

**TASTE OF SOLOMONS UNIQUE ARTS & CRAFT:** President Tsai and Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare yesterday launched the opening of the country's craft market centre project. (Pictured) Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen is shown around the various local arts and craft items displayed in the national arts gallery.

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## Local

# Solomon Islands and Taiwan sign 3 new agreements

BY BEN BILUA

SOLOMON Islands and Taiwan have signed three new cooperation agreements this year 2017.

The first agreement was signed on April 28 – a Memorandum of Agreement between Taiwan Government Central Weather Bureau of the Ministry of Transport and Communication and Solomon Islands Government Meteorological Services of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management.

The MOU is aiming at building the Meteorological Weather forecasting and data collection capacity to enhance prediction of disaster events, and enhance preparedness and response capabilities for Provincial HQs, for the rural village level.

The second agreement was signed on June 9 known as the Air Services Agreement – between Solomon Islands Civil Aviation Authority and Taiwan Civil Aeronautics Administration.

The agreement paves a way forward for airlines from both countries to enter into code-sharing agreement allowing passengers access to frequent



Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare during the bilateral meeting this week.

flights between the two countries and also negotiate lesser cost.

The latest agreement known as Sister Relations Agreement between Solomon Islands Ports

Authority and Kaohsiung Port Terminal authority was signed and witnessed by Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare in September in Taipei.

Sogavare said all these assistances have benefited the peoples, the government and the country.

He said the government will

continue to work harder to bring about improvements in areas where full benefits with best delivery methodology and mechanism which guarantee

best outcome.

Sogavare said the Government intends and will continue to maintain projects with significant positive outcomes.



Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen waves to members of the public this week in Honiara. PM Sogavare said Taiwan is a true friend of Solomon Islands.

## Taiwan assistances create positive impacts: Sogavare

BY BEN BILUA

PRIME Minister Manasseh Sogavare has described Taiwan as a true friend of Solomon Islands over the last three decades.

Speaking during President Tsai Ing-wen's visit on Thursday, Sogavare said Taiwan government's development aid to Solomon Islands has continued to compliment government's budgetary shortfalls since 1978.

Prime Minister Sogavare said Solomon Islands-Taiwan partnership has been and continues to be guided by a series of Technical Cooperation Agreements including Memorandum of Agreements, and series of Diplomatic Notes signed between the two countries.

"Under these Agreements, Taiwan Government offered technical specialist personnel, donated appropriate technology, given significant cash grants, and also provide numerous capacity building training (including on-site deployment of expertise from health and agriculture) to compliment work undertaken by government ministries and agencies over the various periods different Agreements were implemented.

"Other Agreements provide separate frameworks for Taiwan Government assistance to improve certain government agencies service delivery capacity through inter-agency collaboration in the following areas: agricultural research and technologies to improve crop yield and quality, development of fisheries industries through investment promotion, combat international money laundering and

technical support towards meteorological system," he said.

Sogavare said these agreements have made positive impacts to general livelihood standards, improved local food security, Provision of more than 400 scholarships, support towards agriculture development and successful establishment and operation of the Taiwan Health Centre at the NRH.

He adds that the assistances have also enabled rural people to make small contributions towards the economy growth, helped advance democratic government, and improve health and education standards.

Sogavare said benefits have been seen across the different sectors, and their impact felt with varying intensity within communities and the government.

He said the diplomatic partnership between the two countries have grown from strength to strength, as both countries continue to support for many UN Declarations and Conventions on civil rights and freedom for democratic government.

Sogavare said Solomon Islands-Taiwan partnership will continue to protect basic human rights to shelter, food, and justice; promotion of gender equity, elimination of poverty, fight against corruption, both in the UN Forums and in international forums; as well as many multilateral meeting of countries that share commitment to safeguarding these universal rights, safeguards human dignity, promote right to survival and peaceful co-existence between peoples of the world.

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# RSIPF commends public for incident-free ROC President visit

THE Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) commends the general public in and around Honiara for the good behaviour and understanding shown during the three-day visit of the President of the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC) from November 1-3, 2017.

