

“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 Receives European Parliament Delegation, Eyes Closer Taiwan-EU Ties

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the government welcomes closer and more frequent exchanges with the European Parliament as part of overall efforts to strengthen Taiwan-EU ties.

The relationship between the two sides has gone from strength to strength since the past two years, Tsai said. The Administrative Arrangement on Cluster Cooperation concluded in June, as well as record two-way visit and trade numbers last year, is testament to this healthy state of affairs, she added.

It is sincerely hoped, Tsai said, Taiwan and the EU will capitalise on these achievements and work together in identifying new opportunities for cooperation in areas of shared interest.

Tsai made the remarks while welcoming an EP delegation at the Office of the President in Taipei City. Led by Ivo Vajgl of Slovenia, a member of the EP and Committee on Foreign Affairs, the group is in Taiwan Sept. 16-21 on a civil society, de-



President Tsai Ing-wen (second right) greets MEP Ivo Vajgl and his European Parliament delegation at the Office of the President in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

fense, economic and foreign affairs fact-finding mission.

According to Tsai, the EP's adoption of the report on the state of EU-China relations and its parts pertaining to Taiwan is sincerely welcomed by the government and the people.

Authored by long-time Taiwan friend MEP Bas Belder of the Netherlands, the report calls on the EU and its member states to back Taiwan's meaningful participation in interna-

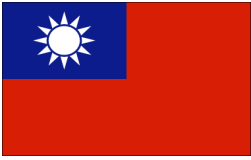
tional organisations, start bilateral investment agreement talks, and urge China to “refrain from further military provocation towards Taiwan” and endangering cross-strait peace and stability.

These sentiments were shared by Tsai during a recorded speech delivered earlier in the month during an EP seminar in Brussels. China is jeopardising the peaceful status quo of cross-strait relations, she said, adding that such actions only make Taiwan more determined and resolved to safeguard its democracy and contribute to global society.

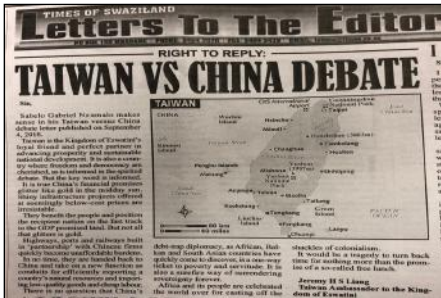
In addition to thanking the delegation for the EP's support of Taiwan, Tsai reaffirmed the government's commitment to collaborating with the EU and those member states sharing similar experiences as Taiwan in promoting democracy. Croatia, Czech Republic and Slovenia are also nations that successfully transitioned to a democratic and peaceful way of life, she added. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Left: Two large mooncakes made from fruits and vegetables were given as a festive treat for the Taipei Zoo's giant pandas in celebration of Mid-Autumn Festival. (Courtesy of Taipei Zoo) Centre: Taiwan expatriates, legislators and supporters march through Times Square in New York to urge the U.N. to deliver equal treatment to Taiwan's 23 million people and resolve the issue of the nation's exclusion from the U.N. system. (CNA) Right: Gymnast Lee Chih-kai is one of 17 Taiwan athletes who earned gold at the Asian Games in Indonesia. Taiwan athletes brought home the largest medal haul in 20 years from Asian Games. (UDN)



Taiwan's Ambassador to Eswatini Sets Record Straight on Bilateral Ties



A Times of Swaziland letter to the editor penned by Ambassador Jeremy H. S. Liang. (Courtesy of Times of Swaziland)

Taiwan's new ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini, Jeremy H. S. Liang, set the record straight on bilateral relations in a letter to the editor recently published by the Times of Swaziland, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

"Taiwan is Eswatini's loyal friend and perfect partner in advancing prosperity and sustainable national development," Liang said. "It is also a country where freedom and democracy are cherished, as is informed and spirited debate."

Liang, who assumed his post late last month in the capital Mbabane, was responding to a letter questioning the wisdom of Eswatini's longstanding ties with Taiwan and urging the people of the landlocked nation in southern Africa to clamour for massive infrastructure projects dangled by China.

