

#### President Tsai meets US Heritage Foundation founder Dr. Edwin Feulner

On the afternoon of February 15, President Tsai Ing-wen met with Dr. Edwin Feulner, founder and former president of the Heritage Foundation. During the meeting, President Tsai noted that the Heritage Foundation had once again ranked Taiwan sixth in its Index of Economic Freedom, and highlighted Taiwan's desire to engage more actively in regional economic integration, as part of which we are seeking to join the CPTPP. The president said she looks forward to the continued support of Dr. Feulner and the Heritage Foundation in further strengthening Taiwan-US relations, including by opening talks on a free trade agreement and a digital economy agreement.

A translation of President Tsai's remarks follows:

Today is Lantern Festival, which is a traditional time for friends and families to gather together at the start of the Lunar New Year. On this special day, I am very glad to reunite with my old friend Dr. Feulner. Dr. Feulner is a close and longtime friend of Taiwan, having made more than 100 visits to our shores. I myself have had many exchanges with him since I took office.

In 2019, we met twice at the Presidential Office. But because of the pandemic, it has been a while since your last visit. In addition to welcoming you and Mr. [Anthony] Kim, research fellow and editor of the Index of Economic Freedom, I would like to express my gratitude to you and the Heritage Foundation for your long-term support for stronger Taiwan-US relations. The Heritage Foundation works to promote democracy and free markets, values that are central to Taiwan's development.

In last year's referendum the Taiwanese people clearly expressed their determination to engage with the international community. We recently relaxed restrictions on Japanese food imports, once again showing that Taiwan is willing to accept international standards and tackle difficult trade issues. Indeed, Taiwan is prepared to meet the high standards of the international trading system.

We noted that the Heritage Foundation's 2022 Index of Economic Freedom, released just yesterday, once again ranked Taiwan sixth in the world.



In the Asia-Pacific region, we are behind only Singapore and New Zealand. The ranking is a recognition of Taiwan's efforts and achievements in creating a free, open, and fair economic environment. As a member of multilateral trade organizations such as the WTO and APEC, Taiwan hopes to further participate in regional economic integration, which is why we are applying to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Taiwan will keep working with our democratic partners around the world to expand cooperation across a broad range of fields. We hope that Dr. Feulner and the Heritage Foundation will continue to advocate for strengthening Taiwan-US ties, including by starting talks on a free trade agreement and a digital economy agreement.

Recently, the expansion of authoritarianism around the world has become a focus of international attention. Dr. Feulner, since your first visit over 40 years ago, you have witnessed Taiwan's democratic transformation, and have gained a firm understanding of the Taiwanese people's commitment to democracy and freedom. Taiwan will continue to be on the front line in defending democracy, and we will cooperate with the United States and other like-minded nations to safeguard peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and protect democracy and human rights.

With the arrival of the new year, we hope to see Taiwan-US cooperation continue to bear new fruit. Thank you both for taking time out of your busy itinerary in Asia to come to Taiwan. Your visit shows how much you value our friendship. I wish you every success on your travels and a very happy Year of the Tiger.

Dr. Feulner then delivered remarks, pointing out that for the past 27 years, the Heritage Foundation has published an annual Index of Economic Freedom, and noting that, since the first edition of the report, when Taiwan placed around 27th globally, its ranking has steadily risen over the past five years, an inspiring accomplishment.

Dr. Feulner further noted that the highest ranking for a country in the Index of Economic Freedom is "free," a ranking that Taiwan attained for the first time this year, placing sixth among seven "free" countries from around the world.

Dr. Feulner said that over the past 40 years, Taiwan and the United States have built a very close and special relationship on the foundation of the Taiwan Relations Act, and recalled that the act was first passed with strong bipartisan support and signed into law by then-President Jimmy Carter. Dr. Feulner observed that bipartisan support in the US for Taiwan continues to this day, both in Congress and the administration, and that it is the belief of the American people and their elected representatives that the United States should maintain a strong relationship with Taiwan because of the very positive things that Taiwan represents.

Dr. Feulner noted that the Index of Economic Freedom shows not just Taiwan's commitment to developing a free economy, but also its commitment to a free people and independent institutions, which together make Taiwan an example for Asia and the world in terms of how a developing country can move progressively into new chapters of development.

