

Representative Matthew W Chou and the staff of the Taipei Liaison Office in the Republic of South Africa would like to wish everyone a Happy Lunar New Year!

## President Tsai Affirms Taiwan Will Not Accept 'One Country, Two Systems'

President Tsai Ing-wen said that Taiwan has never accepted the "1992 Consensus" because the definition of it used by the Beijing authorities is "one country, two systems" and this is resolutely opposed by the vast majority of the people.

The nation will absolutely not accept "one country, two systems" and public opposition to it forms a Taiwan consensus, Tsai said.

Taiwan is willing to engage in negotiations with China, but all political consultations must be authorised and monitored by the people, and no individual or group has the right to represent the public in such talks, she added.

The president made the remarks in response to a speech delivered by Chinese leader Xi Jinping earlier the same day in which he proposed further exploration of a "one country, two systems" scenario for Taiwan.

According to Tsai, despite suffering many forms of suppression, Taiwan has faithfully fulfilled its responsibilities as a member of the international community and contributed to cross-strait and regional peace and stability over the past



*President Tsai Ing-wen details the government's stance on cross-strait relations at the Office of the President in Taipei City. (CNA)*

two years.

The future development of cross-strait relations requires that China face the reality of the existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and not deny the democratic system established by the people, she said.

Beijing must also respect the commitment of the 23 million people of Taiwan to freedom and democracy and not foster divisions or offer inducements to interfere with the choices they make, she added.

Instead of using suppression and intimidation to get the people of Taiwan to submit, Tsai said that China must handle cross-strait differences peacefully and on the basis of equality. And finally, all negotiations must be conducted by governments or government-authorised agencies.

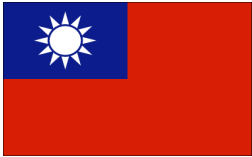
According to the president, these "four musts" are the most crucial foundations in determining whether cross-strait ties develop in a positive direction.

Tsai urged China to accept the responsibilities and act with the demeanour befitting a superpower, adding that the global community is waiting to see whether China can enact reforms and become a trustworthy partner.

The people of Taiwan cherish their values and way of life, Tsai said. China should bravely move toward democracy so that it can truly understand these ideals and commitments, she added. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Representative Chou was invited to participate in a rice donation ceremony held by the Africa Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce at Baghdad Informal Settlement of Ivory Park in Johannesburg. Representative Chou said that on behalf of the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), he was delighted to share the 'Love from Taiwan' with the Taiwanese produced rice. He further stressed that Taiwan was once a recipient of international aid and that the government saw their humanitarian efforts as a way of paying forward the goodwill they had once received. Representative Chou also expressed his genuine gratitude to the Africa Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce who actively care for the local disadvantaged people of South Africa.



## MOFA Condemns China's Campaign to Force Foreign Firms to Change Taiwan's Designation



***The MOFA strongly condemns China's ongoing efforts to force international corporations to change their designation of Taiwan. (Staff photo/Chin Hung-hao)***

China's outrageous demand on dozens of major multinational corporations to force them to change the designation of Taiwan to "Taiwan, China" on their websites was strongly condemned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

Beijing's repeated moves to impose its executive jurisdiction and political ideology on foreign businesses not only expose its malicious intent but also violate the spirit of free international commerce, the MOFA said.

Earlier this month, 66 firms that identified Taiwan as a country were threatened by China with penalties if they did not downgrade its status. The list of companies, which include Amazon.com Inc., Apple Inc. and Nike Inc., was published in "The Blue Book on the Cyber Rule of Law in China 2018" by the Institute of Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Internet Development Research Institution of Peking University.

According to the ministry, the threat is yet another attempt by China to belittle Taiwan following its pressuring of airlines

and international companies to change how they refer to Taiwan in early 2018.

The MOFA also called on the international community to support Taiwan and resist China's campaign of coercion to prevent Beijing from intensifying its intimidation tactics. It urged countries where the affected companies are based to assist them in refusing China's unreasonable demands.

The Chinese government should accept that the Republic of China (Taiwan) exists and that Taiwan is absolutely not subject to its jurisdiction, the MOFA said. All efforts to suppress Taiwan will only give rise to antipathy among the people, jeopardise cross-strait relations and undermine regional peace and stability, it added. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

## President Tsai Names Su Tseng-chang as Premier

President Tsai Ing-wen named Su Tseng-chang as replacement for outgoing Premier Lai Ching-te during a news conference at the Office of the President in Taipei City.

