

“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 Pledges to Build a Stronger Taiwan in National Day Address

President Tsai Ing-wen vowed to build a stronger Taiwan by boosting national security, economic competitiveness and the social safety net in her Double Tenth National Day address.

In the face of dramatic changes in international politics and economics and the expansion of China's influence, the country will pursue a strategy of stability, adaptability and progress rooted in national strength, Tsai said.

The president's address was broadcast live on television and the internet and delivered before an audience of thousands of citizens and dignitaries from home and abroad. It was followed by the annual Double Tenth National Day parade featuring colourful floats as well as a flyover by five air force Mirage 2000 fighter jets.

Among the local officials in attendance were Vice President Chen Chien-jen, Legislative Yuan President Su Jia-chyuan, Premier Lai Ching-te and the leaders of the opposition Kuomintang, New Power Party and People First Party. Foreign guests included Paraguay President Mario Abdo Benitez, St. Lucia Prime Minister Allen Chastanet and St. Kitts and Nevis Governor-General Sir S. W. Tapley Seaton as well as delegations from Germany, Japan, South Africa and the U.S.

According to Tsai, over the past year all countries have been tested by the shifting international landscape and Taiwan is no exception. China's diplomatic offensive and military coercion have seriously challenged the cross-strait status quo, she said, adding that these actions have caused concern in the global community.

The president urged Beijing to play a positive role in the region and the world instead of being a source of conflict. Taiwan will not be provoked into confrontations that endanger cross-strait relations, she said, but will remain composed and work to protect the nation's free and democratic way of life, safeguard its sustainable development and maintain peace and stability.

Tsai outlined challenges to Taiwan's national security beyond traditional defence and military concerns in such areas as diplomatic pressure, social infiltration and economics.

The president identified four approaches to fortifying the country against these threats: fostering value-based diplomatic links; upgrading national defence capabilities based on the strategy of resolute defence and multidomain deterrence; preventing foreign powers from infiltrating and subverting society; and adjusting Taiwan's role in regional development and global supply chains.

Taiwan's defence budget will also grow steadily every year, the president said.

According to Tsai, Taiwan will pursue three major objectives in realigning its position in supply chains. First, the country will seek to establish close links in cutting-edge manufacturing and R&D with advanced economies like the U.S., Europe and Japan.

Second, Taiwan will work to expand mutually beneficial cooperation with New Southbound Policy countries and other high-growth economies. Third, the government will deepen collaboration with diplomatic allies on sustainable development so as to open new markets and cultivate global bases of operation for Taiwan enterprises.

On the domestic front, the government's far-sighted, technology-focused economic policies are delivering tangible benefits, Tsai said.

The five-plus-two industrial innovation program is raising manufacturing standards in key sectors like aerospace, Internet of Things and medical devices, with the output value of Taiwan's machinery industry exceeding NT\$1 trillion (US\$32.13 billion) last year, the president said.

Progress is also being made under the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program,

which will prioritise investment in digitisation, green energy, railways, urban-rural development and water resources projects going forward.

With structural transformation and infrastructure construction underway and the investment environment showing improvement, Taiwan's economy is rebounding and displaying signs of stable growth, Tsai said, noting that real earnings hit an all-time high last year, while in the first five months of 2018 unemployment fell to an 18-year low for the period.

According to Tsai, a major focus of government policy is ensuring this growth dividend is shared among all sectors of society. This is being accomplished through promoting tax equality, raising wages for public sector workers and creating a sound social security net.

On the latter front, the government has initiated a range of social housing projects, with 24,000 units either completed or under development. Other measures include the Long-term Care Plan 2.0 to provide community-based health and support services for elderly and disabled citizens as well as publically funded child care aimed at boosting Taiwan's birth-rate.

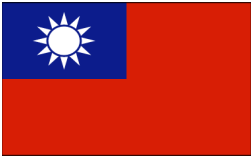
“Our country's course of development is changing,” Tsai said. “Change should not be feared because we change to adapt to a shifting world so that Taiwan can continue to stand tall.”

Describing Taiwan as a beacon, Tsai said that the nation's democratic transition illuminated its path through darkness and now stands as a shining example for people throughout the region who long for these values.

“We have always believed that our distinctive resilience allows Taiwanese to respond to never-ending internal and external challenges by coming together to make this country better.” (Source: *Taiwan Today*)



Left: President Tsai Ing-wen delivers her Double Tenth National Day address outside the Presidential Office Building in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President) **Centre:** President Tsai Ing-wen (centre) comforts a girl whose family was affected by the train accident in Yilan during an early morning visit to four hospitals in the north-eastern Taiwan county. (Courtesy of Office of the President Chief Photographer Makoto Lin) **Right:** Jeremy H. S. Liang, Taiwan's ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini, presents King Mswati III with a framed copy of the International Photography Awards honourable mention won by Makoto Lin, chief photographer of the Office of the President, at Ludzidzini Palace.