Dr. Feulner further affirmed that Taiwan is a critically important ally, friend, and cornerstone of the US's relationship with the Indo-Pacific, and pointed out that in addition to economic freedom itself, the Index of Economic Freedom measures the rule of law, transparency, and the role that people play, by which standards we can see how much progress Taiwan continues to make.

Dr. Feulner echoed President Tsai's call for institutional collaboration between Taiwan and the US toward a free trade agreement and a digital economy agreement, and highlighted the importance of strengthening the bilateral relationship.







# President Tsai responds to developments in Ukraine

**SA-TAIWAN ENEWS** 

On February 23, Presidential Office Spokesperson Xavier Chang (張惇涵) stated that President Tsai Ing-wen and Premier Su Tseng-chang (蘇貞昌) had been briefed by the National Security Council (NSC) and other relevant agencies on the latest developments in Ukraine, following which the president issued four directives in response:

1. Condemn Russia's infringement on Ukrainian sovereignty while calling on all parties to peacefully resolve disputes in a rational manner:

Our government condemns Russia's infringement on Ukraine's sovereignty infringement which has led to increased tensions on the Russia-Ukraine border, and calls on all parties to continue working peacefully toward a rational resolution to the dispute in order to jointly uphold peace and stability in the region. As a member of the international community, Taiwan is willing to participate in all efforts that contribute to a peaceful resolution of this dispute. 2. Ensure our national security by continuing to strengthen our readiness to respond to military developments in the Taiwan Strait:

Our national security agencies and military remain on top of the current security situation in the Taiwan Strait and the Indo-Pacific region at large. However, our national security agencies and military must ramp up their efforts to monitor and provide early warning of military developments in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding areas, and must continue to strengthen readiness in order to swiftly and effectively respond to any potential developments and ensure our national security.

3. Comprehensively strengthen our response to cognitive warfare and shore up public morale:

In terms of geostrategic factors, geography, and the importance of our role in international supply chains, the situations in Taiwan and Ukraine are fundamentally different. But as external forces attempt to manipulate developments in Ukraine, affecting morale among the people of Taiwan, our government agencies must step up their guard against cognitive warfare from external forces as well as their local collaborators, and must strengthen efforts to clarify disinformation in order to ensure Taiwan's domestic social stability.

4. Continue responding to economic developments while ensuring the stability of our supply of goods, commodity prices, and stock and foreign exchange markets:

To address the international and domestic effects of the situation in Ukraine on energy and food supply, commodity prices, and stock and foreign exchange markets over the short, medium, and long term, our government agencies must continue to monitor developments in global trade, and must assess and strengthen our overall contingency plans in order to ensure the stability of our supply of key goods, commodity prices, and financial markets, so that we can minimize any potential effects of this situation.

#### Foreign Minister Wu talks Taiwan-US ties with ex-Secretary of Defense Esper

Taiwan is willing to defend our shared values in the face of expanding authoritarianism, and it requires all democracies work together.



Taiwan is enhancing indigenous defense capabilities while expanding cooperation with the U.S. and other like-minded partners to ensure democracy will prevail over authoritarianism, Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu said Feb. 22.

Taiwan is a front-line state standing firm in the face of China's ongoing campaign of coercion, Wu said. The country is responding robustly to economic, grey zone, hybrid warfare and military threats on a daily basis, he added.

As a force for good and reliable partner, Wu said, Taiwan will continue deepening friendship and expanding exchanges with the U.S. as part of efforts to defend freedom and democracy.

Wu made the remarks during a virtual conversation with Mark Esper, former U.S. secretary of defense and a John McCain distinguished fellow, staged by Washington-based think tank McCain Institute.

According to Wu, the government and people fully understand the need to take responsibility for safeguarding the country's sovereignty and democratic way of life. The international community is increasingly coming to realize that Taiwan and China do not belong to one another and is forging fresh fields for cooperation with Taiwan accordingly, he said.

Case in point is the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, Wu said. Taiwan is willing and able to participate in the trade bloc and is seeking support from signatory economies, he added.

The country is also prepared to enter into talks with the U.S. on a free trade agreement, Wu said, adding that such a pact would create jobs for both sides, promote prosperity and benefit the Indo -Pacific.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said "Minister Wu is front & center in the latest #ConversationsWithSecretaryEsper. Watch as he talks to @MarkTEsper of @McCainInstitute about issues like #Taiwan-#US relations, the threat of authoritarianism & the country's goal of #CPTPP participation."

