

Tsai lauds Taiwan's biotech innovation and development

President Tsai Ing-wen said July 23 Taiwan's biomedical industry has grown from strength to strength in recent years as a result of farsighted government policymaking, spotlighting her administration's commitment to developing high-growth sectors of the economy.

Biomedical technology has been a top priority in Taiwan's national development strategy since she became president in 2016, Tsai said. Over the past few years the country has conducted over 300 clinical trials, 80 percent of which involved multinational firms, while local biomedical industry revenues grew 8.7 percent in 2019, with total investment exceeding NT\$55.1



billion (US\$1.84 billion), she added.

Tsai made the remarks during the opening ceremony of the 2020 Bio Asia-Taiwan International Conference and Exhibition jointly organized by Taipei-based Taiwan Bio Industry Organization and Washington-headquartered Biotechnology Innovation Organization in Taipei City. Around 2,000 participants from 600 plus companies across the world are taking part

in the six-day event, while 3,500 matchmaking sessions are scheduled to link the best and brightest domestic firms with buyers from abroad.

According to Tsai, the annual conference is taking place as scheduled despite the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the success of Taiwan's disease-fighting measures and the collective efforts of the government and people.

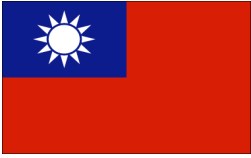
It is a great opportunity to swap notes on vaccine development and other ways to combat coronavirus, Tsai said, adding the country is more than willing to share the Taiwan Model for managing COVID-19 with the rest of the world.



July Snapshots of Taiwan



Left, Youths from Taiwan and 12 other countries make a heart gesture at the launch of the four-day Cultivation Program of Young Talent for International Affairs under the Austronesia Forum July 23 in the southern city of Chiayi. (Courtesy of Council of Indigenous Peoples); **Middle**, Paraguay Ambassador to the ROC Marcial Bobadilla Guillen (left) discusses bilateral relations at the launch of the Taiwan-Paraguay legislative friendship group alongside chairperson Wen Yu-hsia July 21 in Taipei City. (CNA); **Right**, Top athletes from Taiwan, including weightlifter Kuo Hsing-chun (center), model the national team's uniform for next year's Tokyo Olympics July 23 in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Ministry of Education)



Taiwan's Legislature passes Citizen Judges Act

The Citizen Judges Act passed its final reading at the Legislature July 22 in Taipei City, marking a milestone in the government's ongoing efforts to reform Taiwan's judicial system and promote sentencing transparency, according to the Ministry of Justice.

During her inauguration speech in May, second-term President Tsai Ing-wen pledged to implement a lay judge system where citizens serve alongside professional judges. This will help bring the country's judicial system more closely in line with public opinion, strengthening confidence in the rule of law, she added.

Under the legislation set to take effect Jan. 1, 2023, citizens aged 23 and above who have received at least a high school education and resided within a court's jurisdiction for at least four months can be ran-

domly selected as a citizen or standby judge. The only exceptions are for certain professions like those working in law, the military or police; criminals; and the country's president, vice president and other heads of government agencies.

School teachers, students, people aged 70 and above and those who have legitimate reasons such as family matters, health concerns or work obligations can request to be exempted from duty.

Citizen judges will receive compensation and paid work leave for taking part in criminal trials, but failure to appear in court without a proper cause will be subject to a maximum fine of NT\$60,000 (US\$2,000). The law also stipulates jail terms and fines for those who reveal details of cases or accept bribes.



The new system, which requires a panel of six citizen judges and three professional judges, will apply to criminal cases carrying a prison term of at least 10 years or involving intentional acts leading to homicide. A guilty verdict can only be reached with the consent of at least two thirds of the panel including one professional judge, while sentences must be agreed by a majority of the panel.