Hope Springs Eternal at Ithembelihle LSEN School



Representative Matthew Chou and Principle Leonor Ngozi (Courtesy of Audrey Wang)

Through the joint efforts of the Institute for Information Industry (III), Republic of China (Taiwan) and Lighting Afrika Group (LAG), South Africa, a cooperation project "ION Water Saving and Intelligent LED Lighting Power Saving," which aims at dramatically reducing water and lighting costs while purifying water, has successfully been implemented at Ithembelihle LSEN School in South Africa.

The completed system was handed over by Representative Matthew Chou from

the Taipei Liaison Office in the Republic of South Africa to the delighted Principle of Ithembelihle LSEN School, Ms. Leonor Ngozi.

During the handing-over ceremony, Representative Chou said, "As we know, energy saving is one of the most pressing issues in the world. Taiwan is an island country with limited natural resources; therefore the concern for energy resources and sustainability has become an important drive for us to develop new technologies and products that can effectively cut down the use of power and water. As a result, throughout the years, Taiwan has invented some of the top energy saving devices, such as smart meters, LED lights and water sanitisation saving systems."

Attending the ceremony were the District Director Ekurhuleni North: Education, Ms. Ntutha, Ekurhuleni City Councilor Tania Campbell, Councilor Wendy Morgan and Chairman of the School Governing Board, Ms. Faith Mashiolane. Each

dignitary thanked III and LAG for their enthusiasm and dedication to the project and said that it would not only impact the monthly bills, but also make a huge difference in the lives of the students.

"Thank you for paying it forward. Ubuntu is within every nation. You are changing lives", Ms. Mashiolane said.

Representative Chou further went on to praise the efforts of Ms. Cynthia Chou and Mr. Alan Chang from III, Ms. Serena Yen, Volunteer at Tzu-Chi Foundation in South Africa and Mr. Gavin Gung, Secretary-General of the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg, and Sales Director at LAG. "I look forward to witnessing the savings of your power and water costs with the system in place," Representative Chou said.

Guests were treated to wonderful performances by the students and everyone left with a special feeling in their hearts that something good had been accomplished. **(Dominique Spalovsky)**

Taiwan Celebrates it's 107th Birthday

The 107th birthday celebrations of the Republic of China (Taiwan) was held at the stylish Centurion Golf Estate Clubhouse on the 8th of October. Hundreds of guests turned out in their best evening finery to commemorate the significant day in Taiwanese history.

Representative Matthew Chou of the Taipei Liaison Office, said that he was especially honoured to be the Representative in South Africa during the centenary celebrations of the icon, Mr. Nelson Mandela. Representative Chou said this year in particular afforded everyone time to reflect on how they were continuing the great humanitarian and leader's legacy.

"South Africa and Taiwan both place significant value on democracy, equal rights and freedom. We cherish the principles of human dignity and rule of law, just as Mr. Mandela considered these values as the core of democracy," Repre-



Representative Matthew Chou raises a glass to celebrate the 107th birthday of Taiwan. (Courtesy of Audrey Wang)

sentative Chou said .

He further went on to say, "our two countries have spent many years in fulfilling and building on these aspirations, and while many have been achieved, there is still much work to do".

Representative Chou said that while the past year had been both challenging and

rewarding, he was genuinely optimistic about bolstering mutually beneficial relations between Taiwan and South Africa.

Guests were treated to a mouth-watering array of Taiwanese food, fine wine and traditional Taiwanese performances by the Nan Hua Temple and the Pretoria Chinese School. **(Dominique Spalovsky)**



Guests were entertained by the Electric Techno Neon Gods. (Courtesy of Audrey Wang)



VP Chen Touts Taiwan-Holy See Ties During Vatican Visit



Vice President Chen Chien-jen and his wife Lo Fong-ping meet Pope Francis in the Holy See. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

The government and people of Taiwan place tremendous importance on diplomatic relations with the Holy See and look forward to deepening and expanding exchanges across a broad spectrum of areas, Vice President Chen Chien-jen said.

As a beacon of religious freedom and tolerance, Taiwan is committed to further strengthening ties with the Holy See via substantive cooperative initiatives spanning democracy, religious freedom

and human rights, Chen said. This more than seven-decade partnership has achieved real progress in promoting benevolence, humanity and peace, he added.

Chen made the remarks while attending on behalf of President Tsai Ing-wen the canonisation of Pope Paul VI and six other Catholic figures at St. Peter's Basilica. He is accompanied by his wife Lo Fong-ping and senior government officials like Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Kelly Wu-chiao Hsieh on a six-day trip to the Vatican.

Prior to the ceremony, Chen shook hands with Pope Francis, officially invited him to visit Taiwan and gifted the pontiff a specially produced DVD documentary on the life of Taiwan-based Jesuit Andres Diaz de Rabago. The 102-year-old Spaniard, who was granted citizenship in 2017, has served the people of Taiwan for nearly half a century as a practitioner and teacher of medicine.