Supervising Deputy Commissioner of Police, Operation, Gwen Ratu says, "As the overall Commander of the Police Operation for the visit, I am pleased with the good behaviour shown by members of public in and around which resulted in an incident-free visit."

"I wish to also thank the public in Honiara for their patience during the delays in the traffic in the city while the ROC delegation was being escorted around to the various venues."

"The RSIPF Executive also thanks and congratulates its officers who were involved in the security operation during the visit for their commitment and professionalism which made the operation a success."

"Despite the long hours officers remained committed and served at their posts until the end of the operation today."

—POLICE MEDIA



Commissioner Varley with PM Sogavare and ROC-Taiwanese President during the visit



Supervising DCP Operation Gwen Ratu address officers involved in ROC President



RSIPF provided escort for ROC-Taiwanese President Visit.



Traffic officer observing busy traffic jam during ROC-Taiwanese President

# POLICE MOU SIGNED

## SI and Taiwan to collaborate against security threats under MOU

By CARLOS ARUAFU

SOLOMON Islands and Taiwan will be working together to counter national security threats and elevate the capacity of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on this new cooperation between the two allies was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade Milner Tozaka and his Taiwanese Counterpart Dr David Tawei Lee in Honiara on Thursday.

Dr Lee was part of the Taiwan President Dr Tsai Ing-wen's en-

tourage that visited Honiara over the past two days as part of a bilateral relations- strengthening exercise by Taipei.

The MOU signing ceremony coincided with the bilateral dialogue between Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and President Ing-wen at the Cabinet chamber in the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Whilst the mainstream media were invited to cover the bilateral discussions, they were told to leave the chamber when the time came for the signing of the MOU.

But a brief prepared for Prime Minister Sogavare for the visit

of President Ing-wen emailed to the media by the Prime Minister's Press Secretary Alex Akwai stated that Solomon Islands anticipates that the signing of the 'MOU on Police Cooperation' with Taiwan will provide 'counter measures' on security issues.

The brief added that the MOU is also anticipated to elevate the capacity of the RSIPF post-RAMSI.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sogavare during the bilateral dialogue conveyed Solomon Islands appreciation to Taiwan for its continued support towards Solomon Islands development aspirations.

He reaffirmed Solomon Islands support for Taiwan but at the same time expressed there is still room for greater cooperation.

"There is a need to enhance and engage other areas of interest that is still minimal (level of cooperation) especially trade.

Prime Minister Sogavare said with the Solomon Islands Government Trade Policy Framework, Solomon Islands hopes to incorporate Taiwan as a trade partner and learn from its transitional economic model from an agriculture-based society to manufacturing.

He said to encourage the condi-

tions and environment that boost trade and partnerships between the private sector, investments, people-to-people exchange and other areas of socio-economic development that Solomon Islands lacks the capacity and expertise.

The Prime Minister said so far, the trade statistic (for Solomon Islands) from 2016 remains at a low of 0.002 percent of Taiwan's annual trade worth.

President Ing-wen in her remarks reaffirmed Taiwan's unwavering commitment to provide assistance towards Solomon Islands development efforts.

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Manasseh Sogavare shed tears when he acknowledged the Prime Minister's role in the darkest moments of the country's history. The Prime Minister said the operation which by far has elevated to greater heights

# Teary PM thanks Taiwan

By SIMON ABANA

PRIME Minister Manasseh Sogavare shed tears when he acknowledged Taiwan as a 'dear friend' in his bilateral dialogue with the Taiwan President Dr Tsai Ing-wen.

Prime Minister Sogavare told Dr Ing-wen during their bilateral discussions at the Cabinet Chamber on Thursday that Taiwan is a dear friend that has provided assistance to Solomon Islands during its dark times.

"Your Excellency, your country has always been a dear friend for us.

"You have stood with us in our times of needs, including our darkest moments.

The Prime Minister said Solomon Islands is a good friend of Taiwan which continues to collaborate in development, peace and human rights.

He added that as a sovereign state, Solomon Islands will remain a strong supporter of the Taiwan bid for United Nations membership.

The Prime Minister also lauded the relationship between the two countries as 'elevating.'

