

Taiwan, US issue joint declaration on 5G security

Taiwan and the U.S. issued the Joint Declaration on 5G Security Aug. 26 in Taipei City, underscoring both sides' commitment to protecting next-generation communication networks, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Under the initiative, the two will work to raise awareness globally about the opportunities and risks posed by 5G networks through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework while developing appropriate standards, guidelines and best practices, the MOFA said.

Launched in June 2015, GCTF is a platform for expanding collaboration on global and regional challenges. Workshops have been organized under the initiative in areas spanning e-commerce, energy, environmental protection, media literacy, public health and women's empowerment.

During the announcement event



staged at the American Innovation Center, MOFA Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu said Taiwan and the U.S. are close partners dedicated to ensuring prosperity, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific based on the shared values of democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights.

According to Wu, information security is one of the six core strategic industries unveiled by President Tsai Ing-wen during her 2020 inauguration speech. To guard against data breaches, the government has excluded all problematic or untrusted suppliers from taking part in Taiwan's 5G infrastructure development, he said.

Taiwan is now a member of the U.S. 5G Clean Path Initiative, with all five local telecom providers designated "clean carriers," Wu said. The government looks forward to working with other like-minded countries to foster resilient, secure and trustworthy 5G ecosystems that can contribute to stable socioeconomic development around the world, he added.

Also at the event, American Institute in Taiwan Director Brent Christensen said the U.S. is a strong advocate for the digital economy, which is poised for rapid growth thanks to the power of 5G networks.

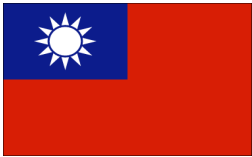
The U.S. welcomes the endorsement of its 5G Clean Path Initiative, Christensen said, adding Taiwan is a reliable partner whose shared values lend themselves perfectly to close cooperation on 5G and information security.



August Snapshots of Taiwan



Left, Ambassadors and representatives from 23 countries and territories are all smiles during a biomedical technology tour Aug. 20-21 at Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. in northern Taiwan's Hsinchu County. (MOFA); **Middle,** Vice President Lai Ching-te (fourth left) applauds winners of an asset management award organized by locally-based Business Today magazine Aug. 26 in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Presidential Office); **Right,** A Cargolux Airlines Boeing 747 jet spotted recently at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport features an eye-catching mask livery painted by Taoyuan-based Evergreen Aviation Technology Corp. (Courtesy of @Cargolux_Intl)



Tsai vows to strengthen Taiwan's investment climate at AmCham Taipei's Hsieh Nien Fan

President Tsai Ing-wen said Aug. 25 that the government is committed to strengthening the country's robust investment climate while advancing Taiwan-U.S. mutual interests and shared values with like-minded partners such as the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei.

2020 has been a year of challenges, Tsai said. But government policies are proving effective in protecting Taiwan's economic climate and public health so domestic and international businesses can operate without concern, she added.

Tsai made the comments while delivering the keynote at AmCham Taipei's Hsieh Nien Fan celebration in Taipei City. The annual gathering of business leaders from Taiwan and the U.S. was also attended by VIPs such as Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Health Minister Chen Shih-chung and American Institute in Taiwan Director Brent Christensen. According to Tsai, AmCham Taipei is

playing an important role in making the strong partnership between Taiwan and the U.S. even stronger. The organization links businesses from both sides, and makes invaluable contributions through economic and trade policy recommendations contained in the annual Taiwan White Paper, she said.

This year's paper revealed that 11 of the 82 issues raised in 2019 edition have been resolved, Tsai said. This ties the record from two years ago and augurs well for further progress going forward, she added.

Tsai said the paper's new chapter focusing on developing talent and cultivating a more internationalized workforce in Taiwan reflects the organization's involvement in the Talent Circulation Alliance launched by AIT last year. This commitment will assist Taiwan in becoming a critical force in the global economy and the most reliable partner of the U.S. in Asia, she added.