In response, the pope said he is well aware of the good work the Jesuits are doing in Taiwan, asked Chen to convey his greetings to Tsai and said he would pray for Taiwan.

Chen also took part in a dinner function for Taiwan clergy and expatriates, called on Taiwan's embassy in the Holy See and representative office in Italy, toured the Apostolic Palace of Castel Gandolfo, attended a Mass for Taiwan and world peace at the Chapel of the Choir of St. Peter's Basilica and visited the Abbey of Montecassino.

This year marks the 76th anniversary of Taiwan-Holy See ties. Recent highlights of bilateral relations include the staging of the World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea in October 2017 in southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung City, as well as the signing of a memorandum of understanding on strengthening cooperation in combating money laundering, terrorism financing and associated offenses in May the same year. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

MOFA Thanks EU for Voicing Commitment to Deepening Cooperation with Taiwan

Remarks by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini expressing the union's commitment to enhancing cooperation and exchanges with Taiwan were welcomed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

Taiwan looks forward to working with EU member states in advancing economic growth, prosperity and stability in Asia and Europe based on the shared values of freedom, democracy, open and fair markets and sustainability, the MOFA said.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the ministry added that "#Taiwan & the #EU are like-minded partners committed to creating more opportunities for business, people-to-people & technology exchanges for the benefit of both sides & economies throughout the #AsiaPacific." The statements came a day after Mogherini penned an op-ed titled "Connecting Asia-Pacific and Europe" in

a local newspaper outlining the EU's new strategy to improve comprehensive and rules-based links between the regions.

In the piece, Mogherini also highlighted growing Taiwan-EU education and tourism exchanges and business collaboration, such as the involvement of local chipmakers in the union's Galileo GPS project. She wrote that the EU hopes to enhance such cooperation toward the development of a modern, interconnected infrastructure.

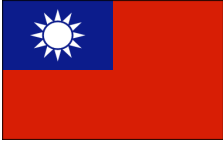
According to the MOFA, there is great potential for expanding tie-ups across the key areas identified in the new EU Asia-Europe Connectivity strategy, including diversified transportation networks, digital economy, energy and people-to-people exchanges.

This is evidenced by bilateral trade soaring to record highs over the past two years as well as extensive participation by European companies in Taiwan's four-

year wind power promotion plan. The project aims to raise the nation's installed turbine capacity to 1.334 gigawatts by 2020, with the Ministry of Economic Affairs selecting three EU firms to construct offshore wind farms.

Cooperation between Taiwan and the EU extends beyond the economic realm, the ministry said, noting that the two sides staged their first consultation meetings on human rights and labour affairs in March in Taipei and October in Brussels, respectively.

Taiwan looks forward to expanding dialogue on these issues as well as commencing negotiations on a bilateral investment agreement, the MOFA said. Such an accord would deepen the win-win partnership by bolstering trade links and increasing foreign direct investment, the ministry added. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



'Super innovator' Taiwan Ranks 13th in global competitiveness Index

Taiwan ranked 13th among 140 economies and fourth in the Asia-Pacific in the latest Global Competitiveness Report published by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

Improving by 0.1 points for a total score of 79.3, Taiwan finished ahead of regional neighbours South Korea, 15th; Malaysia, 25th; and China, 28th, but behind Singapore, second; Japan, 5th; and Hong Kong, 7th. The U.S. topped the survey, with Germany in third.

Among the 12 categories used to assess competitiveness, Taiwan earned full marks in macroeconomic stability and ranked seventh globally for financial system. The nation was also described in the report as a "super innovator" as one of four economies, alongside Germany, Switzerland and the U.S., to receive more than 80 in innovation capability.

Responding to the report, the Cabinet-level National Development Council (NDC) said that Taiwan's strong performance is the result of wide-ranging regula-



NDC Minister Chen Mei-ling discusses Taiwan's strong performance in the latest WEF Global Competitiveness Report in Taipei City. (Courtesy of NDC)

tory efforts to build an environment conducive to financial sector development and foreign direct investment.

According to the NDC, recognition for innovation capability also underscores the impact of the government's five-plus-two industrial innovation initiative. A key plank in President Tsai Ing-wen's national development strategy, the economic revitalisation program targets the high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national de-

fence, smart machinery and Internet of Things, as well as two core concepts: the circular economy and a new paradigm for agriculture.

To ensure the nation's long-term competitiveness, the NDC said that going forward the government is committed to fostering a vibrant start-up ecosystem, promoting the digital economy, strengthening the education sector and revising customs and taxation regulations.

The 2018 edition of the WEF report introduced a new scoring system evaluating countries across 98 indicators in the dozen categories. In addition to financial stability, innovation capability and macroeconomic stability, the main classifications include business dynamism, health, information and communications technology adoption, infrastructure, institutions, labour market, market size, product market and skills. (Source: *Taiwan Today*)

Taiwan Reaffirms Commitment to Rules-Based Multilateral Trade at WTO Review



Dignitaries from WTO members attend Taiwan's Trade Policy Review in Geneva. (Courtesy of MOEA)

Taiwan's prosperity depends on rules-based multilateral trade and the country is committed to cooperating with all members to support the work of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Vice Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua said at the nation's WTO Trade Policy Review in Geneva.

