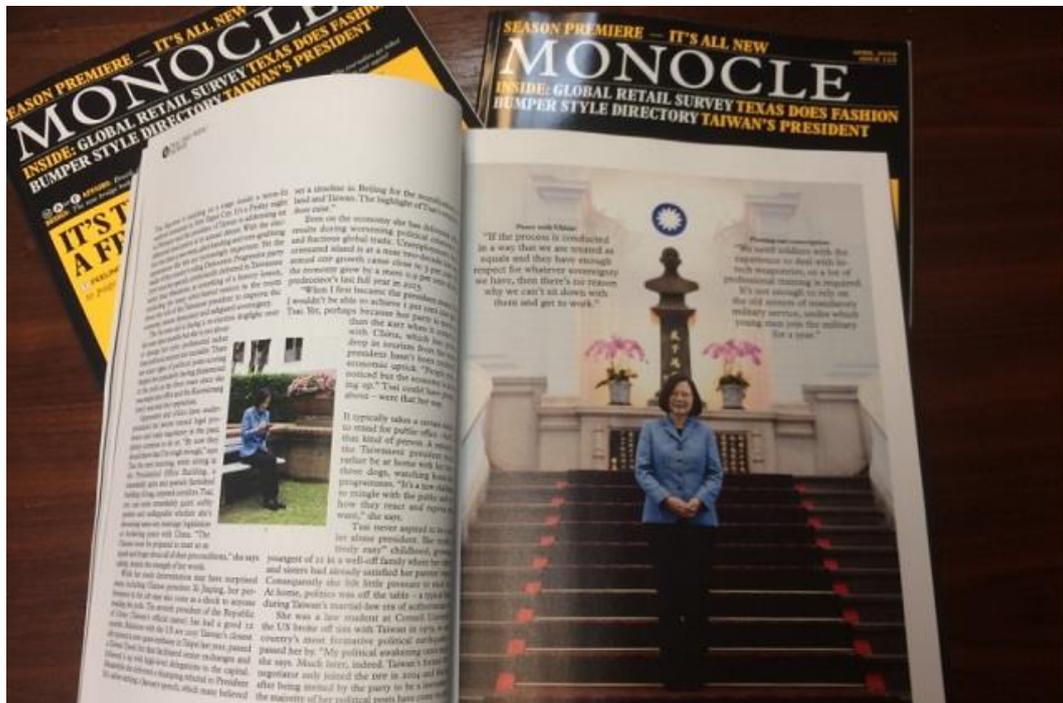


TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處



President Tsai's interview with *Monocle* magazine is published under the title "Calm Before a Storm-Taiwan".

IN THE NEWSLETTER

Key events featured in this issue include President Tsai's interview with *Monocle* magazine, Taiwan Science and Technology Minister Liang-Gee Chen's visit to the UK to recruit young talents and promote bilateral cooperation in science and education, Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu and UK parliamentarians protesting the LSE's decision to change the depiction of Taiwan on a sculpture, the TRO's lunch talk on the South China Sea, Taiwan-UK Smart City collaboration strengthening at the 2019 SCSE as well as Taiwan and the UK signing an MoU boosting cooperation in offshore wind power.

President Tsai interviewed by UK-based *Monocle* magazine

On 21 March, President Tsai's interview with *Monocle* magazine was published under the title "Calm Before a Storm—Taiwan". The interview covered a range of topics, including the president's background and political career as well as Taiwan's economy, reform, relations with China and national defence. President Tsai emphasised Taiwan's economic progress, pointing out increasing GDP growth since 2016, and addressed the challenges surrounding pension reform, stating her reforms were unprecedented and "no political

leader would dare to touch it”. According to *Monocle*, the president’s decisive action on pension reform garners respect across the political spectrum: “something had to be done and Taiwan’s first female president was ballsy enough to do it.”

