

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

The approach of Christmas and the New Year always provides much time for reflection, and I am pleased to say that we have made steady progress in the bilateral ties between the UK and Taiwan since my arrival in London in late August. This progress has encompassed a wide range of fields, from education to renewable energy and gives us much to build upon as we proceed into 2017.

December characteristically sees a great amount of activity throughout our diplomatic missions around the world. Our Christmas receptions for our allies in parliament and the diplomatic corps were a great success, functioning as an excellent opportunity to bring together Taiwan's friends and to express our gratitude for the hard work and support which they have shown consistently throughout the year.

We have recently welcomed Taiwan's Minister Without Portfolio to the UK, where she delivered two excellent speeches here in London, showcasing to a global audience Taiwan's efforts to promote open government through digital tools. I was also delighted to make a trip to the Kent constituency of South Thanet, where I had the pleasure of advancing UK-Taiwan ties in renewable energy with Mr Craig Mackinlay, the constituency's MP.

The year 2016 has in many respects been a remarkable one, having been characterised by much change. For Taiwan, this year constituted the second peaceful transfer of governmental powers in the country's history and was another testament to the success of our democracy. While significant changes may bring challenges, they also often bring significant opportunities and I am confident we will be able to utilise these throughout the months and years ahead.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to re-convening our activities in January 2017.

Representative David Y. L. Lin

**TAIWAN PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN HOLDS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP**



Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and the United States President-elect Donald J. Trump engaged in a phone conversation on 2 December, during which they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

President Tsai first congratulated Mr Trump on his recent victory in the US Presidential election. She conveyed her best wishes to Mr Trump and expressed confidence in his forthcoming leadership.

Expressing hopes that the United States will continue to support Taiwan's quest for increased participation in international affairs, President Tsai also talked about the future of US-Taiwan relations and the importance of enhancing a closer cooperative relationship.

The call between President Tsai and President-elect Trump lasted over 10 minutes, during which time President Tsai was accompanied by National Security Council Secretary-General Joseph Wu and Minister of Foreign Affairs David T. Lee.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN PARTICIPATES IN CHATHAM HOUSE PANEL DISCUSSION ON UK'S POST-BREXIT TIES WITH ASIA



On 15 December Representative Lin participated in a Chatham House panel discussion on the UK's post-Brexit links with Asia, where he put forward Taiwan's perspective on the important issue.

Joining the panel which included H.E. Mr Koji Tsuruoka, Japanese Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Ms Foo Chi Hsia, High Commissioner of Singapore in the UK, Charles Grant, Director of the Centre for European Reform and Juliet Samuel a columnist for the Daily Telegraph, Representative Lin discussed the impact of Brexit on Asia and the opportunities that Brexit might present for Taiwan and the UK.

Stressing that the Brexit process will have significant implications for the UK's major trading partners in Asia which include Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan, the Representative affirmed that Taiwan's robust partnership with the UK in trade and investment will continue after Brexit. The Representative pointed out that as Taiwan and the UK will benefit greatly from close economic ties, the two sides should identify more potential areas for closer cooperation.

He presented three suggestions for the UK's new relationship with Taiwan/Asia. First, the promotion of a Taiwan-UK free trade agreement (FTA) or a bilateral investment agreement (BIA). To achieve this aim, he suggested a bilateral working group could be established for preliminary exchanges between the two sides. Second, the expansion of Taiwan-UK ties in specific fields such as offshore wind power, digital communications, smart cities, biotechnology and the cultural and innovative industry based on existing mechanisms and forums. Lastly, the UK should develop a more comprehensive and sustainable policy towards its major trading partners in Asia, in which the UK would list its priorities for cooperation, identify trading partners, launch preliminary talks for consultation and sign free trade deals.

In his conclusion, Representative Lin said Taiwan would welcome the UK's adoption of a new Asian strategy post-Brexit, quoting a statement by the UK Minister of State for

push for the strongest possible economic links with important partners around the world, including Taiwan.'

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TAIWAN'S MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO DELIVERS SPEECHES ON OPEN GOVERNMENT IN LONDON



On 5 December Taiwan's Minister without Portfolio, Audrey Tang attended two open government conferences held by Nesta, the UK's leading innovation foundation.

At the conferences, Minister Tang delivered talks on digital tools for local democracy and digital tools for parliament in Taiwan. The audience included the Taipei Representative Office in the UK's (TRO) Representative Lin and a wide range of officials from institutions across the UK.

In her first speech at the Broadway House, Minister Tang spoke about opportunities and challenges in citizen engagement for local authorities. The second speech, delivered in parliament's Westminster Hall, focused on opportunities and challenges for citizen engagement in the legislative process. During the two speeches, Tang stated that the practice of open government would help forge trust between the government and the people, making 'bottom-up democratic participation' possible. Tang also encouraged the public to implement the idea of an open government through participating in public affairs in their community.

