Taiwan's love and care are with learners in South Africa in pursuit of their dreams and Celebrating South Africa Youth Day with the launch of South Africa’s first Taiwan Digital Opportunity Room

On behalf of Taiwan Government, Representative Anthony Ho donated a selection of computers to Phumulani Secondary School in Gauteng and launched the first Taiwan Digital Opportunity Room in South Africa.

Representative Ho and Mr. Tram Mongwe, Acting Principal at the school, hosted the handover and plaque unveiling ceremony and celebrated the upcoming Youth Day with the teachers, staff and learners at the school.

Representative Ho encouraged students to engage with digital technology and embrace the opportunities emerged from the 4th Industrial Revolution. Taiwan's strength in science and technology is well recognized in the world and Taiwan is more than happy to share this experience with friends in South Africa.

Representative Ho said the ability to learn and use technology will give students more motivation and momentum to improve themselves and eventually change the society through their acts. He encouraged learners to always keep learning, have faith in themselves, have courage to pursue their dreams, and work hard to make their dreams come true. He emphasized that the inauguration of Taiwan Digital Opportunity Room demonstrated with actions that Taiwan's love and care are with South African students as they work towards achieving their goals.

Acting Principal Mongwe expressed his appreciation for the friendship of Taiwan Government and its people. He hoped the launch of Taiwan Digital Opportunity Room will help narrow the digital divide in the country especially at schools in rural areas and schools without sufficient resources.

Ms. Tumi Tsiane, a student at Phumulani Secondary School expressed gratitude for Taiwan on behalf of all students at the school. She said she will cherish this special gift from Taiwan and work harder in her studies. She also hopes that this love from Taiwan will continue to reach more schools in the country so that more young people will have an opportunity to learn computer skills.

June Snapshots of Taiwan

Left, A sales representative from Lithuania displays beer from the Baltic state on opening day of Food Taipei Mega Show June 22 in northern Taiwan. (Staff photo/Chin Hung-hao); Middle, President Tsai Ing-wen reiterates the government’s commitment to expanding soft power at the film premiere of “Yeh Shih-tao, A Taiwan Man,” which documents one of the country’s literary pioneers, June 13 in Taipei City. (Courtesy of Presidential Office); Right, A selection of hot air balloons is unveiled during a promotional event earlier this month in Taitung as part of promotions for the annual international balloon festival running July 2 to Aug. 15 in the southeastern county. (Courtesy of Taitung County Government)
Tsai accepts new Tuvalu ambassador’s credentials, pledges to boost bilateral ties

President Tsai Ing-wen said June 20 that Taiwan is committed to cooperating closely with Tuvalu to deepen friendship and expand exchanges for the benefit of the people on both sides.

Taiwan and Tuvalu are maritime nations known for the kindness and warmth of their people and bound by the universal values of freedom and democracy, Tsai said, adding that the island nation was also Taiwan’s first Pacific ally.

Tsai made the remarks while accepting the credentials of Bikenibeu Paeniu, Tuvalu’s new ambassador to the ROC (Taiwan), at the Presidential Office in Taipei City.

According to the president, the two countries have been collaborating in core areas such as agricultural technology, clean energy, medicine, public health and talent cultivation.

Tsai said she witnessed firsthand the positive results of collaborative projects between the two sides during her November 2017 trip to the ally. The partners have also been working together to address the challenges of climate change, help realize the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and combat COVID-19, she added.

The president took the opportunity to thank Tuvalu for supporting Taiwan’s participation in global organizations, including the World Health Assembly and U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. Such backing is greatly appreciated, she said.

In response, Paeniu said that during his 10 plus-year term as prime minister of Tuvalu, he witnessed the success of many bilateral projects. The new ambassador conveyed the sincere appreciation of his government and people for Taiwan’s longstanding support, adding that he hopes the cooperation between the true friends will continue to strengthen over the years to come.

Tsai accepts new Eswatini ambassador’s credentials, vows to boost bilateral ties

President Tsai Ing-wen said June 13 that Taiwan is committed to cooperating closely with the Kingdom of Eswatini in deepening friendship and expanding exchanges for the benefit of the people.

Taiwan and Eswatini are working together in core areas such as energy, information security, public health and trade, Tsai said. This reflects a steady strengthening of the countries’ partnership in recent years, she added.

Tsai made the remarks while accepting the credentials of Promise Msibi, Eswatini’s new ambassador to the ROC (Taiwan), at the Presidential Office in Taipei City.

