

## TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處



President Tsai Ing-wen rejects China's "one country, two systems" for Taiwan.

### IN THE NEWSLETTER

Key events featured in this issue include President Tsai's New Year's talk and speech rejecting China's "one country, two systems" for Taiwan, *The Times'* leader urging the West to resist China's pressure on Taiwan, UK parliamentarians' joint statement supporting Taiwan, 44 academics and former officials' letter supporting Taiwan, Taiwan's 2019 Smart City Summit & Expo, Taiwan EPA Minister's visit to the UK, Taiwan and UK signing a cooperation pact on railway and the TRO's hosting a Convention to promote bilateral cooperation in science and technology.

### President Tsai delivers New Year's talk for 2019



On 1 January, President Tsai Ing-wen delivered a New Year's address laying out the government's achievements in 2018, goals for 2019, challenges in the international environment and "four musts" for cross-strait relations. The President began by highlighting how the government's policies in 2018 have laid a good foundation for 2019, citing the increase in the minimum wage to NT\$23,100 and hourly rate for part-time workers to NT\$150. She also announced four major tax deductions will take effect in May 2019, as well as exemption from personal income tax for those with a monthly salary lower than NT\$30,000. President Tsai stated that in addition to increasing wages and cutting taxes, the government will also take greater steps to alleviate the public's financial burdens by making low-income citizens a priority.

The President emphasised the challenges Taiwan faces in the current international situation, including the impact of the US-China trade war on the country's overall economy, industrial development and financial stability. President Tsai stated "as a national leader, my responsibility is to find space for Taiwan to survive and develop in a highly uncertain international environment," adding that in 2019 this responsibility will be even greater. She highlighted how the government has prepared over the past two years by spurring Taiwan's industrial transformation under the "5 + 2 industrial innovation" programme, expanding domestic demand by supporting public infrastructure in the "forward-looking infrastructure development" programme and diversifying the country's global footprint through the New Southbound Policy.

Unveiling the government's "four musts" for cross-strait relations, President Tsai called on China to face the reality of the existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan), respect the commitment of Taiwan's 23 million citizens to freedom and democracy, handle cross-strait differences peacefully and on the basis of equality as well as engage in negotiations with the government or government-authorised agencies. The President made clear that before the two sides can establish a sustainable relationship, all threats and risks to Taiwan's national security must be faced. She added that China's attempts to take advantage of Taiwan's democratic system to interfere in its internal politics and social development have now become the country's greatest challenge. President Tsai concluded "this is a new

year, a year to fight for our livelihoods, a year to protect our democracy, and a year to safeguard our sovereignty.”

## President Tsai rejects Xi’s call to impose “one country, two systems” on Taiwan

On 2 January, President Tsai Ing-wen affirmed Taiwan will not accept “one country, two systems” in a speech responding to Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s message to impose this scenario on Taiwan. President Tsai stated that Taiwan has never accepted Beijing authorities’ definition of the so-called “1992 Consensus” as “One China” and “one country, two systems”. She stressed that Taiwan will not accept this and public opposition to it forms a “Taiwan Consensus”. President Tsai then reiterated the “four musts” for cross-strait relations: China must face the reality of the existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan), respect the commitment of Taiwan’s 23 million people to freedom and democracy, handle cross-strait differences peacefully and on the basis of equality and conduct negotiations with the government or through government-authorized agencies. The President concluded by stressing that democratic values are the values and way of life that Taiwanese cherish, and called upon China to bravely move towards democracy.

On 5 January, the President attended a reception for the international press corps to address remarks by China’s president pushing for the adoption of “one country, two systems” in Taiwan. She then reiterated her approach and Taiwan’s unwavering position, and once again called on China to move towards democracy and see Taiwan from a democratic perspective.

## The Times urges West to resist China’s pressure on Taiwan



On 3 January, the *Times* published a leader urging Western countries to resist Chinese pressure on Taiwan following Xi Jinping's speech calling to impose China's "one country, two systems" on Taiwan. The article stressed that China is challenging the US's presence in Asia by intimidating and isolating Taiwan, citing the Chinese leader's recent speech threatening Taiwan's vibrant democracy as a direct challenge to the US. The article also highlighted how China is bullying the country by increasing its military presence in the region, pressuring western airlines and hotel chains to incorrectly designate Taiwan as a part of China and using its economic clout to persuade small countries to renounce diplomatic recognition.

In response to Xi Jinping's proposal to impose China's "one country, two systems", the *Times* pointed out that many in Hong Kong are already unhappy with this scenario, adding that "it is difficult to see how this will come about as long as China tries to bully the neighbourhood." The article emphasised the danger of China's confrontational approach to Taiwan, stating that global leaders attending the Davos world economic summit should judge Xi Jinping on his actions in and around the Taiwan Strait. "As long as he thunders warning at his neighbours he should be considered as a disruptor rather than a statesman," the leader concluded.

