

President Tsai unveils Taiwan conscription reform



President Tsai Ing-wen held a press conference Dec. 27 at the Presidential Office to announce a new conscription plan that will extend the country's obligatory military service period for males from four months to one year.

"This was an extremely difficult decision," Tsai said. "My responsibility is to protect our national security and interests, maintain prosperity and uphold our democratic and free way of life to pass on to future generations," she added.

According to the president, standing on the front line of authoritarian expansion and a changing security landscape, Taiwan is taking active steps to strengthen its self-defense and thus ensure regional peace and stability.

"Only by preparing for war can we avoid war and only by being



capable of fighting a war can we prevent one," she said, adding that "the better prepared we are, the smaller the chance of adventurism from across the strait. The more united we are, the stronger and safer Taiwan will be."

Under the reform taking effect Jan. 1, 2024, male citizens born on and after Jan. 1, 2005, will have to serve one full year in the armed forces. Their salary will also be increased to NT\$26,307 (US\$857) from the current approximately NT\$6,500 per month.

The reform will introduce new training approaches from coun-

tries like the U.S. and involve more live drill and ammunition exercises. Depending on missions, draftees will learn close-quarter battle techniques, launch of stinger missiles and drone operation.

The new plan also includes measures to expand the country's civil defense system and more effectively mobilize reservists.

The American Institute in Taiwan welcomed the development, saying that U.S. commitment to Taiwan and steps Taiwan takes to enhance its self-defense capabilities both contribute to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and within the region.

The U.S. will continue to assist Taiwan in maintaining sufficient self-defense in line with its commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act, the AIT added.

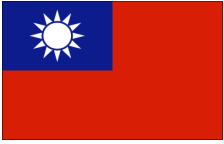


December Snapshots of Taiwan



South African Taiwanese compatriots welcome Ambassador Oliver Liao and his wife Nancy Tseng arrived in South Africa

In observance of the New Year Holiday, the Taipei Liaison office will be closed on Monday, January 2 2023. In case of an emergency, please call 082-802-9380.



President Tsai, INTA Vice Chair Asimakopoulou talk Taiwan-EU ties



President Tsai Ing-wen said Dec. 20 that the government is committed to deepening its partnership with the EU and jointly creating a resilient democratic alliance.

Taiwan and the EU are like-minded partners that share values of freedom and democracy and have expanded exchanges across all sectors, Tsai said, adding that the European Green Deal and the union's digital transformation

align closely with the government's transition to net-zero emissions and the promotion of six core strategic industries.

Tsai made the remarks while receiving Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, vice chair of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA), and her delegation at the Presidential Office in Taipei City.

According to Tsai, Taiwan and the EU are important trade partners and last year bilateral trade grew by 32 percent, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. To further strengthen economic exchanges and supply chain security, the government is accelerating progress toward a Taiwan-EU bilateral investment agreement, she said.

In response, Asimakopoulou said the EU opposes the use or threat of force or economic coercion against Taiwan by China and recognizes the mutual benefit of deepening of its trade and investment partnership with Taiwan, as well as the importance of bilateral collaboration on global supply chains in light of Taiwan's leading role in the field of semiconductor technology.

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.

Tsai receives US House of Representatives delegation

President Tsai Ing-wen said Dec. 20 that Taiwan will continue to cooperate with the U.S. and other like-minded partners to ensure stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific while contributing to regional trade and economic development.

Tsai made the remarks while receiving a U.S. House delegation at the Presidential Office in Taipei City. Led by Rep. John Curtis, the group comprises Reps. Burgess Owens, Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Michelle Steel.

The president thanked the U.S. Congress for its longstanding support for Taiwan, as evidenced by the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act endorsing military sales. Congress upholds the U.S. commitment to help Taiwan defend democracy and strengthen the country's security, she added.

According to Tsai, the group members'

support for Taiwan's participation in the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change is deeply appreciated by the government and people. Taiwan is accelerating development of renewable energy sources, Tsai said, citing a pathway to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 released in March and an action plan spanning 12 key strategies to be announced by the end of this year.

