

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 Advance Women's Economic Empowerment

President Tsai Ing-wen said that she is committed to advancing women's economic empowerment and ensuring all members of society can fully contribute to boosting prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

When more women are able to pursue their aspirations, countries become more prosperous and the region more stable, Tsai said. The government will continue working to create an environment where women can grow, succeed and pursue their dreams, she added.

Tsai made the remarks while delivering a keynote address at the Women's Economic Empowerment Summit in Taipei City. Co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) with the American Institute in Taiwan and Small and Medium Enterprise Administration under the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), the one-day event attracted over 500 attendees from more than 15 countries.



President Tsai Ing-wen delivers a keynote address at the Women's Empowerment Summit in Taipei City. (Courtesy of PO)

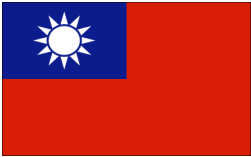
In politics, Tsai said, women account for nearly 40 percent of legislators and mayors in Taiwan, adding that the younger generations are also making waves with the inclusion of four home-grown talents in such prestigious global listings as Forbes Magazine 30 Under 30 Asia list.

Taiwan is ready, willing and able to share its know-how in encouraging more women to start businesses and creating work environments in which they are visible and supported, Tsai added. (Source: Taiwan Today)

According to Tsai, the summit is a valuable platform for unlocking the potential of women and promoting Taiwan's credentials as a global leader in gender equality. Examples of the latter include the recent commissioning of the country's second navy captain, third active army general and the training of more air force combat pilots.



Left: Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (left) applauds as His Majesty King Mswati III cuts his 51st birthday cake while former South African President Jacob Zuma looks on in the Kingdom of Eswatini. (Courtesy of ROC (Taiwan) Embassy in Eswatini). **Centre:** A cheerleading squad performs at the opening of the 2019 National Intercollegiate Athletic Games in Chiayi County, southern Taiwan. (Courtesy of Presidential Office) **Right:** A cat with a watermelon-shaped cap nibbles on a tasty treat during a promotional event for 25 courses and workshops on pet behaviour at Chinese Culture University in Taipei City. (CNA)



Taiwan Cultural Festival

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尚

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臺灣文化
嘉年華
園遊會

活動地點

日期：5月4日(星期六) Date: 4th May (Saturday)
時間：10:00 ~ 16:00 Time: 10:00 ~ 16:00
地點：斐京華僑公學 Venue: Pretoria Chinese School
Address: 654 Halse Street, Wingate Park, Pretoria
座標 coordinates(-25.826656, 28.267645)

精彩內容

活動內容：臺灣漢家文化節、臺灣美食攤、南華寺天龍隊大鼓、
非洲鼓、踢毽子、扯鈴、兒童氣墊城堡、等等...

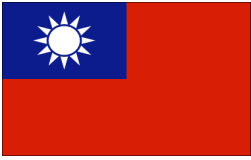
What's On: Taiwanese Cultural Stand, Taiwanese Food Fair,
Taiwanese Aboriginal Dance, Jumping Castle,
Lucky Draw, and more.



Organizer:
TAIWANESE ASSOCIATION
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



主辦單位：南部非洲臺灣同鄉會
贊助單位：駐南非臺北連絡代表處
僑務委員會



Tsai, People of Taiwan Honoured for Promoting Democracy, Human Rights at India Literary Prize



TECC Representative Tien Chung-kwang (right) accepts the Social Achievement Prize on behalf of President Tsai Ing-wen and the people of Taiwan from Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize CEO Peter Bundalo in New Delhi. (CNA)

President Tsai Ing-wen and the people of Taiwan were awarded the Social Achievement honour at India's Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize in recognition of their efforts to advance democracy, freedom and human rights.

Organisers of the event described Taiwan as a beacon of these values, and called on the international community to support the "vibrant and resilient country of Taiwan."