Minister Tang has been Taiwan's Minister without Portfolio responsible for digital policies since October 2016, having previously worked for Apple in Computational Linguistics. Ms Tang also pioneered the design of 'Virtual Taiwan', a digital consultation process

public and private sectors to engage in large-scale deliberations which led to new legislation and regulations for the digital economy. Her UK visit lasted from 4-6 December.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN EXPLORES TAIWAN-UK ENERGY COOPERATION IN SOUTH THANET



A delegation led by Representative Lin visited South Thanet on 7 December, to learn more about the UK's development of offshore wind power and explore opportunities for cooperation in renewable energy between Taiwan and the UK.

Accompanied by the MP for South Thanet, Craig Mackinlay, the delegation visited a number of sites across the Kent constituency. The first was the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm ran by Vattenfall, a Swedish state owned company. The company's Head of Offshore Development UK, Andy Paine, and Site Manager Tony Francis gave the delegation a thorough introduction of Vattenfall's business and operations and a tour of the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm operation centre and facilities. Representative Lin explained Taiwan's current efforts and future plans for developing renewable energy, especially offshore wind power. He also briefed company staff on existing cooperation between Taiwan and the UK and Taiwan's future aspirations.

The delegation also visited Estover Energy, a biomass energy company which operates a combined heat and power (CHP) plant in the area to supply heat and electricity to Discovery Park, one of Europe's leading science and technology parks. The plant sources its fuel predominantly from local woodlands and provides low carbon energy for the park. The company's founder and Co-CEO Max Aitken and Development Manager Ben Heathcoat Armory provided a briefing on the biomass plant and a tour of the facility. A

Lastly, the delegation visited the Ramsgate Royal Harbour & Marina as well as Manston Airport. Mr Mackinlay shared his vision for the further development of the harbour and the airport, briefing the group on the business opportunities they may bring.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN HOSTS CHRISTMAS RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS



The TRO held its Christmas reception for the London diplomatic corps and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on 14 December.

The reception, which took place at the Grand Imperial Hotel, was attended by representatives from diplomatic allies of Taiwan and other likeminded countries including, Paraguay, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Holy See, Singapore, Slovakia and Vietnam.

In his speech, Representative Lin praised the strong ties that exist between members of the diplomatic corps and the EBRD, thanking all parties for their continued friendship and support.

He said such events function as an excellent opportunity for the friends and diplomatic allies of Taiwan to associate and are a great asset to the TRO's activities in the UK, contributing to the success of the office.

The High Commissioner of St Vincent and the Grenadines, H.E. Mr Cenio E. Lewis also delivered a speech at the event, in which he thanked Taiwan for its assistance and

such as health, infrastructure, education and women's rights.

He also thanked Representative Lin for holding the event, stating that it constitutes a great opportunity for all Taiwan's friends and allies to consolidate their bilateral relationships.

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PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY VISITS TRO FOR PRESENTATION



Professor Gary D. Rawnsley, the Professor of Public Diplomacy in the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University, visited the TRO on 7 December where he delivered a presentation and discussion on public diplomacy and its implications for Taiwan.

Professor Rawnsley's presentation focused particularly on the digital element of public diplomacy, which continues to increase in importance. The professor placed special emphasis on the need for diplomatic missions to maintain a presence on social media, while also elaborating on Taiwan's projection of 'soft power'.

Dividing public diplomacy into three distinct spheres 'reaction', 'creating events', and 'long term relationships', the professor stated nations should use public diplomacy to increase familiarity and appreciation, engage with and influence their audiences. He also stressed the potency of online media, naming it the foremost instrument for digital diplomacy and explaining how it can raise the international profile of nations such as Taiwan.

Professor Rawnsley specialises in public diplomacy, having written a wide range of

relations. He visited Taiwan in the summer of 2016, where he conducted research on public diplomacy in Taiwan's non-governmental sector.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN HOSTS CHRISTMAS RECEPTION FOR PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS



On 13 December Representative Lin hosted the TRO annual Christmas reception for Taiwan's friends in the UK Parliament.

Held at the Grand Imperial Hotel, the reception was attended by more than 30 MPs and peers, including the two co-chairs of the British-Taiwanese All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Nigel Evans and Lord Steel, as well as Vice-Chairs Lord Rogan, Bob Stewart and David Morris.

In his speech, Representative Lin reflected upon progress in bilateral ties throughout his three months in the United Kingdom and thanked all present for their enduring friendship and support. Particular gratitude was expressed to parliamentarians for their efforts in promoting Taiwan's participation in international organisations, as well as Taiwan-UK ties in a wide range of fields.

Co-Chair Nigel Evans also delivered a speech at the event, in which he stated his hopes to see the development of multilateral relations between the UK, Taiwan, and the United States. Referencing President Tsai Ing-wen's recent telephone conversation with President-elect Trump, Mr Evans said that he hoped to see new developments amongst the three parties in 2017.