At this critical juncture, Su, who previously served as premier from 2006 to 2007, is the right candidate to assume the position given his abundant executive experience, strong resolve and lifelong devotion to public service, Tsai said.

According to the president, Taiwan will face significant challenges in 2019 such as the fallout from the U.S.-China trade war and Beijing's continued attempts to belittle the nation. Su has the leadership skills and determination to spearhead government efforts in boosting the local economy, defending democracy and safeguarding national sovereignty, she added.

The appointment of Su followed the resignation of Lai alongside the rest of the Cabinet ahead of a reshuffle.

In addition to premier, Su was formerly



***President Tsai Ing-wen (centre) is joined by outgoing Premier Lai Ching-te (left) and his replacement Su Tseng-chang during a news conference at the Office of the President in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)***

magistrate of southern Taiwan's Pingtung County from 1989 to 1993, magistrate of Taipei County, now New Taipei City, from 1997 to 2004, and secretary-general of the Office of the President from 2004 to 2005.

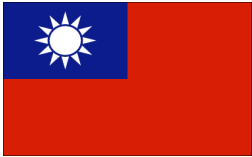
Su thanked the president for her trust and the opportunity to serve the country

once again. He pledged to do his utmost to continue the program of reforms enacted by Lai and respond to the will of the people.

The president also extended her appreciation to Lai, praising his efforts to advance major policies such as the five-plus-two industrial innovation initiative and Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program.

Lai implemented wide-ranging reforms to enhance government efficiency and improve the nation's business environment, Tsai said, adding that the development plans he crafted for Taiwan will help keep the country on the growth track.

In his remarks, Lai said that with the 2019 central government budget clearing the Legislature the day before, the time was ripe for him to leave. It has been the greatest honour of his life to serve his country, he added. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



## National Languages Development Act Passed by Legislature



***The Legislature's passage of the national languages development act paves the way for enhanced measures to safeguard Taiwan's linguistic diversity. (CNA)***

The national languages development act was passed by the Legislature in Taipei City, paving the way for enhanced efforts to preserve and promote Taiwan's linguistic diversity.

Formulated by the Ministry of Culture (MOC), the bill grants equal protections to all national languages and guarantees the right of citizens to use them in accessing public services. According to the law, national languages refers to the mother tongues of local ethnic groups,

such as Hakka; Holo, also called Taiwanese; and indigenous languages, as well as Taiwan Sign Language.

Under the legislation, the government will work to perpetuate endangered tongues through measures like making lessons more readily available in kindergartens. The languages are also expected to be introduced as elective subjects in elementary and high schools by 2022.

The law also stipulates reward programs to encourage the study, use and promotion of the languages throughout society. It further calls for the creation of a national linguistic database and research mechanism, as well as the staging of regular conferences on related issues.

Also included in the act is a requirement to ensure citizens' right to broadcasting services in their mother tongues. This is set to lead to the establishment of additional state-supported media outlets to complement existing organisations such as Hakka TV and Taiwan Indigenous Television.

MOC Minister Cheng Li-chiun said that passage of the bill marks a historic milestone in the development of Taiwan's multicultural society. The act will help boost integration of language preservation resources across the public and private sectors and foster an environment conducive to the safeguarding of linguistic heritage, she added.

According to the MOC, the law will create a comprehensive national framework for the promotion and protection of all languages used by ethnic groups in Taiwan following the passage of the Indigenous Languages Development and Hakka Basic acts in June 2017 and January this year, respectively.

Drafted by the ministry in 2016, the bill was approved by the Cabinet. Following its passage by the Legislature, it must be promulgated by President Tsai Ing-wen before becoming law. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

## Democracy Index Ranks Taiwan 3rd in Asia, 32nd Globally

Taiwan is third in Asia and 32nd among 167 countries and territories around the world in the Democracy Index 2018 released by London-based Economist Intelligence Unit.

Climbing one spot from the previous edition, Taiwan received an overall score of 7.73 out of 10 to finish ahead of regional neighbours Malaysia, 52nd; Singapore, 66th; and Hong Kong, 73rd, and trail South Korea, 21st; and Japan, 22nd. Norway, Iceland and Sweden topped the list, in that order.

The report assesses countries and territories based on 60 indicators grouped into five main categories: civil liberties; electoral process and pluralism; functioning of government; political participation; and political culture.