Representative Tien Chung-kwang, head of Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India, accepted the award on behalf of the people and president at the ceremony in New Delhi. Expressing gratitude to the jury, he described Tsai as an active promoter of peace, democracy and human rights since assuming office in May 2016.

As India is the largest democracy in the world and Taiwan a beacon of democracy in Asia, the two sides can strengthen collaboration in preserving these shared values, Tien said, adding that the award will shortly be delivered to the Presidential Office in Taipei City.

Established in 2018, the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize is presented annually in honour of the late Indian artist, poet and musician Rabindranath Tagore, the first non-European winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. It comprises a literary award as well as one or more social achievement honours.

The literature prize at this year's event was conferred on Rana Dasgupta for his novel "Solo," described by organisers as a "hauntingly beautiful recital about estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence."

Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of Japanese charitable organisation The Nippon Foundation, was also named winner of a Social Achievement Prize for efforts to tackle leprosy and foster world peace. (Source: Taiwan Today)

Taiwan Journalists Get UN Backing by Reporters Without Borders

The right of Taiwan journalists and other members of the country's media to cover the activities and events of U.N.-affiliated organisations was strongly supported by Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

Taiwan journalists should be allowed to cover the 72nd World Health Assembly May 20-28 in Geneva, the 74th U.N. General Assembly Sept. 17-30 in New York and the 40th International Civil Aviation Organisation Assembly Sept. 24 to Oct. 4 in Montreal, RSF said in a statement.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) acknowledged the backing of RSF. "We thank @RSF_eastasia & @RSF_en for supporting #Taiwan journalists & defending global #PressFreedom."

RSF Secretary-General Christophe Deloire said U.N. restrictions on Taiwan journalists and other members of the country's media contravene the fundamental right to freedom of opinion and



The right of Taiwan journalists and other members of the country's media to cover the activities and events of U.N.-affiliated organizations like the WHO is supported by RSF. (CNA)

expression as stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

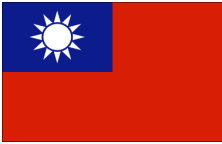
Accrediting bona fide journalists and other members of the media is not a political move and should not hinge on nationality nor the geographical location of the outlet they represent, Deloire added.

According to RSF, the U.N. is increasingly

under pressure from China to deny requests for press accreditation from Taiwan journalists and other members of the country's media on the pretext their passports are unrecognised.

Over the past few years, China has been lobbying in every possible way to isolate Taiwan on the international stage, RSF said, citing the World Health Organisation's refusal to issue press passes for the country's reporters seeking to cover the WHA in 2018.

Taiwan is a bastion of media freedom. It ranks 42nd out of 180 countries and territories surveyed in the latest RSF World Press Freedom Index, while China languishes at 176th. (Source: Taiwan Today)

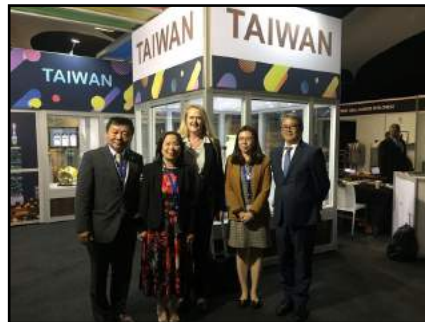


Taiwan Delegation Attends Global Business Roundtable World Congress

A delegation of Taiwan officials and companies attended the ninth annual Global Business Roundtable (GBR) World Congress for Trade and Investment in Johannesburg, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA).

Organised by the MOEA's Bureau of Foreign Trade (BOFT), the group was led by BOFT Deputy Director-General William Liu and comprised more than 16 companies in sectors spanning functional sportswear and LED lighting. Liu delivered a speech on the current economic situation and industrial innovation in Taiwan, while the enterprises showcased 39 cutting-edge products at the GBR exhibition.