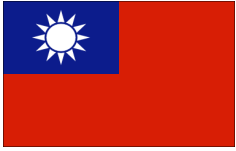
The government hopes to kick-start negotiations for signing a high-standard trade agreement with the U.S. through the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, Tsai said, calling on the U.S. to continue supporting the country's bid to engage in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

In response, Curtis said Taiwan has become a strong and vibrant democracy since he first visited the country 40 years ago. The delegation's visit also conveys the message that Taiwan's



prosperity is a bipartisan and bicameral issue important to the U.S., he added.

Highlights of the delegation's itinerary include an audience with Vice President Lai Ching-te; a banquet hosted by Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu; visits to the Legislative Yuan, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Mainland Affairs Council, and the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Administration; as well as meetings with green energy and environmental protection businesses and organizations.



MOFA welcomes US bills reaffirming support for Taiwan

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 signed into law Dec. 23 by U.S. President Biden and the omnibus spending bill passed the same day by the U.S. House of Representatives are sincerely appreciated by the government and people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The two pieces of legislation demonstrate the importance the U.S. attaches to the bilateral ties and Taiwan's security, the ministry said, adding that they also reaffirm strong support from the U.S. legislative branch to enhance cooperation with Taiwan across the board.

According to the MOFA, the bills stipulate up to US\$2 billion per year in foreign military financing to Taiwan between 2023 and 2027 and the establishment of the Taiwan Fellowship Act.

The bills also request that the U.S. executive branch to help strengthen Taiwan's defense capabilities and enhance interoperability and capability for joint operations under the International Military Education and Training program, the ministry added.

In addition, the bills ask that the State

Department and USAID work with regional allies and partners including Taiwan to expand cooperation in Pacific island states, as well as increase the funding for the Global Cooperation and Training Framework from US\$3 million to US\$4 million.

Based on Taiwan's national development policies, the MOFA said the government will continue to work closely with the U.S. to ensure the smooth implementation of these measures and promote regional peace and stability.

MOFA delivers 2022 report card

Dynamic, professional and resilient diplomacy under the government's leadership has helped Taiwan expand its international presence while strengthening cooperation with allies and like-minded countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Dec. 23.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's groundless coercion against Taiwan have caused regional tensions and challenges to the rules-based international order, the MOFA said. Taiwan's role as an indispensable member of global democracies and its geopolitical strategic significance have become a focal point in the region

and around the world, the ministry added.

According to the MOFA, there is international consensus on maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. The people of Taiwan have remained calm and composed in the face of authoritarian threats, the ministry said.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and Beijing's provocation, prominent political figures have continued to visit Taiwan, demonstrating their staunch support for the country, the MOFA said. Many international media outlets and

non-governmental organizations have also set up offices in Taiwan, reflecting global recognition of the country as an important hub for the democratic world, the ministry added.

As a force for good in the international community, Taiwan stands ready to provide assistance to democratic friends in need, shown by the country's solidarity with Ukraine following Russia's invasion, the MOFA said. Taiwan will continue to deepen relationships with its allies while enhancing ties with like-minded partners to expand its international space, the ministry added.

Japan parliamentary delegation touches down in Taiwan

A delegation from Japan's House of Councillors commenced a four-day visit to Taiwan Dec. 26 to bolster bilateral relations and cooperation across the board.

Led by Hiroshige Seko, secretary-general for the Liberal Democratic Party in the House of Councillors, the group includes 11 other lawmakers from the party.

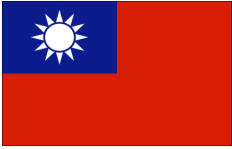
The delegation's visit is warmly welcomed by the government and people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. In

the face of authoritarian expansionism causing regional tensions and challenges to the rules-based international order, Taiwan will continue to work with like-minded partners such as Japan in defending the shared values of freedom and democracy, the MOFA added.

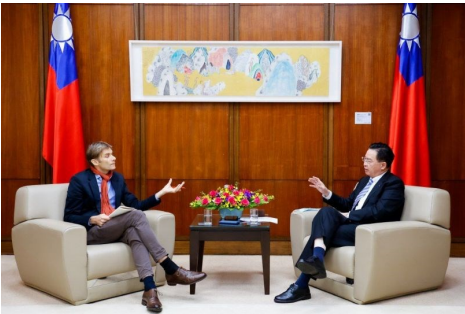
According to the MOFA, the group's itinerary includes an audience with President Tsai Ing-wen and meetings with Vice President Lai Ching-te, Premier Su Tseng-chang, Legislative Yuan President You Si-kun, Foreign Minister Jaushieh

Joseph Wu. The delegation will also pay respects at the grave of late President Lee Teng-hui, the ministry said.

