

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

While February is the shortest month of the year, it has offered no shortage of notable events for Taiwan-UK relations.

The Taiwan-UK Smart City Forum which took place in Taipei last week was a heartening testament to the diversity and strength of our bilateral ties. As the first bilateral forum of its kind, it has given us a solid platform to develop our partnership in this area, and I understand local governments in the UK and Taiwan greatly valued the opportunity to exchange insights in this important field of technology.



Earlier in the month, I was pleased to sign a letter of allocation at the headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), through which Taiwan pledged a further contribution to the Bank's Green Economy Transition Project. As a steadfast partner of the Bank and its fourth largest donor, Taiwan is dedicated to fostering its transition to a greener and more sustainable market economy in its countries of operation, and I look forward to continuing our work on EBRD related projects throughout the months ahead.

I also chaired a fascinating discussion on the UK's partnership with Asia following its withdrawal from the EU. Our office was pleased to have Lord Faulkner of Worcester, the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan, and Mr Simon Long, the Finance and Economics Editor of The Economist shed their expertise on the matter as guest speakers. The event was the first of a series of lunch talks that the office aims to hold over the course of the year and I look forward to more invigorating discussions on a wide range of subjects.

Representative David Y. L. Lin

FIRST UK-TAIWAN SMART CITY FORUM LAUNCHED IN TAIPEI



The first ever UK-Taiwan Smart City Forum was launched in Taipei on 22 February, initiating an annual mechanism for smart city collaboration between the two countries.

Titled 'When Cities meet Cities', the event was sponsored by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and co-organised by the Taipei Representative Office in the UK (TRO) and the British Office Taipei. The UK delegation to the forum included representatives from 10 British companies, and council leaders from the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Peterborough, and Birmingham. Officials from Taiwan's major cities, including Taipei, Taoyuan, New Taipei, and Kaohsiung also attended.

The forum was opened by Mr Ching-Lung Chou, Deputy Director-General of the Department of European Affairs at the MOFA, and Mr Damion Potter, Deputy Representative & Director of International Trade at the British Office Taipei. Both Mr Chou and Mr Potter spoke of the great potential for UK-Taiwan collaboration in smart cities and applauded the significant stride forward brought about by the forum.

Featuring speeches and presentations from British and Taiwanese local government

figures, the forum also included a panel discussion on 'City vs Technology' hosted by Mr Lembit Öpik, a BBC presenter and former MP. Two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were also concluded at the event, with Taipei City signing the documents with Greenwich London Borough Council and Peterborough City Council.

The UK-Taiwan Smart City Forum accompanied Taiwan's world renowned Smart City Summit and Expo held from 21 – 24 February. The UK delegation to the UK-Taiwan Smart City Forum also attended the summit.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN SIGNS LETTER OF ALLOCATION FOR EBRD TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUND



On 9 February, Representative Lin signed a letter of allocation at the headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), pledging the contribution of EUR 500,000 from the TaiwanBusiness-EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund (TWTC) in support of the Bank's Green Economy Transition (GET) Project Preparation and

Implementation.

The contribution will help the EBRD's clients improve their energy and resource efficiency, climate change adaptation measures, and environmental protection. Also making contributions were Japan (EUR 500,000), Spain (EUR 35,000), and the EBRD Shareholder Special Fund (EUR 280,000).

At the signing ceremony, Representative Lin reiterated that as the fourth largest donor and a reliable partner of the EBRD, Taiwan is pleased with its partnership with the Bank and its efforts to foster the transition to a greener and more sustainable market economy in the countries of operations. Among those present at the ceremony were Josué Tanaka, Managing Director for Operational Strategy and Planning, and Yosuke Kawakami, EBRD Board Director for Japan.

According to the EBRD, the donation offers excellent leverage, since each €1 of TC typically generates €206 of EBRD climate investment. Taiwan's contribution is instrumental in scalping up GET finance and helping EBRD deliver its pledge to dedicating up to 40 percent of its total investments to green projects.

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**REPRESENTATIVE LIN AND ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH DEPUTY
CHIEF PRAISE TAIWAN-SCOTLAND SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION**



On 10 February, Representative Lin received Gordon Adam, Deputy Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and Alan Salonica, RSE International Relations Manager, in a meeting at the TRO.

The trio reviewed existing scientific collaboration programmes between Taiwan and Scotland, which consist of personnel exchange, bilateral workshops, and joint projects supported by Taiwan's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the RSE.