In his address, Liu said that there is a high degree of complementarity between Taiwan and emerging African economies. Given Taiwan's advanced technological capabilities, abundant opportunities exist for mutually beneficially collaboration in industries like food proc-



BOFT Deputy Director-General William Liu (left) joins other officials from home and abroad in visiting the Taiwan booth at the 2019 GBR World Congress exhibition March 27 in Johannesburg, South Africa. (Courtesy of

essing and textiles, he added.

According to Liu, as the world's 19th largest economy and 17th largest exporter, Taiwan is committed to promoting free and fair trade and deepening ties with African partners. The nation is also willing and able to share its exper-

tise in nurturing small and medium enterprises, he said.

Launched in 2009, the GBR is a global platform for SMEs, corporations and government officials to discuss trade and investment developments. This year's congress was themed Achieving Sustainable Economic Growth and Equitable Distribution of Resources, and also addressed topics like digital impacts and trade transformation.

More than 200 people from 25 countries and territories participated in the event. The speakers also included former President of Ghana John Mahama and South Africa Deputy Minister of Economic Development Madala Masuku. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Facebook Opens New Taiwan Headquarters in Taipei

Facebook Inc. opened its new Taiwan headquarters at the Nan Shan Plaza skyscraper in Taipei City, underscoring the U.S.-based social media giant's confidence in the local economy.

The 2,658-square-meter office will enable the company to expand its workforce, Facebook said. It also houses a training centre designed to facilitate a joint talent cultivation initiative with the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA).

Under the Made by Taiwan, Loved by the World program, the two sides are working to nurture 50,000 digital talents by 2020.

President Tsai Ing-wen, who visited the office the previous day, congratulated the company on her official Facebook page. In the post, she spotlighted the government's commitment to providing opportunities for youth tech talents, as evidenced by the Asia Silicon Valley De-



Vice Premier Chen Chi-mai (second right) and MOEA Deputy Minister Wang Mei-hua (left) are joined by Facebook Inc. representatives at the opening of the social media company's new Taiwan headquarters

velopment Plan.

Launched in 2016, the initiative has two primary objectives: promoting R&D in devices and Internet of Things applications, and upgrading the nation's entre-

preneurship and start-up ecosystem.

Dan Neary, Facebook's vice president for Asia Pacific, described Taiwan as a key market for the company. The new headquarters evinces Facebook's belief in Taiwan's limitless potential and underscores its determination to expand its local investments, he said.

According to the MOEA, Taiwan is making headway in transitioning to a digital, innovation-based economy. The success of these efforts is highlighted by many of the world's leading tech enterprises expanding their local presence in recent months, the ministry added.

Facebook aside, Amazon Web Services announced that it is establishing a second innovation hub in Taiwan, while Google Inc. is developing a new headquarters in New Taipei City. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Tsai Reiterates Government's Commitment to Fostering AR/VR, Games Sectors



President Tsai Ing-wen (right) plays a shooting game at the opening of GTI Asia Taipei Expo, the nation's largest arcade game trade fair. (Courtesy of Presidential Office)

President Tsai Ing-wen said that the government is committed to fostering digital and smart technologies like augmented and virtual reality so that the world's best video games are Made in Taiwan.

The nation's games sector is registering impressive growth, Tsai said, adding that total industry output reached NT\$58 billion (US\$1.88 billion) in 2018, the highest figure in seven years.

With the government bolstering AR, VR and extended reality R&D under the five-plus-two innovative industries initiative and Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program (FIDP), this potential-laden sector is expected to scale even greater heights going forward, she added.

Tsai made the remarks at the opening of GTI Asia Taipei Expo, the nation's largest arcade game trade show. The event is spotlighting the latest amusement machines and related digital and manufacturing products at around 450 booths by more than 50 exhibitors.

According to Tsai, AR, VR and XR are expected to prove critical in a host of emerging digital economy sectors. To ensure Taiwan stays at the leading-edge, the government has launched a four-year, NT\$1 billion project under the FIDP to facilitate the incorporation of sensory technologies in areas spanning education, entertainment and medical care, she said.