AmCham Taipei's Business Climate Survey was another source of good news, Tsai said. The majority of member company respondents are bullish on Taiwan's economic outlook over the next three years, and see the U.S.-China trade dispute as having a largely positive impact on the country's economy, she added.

Tsai also took the opportunity to call for Taiwan and the U.S. to pursue a bilateral trade agreement. Such a pact would allow both sides to capitalize on the complementary nature of their industries and create even more mutually beneficial business opportunities, she said.

A strong, consistent and stable partnership between Taiwan and the U.S. contributes to the maintenance of a free and open Indo-Pacific, Tsai said. Rest assured, the country is an unwavering partner and friend, dedicated to contributing to the prosperity of both sides and the region, she added.

President Tsai addresses videoconference hosted by US think tanks



President Tsai Ing-wen discussed Taiwan's role as a bastion of freedom and

democracy in the Indo-Pacific during a videoconference Aug. 12 hosted by U.S.-based think tanks the Hudson Institute and Center for American Progress.

Focusing on the economic, diplomatic and security challenges facing Taiwan, the event was also attended by, among others, Hsiao Bi-khim, head of Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the U.S., Hudson Institute Chief Operating Officer John Walters and CAP President and Chief Executive Officer Neera Tanden.

During the speech delivered from the Presidential Office in Taipei City, Tsai said

Taiwan is committed to promoting peaceful coexistence in the cross-strait relationship, as well as strengthening the partnership with the U.S. across the board.

According to Tsai, Taiwan has fared relatively well during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to a raft of stimulus measures implemented by the government to keep the local economy on track. Growing threats to freedom and democracy in the Indo-Pacific are a concern, however, with recent developments in Hong Kong serving as a salient example, she added.

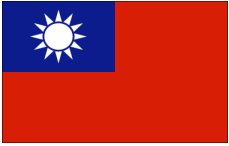
In response to the situation, Tsai said the government recently established the Taiwan-Hong Kong Services and Exchange Office to provide humanitarian support and assist Hong Kongers hoping to relocate to Taiwan. She also called on the global community to speak out against the loss of Hong Kong's freedom.

Faced with such threats, the government

will strengthen Taiwan's military by accelerating development of asymmetric capabilities, identifying ways to more effectively utilize geographical advantages and fast tracking military reforms, Tsai said.

With regards to expanding ties with Washington, Tsai said Taiwan is forging a constructive security relationship with the U.S. to preserve a free and open Indo-Pacific based on mutual trust and shared interests. Another priority is opening negotiations on a free trade agreement, she added, noting that recent months have shown the importance of economic linkages and supply chain security for both sides.

Key to the relationship is working with the U.S. to engage other like-minded partners, Tsai said, adding that more institutional and cohesive support for Taiwan's international participation should be the first step in defending global democracy.



MOFA Minister Wu discusses Taiwan-US relations in CNN interview



Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu praised strong Taiwan-U.S. relations Aug. 12, saying the recent visit by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar is a clear show of support for Taiwan and its management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. is a close partner and understands the military and diplomatic threats Taiwan faces, Wu said. Azar's visit underscores support in Washington for further deepening ties in ar-

reas spanning culture, economy, public health, security and trade, he added.

Wu made the remarks during an interview in Taipei City with Paula Hancock, Korea correspondent for U.S.-headquartered media organization CNN.

According to Wu, tension in the Indo-Pacific is increasing as a result of China's aggression. This includes not only the Taiwan Strait but also Hong Kong, militarization in the South China Sea and the dispute along the Sino-Indian border, he said.

Beijing is trying to impose the "one country, two systems" model on Taiwan to turn it into the next Hong

Kong, Wu said. The government must therefore carefully manage cross-strait relations to avoid giving China any pretext for using force, he added.

In the face of such coercion, Taiwan remains committed to strengthening its capabilities and safeguarding freedom and democracy, Wu said, adding the government will continue to cooperate with the U.S. on defense going forward.

With regard to the upcoming U.S. presidential election, Wu said Taiwan enjoys bipartisan support from the Democratic and Republican parties. The two sides will enjoy a close relationship regardless of the outcome, he added.

