President Tsai Ing-wen said May 26 that Taiwan is committed to working with the EU to boost economic recovery and prevent democratic backsliding in the international community while fast-tracking negotiations of a bilateral investment agreement.

Last year saw a robust partnership between Taiwan and the EU, Tsai said, citing the country's inclusion in the EU's joint communication on its Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the passage of a recommendation on EU-Taiwan Political Relations and Cooperation, and the European Parliament's common defense, foreign and security policies regarding peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

These are complemented by several visits of delegations from Europe in 2021 and Taiwan delegations led by Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu and the Cabinet-level National Development Council Minister Kung Ming-hsion to European countries last October, Tsai said. A 24-member group headed by Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi is also now visiting Lithuania and Brussels, she added.

Tsai made the remarks while attending the Europe Day Dinner in Taipei City. The event involved officials from Taiwan such as the foreign minister and Economics Minister Wang Mei-hua, as well as Filip Grzegorzweski, head of the European Economic and Trade Office, and H. Henry Chang, chairman of the European Chamber of Commerce Taiwan.

According to Tsai, the two sides' close engagement is built on the foundations of the Taiwan-EU Supply Chains Forum and the EU Investment Forums over the past years. It is expected that Taiwan and the EU will continue expanding collaboration in areas spanning digital economy, green energy and restructuring secure and resilient global supply chains, she said.

Taiwan’s investment in Europe is at an all-time high, Tsai said, adding that the NDC has established the Central and Eastern European Investment Fund to further promote bilateral cooperation in biotechnology, laser technology, semiconductors and other strategic industries.

It is more important than ever for Taiwan and the EU to work together in the face of challenges such as authoritarian expansion and global health threats, Tsai said. It is hoped the two sides can negotiate a BIA to ensure the relationship remains strong going forward, she added.

Tsai also took the opportunity to thank the EU and its member states for persistently advocating for Taiwan’s inclusion in the World Health Organization and donating COVID-19 vaccine doses last year.

Inauguration ceremony of the South Africa - Taiwan Amity Association

Representative Anthony C.Y. Ho hosted the launch ceremony of the newly-founded South Africa-Taiwan Amity Association (SATAA) at the Taipei Liaison Office on May 17, 2022. Major General (Rtd) A.M. Sibango, Founder and Chairperson of SATAA, Mr. P.J. Weyers, Co-Founder and Vice Chairperson of SATAA and incumbent President Emeritus of the South African Air Force Association (SAAFA), and about 40 founding members attended the ceremony.

On behalf of SATAA, Chairperson Sibango and Vice Chairperson Weyers presented two letters to Representative Ho, expressing SATAA’s support for Taiwan’s participation in this year’s World Health Assembly (WHA). One of the letters is addressed to Taiwan’s Foreign Minister Dr. Joseph Jaushieh Wu and the other addressed to Taiwan’s National Defense Minister General Kuo-Cheng Chiu.

In his remarks, Representative Ho said the launch of SATAA symbolizes an important milestone for South Africa-Taiwan relations. South Africa and Taiwan enjoy long-standing friendship and share universal values of democracy, freedom and human rights. The physical distance does not set the two countries apart. Instead, the two countries work closely in the areas of agriculture, economy, education, technology and tourism.

Although Taiwan has been threatened and oppressed by PRC for more than 70 years, Taiwan never stepped back. Instead, Taiwan stands firm in safeguarding its fundamental values of democracy, freedom and human rights, and continues to develop its economic capacity. Taiwan’s achievement of democratization and economic developments are widely recognized as the "Taiwan Miracle."

It’s a pity that Taiwan has been excluded from many international organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO). Nevertheless, Taiwan continues to make substantial contributions to the international community and always extends a helping hand to our international friends when they are in need. With the unwavering support from the SATAA, Representative Ho believes the shared values of the two countries will forge a shared vision, which will lead to the shared victory of both parties.

Chairperson Sibango is a loyal friend to Taiwan. He had the opportunity of visiting Taiwan in 1990, when he joined an exchange program and received army training in Kaohsiung. He was glad to know that Taiwan’s Defense Minister General Chiu was also in an exchange program where he received military training in the Defense Staff College in South Africa in 1992. Chairperson believes people in both countries greatly benefit from exchange programs of this kind and hope SATAA will help strengthen the bilateral relations in many more areas.