Tsai also pointed to the Reality Technology Service Self-Regulatory Rules unveiled by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. This creates a tailored supervisory framework for the AR, VR and XR industry, providing participants with greater freedom in developing innovative cross-sector applications, Tsai said.

A key plank in the president's national development strategy, the five-plus-two initiative targets the high-growth sectors of biotechnology, 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.

The FIDP aims to meet Taiwan's development needs for the next 30 years. It covers eight categories: aquatic environments, child care facilities, digital infrastructure, food safety, green energy, human resources, railways and urban-rural renewal projects. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

SMEA, Amazon Sign Deal to Establish Cloud Computing Innovation Centre

An agreement on establishing a cloud computing innovation centre was signed by the Small and Medium Enterprise Administration under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Amazon Web Services (AWS), a subsidiary of U.S.-based online retail giant Amazon.com Inc. in Taipei City.

Scheduled to open in New Taipei City's Linkou District in June, the facility aims to encourage Taiwan start-ups and small and medium enterprises in emerging industries like artificial intelligence, Internet of Things and machine learning to adopt cloud computing solutions. It will also cooperate with accelerators from home and abroad to help new Taiwan businesses expand to international markets and attract foreign start-ups to set up offices in the country.

The facility—the second AWS innovation hub in Taiwan—is set to be located at

the soon-to-be-launched Start-up Terrace, a complex at the former site of the athletes' village for the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Vice Premier Chen Chi-mai said the innovation centre is expected to help Taiwan start-ups and SMEs tap opportunities and resources in global markets.

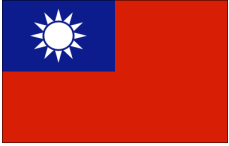
The government is committed to fostering Taiwan's economic transformation and upgrading, Chen said. This is evidenced by the establishment of international incubation bases such as the Linkou site in line with the five-plus-two innovative industries initiative, he added.

According to the vice premier, Start-up Terrace offers abundant benefits to tenants including low rents and early testing access to fifth-generation mobile network technology. It is hoped that such

advantages and the presence of industrial leaders like AWS will spur the development of Taiwan unicorns, start-ups valued at US\$1 billion or above, he said.

The first AWS innovation centre in Taiwan was set up in collaboration with New Taipei City Government last August at Taipei Far Eastern Telecom Park in the metropolis's Banqiao District.

In addition to cultivating start-ups, both sites are intended to serve as training hubs for cloud-based technologies, with the Linkou centre expected to cultivate 2,000 talents per year through courses, seminars and workshops. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Fulong International Sand Sculpting Art Festival to Kick off in New Taipei



Taiwan's beloved Oh Bear joins two dancers in strutting his stuff at a promotional event for the upcoming Fulong International Sand Sculpting Art Festival in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Tourism Bureau)

The Fulong International Sand Sculpting Art Festival is set to kick off in New Taipei City, drawing visitors from home and abroad to the golden beach on Taiwan's northern coast.

Organised by the Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area Administra-

tion, the 12th edition of the annual exhibition runs through Aug. 25. A total of 25 sand sculpture artists from seven countries and territories have been invited to produce works around the theme Crossing the Town to Find Atlantis.

The event will be comprised of three exhibitions areas, each featuring pieces inspired by the mythical Greek city. The first focuses on the origin story of Atlantis—said to have been created by the sea god Poseidon—and features sand sculptures intended to make visitors feel like they are strolling through the legendary metropolis.

Themed around Atlantis' embrace of technology and its ultimate fall, the second area will comprise artworks showcasing the co-existence of ancient and modern worlds. The final section consists of sculptures based on marine environments and wildlife, and aims to encourage visitors to cherish the natural

world.

On June 15, the festival will also host an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest number of people simultaneously creating sand sculptures. A total of 300 participants will attempt to produce depictions of dolphins under the supervision of professional artists.