MOFA Minister Wu discusses Taiwan-Czech relations in TV interview

Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu praised strong Taiwan-Czech Republic relations Aug. 14, saying the upcoming visit of a delegation led by Czech Senate President Milos Vystrcil will further enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Taiwan and the Czech Republic enjoy close business ties, with the European country being Taiwan's fourth largest investment destination on the continent, and the two are poised to benefit from enhanced collaboration in sectors such as machinery and information and communication technology, Wu said.

The forthcoming visit by the delegation, which also includes Prague Mayor Zdenek Hrib, the widow of former Czech Senate President Jaro-



slav Kubera and many business representatives, highlights the robust friendship between the two countries amid challenging times, he added.

Wu made the remarks during an interview in Taipei City via videoconference with Jakub Szanto for Czech TV, the Czech Republic's public broadcaster.

According to Wu, at the same time U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar was visiting Tai-

wan last week, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was in the Czech Republic delivering a speech to the country's senate. The MOFA welcomes this deepening of relations on all sides, which reflects a shared belief in the values of freedom and democracy, Wu said.

Despite constant threats from China, including military aircraft crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait during Azar's visit as well as the recent developments in Hong Kong, Taiwan is determined to stand firm on the front line of democracy, Wu said. The government appreciates the backing it has received to this end from like-minded partners around the world, he added.



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Recover Better Together — Taiwan can help

In 2020, the world has been hit by an unprecedented public health crisis, with the effects of COVID-19 being felt across every aspect of people's lives. This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations—the mission statement that stands at the very heart of the inclusive multilateralism the world needs so much at the present moment. Now more than ever, the global community must make a concerted effort to forge the better and more sustainable future called for by the UN and its Member States. Taiwan is ready, willing and able to be a part of these efforts.

With less than 500 confirmed cases and seven deaths, Taiwan has defied predictions and successfully contained COVID-19. We managed this without lockdowns; schools were only closed for two weeks in February. Baseball games also restarted in April. Initially, cardboard cutouts stood in for the crowds, but by mid-July games were back in full swing, attended by as many as 10,000 spectators.

This has all come in no small part due to Taiwan's quick response measures, including the establishment of a Central Epidemic Command Center, the implementation of stringent border controls and quarantine procedures, and transparent information-sharing. We also took swift action to ensure an adequate stock of medical supplies for our world-class health care system. And after making sure we had enough supplies to look after our own people, we started providing medical equipment and supplies to other countries in serious need. By the end of June, Taiwan had donated 51 million surgical masks, 1.16 million N95 masks, 600,000 isolation gowns, 35,000 forehead thermometers, and other medical materials to more than 80 countries, including the United States, Taiwan's diplomatic allies, and European nations. We have also joined forces with like-minded democracies to explore the development of rapid test kits, medicines, and vaccines. Working together for the greater good is how the world will defeat COVID-19.

In the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, governments and

heads of state acknowledge that only by working together in solidarity can we end the pandemic and effectively tackle its consequences. They thus pledge to make the UN more inclusive and to leave no one behind as the world looks to recover from the pandemic. Similarly, in remarks at the High-level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council on "Multilateralism after COVID-19: what kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?" in July, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that networked, inclusive, and effective multilateralism would aid global efforts to promote recovery and the continued implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We cannot agree more. However, this vision seems lacking when Taiwan—one of the world's model democracies and a success story in containing the current pandemic—continues to be barred from taking part in and exchanging experiences and information with the UN system.

Even as the pandemic has made the international community acutely aware of Taiwan's unjust and discriminatory exclusion from the World Health Organization and the UN system, the People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to press the UN to use an erroneous interpretation of the 1971 UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) as the legal basis for blocking Taiwan. The fact is that this resolution does not address the issue of Taiwan's representation in the UN, nor does it state that Taiwan is part of the PRC. In fact, Taiwan is not, nor has it ever been, a part of the PRC. Our President and legislature are directly elected by the people of Taiwan. Moreover, border controls instituted during the pandemic offer further evidence to counter the PRC's false claims. The UN must recognize that only Taiwan's democratically elected government can represent its 23.5 million people; the PRC has no right to speak on Taiwan's behalf.

