

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

Soon after my arrival in London, I was pleasantly surprised to learn the city was also home to a number of Taiwanese musicians and thought this provided an excellent opportunity for an event that would give their talents another platform. So on 21 March, I was delighted to host our office's 'Spring Concert & Reception', which saw five promising Taiwanese musicians come together to perform a range of musical genres, from classical to Taiwanese folk. As the first event of its kind for our office, it was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm amongst the audience, especially for a popular Taiwanese folk song which provided a touching end

to a very successful evening.

Recent weeks have seen several delegations from Taiwan visit the UK, including two groups of scientists, and staff from a number of Taiwan's non-governmental organisations, all of which help to diversify the extensive interactions between our countries. We have also received positive news that Taiwan's China Airlines plans to re-introduce direct flights between London and Taipei, which will no doubt bring further benefits for both countries.

In other news, I was pleased to lead a delegation to the Liberal Democrats' Spring Conference, which proved a good chance to refresh links with our office's friends in the party. In the culinary field, our office had the pleasure to host the award-winning Taiwanese marmalade maker An-Ting Chang, who recently won five medals at the UK-based World's Original Marmalade Awards. On the back of his success, I hope that we might soon see his delicious marmalade being sold here in the UK!

TAIWANESE MUSICIANS PERFORM AT TRO'S 'SPRING CONCERT & RECEPTION'



On 21 March, the Taipei Representative Office in the UK (TRO) held its Spring Concert & Reception at the Travellers Club, London. Attended by diplomats, government officials, academics, and members of London's Taiwanese community, the event featured a range of performances from five Taiwanese musicians, including pianists, Alicia Juan and Lysianne Chen, violinists Hui-Ti Wang and Ting-Ru Lai, and cellist, Melody Lin.

Pianists Alicia Juan and Lysianne Chen began the evening with a four-hand duet, playing Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. They were followed by Hui-Ti Wang who played Paganini's Caprice No.24 for solo violin, and then Lysianne Chen who gave her second performance, playing a piano solo of Liszt's Paraphrase De Concert Sur Enani II. Lysianne Chen then joined Hui-Ti Wang, Ting-Ru Lai, and Melody Lin in a piano quartet of Gabriel Fauré's No.1 Op.15 in C minor. The quartet finished the evening performing a

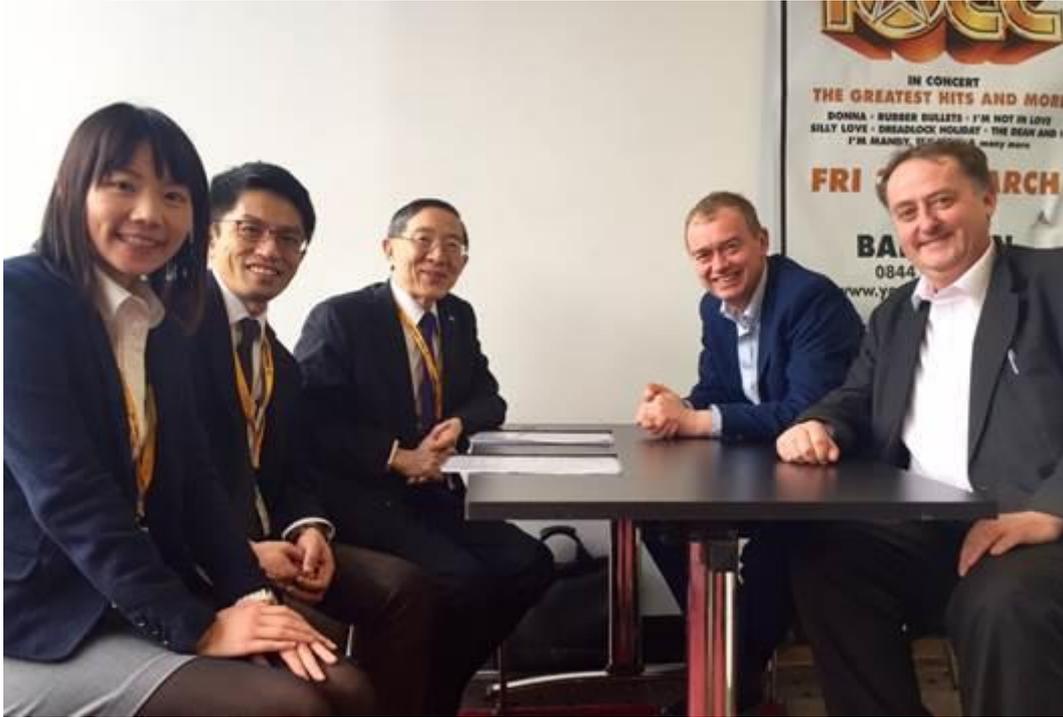
popular Taiwanese folk song, treating the audience to an encore.