Vice Chairperson Weyers admired Taiwan’s achievement in public health and medicine, including its control of Covid-19. He praised Taiwan’s contributions to the international society and the humanitarian aid Taiwan gave to Ukraine. He will continue to encourage more and more members of SAAFA to join SATAA.

The launch of SATAA is the first time in recent years that a newly-established association is founded based on its support for and friendship with Taiwan.
MOFA Minister Wu accepts copy of credentials from Eswatini Ambassador

Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu accepted a copy of the credentials of Promise Msibi, new ambassador of Kingdom of Eswatini to the ROC (Taiwan), while exchanging views on a range of issues pertinent to bilateral relations, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs May 24.

Msibi, said Taiwan-Eswatini ties are going strength from strength. Eswatini’s long-standing support for Taiwan’s participation in international organizations is deeply appreciated by the government and people, he added.

The minister also took the opportunity to exchange views with Msibi on the two sides’ cooperation in areas spanning agriculture, culture, education, information and communications technology, medical care, public health, and trade, as well as issues such as maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

In response, Msibi conveyed the gratitude of King Mswati III for Taiwan’s assistance in various projects benefiting the people of Eswatini. The ambassador said he is committed to expanding collaboration while deepening friendship between the two countries going forward.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said: “Minister Wu was pleased to meet with Promise Msibi & accept the copy of his credentials as Eswatini’s ambassador to #Taiwan. We wish our friend from #Africa all the best & look forward to cooperating closely in strengthening bilateral ties across a broad spectrum of areas.”

According to the MOFA, Msibi has previously served as Eswatini’s ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union.

MOFA welcomes US support for Taiwan

U.S. support for Taiwan stated by Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a policy speech at George Washington University is welcomed by the government and people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said May 26.

According to Blinken, Beijing’s growing campaign of coercion is deeply destabilizing. Maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is not just a U.S. interest, it is a matter of international concern, critical to regional and global security and prosperity, he said.

The U.S. remains committed to its one China policy, Blinken said, adding that this is based on the Taiwan Relations Act, Three Communiques and Six Assurances.

According to the MOFA, China’s ever-increasing military provocation, economic intimidation and attempts to block Taiwan’s international participation are receiving a high level of attention from the U.S. and international community.

Taiwan will continue working closely with the U.S. and other like-minded countries in countering authoritarianism and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Taiwan Strait and throughout the Indo-Pacific, the ministry said.

Beginning May 9, 2022, mandatory quarantine for arrivals to be shortened to 7 days

On May 3, 2022, the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) announced that quarantine for all arrivals will be reduced to seven days starting 00:00 on May 9, 2022 (incoming flight’s scheduled arrival time in Taiwan), and changes to related measures are listed below.

I. Required quarantine period and quarantine location:
   a. The number of days an arrival should quarantine will be shortened to seven days, and the day of arrival counts as Day 0; a seven-day self-health management will be required starting the 8th day.
   b. The arrival should quarantine at home or a residence of a friend or relative, and the principle of one person per residence should be observed. If the principle of one person per residence cannot be followed, the arrival should complete the 7-day quarantine at a quarantine hotel.
   c. Family members/household members who arrive on the same day as the arrival may choose to quarantine together in their home or a residence of a relative or they may stay in the same quarter depending on their willingness and room types of the quarantine hotel where they stay. However, due to the space of single rooms, it is recommended that no more than two people share a room.

II. Testing measures:
   a. PCR testing: arrivals should undergo PCR testing upon arrival (Day 0) in accordance with the current testing requirement.
   b. Rapid testing using at-home rapid test kits:
      1. A rapid test will be given on the last day (Day 7) of the quarantine period.

One additional rapid test kit will be provided and can be used if symptoms appear during quarantine.

2. In consideration of the age limit on who can use at-home rapid test kits, children under two years of age who are under home quarantine will undergo a PCR test on the last day of quarantine period. People who have difficulty using at-home rapid test kits on their own will receive rapid tests arranged and performed by local governments.