"It is crucial for us that the WTO remains the central pillar to the global trading sys-

tem," Wang said at the world body's quadrennial assessment of Taiwan's trading policies and practices.

The country is advancing its role in open and inclusive multilateral trade by aligning itself with the provisions of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free trade pact between 11 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific. Likewise, Taiwan is pursuing stronger ties with its neighbours through initiatives such as the New Southbound Policy (NSP), she said.

A key plank in the government's national development strategy, the NSP seeks to enhance Taiwan's agricultural, business, cultural, education, tourism and trade ties with the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, six South Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand.

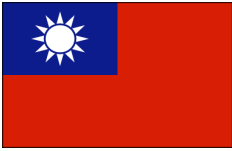
Taiwan is also working more closely with aid agencies and international organisations to assist the WTO's developing mem-

ber states achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, she said.

Citing the WTO Secretariat's country report, EU Ambassador to the world body Marc Vanheukelen praised Taiwan's economic development in the four years since the last assessment. The economy is strong, outward-looking and resilient, he said, adding it remains one of the world's most competitive.

At the TPR, some members raised concerns about Taiwan's economy such as a shrinking labour force and called for the country to streamline regulations on foreign investment. Once the meeting has wrapped up and a revised WTO Secretariat report will be issued two weeks later.

Taiwan has been a member of the organisation since Jan. 1, 2002. The nation was ranked 18th out of the WTO's top 50 economies for exports at US\$317 billion in 2017. (Source: *Taiwan Today*)



ITRI Pact Puts Taiwan Sports Tech on Fast Track



An athlete demonstrates ITRI's FHE precision motion detection system in Taipei City.

Taiwan's sports technology is set to get a boost after state-backed Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI)—based in northern Taiwan's Hsinchu County—two local universities and a U.S. electronics industry association agreed to work together to develop the country's flexible hybrid electronics (FHE) sector.

ITRI, Chang Gung and National Taiwan Sport universities (NTSU) in northern Taiwan's Taoyuan City, and SEMI signed a deal aimed at promoting the FHE smart wearable's sector

and helping local firms tap into the global sports technology market, the institute said.

FHE devices use technology that allows them to bend, fold and stretch so that they can be comfortably attached to the human body.

The agreement will see the four parties developing technology focused on collecting and analysing data from athletes to improve performance, monitor physical health and assist in the selection of the most promising candidates for competition.

ITRI Vice President Wu Chih-I said the deal sees the academic, business and R&D sectors teaming up to help Taiwan athletes optimise their performance. The institute has a strong track record in this area, said Wu, citing the institute's FHE precision motion detection system that can measure the electrical signals passing through muscle tissue to compute the wearer's strength and fatigue levels.

NTSU will use the technology to train and

monitor athletes in the disciplines of basketball, cycling, long-distance running and taekwondo, with CGU contributing scholars from athletics, biomedical science and physics to explore areas such as fatigue detection. ITRI will be in charge of R&D, while SEMI has committed to connecting the local sector with global suppliers.

Terry Tsao, president of Hsinchu County-based SEMI Taiwan, said the country has a well-developed microelectronics industry supply chain, giving it a key advantage in developing the FHE sector.

Taiwan will be more closely integrated with the global fitness wearables market when ITRI starts working with SEMI-FlexTech—a SEMI strategic partner on FHEs—to establish the Taiwan FlexTech Steering Committee. Its mission is to promote Taiwan's smart sports technology on the international stage.

(Source: Taiwan Today)

President Tsai Reaffirms Commitment to Growing Taiwan's Semiconductor Industry



President Tsai Ing-wen (fourth left), give the thumbs up at the inauguration of the NBRP in Taipei City. (CNA)

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the inauguration of the National Biotechnology Research Park (NBRP) in Taipei City marks a major step forward for the local biomedical sector and key milestone in the advancement of Taiwan's R&D prowess.

The park is expected to serve as a hub for upstream, midstream and downstream companies, creating a clustering effect and driving innovation in the field, Tsai said. By connecting with the Hsinchu Biomedical Science Park in north-western Taiwan, the facility will help form a comprehensive industry supply chain as well as attract, develop and retain world-class biotech talent, she added.

Tsai made the remarks at the launch ceremony for the NBRP in Taipei's Nangang District. The event was attended by some 500 officials, scholars and industry experts, including Minister of Health and Welfare (MOHW) Chen Shih-chung, Minister of Science and Technology (MOST) Chen Liang-gee, Minister without Portfolio Wu Tsung-tsong and Academia Sinica (AS) President James C. Liao.

Spanning 25 hectares, the NT\$20 billion (US\$648 million) park comprises seven buildings including a bioinformatics facility, incubation hub and translational medicine research centre.