During the introduction, Representative Lin praised the musicians and said their performances would allow the TRO's friends to experience Taiwan's musical talents. He also said that by hosting the concert, the office hopes to raise the profile of Taiwan's musicians within the local community and help build a platform on which they can showcase their talents to the United Kingdom.

Alicia Juan is now studying with the English concert pianist, Professor Gordon Fergus-Thompson, and is an alumnus of London's Royal College of Music. Lysianne Chen has performed internationally as a soloist and chamber musician and holds a master's degree in Piano Performance from London's Royal Academy of Music. Hui-Ti (Eric) Wang is serving as the Concertmaster of the Commonwealth Orchestra and is also the leader of the London Chamber Players. Ting-Ru Lai graduated from New England Conservatory and is now studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Kuan-Yin (Melody) Lin studied at London's Royal College of Music and has performed at major concert halls including the Boston Symphony Hall, and the Carnegie Hall.

[▲ Top](#)

**TRO DELEGATION INVITED TO LIBERAL DEMOCRAT SPRING
CONFERENCE**



On 17 March, a delegation from the Taipei Representative Office in the UK attended the Liberal Democrats' Spring Conference, upon invitation from the British political party.

The delegation, which was led by Representative Lin, met with a number of senior figures in the party. These included party leader, Tim Farron, as well as Nick Clegg, Baroness Brinton, Baroness Kramer, Baroness Jolly, Baroness Sheehan, Baroness Ludford, and Tom Brake.

Representative Lin said Taiwan's current ruling party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), is internationally affiliated with the Liberal Democrats and encouraged the growth of exchange between the two parties. The Representative also thanked the Liberal Democrats for their support of Taiwan and its participation in international organisations while the party was in coalition with the Conservative Party from 2010-15.

Representative Lin stated that the TRO has longstanding links with the Liberal Democrats, citing Lord Steel's longstanding tenure as the Co-Chair of the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group. The Representative also referenced Taiwan's links with politicians such as Baroness Kramer, who visited Taiwan in 2015 to participate in the Taiwan-UK Railway Industry Forum.

REPRESENTATIVE LIN HOSTS DINNER FOR FRIENDS OF TAIWAN



On 15 March, Representative and Madam Lin hosted a dinner for friends of Taiwan at their London residence. Invited to the event were Mr Bob Stewart, MP for Beckenham, and Vice-Chair of the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group, Mrs Stewart, Mr Andrew Stephenson, MP for Pendle, Mr Derek Marsh, a former Director of the British Office Taipei, and staff members from the TRO.

At the dinner, Representative Lin discussed a range of subjects, including UK-Taiwan bilateral ties, civil liberties in mainland China, Cross-Strait exchanges, and democracy in Taiwan. On UK-Taiwan ties, Representative Lin spoke of recent cooperation in areas such as railways, renewable energy, and smart cities, and hailed the achievements brought about by bilateral forums in these fields.