3. At-home rapid test kits will be provided to inbound travelers by international airport/port personnel upon entry.

For further information, please refer to Taiwan Centers for Disease Control @https://www.cdc.gov.tw/En/
Taiwan is committed to bolstering its defensive capabilities while deepening cooperation with like-minded partners to safeguard freedom and democracy in the Indo-Pacific, according to Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and China’s threats against Taiwan share similarities, Wu said. The country is learning lessons from Ukraine’s resistance such as the importance of asymmetric capabilities and civil defense, he added.

Closer cooperation among like-minded partners is the only way to ensure peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and throughout the Indo-Pacific, Wu said, adding that this is also the cornerstone of defending the cherished shared values of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said “Listen to Minister Wu’s interview with @NPRinskeep. Learn about the lessons #Taiwan is drawing from #Ukraine’s resistance, efforts to beef up the country’s asymmetric defense capabilities, the government’s commitment to maintaining the status quo with #China & much more.”

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Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and China’s threatening behavior towards Taiwan share similarities, Wu said. Taiwan is drawing lessons from Ukraine’s successful resistance while continuing to combat authoritarianism by enhancing asymmetrical combat capabilities and seeking support from the U.S., he added.

Wu made the remarks during an exclusive interview with Steve Inskeep of National Public Radio broadcast May 24 by the Washington-headquartered outlet.

According to Wu, relations between Taiwan and European countries are going strength from strength, as shown by the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia’s recognition that Taiwan is a reliable partner, as well as the inauguration of the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania last year and Taiwan’s increased import of Lithuanian products earlier this year.

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Taiwan will expand exchanges and strengthen cooperation with NATO going forward, Wu said as a response to a speech made by U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss in support of the country last month. Countries across Europe have been expanding their focus on the Indo-Pacific over the past year, he added.

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Love from Taiwan helps women in the rural areas of South Africa regain financial independence

On behalf of Taiwan Government, Representative Anthony C.Y. Ho handed over a collection of sewing machines to the women in a rural village in Limpopo through two Members of Parliament recently. Representative Ho often shares with his South African friends about Taiwan’s achievements in women’s empowerment. Taiwan elected President Tsai Ing-wen, the first female head of state among Mandarin-speaking countries, in 2016 and then in 2020. Currently there are more than 42% of legislators in Taiwan’s Legislature are female. Women also account for 44.5% of Taiwan’s work force, making significant contributions to Taiwan’s economic development. Representative believes gender equality can only be achieved when women are provided with equal access to health, education, technology and economic opportunity. Donating sewing machines to under-privileged women will help them acquire the skills needed for new employment or business opportunities, and eventually help them get rid of poverty.

For example, Melita is one of the beneficiaries receiving a sewing machine this time. Her mother left her when she was still young. She studied hard when she grew up and completed her diploma in tourism and business management. Unfortunately, she has not been able to land a job after graduation and has been struggling to put food on the table for her three children. After receiving this new sewing machine, she has learned the basic skills of threading and sewing a within 10 minutes and now plans to open a small business in the trade of tailoring. Other beneficiaries include elder women in the community, who used to make a living by tailoring and alterations but were forced to stop because their old machines were broken and they were unable to afford new ones. They were over the moon when they received this gift from Taiwan. All recipients expressed gratitude for the love and caring of Taiwan people.

Although the Tsengs reside in South Africa, Taiwan remains to be a place they call home.

In front of an aircraft, Mr. Tseng expressed his family’s strong devotion to and support for Taiwan by displaying a banner with all the staff members in the school, stating, “Health for all-Taiwan Can Help.” to support Taiwan’s participation in the 75th World Health Assembly.

Representative Ho expressed appreciation for the support from the Tsengs, and wishes the Tseng family continued success and prosperity.
Taiwan’s COVID-19 containment strategy utilizing innovative technology and universal health coverage

Dr. Shih-Chung Chen
Minister of Health and Welfare
Republic of China (Taiwan)

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 510 million confirmed cases and more than 6.25 million deaths have been reported around the world. As nations continue to battle the pandemic, Taiwan’s achievements have been widely recognized. As of May 10, 2022, about 390,000 confirmed cases and 931 deaths had been reported in Taiwan, which has a population of 23.5 million. And thanks to a joint effort by the government and the people, Taiwan’s economic growth rate for 2021 reached 6.45 percent.