They also praised the recent achievements of both organisations, while Representative Lin briefed Mr Adam and Mr Salonica on the TRO's objectives for science and technology, the Taiwan government's 'Five plus Two' industrial development plan, smart cities, and green energy collaboration between Taiwan and the UK.

After the meeting, a further discussion was held between the TRO's Science Division and the RSE, where both sides tentatively agreed to hold a bilateral workshop in Taiwan in late 2017. The theme of the workshop will focus mainly on renewable energy, robotics, or big data.

TAIWAN MEDICAL SCIENTISTS BOOST COLLABORATION BETWEEN TAIPEI CITY HOSPITAL AND KING'S COLLEGE LONDON



From 9 – 10 February, a delegation of four Taiwanese medical scientists attended the Palliative Care Outcome Scale (POS) Workshop held at the Cicely Saunders Institute (CSI), King's College London, where they shared their experiences in the integrated POS translation in Taiwan.

The delegation which was led by Dr Li-Lin Kuo, Deputy-superintendent of Zhong-Xiao branch, Taipei City Hospital, and accompanied by staff from the TRO's Science Division, was welcomed by Professor Irene Higginson, Director of the CSI and her colleagues Dr Richard Harding, and Dr Ping Guo in a pre-workshop meeting.

They exchanged ideas on three main topics; the current status of POS, holistic healthcare from Taipei City Hospital, and experience of community-based palliative care in Taiwan. The delegation also discussed future research collaboration and how to further advance the actual effectiveness of the palliative care implementation in Taiwan.

Professor Higginson paid tribute to the development and the wide-ranging achievements of Taipei City Hospital and said she would continue supporting the palliative care training and research collaboration between Taiwan and the UK.

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TAIPEI EXCHANGE AND ZAGREB STOCK EXCHANGE SIGN MOU ON TAIWAN-CROATIA FINANCIAL COLLABORATION



On 15 February, Taipei Exchange (TPEX) and Zagreb Stock Exchange (ZSE) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Taipei City, fostering future financial collaboration between Taiwan and Croatia. The MOU was signed by Su Yu-ching, TPEX CEO, and Ivana Gazic, President of ZSE's management board, who was visiting Taiwan as part of a delegation organized by the TRO, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the EBRD.

This 8-day visit, from 11-18 February, took place under the EBRD's 'SME Growth Market

Project' co-funded by Taiwan. It aimed to share experiences and thoughts to promote the development of local capital markets and access to finance for SMEs. The 12 member delegation, which included Ales Ipavec, President of the Management Board of Slovenia's Ljubljana Stock Exchange, visited Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Financial Supervisory Commission, TPEX, KGI Securities Co., Taiwan Stock Exchange (TWSE) and Taiwan Depository and Clearing Corporation (TDCC).

Taiwan's cooperation with the EBRD dates back to the Bank's inception in 1991. As the fourth largest donor and a reliable partner of the Bank, Taiwan is committed to helping the Bank's transition mandate in its countries of operations. Taiwan donor support is especially directed towards information technology, the knowledge economy, business advice for SMEs, sustainable resource management, intelligent transport systems and women in business. Taiwan also shares technical expertise and developmental experience with the EBRD's countries of operation, with Taiwan experts being retained by the bank to engage in a wide range of projects

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TRO HOSTS LUNCH TALK ON THE UK'S PARTNERSHIP WITH ASIA AFTER BREXIT



On 24 February, the TRO hosted a lunch talk titled 'Asia and the UK: Forging a New Partnership after Brexit.' Representative Lin chaired the event, while Lord Faulkner of Worcester, the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan, and Simon Long, the Finance and Economics Editor of The Economist participated as guest speakers. Other attendees included diplomats from across the London diplomatic corps, a member of the House of Lords, British government officials, academics, and journalists.

Initiating the discussion, Representative Lin said the UK's vote to leave the EU was among the most significant political and economic events of recent times, and that Asian countries are closely watching how the UK reshapes its global partnerships. Addressing Asia's importance to the UK, he cited a recent speech by the UK's Minister for Asia and the Pacific, Alok Sharma, who said the UK intends to reinvigorate existing relationships with Asia, and reach out to new Asian partners after Brexit.