TAIWAN NGO DELEGATION VISITS LONDON



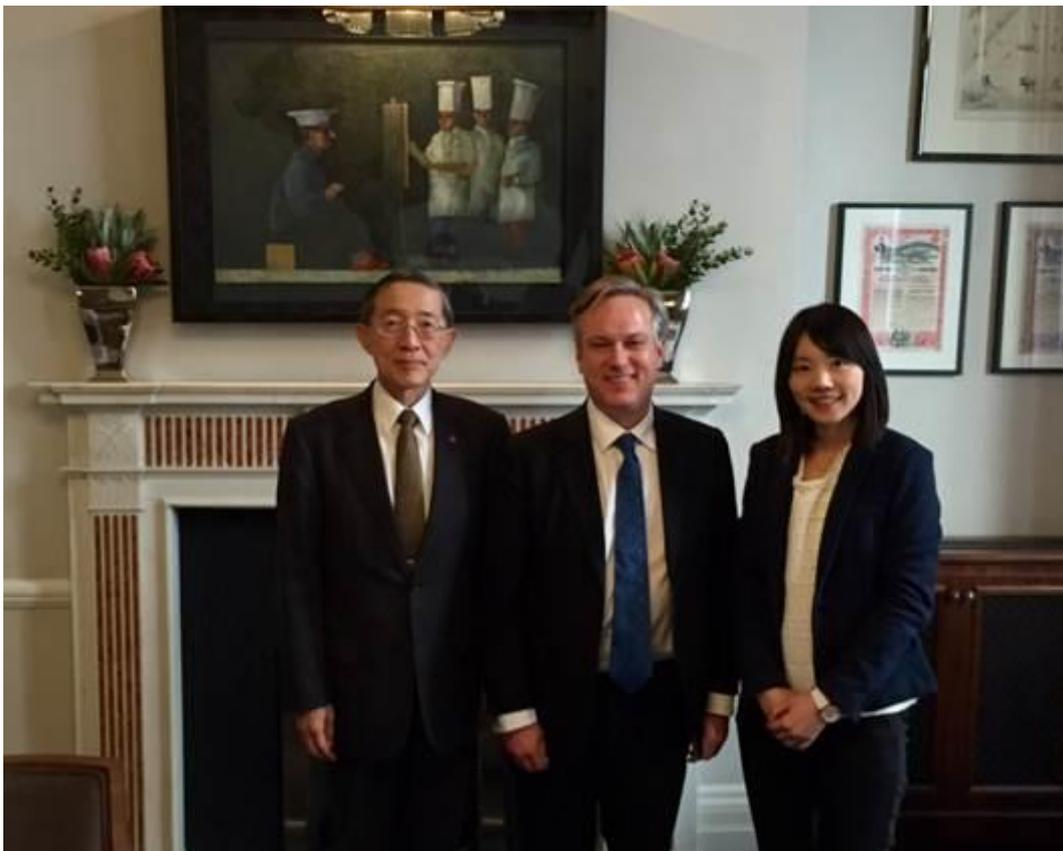
Staff from Taiwanese non-governmental organisations (NGOs) visited London from 19-22 March, in a delegation organised by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

As part of the visit, the delegation was present at an exhibition on NGOs, held at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre on March 20. The delegation established a stand at the event to showcase a range of Taiwan's NGO projects, as well Taiwan's contribution to humanitarian aid, international development, and the empowerment of women. The stand attracted much attention from exhibition attendees and was visited by Tamsyn Barton, Chief Executive of Bond, the UK membership body for organisations working in international development.

Aside from the exhibition, the delegation met with Alan Rousso, Managing Director for External Relations and Partnerships of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), David Holmes, Chief Executive of Family Action, and Mary Mason, Chief Executive of Solace Women's Aid. In the meetings, delegation members exchanged ideas on matters such as gender equality, international development, economic inclusion, and providing assistance for families in need and victims of domestic abuse.

[▲ Top](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LIN DISCUSSES UK-TAIWAN LINKS WITH HENRY SMITH MP



On 20 March Representative Lin met with Henry Smith, the MP for Crawley.

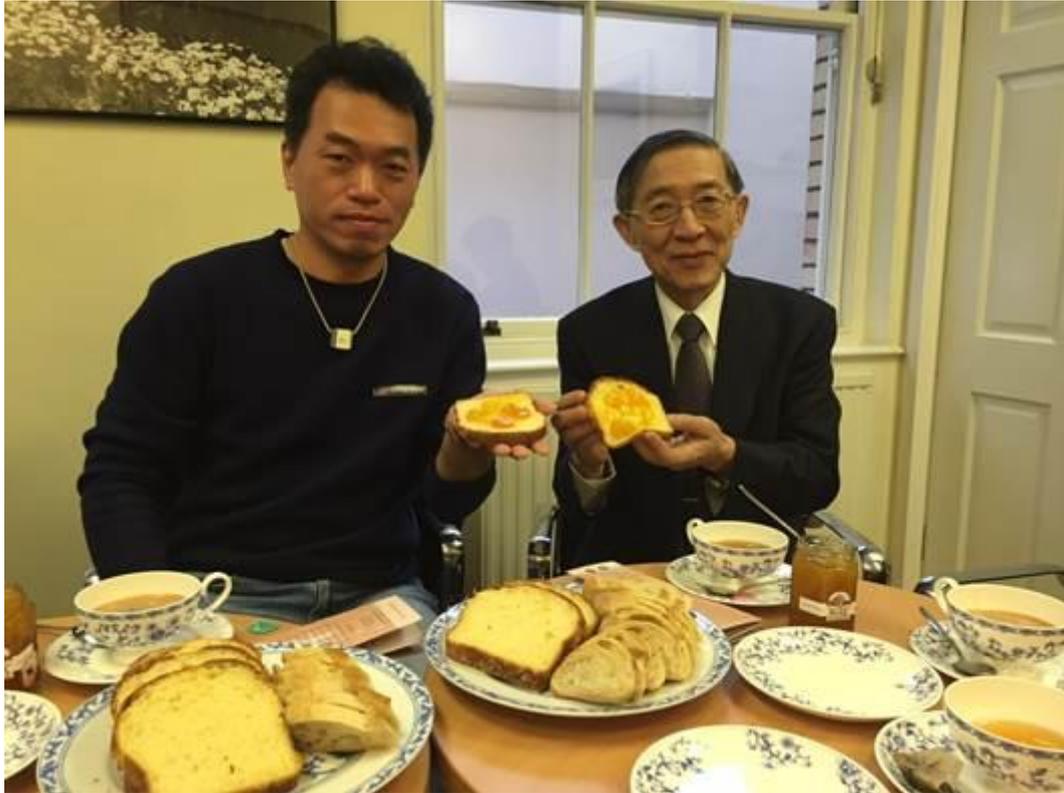
The meeting followed news that Taiwan's China Airlines is planning to resume direct flights between Taipei and Gatwick Airport, which is in Mr Smith's Crawley constituency. The Representative discussed the development with Mr Smith and said he welcomed the news that should strengthen Taiwan's links with the UK in tourism, business, and higher education.