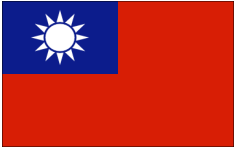
Not having Taiwan's input in the UN is a loss to the global community, and will hamper Member States' efforts to regain normalcy and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in full and on time. By drawing on its outstanding work on the SDGs, Taiwan can help countries better recover from the

disruption caused by the pandemic. Our economy has proven resilient: the Asian Development Bank forecast that Taiwan's economic performance in 2020 would be the best among the Four Asian Tigers—the only one to show positive growth. Moreover, many of our SDG indicators—including gender equality, economic growth, clean water and sanitation, reduced inequality, and good health and wellbeing—have reached levels comparable to OECD countries. Our ongoing efforts to implement the SDGs coupled with our proven pandemic response put Taiwan in a much better position than most to help the global community in tackling the ongoing challenges facing humanity.

In fact, Taiwan has long been assisting its partner countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific with their development goals in such areas as clean energy, waste management, and disaster prevention. So we are already able to help—yet we could do that much more if given the chance to participate in UN activities, meetings, and mechanisms.

Unfortunately, the 23.5 million people of Taiwan are denied any access to UN premises. Taiwanese journalists and media outlets are also denied accreditation to cover UN meetings. This discriminatory policy stems from the wrongful claims of and pressure from an authoritarian state, and contravenes the principle of universality and equality upon which the UN was founded.

"We the peoples of the United Nations determined . . . to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights . . . [and] the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small"—thus begins the UN Charter. The ideal of upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms for all laid out in this text must not remain empty words. As it looks ahead to the next 75 years, it is never too late for the UN to welcome Taiwan's participation.



AI to play bigger role in developing Taiwan's health care, medical industries

No stone is being left unturned in ensuring Taiwan artificial intelligence continues spurring the development of health care and medical industries at home and abroad, Vice President Lai Ching-te said Aug. 23.

As one of the leading countries in the global information and communication technology sector, Taiwan possesses extensive experience in building and operating cutting-edge data bases, Lai said. This know-how is one of the reasons for the success of the internationally celebrated National Health Insurance system, and is at the heart of efforts to transform the country into a smart health care hub, he added.

Lai made the remarks at the opening ceremony of a Taiwan AI Academy



program in Taipei City.

According to Lai, the program aims to equip the participants with requisite knowledge and skills via theory and practical sessions in core areas of competency. It is expected the approach will prove highly effective in keeping Taiwan at the head of the AI pack, he said.

In addition, Lai said, the trainees will serve as sources of expertise as they take on front-line roles and set about narrowing the urban-rural divide in

provision of related resources and services.

Supported by Academia Sinica's Institute of Information Science and Research Center for Information Technology Innovation, the academy maintains campuses in Hsinchu and Taipei cities, northern Taiwan; Taichung City, central Taiwan; and Tainan City, southern Taiwan. AS, headquartered in Taipei's Nangang District, is the country's foremost research institution.

The academy has trained more than 6,500 participants since launching in 2018. Of these, 1,000 were from organizations involved in Taiwan's health care and medical industries.

Taiwan-US health cooperation strengthened with visit of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar

A Taiwan-U.S. cooperation on global public health and disease prevention has gone from strength to strength with the visit of Alex Azar, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Aug. 12.

In a joint statement signed by Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-chung and Azar during his four-day visit, Taiwan and the U.S. reaffirmed the two sides' longstanding collaboration on health challenges.

The commitment builds on existing efforts under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, which has provided a platform to share the Taiwan Model for coronavirus management with the international community, the statement said. Launched in 2015 by Taiwan and the U.S., GCTF aims to build capacity and strengthen multilateral cooperation among like-

minded partners such as Australia, Japan and Sweden.