"It is true China's financial promises glitter like gold in the midday sun," Liang said, adding that at first blush they benefit the people and position the recipients on the fast track to the promised land of high gross domestic product. "But not all that glitters is gold."

According to Liang, highways, ports and railways built in "partnership" with Chinese firms quickly become bankrupting burdens. "In no time, they are handed back to China and take on a new function as conduits for efficiently exporting a country's natural resources and importing low-quality goods and cheap labour," he said.

"There is no question that China's debt-trap diplomacy, as African, Balkan and

South Asian countries have quickly come to discover, is a one-way ticket to poverty and servitude," Liang said. "It is also a sure-fire way of surrendering sovereignty forever."

Liang said the people of Africa are celebrated the world over for casting off the shackles of colonialism. "It would be a tragedy to turn back time for nothing more than the promise of a so-called free lunch."

According to the MOFA, Taiwan works closely with Eswatini in areas like agriculture, education, health care, information and communication technology, renewable energy and vocational training.

In June, the two sides signed a broad-based agreement strengthening economic, environmental protection, investment, technical, tourism and trade cooperation. The pact is expected to further enhance the well-being of the people and create mutually beneficial outcomes for both nations, the MOFA said.

(Source: Taiwan Today)

Royal Opening for Taiwan Pavilion at Eswatini International Trade Fair

The Taiwan Pavilion at the 50th Eswatini International Trade Fair was opened by King Mswati III and new Ambassador Jeremy H. S. Liang.

Organised by Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the pavilion features seven businesses from Taiwan showcasing their latest wares at nine booths during the 11-day event in Manzini, the Kingdom of Eswatini's second-largest city.

The products include costume jewellery, food products, information and communication technology devices and light-emitting diode, or LED, fixtures. All are expected to generate great interest among visitors to the annual fair at Mavuso Trade Centre in the landlocked nation in southern Africa.

One of the highlights of the pavilion is a

special tasting zone offering a selection of Taiwan's signature snacks like craft beer, pork jerky and pineapple cakes. According to TAITRA, the tasty temptations will open the eyes of consumers to a world of exciting food possibilities produced in Taiwan.

Liang said he was honoured to take part in the pavilion's ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside the king. "His majesty's attendance illustrates the deep friendship between Taiwan and Eswatini.

"It also shows a sincere appreciation at the highest levels in the kingdom for Taiwan firms and their top-notch products."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), which sent a Taiwan business delegation to South Africa and Eswatini on an 11-day mission last month, said the govern-

ment is committed to assisting local companies cultivate win-win opportunities across the continent.

This move is also in line with President Tsai Ing-wen's goal of enhancing commercial and investment exchanges with Eswatini and neighbouring countries following her state visit to the kingdom in April, the MOFA added.

Statistics from the Bureau of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Economic Affairs show that bilateral trade with Eswatini hit US\$7.6 million in 2017, up 15.95 percent year on year. Leading Taiwan exports include aquaculture products, electronics, electrical machinery, iron, plastics, rubber and steel. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Tsai Targets Taiwan's Circular Economy, Green Energy Sector for Upgraded Promotion

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the government is redoubling efforts to advance Taiwan's circular economy and renewable energy through astute policymaking and promoting public-private sector co-operation.

The government's circular economy mantra centres on sustainability and deriving maximum value from scarce resources, Tsai said. This successful approach is making a difference in nearly every industry, with one of the best examples jerseys made from yarn featuring recycled polyethylene terephthalate, or PET, at the World Cup in Russia, she added.

Top priorities in further tapping the potential of this area, Tsai said, include lifting water reuse rates for related sectors, reducing air pollution and environmental waste, and spurring exports of high-quality and innovative green products.

Tsai made the remarks during the joint opening ceremony of Circular Economy



President Tsai Ing-wen reiterates the government's commitment to fast-tracking promotion of Taiwan's circular economy and green energy sector in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

and Energy Taiwan exhibitions in Taipei City.