First staged in 2008, the festival is held along the popular golden beach between Fulong and Yanliao on Taiwan's northern coast. The soft, highly cohesive white quartz sand makes the site ideal for producing sculptures. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

CIP Touts Maori Cultural Exchanges



CIP Minister Icyang Parod (right) presents glass beads from Taiwan's indigenous Paiwan tribe to Te Ururoa Flavell, CEO of Maori educational institution Te Wananga o Aotearoa, at the CIP in New Taipei City. (Courtesy of CIP)

Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP) Minister Icyang Parod met with Te Ururoa Flavell, CEO of Maori educational institution Te Wananga o Aotearoa and former New Zealand minister of Maori development, at the CIP in New Taipei City to

discuss cultural exchanges between the two sides.

According to Icyang, Taiwan indigenous groups and the Maori share a cultural, genetic and linguistic heritage as they lie along the Austronesian-speaking peoples' migration pathway. Exploration of these historical ties can benefit both sides, he said.

Related efforts in this regard include a trip by Maoris from the Ngati Manu tribe in New Zealand's Karetu region to Taiwan last August. Sponsored by the CIP, it included visits to the annual harvest festival of the Amis tribe and the Indigenous Peoples Cultural Development Centre in southern Taiwan's Pingtung County.

This was followed by a similar trip in February by 10 Amis teenagers to the Maori Ngati Manu community in which they learned the ceremonial haka dance, music and traditional hunting and fishing methods. They also shared Amis customs

with their counterparts.

Another key development is the upcoming launch of the headquarters for the Taiwan-initiated Austronesian Forum, Icyang said. Expected to open later this year in Palau, this venue will facilitate expanded cooperation in fostering cultural ties and sustainable development among nations that share Austronesian heritage, he added.

Indigenous peoples have lived in Taiwan for millennia. The latest CIP statistics revealed that the population of the country's 16 officially recognized tribes stands at around 560,000, or 2.3 percent of the total 23.5 million. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



VP Chen Reaffirms Government's Commitment to Strengthening Paediatric Care



Vice President Chen Chien-jen (front, left) presents the Taiwan Children Healthcare Excellence Award to Cheng Hsueh-fang, deputy head nurse at Tri-Service General Hospital Penghu Branch in, Taipei City. (Courtesy of Presidential Office)

The government is committed to developing a more comprehensive health services network for children and newborns so as to provide the next generation with the best standard of care, according to Vice President Chen Chien-jen.

Reducing infant mortality is a target of these efforts, with the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) planning to expand care for high-risk pregnancies, Chen said. Related measures will include offering women more wide-ranging pre- and postnatal services, he added.

Chen made the remarks at the Taiwan Children Healthcare Excellence Award ceremony in Taipei City. The honours are sponsored by the MOHW and organised by New Taipei City-based Raising Children Medical Foundation.

This year's winners include the child abuse unit at Kaohsiung Medical University Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital in southern Taiwan. Established in 2014, the team cooperates with law enforcement and social workers to identify, protect and provide care to mistreated youths.

The contribution award was presented

to Dr. Tien Yin-chun, head of the College of Medicine at Kaohsiung Medical University, for his work in paediatric orthopaedics. Dr. Tsai Wen-yu, who retired last year as a paediatric endocrinologist at National Taiwan University Hospital in Taipei, received the lifetime achievement prize.

Dr. Kuo Meng-fai, director of paediatric neurosurgery at NTUH, picked up the honour for outstanding veteran physician, while Dr. Lin Hsin-chia, a paediatric cardiologist at NTUH's Yunlin branch in western Taiwan, earned the emerging doctor award.

In the nursing categories, the honours went to Cheng Hsueh-fang, deputy head nurse at Tri-Service General Hospital's branch in outlying Penghu County, and Liu Wan-sheng, head nurse of the children's ward at Kaohsiung Veterans General Hospital in southern Taiwan.

(Source: Taiwan Today)

VP Chen Vows to Advance Taiwan's Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sectors

Advancing Taiwan's biomedical and pharmaceutical sectors while realising the World Health Organisation's (WHO) major objective of Health For All is a top priority for the government of Taiwan.