Seko, who previously served as Japan's deputy chief cabinet secretary and minister of economy, trade and industry, is a staunch supporter of Taiwan, the MOFA said. This is evidenced by his push for the House of Councillors' unanimous passage of a resolution supporting Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization last June, the ministry added.



Foreign Minister Wu gives exclusive interview to France’s Le Figaro



Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu said Taiwan’s people are committed to safeguarding the country’s sovereignty while fighting for its freedom and democratic way of life.

Wu made the remarks in an interview with correspondent Sebastien Falletti for a piece that was published by France’s Le Figaro Dec. 27.

According to Wu, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine raised awareness in Taiwan of an authoritarian government’s initiation of war against a peace-loving country. The courage of Ukrainians in fighting for freedom has inspired the people, Wu said, adding that Taiwan joined the international community to condemn and impose sanctions on Russia while providing humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the East European country.

Taiwan is a front-line state countering China’s authoritarian expansion, Wu said. To this end, the country is reforming national defense, strengthening relevant industries, and obtaining defense weapons from the U.S.,

he added.

The country is deepening ties with other democracies to gain more global support, the minister said, citing statements issued by the Group of Seven and the EU in opposing unilateral change of the cross-strait status quo, which is of paramount importance to deter Beijing’s ambitions.

The possibility that China may assault Taiwan to divert attention from its economic recession and social problems cannot be ruled out, Wu said. Taiwan’s people would never accept a situation such as that of Hong Kong and will resist aggression in the manner of David against Goliath, he added.

Foreign Minister Wu gives interview to Kosovo’s Ekonomia Online

Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu said the government is striving to forge greater economic and trade cooperation with Balkan countries and urged Kosovo to expand ties with Taiwan.

The minister made the remarks in a written interview for an article published Dec. 18 by Ekonomia Online, a media outlet based in the Southeast European nation.

According to Wu, Taiwan and Kosovo share democratic beliefs and similar international situations. Recent years have seen bilateral ties gradually deepen, he said.

Given its excellent geographic location, rich natural resources, quality labor force and special tariff treatment with the EU, Western Balkan countries, Turkey and the U.S., Kosovo

presents tremendous business potential for Taiwan firms keen to grow their presence in the region, he added.

The government has set up US\$200 million to promote cooperation with East and Central European countries in strategic sectors, Wu said, adding that the initiative will offer great opportunities for Taiwan and Kosovo to enhance their trade ties.

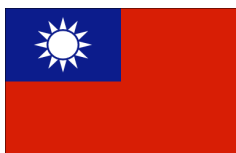
Wu said China is stepping up its economic and political influence in the Western Balkans through accelerated investment in regional infrastructure development. Countries in the area need to take precautions against the debt traps created by such projects, he added.

As a successful democracy standing

on the front line of authoritarian expansion, Taiwan is committed to safeguarding the rules-based international order and promoting peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, the minister said.

To this end, the government will continue enhancing cooperation with like-minded partners including the EU and the U.S., Wu said, calling on Kosovo to join the rest of the free world in expanding partnership with Taiwan.





The seventh MOU of higher educational cooperation between Taiwan and South Africa in 2022



Yuan Ze University (YZU) and University of KwaZulu-Natal, (UKZN) have recently signed an MOU for Educational Cooperation.

The higher education cooperation between Taiwan and South Africa has been expanding and gaining momentum.

The aforementioned MOU will focus on the bilateral collaboration in area of research, innovation and faculty and student exchange. It is set to further enhance academic exchange and collaboration between the two universities.



NSTC unveils progress in project promoting humanities, social sciences



A government-sponsored personnel cultivation program implemented since 2018 has successfully enriched Taiwan's research prowess in humanities and social sciences, according to the National Science and Technology Council.

Titled "Taiwanese Overseas Pioneers Grants," the project sponsors local students pursuing doctoral degrees at universities overseas or young academics working for tertiary institutions or research organizations abroad, the council said.

