

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處



The Minister of Health and Welfare highlights Taiwan's advances in digital healthcare to call for its inclusion in 72nd WHA.

IN THE NEWSLETTER

Key events featured in this issue include the Minister of Health and Welfare highlighting Taiwan's advances in digital healthcare to call for its inclusion in 72nd WHA, UK parliamentarians expressing support for Taiwan's participation in the WHO and WHA, President Tsai attending a videoconference with US think tanks, MOFA's Director-General of European Affairs participating in a Chatham House research event, UK parliamentarians calling out China's fighter jets for crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait, the first ever Taiwan Film Festival in the UK and the 16th European Association of Taiwan Studies conference.

MOHW highlights Taiwan's advances in digital healthcare to call for its inclusion in 72nd WHA

In the run-up to the 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) from 20-28 May, Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare Shih-chung Chen highlighted Taiwan's advances in digital healthcare to call for Taiwan's inclusion in the upcoming WHA meetings in Geneva. With Taiwan's success in its National Health Insurance (NHI), Minister Chen argued that Taiwan can help other countries achieve universal health coverage by 2030, the goal set by the Health Workforce 2030 of the World Health Organization (WHO). According to Minister

Chen, Taiwan's NHI ranks 14th in the 2017 Global Access to Healthcare Index of *The Economist* and ninth in the 2018 Health Care Efficiency Index of *Bloomberg Finance*. The Minister also pointed out that Taiwan has developed tools utilising artificial intelligence and cloud computing to enhance its healthcare, such as the MediCloud and PharmaCloud systems, and has provided scholarships to thousands of people, both Taiwanese and foreign nationals, to further the WHO's goal.

Despite all of this, Minister Chen said, political obstruction has deprived Taiwan of the right to participate in and contribute to the WHA, adding that the WHO has denied Taiwanese delegates access to the assembly in the past two years. The Minister urged the WHO abide by its own principles of inclusiveness and universal participation, and invite Taiwan to participate in the coming world health meetings. "Taiwan is a worthy and reliable partner that can help countries around the world achieve the meaningful goal of universal health coverage by 2030," he said.

UK parliamentarians express support for Taiwan's participation in WHO and WHA72

World Health Assembly: Taiwan:Written question - 238323

Q Asked by **Martin Vickers** (Cleethorpes) Asked on: 28 March 2019
Department of Health and Social Care © 238323

World Health Assembly: Taiwan

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to support Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly as an observer; and whether his Department has encouraged Taiwan to participate in technical meetings of the World Health Organisation.

▶ A Answered by: **Jackie Doyle-Price** Answered on: 05 April 2019

The Department continues to support the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on this topic. The Government is working with likeminded countries to lobby the World Health Organization (WHO) at official level to issue an invitation to Taiwan to observe the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May.
The United Kingdom continues to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations where statehood is not a prerequisite and where Taiwan can make a valuable contribution. The UK believes the WHA and related technical meetings of the WHO meet these criteria.

Taiwan: World Health Organisation:Written question - 239932

Q Asked by **Martin Vickers** (Cleethorpes) Asked on: 02 April 2019
Foreign and Commonwealth Office © 239932

Taiwan: World Health Organisation

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations his Department has made to the World Health Organisation on (a) Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly as an observer this year and (b) Taiwan's participation in technical meetings of the World Health Organisation.

▶ A Answered by: **Mark Field** Answered on: 10 April 2019

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to support the Department for Health in lobbying for Taiwan's participation in World Health Organisation (WHO) meetings. Her Majesty's Government is working with likeminded countries to lobby the WHO at official level to issue an invitation to Taiwan to observe the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May. The UK continues to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations where statehood is not a prerequisite and where Taiwan can make a valuable contribution. The UK believes the WHA and the related technical meetings of the WHO meet these criteria.

On 5 and 10 April respectively, UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health Jackie Doyle-Price and Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Mark Field expressed support for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organisation (WHO) and 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) from 20-28 May. Both ministers stated that the Government is working with like-minded countries to lobby the WHO at the official level to issue an invitation to Taiwan to observe the WHA in May, adding that the UK continues to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations where it can make a valuable contribution. The statements were issued in response to questions from UK parliamentarian Martin Vickers MP asking what steps the ministers' departments had taken to support Taiwan's participation in the WHA and WHO technical meetings.

On 16 April, British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Co-Chairs Nigel Evans MP and Lord Rogan as well as the Heads of Taiwan parliamentary friendship groups in the EU, Germany and France wrote a joint letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus calling for Taiwan's participation in the global health body. The parliamentarians pointed out that Taiwan's exclusion from the WHA in the past two years has created serious gaps in the global health security system. The letter also highlighted Taiwan's advanced medical research and continued improvement in its disease prevention capabilities in line with the International Health Regulations.