According to Tsai, she saw firsthand the results of collaborative projects between Taiwan and Eswatini during her April 2018 trip to the landlocked nation in Southern Africa for celebrations marking 50 years of bilateral relations. The visit of His Majesty King Mswati III to Taiwan a month later further underscored the robust nature of two-way ties, she said.

The two sides are also collaborating to great effect in combating COVID-19, Tsai said. Taiwan’s third biggest source of rubbing alcohol is Eswatini, and full support is given for boosting the Africa ally’s medical mask manufacturing capacity, she added.

Tsai also took the opportunity to thank Eswatini for its long-standing support of Taiwan’s participation in international organizations and events such as last month’s World Health Assembly. This backing is sincerely appreciated by the government and the people, she said.

In response, Msibi conveyed the greetings of the king and queen mother, as well as the government and people of Eswatini. He praised the significant accomplishments of Taiwan in fields like culture, economy, and science and technology, and pledged to take bilateral relations to new heights.
Foreign Minister Wu gives exclusive interview to Newsmax’s Greta Van Susteren

The government is beefing up Taiwan’s defensive capabilities while toughening the people’s determination to resist a potential invasion by China, according to Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu.

Taiwan is trying to prepare for the possibility China may launch a war, Wu said. The necessity of this action is evidenced by a seeming military buildup involving air and naval exercises near the country, he added.

Wu made the remarks during an exclusive interview with Newsmax’s Greta Van Susteren for “The Record” June 15 from Taipei City.

Ukraine’s resistance is an inspiration, Wu said. Taiwan is ready to follow the East European country’s lead by mobilizing the citizenry and preparing for asymmetric warfare, he added.

But Taiwan is not alone in dealing with China’s military threats, Wu said, citing rock-solid U.S. support for the country based on the Taiwan Relations Act and Six Assurances. It is important the U.S. and other major democracies continue emphasizing the need for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, he added.

Wu said Taiwan stands strong on the front line defending the democratic world. The people have great faith democracy will prevail and the country will prevail, he added.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said “How is #Taiwan responding to #China’s rising military threat? Minister Wu answers on The Record in his talk with @Greta via @Newsmax. Get a rundown on our country’s efforts to beef up defense capabilities, guard against authoritarian expansionism, learn from #Ukraine & more.”

MOFA Minister Wu unveils US$500K donation, vows to stand with Ukraine during video call with Bucha Mayor Fedoruk

Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu announced a US$500,000 donation on behalf of the government and people of Taiwan, and vowed the country would continue to stand with Ukraine during a videoconference June 10 with Bucha Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This Love from Taiwan donation will be used for reconstruction of a city scarred by the Russian military’s massacre of civilians, Wu said. The gesture underscores a deep-seated care and concern for those impacted by Russia’s war of aggression, he added.

As a country long facing threats and coercion from a neighbor, Wu said, Taiwan understands the need to convey solidarity and extend a helping hand.

Fedoruk, who responded by thanking Wu for the charitable act and timely assistance, said Taiwan’s kindness will never be forgotten. Russia’s invasion and attack on Ukraine’s sovereignty are unforgivable, and have only galvanized the people’s will to defend the nation’s territory and democratic way of life, he added.

The videoconference is the fourth between Wu and a prominent Ukrainian leader. The first was April 22 with Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, the second May 31 with Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov and the third June 20 with His Beatitude Epiphanius I, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan Epiphanius of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

In a tweet on the MOFA’s official Twitter account, Wu said “I had an emotional call with Mayor Fedoruk of #Bucha, the scene of some of the worst war crimes committed by #Russia against the innocent. #Taiwan will continue to #StandWithUkraine in its fight for sovereignty, freedom & democracy. JW”
Taiwan, US, Japan, Australia stage GCTF on eliminating hepatitis C

A virtual workshop on eliminating hepatitis C was staged under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework June 17 in Taipei City, spotlighting the government’s commitment to strengthening health security in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Welfare, American Institute in Taiwan, Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and Australia Office in Taipei, the daylong event brought together more than 100 officials and experts from 39 countries.

High-profile participants included MOFA Deputy Minister Harry Ho-jen Tseng, MOHW Minister Chen Shih-chung, Former Vice President Chen Chien-jen and Benjamin Cowie, director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Viral Hepatitis in Australia.

Tseng said during his opening address that the GCTF is an ideal platform for working with like-minded countries in strengthening medical care systems and sharing Taiwan’s know-how with the world. A number of workshops have been successfully staged with partners on important issues such as infectious disease screening, management of chronic conditions and COVID-19 vaccine rollout, he added.