Mr Smith shared Representative Lin's view and said he was pleased to hear direct flights between the two capitals were likely to return. The Crawley MP said he was happy to assist with the endeavour to secure direct flights, including facilitating contact between China Airlines and Gatwick Airport.

The meeting also followed a recent China Airlines delegation to the United Kingdom, in which airline officials visited to survey Gatwick Airport prior to making a decision regarding direct flights. News of the pending decision is expected to be announced in the coming months.

[▲ Top](#)

TRO WELCOMES AWARD-WINNING TAIWANESE MARMALADE MAKER



Mr Chia-Wei Ho, an award-winning Taiwanese marmalade maker, visited the TRO on 20 March where he shared his story and talked about his recent success in the 2017 *World's Original Marmalade Awards*, an award ceremony and festival which was sponsored by Fortnum & Mason.

Mr Ho said he was honoured to win five medals at this year's award ceremony, held in Penrith, UK. His awards included two golds, one silver, and two bronze medals, making him the first Taiwanese participant to win an award at the competition in which more than 20 countries competed.

TRO staff sampled a selection of Mr Ho's handmade marmalades and heard his story about establishing and expanding his company '*Bonjour! Bonheur*', as well as his methods for making marmalade. Mr Ho said he feels the handmade status of his marmalade is crucial and explained that making the preserve is arduous work, with the ingredients often taking days to prepare.

JAPANESE DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS TAIWAN



Central News Agency

On 25 March, Japan's Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, Jiro Akama, made a one-day visit to Taiwan to promote tourism links between Taiwan and Japan. Mr Akama is the most senior Japanese government official to formally visit Taiwan since 1972.

Mr Akama chaired the opening of a two-day Japanese tourism fair at Taipei's Huashan 1914 Creative Park. The fair, titled 'Colourful Japan' was organised by the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, which functions as the de facto political representation of Japan in the country.

In his address at the event, Mr Akama said the aim of Colourful Japan was to showcase different regional cultures across Japan and to promote Japan as a tourist destination to the people of Taiwan. The Deputy Minister stated that Taiwan and Japan are important partners, and expressed gratitude for Taiwan's assistance to Japan in the wake of the devastating earthquakes of 2011 and 2016.

During the fair, Mr Akama also shared a podium with Chiou I-jen, the chairman of the Association of East Asian Relations, which handles ties with Japan. Chiou has held senior positions in the ruling Democratic Progressive Party and in government for more than 20 years.

[▲ Top](#)

TAIWANESE BIOSCIENCE & INNOVATION RESEARCH TEAMS VISIT UK



Two teams of bioscience and innovation policy experts visited the UK in mid-March.

The first team, from the Industrial Technology Research Institute's Industrial Economics and Knowledge Center (IEK) visited London on 14-15 March. Led by Senior Researcher, Dr Chih-Chiang Cheng, the team met with officials from the UK Government's Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. Held at the Taipei Representative Office in the UK, the meeting enabled both countries to share information and thoughts on the research and innovation landscape, industrial strategies, R&D policies, and organisational reform. The visit was supported by Taiwan's Ministry of

Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Science & Technology (MOST).