Presidential Office welcomes US government approval of new arms

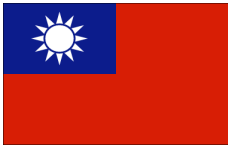


Presidential Office spokesperson Alex Huang (黃重諺) welcomed the US State Department's July 9 (EST) approval and formal notification of Congress regarding a new arms sale package for Taiwan. He also thanked

the United States for fulfilling its commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act and Six Assurances, and helping Taiwan to continue strengthening our defense capabilities to ensure peace and security in the Taiwan Strait and our region.

Spokesperson Huang went on to say that this sale includes logistics support and technical services for Taiwan's Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) air defense missiles and technical services. In light of China's recent escalation of military pressure in the Taiwan Strait and throughout the

region, this arms package will further solidify Taiwan's high-altitude defense capabilities. In the future, Taiwan will continue to increase investments in national defense, promote national defense reform, and strengthen national defense industries and technology research and development. These concrete actions show that we are determined to strengthen our self-defense capabilities and contribute to long-term peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.



MOFA reaffirms ROC (Taiwan) sovereignty over South China Sea islands Gauteng residents fight Covid-19 outbreak



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed July 14 ROC (Taiwan) sovereignty over the South China Sea islands, and said the country should be included in multilateral mechanisms for resolving disputes.

The islands and their relevant waters in the South China Sea are part of ROC (Taiwan) territory and the country's rights are unquestionable under international law and the law of the sea, the MOFA said. As a member of the international community, Taiwan is willing through equitable negotiations to work with all relevant parties in promoting peace and stability in the South China Sea, and to jointly

develop and protect resources in the region, it added.

The MOFA also reiterated four principles relating to the South China Sea islands first unveiled July 19, 2016, by President Tsai Ing-wen.

The four principles comprise resolving disputes peacefully in accordance with international law and the law of the sea; including Taiwan in any multilateral dispute settlement mechanism; ensuring freedom of aviation and navigation in the region; and setting aside differences and resolving disputes through joint development.

The government's position on territory in the South China Sea and commitment to a peaceful resolution remain unwavering, the MOFA said, adding that the country firmly opposes any attempt by a claimant

state to resolve disputes by means of intimidation, coercion or force.

The MOFA also welcomes declarations by relevant states agreeing that claims in the region must conform with international law and norms, including the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, the ministry said, adding that any claims inconsistent with those norms should not be accepted.

The release follows a statement issued by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo a day earlier, which declared that the U.S. stands with the international community in defense of freedom of the seas and respect for sovereignty and rejects any push to impose "might makes right" in the South China Sea or wider region.

Cybersecurity forum staged by Taiwan, US in Taipei

A forum on strengthening cooperation and exchanges between the cybersecurity sectors of Taiwan and the U.S. while boosting respective capacities was staged July 17 in Taipei City.

Organized by the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Department of International Cooperation and the American Institute in Taiwan, the daylong event involved experts, government officials and industry representatives from the two sides. They discussed a wide array of issues such as emerging threats, the latest technology trends and opportunities for cross-border collaboration.

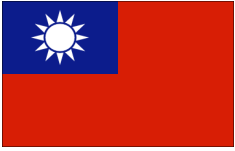
MOEA Minister Wang Mei-hua said during her opening remarks that Taiwan is willing and able to work with like-minded partner the U.S. in bolstering global cybersecurity. Provisions exist under the 2020 U.S. National Defense Authorization Act for bilateral cooperation by harnessing the complementary strengths of each side, she added.

Equally upbeat, AIT Director Brent Christensen said legislation like Cyber Security Management Act underscores the importance the government places on building a comprehensive environment as Taiwan transitions to a next-generation network. Two-way tie-ups spanning financial,

health and key infrastructure industries should combine the strengths of the public and private sectors to form an unbreakable knot, he added.

According to the MOEA, the global cybersecurity market is expected to top US\$133 billion by 2022. Promoting Taiwan-U.S. partnerships enables the two sides to more effectively pursue commercial openings and deliver respective sectorwide benefits, the ministry said.





