

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

Recent weeks have provided a good opportunity to develop UK-Taiwan cooperation in a variety of fields. Indeed, I have made visits to the University of Birmingham, Pentland Group, and the Lord Mayor of London's residence at Mansion House, where I promoted ties in financial services, trade and investment, smart cities, and big data.

My meeting with the Lord Mayor of London at the end of February was particularly encouraging. Taiwan has long enjoyed good relations with the office of the Lord Mayor, and I am pleased that we will continue to build on Taiwan's strong links with

the City of London, especially in the fields of offshore RMB business, FinTech, and green finance.

I also valued the opportunity to attend a discussion on 'Delivering the Digital Economy' held by the Smart Cities All-Party Parliamentary Group. Our office has made the promotion of smart cities a priority for 2017, having gone to lengths to work with regions across the UK. It has certainly been heartening to see a good deal of enthusiasm amongst MPs and local governments for developing stronger links with Taiwan in this field.

In education, the attendance of so many British universities to the annual European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS) has also given us good cause for optimism. I was similarly pleased to receive a plaque from the visiting Somaliland Foreign Minister in recognition of Taiwan's donation of 50 computers to Somaliland universities last November.

As we move further into the year, I have high hopes that our progress will continue to gain momentum, and I look forward to keeping you updated on such developments as they emerge.

Representative David Y. L. Lin

TRO DELEGATION PROMOTES COLLABORATION WITH THE CITY OF

LONDON



On 27 February, Representative Lin met with the Lord Mayor of London, Dr Andrew Parmley, to promote UK-Taiwan cooperation in financial services and trade and investment. Accompanied by a delegation from the Taipei Representative Office in the UK (TRO), the Representative highlighted the opportunities for collaboration in offshore RMB business, green finance, and FinTech (financial technology).

Referencing Taiwan's large RMB currency reserves and London's status as a global clearing centre for RMB, Representative Lin stressed the necessary foundations for heightened cooperation are already in place, a sentiment echoed by the Lord Mayor. On green finance, Representative Lin spoke of Taiwan's devotion to developing new initiatives in the field, suggesting Taiwan and the UK can work together to provide green companies with increased funding, and their investors with more business opportunities.

The Lord Mayor of London welcomed news that Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) and the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) are due to sign an agreement on FinTech, and expressed his willingness to explore more opportunities for exchange with Taiwan in FinTech and green finance. He said the UK is leading global innovation in both areas, and that greater cooperation with Taiwan is excellent news for their future development.

Trade and investment opportunities were also discussed, with Representative Lin stating that a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) or Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would significantly enhance Taiwan-UK economic ties. As a first step in initiating future trade negotiations, the Representative said Taiwan would like to propose a joint feasibility study on an BIA/FTA and called on the message to be conveyed throughout the City of London's business community.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN ATTENDS APPG EVENT ON SMART CITIES

On 21 February, Representative Lin attended a meeting held by the Smart Cities All-Party Parliamentary Group, titled 'Delivering the Digital Economy'.

Held the day before the launch of the first ever UK-Taiwan Smart City Forum in Taipei, the Representative said the event provided a good opportunity to underscore the potential for greater Taiwan-UK cooperation in smart cities.

Matt Hancock MP, the Minister of State for Digital Culture, delivered a speech at the event, in which he made reference to Taiwan's leading position in the field of smart cities in the context of the British government's ambitions for the UK's digital economy.

Representative Lin discussed Taiwan's latest digital developments with Mr Hancock and reiterated Taiwan's aim to use the UK-Taiwan Smart City Forum as a platform from which to further existing cooperation. The Representative stated the forum was a significant stride forward for UK-Taiwan bilateral relations which will bring about more encouraging developments.

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TRO HOLDS COMPUTER DONATION CEREMONY FOR SOMALILAND



On 23 February, Representative Lin hosted a ceremony marking Taiwan's donation of 50 computers to the Republic of Somaliland last November.

Held at the TRO, attendees included Somaliland Foreign Minister, Dr Saad Ali Shire, the Somaliland Representative to the UK, Ayan Mahamoud Ashour, Virendra Sharma MP, a member of the UK parliament's International Development Committee, and Mr Abdullah Gulaid, a councillor from the London Borough of Ealing.

In his remarks, Representative Lin lauded Taiwan and Somaliland's shared values of freedom and democracy, acknowledging the value both sides place on education, and affirming Taiwan's willingness to continue working with Somaliland to develop the partnership between the two sides.

Dr Saad Ali Shire also delivered remarks, in which he thanked Taiwan for its gesture of goodwill. He said that education is key to both international development and good government, stressing that Taiwan and Somaliland will continue to build on the strong friendship that is exemplified by the donation.

At present, a number of cooperative projects exist between the two sides, with Taiwan providing scholarships for Somali students wishing to study in Taiwan and operating a medical training programme to train doctors and nurses. Taiwan also assists Somaliland in its anti-piracy efforts, providing funding for its radar systems.

TRO DELEGATION INVITED TO BIG DATA WORKSHOP AT UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



On 28 February, Representative Lin and a delegation of TRO officials attended the University of Birmingham's 'Policy Lab'; a workshop that brought together academics, practitioners, and policy makers to discuss how big data can improve civic life in Birmingham.

The Representative was invited by Tony Kennedy, Assistant Leader of Birmingham City Council. Mr Kennedy had been part of the UK delegation to Taiwan's Smart City Expo earlier in February and believed Taiwan had much to contribute to the discussion, particularly in the field of smart cities.

During the workshop, Representative Lin talked about Taiwan's experience in utilising big data in the context of smart cities and called for greater cooperation between Taiwan and regions across the United Kingdom in this field. He also encouraged participants to attend the upcoming World Congress on Information Technology which will be held in Taiwan in September 2017.

After the workshop, Mr Kennedy provided the delegation with a tour of Birmingham City Council, in which they met with the Lord Mayor of Birmingham at the city hall to exchange views on future cooperation.

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14TH ANNUAL EATS CONFERENCE HELD IN VENICE



The 14th annual conference of the European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS), titled 'Translating Taiwan: 1947-1987-2017' was held in Venice, Italy from 2-4 March 2017.

EATS was founded in 2004 by the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies, funded by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). This year's conference featured academics from institutions across the world, including 11 British universities, demonstrating the rapid growth of the association.

Focusing on what scholars term 'translation dynamics', the conference in Venice broke two records in terms of the number of participants, and the number of abstracts submitted. Using a broad definition of translation to examine 'transformations and adaptations' in Taiwan, the conference invited papers that addressed the theme of Translating Taiwan from all disciplines, including Taiwan's social, political, and cultural landscape.

This year's conference was considered to be of special significance since it marked the 30th anniversary of the end of martial law and the 70th anniversary of the 'February 28 Incident'.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN VISITS PENTLAND GROUP



At the invitation of Mike Freer, the MP for Finchley and Golders Green, Representative Lin visited Pentland Group, a British global brand management company with important links to Taiwanese factories and distributors.

On arriving at the company's headquarters in Finchley on 2 March, Representative Lin was introduced to Andy Long, the CEO of Pentland Brands. Mr Long provided the Representative with a tour of Pentland's headquarters, giving an overview of the company's history and its links with Taiwan.

With extensive global operations, Pentland Group works with Taiwanese distributors, guarantors, and licensees for a number of its brands, including Berghaus, Lacoste, and Speedo. While Pentland no longer operates factories in Taiwan, Taiwanese companies also own a number of its production centres across mainland China, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

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Taipei Representative Office in the UK
50 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0EB
020-7881 2650

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