"Madam President my government is very appre-

ciative of our current diplomatic and bilateral cooperation which by far has elevated to greater heights this year 2017.

"We are proud that our connection has bridged our governments, private sector and our people in both countries."

Prime Minister Sogavare commended the Memorandums of Understanding for cooperation between Solomon Islands and Taiwan in meteorology and ports as evidences of an elevated relationship.

President Ing-wen and her entourage returned to Taiwan yesterday.

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# Call for cooperation on

By RONALD TOITO'ONA

BOTH Taiwan and Solomon Islands will be affected considerably by challenges of global climate change issues, said the Taiwan President Dr Tsai Ing-wen.

She uttered this, when addressing the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, the speaker of Parliament and Members of Parliament at the National Parliament on Thursday.

President Ing-wen said global climate change is a serious matter and prompts a call for closer cooperation between Taiwan and Solomon Islands.

"We are now faced with the challenge of global climate change.

"Both Taiwan and Solomon Islands will be affected considerably. This calls for closer cooperation if we are to turn this challenge into an opportunity.

"We must do our utmost to raise the quality of life for people in the region, and work jointly to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals," she said.

She highlighted the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on meteorological cooperation that both countries have just signed as an example of close cooperation efforts.

"It will bolster technical cooperation in this domain, and help us monitor the trends of climate change.

"Furthermore, it will perhaps enable us to identify the correlation between climate and dengue fever, which would in turn advance our efforts in the prevention of this disease in Solomon Islands," President Ing-wen added.

President Ing-wen and her 131-member delegation left yesterday after a two-day visit in Honiara.



Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and President Tsai Ing-Wen shakes hands after ground breaking ceremony for an Art Crafts Market Centre to be funded by Taiwan.

## Taiwan's educational help boosted

By RONALD TOITO'ONA

TAIWAN'S educational assistance to Solomon Islands will continue and will be boosted with scholarship opportunities.

In her address to Parliament on Thursday, Taiwan President Dr Tsai Ing-wen said Taiwan will continue to offer more opportunities for local Solomon Islanders.

She said Taiwan will increase the number of its scholarships for its Pacific allies, including Solomon Islands as of 2018.

"For many years, Taiwan continued to offer a scholarship programme to promote tertiary education.

"Starting for next year, we will increase 18 vacancies for our six Pacific allies. All young men from Solomon Islands, whether they wish to study medicine or other (subjects)," President Ing-Wen said.

The other Taiwan Pacific allies include Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu and Palau.

The visiting Taiwanese president also informed parliament that Taiwan has also included Solomon

Islands National University (SINU) to its list of partners for another scholarship programme that it cosponsors with the Pacific Islands Forum.

"Taiwan will extend its continued support for the young people of your esteemed nation and other Pacific Island states in realising their potential through higher education.

"We look forward to the day when these aspirational young people contribute their professional expertise to the region's sustainable development," she added.



President Tsai Ing-Wen, Ambassador Roger Luo and Foreign Affairs and External Trade Minister Milner Tozaka.



# climate change



Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and President Tsai Ing-Wen looking at the arts.

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## IFC, SIG PARTNER TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism signed a memorandum of understanding in Gizo, Western Province on Wednesday.

The MoU aims for a broader tourism program in the country to boost tourist arrivals, generate tourism-related revenue, draw investments, and create jobs.

As part of this tourism program, the Tourism Investment Pre-Feasibility Study for Western Province will identify investment opportunities in the Solomon Islands' Western Province to help the government, donor community, and private sector develop the region as a tourism destination. The findings of the study will be released in early 2018.

"With close to 8,000 visitors recorded last year, Solomon Islands has the potential to significantly increase its holiday arrivals," said Neal Donahue, IFC's Head of SME and Value Chain Advisory. "Through our project, we will help the destination to maximize its natural, cultural, and historical assets to attract more visitors, subsequently, creating jobs and business opportunities for local communities."

The study will identify the province's future market potential and investment opportunities necessary to develop the destination. It will also provide partners with detailed information about the type, direction, sequencing, costs and ben-

efits of those investments.