Further coordination will be based on a memorandum of understanding signed Aug. 10 by Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the U.S. and American Institute in Taiwan, the statement added.

According to the MOFA, the staunch support and rock-solid friendship from the U.S. shown by Azar's visit is deeply appreciated. A reliable U.S. partner in the Indo-Pacific, Taiwan will continue deepening bilateral ties with the U.S. and jointly contributing to the global community on major issues, the ministry added.

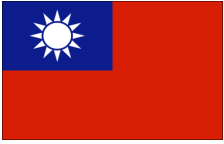
Azar, who led a U.S. delegation that visited Taiwan Aug. 9-12, met with high-ranking officials including President Tsai Ing-wen, Vice President Lai Ching-te, Vice Premier Shen Jong-chin and MOFA Minister Jaushieh



Joseph Wu; delivered a speech at Taipei City-based National Taiwan University; paid respects to the country's late former President Lee Teng-hui; and visited a New Taipei City-headquartered manufacturer of machinery for producing surgical masks.

Delegation members also held meetings with local medical experts including Taiwan's former Vice President Chen Chien-jen to share experiences regarding disease screening and development of treatments and vaccines.

The highest ranking U.S. Cabinet member to visit the country since 1979, Azar is also the first Cabinet official to make the trip in six years.



President Tsai charts new course for Taiwan's post-pandemic economy

President Tsai Ing-wen said Aug. 19 that the government would continue implementing measures to assist local firms weathering the impact of COVID-19 while transforming Taiwan's economy in the post-pandemic era.

A new economic growth model based on innovation, job creation and equitable distribution is a long-term development goal of her administration, Tsai said. To this end, the government will work with the private sector to fast-track industrial innovation, foster talent cultivation and promote youth entrepreneurship to better position Taiwan for the new economic order, she added.

The president made the remarks while attending a meeting with the country's top business leaders and industry representatives in Taipei City.

According to Tsai, despite the pan-



demic, Taiwan's gross domestic product continued to grow in the first half of 2020, thanks to a variety of stimulus packages totaling NT\$1.05 trillion (US\$35.58 billion) targeting businesses and individuals.

The government has set aside a further special budget of NT\$210 billion for the next stage of relief efforts, with an additional NT\$6 trillion in public investment projects planned to spur growth, she said.

Tsai highlighted the six core strategic industries unveiled during her 2020 inauguration speech as key drivers of

the future economy. Building on the government's five-plus-two industrial innovation program, these are the information and digital technology; cybersecurity; biotech and medical technology; national defense and strategic; green and renewable energy; and strategic stockpile industries.

The government will also initiate additional regulatory easing aimed at companies developing financial products and services with the goal of turning Taiwan into a regional center for asset management and business financing, Tsai said.

Negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with the U.S. remains a top priority, the president said, adding Taiwan is looking to expand its participation in global initiatives such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Taiwan export orders surge 12.4 percent in July

Export orders in Taiwan continued to grow in July, up 12.4 percent year on year to US\$45.57 billion, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs Aug. 20.

Among the country's main export sectors, orders for information and communication technology products exhibited the best performance, soaring 29.9 percent to US\$14.44 billion. The MOEA attributed the strong showing to robust demand for telecommunication items like notebooks and tablets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Equally impressive were orders for electronics, up 25.4 percent to US\$13.25 billion thanks to high demand from global ICT suppliers for chipsets, memory modules and other key components. In addition, orders for optoelectronic products and machinery grew 10.6 percent to US\$2.14

billion and 6.7 percent to US\$1.78 billion, respectively.

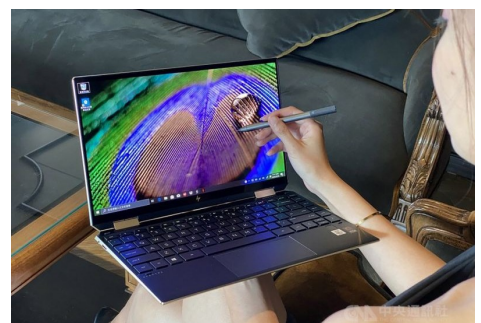
Demand for other export items was down, however, with orders for basic metals, petrochemicals, and plastic and rubber products dropping between 4.7 and 22.7 percent.