Commenting on cross-strait relations, President Tsai said that peace with China can only come if Beijing recognises Taiwan as an equal rather than suggesting a “one country, two systems” arrangement similar to Hong Kong and Macao. In response to questions over national defence, President Tsai stressed that sufficient defence capability is necessary to “make Taiwan a more defensible place”, given China’s large investments in its military development. Summarising the interview, *Monocle* concluded that “when it comes to China, Taiwan’s president’s message is crystal clear: don’t test my strength or underestimate my soft tone of voice.”

Taiwan Science and Technology Minister visits UK to promote bilateral cooperation in science and education



From 31 March to 2 April, Taiwan Minister of Science and Technology Professor Liang-Gee Chen visited the UK to recruit young talents and encourage further bilateral cooperation in the fields of science and education. On 31 March, Minister Chen hosted a recruitment session at King’s College London with over 330 scholars and students in attendance. The Minister expressed hope that more overseas talent would come to Taiwan to contribute to the advancement of the country’s industry and transformation. On 1 April, Minister Chen was interviewed by the *BBC* and visited Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Chris Skidmore, as well as the President of the Royal Society, Dr Venki Ramakrishnan PRS. On 2 April, at the invitation of the UK Parliament Education Committee, Minister Chen participated in a panel of Taiwanese academics, including TRO Director of Science and Technology Professor Protty Wu, to answer questions on how Taiwan is preparing its students and workforce for the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution. The event was live-streamed on the UK

Parliament's online TV channel.

During the visit, Minister Chen also attended a welcoming reception hosted by the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) and met with about 60 UK parliamentarians, including Lord Rogan and Nigel Evans MP, Co-Chairs of the British-Taiwanese APPG, as well as Lord Faulkner of Worcester, UK Trade Envoy to Taiwan, Baroness D'Souza, Former Speaker of the House of Lords, the Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, Chair of the Education Select Committee, the Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair of Science and Technology Committee and Bob Neill MP, Chair of the Justice Committee.

Taiwan Foreign Minister and UK Parliamentarians protest LSE changing depiction of Taiwan on sculpture

Open letter to Dame Minouche Shafik, Director, the London School of Economics and Political Science

Dear Madam Director,

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan, I am writing to protest LSE's decision to alter "The World Turned Upside Down" sculpture so that Taiwan will be depicted as part of China.

The truth is that Taiwan is a sovereign democratic country, not part of any other. Our president and parliament are democratically elected. We also have an independent military, monetary system, and foreign ministry. Taiwan has been praised as a democratic success story and a beacon of hope for the people of China, who are still living under autocratic and ruthless communist rule.

LSE has inspired many young Taiwanese men and women in the pursuit of academic excellence. One of them is our current president, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, who has always been proud of her LSE experience. If the sculpture is changed as planned, it will lead young men and women everywhere to believe that LSE bows to the pressure and bullying of Beijing.

Madam Director, your decision should not be about who has more power or which country has more people. Rather, as the head of an academic institution, your decision should be about what is true and what is right. And the truth is that Taiwan is a proud democracy, not part of autocratic China, and Taiwan's people have over and over again revealed their desire to maintain this status.

The British government refers to Taiwan, and conducts relations with Taiwan, as "Taiwan," period. On behalf of Taiwan, I thus urge you and your institution not to change the depiction of Taiwan on the sculpture.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Wu

[Open letter to Dame Minouche Shafik](#)

On 5 April, Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu wrote an open letter to Dame Minouche Shafik, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), protesting the university's decision to change Taiwan's colour to match China's on 'The World Upside Down' sculpture following pressure from Chinese students. Minister Wu emphasised that Taiwan is a sovereign democratic country, not part of any other, with its own democratically elected president and parliament. The minister also pointed out that LSE has inspired many Taiwanese in the pursuit of academic excellence, including President Tsai Ing-wen. Minister Wu stressed that changing the sculpture would lead many to believe that LSE bows to the pressure and bullying of Beijing, adding that as an academic institution, LSE's decision should be about what is true and what is right. "The truth is that Taiwan is a proud democracy, not part of autocratic China, and Taiwan's people have over and over again revealed their desire to maintain this status." The letter concluded by urging LSE not to change the original depiction of Taiwan on the sculpture.