Taiwan received high scores of 9.58 and



***Taiwan is ranked 32nd among 167 countries and territories around the world in the Democracy Index 2018 released by London-based Economist Intelligence Unit. (Staff photo/Chin Hung-hao)***

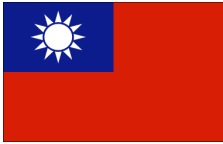
9.12 for electoral process and pluralism and civil liberties, respectively.

In response to the survey, President Tsai Ing-wen wrote on her official Twitter

account the following day that as the leader of a young and vibrant democracy, she was honoured to work with the 23 million people of Taiwan in safeguarding the values that shape the national identity.

Taiwan is widely recognised as a beacon of freedom, democracy and human rights in the Asia-Pacific. It was the highest-ranked Asian nation for the sixth consecutive year in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index released last April by Paris-headquartered Reporters Without Borders, and was listed as "free" for the 20th consecutive year in the annual Freedom in the World report by U.S.-based nongovernmental organisation Freedom House last January. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



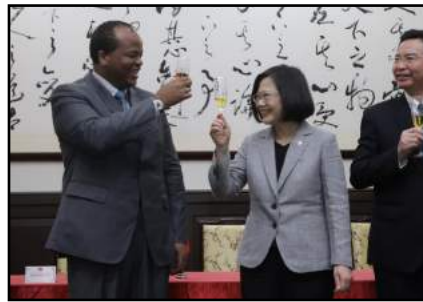


## Taiwan-Eswatini Economic Cooperation Agreement Takes Effect

The Agreement on Economic Cooperation between Taiwan and the Kingdom of Eswatini came into force December 27, paving the way for increased trade and investment ties between the allies, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA).

Signed in Taipei City during the state visit of King Mswati III, the pact covers cooperation across such areas as export processing zones, talent cultivation and technical exchanges. It is expected to deliver substantial benefits for the people of both countries by creating additional growth opportunities and advancing sustainable development, the MOEA said.

Under the accord, tariffs on 153 export items from Eswatini are immediately reduced to zero or will be eliminated over time, while government agencies in the landlocked southern African nation



**President Tsai Ing-wen (centre) and King Mswati III (left) toast the conclusion of the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between Taiwan and the Kingdom of Eswatini alongside Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu at the Office of the President in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Office of the President)**

are set to hold regular consultations with Taiwan investors to address barriers and offer incentives.

Eswatini will also provide information on its participation in African economic integration and support Taiwan's efforts to use the country as a base for strengthening its trade links across the continent.

In addition, a joint committee is being established to facilitate regular communication and information exchanges on issues of mutual concern, including market access and priority sectors for collaboration.

Official statistics show that bilateral trade surged to US\$9.82 million during the first 11 months of this year, up 41 percent from the same period in 2017. A total of 20 Taiwan enterprises have established operations in Eswatini, investing a combined US\$80 million and creating some 13,000 jobs for local workers, according to the MOEA. (Source: *Taiwan Today*)

## Cabinet Approves 2019 National Development Plan

The 2019 National Development Plan (NDP) was approved by the Cabinet, charting the course for Taiwan's continued prosperity amid global trade uncertainties and rapid expansion of the digital economy.

Proposed by the National Development Council (NDC), the plan is built on four main pillars: creating a secure and prosperous living and working environment; promoting sustainable population growth; ensuring balanced regional development; and safeguarding national security and expanding international engagement.

According to the NDC, rising global concerns such as fallout from the U.S.-China trade dispute are causing the downward revision of forecasts for major economies around the world.

The plan is aimed at helping the country weather potential negative impacts by boosting domestic demand and innovation capabilities, the NDC said. This will be achieved through strengthening employment, inbound investment and infrastructure development, as well as facilitating industrial R&D and structural reform.



**Taiwan's economy is expected to remain on the growth track in 2019 under the National Development Plan passed by the Cabinet. (CNA)**

Several new policy priorities are outlined for next year. These include encouraging more homebound investment from Taiwan firms operating overseas; proposing a national place-making strategy to foster community-level transformation and rejuvenation; turning Taiwan into a Chinese-English bilingual country by 2030; as well as fast-tracking amendments to and enactment of legislation covering economic immigration, innovation and urban renewal.

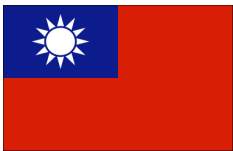
The plan also details measures to advance the implementation of existing initiatives

such as the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program, sustainable tourism and tax reform, as well as the compilation of a national evaluation report required for EU General Data Protection Regulation adequacy.