Taiwan's coronavirus response features in BMJ Opinion

An article on Taiwan's coronavirus-combating efforts was published July 21 by BMJ Opinion, the column-blog version of The British Medical Journal.

Authored by Health Minister Chen Shih-chung, former Vice Premier Chen Chi-mai, National Health Insurance Administration Director General Lee Po-chang, Taiwan Medical Association President Chiu Tai-yuan and professor Chi Chun-huei of Oregon State University, "What We Can Learn from Taiwan's Response to the Covid-19 Epidemic" spotlights the effectiveness of the Taiwan Model in managing the pandemic.

Taiwan had 449 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and seven deaths as of July 7, with no locally transmitted cases reported for 86 consecutive days.

The authors contrasted these numbers with more than 14 million cases worldwide and over 610,000 deaths.

Taiwan drew a traumatic but important lesson from the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak in 2003, the authors said. This led to the establishment of the Central Epidemic Command Center, as well as the initiation of rapid response measures and upgrades of medical equipment and public health infrastructure, they added.

Contact tracing utilizing the NHI and MediCloud systems—a mobile-based app—also played a key role in the country's successful approach, the authors said, adding that it allowed for more effective surgical mask allocations, patient diagnosis and treatment.



But at the heart of Taiwan's strategy was public trust and unity, the authors said. The government, private sector and people came together as one to fight the virus and ensure the health and well-being of all members of society, they added.

BMJ is one of the most prestigious and highly respected medical journals in the world. The opinion spinoff features submissions from the international community of academics and experts.

Virtual coronavirus-combating seminar staged by Taiwan for Africa

A virtual coronavirus-combating seminar involving participants from Taiwan and across Africa was staged July 6 by Taipei City-based Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) and National Taiwan University Hospital.

Supported by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the event detailed the Taiwan Model and core components such as border controls, 14-day quarantines and surgical mask allocations,

as well as hospital procedures for curtailing transmission of the virus first reported in the Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.

A total of 361 health officials and medical personnel from ally Kingdom of Eswatini and 12 other nations took part. These were Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda.

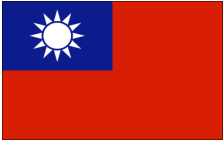
severe acute respiratory syndrome is also of great instructional value, he added.

Another TAITRA initiative proving useful is the Taiwan Global Anti-COVID-19 Pavilion website. Launched last month, the portal provides in-depth information on the disease while promoting digital and smart medical services for Africa.

The event is the latest of 20 held with partners in Bangladesh, Colombia, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Thailand and Vietnam. Over 15,000 health officials and medical personnel have participated to date.



TAITRA Chairman James C. F. Huang said such seminars demonstrate Taiwan Can Help strengthen Africa's response to the pandemic. Sharing the country's experiences in battling the 2003 outbreak of



June export orders up 6.5 percent year on year in Taiwan

Taiwan's export orders increased 6.5 percent year on year to US\$41 billion in June, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs July 20.

Orders for the main exports sectors of electronics, information and communication technology, and optoelectronic products rose 23.9 percent to US\$12.3 billion, 17.1 percent to US\$12.99 billion and 3.8 percent to US\$1.92 billion, respectively.

The MOEA attributed the strong electronics numbers to the accelerating development of technologies such as 5G telecommunications and high-performance computing, as well as rising demand for chips, integrated circuit design, dynamic random access memory and printed circuit boards.

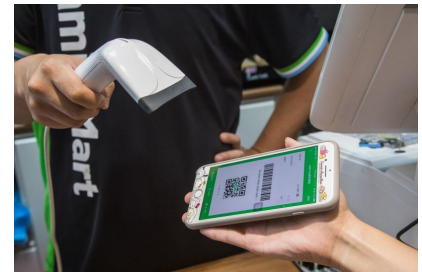
A similarly impressive result for ICT products was credited by the MOEA to a boom in telecommuting stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. This trend carried over to ICT on the back of increasing orders for notebooks, tablets, graphics cards, internet servers and network communication devices, as well as heightened production of mobile phones.