The development experiences of Taiwan over the past two years demonstrate that economic growth can go hand in hand with environmental protection and sustainability, Tsai said. The time is ripe for businesses at home and abroad to invest in the country and capitalize on its economic and industrial transformation, she added.

According to Tsai, ongoing investment in wind power generation off the coast of Changhua County in central Taiwan and establishment of a logistical support hub at nearby Port of Taichung show the synergies on offer from innovative collaboration between government agencies and businesses in developing green energy.

This progressive approach carries over to solar energy, Tsai said, citing the 140 percent increase in installed capacities from 936 megawatts to 2,238 MW since 2016. It is anticipated this number will reach 20 gigawatts by 2025 as projected, she added.

The circular economy and green energy are part of the government's five-plus-two innovative industries initiative. This farsighted initiative targets the other high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, national defence, smart machinery and Internet of Things, as well as the promotion of a new paradigm for agricultural development. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Taiwan Moves up to 3rd in BERI's Latest Global Investment Report



Taipei City is one of the jewels in Taiwan's equity investment crown as assessed by U.S.-based Business Environment Risk Intelligence SA in its latest Profit Opportunity Recommendation report. (Courtesy of Hsinchu Science Park Administration)

Taiwan moved up one spot to third among 50 major countries and territories surveyed in the latest Profit Opportunity Recommendation report by U.S.-based

Business Environment Risk Intelligence (BERI) SA.

Finishing equal with Germany and Norway but behind Switzerland and Singapore in that order, Taiwan outpaced its Asian neighbours South Korea in seventh; Japan, 10th; and China, 15th.

Taiwan's combined score of 68 earned it a second-best investment rating of 1B, indicating that conditions merit sustained commitment of equity. This was the same for Singapore, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and South Korea, with only Switzerland achieving the top 1A rating.

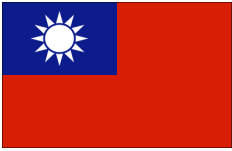
Of the three rankings comprising the combined score, Taiwan finished 13th in political risks globally. According to BERI, the country's political ratings are stable and economic conditions are expected to

improve under President Tsai Ing-wen's leadership.

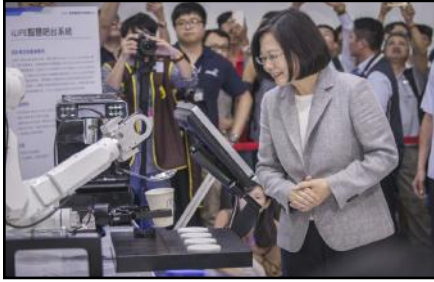
Concerning operations risk, Taiwan topped Asia and ranked sixth globally on par with Canada and trailing Switzerland, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands and U.S. in that order.

The report described the local banking industry as stable and strong, citing its 44.3 percent surge in gross profits in 2017. BERI also projected Taiwan's real gross domestic product to increase by 2.7 percent this year on the strength of "healthy economic activity."

In terms of remittance and repatriation risks, Taiwan continued to top the world, with BERI tipping the nation to retain its leadership position in the following four years. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



President Tsai Pledges to Make Taiwan a Global Smart Machinery Hub



President Tsai Ing-wen orders a coffee made with a dash of high-tech flair at Taiwan Automation Intelligence and Robot Show in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the government is making solid progress in transforming Taiwan into a global hub for smart machinery and intelligent manufacturing.

Local firms are receiving assistance from the government in the form of expert advice and subsidies in upgrading their manufacturing models, Tsai said. This will enable them to make the transition from manual labour to smart production in line with Industry 4.0, she added. Industry 4.0, also known as the fourth

industrial revolution, refers to the development of digitally connected manufacturing that combines artificial intelligence, big data management, smart automation and the Internet of Things.

Tsai, who made the remarks while opening the Taiwan Automation Intelligence and Robot Show at Taipei Nangang Exhibition Centre, said the local machinery industry plays a central role in the country's economic development, with production value exceeding NT\$1 trillion (US\$32.57 billion) last year.