According to the NDC, the strategy sets key performance indexes to gauge the effectiveness of related efforts. Particular attention will be paid to those in areas with a direct bearing on public welfare such as air pollution controls, food safety, and day-care and long-term care services, the council said.

It is expected that the plan will boost Taiwan's per capita gross domestic product by between 2.4 and 2.6 percent, with the unemployment rate hovering at around 3.6 percent and the consumer price index capped at 2 percent, the NDC added.

Passed by the Legislature in July 2017, the eight-year FIDP includes projects spanning railway development, digital infrastructure, aquatic environment, food safety, green energy, boosting birth rates and child care facilities, and fostering talent and employment. (Source: *Taiwan Today*)



## Taiwan Start-ups to Showcase Innovative Tech at CES in Las Vegas



**MOST Deputy Minister Hsu Yu-chin (front, second right) led a delegation of 44 Taiwan-based tech start-ups to CES in Las Vegas. (Courtesy of MOST)**

A delegation of 44 Taiwan-based tech start-ups attended the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas to foster connections with overseas investors and spotlight the nation's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the group com-

prised of firms in such fields as advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, cyber security, health care, Internet of Things, software development and wearable devices.

Eight of the participating companies are winners of the 2019 CES Innovation Awards unveiled Nov. 8. These include EleClean Co. Ltd. for its Disinfectant Spray, a portable device that converts water into a high-active oxygen steriliser to kill bacteria and viruses.

Equally impressive is Han-Win Technology Corp., which was recognised for its Inno-Safety Battery Management System that significantly mitigates the problems of cell explosion and lifespan reduction due to over-discharge.

Another honouree is the Taiwan branch of U.S.-headquartered Genius Holdings Co. Ltd. The company's cloud-based ezOxygen Smart Breath Checker evaluates users' respiratory functions and offers guidance on adjusting exercise

levels for improved performance.

According to the MOST, eight of the start-ups showcased innovative AI solutions. Among these, AgriTalk Technology Inc. exhibited a revolutionary agricultural system that uses software to regulate fertilisation and pest control.

Language Hero Inc. demonstrated a peer-to-peer video chat app that creates an engaging and lifelike conversation environment. And Marvin Inc. introduced lightweight, high-performance wireless ear buds that support AI and voice-based IoT applications.

The participating firms showcased their products at the Taiwan Tech Arena (TTA) pavilion. TTA, a MOST-supported facility located in Taipei City, was launched last June as part of government efforts to foster at least 100 start-ups each year in emerging sectors such as AI and IoT.

**(Source: Taiwan Today)**

## Canada Start-up Accelerator Project to Open Branch at Taiwan Tech Arena



**MOST Deputy Minister Hsu Yu-chin (third right), Minister without Portfolio Audrey Tang (fourth left), Sarah Taylor (fifth left), director general for North Asia and Oceania at Global Affairs Canada, and other officials attend the launch ceremony for the Canadian Technology Accelerator branch at TTA in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Canadian Trade Office in Taipei)**

Taiwan Tech Arena (TTA) is set to host a branch of Canada's government-backed start-up accelerator initiative, spotlight-

ing joint efforts to strengthen business and R&D ties between the two sides, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).

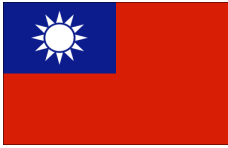
Slated to commence operations in early 2019 at the ministry-backed TTA in Taipei City, Canadian Technology Accelerator (CTA) will work to boost networking between innovative entrepreneurs and venture capitalists in Taiwan and Canada and foster emerging companies in sectors spanning artificial intelligence, Internet of Things and smart health care.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, MOST Deputy Minister Hsu Yu-chin said that this partnership will help promote commercialisation of scientific research and bolster talent cultivation. International industry tie-ups through TTA are enhancing Taiwan's innovation ecosystem and inspiring the development of socially consequential technologies, he added.

Echoing these remarks, Sarah Taylor, director general for North Asia and Oceania at Global Affairs Canada, described the two sides as natural partners in nurturing start-ups. Taiwan is internationally renowned for transforming scientific concepts into marketable products, she said, adding that pairing this ability with Canada's research prowess will deliver significant mutual benefits.

Located in Taipei's Songshan District, TTA is part of government efforts to foster at least 100 start-ups each year in emerging sectors such as AI and IoT. A number of foreign accelerators have set up shop at the facility since its launch in June, including U.K.-based Startupsbootcamp as well as Berkeley SkyDeck and Techstars from the U.S.