# Foreign Minister Wu gives CNN-News 18 interview

Taiwan is committed to enhancing its defensive capabilities while expanding cooperation with like-minded partners in resisting China's authoritarianism, according to Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu.

Threats against Taiwan from China are intensifying, Wu said. These include air defense identification zone incursions, grey zone activities, infiltration and misinformation campaigns, he added.

The government is determined to defend Taiwan through beefing up the country's self-defense and investing in asymmetric warfare capabilities, Wu said, adding that more and more forces for good such as Japan, India, the U.S. and countries across Europe are paying close attention to cross-strait peace and stability.

Wu made the remarks during an exclusive interview with Anand Narasimhan of CNN's News 18 broadcast Feb. 11 by the India-based TV channel.

According to Wu, the international community is coming to realize that Taiwan exists independent of China, and the cross-strait status quo is in the best interests of all parties. Only by working together can democracies counter China's coercion, he said.

Regarding Taiwan-India relations, Wu sees them as going from strength to strength as evidenced by bilateral cooperation in areas spanning agriculture, education, medical and pandemic management. Highlights include the establishment of 24 Taiwan education centers in India and an investment agreement between the two sides, he added.

Wu also expressed his opinion on the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue involving Australia, India, Japan and the U.S., as well as the military situation in Ukraine. It is hoped the Quad countries



can incorporate security issues into future discussions, and any form of aggression or armed conflict against a sovereign country is unacceptable, he said.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said "Minister Wu gives a good interview to @AnchorAnandN of @CNNnews18. Learn about warming #Taiwan-#India relations, the challenge to democracy posed by #China's growing authoritarianism, #IndoPacific cooperation via the #Quad & the #UkraineCrisis."

### Foreign Minister Wu gives exclusive ITV News interview



Taiwan is committed to maintaining its democratic way of life in the face of China's ongoing campaign of coercion, according to Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu.

Around 1,000 incursions by Chinese warplanes were conducted last year, Wu said. Taiwan is determined to enhance its defensive capabilities while expanding cooperation with likeminded partners as part of efforts to resist China's authoritarian tactics, he

#### added.

The minister made the remarks during an exclusive online interview with Debi Edward of ITV News broadcast Feb. 18 by the London-based outlet.

According to Wu, Taiwan, which has not been ruled by the Chinese Communist Party for even a single day, stands on the front line in a global battle against authoritarianism.

Maintaining the status quo in the Taiwan Strait is now a common goal for countries across the Indo-Pacific and around the world, Wu said, adding that Taiwan is willing to engage with China based on the principles of equal footing and without political conditions.

The government is closely monitoring China's relationship with Russia as the two countries seek to expand their influence all over the world, Wu said.

All related developments, including support by the Chinese government for a Russian invasion of Ukraine and Russia's support for Chinese action against Taiwan, are being watched, the minister added.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said: "Minister Wu is crystal clear in his interview with @debiedwarditv. #Taiwan is a frontline state in the battle against authoritarianism, & democracies must fiercely defend their way of life as #China & #Russia strive to expand influence."



# President Tsai vows to boost scientific innovation



President Tsai Ing-wen said Feb. 22 the government is committed to providing more resources and further advancing Taiwan's R&D environment and capabilities to enhance scientific innovation.

The country's prowess in creative innovation is key to ensuring its competitive edge in the international community, Tsai said. This is evidenced by the country's highest ranking in the R&D personnel per capita category in the World Competitiveness Yearbook published last toward raising Taiwan's innovative year by Switzerland-based International Institute for Management Development, she added.

Tsai made the remarks while receiving a delegation of 2021 International Inventor Prize (IIP) winners at the Presidential Office in Taipei City. Organized by locally headquartered Taiwan International Invention Award Winners Association and Chinese Innovation and Invention Society, the IIP recognizes individuals across 11 categories.

According to Tsai, the recipients have all made outstanding contributions profile on the global stage. Their efforts are in keeping with the government's long-term development goals highlighted in the six core strategic industries initiative, she said.