Disease knows no borders, Tseng said, adding that Taiwan is acutely aware of the importance of cooperating closely with other members of the international community in tackling global public health challenges.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said “#Taiwan, the #US, #Japan & #Australia held a #GCTF on Efforts & Development on Eliminating #HepatitisC in the run-up to #WorldHepatitisDay. The event involved 100+ participants from 39 countries & showed #TaiwanCanHelp realize #HealthForAll!”

The workshop is the ninth of its kind held under the GCTF since the framework’s launch in June 2015. Other topics addressed to date include education, environmental protection, humanitarian assistance, public health and women’s empowerment.

Lithuanian agriculture delegation arrives in Taiwan

A delegation of agriculture officials and industry representatives from Lithuania arrived on a three-day visit June 22 at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Led by Vice Minister of Agriculture Egidijus Giedraitis, the group will meet officials from the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture and Ministries of Health and Welfare and Economic Affairs.

Members are also attending the opening of the Food Taipei Mega Show and participating in promotional events at Lithuania’s pavilion.

Other highlights include a welcome banquet hosted by MOFA Deputy Minister Harry Ho-jen Tseng, tours of agricultural research and extension stations, and calls on agriculture-related associations and businesses.

The visit demonstrates Taiwan and Lithuania’s shared commitment to strengthening friendship and exchanges across a broad spectrum of areas, the MOFA said. It follows on from the trip successfully concluded last week by Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation Jovita Neliupsiene and her delegation, the ministry added.

Taiwan and Lithuania are working to boost two-way agricultural trade and cooperation, the MOFA said, adding that this is evidenced by the virtual meeting March 3 between COA Minister Chen Chi-chung and Minister of Agriculture Kestutis Navickas in which they agreed to establish a related dialogue mechanism.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said “Deputy Minister Tseng warmly welcomed #Lithuania’s Vice Minister of Agriculture Egidijus Giedraitis & his delegation of officials & industry representatives to #Taiwan. We wish our friends a highly productive 3-day visit aimed at deepening cooperation & expanding exchanges.”
Starting June 15, 2022, Taiwan to gradually ease border controls, shorten quarantine period, and control number of arrivals

Taiwan is set to ease border controls and shorten the quarantine period for arrivals from seven to three days as part of government efforts to maintain normal economic activity while preserving critical medical capacity, according to the Central Epidemic Command Center.

Under the new measure effective June 15, entrants to Taiwan will still need to present a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction test result obtained within two days of their scheduled flight, the CECC said. Upon landing, passengers will have saliva samples collected to conduct another PCR test and those aged two and above will each receive two rapid self-test kits before heading to their planned quarantine location, the center added.

In addition to taking quarantine taxes, travelers can get picked up at the airport by family members, friends, or vehicles arranged through their companies or organizations as long as disease prevention protocols are followed, the CECC said.

According to the CECC, entrants should observe the rule of one person per residence at the quarantine location or stay in a designated quarantine hotel. They should undergo the three-day quarantine and the following four-day self-initiated epidemic prevention period in the same place, the center said.

Quarantine period and location:

A. The day of arrival counts as Day 0; a three-day home quarantine and four-day self-initiated epidemic prevention following the end of quarantine will be required. The previous seven-day self-health management will be terminated.

B. Epidemic prevention rules to follow during the self-initiated epidemic prevention period:

1. Avoid going outside unless necessary.

2. A negative result from an at-home rapid test taken within two days should be presented if an arrival needs to go out to work or buy daily necessities.

3. Masks must be worn at all times when outside and social distancing must be maintained.

4. An arrival fulfilling business contractual obligations may go to work, conduct site visits, give a speech, or have a meeting, provided that a mask must be worn at all times when outside and social distancing must be maintained.

5. Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing must be maintained at work; masks can be temporarily removed when dining and should be put on after finishing dining.

6. Avoid going to crowded venues or contact with nonspecific persons.

7. An arrival fulfilling business contractual obligations may dine alone or with specific persons in a separate space in a restaurant provided that table dividers must be installed or social distancing must be maintained.

8. Non-urgent medical services or examinations should be postponed.

C. An arrival should observe the rule of one person per residence in his or her quarantine location or stay in a quarantine hotel; in principle, the arrival should undergo the three-day quarantine and four-day self-initiated epidemic prevention in the same location. Furthermore, in consideration of shared living arrangements for migrant workers, fishermen, and students and their higher risk of cluster infection, the regulatory authority of the respective business will ask such individuals to complete the self-initiated epidemic prevention period in their quarantine location and not to attend classes, work, or go out unless necessary during the period.