President Tsai attends videoconference with US think tanks at CSIS



On 9 April, President Tsai Ing-wen participated in a videoconference with important US political figures and scholars at the joint invitation of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Brookings Institution and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Wilson Center). In her keynote speech, the president commemorated the achievements of the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), adding that “we should also recommit ourselves to our shared values and common sense of purpose.” President Tsai emphasised Taiwan's relationship with the US as a force for good in the world, citing the ways in which the two countries cooperate to advance good governance and human rights, including through the Indo-Pacific Democratic Governance Consultations, the Dialogue on Securing Religious Freedom in the Indo-Pacific Region and the Global Cooperation Training Framework. President Tsai concluded by stressing it is more important than ever to ensure the letter and spirit of the TRA prevail and the values shared by Taiwan and the US continue to shape the future of the region.

MOFA Director-General of European Affairs participates in Chatham House research event



On 16 April, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of European Affairs Johnson Sen Chiang was invited by the UK foreign policy think tank Chatham House to participate in a discussion panel at the research event “A Changing Taiwan: Tsai Ing-wen’s Presidency and the Challenges of the US-China Relationship”. Director-General Chiang was joined by Dr Kerry Brown, Associate Fellow of the Chatham House Asia-Pacific Programme to talk about Taiwan’s changing global and regional situation, relationship with the US and China as well as the challenges the country faces as it heads towards presidential elections in 2020. The Director-General pointed out that China’s pressure on Taiwan challenges the rules-based international order and destabilises regional peace and security. He emphasised that Taiwan will continue to work with like-minded countries to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the region, protect human rights as well as combat the threats of hybrid warfare and cyber security attacks.

The event was chaired by Head of the Chatham House Asia-Pacific Programme Dr Champa Patel and attended by around 40 people, including members of London’s diplomatic corps, experts from London-based think tanks, academics from UK universities and journalists.

UK parliamentarians call out Chinese fighter jets for crossing median line of the Taiwan Strait

APRIL 2019 BY TAIWAN APPG

Co-Chairs' statement on Chinese fighter jets crossing median line of the Taiwan Strait

On 31 March, two Chinese J-11 fighter jets of the People Liberation Army Air Force intentionally crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait south-west of Penghu, intruding upon a maritime boundary that has been abided by both sides for many years, and as a result damaging the cross-strait status quo. As co-chairs of the British-Taiwanese All Party Parliamentary Group, we are seriously concerned about the rise of tension in cross-strait relations. It is evident that regional peace and stability is at stake.



Nigel Evans MP

Lord Rogan

On 23 April, British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Co-Chairs Nigel Evans MP and Lord Rogan issued a statement calling out China's fighter jets for intentionally crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait on 31 March. The UK parliamentarians pointed out that such action constitutes an intrusion upon a maritime boundary that has been abided by both sides for many years and damages the cross-strait status quo. The APPG Co-Chairs expressed their serious concern over the rise of tension in cross-strait relations, emphasising that regional peace and stability are at stake.

The statement stressed that maintaining peace in the region is in the common interest of all parties concerned and that any unilateral attempts to disrupt the status quo are harmful and do not contribute to cross-strait stability. The UK parliamentarians concluded by emphasising their continued support for all efforts to defend the cross-strait status quo.

First ever Taiwan Film Festival UK held across London



The inaugural Taiwan Film Festival UK (TFF UK), an 11-day event showcasing the talented and distinct cinematic voice of Taiwan, was held in theatres and prestigious venues across London from 3-14 April. In addition to screening around 30 Taiwanese films, the festival also hosted Q&A sessions featuring directors and actors from the Taiwan film industry and closed with a powerful musical performance by Taiwanese indigenous activists Panai Kusui and Ado Kailiting Pacidal.

As part of the TFF UK, legendary director Tsai Ming-liang premiered his debut virtual reality (VR) film 'The Deserted' at a specially designed pop-up cinema at Asia House, held screenings for a curated selection of his films and hosted an exclusive masterclass session at the Tate Modern. In addition to his interviews with UK press outlets, including the *Guardian* as well as *Sight & Sound*, Tsai also received high acclaim for his works, with the British Film Institute lauding his VR production as "a staggering multi-sensory experience."

16th annual European Association of Taiwan Studies conference takes place at Nottingham Trent University



From 10-12 April, the 16th annual European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS) conference convened at Nottingham Trent University under the theme “Recognising Taiwan: Exploring Taiwan’s Society and Political World”. Several of the world’s top researchers and scholars of Taiwan Studies were in attendance, including Professor Harry Harding at the University of Virginia and Dr Ford Fu-Te Liao, President of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy.

On 11 April, Representative Lin hosted a dinner in honour of the 16th annual conference. In his opening remarks, Representative Lin congratulated EATS Board Member and Secretary-General Dr Isabelle Cheng as well as local conference organiser Dr Colin Alexander on the success of this year’s conference.

Taiwan in the news:

- [32 Taiwan schools listed in Times Asia University Rankings](#)
- [Visually impaired Taiwanese athlete completes London Marathon](#)
- [Coral spawning off eastern Taiwan recorded for first time](#)
- [MIT to host inaugural Taiwan Film Festival in May](#)
- [6,000 workers march for improved rights on Labour Day](#)



Follow the TRO on Facebook & Twitter

Taipei Representative Office in the UK

50 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0EB
020-7881 2650

Copyright © 2019 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, All rights reserved