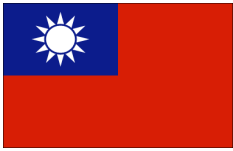
Taiwan's top source of orders remained the U.S., up 22.2 percent to US\$14.12 billion. This was followed by China and Hong Kong, up 16.8 percent to US\$11.98 billion; Europe, up 18.2 percent to US\$8.92 billion; and Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, up 5.3 percent to US\$4 billion.

The MOEA said it remains optimistic about the outlook for electronics and ICT products given the scheduled release of new consumer devices such as U.S.-headquartered Apple Inc.'s latest

iPhone in the second half of the year, strong global demand for high-performance computing and 5G technology, as well as stabilizing oil and steel prices.

Despite the positive figures, the ministry sounded a word of caution given uncertainties in the global economy caused by further trade friction between China and the U.S. alongside the ongoing pandemic. The impact of these factors on Taiwan remains to be seen, it added.





VP Lai vows to advance Taiwan's AI technology, public health

Vice President Lai Ching-te said Aug. 21 that the government is committed to advancing Taiwan's artificial intelligence technology and public health as part of efforts to enhance the country's disease prevention capabilities.

Comprehensive medical care and social welfare systems, efficient government and police administration and solid public-private partnerships have played a crucial role in Taiwan's successful management of COVID-19, Lai said.

The country's achievement was lauded by Alex Azar, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, during his Aug. 9-12 visit to Taiwan, Lai added, citing Azar's comments that Taiwan's technological expertise, public health prowess and open de-

mocratic society were key to limiting spread of the disease.

Lai made the remarks during the opening ceremony of a forum discussing the use of smart applications in epidemic prevention and control held in southern Taiwan's Tainan City.

According to the vice president, AI has been instrumental in the Central Epidemic Command Center's coronavirus management, including border control, contact tracing and surgical mask rationing measures. The government will continue incorporating such technology into biomedical R&D of testing kits, treatments and vaccines, he added.

The daylong event was co-organized by Artificial Intelligence Biomedical Research Center under the Ministry of



Science and Technology, MOST-sponsored All Vista Healthcare Sub-center, Tainan-based National Cheng Kung University and its affiliated hospital, as well as Kaohsiung City-headquartered Artificial Intelligence Industry and Academia Alliance. It featured 10 keynote speeches and a panel discussion by academics, officials and business representatives from around the country.

Taiwan science parks deliver record half-year revenues

Taiwan's three science parks reported revenues of NT\$1.37 trillion (US\$46.35 billion) for the first half of 2020, up 12.24 percent year on year and setting a record high for the opening two quarters, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

MOST statistics released Aug. 24 reveal exports from the parks grew 10.08 percent compared with last year to NT\$1.04 trillion, while total employment also rose 2.8 percent to 285,027.

The revenue of Hsinchu Science Park in



northern Taiwan grew 10.26 percent to NT\$566.09 billion; Central Taiwan Science Park in Taichung City 17.02 percent to NT\$433.06 billion; and Southern Taiwan Science Park in the cities of Tainan and Kaohsiung 9.99 percent to NT\$368.95 billion.

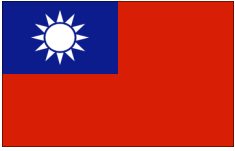
According to the MOST, integrated circuits remained the top revenue generator at the parks, rising 18.65 percent thanks to demand for high-end semiconductors for use in 5G, artificial intelligence and high-performance computing applications. Sales of computers and peripherals saw even more impressive growth, soaring 79.01 percent on the back of strong performances by router and wireless module suppliers.