Biomedicine is a key component of the five-plus-two innovative industries initiative, Vice President Chen Chien-jen said. Promotional efforts focus on building the necessary infrastructure for industry development and strengthening Taiwan's related regulations, he added.

Chen made the remarks while receiving Carl-Henrik Heldin, chairman of the board of the Nobel Foundation, at the Presidential Office in Taipei City. The Swedish scholar is in country for the 2nd International Symposium on TGF- β in Cancer.

Co-organised by the Taiwan Research-based Biopharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, the one-day annual event is

taking place at National Biotechnology Research Park in Taipei's Nangang District. It serves as a world-class platform for sharing experiences and ideas, as well promoting key developments in fields relating to the role of TGF- β , or transforming growth factor beta, in cancer prevention and therapy.

According to Chen, an important measure contributing to the development of Taiwan's biomedical and pharmaceutical sectors is the establishment of the Taiwan Clinical Trail Consortium. Comprising 12 medical centres around Taiwan, the initiative positions the country to maintain leadership in clinical trials and promote more international cooperation and exchanges.

At the same time, Chen said, several research centres and industrial clusters have been created to foster business and technology activity. He cited NBRP and Hsinchu Biomedical Science Park in

northern Taiwan, as well as two clusters in central and southern Taiwan specialising in medical equipment and supplies.

Another accomplishment is Taiwan's ascension to the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use in June 2018, Chen said, adding that this confirms the success of government efforts to bring Taiwan's laws more in line with global standards.

The government will leave no stone unturned in spotlighting Taiwan's biomedicine advantages and showing the world Taiwan Can Help realise Health For All, Chen said. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Creative Expo Taiwan gets Underway in Taipei



Members of renowned drumming troupe U-Theatre perform at the opening ceremony of Creative Expo Taiwan in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Taiwan Design Centre)

Creative Expo Taiwan kicked off in Taipei City, drawing a record 570 exhibitors from 25 countries and territories to showcase the latest cultural and design trends.

Organised by the Ministry of Culture (MOC), the 12-day fair is spotlighting Taiwan crafts, design concepts, history, lifestyles and performing arts at five venues: Huashan 1914 Creative Park, Song-

shan Cultural and Creative Park, Taipei Expo Park, Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab and Taipei Railway Workshop.

According to MOC Minister Cheng Li-chiun, as a free and democratic nation and melting pot of various ethnic groups, Taiwan boasts a deep creative talent pool.

In line with this year's theme Culture on the Move, the event aims to highlight the full breath of Taiwan's design and performing arts landscape from the classical to the contemporary, while providing insights into the country's inclusive society, Cheng said.

Titled Stage on Move, the main pavilion at Huashan is hosting an eclectic mix of traditional and modern performances by such artists as glove puppeteer Chen Hsi-huang, indigenous singer-songwriter Illid Kaolo and rapper Dwagie. Participants' creative processes are also being spotlighted through documentary screenings, talks and workshops.

The 7-hectare creative park also features pavilions on the cultural scenes of four regions: the northern city of Taoyuan, the southeastern county of Taitung, and Tainan City and Pingtung County in southern Taiwan. Special edition magazines on the development, crafts and tourism sectors of these areas are on offer at the event.

Highlights at the other venues include an image licensing fair, forums on topics spanning climate change, digital media and photography, and "Hi, Story," an arts and history exhibition displaying items from the collections of five national museums.

Launched in 2010, the annual CET plays a key role in the strategic promotion of the cultural and creative industry by the MOC. The sector was first included in the national development plan in 2002 and further prioritized following promulgation of the Law for the Development of the Cultural and Creative Industries in 2010. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

'More Than Blue' Flies Flag for Taiwan at Filmfest DC



Actor Bruce Hung appears in a scene from "More Than Blue," Taiwan's entry in Filmfest DC running in the U.S. capital. (Courtesy of Filmfest DC 2019)

Taiwan movie "More Than Blue" is featuring in the Washington DC International Film Festival in the U.S. capital.