Operated by an interagency management committee comprising AS and the Ministries of Economic Affairs (MOEA), Health and Welfare, and Science and Technology, the NBRP also hosts the headquarters of the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration under the MOHW, the National Laboratory Animal Centre under the MOST and the Development Centre for Biotechnology under the MOEA.

According to Tsai, the park will increase the scale and scope of local biomedical R&D as well as encourage leading foreign companies and research teams to set up bases in

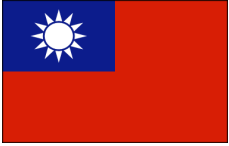
Taiwan. It is expected to draw enterprises in such fields as analytical instruments, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and testing and evaluation services.

Government commitment to supporting the sector is also demonstrated by recent regulatory amendments aimed at improving the business and legal environments for biotech firms, the president said.

Alongside the establishment of the park, these revisions to the Fundamental Science and Technology Act and the Act for the Development of Biotech and New Pharmaceuticals Industry have laid the groundwork for this sector to become the future engine of Taiwan's economic growth, she added.

The promotion of biotech is a core component of the government's five-plus-two industrial innovation initiative. A key plank in Tsai's national development strategy, the economic revitalisation program also targets the high-growth sectors of green energy, national defence, smart machinery and Internet of Things, as well as two core concepts: the circular economy and a new paradigm for agricultural development

(Source: Taiwan Today)



National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts Opens in southern Taiwan



An outdoor theatre at the National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts is illuminated during the official opening in the southern Taiwan metropolis. (Courtesy of NKCA)

National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts, southern Taiwan's first national theatre and the world's largest performing arts facility under one roof, was officially opened, underscoring government efforts to offer greater access to culture for people across the country.

Located on a former military site in the city's Fengshan District, the 9.9-hectare NKCA hosts a concert hall, exhibition

space, opera house, recital hall, and indoor and outdoor theatres. Also housing Asia's biggest organ with 9,085 pipes, it took 15 years and NT\$10.7 billion (US\$346 million) to build.

At the opening ceremony, President Tsai Ing-wen said the centre, also known as Weiwuying after the 67-hectare army training base that previously stood on the site, demonstrates the government's commitment to returning once off-limits military sites to the public domain.

According to Tsai, the centre and other Kaohsiung institutions such as Dadong Arts Centre and Pier-2 Art Centre are expected to help shape the metropolis into a cultural hub.

Designed by Dutch architect Francine Houben, the NKCA boasts world-class facilities including a 2,000-person concert hall built in vineyard style—a first for Taiwan—where the audience surrounds all sides of the stage on seating that rises like sloping terraces.

The centre will operate under the Taipei City-based National Performing Arts Centre, which includes the National Theatre and Concert Hall in the capital and the National Taichung Theatre in central Taiwan. (Source: Taiwan Today)

Taipei Nuit Blanche Art Festival Turned City 'Upside Down'



An astronaut holds a glowing orb in a promotional video for the 2018 Nuit Blanche Taipei. (Courtesy of Origin Sun Studio)

An all-night celebration of the arts with films, light installations and performances was staged in the capital's streets and cultural buildings for the annual Nuit Blanche Taipei festival.

Themed Upside Down City, Taipei's third Nuit Blanche featured works which ex-

plore the connections between opposites such as day and night, prosperity and decline, and tradition and modernity. Taking part were around 60 local and overseas artists from countries and territories including Canada, France, Japan and the Philippines.

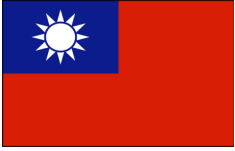
According to the organiser, the Department of Cultural Affairs under Taipei City Government, the diverse range of activities on offer showcased the metropolis's charismatic spirit in an event that attracts around 200,000 art lovers every year.

The 12-hour celebration was staged in the streets and at cultural sites centered in the west of the city. Contemporary institutions like Taipei Fine Arts Museum to historic buildings such as Taipei Film House—the former American Consulate in Taiwan—all took part.

Visitors enjoyed 43 art installations and

over 70 performances and programs that ranged from music and theatre to a reading marathon and street sports.

Originating in France in 2002, Nuit Blanche takes place annually on the first Saturday of October in cities around the world, with art galleries, museums and cultural organisations open throughout the night and free of charge. Taipei was the second city in Asia to stage the event in 2016 after Kyoto in Japan. (Source: Taiwan Today)



Taiwan's Influenza Mass Vaccination Program Spotlights in US Health Journal



Taiwan's annual influenza mass vaccination program is highlighted in an article published by the American Journal of Public Health. (UDN)

Taiwan's annual influenza mass vaccination program received praise for its scope, effectiveness and capacity for strengthening pandemic preparedness in an article published recently by the American Journal of Public Health (AJPH).

The report was compiled by researchers from Baltimore-based John Hopkins Centre for Health Security in cooperation with counterparts at the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) under the Ministry of

Health and Welfare. It comprised a data and observational review of Taiwan's yearly influenza program in 2017 to identify lessons that can be applied to mass vaccination planning in the U.S. and elsewhere.

