

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處



President Tsai Ing-wen supports call for virtuous politics in Pope's World Day of Peace message.

IN THE NEWSLETTER

Key events featured in this issue include President Tsai supporting the call for virtuous politics in the Pope's World Day of Peace message, the UK stating its opposition to actions raising tension in the region following China's threat of force to unify Taiwan and parliamentarians' letter urging IELTS to correct its designation of Taiwan, Taiwan's allies voicing support for its WHA participation during WHO's EB 144, Taiwan's economy ranked highly by the WEF in the run-up to Davos 2019, a Taiwan troupe staging folk art performances around London and artistic director's "Lao Can Impression" playing at the Southbank Centre, the TRO's presentation at SOAS on opportunities to study and do research in Taiwan and the Taiwan Scholarship 2019 applications opening.

President Tsai supports call for virtuous politics in Pope's World Day of Peace message

On 28 January, Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen sent a letter to Pope Francis in response to his message for the 52nd World Day of Peace, supporting his call for good politics in the service of peace and renewed commitment to universal human virtues, the common good and youth cultivation. In his message, the Pope cites the writings of the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francois-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, who was persecuted and imprisoned without

trial for 13 years for his religious beliefs. According to President Tsai, Van Thuan's courage and dedication are an inspiration the world over: "His experience has given tremendous spiritual encouragement to the people of Taiwan, as it resonates with our country's predicament and the belief that we have maintained in freedom and democracy."

In her letter, the President pointed out that China has not relinquished its threat to invade Taiwan and continues to suppress Taiwan's presence and diminish its status in the international arena. President Tsai said "similar to the French poet Charles Peguy whom Your Holiness refers to, we believe that the spirit of peace will certainly overcome the law of violence," adding that Peguy's life shows that human freedom, equality and dignity are core values that will always supersede the constraints imposed by political ideology.

UK states opposition to actions raising tension in the region following China's threat of force to unify Taiwan

China: Taiwan:Written question - HL12786

Q Asked by **Lord Dholakia**

Asked on: 14 January 2019

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

L HL12786

China: Taiwan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any risks to regional peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

A Answered by: **Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon**

Answered on: 23 January 2019

In his 2 January speech, Chinese leader Xi Jinping urged Taiwan to accept reunification with China, restating China's long-held position that it can use all necessary measures, including force, to secure this aim. We oppose any action which raises tensions in the region and hinders the chances of peaceful settlement of any issues. In line with our longstanding position on Taiwan we encourage Taiwan and China to engage in constructive dialogue to resolve this issue, taking into account the views of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

Commenting on Chinese leader Xi Jinping's threat of force to unify Taiwan, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister of State Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon issued a statement on 23 January saying the UK opposes any action which raises tensions in the region and hinders the chances of peaceful settlement of any issues. The FCO Minister added that in line with the UK's longstanding position on Taiwan, "we encourage Taiwan and China to engage in constructive dialogue to resolve this issue, taking into account the views of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait." The statement was issued in response to a question from Taiwanese-British All-Party Parliamentary Group Vice-Chair Lord Dholakia on 14 January regarding the UK government's assessment of risks to regional peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

46 UK parliamentarians sign letter urging IELTS to correct its designation of Taiwan

NIGEL EVANS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The IELTS Global Partnership
British Council
10 Spring Gardens
SW1A 2BN, UK

28 January 2019

Dear IELTS Global Partnership,

We are writing to you regarding your recent decision in October to change the designation of Taiwan on your website from 'Taiwan' to 'Taiwan, China'. We are surprised to learn of your decision, as the designation 'Taiwan, China' is not only erroneous but also contrary to UK Government policy, and therefore request immediate correction to 'Taiwan'.

On 28 January, 46 UK parliamentarians signed a joint letter from British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Co-Chairs Nigel Evans MP and Lord Rogan urging the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to correct the designation of Taiwan on its official website. The APPG Co-Chairs stressed that IELTS's decision to change the designation from "Taiwan" to "Taiwan, China" is not only erroneous as Taiwan has never been a part of the People's Republic of China, but also contrary to the UK Government's longstanding policy to refer to Taiwan as simply "Taiwan".

The parliamentarians pointed out that the decision follows pressure from China and is based on commercial interest, adding that "although IETLS is a private enterprise, it should not have the terms of its business dictated by a foreign government." The letter stated that IELTS succumbing to this political pressure undermines the UK's democratic principles and harms the free operations of international business. Citing growing educational relations between the UK and Taiwan, the parliamentarians concluded by calling on IELTS to reconsider its decision and amend its website to the previous and proper designation of simply "Taiwan", which may well allow the UK to continue increasing its educational exchanges with Taiwan.