A total of 152 companies and institutions from home and abroad are taking part in the event organised by Taipei City-based nongovernmental organisation Taiwan Automation Intelligence and Robotics Association and supported by the ministries of Economic Affairs (MOEA), Education, and Science and Technology. The show spotlights the latest technologies and trends in AI, smart manufacturing and robotics.

Some of the highlights include aerospace robot applications and mobile robotic

arms developed by state-backed Industrial Technology Research Institute in Hsinchu County, northern Taiwan.

A key plank in the government's national development strategy, the economic revitalisation program targets the three other high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, national defence and smart machinery, as well as the promotion of two concepts: the circular economy and a new paradigm for agricultural development.

Another important part of the event is the MOEA-organised Taiwan-Japan Smart Manufacturing Forum, which seeks to establish ties and deepen existing connections between firms from the two sides.

The show, one of five held concurrently at the same venue under the umbrella of the Series of Asia Industry 4.0 and Intelligent Manufacturing Exhibition, also encompasses 3-D printing, Internet of Things, the mold and die industry, and mechanical components. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

President Tsai Reaffirms Commitment to Growing Taiwan's Semiconductor Industry



President Tsai Ing-wen (centre right) is joined by representatives of global semiconductor heavyweights and senior government officials at the Office of President in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the government is committed to developing Taiwan's semiconductor sector so as to ensure the country remains one of the top investment destinations for interna-

tional high-tech companies.

Public and private sector collaboration over the past year has seen ramped-up foreign investment in the sector, Tsai said. This is evidenced by several top-line equipment and material suppliers showing keen interest recently in raising their stakes, she added.

Tsai made the remarks while receiving a delegation of representatives from U.S.-based Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI) and Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association, as well as executives of industry heavyweights from home and abroad at the Office of the President in Taipei City.

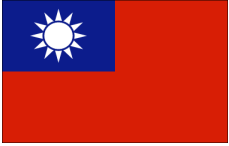
The delegates—including SEMI President and CEO Ajit Manocha—are in Taiwan for the IC60 Master Forum, an event on the sidelines of the annual Semicon Tai-

wan running in Taipei.

Tsai also took the opportunity to exchange views with the delegates on key issues such as foreign talent recruitment, high-tech professional cultivation, think tank development and opportunities for Taiwan stemming from the U.S.-China trade war.

The production value of Taiwan's semiconductor industry stood at NT\$2.46 trillion (US\$80.09 million) in 2017, trailing only the U.S. and South Korea in that order, according to statistics compiled by the Industrial Economics and Knowledge Centre under state-backed Industrial Technology Research Institute based in Hsinchu County, northern Taiwan.

(Source: Taiwan Today)



Maori Tribes People Visit Taiwan to Explore Cultural Ancestry



CIP Minister Icyang Parod (front, second left) exchanges gifts with Arapeta Hamilton (front, left), hereditary leader of the Ngati Manu tribe in New Taipei City. (Courtesy of CIP)

A group of Maoris from the Ngati Manu tribe in New Zealand's Karetu region is visiting Taiwan to explore their cultural roots, according to the Cabinet-level Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP).

The tour is sponsored by the CIP and arranged under the Hawaiki Project, an initiative of the Maori tribe aimed at fostering awareness of indigenous identity among their young generations as well as bolstering ties with culturally

connected overseas communities along the Polynesian migration pathway from Taiwan to New Zealand.

Ten Maori teenagers are participating in the 11-day cultural exchange program. CIP is also arranging for 10 young members of Taiwan's indigenous tribes to travel to New Zealand for next year's Waitangi Day, the Southern Hemisphere country's national day celebrated Feb. 6.

CIP Minister Icyang Parod said numerous studies have indicated that Taiwan's indigenous tribes and the Maori people share a cultural, genetic and linguistic heritage. The Hawaiki Project is an excellent platform for uncovering connections between the Austronesian-speaking groups, he added.