Taipei is the fourth city in Asia to host a CTA branch after Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



## Exhibition of Historical Photographs Kicks off in New Taipei



***The 1959 shot “Students of Farm Village” by Chen Shih-an is featured in the exhibition “Taiwan through the Photographer’s Lens” running until June 24, 2019, at the MOC in New Taipei City. (Courtesy of Mabel Chen)***

An exhibition of rare historical photographs kicked off in New Taipei City, offering insights into the nation’s economic, cultural and social development since the 1930s.

Jointly organised by the National Centre of Photography and National Taiwan

Museum, “Taiwan through the Photographer’s Lens” runs until June 24, 2019, at the Ministry of Culture (MOC) in Xinzhuang District. It features nearly 100 images showcasing the rapid changes in lifestyles and landscapes during the 20th century, according to the NTM.

The event is divided into three sections, “The Mirror-like Past,” “Comparing the Past with the Present” and “Observing All Beings in the World,” comprising works from the 1930s to 1940s, 1950s to 1960s, and post-1990, respectively. In the first, pictures produced through a variety of mediums ranging from glass plates to film highlight the development of the art form in Taiwan.

“Comparing the Past with the Present” includes photographs of children, indigenous peoples and labourers in everyday settings. The final area consists of aerial, panoramic and underwater images of the island’s diverse ecosystems and

natural environments. “Wu Ming-zhu, Yangmei” by Wu Jin-miao circa 1940 spotlights hand-colourisation techniques applied to photographs during the period. (Courtesy of NCP)

Highlights of the exhibition include a hand-coloured picture of a young woman swinging on a tree vine circa 1940 by Wu Jin-miao; a 1959 shot of schoolchildren strolling between wheat fields by Chen Shih-an; and an image from around 1990 by Juan Jung-chu of Yushan, also known as Jade Mountain and Taiwan’s highest peak.

According to MOC Vice Minister Lee Lien-chuan, the event spotlights the enduring creativity and passion of Taiwan talents. The ministry is committed to collecting and preserving the nation’s rich photographic art so to provide future generations with a window into the past, he added. (Source: Taiwan Today)

## 2019 Taiwan Lantern Festival Centrepiece Unveiled



***Children display pig-shaped handheld paper lanterns designed for the 2019 Taiwan Lantern Festival in Taipei City. (CNA)***

The main and handheld lanterns for the 2019 Taiwan Lantern Festival were unveiled by the Tourism Bureau under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in Taipei City.

Spotlighting the prominence of the fishing industry in the festival’s host county of Pingtung in southern Taiwan, the 16-

meter-tall centrepiece depicts a bluefin tuna jumping out of the sea. The main lantern will be the centre of a dazzling evening light and sound show staged every 30 minutes throughout the Feb. 19 to March 3 event.

The centrepiece is set to be erected offshore at the main exhibition site in Dapeng Bay. Boat services will allow visitors to get a close-up look at the lantern and view the evening light spectacle from the water.

This year’s handheld lanterns symbolise the upcoming Year of the Pig in the Chinese zodiac and come in blue, red and yellow varieties. About 80,000 of the paper items will be distributed at Dapeng, according to the Tourism Bureau.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, Pingtung Magistrate Pan Men-an said the festival is an excellent opportunity to showcase the agricultural produce, cul-

ture and natural wonders of Taiwan’s southernmost county. After the conclusion of the event, the centrepiece lantern will remain on display, serving as a new landmark to promote the local tourism industry, he added.

Taking place over some 40 hectares at three venues in Dapeng, Donggang and Pingtung City, this year’s festival is expected to garner up to 10 million visits over its 13-day run, the bureau said.

First staged in Taipei City in 1990, the annual festival has been held at a different location every year since 2001, allowing the cities and counties of Taiwan to show off their unique cultures, cuisines and characteristics. This is Pingtung’s first time hosting the event. (Source: Taiwan Today)





## Taiwan Tightens Border Inspections Against African Swine Fever



**Warning signs spotlighting the NT\$1 million maximum fine for illegally importing meat products are displayed on a baggage conveyor at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport as part of government efforts to prevent ASF from entering the country. (CNA)**

The government is leaving no stone unturned in preventing African swine fever (ASF) from spreading to Taiwan, according to the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture (COA).