## UK Parliamentarians sign joint statement supporting Taiwan



**British-Taiwanese**  
All-Party Parliamentary Group

### Co-Chairs' Joint Statement on President Tsai's Speech on 2 January

January 2019 British-Taiwanese APPG

As the co-chairs of the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group, we wholly support Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen's firm position to bolster Taiwan as a fully-fledged democracy which shares understanding on universal values such as freedom, respect for human rights, and the rule of law with the UK and countries around the world. We also understand that the vast majority of people in Taiwan form a consensus that resolutely opposes "one country, two systems".

We regard any threat or intimidation in the Taiwan Strait as irresponsible, and want to ensure that action taken in the Taiwan Strait does not threaten cross-strait relations and status quo. Maintaining prosperity and stability in the East Asian region is in the common interest of all parties concerned, we therefore wish to see China and Taiwan cooperate fully on areas of common interest, while respecting the firm commitment of Taiwan's 23 million people to freedom and democracy.

On 11 January, British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Co-Chairs Nigel Evans MP and Lord Rogan issued a joint statement in support of Taiwan following President Tsai Ing-wen's statement rejecting China's "one country, two systems". The parliamentarians said they wholly support President Tsai's firm position to bolster Taiwan as a fully-fledged democracy which shares understanding on universal values such as freedom, respect for human rights and rule of law with the UK and countries around the

world. The APPG Co-Chairs echoed the President's position by stressing that the vast majority of people in Taiwan form a consensus that resolutely opposes "one country, two systems".

Addressing China's threat to unify Taiwan by force, the UK parliamentarians stated "we regard any threat or intimidation in the Taiwan-Strait as irresponsible, and want to ensure that action taken in the Taiwan Strait does not threaten cross-strait relations and the status quo." The Co-Chairs expressed their wish to see both sides cooperate fully on areas of common interest, such as maintaining prosperity and stability in the East Asian region. The parliamentarians called on China to respect the firm commitment of Taiwan's 23 million people to freedom and democracy. The joint statement concluded by calling for dialogue and consultations to be restored on the basis of mutual respect to ensure regional peace and stability. Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement thanking the parliamentarians for their support on 14 January.

## **44 academics and former officials write open letter supporting Taiwan**

44 academics, former government and military officials and other friends abroad wrote and signed an open letter expressing their support for Taiwan, which was published as a leader in the *Taipei Times* on 9 January. In their letter, scholars and experts from the UK, US, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Slovenia and Switzerland praised President Tsai's "four musts" and "Taiwan Consensus" as the right response in the face of China's calls for unification under "one country, two systems". The letter applauded the courageous stance of the Taiwanese people in resisting China's pressure and protecting their own democratic system.

The 44 supporters also expressed concern over Beijing's latest subversive techniques of deception and disinformation against Taiwan, and called on officials in their countries to stand firm in defending Taiwan: "We urge our own governments to make clear to Beijing that Taiwan does not stand alone." The letter concluded by calling for unity and continuity in Taiwan to face the challenges that lie ahead. Later that day, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs thanked these allies for their strong support.

## **Taiwan's 2019 Smart City Summit & Expo will take place this March**

## Notice

## Smart City Summit & Expo in Taipei, 26 - 29 March 2019

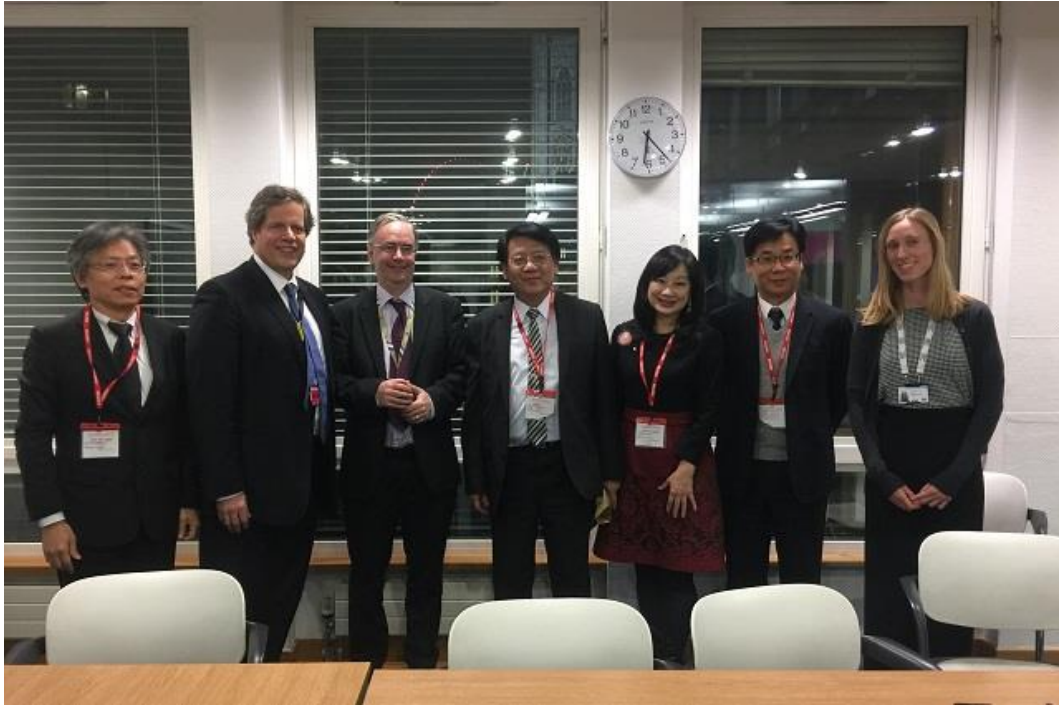
The British Office is calling for mission members for Smart City Summit & Expo in Taipei from 26 to 29 March 2019