Arapeta Hamilton, hereditary leader of the Ngati Manu tribe, thanked the minister and CIP officials for their support of the program. While the journey from New Zealand to the Maori's ancestral land in Taiwan was long, the participants

are enjoying every moment of their time in the country owing to its stunning natural beauty and the warm hospitality of its people, he said.

Major activities on the group's itinerary include attending the annual harvest festival of the Amis tribe in eastern Taiwan's Hualien County. The participants will also visit southern Taiwan to learn about the customs of the Paiwan tribe, as well as attend classes on traditional music and dance and hunting and weaving practices at the Indigenous Peoples Cultural Development Centre in Pingtung County.

Indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples have lived in Taiwan for millennia. The latest CIP statistics revealed that the population of the Taiwan's 16 officially recognized tribes stands at around 530,000, or 2.3 percent of the nation's total of 23.5 million. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Top Taiwan Designs Take Centre Stage at New York Fashion Show



Taiwan designers Joe Chan (left) and Cheng Pai-cheng are set to present their 2019 spring and summer collections at the AsianInNY 10th Anniversary Fashion Show. (CNA)

Taiwan designers are set to present their 2019 spring and summer collections at the AsianInNY 10th Anniversary Fashion Show, drawing international attention to the country's vibrant cultural and creative sector.

Organised by the Taipei Cultural Centre in New York under the Ministry of Culture (MOC), the show will feature works by five fashion designers—Joe Chan, Jessica Chen, Cheng Pai-cheng, Chelsea Liu and Alexandra Peng Charton.

The centre said the fashion show, co-hosted with online Asian networking platform AsianInNY, will enable New York audiences to appreciate the strengths of Taiwan's emerging fashion designers while raising their profile on the global stage.

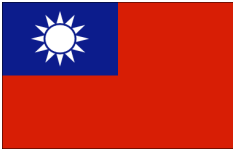
Chan, who has his own menswear label, fuses European fashion with Taiwan techniques. His designs for this show are based on ideas he derived from illustrations of medieval surgical procedures, according to the MOC.

Cheng, known for his designs with bold colours and digital prints, draws his work from fairy tales and natural landscapes.

His latest collection was inspired by the changes in dawn lighting in urban areas, the ministry said.

The fashion event will be opened with a dance, music and magic show by Wow Taiwan and feature Billy Chang—the first local dancer to perform in Cirque de Soliel—and Afu, guitarist from renowned Taiwan band Sodagreen.

Wow Taiwan is a month-long program of exhibitions and performances in New York run by a group of artists whose aim is to promote the diversity of the country's cultural offerings. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



MOFA Minister Unveils US\$2 Million Medical Fund at Pacific Islands Forum



MOFA Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu (fourth, right) announces a US\$2 million medical fund during an SDGs roundtable attended by Baron Waqa (fifth right), president of PIF host nation Nauru, and representatives of other members of the annual forum.

Taiwan is to establish a US\$2 million fund aimed at boosting medical cooperation with Pacific countries, Foreign Min-

ister Jaushieh Joseph Wu said at a sustainable development goals roundtable during the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in ally Nauru.

Warmly welcomed by PIF member representatives during the SDGs event, the fund will significantly enhance the health and well-being of the people in the Pacific. It is seen as a natural extension of the extensive and long-standing collaboration between Taiwan and Pacific nations in areas like agriculture, education, health care and public infrastructure.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the fund will support the deployment of Taiwan medical team tasked with tackling health issues specific to Pacific nations, as well as subsidise related efforts and programs initiated by governments throughout the region.

Wu, who is leading a delegation to Nauru for the four-day PIF, also hosted the Taiwan/ROC—PIF Forum Dialogue, met with heads of state and representatives of like-minded countries, and visited Taiwan technical mission cooperative projects. Taiwan has participated in the annual PIF since 1993 and is considered an important development partner.