Unveiled by Tsai during her May 2020 inauguration address, these strategic industries comprise information and digital technology; cybersecurity; biotech and medical technology; national defense; green and renewable energy; and strategic stockpile industries.

# President Tsai vows to fast-track Taiwan's smart machinery industry

President Tsai Ing-wen said Feb. 21 that the government is committed to advancing Taiwan's smart machinery sector through expanded publicprivate cooperation.

Integrating information and communications technology, precision machinery and other strategic industries remains a cornerstone of the government's approach to transforming Taiwan into a provider of smart manufacturing solutions, Tsai said.

The government is sparing no effort in strengthening Taiwan's economic competitiveness, Tsai said. This is evidenced by the country's bid to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, she added.

Tsai made the remarks at the opening ceremony of a machine tool trade show coorganized by Taipei Citybased Taiwan External Trade **Development Council and** Taiwan Association of Ma-

chinery Industry, as well as Taiwan Machine Tool and Accessory Builders' Association headquartered in the central city of Taichung.

According to Tsai, many CPTPP members rely on Taiwan-made machinery and machine tools. Entering the trade bloc will help the country overcome trade barriers, she added.

Other high-profile attendees at the event included Premier Su Tsengchang, Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua and American Insti-



tute in Taiwan Director Sandra Oudkirk.

The machinery industry is a key driving force for Taiwan's economic growth, Tsai said. The country's machinery exports grew 27 percent to reach a record high of US\$27.8 billion last year, she added.

Tsai also took the opportunity to thank industry leaders for their dedication to advancing machine-related sectors and demonstrating Taiwan's manufacturing prowess to the world.

#### SA-TAIWAN ENEWS

# President Tsai vows to strengthen Taiwan's ICT industry

President Tsai Ing-wen said Feb. 10 that the government is committed to advancing Taiwan's information and communication technology sector through expanded publicprivate cooperation.

The government is sparing no effor in fortifying the country's leading position in the global ICT industry, Tsai said. This is evidenced by the scheduled establishment of a digital development ministry later this year, she added.

Tsai made the remarks at the Presidential Office while receiving a delegation of local ICT experts and business leaders. The individuals were honored during the IT Month

President Tsai Ing-wen said Feb. 10 exhibition held Nov. 25 last year in that the government is committed Taipei City.

and communication technologyThe work of several award recipi-<br/>ents is in keeping with the six core<br/>strategic industries initiative, Tsai<br/>said. Their efforts to secure Tai-The government is sparing no effort<br/>in fortifying the country's leading<br/>position in the global ICT industry,The work of several award recipi-<br/>ents is in keeping with the six core<br/>strategic industries initiative, Tsai<br/>said. Their efforts to secure Tai-<br/>wan's position as an integral part of<br/>the global supply chain are sincere-<br/>ly appreciated, she added.

Other high-profile attendees at the event included David Tawei Lee, secretary-general to the president, and Lin Chuan-neng, vice minister of economic affairs.

Tsai also took the opportunity to thank a number of winners for their involvement in fostering new talent



and strengthening Taiwan's hightech competitiveness.

Unveiled by Tsai during her May 2020 inauguration, the six core strategic industries comprise information and digital technology; cybersecurity; biotech and medical technology; national defense; green and renewable energy; and strategic stockpile industries.

### New Southbound Policy continues to boost Taiwan trade, investment



Taiwan's exports to the 18 countries covered under the government's New Southbound Policy recently hit a record high, reflecting the effectiveness of the diversification strategy in the five years since its launch, according to the Cabinet -level Office of Trade Negotiations.

Exports to NSP target countries grew 35.2 percent to US\$82.58 bil-

lion in 2021, up from US\$63.31 billion in 2019, the OTN said. Integrated circuits were the leading export, comprising nearly 40 percent of all outgoing shipments to the region, followed by ICT products and components as well as semiconductor devices and manufacturing equipment, the OTN added.

Further statistics released by the OTN revealed inbound investment climbed 162.32 percent year on year to US\$1 billion, while Taiwan investment in the region surged 105.97 percent to US\$5.82 billion.

Amid accelerated restructuring of global supply chains due to the

pandemic, increased investment in and from NSP target countries will help diversify Taiwan's logistics networks, the OTN said, adding it will continue to promote the NSP to expand economic and trade relations and further boost regional prosperity and stability.