Taiwan's allies voice support for its WHA participation during 144th session of WHO Executive Board

As the 144th Session of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Executive Board (EB 144) convened in Geneva from 24 January to 1 February, several member nations voiced support for Taiwan's participation in the upcoming 2019 World Health Assembly (WHA) from 20-28 May. Dr Simon Mfanzile Zwane, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Health in the Kingdom of Eswatini and Vice Chairman of the WHO Executive Board, lauded Taiwan as "a country that successfully attained universal health coverage" and praised its assistance to Eswatini in strengthening its primary health care system. Pierre André Dunbar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations (UN), stated that exclusion of any country to the WHA would result in a missing link in the global healthcare system. Julio César Peralta Rodas, Deputy Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the UN, highlighted Taiwan's contributions to the field of healthcare, including its assistance in setting up 23 health care facilities in Paraguay.

In addition to statements from Eswatini, Haiti and Paraguay, the US House of Representatives showed its support by passing a House Resolution calling for Taiwan's return to the WHO on 23 January, the day before the EB 144 convened. President Tsai Ing-wen and Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs thanked allies for their support.

Taiwan's economy ranked highly by World Economic Forum in run-up to Davos 2019

From 22-25 January, the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s 2019 annual meeting in Davos convened under the theme "Globalisation 4.0: Shaping a New Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution", with approximately 3,000 global economic leaders in attendance. Prior to the summit, Taiwan was ranked 13th out of 140 economies and 4th in the Asia-Pacific in the WEF's "Global Competitiveness Report 2018" published on 16 October 2018.

Among the 12 categories used to assess competitiveness, Taiwan earned full marks in macroeconomic stability and ranked 7th globally for financial system. The report described Taiwan as a "super innovator" as one of four economies, alongside Germany, Switzerland and the US, to receive a score of more than 80 in innovation capability.

Taiwan troupe stages folk art performances around London



From 16-22 January, a troupe from Taiwan's Tainan City staged traditional folk art performances at popular sites around London, including Trafalgar square and London Bridge. On 20 January, the group gave a comprehensive performance of Taiwanese martial arts and classic folk songs at the Tzu Chi Academy in London. In his opening remarks, Deputy Representative Shyang-Yun Cheng thanked the performers for showcasing the best of traditional Taiwanese folk culture for UK audiences to enjoy.

Taiwan artistic director's "Lao Can Impression" plays at Southbank Centre



(Photo source: Southbank Centre)

Following its sell-out run at the National Theatre of Taiwan, the production “Lao Can Impression” by Taiwanese artistic director An-Ting Chang at Chinese Art Now played at London’s Southbank Centre on 30 January. The show featured Concert Theatre actors Hua-Chien Hsu and Chih-I Chang, pianist Li-Chi Chiang, flautist Yun-Ju Chen and cellist Jen-Hsin Kung. “Lao Can Impression” reimagines Chinese writer Liu Er’s *The Travels of Lao Can* in a contemporary setting accompanied by Debussy’s music, highlighting Liu’s attitude towards Westernisation and Debussy’s imagination of the East. *The Financial Times* lauded the performance as “more than a play with incidental music, or music with a dollop of drama: Concert Theatre aims to be a perfect amalgam of both art forms.”

TRO gives presentation at SOAS on opportunities to study and do research in Taiwan

On 25 January, the TRO gave a presentation about opportunities for UK nationals to study and conduct research in Taiwan, including the Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS), Taiwan Fellowship and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship. The presentation was held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and featured speakers TRO Deputy Representative Shyang-Yun Cheng, Educational Division Director Nicole Yen-Yi Lee, Administrative Division Deputy Director Ya-Hui Chen and Director of the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies Dr Dafydd Fell.

Taiwan’s YMS provides 1,000 British young people aged 18-30 the opportunity to work and travel in Taiwan. The Taiwan Fellowship is a funding scheme established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable academics and PhD students to conduct research in Taiwan. The Huayu Enrichment Scholarship provides funding opportunities for UK nationals interested in learning Mandarin and experiencing Taiwanese culture.

Taiwan Scholarship 2019 applications open

Applications for the Taiwan Scholarship programme 2019 are open to candidates interested in pursuing higher education at Taiwanese universities. The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, 29 March 2019. The scholarship is sponsored by Taiwan's Ministry of Education and provides opportunities for UK nationals to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at universities in Taiwan. The award includes payment of tuition fees up to a certain level as well as a monthly stipend of NT\$ 15,000 for those undertaking undergraduate studies and NT\$ 20,000 for those undertaking postgraduate studies.

Taiwan in the news:

- [Old British Consulate in Kaohsiung a remnant of a lost era](#)
- [Global 5G group kicks off working group meeting in Taiwan](#)
- [Taiwan tennis duo wins Launceston title in Australia](#)
- [Taiwan shares continue to rise led by tech stocks](#)
- [Taipei book fair opens Tuesday, featuring famous books, authors](#)



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