The CECC said a maximum of 25,000 arrivals per week will be allowed in the first stage, with new measures for transit passengers to be put forth by the Civil Aviation Administration under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.
Tang Prize laureates for sustainable development, biopharmaceutical science unveiled

The 2022 Tang Prize winners for sustainable development and biopharmaceutical science were announced June 18 and 19, respectively, by Taipei City-based Tang Prize Foundation.

Jeffrey Sachs was honored for “leading transdisciplinary sustainability science and creating the multilateral movement for its applications from village to nation and to the world,” while Katalin Kariko, Drew Weissman and Pieter Cullis were jointly recognized for their “discovery of key vaccinology concepts and approaches that lead to the successful development of mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines,” according to the foundation.

With bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees in economics from Harvard University, Sachs served as special advisor to three U.N. secretaries-general before becoming director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University as well as president of the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network, TPF said.

Sachs has made great contributions to the establishment and promotion of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, the foundation said, adding that he is also a recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honor by France and Blue Planet Prize by Japan.

Kariko, who was educated in Hungary and relocated to the U.S. in 1985, has devoted herself to the development of in vitro transcription of mRNA for protein therapies while Weissman, the Roberts Family Professor in Vaccine Research at the University of Pennsylvania, opened a laboratory to develop an HIV vaccine in 1997. Working together, they created a modified version of mRNA that would not cause an inflammatory response when injected into the body, and the technology was used to create the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

Cullis, a professor at the University of British Columbia, is a pioneer developer of lipid nanoparticles, which are used to effectively deliver mRNA to human cells.

Established by Taiwan entrepreneur Samuel Yin in 2012 and first conferred two years later, the Tang Prize allocates recipients in the categories of sustainable development, biopharmaceutical science, Sinology and rule of law NT$50 million (US$1.68 million).

Taiwan science, technology delegation visits SpaceX, Virgin Orbit

A Taiwan science and technology delegation has visited Space Exploration Technologies Corp. and Virgin Orbit Holdings Inc. in the U.S. spotlighting government efforts to fast-track the country’s space industry through working with world-class enterprises to enhance next-generation technology, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology June 16.

Led by MOST Wu Tsung-tsong, the 15-member group comprises experts and staff from the ministry and National Space Organization under the National Applied Research Laboratory. They called on SpaceX, a California-based spacecraft manufacturer and satellite communications corporation June 13 and were received by Tom Ochinero, vice president of Commercial Sales, and Chad Gibbs, vice president of Starlink Business Operations.

Wu said during his visit that Taiwan manufacturers are key suppliers for SpaceX, and for Starlink, its high-speed and low-latency satellite internet constellation. Taiwan is committed to continuing its close, mutual cooperation with SpaceX, Wu said, adding that the country would welcome the company to establish a component testing center in Taiwan.

The delegation continued its mission with a visit to Virgin Orbit, which provides air-launch services for small satellites, and was received by chief strategy officer Jim Simpson.

The visits follow the promulgation of Taiwan’s Space Development Act Jan. 20 this year. Comprising 22 articles in six chapters, the act covers activities such as registration of launch and space vehicles; approval of launch projects; establishment, operation and management of launch sites; and use of data obtained during missions.

The act also stipulates principles for space development. These include conforming to international laws and regulations; ensuring environmental protection and sustainability; protecting the rights and interests of indigenous tribes; and safeguarding national security and information transparency.
MOC minister honors winners of Taiwan-France Cultural Award in Paris

Wu Kun-yung from Taiwan and Jana S. Rosker from Slovenia were honored with a joint cultural award June 20 in Paris for their efforts to promote cultural exchanges between Taiwan and Europe, according to the Ministry of Culture.

Wu, general planner of the book series “Collection Critique Socio-Politique” published by Editions Utopie, has been an avid backer of social movements through his work, while Rosker, a professor from the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Ljubljana, has devoted herself to studying Taiwan’s modern and contemporary philosophers.

MOC Minister Lee Yung-te said during the presentation ceremony that Wu has been instrumental in bringing contemporary French zeitgeist to Taiwan and promoting mutual understanding of the two countries’ social issues. Rosker, on the other hand, has played a pivotal role in introducing Taiwan philosophy and its place in the greater Mandarin-speaking realm to France and Europe, he added.

In response, Wu said the award has encouraged him to continue building a bridge between the two sides’ authors and readers, while Rosker expressed appreciation for the award’s role in deepening friendship among the people of Taiwan, France and Europe in a prerecorded video.

Established in 1996 by the MOC and Academy of Moral and Political Sciences under the Institut de France, the annual Taiwan-France Cultural Award is presented to distinguished individuals or groups that have helped raise awareness of Taiwan in Europe or facilitated cultural exchanges.