Given the vast number of travellers expected during the upcoming Lunar New Year holiday, several strengthened border control measures have been put in place, the COA said. Effective immediately, passengers flying from China, Hong Kong and Macau will be informed of ASF prevention measures upon exiting the jet bridge and all of their carry-on luggage will be inspected at the arrival terminal.

Large warning signs have been set up at passport control counters to provide related information. Passengers from affected areas will also receive a special flyer reminding them to apply for a quarantine permit for any meat products or discard such items.

Checked luggage from high-risk areas will be transported on specific baggage conveyors and undergo tightened inspections, the COA said, adding that there are also enhanced patrols by detection dogs at airports.

These measures follow the establish-

ment of a central emergency operations centre, by the COA to oversee related government efforts, as well as the release of a short film to raise awareness of the consequences of smuggling meat products. Several drills have also been conducted nationwide to simulate tackling an outbreak of the virus.

First-time offenders illegally importing meat products from areas affected by ASF within the past three years will be fined NT\$200,000 (US\$6,483), with the penalty increasing to NT\$1 million for repeat offenders. A total of 57 fines for first-time violations have been issued as of Jan. 16.

According to the COA, customs officials have intercepted 12 meat products contaminated by ASF since Oct. 31, 2018. Among these, 11 came from China and one from Macau. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

## New Brain Cancer Treatment Method Developed by Taiwan Research Team

A new method of increasing nanodrug efficacy for one of the most deadly brain tumors—glioblastoma multiforme—has been discovered by a team at Taipei City-based Academia Sinica, Taiwan's foremost research institution.

According to researchers from the academy's Institute of Biomedical Sciences, systematically injecting a low dose of a protein called vascular endothelial growth factor temporarily increases the permeability of the blood-brain barrier, a system that blocks about 98 percent of medicines from entering the brain.

By boosting drug distribution using the new approach, the scientists were able to double the median survival period of mice with glioblastoma to 80 days. They also raised the amount of nanomedicines delivered to the brains of pigs by 2.5 times in comparison with current methods.

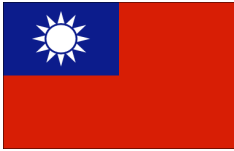


**Research team leader Patrick Hsieh (right) is joined by colleagues David Lundy (center) and Lee Keng-jung in unveiling the results of their study on increasing the permeability of the blood-brain barrier in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Academia Sinica)**

The project was jointly funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology and Academia Sinica. It is hoped that the breakthrough will enable increased delivery of a range of nanomedicines to the brain.

Team leader Patrick Hsieh said glioblastoma is one of the most common and aggressive brain cancers in the world and has a five-year survival rate of less than 10 percent due to fast tumour progression and the lack of an efficient method of getting chemotherapy medicine through the blood-brain barrier. The results in the tests on pigs are a positive sign that the technique can be successfully applied to humans, he added.

The initial idea for the study came from an incidental observation during the team's previous research on using the VEGF protein for cardiac regeneration. Their study, titled "Inducing a Transient Increase in Blood-Brain Barrier Permeability for Improved Liposomal Drug Therapy of Glioblastoma Multiforme," was published online last December by the Washington-based journal ACS Nano. **(Source: Taiwan News)**



## Taiwan TV Shows, Channel Honoured at Asian Television Awards



***(From left) Magaitan Lhkatafatu, director of Taiwan Indigenous TV's News Department; Isuth Balincinan, producer of "ITA See the World;" and Laway Futol, the show's host, display the trophy for best news program at the 23rd Asian Television Awards in Malaysia. (Courtesy of News Department of TITV, Indigenous Peoples Cultural Foundation)***

Taiwan news program produced by an

indigenous station, a miniseries and a TV channel were honoured at the 23rd Asian Television Awards (ATA) held in Kuching, Malaysia.

The country's biggest winner was Formosa Television, which claimed best terrestrial broadcaster as well as best original screenplay for its 2018 miniseries "Schrodinger's Cat."

Taiwan's Rexen Cheng won best leading actor for his role in the two-episode thriller, which revolves around a murder case that takes place in a hospital. Cheng, who plays a man manipulated into suffering a nervous breakdown in the show, thanked his family, friends and Formosa TV in his acceptance speech.