A key plank in the government's national development strategy, the NSP seeks to deepen the country'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.



#### **SA-TAIWAN ENEWS**

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#### Tsai reaffirms government commitment to promoting mother languages



President Tsai Ing-wen said Feb. 21 that the government is leaving no stone unturned in encouraging the people of Taiwan to speak their mother languages and contribute to strengthening the country's cultural diversity.

Taiwan boasts a rich and diverse culture comprising several different languages, Tsai said. This harmonious state of coexistence has given rise to the country's unique society, she added.

Promoting the use of mother tongues is more than just a global movement, Tsai said, adding that it is also a way to celebrate Taiwan's multiculturalism while bringing the people closer together.

Tsai made the remarks during a radio interview on International Mother Language Day in Taipei and a related event three days earlier also in the city.

According to Tsai, language is a primary carrier of culture and ethnic identity. The promulgation of the **Development of National Languages** Act in January 2019 is a prime example of government initiatives in preserving and promoting the use of different languages, she said.

By allocating more educational resources and creating opportunities for the people to speak their mother languages, Tsai said the government is ensuring the continuation of a multilingual environment for all ethnic groups.

Toward this end, Tsai said, a specific program has been implemented since 2019 for school children of immigrants from seven Southeast Asian nations so they can learn more about their parents' cultures and languages.

At the same time, a new curriculum will be introduced later this year promoting indigenous languages and Taiwan sign language at elementary and secondary schools around the country, Tsai added.

Citing her own experience learning Hakka, Tsai said she has developed a greater appreciation for the beauty of the language and its connection to Taiwan. The people are urged to speak their mother languages on a daily basis so as to preserve cultural heritage for future generations, she added.

## CIP launches Nat Geo's 'Secrets of the Ocean Tribes' TV series

A National Geographic TV series on the origins of Austronesian-speaking peoples was launched Feb. 17 in Taipei City by the Cabinet-level Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Co-hosted by Yosifu, a painter from the Taiwan indigenous Amis tribe, and U.K. anthropologist Julian Davison, the three-episode production focuses on language, shipbuilding, tattoos, architecture, and arts and crafts like bark clothes and pottery. It is scheduled to air at 9 p.m. on the Nat Geo channel Feb. 18, 25 and March 4 in over 40 countries and ter- High-profile attendees at the launch

ritories across the Pacific.

According to the CIP, members of the Nat Geo production team traced the expansion of Austronesian peoples, who were among the first to develop ocean-going sailing technologies, from Taiwan to Easter Island, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Tonga. They cite scientific evidence to document migration and train international attention on related cultures, the council added.



ceremony included CIP Minister Icyang Parod; film director Stefano Centini; Chung Kuo-fang, Academia Sinica associate research fellow; and ambassadors and representatives of Taiwan's allies and like-minded partners.



# **CECC** eases Taiwan entry restrictions for business travelers



An easing of regulations enabling nonresident business travelers to enter Taiwan was announced Feb. 24 by the Cabinet-level Central Epidemic Command Center.

midnight March 7, 2021, at departure airports allow entry to two categories of nonresidents: business

travelers undertaking investment, contracts and employment; and persons from China, Hong Kong and Macao with proof of contracts or internal transfers within multinational businesses.

A special entry permit for the first category can be obtained at a Taiwan overseas representative office. For those from China, the permit can be applied for via the National Immigration Agency's online sys-The changes, set to take effect from tem, while Hong Kong and Macao residents can obtain a permit from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Hong Kong, Macao or an

overseas representative office in their place of residence.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, nonresidents whose special entry permits expired between May 19 and August 18, 2021, can apply with supporting documents for free visa renewal at Taiwan's overseas missions.

Latest Central Epidemic Command Center statistics confirm 20,304 COVID-19 cases and 853 deaths in Taiwan.

# President Tsai lights up Taiwan Lantern Festival centerpiece

President Tsai Ing-wen officially lit up the centerpiece of the Taiwan Lantern Festival Feb. 15 in the southern city of Kaohsiung while taking the opportunity to express appreciation for like-minded partners' support during the pandemic.