Participating with support from the Ministry of Culture and Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the U.S., the 2018 release by director Gavin

Lin is a touching romantic drama charting the relationship between isolated student K and rebellious girl Cream.

The pair, played by Jasper Liu and Ivy Chen respectively, becomes inseparable after losing their families. When K is diagnosed with leukemia, he dedicates himself to helping Cream find love before his time runs out.

"More Than Blue" is a remake of a 2009 South Korean movie. It was screened at last year's Busan International Film Festival and proved a critical and box-office success upon its release.

The 33rd edition of Filmfest DC comprises screenings of more than 80 movies from 45 countries and territories. Program highlights include FoodFlix, Trust No One, the Lighter Side and Global Rhythms, selections spotlighting international films in the genres of food, espionage and crime, comedy, and music, respectively. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Southeast Asian Visitor Numbers to Taiwan Hit Record High in 2018



The number of Southeast Asian visitors to Taiwan surged 13.8 percent to a record 2.42 million last year, according to the MOI. (Courtesy of Tourism Bureau)

The number of Southeast Asian visitors to Taiwan rose 13.8 percent to a record 2.42 million last year, spotlighting the success of the government's New Southbound Policy (NSP), the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) said.

Arrivals from Southeast Asia accounted for 21.89 percent of the 11 million-plus total recorded in 2018, according to the

MOI. This marked the ninth consecutive year of visitor growth from the region.

The top five sources of foreign arrivals to Taiwan in 2018 were China, 2.66 million; Japan, 1.96 million; Hong Kong and Macao, 1.53 million; South Korea, 1.01 million; and the U.S., 550,000. In the terms of visitor number growth, the Philippines led the way, followed by Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, and Indonesia, the MOI data showed.

According to the ministry, the surge in arrivals from Southeast Asia is due to a host of measures enacted under the NSP such as the easing of visa regulations.

Other factors include the growing popularity of budget airlines and rise in the number of flight routes. A total of 30 new routes were launched in 2018, with 70 percent of these serving airports in East and Southeast Asia, the MOI said.

Overall, the number of inbound and out-

bound passengers reached 55.26 million in Taiwan last year, equating to a more than 100 percent increase from 2008.

In terms of outbound travel, Japan remained the destination of choice for Taiwan visitors, followed by China, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Thailand. The latter registered the largest growth in 2018 at 18.46 percent to 679,145.

A key plank of President Tsai Ing-wen's national development strategy, the NSP is deepening Taiwan's agricultural, business, cultural, education, trade and tourism links with Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, six South Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**

Taiwan Taoyuan Airport Earns Recognition for Carbon Reduction Efforts

Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport earned an award and certificate from Montreal-based Airports Council International (ACI) for wide-ranging efforts to lower its carbon footprint, according to facility operator Taoyuan International Airport Corp (TIAC).

In the ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition program, the country's main gateway picked up the top-ranked platinum prize in the category for facilities serving 10-45 million passengers per year. It was recognized for a project to optimize the energy supply chain of existing boarding bridges, which lowered carbon emissions by 32,200 tons year on year in 2018, TIAC said.

The airport was also presented with a third-level optimisation certificate—the second-highest of four grades—under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation system for such efforts as replacing gas-powered vehicles with electric alterna-



TIAC Chairman Wang Ming-teh (fourth left) is joined by company staff in spotlighting recent recognition of TTIA's carbon reduction efforts in northern Taiwan. (Courtesy of TIAC)

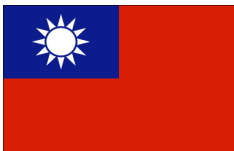
tives and switching out traditional bulbs for light-emitting diodes.