According to the article, Taiwan's centrally administered and financed program mitigates the impacts of influenza while preparing health officials and clinicians for the operational challenges posed by emergency mass vaccinations. The study also highlighted the strengths of Taiwan's protocols in areas spanning ensuring adequately trained personnel, enhancing adverse event prevention and surveillance, and increasing vaccine coverage.

Taiwan's achievements provide unique lessons that may be beneficial to health departments desiring to improve both seasonal vaccination efforts and pandemic readiness, the report concludes.

Titled "Taiwan's Annual Seasonal Influenza Mass Vaccination Program—Lessons for Pandemic Planning," the arti-

cle appeared in a supplement issue of AJPH, which is published by the Washington-based American Public Health Association. It was the pilot case study under the Outbreak Observatory project launched by the John Hopkins centre.

Launched in 1998 and overseen by the CDC, Taiwan's national seasonal influenza vaccination program initially provided free services to individuals aged 65 or older with specific high-risk comorbidities and residents or staff in long-term care facilities. It has since been expanded to priority groups spanning individuals aged 50 years or older, preschool-aged children, and people working in high-risk environments like the health care and poultry industries.

The number of doses purchased for the influenza program increased from 180,000 in 1998 to around 6 million in 2017, covering around 25 percent of the country's population, according to the CDC. In 2007, the campaign was incorporated into the national pandemic preparedness plan. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

President Tsai Receives Winners of Outstanding Taiwan Youth Award

President Tsai Ing-wen received the winners of this year's 10 Outstanding Young Persons Awards at the Office of the President in Taipei City, describing them as inspirational role models for the youth of Taiwan.

The achievements of these talented individuals in their respective areas of expertise are key drivers of Taiwan's ongoing development and reflect a deep-seated commitment to the nation, Tsai said. The people and government are immensely grateful for their positive contributions to society and look forward to even greater things from them going forward, she added.

According to the Office of the President, the winners of the prestigious annual honour are Chen Chih-yu, Cheng I-ching, Chu Shin-yi, Huang Yi, Kung Chien-chia, David Li, Lu Peng-tze, Lu Yu-jung, Tang Yu

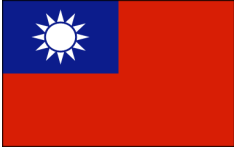
-ning and Wu Chia-lin.

Chen, CEO of the European Federation of Taiwan Health Alliance, was recognised for enhancing public awareness of labour issues like occupational injuries; Cheng, a top table tennis player, for medaling in multiple international competitions; Chu, a certified counsellor, for advancing social services despite challenged vision; Huang, a choreographer and dancer, for combining art and technology in commercial applications; and Kung, a vet, for championing food safety.

In addition, Li, deputy head of mission at the embassy of Costa Rica in South Korea, was recognised for promoting Taiwan-Costa Rica relations; Lu Peng-tze, a civil servant with the Coast Guard Administration under the Ocean Affairs Council, for achieving impressive results in drug enforcement; Lu Yu-jung, an as-

sistant professor in physics at National Taiwan University in Taipei, for research in nanolaser devices; and Wu, an associate professor at Taoyuan City-based Chang Gung University in northern Taiwan, for identifying new directions in the study of neural circuits and molecular mechanisms contributing to memory.

Staged by Junior Chamber International Taiwan since 1963, the annual awards celebrate Taiwan nationals aged 20-40 with exceptional achievements or contribution in 10 categories. The winners will be honoured at an official ceremony in Changhua County, central Taiwan. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Black Comedy, Hakka TV Series Celebrated at Taiwan Golden Bell Awards



Crowd Lu (right) and Vera Yen act in a scene from "A Boy Named Flora A," winner of best TV show at the 53rd Golden Bell Awards in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Taiwan Television Enterprise)

Black comedy "A Boy Named Flora A" and "Roseki," a Hakka language series about a 1940s intellectual, topped the 53rd Golden Bell Awards in Taipei City.

Taiwan's equivalent to the Emmys paid tribute to the vividly portrayed charac-

ters in the seven-episode "A Boy Named Flora A." Grabbing best television series, best actor, best supporting actor and best newcomer, the production revolves around a family dealing with an ailing grandmother who against the odds clings on to life.

The show is one of eight TV programs in the Q series launched by Q Place Creative Inc. and Taiwan Television Enterprise. The Q series, currently available to global viewers through Netflix, is a TV project sponsored by the Ministry of Culture (MOC) aimed at fostering world-class audiovisual production talent and innovative Taiwan entertainment products.

Bagging five awards—the largest number of any show—including best actress, best supporting actress and best script was the 14-episode Hakka language "Roseki."

Singer and author Lu He-ruo, regarded as one of Taiwan's most famous intellectuals of the 1940s, was the show's main character. The jury praised the government-funded Hakka TV production for offering a powerful portrayal of the social issues of that era.