Equally noteworthy were orders for optoelectronic products, which saw a rise due to increasing demand for liquid crystal display panels and optical lenses, the MOEA said.

Taiwan's top source of orders was the U.S., up 13.6 percent to US\$13.3 billion, followed by China and Hong Kong, up 13 percent to US\$10.56 billion; Europe, up 10.8 percent to US\$7.47

billion; and Association of Southeast Asian Nations, up 1.8 percent to US\$3.77 billion.

The MOEA said it remains optimistic about the outlook for electronics and ICT products given strong global demand for advanced technologies. But it cautioned that further trade friction between China and the U.S., as well as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, may cast uncertainties over the global economy going forward, with the impact on Taiwan remaining to be seen.



Foreign Business and Enterprise Integrity Forum wraps up in Taipei



The Foreign Business and Enterprise Integrity Forum wrapped up July 14 in Taipei City, spotlighting the government's commitment to promoting corporate integrity and legal compliance while strengthening public-private anti-corruption partnerships to improve the local business environment.

Co-organized by the Ministries of Justice and Finance and held in the National Central Library, the half-day event was attended by more than 200 academics, officials and representatives of businesses and non-government organizations from home and abroad.

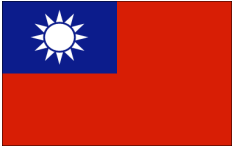
The forum comprised a speech, a presentation and a panel discussion spanning topics such as promoting corporate integrity and sustainable development through legal compliance, raising employees' awareness of legal codes, fulfilling social responsibilities of enterprises and implementing anti-corruption strategies into corporate governance.

According to MOJ Minister Tsai Ching-hsiang during his opening remarks, the forum demonstrates the government's dedication to helping businesses implement ethical standards, openness and transparency in line with the U.N. Convention against Corruption. Evidence that efforts are paying dividends includes Taiwan's rank as 28th in the 2019 Corruption Perception Index released by Germany-based Transparency International and the passage of the Whistleblower Protection Act by

the Cabinet last year, he added.

The sentiment was echoed by MOF Minister Su Jain-rong, who detailed actions taken by the ministry's Customs Administration to make it easier for companies to understand and follow regulations. Following the integrity policy of Belgium-based World Customs Organization, the CA has streamlined its clearance procedures while enhancing communication with enterprises, he said, adding that a self-assessment system for businesses is also in the pipeline to further improve adherence to the law.

Other high-profile attendees included Cheng Ming-chian, director-general of the MOJ's Agency Against Corruption; Hsieh Ling-yuan, director-general of CA; and B.L. Huang, manager of Taiwan Stock Exchange Corporation's Corporate Governance Department.



MOST launches new ocean research vessel in Keelung

Taiwan's newest and largest ocean research vessel commissioned by the Ministry of Science and Technology was launched July 21 in the northern port city of Keelung, marking a milestone in the country's domestic marine research development.



Manufactured by CSBC Corp. Taiwan, the 2,155-ton R/V New Ocean Researcher 1 will be used to advance atmospheric science and oceanography. It can carry 47 crew members on 40-day expeditions and will be operated by Taipei City-based National Taiwan University.

At the launch ceremony, President Tsai Ing-wen said the indigenously developed vessel is a testament to the country's domestic shipbuilding

program. It shows the government's dedication to enhancing natural disaster response and sustainable ocean development through sophisticated data collection benefiting the international community, she added.

Under the MOST's Sailing to the Blue Sea plan, the new ship is set to voyage from Kaohsiung City in southern Taiwan to Guam and Palau, Tsai said, adding that it will conduct surveys along the Mariana Trench and North

Equatorial Current as well as typhoon formation zones in the Western Pacific.