According to TIAC Chairman Wang Ming-teh, the airport slashed its carbon footprint and electricity consumption per passenger by 21.7 percent and 27.1 percent, respectively, between 2013 and

2017. TTIA is committed to further bolstering such environmental initiatives going forward, he said.

In addition to ACI accreditation, the airport has received certification for adherence to ISO 14064 standards on greenhouse gas accounting and verification, and ISO 50001 criteria on energy management.

TTIA is a regular recipient of international honours. It was named No. 1 globally for immigration service and airport staff in 2018 and 2017, respectively, by U.K.-based air travel research group Skytrax, and came third worldwide for facilities serving over 40 million passengers per year in ACI's 2017 Airport Service Quality Awards. **(Source: Taiwan Today)**



Taiwan's Kuo Hsing-chun Wins 3 Golds and Sets 3 World Records



Taiwan's Kuo Hsing-chun is the winner of three golds and the holder of three new world records at the 2019 Asian Weightlifting Championships.

Kuo Hsing-chun of Taiwan won three gold medals and set three world records in the women's 59-kilogram category at the 2019 Asian Weightlifting Championships (AWC) in China.

Kuo's first was in the snatch when she lifted 106 kg to break her own record of

105 kg set at the 2018 World Weightlifting Championships. Her second was in the clean and jerk when she lifted 137 kg to break the record of 136 kg set by China's Chen Guiming at the 2019 World Cup.

Kuo's third was for the total of 243 kg, 6 kg more than her own record set at the 2018 WWC. This placed her ahead of Chen, 233 kg and Japan's Ando Mikiko, 225 kg.

The gold haul repeats Kuo's success at the 2017 AWC and brings her career gold medal tally to 10 at the annual championships.

As the AWC also serves as a qualifying tournament for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Kuo is a hot favourite to win a berth at the Summer Games.

Kuo, raised in south-eastern Taiwan's Taitung County, claimed silver at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games and bronze at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. She also won a total of six golds at the 2013, 2017 and 2018 editions of the WWC.

(Source: Taiwan Today)

Taiwan Golfer Pan Cheng-tsung Claims Maiden PGA Tour Title



Pan Cheng-tsung displays his first PGA Tour trophy at the RBC Heritage in South Carolina. (Courtesy of PGA Tour)

Taiwan's Pan Cheng-tsung claimed his first Professional Golfers' Association Tour title at the RBC Heritage in South Carolina.

Pan finished the tournament 12 under par, one stroke ahead of runner-up Matt Kuchar of the U.S. The 27-year-old demonstrated considerable poise in a thrilling final round, grabbing the lead with a birdie on the 16th before holding his nerve to register pars on the next two

holes and secure victory.

Speaking after the win, Pan said that his near-miss at the PGA Wyndham Championship last year—in which he lost out on the title with a double bogey on the 18th—changed his approach to the concluding holes. The key was focusing on the small details and staying in the present, he added.

Pan also took the opportunity to offer his congratulations to Taiwan teenager Lu Hsin-yu, who won the girls' division at the C. T. Pan Junior Championship co-organised by the golfer and the American Junior Golf Association in Houston. Lu was among 10 Taiwan competitors that Pan brought over to the U.S. for the event.

Inspiring the next generation of Taiwan golfers is a major focus for Pan. "This is one of the best weekends I've ever had," he said.

Victory earned Pan US\$1.242 million in prize money and moves him up to No. 55

from No. 113 in the Official World Golf Ranking. He is now expected to earn an invitation to the Augusta National next year, and is in line to make Ernie Els' international team for the Dec. 9-15 Presidents Cup.

Born in northern Taiwan's Miaoli County, Pan claimed silver at the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, and was ranked No. 1 on the World Amateur Golf Ranking in 2013. He debuted as a professional at the U.S. Open in 2015, bagging two PGA Tour Canada events the same year and finishing as runner-up at two PGA Tour events, in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Pan is now the second Taiwan player to have won a PGA Tour title following Chen Tze-chung's victory at the Los Angeles Open in 1987. **(Source: Taiwan News)**