Universal health coverage
Taiwan’s National Health Insurance (NHI) system, which was launched in 1995, has played an important role in the fight against the pandemic. The NHI system provides comprehensive and high-quality health services, achieving universal (99.9 percent) coverage. Taiwan’s robust healthcare and NHI systems have safeguarded the people and ensured social stability during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the NHI’s comprehensive database and other up-to-date information systems have been critical in ensuring the successful application of digital technology for disease prevention. Taiwan’s healthcare system was ranked second in the world in 2021 by CEOWorld. In Numbeo’s annual survey, Taiwan was ranked first among 95 countries surveyed in the Health Care Index category for 2021.

Use of technology for epidemic prevention
During the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020, to reduce the risk of community transmission, the government implemented the Quarantine System for Entry by integrating NHI, immigration, and customs databases to allow for big data analysis. Data was introduced to the Digital Fencing Tracking System, which used the positioning system on mobile phones to monitor the whereabouts of people under home quarantine or isolation. Moreover, to ensure privacy, personal data captured was stored for a maximum of 28 days and then deleted.

To ensure that all residents would enjoy equitable access to medical masks as demand increased, people were required to use their NHI card to purchase masks under the Name-based Mask Distribution System, helping to prevent an imbalance in supply and demand. While protecting personal data, a new function for querying the travel and contact history of patients was added to the NHI MediCloud System to effectively integrate health data. This helped frontline medical personnel judge infection risks and take relevant infection control measures.

Vaccinations and digital certificates
To digitalize health care services, the NHI Express App was launched. It offers such features as vaccination appointments, personal health data, medical records, COVID-19 vaccination records, and test results. Taiwan joined the EU Digital COVID Certificate program at the end of 2021 and allowed citizens to apply for digital vaccination certificates and test certificates. This program was one of the first global standards developed. It was adopted by many states and was the first one to be applied in for international travel. Taiwan’s people can enter 64 countries, including EU member states, with such certificates.

Electronic medical records and telemedicine
Taiwan has been building health information infrastructure since 2010, such as the electronic medical records (EMR) exchange system. Since May 2021, Taiwan has expanded its telemedicine services in healthcare institutions and included such services into NHI coverage as a means of reducing the risk of cluster infections at such institutions. Using the NHI MediCloud and EMR systems, zero-contact telemedicine allows medical personnel to obtain patients’ medical records and offer people in remote areas appropriate and comprehensive services, in turn helping to realize the World Health Organization (WHO) goal of health for all.

New Taiwan Model
Taiwan was able to contain the pandemic while having people lead normal lives and achieving positive economic growth through the precise use of technology, information transparency, strict border controls, and accurate screening and case investigation. However, with the worldwide spread of the Omicron variant since the end of 2021, community transmission also began to increase in Taiwan. The variant appears to be much more contagious but to cause mild or no symptoms. Trying to block the transmission of every single case would be a vain effort that would greatly affect people’s livelihoods. The government has therefore chosen to aim at eliminating severe cases, managing mild cases, minimizing overall impacts, and caring for moderate and severe cases since April 2022. This new Taiwan Model seeks to allow people to lead normal lives while active epidemic prevention measures remain in place and the country is steadily opening up.

Strengthening people’s resilience
With the introduction of rapid antigen test kits, Taiwan has shortened quarantines and reduced control measures, requiring confirmed cases to notify their close contacts to undergo home isolation and using electronic contact notification during the process. As the demand for rapid tests increases, the government has requisitioned a fixed amount and adopted a name-based rationing scheme, distributing tests to NHI-contracted pharmacies for the public to purchase using their NHI cards.

Preserving healthcare capacity
Taiwan has adopted a triage approach, having milder COVID-19 cases undergo home care and reserving hospital treatment for members of high-risk groups, such as moderate and severe cases and the elderly. During home care, people can access emergency medical consultations through mobile apps. A network of pharmacists and community pharmacies has been put together to provide consultations and deliver medicines. As of the end of April 2022, about 80 percent of the people in Taiwan had received a primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 60 percent had received a booster dose.