Another highlight was Public Television Service's "Days We Stared at the Sun II" winning best miniseries and best director of a miniseries. The sequel follows a group of high school friends as they become young adults and touches on subjects such as personal identity and cross-strait relations.

Organised by the Bureau of Audiovisual and Music Industry Development under the MOC, the awards attracted 1,876 submissions from 129 channels and production companies this year. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Koxinga Graphic Novel Honoured at Taiwan Golden Comic Awards



"Koxinga Z" by Li Lung-chieh is winner of Comic of the Year and Best Comic for Young Adults at the 2018 GCA in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Gaea Books Co. Ltd.)

Graphic novel "Koxinga Z," about the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) loyalist general who ousted the Dutch from Taiwan in the 17th century, won Comic of the Year at the 2018 Golden Comic Awards (GCA) in Taipei City.

Li Lung-chieh's publication, which also claimed Best Comic for Young Adults, offers a unique and lively perspective on the decisive event in the country's his-

tory, according to the judges. Li was inspired by the memoirs of Frederik Coyett—the last Dutch East India Co. governor in Taiwan—who was driven out by Zheng Cheng-gong, aka Koxinga.

At the ceremony, Culture Minister Cheng Li-chiun said the government has made great progress in promoting the country's animation, comics and games industries. She cited the Ministry of Culture-organised exhibition for late comic master Chen Uen in Taipei City-based National Palace Museum this June, which attracted over 100,000 visitors.

The ministry is also supporting the comic book industry with a fund launched in April under the government's Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program. As of September, the fund had approved 102 applications from artists and publishing companies worth NT\$80 million (US\$2.6 million), Cheng added.

One of the government's key policy undertakings, the NT\$420 billion FIDP aims to meet Taiwan's infrastructure needs

for the next 30 years.

Cheng also paid tribute to publisher and former political prisoner Tsai Kun-lin, who was honoured with a Special Contribution Award. She thanked him for his courage and commitment in developing the nation's publishing sector during the White Terror period, when comics were subjected to strict censorship.

Among the other seven prize winners, illustrator Ejan won Best New Talent for "Close Your Eyes Before It's Dark"—a murder story involving eight former high school friends. 61Chi claimed Best Comic Strip Collection for her observations on life in the capital with "Ordinary Days in Taipei," while Hambuck's "Dragon Swordsman versus The Mystery Man" made Best Cross-media Application for its 3-D projection glove puppet fighting scenes.

Launched in 2010, the ministry-organised GCA is Taiwan's biggest graphic novel industry awards. It received 136 submissions this year. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Tsai Advocates Global Cooperation in Advancing Sustainable Tourism



President Tsai Ing-wen (centre) is joined by MBBW President Maria das Dores Meira and Penghu County Magistrate Chen Kuang-fu in Taiwan's outlying Penghu County. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

President Tsai Ing-wen said that Taiwan is willing and able to share its extensive industry development experience in advancing sustainable tourism.

As a responsible member of the international community, Taiwan is seizing every opportunity to collaborate with major stakeholders in minimising the impact of tourism on natural resources and social systems, Tsai said. This commitment is best illustrated by the government's all-out effort to help realise

the U.N.'s 17 Sustainable Development Goals, she added.

Tsai made the remarks during the opening of the Most Beautiful Bay Carnival, a months long event staged on the sidelines of the 14th World Congress of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World running in Taiwan's outlying Penghu County. The annual gathering features conferences, exhibitions, festivals and sports tournaments.

According to Tsai, Penghu is the standard-bearer in Taiwan for ecological tourism and marine resources conservation. Hosting the annual meeting of the MBBW reflects this fact and is a resounding vote of confidence in related policy-making by the central and local governments, she said.

It is anticipated, Tsai said, that the congress will enable participants from home and abroad to experience the natural beauty of Penghu and see firsthand what can be achieved when economic planning is carried out in accordance with the principles of sustainability.

Situated in the middle of the Taiwan Strait, Penghu comprises nearly 100 islets dotted over 127 square kilometers. Its world-class cultural and natural attractions include Erkan Historical Houses in Xiyu Township, basalt columns on Tongpan Island, Jibei Sand Spit in Baisha Township and Twin Heart Stone Weir in Qimei Township.

Founded in 1997, MBBA is committed to "saving the natural heritage of the bay, preserving its identity, respecting the way of life and the traditions of those that inhabit the area whilst ensuring economic development compatible with these commitments," according to the UNESCO-endorsed nongovernmental organization's website.

Members of the organization include 43 bays from 26 members. These include Mont St-Michel Bay in France, Yeosu Bay in South Korea, San Francisco Bay in the U.S. and Ha Long Bay in Vietnam.

(Source: Taiwan Today)

US Global Entry Program Enrolment Event Set For Taipei

A U.S. Global Entry Program (GEP) enrolment event will be conducted by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Dec. 3-6 in Taipei City, extending greater convenience to local applicants wishing to register for the program.