Founded in 1971, Fiji-headquartered PIF is an intergovernmental grouping of 18 nations, including Taiwan's Pacific allies Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Its goals include boosting economic growth and enhancing political governance and security for the region. *(Source: Taiwan Today)*

BBC Credits Taipei's Transport, Health Care for City's Growing Appeal



Taipei's health care system is cited as one of the reasons the city has been climbing global liveability rankings in a BBC article published. (Photo courtesy of Taiwan Healthcare)

Taipei is climbing in global liveability rankings thanks to its high-quality health care and transportation infrastructure, spotlighting the city's reputation as an increasingly attractive destination for business travellers and expatriates, according to a BBC travel article published.

The municipality was one of five loca-

tions selected by the British news organization as performing better in the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index released in August. It rose two spots to 58th place in the rankings based on five categories: stability, health care, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.

Describing the city as an "East Asian hub," the BBC report praised the connectivity of the capital's metro system, which extends as far as the country's main international airport. The Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport mass rapid transit service is the longest MRT line in the country at 53 km.

The article also quoted overseas residents who said they appreciated the friendliness of the people, the diversity of education options, and the affordability and high standard of health care available to both locals and expats. Corporate adviser Shannon Watson told the media organization: "The health care system is amazing—and coming from a Canadian with universal health care, that means something."

Launched in 1995, Taiwan's National Health Insurance system is a compulsory single-payer social insurance plan covering virtually every citizen and foreign resident in Taiwan. It offers convenient access to inpatient and outpatient services, dental care, prescription medications and traditional Chinese treatments.

The other four cities selected by the BBC were Auckland in New Zealand; Budapest in Hungary; Honolulu in the U.S.; and Kuwait City in Kuwait. *(Source: Taiwan Today)*



Joint Indigenous Harvest Festival in Hualien Celebrates Tribal Culture



Taiwan actor Lee Hong-chi (right) stars as the young Lao Zhang in Taiwan-produced drama "Cities of Last Things," winner of the Platform prize at the TIFF. (Courtesy of Changhe Films Ltd.)

Taiwan-produced "Cities of Last Things" won the Platform prize for risk-taking movies with high artistic merit at the 43rd Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

Making its world premiere at the event, the drama by Taiwan-based Malaysian

filmmaker Ho Wi Ding centres on depressed former police officer Lao Zhang and his long-soured relationship with his unfaithful wife. Unfolding in reverse chronological order, the movie depicts the three critical nights in Zhang's past that shaped his personality and interactions with women.

According to the festival jury, the director demonstrated an exceptional ability to "weave together multiple genres with social and political critique, while telling a story that remains intimately human at its core." Describing "Cities of Last Things" as deeply moving, the jury wrote "the film has a spirit that always feels beautifully close to real life."

Unable to attend the award ceremony, Ho expressed gratitude for the prize through a short video. Noting that the project took many years to complete, he conveyed special thanks to his wife Hu Chih-hsin, one of the producers of the

movie, for accompanying him on this journey.

"Cities of Last Things" was the sole entry from East and Southeast Asia on the 12-strong shortlist for the fourth edition of the Platform award, which comes with a cash prize of 25,000 Canadian dollars (US\$19,180). The 107-minute production is set to be screened at the Busan International Film Festival running Oct. 4-13 in South Korea before opening nationwide in Taiwan from Oct. 26.

Founded in 1976, the TIFF is one of the largest film festivals in the world, attracting an average of more than 6,000 submissions annually. A total of 342 were screened over the course of the 11-day festival this year, including 254 features and 88 shorts, according to the event organiser. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

GACC Event to Showcase Taiwan Music, Design Products in Tokyo



GACC Deputy Secretary-General Chang Tieh-chih unveils the Taiwan Plus initiative in Taipei City.

A Taiwan cultural event comprising concerts, a market offering creative products and an exhibition of traditional food preservation techniques will be staged at Ueno Park in Tokyo.

Organised by Taipei City-based General Association of Chinese Culture (GACC) in collaboration with the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association, Taiwan Plus aims to strengthen international awareness of

the nation's rich heritage. It is scheduled to be held annually in Tokyo for the next three years.