"Western Province has been chosen as the preferred region for tourism development due its burgeoning tourism status for air and cruise ship tourists," Mr Bartholomew Parapolo, Minister for Culture and Tourism said. "This analysis will help us identify and attract the necessary public and private investment in order to realise its potential."

"Developing tourism in Solomon Islands will have a multi-pronged impact on local economies. It will create new markets thus attracting more investments, promoting job creation and generating revenue for the government," Tom Jacobs, IFC Country Manager, Pacific said.

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets.

Working with more than 2,000 businesses worldwide, IFC uses its capital, expertise and influence to create markets and opportunities in the toughest areas of the world.

In FY17, it delivered a record \$19.3 billion in long-term financing for developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to help end poverty and boost shared prosperity.

IFC's work in the Pacific is guided by the Pacific Partnership. Australia, New Zealand and IFC are working together through the Pacific Partnership to stimulate private sector investment and reduce poverty in the Pacific.

# Taiwan donates to NRH

By LESLEY SANGA

THE National Referral Hospital on Thursday received \$500,000 worth of equipment from the visiting delegation of the Taiwan President Dr Tsai Ing-wen.

The Taiwan Minister of Health and Welfare Shih-Chung Chen said the donated items include 15 new laptops, three electrocardiographs, one projector and 400 N95 masks.

Mr Chen said these will improve the training environment for the medical interns at the National Referral Hospital.

He said since the Palau Declaration was signed in Taiwan, the Taiwan Health Centre in Solomon Islands was established to implement medical and health collaborations between Solomon Islands and Taiwan in order to enhance the former's public health and enhance the capacity of local medical personnel.

"From 2009, the Taiwan Health Centre was run by Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital. The contents of collaboration include the sharing of our school children's parasite prevention and treatment experiences to help Solomon Islands achieve the (United Nations) Millennium Developmental Goal Four and Five which are reduce the maternal mortality ratio and infant mortality ratio respectively.

"The collaboration also promotes diabetes prevention and treatment, deploying of medical specialists from Taiwan to the National Referral Hospital to

provide specialist medical services and teaching and moreover, each year Taiwan arranges the mobile medical team to serve local residents who living in rural areas in Solomon Islands without medical officers.

"Our medical specialists worked with local doctors in 2012, 2013 to complete the first case of total knee and total hip arthroplasty, giving patient a second chance to walk again and to share their skills with their local counterparts.

"From 2015 to 2017, Taiwanese specialists worked with local doctors to save children with hydrocephalus giving the opportunity to live normally.

"In the case of emerging infectious diseases, 2013 dengue fever outbreak in Solomon Islands, Taiwan immediately sent a team of experts to assist and provide epidemic prevention materials and to establish the only one P2 level laboratory in the southern Pacific," he said.

"In order to ensure sustainable development of Solomon Islands in the medical domain, more than 30 Solomon Islands medical staff went to Taiwan for tailor-made professional training and in addition outstanding Solomon Islands students were awarded scholarships by Taiwan to study medicine to address the issue of insufficient physician manpower.

"Through these projects, Taiwan looks forward for Solomon Islands achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goal of achieving health for all," Mr Chen said.



Minister of Health and Medical Services Dr Kaitu'u Tautai Angikimua, National Referral CEO Dr Steve Aumanu and the Kaohsiung Medical University President Ching-Kuan Liu and others during the donation-presentation ceremony.

# THE TAIWAN PRESIDENT DR ING-WEN'S ADDRESS TO SOLOMONS PARLIAMENT

Honourable Ajilon Nasiu, Speaker of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands;

Honourable Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands;

Honourable Jeremiah Manele, Leader of the Opposition;

Honourable Dr Derek Sikua, Leader of the Independent Group;

Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament;

Ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

I would first like to thank the National Parliament of Solomon Islands for inviting me to this august institution of democracy, and giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and my country's 23 million people.

Since establishing diplomatic ties in 1983, Taiwan and Solomon Islands have shared 34 years of friendship. I have received many of our dear friends from Solomon Islands since taking office last year. Governor-General Sir Frank Kabui attended my inauguration. Prime Minister Sogavare visited Taiwan this September. Deputy Prime Minister Maelianga, as well as ministers and parliamentarians, have also visited Taiwan.