According to the MOST, the ship will join R/V New Ocean Researcher 2 and 3, launched in Nov. 2019, in carrying out exploration and scientific missions. The vessels are expected to help boost cross-border research cooperation and cultivate local talent while promoting ocean sustainability, the ministry said.

Launched last November, the R/V New Ocean Researcher 2 and 3 are operated by National Taiwan Ocean University in northern Taiwan's Keelung City and National Sun Yat-sen University in Kaohsiung City, respectively.

Premier Su vows to position Taiwan at heart of global tech industry supply chains

Premier Su Tseng-chang said July 2 that the government will continue prioritizing 5G and artificial intelligence technologies while strengthening the semiconductor industry's material and equipment networks to place the country at heart of global supply chains for the tech sector.



Taiwan businesses are relocating operations of high-end products to the country from overseas amid worldwide economic restructuring stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and trade friction between the U.S. and China, Su said, adding that the government is seizing the opportunity to fast-track the country's economic transformation and industrial innovation.

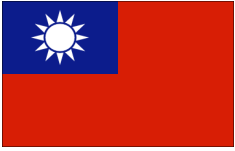
Su made the remarks at a Cabinet meeting in Taipei City following a

Ministry of Economic Affairs briefing on efforts to transform Taiwan into Asia's high-tech manufacturing center and the world's advanced semiconductor manufacturing hub.

The MOEA plans to accomplish these goals by cooperating with locally-based industrial associations to enhance industrial intelligence, expedite digital transformation and spur the development of innovative applications and solutions among home-grown businesses.

According to the MOEA, the production value of Taiwan's semiconductor industry totaled NT\$2.7 trillion (US\$91.67 billion) in 2019, the second highest in the world. This provides a solid foundation for the government to strengthen the country's international position in the industry, the ministry said.

No stone will be left unturned in encouraging overseas semiconductor manufacturers to invest in Taiwan, the MOEA said, adding that it will also expand collaboration between domestic and foreign firms. The ministry expects such moves to help localize manufacturing of relevant equipment and material while realizing the country's goal of reaching NT\$5 trillion in annual semiconductor production value by 2030.



Taiwan reduces carbon emissions from burning fuel by 3.15 percent in 2019

Taiwan produced 258.72 million metric tons of carbon emissions from burning fuel in 2019, down 3.15 percent compared to a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs July 21.

It is the second consecutive year of reduction since the country's total emissions reached an all-time high of 269.46 million metric tons in 2017, the ministry said, adding that the per capita emissions saw a similar reduction of 3.21 percent to 10.96 metric tons.

According to the MOEA, the service sector showed the biggest improve-

ment with a decrease of 4.56 percent during the period. The industrial sector, accounting for 48.9 percent of the nation's total emissions, was second in terms of annual reduction, down 4.42 percent, followed by residential, 3.29 percent; energy, 1.28 percent; and agriculture, 0.8 percent.

Such progress underscores the government's commitment to creating a low-carbon homeland under a raft of measures introduced since 2017, including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Control Action Program and National Climate Change Action Guidelines, the ministry said.

The changes are in line with the government target of bringing Taiwan's greenhouse gas emissions to under 50 percent of the 2005 level by 2050, as stipulated in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, it added.



Taiwan ranked 2nd safest country worldwide by Numbeo

Taiwan is the second safest country in the world and the safest in Eastern Asia, according to the latest crime index recently released by international database firm Numbeo.

Globally, the country's score of 15.26 out of 100 saw it trail Qatar, 11.90, but finish ahead of United Arab Emirates, 15.45 and Georgia, 20.50. In Eastern Asia, Taiwan trumped Hong

Kong, 20.91; Japan, 21.67; and South Korea, 27.33.