Government-supported Taiwan Indigenous TV (TITV) was awarded best news program for "ITA See the World." Launched last January, the biweekly broadcast covers topics related to Austronesian peoples spanning arts, culture

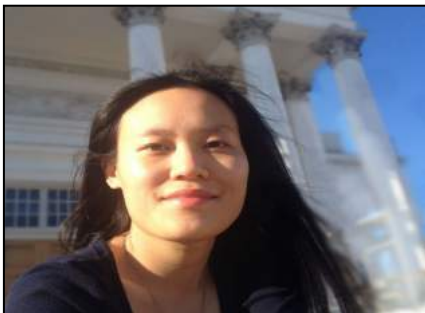
and language preservation, climate change and medicine.

Isuth Balincinan, the show's producer, said the honour recognised the professionalism of all the workers at TITV and that her team will continue to make high-quality shows.

Operated under the Indigenous Peoples Cultural Foundation, TITV offers a variety of programs including entertainment, sports and youth culture. News is broadcast in each of the languages of Taiwan's 16 officially recognised tribes.

Launched in 1996 by Singapore-based Television Asia Plus magazine, ATA is regarded as one of the most significant and celebrated events within the Asian TV industry. The 23rd edition included more than 40 award categories for performers and production teams in the region. ***(Source: Taiwan Today)***

## Taiwan Composer's Prize-Winning Score to Premiere in Seattle



***Taiwan musician Lin Chia-ying's winning score "Ascolsia" is set to be performed by the Seattle Symphony in a world premiere in the U.S. city. (Courtesy of Ministry of Culture)***

Taiwan composer Lin Chia-ying's prize-winning piece "Ascolsia" is set to be performed by the Seattle Symphony in a world premiere at its Celebrate Asia concert Jan. 27 in the U.S. city.

Lin was the first local musician to win the

orchestra's annual Celebrate Asia Composition Competition with the score last November.

"Ascolsia" incorporates elements of the traditional musical genre beiguan, which is characterised by the use of cymbals, gongs and woodwind instruments. The six-minute score mimics features of the folk music style to evoke a festive atmosphere, according to the Ministry of Culture (MOC).

Sponsored by the MOC, Lin will also travel to Seattle to meet with members of the orchestra, the ministry said. South Korea's Shiyen Sung will conduct the piece at Benaroya Hall.

The 28-year-old has been the recipient of several international honours including winning first place at Italy's International Composition Competition Piero Farulli in 2015. Last year, she became Taiwan's first composer to claim the U.K.'s prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Compo-

sition prize since the awards started in 1948.

Launched by the Seattle Symphony in 2009, the Celebrate Asia competition recognises emerging composers whose work is influenced by the region's culture, music or traditions. The winner receives prize money of US\$1,000 and has their work performed in a world premiere at a concert the following year. ***(Source: Taiwan Today)***





## Taiwan Listed in The Guardian's Top 40 Holiday Destinations for 2019



***The newly-opened National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts in the southern city is one of Taiwan's attractions that prompted U.K. newspaper The Guardian to include the country in its list of top holiday destinations for 2019. (Staff photo/***

Taiwan was listed among the world's top 40 travel destinations for 2019 by U.K. newspaper The Guardian in a feature that highlighted the cultural appeal of attractions in the south of the country.

Headlined "Where to go on holiday in 2019—the hotlist" the article spotlighted such Taiwan attractions as the 9.9-hectare National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts (NKCA), also known as Weiwuying, that opened last October in the southern port city.

NKCA, the world's largest performing arts facility under one roof, houses the biggest organ in Asia as well as an outdoor theatre on the roof and a 2,000-person concert hall.

The southernmost county of Pingtung was also highlighted for hosting this year's Taiwan Lantern Festival running Feb. 19 to March 3 and for Kenting National Park with its "mountains, white-sand beaches and rainforests." Eluanbi Cape, also in the county, featured in a separate list of the world's top 10 most welcoming destinations published by Netherlands-headquartered online travel platform Booking.com.

Other attractions mentioned in The Guardian report were the 940-kilometer cycling route around the country, traveling on scooters and the fortresses and temples tucked away in the former capital city of Tainan in southern Taiwan.

Gujarat state in India, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Macau, Samarkand city in Uzbekistan, Singapore and northern Vietnam were the other Asian destinations that made the list alongside Taiwan. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

## Taiwan Records 11 Million Foreign Visitors for First Time

Taiwan welcomed its 11 millionth foreign visitor of 2018 at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, marking the first time it has reached the milestone and underscoring the effectiveness of government initiatives to promote the country overseas.