The biotechnology sector also improved, with revenue growth of 18.4 percent as orders of medical supplies

and test kits increased amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Demand was lower for telecommunication products, optoelectronics and precision machinery, which saw revenues drop 1.06 percent, 10.93 percent and 17.15 percent, respectively. The MOST attributed the weaker showings to drops in consumption caused by lockdowns in major economies around the world, as well as ongoing trade friction between China and the U.S.

Despite these challenges, the ministry said it remains optimistic about the outlook for Taiwan's science parks in the second half of the year. Emerging opportunities in areas spanning 5G, AI, automobile electronics, biometrics, high-performance computing and IoT are expected to provide significant growth potential moving forward, it added.



226 Taipei, Taichung eateries feature in 2020 Michelin Guide

A total of 226 eateries in Taipei and Taichung cities feature in the 2020 Michelin Guide, according to the Tourism Bureau under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications Aug. 24.

Taipei boasts 170 venues, while Taichung in central Taiwan accounts for 56. Among them 26 star restaurants, 54 Bib Gourmand restaurants, 79 plate restaurants and 11 plate street food stalls are in Taipei; 4 star restaurants, 21 Bib Gourmand restaurants and 31 plate restaurants are in Taichung.

The MOTC attributed the strong result to years of concerted efforts to promote the country's distinctive cuisine in the international arena. This is supported by the results of a bureau-conducted survey indicating that food is one of the main reasons for overseas visitors to travel to Taiwan, the ministry added.

A Cut in Zhongshan District is a one star steakhouse of A-grade cuts of beef from Australia and the U. S. grilled to perfection in the open kitchen; Logy in Daan District is a two star restaurant, a sister

edition of two star Florilège in Tokyo, Japan; Molino de Urdaniz in Zhongshan District is a one star restaurant, the first branch outside Spain of this famous name; and Sushi Akira also in Zhongshan District is a one star Japanese restaurant offering Edomae sushi made with the blend of red vinegars and the finest fish.

In Taichung, Fleur de Sel in Xitun District is one star French restaurant; Forchetta also in Xitun District is a one star establishment of East-meets-West fusions created almost entirely from local produce; JL Studio in Nantun District is a two star venue reinventing Singaporean and South East Asian cuisine; and Oretachi No Nikuya in West District is a one star restaurant specializing in Wagyu barbecue.

The Michelin Guide has its three-star ranking system published since 1936 via the assessments from its inspectors—anonymous reviewers visiting restaurants. Five criteria, including quality of the ingredients used, mastery of flavor and cooking techniques, the personality of the chef in his cuisine, value for



money and consistency between visits, are judged.

Not quite a star, the Bib Gourmand—named after Bibendum, the official company mascot for the Michelin Group—is a just-esteemed rating that recognizes friendly establishments that serve good food at moderate prices.

Taipei and Taichung also made Michelin headlines Aug. 24, with 75 venues featuring in this selection. Taipei's lineup comprises 31 restaurants and 23 street food stalls, while Taichung—incorporated for the first time in the internationally acclaimed foodie bible—owns 21.

The Michelin plate is the symbol for those restaurants that have neither a star nor a Bib Gourmand. For restaurants, being in the selection is the sign of very good food.

Taipei, New Taipei advance bid for World Masters Games 2025

Taipei and New Taipei cities completed Aug. 14 the virtual first phase presentation of a joint bid for the World Masters Games 2025.

Core components such as competition venues, event organization, financing, host city introductions, marketing, medical care, security and staffing were detailed in the submission. According to the governments of both special municipalities, the assessment committee—comprising members of Switzerland-based International Masters Games Association—were impressed by the proposal.

The bid is modeled on the successful approach employed by Taipei City Government in staging the 2017 Summer Universiade—the largest international sporting event ever held in Taiwan. Its



slogan "Sports beyond Age, Life without Limits," encapsulates the determination of the cities and competitors to achieve excellence in organizational and sporting performance, respectively.