During our exchanges, we discussed our shared Austronesian culture, the goodwill visit by Taiwan's Navy Squadron in Solomon Islands, as well as cooperation on such issues as sustainable development, agricultural technology, and the medical environment.

And after each of these exchanges, our honorable guests always extend an invitation to me, saying that I must one day visit Solomon Islands. Finally, today I make it to here, to see with my own eyes and get a first-hand experience of your country.

I'd like to share with you a story of friendship between Taiwan and Solomon Islands. As you all know, the ancestors of Taiwan and Austronesian countries used boats to travel the expansive Pacific Ocean.

However, changes of rulers and changes in society caused many Taiwanese, either Han or indigenous people, to forget that they were once children of the sea.

In order to reclaim this cultural memory of the sea, a group comprising the Amis people, who have historically resided in the eastern part of Taiwan, together with scholars from National Taiwan University and local artisans, decided to rebuild these ancient sailboats, known as fayan, by drawing on the memories of the Amis people.

However, no one knew exactly how to build a fayan anymore. To overcome this hurdle, it was suggested that the group contact the people of Solomon Islands, who have preserved this expertise.

Through the efforts of

Legislator Kolas Yotaka, who is also with us today and our Council of Indigenous Peoples, sailboat experts from Taumako Island came to Taiwan to help the Amis people rebuild their fayan.

Ambassador Waleanisia was present at the ceremony on the day the fayan was launched. Together, Taiwan and Solomon Islands achieved something significant. This story demonstrates the spirit of working together for a better future, which is a major theme of this visit.

The experts from Taumako said it was like helping brothers solve a problem. And although more than five thousand kilometers separates Taiwan and Solomon Islands, the thought that we have brothers on the other side of the ocean greatly shortens that distance.

A few weeks ago, Vice President Chen Chien-jen met a delegation from the Pacific Islands Leadership Program. Among them was a young lady from Solomon Islands, Ms Cathy Hite.

Cathy told Vice President Chen that sometimes Pacific island states can't be seen on a world map. Yet the government of Taiwan has shown much concern for and devoted immense effort toward these nations. She was very touched by the importance that was accorded to them.

Cathy's remarks left a deep impression on us. And just as the experts from Taumako saw the Taiwanese people as brothers of the Solomon Islands, I want to tell you that we in Taiwan also consider your people to be members of our family. And the most significant thing about being a family is that you can support one another and forge ahead together.

As a member of the Pacific community, Taiwan is both willing and able to work alongside you all. We want to do our part so that we can advance together toward a better world.

We are now faced with the challenge of global climate change. Both Taiwan and Solomon Islands will be affected considerably. This calls for closer cooperation if we are to turn this challenge into an opportunity. We must do our utmost to raise the quality of life for people in the region, and work jointly to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

An example is the MOU on meteorological cooperation that our nations have just signed. It will bolster technical cooperation in this domain, and help us monitor the trends of climate change.

Furthermore, it will perhaps enable us to identify the correlation between climate and dengue fever, which would in turn advance our efforts in the prevention of this disease in Solomon Islands.

Also, for many years, Taiwan continued to offer a scholarship program to promote tertiary education. Starting for next year, we will increase 18 vacancies for our six Pacific allies. All young men from



Solomon Islands, whether they wish to study medicine or other profession, are all welcomed to apply.

We have also included Solomon Islands National University into our target partners for another Scholarship Program we cosponsor with the Pacific Islands Forum.

Taiwan will extend its continued support for the young people of your esteemed nation and other Pacific island states in realizing their potential through higher education. We look forward to the day when these aspirational young people contribute professional expertise to the region's sustainable development.

During my meeting

with Prime Minister Sogavare earlier, I said that the Taiwanese government will install solar lighting facilities on the campus of Solomon Islands National University. This will serve as an example for our nations' joint endeavors in the fight against climate change.

Through Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund, and the Official Development Assistance mechanism we are about to launch, we hope to provide your nation with assistance toward the development of green energy and related storage facilities. The goal is to build a more stable and sustainable electric power system.