Lord Rogan and Nigel Evans MP, Co-Chairs of the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group, also wrote a joint letter to LSE pointing out that changing Taiwan's

designation on the sculpture was not only erroneous but also contrary to the UK Government's longstanding policy to refer to Taiwan as simply "Taiwan". The UK parliamentarians urged LSE to reconsider its decision "in order to maintain accuracy, prevent political interference and safeguard our shared values of freedom of speech and expression."

TRO hosts lunch talk on the South China Sea



On 8 March, the TRO hosted a lunch time discussion titled "The South China Sea and the Strategy of Chinese Expansion", featuring South China Sea experts Dr Bill Hayton, *BBC* journalist and Associate Fellow for the Asia-Pacific Programme at Chatham House, and Mr Humphrey Hawksley, author and former *BBC* foreign correspondent. Dr Hayton focused on the challenges surrounding the South China Sea territorial disputes, pointing out that China's actions in the region go against the Rules Based International Order. Mr Hawksley discussed China's expansionist policy in the South China Sea and towards Taiwan, as well as highlighted Taiwan's democracy as a potential model in the region: "Taiwan's democracy and the success of it are clearly visible from the shores of Xiamen." Mr Hawksley emphasised that the West should stand shoulder-to-shoulder in supporting Taiwan.

Admiral Yeong-Kang Chen, Taiwan's former Deputy Minister of Defence, served as commenter during the discussion. Attendees included representatives from the diplomatic corps in London, experts and researchers from think tanks, former British government officials and members of the UK press.

Taiwan-UK Smart City collaboration strengthens at 2019 SCSE



(Original Source: British Office Taipei)

The 2019 Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) took place in Taipei from 26-29 March and was attended by a UK delegation led by Chief Scientific Adviser of the Department for International Trade (DIT) Dr Mike Short and composed of leaders from five UK cities, including West of England, Greenwich, Milton Keynes, Peterborough and Edinburgh as well as representatives of 22 British businesses. Dr Short delivered a keynote speech at the SCSE on potential areas for greater bilateral cooperation in the future, including 5G, cyber security, green technology, IoT and AI.

The 3rd 'UK-Taiwan Smart Cities Forum' co-hosted by the TRO and the British Office Taipei (BOT) was also attended by the delegation alongside the SCSE. The theme of this year's forum was "Building Partnerships in the CAV Supply Chain", aiming to advance bilateral cooperation in the area of autonomous vehicles. During their stay, the UK delegation met with several high-level Taiwanese officials, including Deputy Foreign Minister Kelly Wu-Chiao Hsieh and Digital Minister Audrey Tang, as well as visited Taiwanese government ministries and private companies.

Taiwan and UK sign MoU boosting cooperation in offshore wind power



On 13 March, an MoU boosting Taiwan-UK cooperation on developing local offshore wind power capabilities was concluded by state-owned Taiwan International Port Corporation Ltd. (TIPC) and the British Office Taipei (BOT). Signed by TIPC Port of Taichung President Chung Ying-feng and BOT Representative Catherine Nettleton on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Wind Energy Expo in Kaohsiung City, the pact paves the way for closer Taiwan-UK cooperation and exchanges in key fields like policy, strategy and technology.

In his remarks, Chung said the agreement is a blue-ribbon opportunity to learn from Great Britain's extensive experience in offshore wind farms. This sharing of know-how stands to broaden TIPC's green energy horizons and strengthen its organisational capabilities, he added. Nettleton said the UK looks forward to sharing related experiences with TIPC and other partners in Taiwan.

Taiwan in the news:

- [Taiwanese bands nominated for U.S. Independent Music Awards](#)
- [Taiwan develops Asia's first ASF rapid test kit](#)
- [Taiwan's Tai Tzu-ying clinches women's singles title at Singapore Open](#)
- [Taiwan shares open higher](#)
- [Taiwan's ITRI, Hon Hai on Derwent Top 100 Global Innovators list](#)



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