Following Nigel Evans' remarks, Co-Chair Lord Steel said that he was delighted to see so many of his colleagues supporting Taiwan. He stated that his endeavour for 2017 was to encourage and accompany more MPs and peers to Taiwan to facilitate a better understanding of the country.

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TAIPEI AND BOSNIA BEGIN SMART TOLL COOPERATION



On 30 November, Taiwan's Far Eastern Electronic Toll Collection Co. (FETC) and the Republic of Srpska Motorways (RSM) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Taipei City, enabling the introduction of the FETC's smart toll system to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The MOU was signed by Chang Yung-chang, the FETC President and RSM General Manager Dusan Topic, who was visiting Taiwan as part of a delegation that included business leaders and officials from Belarus and Kazakhstan.

In line with the government's plan to promote the smart machinery industry, one of the five major innovative industries prioritised by the government, the TRO and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) co-organized the "Electronic Toll Collection System" (ETC system) technical delegation to visit Taiwan from November 27 to December 2. Government officials and industry representatives from Kazakhstan, Belarus, BiH joined the delegation to gain an in-depth understanding of Taiwanese electronic toll collection system and the mode of operation.

This fact-finding mission was the second joint organised trip by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EBRD since 2015 and aimed to promote smart city projects and foster partnerships between local firms and related businesses in EBRD recipient economies. The delegation paid their tribute to the high rate of penetration, accuracy, and convenience of the ETC system. The latest MOU follows two similar pacts FETC

Taiwan's cooperation with the EBRD dates back to the Bank's inception in 1991. As the fourth largest donor and reliable partner of the Bank, Taiwan is committed to helping the Bank's transition mandate in its countries of operations. Taiwanese donor support is especially directed towards information technology, the knowledge economy, business advice for SMEs, sustainable resource management, intelligent transport systems and women in business. Taiwan also shares technical expertise and developmental experience with the EBRD's countries of operation, with Taiwanese experts being retained by the bank to engage in a wide range of projects.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN MEETS WITH SCOTTISH POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL OFFICIALS



Representative Lin and TRO staff visited Scotland from 8-9 December where they met with a series of figures in Scottish politics and law.

The delegation began their trip meeting over lunch with James Doman, the MP for Glasgow Cathcart and Co-Chair of the Scottish Parliament's 'Taiwan Friendship Group', later attending a dinner held by Representative Lin for the Taiwanese business community in Scotland.

The group also met with Paul Wheelhouse, the Minister for Business, Innovation, and Energy in the Scottish Government, during which they discussed the latest developments in trade and investment between Taiwan and Scotland, focusing particularly on Taiwan's status as the fourth largest export market for Scottish whisky exports. Also discussed was the potential for collaboration in the renewable energy field and the newly constructed Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm.

In addition to calling on the Co-Chair of the British-Taiwanese APPG, Lord Steel of Aikwood, the group met with the Lord President of the Scottish High Court, Lord Carloway and the Deputy President of the Scottish High Court, Lady Dorrian. The Representative

Scottish High Court and Taiwan, and the Prisoners Exchange Arrangement that was signed in May between Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

The delegation formed part of the TRO's aims to expand ties with the UK's constituent nations and increase future cooperation with Scotland.

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TRO SCIENCE TEAM INTRODUCE PROGRAMMES AT NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH COUNCIL



Representing the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), staff from the TRO's Science Division met with a team of officials from the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) at the council's HQ in Swindon, where they introduced the MOST's natural environmental science programmes.

During the meeting, Dr Caroline Culshaw, the NERC's head of portfolio Area for environmental and human health delivered a presentation regarding the mission, organizational structure, and research funding strategy of the NERC. Dr Culshaw also suggested that a form of bilateral agreement for environmental science collaboration between MOST and NERC be discussed in the future.

The TRO's Science Division introduced the natural environmental science programmes of the MOST as well as the 'FORMOSAT-7/COSMIC-2' space programme of the National Space Organization, Taiwan (NSPO). The FORMOSAT-7 can provide 8000 atmospheric soundings per day, data which will contribute to weather forecasts and climate observations.

science, the NERC supports the UK's world-leading research in the environmental sciences. The MOST and the NERC are both members of the Belmont Forum and share a common philosophy and funding mission to support global environmental research programmes.

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Taiwan in the news:

- [*President Tsai named global thinker of 2016*](#)
- [*Taiwan's surprising superfood - an indigenous quinoa*](#)
- [*ROC \(Taiwan\)-US-Japan security dialogue held in Taipei*](#)
- [*National Palace Museum wants to show artefacts during Tokyo Olympics*](#)
- [*Taiwan to severely penalize deep-sea fishing violations*](#)



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