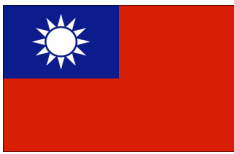
GACC Deputy Secretary-General Chang Tieh-chih said that the eyes of the world will be drawn to the Japanese capital in the run-up to the 2020 Summer Olympics, making it an ideal overseas venue to highlight the country's traditions. Each edition of Taiwan Plus will focus on a different aspect of local culture, with music taking centre stage at the inaugural event, he added.

Themed The Sound of Island, the concert portion of this year's showcase will spotlight the ethnic and cultural diversity of Taiwan's music sector. Performers include Hakka artist Ayugo Huang; Holo singer-songwriter Hsieh Ming-yu; electronic music group The Girl and the Robots; as well as indigenous talents Pauldull; Sangpuy Katatepan Mavaliyw; and Abao—also known as Aljenjeng Tjatjali-juvy.

Running alongside the concerts, the Taiwan Cultural Market is set to display goods by 50 design brands. Among the products on offer will be bubble milk tea, handicrafts like embroidered shoes and rush-woven bags, and stationery inspired by artefacts in Taipei-based National Palace Museum.

The exhibition will demonstrate traditional methods of drying fruits and vegetables to extend their shelf life. Taipei-based creative brand Pinmo Pure Store is also set to present its unique technique for printing without using ink or chemicals.

GACC, founded in 1967 and headed by President Tsai Ing-wen, works to deepen understanding of local traditions, foster international exchanges and facilitate the development of Taiwan's cultural and creative industries. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Taiwan Taoyuan Airport Ranks Third Globally for Service Quality



TIAC Senior Vice President Hung Yu-fen (right) receives an Airport Service Quality Award on behalf of Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport in Halifax, Canada. (Courtesy of TTIA)

Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport was honored for being among the best facilities in the world serving over 40 million passengers a year by Airports Council International Sept. 12 in Halifax, Canada.

TTIA placed third in the largest group by size at the Airport Service Quality Awards hosted by the Montreal-based global trade body. India's Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai shared the top spot, with Beijing and Shanghai Pudong airports in China in joint second place.

At the awards ceremony, facility operator Taoyuan International Airport Corp. Ltd. Senior Vice President Hung Yu-fen said the company will continue working with all parties in offering the best services for domestic and international travelers.

This is the first time the country's main international gateway has been recognized in this category after it exceeded the passenger threshold in 2016. Last year, the airport handled 44.88 million

travelers and is expected to be able to serve up to 86 million passengers a year once construction on a third terminal is completed.

This honor means that the airport was also inducted into the ACI Director-General's Roll of Excellence, according to TIAC. Airports that rank at least in the top five that year and have won first place at least five times in the past decade make the list.

The Airport Service Quality Awards are based on over 600,000 passenger satisfaction surveys of 343 airports in 84 countries and territories.

Taoyuan airport is frequently recognized for its outstanding facilities and services. It won best immigration services in 2018 and best airport staff the previous year in U.K.-based air travel research group

The Most Beautiful Bays in the World Congress to be Held in Penghu



Headquartered in Vannes, Central France, "The Most Beautiful Bays in the World (MBBW)" is an international NGO club founded in 1997 and supported by UNESCO. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary in 2017, the organization pledged to make an effort to promote the protection of natural and cultural resources of world bays.

In the MBBW Club there are currently a total of 43 bays from 25 countries, including Mont Saint-Michel Bay in France,

Yeosu bay in Korea, Ha Long Bay in Vietnam and Penghu Bay in Taiwan. Every time the World Congress (the annual meeting) of the MBBW Club is held in each member state, it also symbolises the joint determination to safeguard the world bays.

This year the annual congress and carnival will be held in Penghu.

Penghu's longstanding efforts in marine life conservation caught the attention of

the MBBW Club, which invited Penghu through the Taipei Representative Office in France to apply for membership. The unique bay atmosphere formed from Penghu's geology, rich culture and history left a deep impression on the organization's other members, and after three years of efforts, the application process was completed and formal membership obtained.