Through promoting links between local experts and their global counterparts, the project lays a firm foundation for research in the two disciplines, the council said. A total of 85 doctoral candidates and 20 young academics have benefited from the initiative so far, it added.

During a press conference Dec. 21 in Taipei City, Hsu Lin-fang, a Ph.D. candidate at University College, London, said she is combining evolutionary economic geography and smart city development in her graduate study on urban economic and social development.

An assistant professor at Texas State University, Chan Yun-wen specializes in applying deliberative democracy to discuss local sustainability issues. She is writing a book for U.S. classrooms on developing a teaching approach derived from a case study in Taiwan.

The NSTC said 25 Ph.D. candidates and five academics have been selected for this year's project, with each of the two groups set to receive NT\$900,000 (US\$29,335) and NT\$800,000 in grants, respectively.

Application to National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University fall 2023 Admission is open



Admission Fall 2023

National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
International Health Program, College of Medicine

Courses focusing on public health and infectious disease control

Program Features

The program seeks to train students with interests in international health issues and equip them with capabilities in dealing with complex challenges in public health affecting various societies.

- The first English international health program in Taiwan (MS/Phd in public health)
- Learning / Experience sharing among students and faculty from different backgrounds
- Offer Chinese language course
- Overseas research funding support

Scholarship

- TaiwaniCDF scholarship
- Taiwan Scholarship
- NYCU University Scholarship
- Aceh Government Scholarship (Indonesia)
- Elite Scholarship for Lecturers from Southeast Asia and Africa Countries

Qualification

Master program:
Bachelor's (or above) degree and interest in public health.

PhD program:
Master's (or above) degree and interest in public health.

Deadline for Admission
March 15, 2023



Application

Please visit the Office of International Affairs website for online registration.
<https://ioia-sys.nctu.edu.tw/admission/student/index/index/applyParam/vmit5>

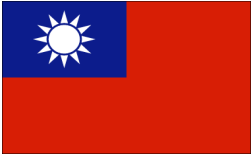


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Website Facebook



Foreign Minister Wu hosts banquet for EP trade delegation

Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu hosted a banquet in Taipei City Dec. 19 for the European Parliament trade delegation to thank the law-making body for its support of Taiwan.

Led by Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, vice chair of the EP Committee on International Trade (INTA), the 13-member group is in Taiwan Dec. 18-21 to promote further exchanges between the two sides.

Highlights of the delegation's itinerary include an audience with President Tsai Ing-wen, meetings with Premier Su Tseng-chang and Legislative Yuan President You Si-kun, as well as visits to Hsinchu County-based Industrial Technology Research Institute and local semiconductor firms.

According to Wu, the EP has issued or passed 25 reports and resolutions over the past two years voicing

strong concern over China's military threats against Taiwan, calling for negotiation of a bilateral investment agreement and supporting Taiwan's global participation, which are all sincerely appreciated by the government and people.

The minister said Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine is posing a serious threat to the universal values of freedom, democracy, the respect for human rights and the rule of law.

China's recent ban of Taiwan's beverage, fishery and food exports, as well as its other similar moves in the past against Australia, Canada, Lithuania and other EP member states, underscores both the urgency and necessity for Taiwan and its like-minded partners like the EU to work in unity to counter authoritarian regimes' economic coercion, Wu added.

Positioned on the front line of authoritarian expansion, Taiwan is will-



ing and able to share its experience and will continue to cooperate with members of the free world to ensure regional peace and stability while upholding rules-based international order, he added.

In response, Asimakopoulou said the EP recently passed a resolution supporting Taiwan's people in the right to determine their future, and that the EU can relate to the threat that they face. The vice-chair also stressed the importance of this visit and expects it to pave the way for facilitation of the BIA negotiation.

Taiwan, US stage 3rd Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue



The third Taiwan-U.S. Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue wrapped up Dec. 15, underscoring the commitment of the like-minded partners to further expand trade and investment ties.

Staged both physically and virtually from Taipei and Washington, the

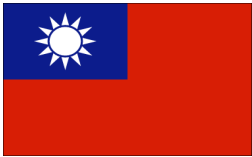
event was led by Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua and U.S. Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment Jose W. Fernandez, respectively.