The success of this year's event, which is being held at Weiwuying Metropolitan Park and Love River Bay through Feb. 28, can be attributed to joint efforts of the Tourism Bureau under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and Kaohsiung City Government, Tsai said. She described last week's launch of a stunning aerial show featuring 1,500 drones flying in formation against the night sky as a highlight of this annual event.

The drone show demonstrates the country's gratitude to international friends who helped Taiwan during the pandemic, she said, adding that and Technology Park. COVID-19 vaccine donations by the Czech Republic, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and the U.S. followed Taiwan's donation of pandemic-prevention materials to likeminded partners worldwide over the past two years.

Tsai also pledged the government's continued support in developing cultural and high-tech industries in southern Taiwan. According to Tsai, government agencies at all levels are sparing no effort in bolstering related facilities in Kaohsiung, as evidenced by the opening of Kaohsiung Music Center and National Kaohsiung Center for the

Arts—also known as Weiwuying as well as the promotion of Asia New Bay Area and Ciaotou Science

First staged in 1990 to celebrate the country's folk custom of observing the first full moon of the lunar calendar, the annual event has been held at a different location around Taiwan since 2001 to promote balanced regional development. Next year the event will be held in Taipei City.





### Taiwan ranks 6th, achieves best-ever score in Index of Economic Freedom

Taiwan ranked sixth among 184 economies and achieved its best-ever score in the 2022 Index of Economic Freedom released Feb. 14 by Washington-headquartered think tank The Heritage Foundation and U.S.-based business daily The Wall Street Journal.

With a total of 80.1 out of 100, 1.5 points higher than the 2021 edition, Taiwan finished third among 39 economies in the Asia-Pacific. It beat out South Korea, 74.6; Japan, 69.9; Malaysia, 68.1; Thailand, 63.2; and China, 48.

Taiwan was classified as "free" along with six other nations: Singapore, Switzerland, Ireland, New Zealand, Luxembourg and Estonia, in that order. According to the index, Taiwan improved in four out of 12 benchmarks used to compile the rankings. The biggest gains were in judicial effectiveness and investment freedom, which rose 21.3 points and 10 points year on year to 94.2 and 70, respectively.

The index attributed the two benchmark outperformances to Taiwan's independent judiciary and robust court system, as well as a welldeveloped investment framework facilitating capital and goods flow.

In response, the National Development Council said the report demonstrated the effectiveness of ongoing government efforts to further strengthen Taiwan's economic cli-

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For twenty-eight years, the index of Economic Freedom has measured the impact of liberty and free markets around	59.7 RANK 31	200	10 Denmark	78.0	0.2	
the globe, and the 2022 Index confirms the formidable positive relationship between			se	E ALL RA	NKIN	161
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mate. It is expected this momentum will be maintained throughout the year and reflected in the 2023 index, the NDC added.

First released in 1995, the annual index tracks the march of economic freedom in 184 markets worldwide spanning government size, open markets, regulatory efficiency and rule of law.

### Taitung makes Booking.com's top 10 most welcoming places on Earth

Taiwan's southeastern Taitung City and County feature in Booking.com's top 10 most welcoming places on Earth lists for 2022.

Compiled by the Netherlandsheadquartered online travel platform, the lists placed Taitung County second among the 10 most welcoming regions, behind Slovenia's Gorenjska in first and ahead of Australia, Seychelles, New Zealand and Spain.



Taitung City ranked third in the category of the most welcoming cities, trailing rivals in Italy and Slovenia and above Greek, Spanish and Portuguese contenders. It was lauded by Booking.com for its proximity to beautiful beaches, parks and rich indigenous culture.

According to the platform, travelers love Taitung City's year-round tropical climate and stunning views. Its rich and eclectic culinary scene is also highly recommended for foodies.

Taitung County Government said the rankings are testament to the local authorities' tireless efforts in bolstering slow tourism. Greater attention will be paid to developing travel policies for the post-pandemic era while promoting existing popular events such as the Taiwan International Balloon Festival, Taiwan Open of Surfing and Starry Taitung, which features stargazing tours and concerts, TCG added.

The lists are part of the 10th annual Traveler Review Awards, drawn from over 232 million verified reviews from real travelers. A total of 1.26 million accommodation providers, car rental locations, and pre-booked taxi providers in 220 countries and territories have received an award for 2022. These include 7,350 partners in Taiwan, according to the platform.