Taiwan can help, and Taiwan is helping
The world today continues to face challenges of the pandemic, vaccine supply, and the post-pandemic recovery. Countries should work together and prepare for possible future pandemics. Taiwan is an indispensable partner in ensuring a successful post-pandemic recovery. To contain the pandemic, Taiwan has continued to cooperate with other countries on the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines and drugs and has donated medical supplies, such as medical masks and medicines, to countries in need. This has demonstrated that Taiwan can help, and Taiwan is helping.

The 75th World Health Assembly (WHA) will be held in May. For the past five years, Taiwan has not been invited to participate in the WHA. To ensure that Taiwan is not left behind and there is no coverage gap in global health, Taiwan seeks to participate in the WHA this year in a professional and pragmatic manner, so that it can make contributions as part of the global effort to realize WHO’s vision of a seamless global disease prevention network.

We urge WHO and related parties to support Taiwan’s inclusion in WHO and allow it to fully participate in WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan will continue to work with the rest of the world to ensure that all enjoy the fundamental human right to health as stipulated in the WHO Constitution. In the spirit of the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, no one should be left behind.
President Tsai eyes more overseas investment in Taiwan

President Tsai Ing-wen said May 16 that attracting more overseas investment in Taiwan remains a central plank in the government’s policy of strengthening the country’s economic competitiveness.

Three major programs launched by the government in July 2019 are boosting confidence and achieving this end, the president said. These are the Action Plan for Welcoming Overseas Taiwanese Businesses to Return to Invest in Taiwan, Action Plan for Accelerated Investment by Domestic Corporations and Action Plan for Accelerated Investment by Small and Medium Enterprises.

Tsai made the remarks while receiving a delegation from the Asia Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce at the Presidential Office in Taipei City.

Many of the country’s firms are facing challenges brought about by the rapid restructuring of global supply chains due to the pandemic and shifting geopolitical landscape, Tsai said. The government is leaving no stone unturned in supporting these companies as they get to grips with operational issues stemming from industrial transformation and market change, she added.

As of the end of April, Tsai said, the Overseas Credit Guarantee Fund processed 300 loan applications totaling more than US$99 million. This commitment is essential to safeguarding the country’s position in global supply chains, she added.

Tsai also took the opportunity to thank Taiwan’s businesspeople for supporting the country’s bid to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. Such backing assists in facilitating economic integration and fostering closer regional trade ties, she said.
MOFA thanks allies, partners for strong backing of Taiwan’s WHA bid

Unprecedented support from Taiwan’s allies and like-minded partners around the world for the country’s participation in the World Health Assembly is sincerely appreciated by the government and people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said May 25.

A total of 13 of the country’s allies called on the World Health Organization to invite Taiwan to attend the WHA as an observer during the 75th edition of the annual meeting, the MOFA said. Expressions of support were also delivered by representatives from like-minded partners including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Czech Republic, the U.K., the U.S. and observer group the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the ministry added.

According to the MOFA, Barbara De Rosa-Joyn, senior health advisor of the U.S. Department of State, refuted remarks by the Chinese delegate when she said that the WHO is tasked with addressing global health concerns and should include all stakeholders.

Taiwan was an observer in the WHA from 2009 to 2016 and there is no legal justification to exclude the country as an observer, she said, adding that the U.S. will continue to support Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations such as the WHO.

The WHO should act in accordance with its founding principles of neutrality and professionalism and accept Taiwan’s equal and dignified participation in the international health governance system’s activities, meetings and mechanisms, the MOFA said. Taiwan remains committed to working closely with international partners in a spirit of pragmatism, professionalism and with a willingness to contribute to a seamless global health network, the ministry added.

In a tweet on the MOFA’s official Twitter account, Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu said: “We thank all allies & partners for voicing support of #Taiwan’s @WHO inclusion. But #China’s malevolence again denies our right. The way forward is for the world to urge the #Communist dictatorship to stop lying about democratic Taiwan. The truth is we’re not part of the #PRC. JW”

WHA75, taking place May 22 to 28 in Geneva, is the first physical gathering of the annual decision-making body of the WHO since the onset of the pandemic. It involves delegations from all member states of the U.N. specialized agency.

