

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

Happy New Year everyone!

The start of a new year is always an excellent occasion to set ourselves new goals while remaining committed to old ones. Throughout 2017, the Taipei Representative Office will continue with its expansion of UK-Taiwan bilateral ties, setting up exchanges and cooperation in new fields such as offshore wind power and smart cities. As the United Kingdom's strategy for exiting the European Union becomes clearer, I also plan to work with our counterparts to explore more opportunities for negotiating a bilateral trade

agreement or investment agreement in the near future.

Regarding our office's activities, I am pleased that we have broadened our internet presence, having launched pages on both Twitter and Facebook. This is a welcome development that will enable us to keep you better posted on our work throughout the year. I was also pleased to attend the UK Defence Forum, where I delivered a speech on Taiwan's economic and security role in the Asia-Pacific region, a subject of increasing discussion in international politics. In the education field, I was delighted to see that the Taiwan Studies academic discipline has continued to flourish here in the UK, with the University of Portsmouth now offering its own dissertation award, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Such developments have set an encouraging tone for the year 2017, and I am confident we will continue to build on these throughout the coming months. Finally, I would like to wish you all every success for the year ahead!

Representative David Y. L. Lin

**PRESIDENT TSAI DELIEVERS SPEECH AT YEAR-END PRESS
CONFERENCE**



On 31 December, President Tsai Ing-wen addressed the domestic and international press corps at the Presidential Office in an end of year press conference.

The president began by reflecting on what her administration had achieved in 2016, citing the phased implementation of the '5+2 industrial innovation programme' as a means of restructuring the economy, as well as positive developments in food safety, social safety, and labour rights, likening the government's actions to 'driving the piles'.

Stressing the government's aim for 2017 is to 'move ahead quickly with construction', President Tsai said her administration will be concentrating on four focal points, building a 'New Model for Economic Development', continuing with major reforms to the pension system, adapting to changing international circumstances, and to address 'divisive issues' within the country.

On the first point, the president vowed to restructure Taiwan's economy, primarily through expanding investment in national infrastructure 'across the board', adopting proactive fiscal policies to expand the full range of investments, and reforming the tax system.

In terms of pension reform, the President affirmed the government is embarking on a long term project to guarantee the financial sustainability of the pension system, ensuring it remains viable for the next generation.

President Tsai also stressed that Taiwan must assume a more proactive role in regional security, economics and trade, staying committed to trade liberalisation and promoting the New Southbound Policy. The President also affirmed her commitment to 'Steadfast Diplomacy' as well as maintaining 'peaceful and stable' Cross-Strait relations 'in accordance with the people's will'.

On the fourth and final point regarding internal division, the president called on the KMT to negotiate with her administration to resolve the dispute over 'ill-gotten assets' and consign it to history.

The President closed with a rallying call to mutual support and encouragement, asking Taiwan to 'come together to face the challenges of tomorrow and welcome the new year 2017.'

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TAIWAN PASSPORT RANKED 28TH IN ARTON CAPITAL PASSPORT INDEX



The Republic of China (Taiwan) passport has been ranked 28th most powerful in the world according to the 2016 Passport Index of Arton Capital, a financial advisory firm.

To date, Taiwanese passport holders can visit 121 countries around the world without having to obtain a visa in advance, earning Taiwan the 'Global Rank' of 28, based on its total visa-free score.

The Canadian firm released the rankings on 26 December 2016 through its 'passport index', an interactive website which 'collects, displays and ranks the passports of the world' scoring each passport on the number of countries its holders can visit visa-free or by visa on arrival.

The firm also awarded Taiwan a 'Welcoming Rank' of 76, representing the number of passports the country accepts visa-free, visa on arrival, or with Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA).

Germany and Sweden were ranked at the top of the index, with respective visa-free scores of 158 and 157. The United Kingdom finished in joint third place alongside Finland, France, Switzerland, Spain, and South Korea, each being able to visit 156 countries visa-free.

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PRESIDENT TSAI VISITS CENTRAL AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC ALLIES



President Tsai Ing-wen has concluded a nine day visit of diplomatic allies across Central America, in which she aimed to improve Taiwan's foreign relations and explore trade opportunities based on 'steadfast diplomacy'.

From 7-15 January, President Tsai and her delegation embarked on her second overseas trip since her inauguration last May, visiting Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, on a trip codenamed the 'Ing-Jie Project'. The President also made a stopover visit in Houston, Texas, prior to reaching Central America, where she met with members of Taiwan's expatriate community.

Upon arriving in Honduras, President Tsai met with President Juan Orlando Hernandez

of concern. The president attended a reception with an association of Hondurans who have studied in Taiwan, also paying visits to the Basilica of Suyapa, and the ROC Plaza in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

In her visit to Nicaragua, President Tsai attended the inauguration of the country's recently elected President Daniel Ortega, while visiting the Taiwanese expatriate community, and touring a number of Taiwanese firms in the country. The President also attended a welcome banquet hosted by the Nicaraguan business leader Roberto Zamora, during which she delivered a speech concerning bilateral trade.