Japanese doctor Shinobu Nishikawa was greeted with gifts prepared by the Tourism Bureau under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications including airline tickets, coupons for free stays at several luxury hotels and a laptop. A frequent visitor to Taiwan, Nishikawa was travelling with his family and planned to tour the historic mountain town of Jiufen in New Taipei City, Sun Moon Lake in the central county of Nantou, as well as the southern cities of Kaohsiung and Tainan.

According to the bureau, it has focused on encouraging foreign tourists to visit destinations in central and southern Taiwan by placing billboards and advertisements on public transportation systems



***Taiwan's 11 millionth visitor of 2018 Shinobu Nishikawa (second left) and family members are all smiles at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport. (Courtesy of Tourism Bureau)***

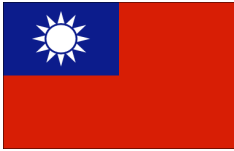
abroad as well as helping overseas travel businesses explore locations in the country.

Tourism Bureau Director-General Chou Yung-hui said the government will continue to foster a welcoming environment that offers smart services and unique experiences. The four-year Tourism 2020

initiative that designates a theme each year has helped deepen collaboration between the public and private sectors to offer better quality trips, Chou added.

Taiwan has also received international recognition as an environmentally friendly tourist destination, the bureau said. Netherlands-headquartered non-profit Green Destinations listed Nanliao in outlying Penghu County, Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area and Pinglin District in New Taipei among its Top 100 Sustainable Destinations of 2018.

Taiwan welcomed 10.74 million visitors in 2017, with China, New Southbound Policy target countries and Japan the top three sources, in that order, according to bureau statistics. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



## Taiwan Team Makes History by Skiing to South Pole



**Members of the Taiwan expedition team to the South Pole (from left) Gary Wu, Tommy Chen, Albert Liu, Chris Wang and Sherry Lin are all smiles after they reach their destination. (Courtesy of Gamania Cheer Up Foundation)**

Five expeditioners made the record books 5 a.m. local time December. 23 when they became the first Taiwan team to reach the South Pole by cross-country skiing, according to organiser Taipei City-

based non-profit Gamania Cheer Up Foundation.

Enduring gruelling conditions, the party set off December. 6 from 87 degrees south latitude, hiking around 350 kilometres at altitudes averaging 2,545 meters above sea level to reach the southernmost point on the Earth's surface 17 days later.

The group was led by the non-profit's founder Albert Liu, with ultra marathon athlete Tommy Chen and actor Chris Wang serving as team coach and mentor, respectively. The foundation selected two 20-year-olds, Sherry Lin and Gary Wu, to join the polar quest, while renowned director Yang Li-chou accompanied them by vehicle to film the journey.

Blizzards caused the party to abandon their original plan to trek 660 km along a route that followed the world's first-ever expedition to reach the South Pole and

take a shorter but more difficult path. Antarctic conditions rendered the altitude equivalent to 4,000 to 5,000 meters above sea level, according to the foundation.

Chen wrote in a Facebook post that the greatest challenge was the rapidly changing weather but that the team triumphed due to their determination and trust in each other.

The foundation is hosting an exhibition on Antarctica and the two-year preparations for the expedition through Jan. 31, 2019. Yang's film on the journey is expected to be broadcast on the Discovery Channel next year.

Established in 2008, Gamania Cheer Up Foundation conducts projects and offers grants aimed at inspiring and helping youth achieve their dreams. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

## Chan Sisters Claim Women's Doubles Title at Hobart Tournament



**Chan Yung-jan (left) and Chan Hao-ching display the Hobart International women's doubles trophies in Australia. (Courtesy of Hobart International)**

Taiwan sisters Chan Yung-jan and Chan Hao-ching claimed the Hobart International women's doubles title in Australia, clinching the duo's first victory in the tournament.

In the 76-minute final, the Chans de-

feated Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium and Johanna Larsson of Sweden 6-3, 3-6 and 10-6 in a 10-point tiebreaker. The victory earned them US\$12,300 in prize money and marks the 11th Women's Tennis Association title they have won as a team.

Chan Yung-jan wrote on her Facebook page that overcoming the challenges posed by the heat and the wind gave her a huge confidence boost.

The sister's last doubles triumph was at the Hong Kong Tennis Open in 2017. Ahead of the Hobart game, they also finished runners-up at the Brisbane International in Australia.

Next up for the tennis stars will be the Australian Open, which is taking place in Melbourne. Launched in 1994, the Hobart International is one of five Australian competitions, including the Brisbane International and Sydney International, held during the first two weeks of

January before the Grand Slam tournament. **(Source: Taiwan News)**