Lord Faulkner reiterated the magnitude of the Brexit vote, and stressed Britain's choice was 'not a decision to turn inward', but 'to become an even more global power with the freedom to negotiate trade agreements beyond Europe.' He stated the UK faces 2017 'with great confidence and continues to demonstrate its fundamental strengths', citing its strong economic performance in the aftermath of the Brexit vote.

The Labour parliamentarian also reflected on the major developments in UK-Taiwan ties since he became Trade Envoy to Taiwan in January 2016, including the Taiwan-UK renewable energy conference, the Taiwan-UK bilateral trade talks, and the Taiwan-UK Railway Forum. He said such examples demonstrate the importance of Taiwan to the UK, which is eager to expand its partnership with Taiwan to 'generate real and long term economic benefits for both markets' after it leaves the EU.

Simon Long took a more critical stance, stating 'the UK would become less important for Asia' while 'Asia becomes more important for Britain'. While conceding that Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are not a prerequisite to trade, Mr Long cast doubt on the UK's chances of striking meaningful FTAs with Asia's largest markets, particularly FTAs inclusive of services. Despite this, Mr Long said New Zealand is evidence that countries can 'survive and thrive' after a major shock to their trading patterns, referring to its loss of trade after the UK joined the European Economic Community.

Overall, Mr Long suggested the most significant change to the UK's post-Brexit partnership with Asia was likely to be a change of mindset on behalf of British exporters,

who will adopt 'a more global focus'. He concluded that Brexit's economic impact on Asia may be negligible, but that the UK is likely to be 'less attractive as a European base' to Asian companies, which coupled with increased uncertainty over trade arrangements with the EU, might have a negative impact on inward investment.

The discussion was followed by a Q&A session, in which attendees enthusiastically shared their views on Brexit and its implications for Asia.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN MEETS DR CHARLES TANNOCK FOR DISCUSSION ON THE SECURITY DIMENSIONS OF BREXIT



On 20 February, Representative Lin met with Dr Charles Tannock MEP at Europe House, where the pair discussed the impact of Brexit on the EU's internal security. The discussion took place during the launch Dr Tannock's research paper titled 'Brexit: The

Security Dimension’.

The Representative solicited Dr Tannock’s views on the UK’s future course of action on matters such as Europol, and the European Arrest Warrant, while also discussing the forthcoming withdrawal negotiations and Taiwan’s role in international security. Dr Tannock, a passionate advocate of pan-European security cooperation, is adamant that internal security should be ‘kept separate’ from the Brexit agenda, and that the UK should remain committed to working with Europol and the Schengen Information System.

Representative Lin also met with the Serbian and Slovakian ambassadors to the UK, the High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus to the UK, and scholars from the Centre for European Reform, who each voiced their opinions on the matter.

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**PLYMOUTH’S NATIONAL MARINE AQUARIUM CELEBRATES UK-TAIWAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS COLLABORATION**



On 27 January, 'Ocean Messengers', an environmental arts collaboration project between Taiwan and the UK, was launched at the National Marine Aquarium (NMA) in Plymouth.

The year-long Ocean Messengers project is designed to educate and encourage school students from Taiwan and the UK to actively protect their coastal marine environments. Its launch was led by Scott Mann, the MP for North Cornwall and a member of the British Taiwanese All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), who attended the NMA with local school children and community figures to announce the start of the project.

In collaboration with Cornish environmental artist, Sue Bamford, and Taiwan's National Museum of Marine Science Technology, the NMA will work with schools around the UK to crochet a giant model of the British coastal ecosystem for public exhibition. Sue Bamford will also visit Taiwan for three months to work with Taiwanese students who will crochet their own subtropical reef habitat. The artwork from British and Taiwanese students will then be exchanged, and exhibited in locations around the UK and Taiwan.

The project first developed from an art residency carried out by Sue Bamford in 2016, to celebrate the foundation of the first Marine Protection Areas in Taiwan, which will operate in a similar way to those in the UK. The collaboration will begin in February with a three month residency in Taiwan, before the focus moves to the NMA in Plymouth, with a series

of events across British schools.

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Taiwan in the news:

- [Taipei Book Exhibition draws 580,000 visitors](#)
- [Lantern display in Beigang to be extended until 19 April](#)
- [Taoyuan Airport MRT opens for operations](#)
- [Hong Kong people emigrating to Taiwan hits 16-year high](#)
- [Taiwan's exports to ASEAN up 11.3% in January](#)



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