On the safety index, the country's score of 84.74 out of 100 placed it behind Qatar, 88.10, but in front of UAE, 84.55 and Georgia, 79.50. In Eastern Asia, Taiwan topped Hong Kong, 79.09; Japan, 78.33; and South Korea, 72.67.

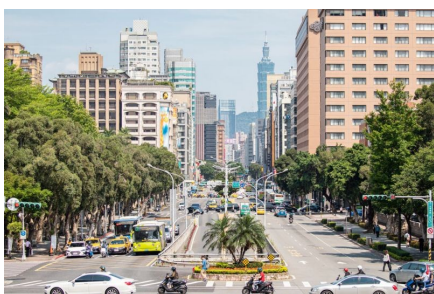
Globally, the bottom four countries are Venezuela, 84.36 and 15.64; Papua New Guinea, 80.04 and 19.96; South Africa, 77.29 and 22.71; and Afghanistan, 76.97 and 23.03.

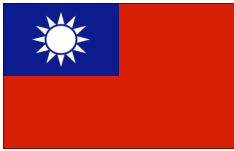
According to Numbeo, the crime index is an estimation of the overall level of criminal activity in a given

country. Scores under 20 are classified as very low; 20 to 40, low; 40 to 60, moderate; 60 to 80, high; and over 80, very high. The safety index is the opposite, with high scores considered very safe.

Another highlight for Taiwan was its No.1 ranking on the Numbeo health care index with a score of 86.42 out of 100. South Korea finished second, 82.26; France third, 80.68; and Japan fourth, 80.23.

Numbeo, established in 2009, is the world's largest user-contributed database. A total of 133 countries and territories were included in its crime index this year.





Taiwan extends visa waiver for Bruneian, Philippine, Russian, Thai passport holders

Effective Aug. 1, the trial program offering passport holders from Brunei, the Philippines, Russia and Thailand visa-free entry to Taiwan for up to 14 days will be extended for another year through July 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said July 23.

At the same time, the Project for Simplifying Visa Regulations for High-end Group Tourists, which took effect in 2015 and applies to visitors on organized tours from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, will also continue for another year until Dec. 31, 2021.

Under the Online Application for ROC (Taiwan) Travel Authorization Certificate for Nationals from Southeast Asian Countries Project, qualified

individuals holding visas to Japan and South Korea who apply for conditional visa-free entry to Taiwan must present a record of entry into one of the two countries, the MOFA said.



The ministry also said the adjustments do not take precedence over temporary border control measures put in place by the Central Epidemic Command Center in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the ministry, the projects have yielded positive results since their introduction as part of the government's New Southbound Policy. Statistics from the National Immigration Agency show 2019 arrivals from Brunei, the Philippines, Russia and Thailand respectively increased 41.32 percent, 100.37 percent, 407.55 percent and 34.49 percent year on year.

A key plank in the government's national development strategy, the NSP is enhancing 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's passport ranked 33rd strongest globally

Taiwan's passport is the 33rd strongest in the world, with holders enjoying visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 146 countries and territories, according to London-headquartered citizenship and residency advisory firm Henley and Partners July 6.

Taiwan is one of the biggest climbers since 2010 out of the 199 countries and territories on the Henley Passport Index. Its increase of 36 spots over the past decade places it behind only United Arab Emirates at plus-46 and ahead of Colombia at plus-28.

This year's third quarter update saw Japan and Singapore finish in the top

two spots with access to 191 and 190 destinations, respectively, followed by Germany and South Korea tied in third with 189.



Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria finished in the bottom three, in that order, with preferential access to only 26, 28 and 29 countries and territories,

respectively. Other Asian passports on the list included, Malaysia, 14th; Hong Kong, 19th; Macao, 34th; Thailand, 66th; and China, 70th.

Latest tallies compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which also take e-visas into account, indicate ROC (Taiwan) passport holders can enjoy preferential visa treatment in 175 countries and territories.

First published in 2006, the index is based on data from Montreal-headquartered International Air Transport Association.