Other high-profile participants included Deputy Foreign Minister Tsai Ming-yen, Deputy Economic Minister Chen Chern-chyi and U.S. Department of State, Trade Policy and Negotiations Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary, Tony Fernandes.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the dialogue centered on cooperation in mutual concerns span-

ning economic coercion, supply chain resilience and secure energy transition. The two countries also exchanged experience on strengthening information sharing and expanding existing collaboration, the ministry said.

The two sides believe that the dialogue yielded positive results. It follows the success of first and second such events held in 2020 and 2021 respectively, the MOFA said, adding that the government will continue deepening trade ties with the U.S. to further boost Taiwan-U.S. economic partnership.



Fall Intake 2023 International College, National Taiwan University

NTU is the most prestigious university in Taiwan and is among the top 100 universities in the world. Guided by independent thought and a pioneering spirit of enterprise, students at NTU become a part of the nation's most prosperous center of learning and receive a comprehensive and quality education. As NTU's newest College, the International College of NTU was founded in 2021 as a milestone in the globalization efforts of NTU and aims to build a higher education platform that combines the strengths and uniqueness of Taiwan with the most vital academic disciplines of NTU.

The International College offers full English and interdisciplinary master's programs in

Digital Agriculture, Biodiversity, Conservation, Medical AI, and Disaster Risk Management.

All the programs are designed for students seeking a professional degree with research-and application-based training.

Admission Requirements

Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university
English proficiency certificate at CEFR B2 or above

Application Guide

Submission Deadline: February 20, 2023

Submission Portal: NTU OIA System

Step-by-step Instruction: Admission Page of Each Program

Learn more about the Programs

Website: Global ATGS | MPB | Smart MHI | MDR3

Introductory Video: Global ATGS | MPB | Smart MHI

Review the Information Session Recording on Int'l College YouTube Channel

Sign up for an Online Info Session

We welcome you to join us in the next class. If you have questions regarding curriculum, admissions, or financial aid, don't hesitate to contact Ms. Tsai.

- Yi-Hua Tsai (Yvonne), Program Manager
Email: yvonnetsai0000@ntu.edu.tw
Tel: +886-2-3366-5712 ext.13

The 2023/24 Admission Application for the International Master's Program in Agricultural Economics of National Taiwan University (NTU) has begun.

National Taiwan University (NTU) is the prestigious flagship university of Taiwan, and the all English International Master's Program in Agricultural Economics is the only one department of agricultural economics in Taiwan.

Moreover, it is also the only program in NTU that offers TaiwanICDF scholarship offering the following waivers for 2 years:

1. 100% Tuition, Dorm, Insurance, Textbooks, ARC fees Weaver
2. A round flight ticket
3. Nearly 500 USD allowance per month
4. Free Mandarin Chinese Courses
5. Exclusive activities

If you wish to apply, please apply through the following online systems:

1. Apply through the Office of International Affairs (OIA) of National Taiwan University (NTU)

Application Date: ~ 20th Feb. 2023:

<https://admissions.ntu.edu.tw/apply/>

2. TaiwanICDF Scholarship Online Application System (~March 2023):

(1) Online application: <https://www.icdf.org.tw/wSite/np?ctNode=31561&mp=2>

(2) Send all the required documents to the Embassy or Representative Office in your country.

Other useful information for application:

1. Program Introduction Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wipM5Pk_ODI&t=248s

2. Program FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/impagoc>

3. Program webpage: <http://www.agec.ntu.edu.tw/en/course/course6>

4. Other scholarships: <https://admissions.ntu.edu.tw/apply/scholarships/>

For more information, please contact Mr. Alan Wu

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Email: agecimp@agec.ntu.edu.tw

Address: 10617 Department of Agricultural Economics, National Taiwan University, No. 1 Roosevelt Rd., Da'an District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Alan Wu Project Manager,

Dept. of Agricultural Economics, National Taiwan University

NTU CoM is having the Future Leadership Online Program in February 2023. The program aims to equip participants with essential skills for becoming future leaders; therefore it will cover organizational behavior, key digital trends, key trends in ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), and workplace communication. In the end, participants will have a final presentation to show the learning result.

With enrolled students that have colorful backgrounds, from high school students to Ph.D. students as well as school staff and commercial practitioners, we believe this

program will inspire their future careers!

Please help forward this information to the related authority. Thank you very much!