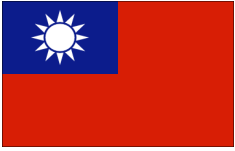
Other cities vying for the rights to host the Games, involving 30,000 athletes from 110 countries and territories contesting 32 disciplines, are Paris, France and Perth, Australia.

More than half of the competitors are expected to be accompanied by family

and friends. According to TCG and New Taipei City Government, this potential influx of visitors represents a potential tourism boon for Taiwan and makes related planning of paramount importance.

Another benefit of the Games, the local governments said, is the opportunity to deepen friendship and expand exchanges between Taiwan and the rest of the world. The event will also significantly raise the country's profile in the international sporting and travel arena, they added.

Overseen by IMG, the Games are a multisport event held every four years involving tens of thousands of mature athletes regardless of age, gender, race, religion or sport status. The next edition is scheduled for May 14 to 31, 2021, in Kansai, Japan.



Virtual Taiwan Film Festival Edinburgh to kick off Sept. 18

The virtual Taiwan Film Festival Edinburgh gets underway Sept. 18, serving up cinephiles a selection of 20 unrivaled pieces drawn from multiple genres over six decades.

Organized by Taipei Representative Office in the U.K. with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute, the 10-day TFFE is accessible via video-sharing networks Festival Scope and Shift 72.



The festival's seven programs include the post-1980s Taiwan New Cinema and its Legacy, the 1970s A Borrowed Hong Kong, the Imagined China in Taiwan and Transregional Cinema, and the 1960s Melodrama Divas and Taiwanese Language Films and Genres.

Other programs are Shorts: The Un-usual Usual about emerging filmmakers tackling social issues while opting for alternative distribution channels, Docs: Exploring Diversity in Pursuing the Taiwanese Identity focusing on indigenous peoples and new immigrants and the Midi Z Selection showcasing three works by the internationally acclaimed director.

According to the organizer, must-

watch movies are "The Sandwich Man" (1983) by Hou Hsiao-hsien, Tseng Chuang-hsiang and Wan Jen, three prominent Taiwan New Wave Cinema auteurs, as well as "The Bride who has Returned from Hell" (1965) by Hsin Chi, a Taiwanese, or Holo, language film inspired by the Gothic-romance novel "Mistress of Mellyn."

Liu Kuan-ping, chief curator of TFFE, believes the pieces faithfully convey important aspects of Taiwan culture and society. They also accentuate the distinct status of the country's films in the East Asian cultural sphere during the postwar period, he said.

TFFE harnesses the power of film to deepen cultural dialogue between the people of Taiwan and the U.K.

Virtual Taiwan Film Festival in Berlin gets underway Aug. 21

The virtual Taiwan Film Festival in Berlin gets underway Aug. 21, offering cinephiles a selection of nine peerless pieces drawn from multiple genres over five decades.

Organized by Impression Taiwan with support from the Taipei Representative Office in Germany, Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Film Institute's Taiwan Docs and Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute, the 10-day TFFB is accessible via video-sharing network Vimeo.

The lineup comprises "Formosan B.B. is Coming" (2019) by Mai Chueh-Ming; "Taipeilove*" (2019) by Lucie Liu; "The Gangs, the Oscars, and the

Walking Dead" (2019) by Gao Bing-quan; "Small Talk" (2017) by Huang Hui-chen; "City of Jade" (2016) and "Ice Poison" (2014) by Midi Z; "Taiwan B-Movies" (2005) by Hou Chi-Jan; "On the Society File of Shanghai" (1981) by Wang Chu-Chin; and "Vengeance of the Phoenix Sisters" (1968) by Chen Hung-min.

Sideline activities include two Facebook-livestreamed pre-screening forums: Black Movies, Black History and Taipelove* and Queerlove. The former features TROG Rep. Shieh Jhy-vey sharing his experiences as a student during martial law-era Tai-

wan, while the latter involves Berlin based-Taiwan novelist Kevin Chen discussing techniques for telling LGBTQ stories.

First staged in 2018, TFFB uses the power of film to deepen cultural dialogue between the people of Taiwan and Germany.