(Photo source: [GOV.UK](#) website)

From 26-29 March, the 2019 Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) will take place in Taipei. In 2018, over 30,000 professionals participated in the event, marking a 30% increase from the previous year. Over 40,000 attendees are expected at this year's SCSE, which will feature 1,000 booths representing cities, technology advancers and service providers from around the world. The 3rd 'UK-Taiwan Smart Cities Forum' co-hosted by the TRO and the British Office Taipei (BOT) is expected to take place alongside the SCSE this March. The forum aims to further strengthen Taiwan-UK cooperation in the field of smart cities, connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV), IoT and AI.

In recognition of the importance of the 2019 SCSE, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office published a notice from the BOT promoting the summit and recruiting mission members to participate on its official webpage. The pamphlet highlighted Taiwan's role as a major global technology player, with industry leaders such as Google, Amazon and ARM setting up R&D centres in the country and emphasised Taiwan's rankings by the World Economic Forum as 13<sup>th</sup> in global competitiveness and 4<sup>th</sup> in innovation capability. The notice also called on UK companies specialising in IoT, AI, Health Tech, CAV and 5G applications to participate.

**Taiwan EPA Minister visits the UK to strengthen climate change cooperation**



From 13-15 December 2018, Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration Acting Minister Hung-Teh Tsai visited the UK in an effort to promote bilateral climate change cooperation. During his visit, Minister Tsai met with the Director-General of Energy Transformation and Clean Growth at the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Julian Critchlow, the Deputy Chair of the Climate Change Committee, Baroness Brown of Cambridge, and the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan and Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, to exchange ideas on Taiwan's participation in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), cooperation in renewable energy and other such issues. During his stay, Minister Tsai was also interviewed by *BBC News Chinese* and *Asian affairs* magazine about how Taiwan can help tackle the global challenge.

## **Taiwan Sugar Corp signs cooperation pact with UK railway firm**



On 8 December, the state-run Taiwan Sugar Corp. (Taisugar) and the UK's Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway Preservation Co. Ltd (WLLR) concluded an agreement paving the way for expanded bilateral railway collaboration. Under the accord, the two sides will share experiences and technical skills on the operation of tourist railways and locomotive maintenance. In addition, they will also work together to promote narrow-gauge railway tourism. The agreement will also advance the ties established in 2004 between the two companies when Taisugar sold the UK firm a Diema diesel locomotive.

## **TRO hosts Convention to boost bilateral cooperation in science and technology**





On 8 December 2018, the TRO hosted the first ever “Bai San” Convention to further strengthen Taiwan-UK cooperation in science and technology. Approximately 160 UK-based Taiwanese from academia, industry and government attended the Convention to participate in interdisciplinary meetings and various activities. In his opening remarks, Representative Lin encouraged participants to seize opportunities to expand their networks in order to promote Taiwan-UK interdisciplinary collaborations in academia and industry.

The first half of the Convention featured 13 short TED-style talks covering a range of fields including natural sciences, biotechnology, design and entrepreneurship. The Bai San Convention is one of the main events by the TRO-initiated ‘Taiwan-UK Network Association’ (TUNA), a 500 member organisation comprised of scholars, innovators, technology specialists, students and businessmen.

### Taiwan in the news:

- [Descendant of Taiwan's first British consul visits historic site](#)
- [Approved investment from NSP countries soars over 40% in 2018](#)
- [Science ministry recruits Uber Taiwan as partner to help start-ups](#)
- [Taiwan to host baseball qualifiers for 2020 Olympic Games](#)
- [NTU ranks 10th in Emerging Economies University Rankings 2019](#)



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