The president arrived in Guatemala on 11 January, where she was welcomed with military honours. Upon meeting Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales, the two heads of state each delivered an address and introduced their respective cabinet members and the members of the visiting delegation. President Tsai also accompanied President Morales on a tour of the city of Antigua, visiting the Palace of the Captains General before hosting a luncheon for the Taiwanese expatriate community on her final day in the country.

President Tsai proceeded to El Salvador for the fourth and final leg of her Central American tour. She met with the President of El Salvador, Salvador Sanchez Ceren, and was awarded the Order of Jose Matias Delgado in the grade of Grand Cross with Gold Star. President Tsai concluded her visit with a trip to the secretariat of the Central American Integration system as well as trips to a number of El Salvadoran coffee manufacturers.

The president returned to Taipei on January 15 after a stopover in San Francisco, California.

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REPRESENTATIVE LIN DELIVERS SPEECH AT UK DEFENCE FORUM

Representative David Lin was invited to speak at the UK Defence Forum on 17 January, where he delivered a speech on Taiwan's economic and security role in the Asia-Pacific region. The event was attended by politicians, industrialists, and academics.

In the speech, the Representative first outlined Taiwan's foremost priorities including fulfilling its duties in the international community, building a framework for regional peace, opening new markets through the 'New Southbound Policy', and joining multilateral trade regimes while pursuing bilateral trade agreements.

The Representative stressed that in light of regional and global challenges, Taiwan has played and will continue to play a proactive role in economics, security, and the

Representative said Taiwan's role is to continue to use its economic and trade strengths to promote cooperation with other countries, stating the government will focus on five major innovative industries to boost overall economic development. He also pointed out that Taiwan is stepping up engagement with countries in Asia and South Asia through the 'New Southbound Policy' and exploring opportunities for joining the on-going consolidation of the Asia-Pacific's economic architecture, such as TPP, RCEP, and ASEAN.

In terms of regional security, the Representative stated that Taiwan has a shared security interest with the US, Japan, and other like-minded countries, acting as a 'stabilising force for the region' given its considerable defence capabilities and its geopolitical position as an important linkage to the first island chain in the western Pacific. In addition, he said, Taiwan is also a central player in tackling global and regional challenges such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, environmental issues and the empowerment of women, as Taiwan has much experience, capacity, and resources to offer in all these areas.

Speaking on Taiwan's importance in managing Cross-Strait relations, Representative Lin said Taiwan's successful management of Cross-Strait relations has always been an integral part of building regional peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific. As Taiwan's current policy is to establish consistent, predictable and sustainable relations with mainland China, while maintaining the status quo of peace and stability, Taiwan will continue to take proactive and forward-looking measures to promote constructive exchanges and dialogue with mainland China.

The Representative concluded that with its economic strengths and strategic advantages, Taiwan will continue to play a proactive role in addressing economic and security issues and non-traditional concerns and develop closer cooperation and partnership with other countries in the region. He finished by calling on the UK to further explore the possibility of negotiating a bilateral trade deal or investment agreement with Taiwan.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR TAIWAN STUDIES DISSERTATION AWARD



School of
Languages and
Area Studies

deadline for submission on 30 June 2017.

Set up in June 2016, the TSDA aims to encourage the development of Taiwan Studies disciplines across the UK. The award is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan), while the University of Portsmouth's School of Languages and Area Studies is responsible for its management.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students who are enrolled in the departments of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities in the UK academic year 2016-2017, and whose dissertations are focused on, related to, or comparing Taiwan with other case studies, are eligible to participate in the competition for the award.

Two undergraduate and two postgraduate students will receive the award, each being presented with an official certificate and a modest monetary prize. The primary criterion for assessment is the intellectual rigour of the dissertation. All submissions will be blind reviewed independently by scholars in the field of Taiwan studies.

The TSDA marks another stride forward in the development of the Taiwan Studies discipline, which now operates programmes at academic institutions across the United Kingdom. For more information please email taiwanstudies@port.ac.uk.

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TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK LAUNCHES TWITTER AND FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS



The Taipei Representative Office in the United Kingdom (TRO) has launched accounts on both Twitter and Facebook, as part of an initiative to broaden its reach in public diplomacy.

Both platforms will be used by the TRO to inform and interact with the public, while keeping them informed of the office's activities, promoting events, and functioning as an outlet for official statements.

You can follow the TRO on Twitter via [@Taiwan_TRO_UK](#). To find us on Facebook, search for '[Taipei Representative Office in the UK](#)', or click the link in this description.

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Taiwan in the news:

- [Taiwan's leader vows to boost island's presence on world stage](#)
- [Taiwan Ratings upbeat on Taiwan's GDP growth in 2017](#)
- [Uber to launch new service with Taiwan's local taxis](#)
- [American becomes Taiwan's first cheese maker](#)
- [Taiwan begins F-16V modernisation effort](#)



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