Visiting CBP officers will interview a selection of conditionally approved GEP applicants during the event, described by the AIT as the second of its kind in Taiwan. Those unable to take part can be enrolled upon arrival at a number of designated U.S. international airports.

Managed by CBP, the program grants preapproved and low-risk passport holders expedited clearance upon arriving at select ports of entry. GEP enrollees can bypass traditional inspection lines and use automated kiosks upon arrival at 54 U.S. airports and 15 preclearance sites



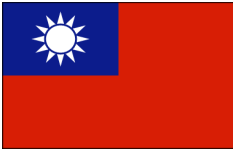
The Global Entry Program kiosk, available at over 50 U.S. airports, offers enrollees expedited immigration and customs clearance. (Courtesy of AIT)

worldwide.

Since Taiwan's GEP inclusion in November last year, over 3,000 nationals have been green lighted for the expedited travel initiative, while more than 1,200 have been conditionally approved and

are awaiting interviews, according to the AIT. Taiwan was the 12th country in the world and fourth in Asia to be included in the GEP, which has 4.7 million-plus members.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the initiative enhances Taiwan-U.S. people-to-people exchanges and promotes the roll out of new mutually beneficial programs. U.S. nationals enjoy reciprocal privileges via Taiwan's e-Gate Program administered by the National Immigration Agency under the Ministry of the Interior. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



VP Chen Celebrates Taiwan Spirit of Youth Olympic Games Team



Vice President Chen Chien-jen (centre) gives the thumbs-up to Taiwan athletes contesting the Youth Olympic Games in Bueno Aires at the Office of the President in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)

The courage, resilience and tenacity demonstrated by the nation's athletes at the recently concluded Summer Youth Olympic Games in Bueno Aires reflect the true spirit of Taiwan, according to Vice President Chen Chien-jen.

Such a strong showing at the third edi-

tion of the quadrennial tourney spotlights the confidence and vitality of Taiwan youth in the international sporting arena, Chen said. The government and people are immensely proud of the athletes, he added.

Chen made the remarks while receiving members of the team and support staff at the Office of the President in Taipei City. Taiwan athletes won six medals at the Oct. 6-12 games in the Argentinian capital involving around 4,000 competitors contesting 32 sports and 36 disciplines.

According to Chen, the result is in keeping with those turned in by the national squads at the Asian Games and Asian Para Games in Indonesia. The entire country got behind the athletes and is looking forward to barracking for them again at the next Summer Games, he said.

Chen said Liu Li-ling, who won gold in the judo mixed team event, was particularly impressive, adding that her bravery and refusal to accept defeat in the final are an inspiration to the younger generations.

Other medallists earning the vice president's praise are Chen Yi-tung, silver, fencing mixed continental team; Huang Yin-hsuan, silver, badminton relay team; Lee Meng-en, silver, judo men's 73 kilograms; Lai Tzu-hsuan, bronze, women's kayak obstacle slalom; and Lin Yun-ju and Su Pei-ling, bronze, mixed international team.

Not to be overshadowed, Chen said, are the athletes recording personal bests and demonstrating real sportsmanship in the process. One does not need stand on the dais to represent Taiwan with distinction and honour, he added. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Badminton Star Tai Wins Taiwan's 1st Denmark Open Title



Taiwan's Tai Tzu-ying (left) shows off her trophy alongside runner-up Saina Nehwal of India at the Denmark Open in Odense. (Courtesy of Tai Tzu-ying official Facebook page)

World No. 1 Tai Tzu-ying clinched the women's singles title at the Denmark Open 2018 by defeating India's Saina Nehwal in Odense, becoming the first Taiwan player to achieve the honour.

The badminton star defeated Nehwal 21-13, 13-21, 21-6 in 52 minutes, earning her US\$54,250 in prize money. The victory was Tai's eighth career title this cal-

endar year.

She surged ahead in the first game with a 6-1 lead, maintaining her advantage by capitalising on the Indian athlete's errors and delivering impressive drop shots and on-the-line smashes. In the second set, Nehwal fought back by playing good length and keeping Tai away from the net.

Resuming her aggressive play in the decider, the Taiwan star gave her visibly tired opponent almost no time to react. At 14-5, the gap was sufficient for Tai to cruise ahead and she won match point with a cleverly executed net shot.

In her postgame interview, Tai said she had been able to stage a comeback after Nehwal's surprise second set win because she did not lose confidence in her ability to defeat the world No. 10.

Later the same day, Taiwan badminton ace Chou Tien-chen came second in the

men's singles competition at the Danish tournament. The Taiwan athlete lost 20-22, 21-16, 15-21 to Kento Momota of Japan in a nail-biting 77-minute match.

Born in southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung City, Tai has enjoyed a stellar career since debuting in 2009 and becoming the country's youngest ever top-ranked player at age 16. She has won a string of victories this year including the nation's first-ever badminton gold at the Asian Games in August as well as winning five Badminton World Federation events in Taipei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the U.K. **(Source: Taiwan News)**