Allies thanked by MOFA for supporting Taiwan at WHA

A proposal calling for Taiwan’s participation as an observer in the 75th World Health Assembly submitted by 13 of the country’s allies is deeply appreciated by the government and people, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs May 23.

Debated by representatives of Belize, Kingdom of Eswatini, St. Vincent and Grenadines and Tuvalu with counterparts from China, Cuba and Pakistan during two-on-two sessions held as part of the general committee and plenary sessions, the proposal was rejected on the grounds of the so-called one-China principle.

According to the MOFA, the four allies argued that Taiwan’s inclusion in the World Health Organization is essential to combating COVID-19, ensuring global health security and should not be politicized. China, Cuba and Pakistan countered with distortions of U.N. Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1, the ministry said.

The resolutions do not give China the right to represent Taiwan in the U.N. system, the MOFA said, adding that only the democratically elected government can represent the country’s 23.5 million people on the international stage.

Strong backing from the global community underscores the legitimacy and urgency of Taiwan’s WHA participation, the ministry said. The government will continue seeking engagement with the WHO while ensuring the rights of the people to take part in related activities, mechanisms and meetings, the MOFA added.

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Taiwan shines on the silver screen at Cannes’ Marche du Film

A total of 92 film titles and projects are featured in the Taiwan Cinema selection at Cannes Film Festival’s online and physical Marche du Film underway till May 25 in the French city, according to the Ministry of Culture’s Taiwan Creative Content Agency.

Comprising animations, documentaries, narrative features, short films and virtual reality content from 39 studios and companies, the total number showcased is up 40 percent from last year, TAICCA said, adding that the work displays the wide creative range of Taiwan’s movie industry.

With a bigger turnout this year following the easing of international travel restrictions, the agency expects the event’s first physical Taiwan pavilion since the pandemic to attract strong interest in the country’s cinematic productions.

Among these, horror film “Incantation” topped the local box office with over US$3 million this year; “Demigod: The Legend Begins” is a hand puppet adventure film; and “Legend of Sun Walker” is Taiwan’s first 3D immersive animated feature.

The country’s immersive content is also taking center stage at the event, with three works shortlisted for the Cannes XR x VeeR Future Award Competition, TAICCA said. “The Starry Sand Beach,” “Madame Pirate: Becoming a Legend” and “Red Tail Ep. 1” will join 15 other works to compete for the “Best VR Story” and “Best VR Interactive Experience” awards.

Launched in 1959, Marche du Film is one of the largest movie industry gatherings worldwide. It attracts over 12,500 professionals from 121 countries this year.

Established in 2019, TAICCA is responsible for promotion of creative content, culture and innovation in Taiwan, with film content particularly successful at raising the country’s profile in international markets.

Taiwan records increase in foreign media representation

A total of 137 reporters from 75 international media outlets in 20 countries are stationed in Taiwan as of May 15, an increase of over one-third since 2020, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affair.

Many of the additions are from agencies basing journalists in Taiwan for the first time, the MOFA said. They hail from regions such as Latin America, Oceania, the South Pacific and West Asia, the ministry added.

This positive development reflects global recognition of Taiwan’s vibrant democracy and ongoing government efforts to cultivate a free and open press environment, the MOFA said. It also reflects declining media freedom in Hong Kong since implementation of the national security law and the consequent decision of outlets to relocate staff, the ministry added.

Equally important, the MOFA said, is Taiwan’s rise to 38th in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index released earlier this month by France-based Reporters Without Borders. The country is also rated free and sits second in Asia as per the latest Freedom in the World annual report issued by U.S.-based nongovernmental organization Freedom House, the ministry added.

The government will continue providing all necessary assistance to foster a convenient, diverse and free environment for members of the press, the MOFA said, adding that outlets around the globe are welcome to expand operations in Taiwan.

In a tweet on its official Twitter account, the MOFA said “#Taiwan is a defender of journalists ranked among the freest countries regionally & worldwide. We’re honored to host more & more members of the global media while promoting the cornerstones of good governance: access to information, accountability, transparency & rule of law.”