Program Details

- Date: February 6th, 2023 – February 18th, 2023

- Time: 8am - 12pm South Africa Time (GMT+2), 14pm - 18pm Taiwan Time (GMT+8)

- Form: synchronous online learning

- Eligible Attendees: African Students or African Staff

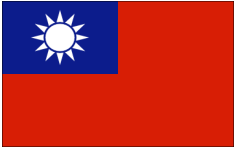
- Instructor: Prof. Leon van Jaarsveldt (South African, studies and works in Taiwan)

- Program Language: English

- Fees: Free!

- Website & Registration Form: NTU CoM 2023 Future Leadership Online Program; Registration Form

If you fulfill the program regulation, you can get a certificate of the 4-credit program. Whether the credit can be counted in your graduation credit, please check with your department or related authority yourself.



Tourism Bureau unveils recommended New Year's activities across Taiwan

Taiwan's Tourism Bureau Dec. 20 unveiled recommended activities set to be held at scenic areas and theme parks across Taiwan for people to greet the arrival of the new year.

Those in northern Taiwan can go to Yilan County's Waiao Beach to participate in a series of activities held by Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area Administration. These include observing the first sunrise of 2023 over Turtle Island, as well as hiking and cycling, the TB said.

The bureau recommends that people in central Taiwan attend New Year's Eve parties at Guguan and Lishan scenic areas. Visitors can also welcome the new year by joining a national flag raising ceremony at Lishan Guest House at an altitude of 2,000 meters, the TB added.

The Sun Moon Lake New Year's Eve party will start at 8:00 p.m. Dec. 31 and last until midnight, when eight minutes of fireworks will be set off at Shuishe and Ita Thao piers, the bureau said, adding that Lihpao Resort in Taichung City will release fireworks and wow tourists with a Ferris wheel lighting show.

People in southern Taiwan should not miss the Alishan Sunrise Impression Concert at Chushan Sunrise Watching Platform from 5:30-7:30 a.m. on New Year's Day, the TB said. Attendees can enjoy the melodious voices of an Indigenous singing group and orchestral music, it added.

The TB also suggested a concert at Alishan's 1314 Observation Deck, a drone show at Janfusun Fancyworld in



western Taiwan's Yunlin County or a 15-plus minute firework display at E-Da Theme Park in the southern city of Kaohsiung.

Another option is to travel to one of Taiwan's outlying islands to ring in the new year, which the bureau called a rare, treasurable experience. Tourists can attend the national flag raising ceremony at Lienchiang County's Dongyin Township and hike along the coasts of Matsu archipelago, it said.

Regardless of how people choose to celebrate, the TB advised revelers to wear masks and follow pandemic prevention measures.

Malaysian celebrity promotes Muslim-friendly tourism in Taiwan



Malaysian actress Ayda Jebat was invited to visit Taiwan for a promotional video to endorse Muslim-friendly tourism, spotlighting government policy to attract more travelers from the Southeast Asian country in the post-pandemic era, according to the Tourism Bureau Dec. 9.

During her trip to Taiwan Dec. 2-13, Jebat visited tourist attractions that included Taipei 101, Alishan National

Scenic Area, Hehuanshan National Forest Recreation Area, night markets and theme parks. She also worshipped at the Taipei Grand Mosque and dined at halal-certified restaurants.

Jebat said she was impressed by Taiwan's vibrant cultural and natural landscapes and added that she was moved to tears by the scenic beauty of central Taiwan's 3,416-meter-high mountain, Hehuanshan.

According to the TB, at 530,000 arrivals in 2019, Malaysian tourists were the most numerous visitors to Taiwan of any Southeast Asian country. A total of 60 percent of the population is Muslim, the bureau said, adding that this could potentially be a large demographic of tourists to Taiwan.

Taiwan ranked second in the 2022 Global Muslim Travel Index's non-Organization Islamic Cooperation destinations, the TB said. The index was published by Mastercard and Singapore-headquartered CrescentRating, the world's leading authority on halal-friendly travel.

The government is working hard to improve travel experiences for Muslim tourists, the TB said, adding that Taiwan boasts 336 restaurants, hotels, and public venues that have received halal certification.

The promotional video featuring Jebat "Salam Taiwan 2023" will be released at a press conference in Malaysia in January 2023, the TB added.