In June this year, Tai-

wan's Legislative Yuan also formed the Solidarity Association of the Taiwan and Solomon Lawmakers. All of these efforts attest to the friendship between us. This friendship is founded upon our executive and legislative bodies, our governments, and our peoples. There can be no doubt that upon this solid foundation, our friendship will go from strength to strength, and grow even firmer as time goes by.

Through cooperation between our two peoples, we crafted the sailboat fayan. Now, my friends, let us use the same ideas and vision to build an even bigger boat of friendship, so that we can sail together to a wider world, and allow both Taiwan and Solomon

Islands to shine brightly upon the global map.

In closing, I want to once again express our appreciation to Solomon Islands for its long-term policy of speaking up for Taiwan in the international arena. The Taiwanese people are deeply grateful for the staunch support you've all shown us. And finally, please allow me to extend my best wishes to Speaker Nasiu and Prime Minister Sogavare, as well as the members of the Solomon Islands cabinet and parliament, and wish you all the very best of health and happiness.

Thank you!



Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and President Tsai Ing-Wen officially conducting the ground breaking at the National Art Gallery.



President Tsai Ing-Wen meets PS for Foreign Affairs and External Trade Peter Kenliorea Jr.



President Tsai Ing-Wen, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade Milner Tozaka on the Salute Dais.



President Tsai Ing-Wen shakes hands with Solomon Islands Ambassador to Taiwan.

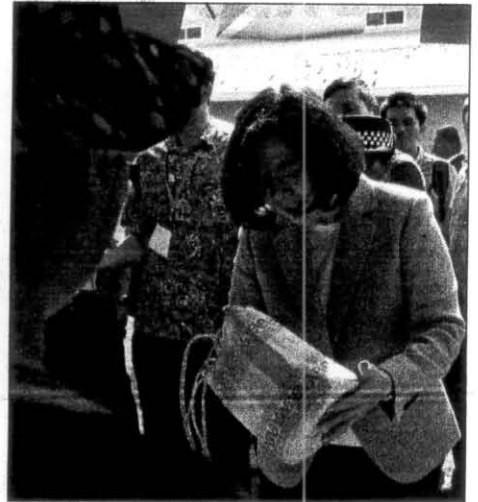


Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and President Tsai Ing-Wen looking at some of the paintings in the Art Gallery

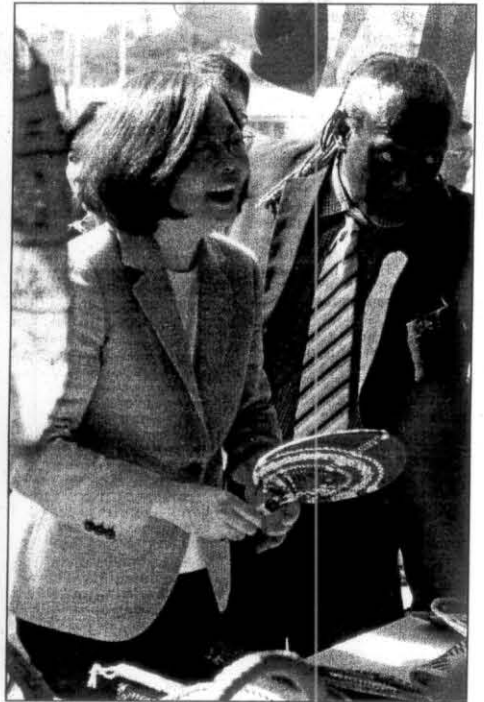
# Tsai Ing-Wen visit successful



President Tsai Ing-Wen upon arrival for departure.



President Tsai Ing-Wen looking at a woven basket.



Taiwan President Tsai Ing-Wen.



President Tsai Ing-Wen farewelled by Government Officials.



Artist Julie Fakaia showing President Tsai Ing-Wen some of the arts and crafts.



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# Solomon Star

SATURDAY



Taiwan President Dr Tsai Ing-wen waves goodbye to local enthusiasts of the Taiwan-Solomon Islands relationship as she boards her aircraft home. Her two-day visit in Honiara was part of efforts by Taipei to enhance its relationship with its Pacific allies. Photo by Carlos Aruafu.