The presentation of the award was part of Lee’s recent eight-day tour in Europe. The minister visited Germany, the Czech Republic and France before returning to Taiwan June 21.

Taiwan, Germany hold ministerial cultural meeting in Berlin

Minister of Culture Lee Yung-te met with Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media Claudia Roth June 14 in Berlin, and the two sides exchanged views on topics spanning freedom, democracy, human rights and transitional justice.

Lee said despite facing authoritarian expansion, Taiwan remains committed to defending its democratic way of life and broadening its connection with the free world. The meeting is a milestone in bilateral cultural exchanges, he said, adding that the government looks forward to deepening two-way ties.

Roth praised Taiwan for its courage in embracing democracy on the front lines of defense against dictatorship and urged democratic countries throughout the world to stand in unity with Taiwan.

The German minister also commend ed Taiwan for leading Asia in legalizing same-sex marriage in 2019 and invited Taiwan to take part in the annual Cologne Pride parade set to take place July 3. It is hoped that Taiwan will continue to participate in the film festivals in Berlin and Munich to bring its rich and diverse culture to a German audience, she added.

The previous day Lee visited Humboldt Forum, a museum of non-European art, and met with Daniela Kluckert, parliamentary state secretary to the Federal Minister for Digital and Transport. He also met with renowned democracy activist Evelyn Zupke and Dieter Jaenicke, a former director of Tanzmesse NRW, an important international networking event for contemporary dance held in Dusseldorf.

Lee’s eight-day stay in Europe also includes a visit to the Czech Republic and the presentation of the annual Taiwan-France Cultural Award in Paris.
Taiwan rated among the world’s best Muslim-friendly travel destinations

Taiwan is named the most inclusive destination for a non-Organization of Islamic Cooperation country at the inaugural Halal in Travel Awards presented by CrescentRating earlier this month in Singapore, according to the Tourism Bureau.

Taiwan also retained its second-place ranking among non-OIC destinations in Mastercard-CrescentRating’s Global Muslim Travel Index 2022, the TB said. The country trailed only Singapore and led the U.K. and Thailand in the annual report that surveyed 138 countries and territories around the world.

According to the survey, Taiwan stands out among non-OIC destinations for its integration of Muslim travel resources and people’s friendliness and respect towards all cultures and religions. The country performed particularly well in the areas of destination marketing, faith restrictions, safety and transportation infrastructure.

During his online acceptance speech on behalf of the country, TB Deputy Director-General Trust Lin said the honors represent global recognition of the government’s commitment to creating a friendly environment for Muslim visitors from around the world.

According to Lin, recent efforts in this regard include ongoing promotion of Halal foods and culture to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Islamic world. These include assisting the hospitality sector in building Muslim-friendly facilities and providing guidance on Halal certification, among other measures.

While global tourism has been put on hold since the onset of COVID-19, Lin said the bureau has continued its marketing campaigns to enhance Taiwan’s global visibility, citing four 10-minute promotional documentaries to be released later this month in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, and planning for a Muslim pavilion at the “Taiwan Culinary Exhibition” set to take place in Taipei in August.

The bureau said it has every confidence that Taiwan will be an appealing destination for even more Muslim travelers once international tourism returns to normal levels in the near future.

Taipei ranked 10th most livable city in 2022 by Monocle

Taipei is ranked the 10th most livable city in the annual quality of life survey published by U.K.-based fashion magazine Monocle in its July/August issue.

Describing the city as a hidden Asian gem, the survey said the quality of life in Taipei is high while the costs are relatively affordable, citing the low crime rate, world-class public health care system and an average monthly rent of NT$23,000 (US$775) for a studio apartment.

The survey praised Taipei’s convenient public transport as an urban planner’s dream, with more than 1,000 shared YouBike stations, buses and trains that run regularly and an MRT system that continues to develop and expand.

It also highlighted the city’s walkable streets, tempting food stalls that cook around the clock, hiking trails and the nearby Yangmingshan National Park, with its lush greenery and beautiful scenery, as well as hot springs.

On the downside, the survey pointed out Taiwan’s outdated banking system is in need of an upgrade to make it more accessible to both residents and foreign visitors. There is also room for improvement when it comes to pedestrian safety, the survey added.

Now in its 15th year, the annual survey lists the world’s top 25 forward-looking, safe, sustainable and inspiring cities. Copenhagen was ranked first this year, followed by Zurich, Lisbon, Helsinki, Stockholm, Tokyo, Vienna, Sydney and Vancouver in that order.