The second team, which consisted of five scientists from universities across Taiwan, visited the UK from 13-18 March. Led by Professor Kuo-Feng Hua of the National Ilan University and Professor Shih-Hsiung Wu, Distinguished Research Fellow of Academia Sinica's Institute of Biological Chemistry, the team visited the Department of Biological Chemistry at the John Innes Centre, Norwich. The team met with Professor Robert Field and exchanged views on his work as the UK's principal investigator of a bilateral collaboration project with Taiwanese scientists, funded by MOST and the UK Biotechnology and Biological Research Council. The team also visited the TRO's Science Division on 16 March, where they discussed Taiwan-UK research collaboration on topics such as antibiotic resistance, vaccine development, and biofuels.

[▲ Top](#)

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM ACADEMICS HOLD TAIWAN STUDIES TALKS



Dr Lee Chun-Yi, a lecturer at the school of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) at the University of Nottingham, and Dr Don S. Lee, a research fellow at the University of Nottingham's Taiwan Studies Programme recently gave talks on cross-Strait IT cooperation and political leadership in East Asian nations at SOAS and the University of Nottingham respectively.

The first of the two talks, titled 'Competition and Innovation: How Taiwan and China Struggle to Seek Competitive Advantages within the Cross-Strait IT Industry Cooperation', was held at SOAS on 15 March. Delivered by Dr Lee Chun-Yi, the talk was based on an academic paper written by Dr Lee and researcher Ms Charlotte Martins. It discussed the ways in which Taiwan and mainland China seek competitive advantages within the Cross-Strait IT industry cooperation. In their paper, Dr Lee and Ms Martins introduce a conceptual framework examining how innovation and investment enhance or hinder the supply chain capacity and the position of Taiwan and China within the Cross-Strait relationship.

The second talk, titled 'Political Leadership and Personnel Management in Democracies and Autocracies in East Asia', was held at the University of Nottingham on 22 March and delivered by Dr Don S. Lee. Dr Don Lee argued that the models created through democratisation have caused East Asian governments to embrace democratic values by becoming directly accountable to their citizens. He introduced the audience to his collaborative project, which examines the impact of a politician's public profile for promotion in democracies and autocracies in East Asia. Dr Don Lee theorises that public profile will have different effects across regime types, be them democracies or autocracies.

The Taiwan Studies programme at the University of Nottingham and SOAS are both funded by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[▲ Top](#)

TAIWANESE DIRECTOR LEADS PERFORMANCE OF 'THE TENANT'



Taiwanese theatre director and internationally acclaimed pianist, An-Ting Chang, is directing the music and theatre team, *Concert Theatre*, in a performance of *The Tenant*, based on Anne Brontë's 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall'. The performance will be staged at theatres in locations across the UK, giving British audiences a chance to become acquainted with Chang's unique style.

Described as 'strikingly innovative' by Michael White of *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Tenant* will see a live pianist and two actors tell the story through music and speech in a hybrid concert-theatre form, creating a new way of experiencing classical music and theatre. In a modern gallery setting, the performance will offer new perspectives on Brontë's radical feminist text through three composer's works; Scriabin's 24 Preludes, Mozart's Violin Sonata No. 26, and Brahms' Rhapsody.

After graduating from National Taiwan University in Chemistry and Theatre, An-Ting Chang went on to obtain a Masters in Performance (piano) and is finishing her PhD at the Royal Academy. She is a regular concert performer in the UK, Europe, and Taiwan and regularly features on BBC Radio 3's In Tune. Her directorial credits include *Kiss of the Earth* (UK tour) and *The Depraved Appetite of Tarrere the Freak*. Music directing includes Bristol Puppet Festival and Suspense Festival.

On their tour, *Concert Theatre* will perform at King's Weston House, Bristol (26/27 April), National Portrait Gallery, London (28 April), Drill Hall, Chepstow (30 April), the Bury St Edmunds Festival (23 May), Sarum College, Salisbury (24 May), Holburne Museum, Bath (25 May).

Taiwan in the news:

- [Tom Cruise to visit Taiwan to promote 'The Mummy'](#)
- [How to cycle around Taiwan in 12 days](#)
- [Taipei mayor speaks of trade potential with India](#)
- [Global international studies conference kicks off in Taipei](#)
- [Taiwan-developed 'smart helmet' showcased in Silicon Valley](#)



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