in eastern Taiwan's Hualien County.



Kaohsiung Set to Reopen Historic Wharf Next to Old British Consulate



The newly restored wharf area beside the former British consulate in southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung City is set to reopen to the public. (Courtesy of KCG)

Kaohsiung City in southern Taiwan will officially open a restored area of wharf directly in front of the former British Consulate at Takow as part of local government efforts to revitalise historical sites and boost tourism.

Restoration work included demolishing a harbour inspection office so that visitors now have an unbroken view of the old British consulate from the wharf, according to the Kaohsiung City Government's Bureau of Cultural Affairs.

The work of the bureau's Hamasen Restoration Project on this site has centred around renovating a historic route connecting the wharf, the adjacent consulate, and a walking trail that leads up a hill to the former British consular residence. A new visitors centre in the shape of a K, representing Kaohsiung, has also been built at the side of the wharf.

Kaohsiung Deputy Mayor Shih Che said the project underscores the local government's determination to maintain strong links between the city's urban development and its maritime history. The wharf played a key role in shaping Kaohsiung

into one of the nation's foremost trading hubs.

Secretary-General to the President Chen Chu and Minister of Culture Cheng Li-chiun will host the opening ceremony.

Launched in 2016, the Hamasen Restoration Project is part of the Ministry of Culture's Reconstruction of Historical Scenes initiative funded by the government's Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program. The NT\$420 billion (US\$13.7 billion) FIDP, running through August 2021, aims to meet Taiwan's infrastructure needs for the next 30 years. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Reciprocal Driver's License Pact Between Taiwan, US state of Louisiana Takes Effect

A reciprocal driver's license agreement between Taiwan and Louisiana has taken effect, marking the nation's 27th such accord with a U.S. state, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

The pact stipulates that Taiwanese residing in Louisiana with a valid Taiwan driver's license are exempt from taking a road or written test and can obtain a standard vehicle license upon passing a regular eye exam. Similarly, Louisiana state driver's license holders with permission to reside in Taiwan for a minimum of six months can get a license after completing a physical.

This agreement was announced a day before by President Tsai Ing-wen and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards at a business roundtable in Houston, Texas, also attended by MOFA Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu, National Security Council Secretary-General David Tawei Lee, U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson and representatives of Taiwan businesses operating in the Texas metropolis and neighbouring regions. The president and



President Tsai Ing-wen (right) and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards announce a reciprocal driver's license agreement between Taiwan and the U.S. state in Houston, Texas. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

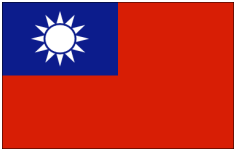
her delegation were on a stopover in the U.S. city as part of her nine-day state visit to allies Paraguay and Belize.

Tsai thanked Edwards for his efforts in promoting exchanges, adding that going forward she anticipates enhanced collaboration between the two sides. Responding to the president, the governor said that the pact is expected to further

strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of Taiwan and Louisiana.

The accord will offer greater convenience to Taiwanese and Louisianans living, studying or working on the other side, the MOFA said, adding that more than 11,000 Taiwan residents of the U.S. had benefited from such agreements by the end of 2017.

In addition to the U.S. pacts, Taiwan has concluded reciprocal driver's license accords with all 10 Canadian provinces; 12 European nations; 26 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific, including six states of Australia; 12 nations in Central and South America; and 15 countries and territories in Africa and the Middle East, including nine provinces of South Africa, according to the MOFA. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Tsai Praises Taiwan's Pony League World Series Triple Triumph



President Tsai Ing-wen (back, fourth right) gives the thumb-up to Taiwan's three champion Pony League World Series teams while receiving the victorious players at the Office of the President in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the three victories by Taiwan teams at the Pony League World Series demonstrate the country remains a global powerhouse in youth baseball.

The players' hard training and stellar per-

formances in the championships helped set a milestone in Taiwan baseball history, Tsai said. But the credit also goes to the coaches, teachers and parents who gave everything to help make the triple triumph possible, she added.

The president made the remarks while receiving members of Taoyuan Municipal Pingjen Senior High School, Kaohsiung Municipal Jhong-Jheng Elementary School and New Taipei Municipal Er Chong Junior High School at the Office of the President in Taipei City.

Tsai said the government is leaving no stone unturned in providing the best environment and support so youth baseballers can train in Taiwan and regularly take part in major competitions abroad.

The Sport Administration under the Ministry of Education and Taipei-headquartered Chinese Taipei Baseball Association are stepping up efforts in this regard, the president said,

adding that this will allow the talents of tomorrow to fulfil their basballing dreams.

According to Pennsylvania-headquartered Pony Baseball League, the Taoyuan side from northern Taiwan won the WS Palomino Championships in the 18U tournament after defeating Los Angeles 2-0 in Laredo, Texas.

Team Kaohsiung from southern Taiwan claimed the Bronco WS Championships title in the 12U tournament by crushing Mexico City 15-0 in five innings the same day in Los Alamitos, California.

The New Taipei outfit completed the triple after trouncing Long Beach, California 3-1 in the 15U tournament in Washington, Pennsylvania—the third title for Taiwan in this competition over the past four years. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Taiwan Shooting Team Wins Gold at Asian Games in Indonesia

Taiwan shooters Lin Ying-shin and Lu Shao-chuan bagged the nation's first gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games, winning the 10-meter air rifle mixed team event in Palembang, Indonesia.

The pair scored a combined 494.1 points to beat out China's Zhao Ruozhu and Yang Haoran on 492.5. Bronze went to Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar of India.

Lin is ranked second globally in women's 10-meter air rifle by the International Shooting Sports Federation, with the 19-year-old clinching singles gold in the discipline at the ISSF World Cup in Munich in May. Lu, 21, sits ninth in the ISSF rankings and claimed men's singles bronze at the World Cup earlier this year.

After winning gold, the duo received a personal message of congratulations from President Tsai Ing-wen, who called



Taiwan shooters Lin Ying-shin (left) and Lu Shao-chuan bite their gold medals after winning the 10-meter air rifle mixed team event at the Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia. (Courtesy of 2018 Asian Games official website)

their performance outstanding. And in a tweet on its official Twitter account, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the pair had done Taiwan proud.

The following day, Lu continued his medal-winning exploits, bagging bronze in the men's individual 10-meter air rifle. This result brought Taiwan's tally at the games to five.

The nation's other medallists include Tsai Tse-min and Chen Ching, who won bronze in the men's individual Wushu-Changquan and poomsae events, respectively. Chen Yi-hsuan, Chen Hsiang-ting and Lin Kan-yu also finished third in the women's team poomsae.

According to the Ministry of Education, Taiwan has dispatched 588 athletes across 40 disciplines to the games, marking its largest-ever delegation to the quadrennial event. At the previous edition in Incheon, South Korea, the nation won a total of 51 medals, including 10 golds. **(Source: Taiwan News)**