It will be an important time in the County's journey onto the international stage and so, in addition to the meeting, Penghu will host the Most Beautiful Bay Carnival. Other planned events include the Night at the Bay, an arts parade, the Seafood Festival, the Conference on the Ocean, a global marketing expo, the Global Charity Queen Pageant, IRON-MAN Taiwan, and an international yacht expo. (Source: <https://eng.taiwan.net.tw>)



Hsieh Su-wei Clinches Japan Women's Open Title



Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan during the final of the Japan Women's Open in Hiroshima. (UDN)

Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei clinched the Japan Women's Open in Hiroshima with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Amanda Anisimova of the U.S.

Hsieh secured her third career Women's Tennis Association title with an emphatic 58-minute triumph over the unseeded 17-year-old. Victory earned the Taiwan star US\$43,000 in prize money and catapulted her to 29th in the WTA rankings, marking her return to the world top 30

for the first time since February 2013.

Playing her first singles final for six years, second-seeded Hsieh started slowly, losing seven of the opening nine points and giving up three break points to Anisimova. With the American player unable to take advantage of these early opportunities, the 32-year-old Taiwanese took command of the match, building a 4-1 lead in securing the first set.

Hsieh rode this momentum into the second set, consistently out-thinking her less-experienced opponent, as exemplified by a stunning improvised drop shot in the fifth game. Despite losing her serve in the next game, she continued to confound Anisimova with clever angles and net play, before clinching the championship with a smash.

Speaking after the match, Hsieh expressed pride in her performance and attributed her recent run of good results

to a shift in mentality. Having struggled with an ankle injury last season, the Taiwan athlete said that she is focusing on playing without pressure and enjoying her time on the court.

Best known as a doubles star, Hsieh is formerly the world's top-ranked women's doubles player, winning the doubles titles at Wimbledon in 2013 and the French Open in 2014. Her previous WTA singles crowns came in 2012 at the Malaysia Open and Guangzhou Open in China.

This season, Hsieh has experienced a resurgence in singles form, defeating third-seeded Garbine Muguruza while reaching the fourth round of the Australian Open and upsetting World No. 1 Simona Halep to qualify for the same round at Wimbledon. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Taiwan Tug of War Teams Show Strength at World Championships



Taiwan women's team pulls for gold in the under-23 500-kg event at the TWIF Open Clubs Competition in Cape Town, South Africa. (Courtesy of CTTWA)

Taiwan has walked away with five gold medals—one short of half the total medal haul—at the 2018 Tug of War International Federation (TWIF) Outdoor Club Championships in Cape Town, South Africa.

Students and alumni from Taipei Jingmei Girls High School and National Taiwan Normal University triumphed in the un-

der-23 500-kilogram event, beating South Africa and again in the senior 540-kg weight class, defeating Basque Country.

The other women's team to shine was from National Nantou Senior High School in central Taiwan, who claimed Taiwan's first gold medal in the junior 480-kg contest after thrashing South Africa.

The remaining two golds were claimed by mixed teams also after crushing the host country.

Taoyuan Municipal Shou Shan Senior High School in northern Taiwan and Nantou Senior High won the junior 520-kg contest. Competitors from Jingmei Girls High and Taoyuan City-headquartered National Taiwan Sport University grabbed gold in the under-23 560-kg contest.

The Outdoor Club Championships is a curtain raiser to the event's highlight,

the biennial TWIF World Outdoor Tug of War Championships in Cape Town.

Taiwan is looking to defend its women's 500-kg title, which it has won four consecutive times since 2010, according to the national tug of war association based in Taipei. It is also hoping to keep the women's 540-kg title nabbed in 2016.

Local athletes took home six golds, one silver and one bronze at the 2016 outdoor club and world championships, according to the association.

More than 1,100 competitors from 20 countries and territories including Australia, Belgium, Nigeria, the U.K. and U.S. are taking part in the event this year, according to TWIF. **(Source: Taiwan News)**