

## TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

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Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare leads a delegation to Geneva to advocate for the country's inclusion in the 72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly.

### IN THE NEWSLETTER

Key events featured in this issue include Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare leading a delegation to Geneva, the UK Parliamentarian Lord Bethell's visit to Taiwan, Taiwan's participating in the "World of Bees & Honey" event and holding the first same-sex marriage ceremonies in Asia, a Taiwanese Indigenous Youth Choir's UK Tour, Taiwanese Indigenous Dance at the Brighton Festival 2019 and the first annual Taiwan-Scotland Meeting.

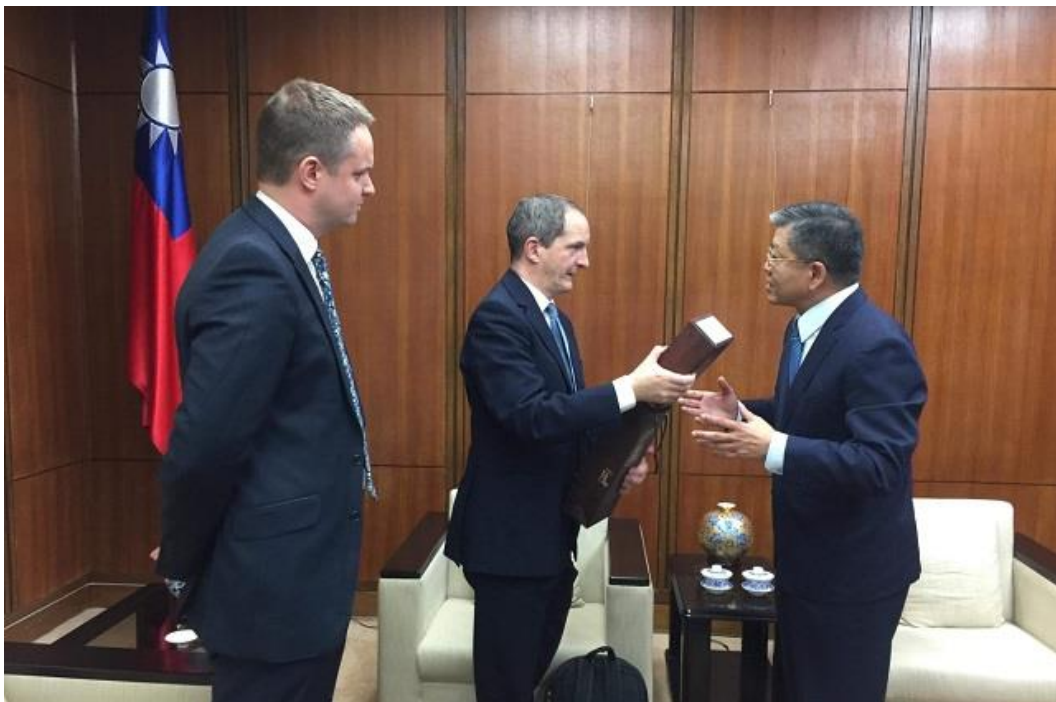
### Taiwan MOHW leads delegation to Geneva to advocate for country's inclusion in WHA

As the 72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) convened from 20-28 May, Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare (MOHW) Shih-Chung Chen led a delegation to Geneva to advocate for Taiwan's inclusion in the international health summit as well as boost awareness of the country's commitment and contributions to global health security. Standing beside Geneva's Broken Chair monument, the delegation protested Taiwan's exclusion from the WHA. During the visit, Minister Chen also engaged in 71 bilateral discussions with important member states and international organisations, held several seminars highlighting Taiwan's achievements in medicine and treatment as well as signed an MoU

with the Geneva University Hospitals to strengthen collaboration in international disaster rescue.

On 22 May, UK Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon publicly expressed support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHA and technical meetings of the World Health Organisation (WHO), where it can make a valuable contribution to global health. The minister also stated the FCO and Department of Health have made a number of senior-level representations with like-minded partners about Taiwan's exclusion from the WHA.

## **UK Parliamentarian visits Taiwan to further strengthen bilateral ties**



British hereditary peer, Conservative member of the House of Lords and member of the Taiwanese-British All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Lord Bethell visited Taiwan from 27 May to 1 June to learn more about Taiwan's latest political and economic developments, Taiwan-UK trade and economic cooperation as well as cross-strait relations. During his visit, the parliamentarian met with senior Taiwanese officials and legislators, including Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Kelly Wu-Chiao Hsieh, Deputy Minister at the Mainland Affairs Council Dr Ming-Chi Chen and Democratic Progressive Party legislator Mrs Mei-Nu Yu.

## **Taiwan participates in “World of Bees & Honey” event**



On 21 May, the TRO was invited to participate in the “World of Bees & Honey” event in Conway Hall, London. Taiwan joined over 30 countries from around the world in showcasing specialty honey products for attendees to taste. The TRO’s stall featured classic Taiwanese honey-based drink with lemon and kumquat, drink with grass jelly, honey castella cake as well as fragrant pear jam with honey and osmanthus. Over 500 people attended the event, including several members of London’s diplomatic corps. The event was held following World Bee Day on 20 May to help raise awareness of bees’ contributions to sustainable development, food safety and biodiversity.

## Taiwan holds first same-sex marriage ceremonies in Asia



Following the legalisation of same-sex marriage on 17 May, Taiwan held hundreds of wedding ceremonies for gay couples on 24 May. Marc Yuan and Shane Lin were the first Taiwanese same-sex couple to receive their marriage certificate, which was signed by renowned LGBT activist Chi Chia-wei with a pen gifted by President Tsai Ing-wen to mark the historic occasion. According to Taiwan's Interior Ministry, 166 same-sex couples registered their marriages across Taiwan by 10am on 24 May.

## **Taiwan Indigenous Youth Choir delights audiences on UK Tour**



From 22-31 May, the Bao Lai & Jian Shan Indigenous Youth Choir of Taiwan embarked on their debut UK tour, sharing the beauty of Taiwan's indigenous culture and music with British audiences. The choir, who were awarded Gold in the 2018 World Choir Games in South Africa, held a concert at the Blue Coat School in Birmingham on 24 May, before taking part in a joint concert with the Military Wives Choir and the Amici Mixed Choir of Okinawa Japan in Colchester on 25 May. This was followed by a flash mob event which delighted onlookers in Cambridge outside Great St Mary's Church on 26 May. The choir held their own sold-out show in London on 29 May at the historic St James's Piccadilly Church.

Speaking at their London concert, Representative Lin said that through cultural exchange events such as this not only can the British audience gain a deeper appreciation of Taiwanese culture, but also develop a better understanding into the importance and beauty of the indigenous people of Taiwan.

## **Taiwanese Indigenous Dance celebrated in Brighton Festival 2019**



The Taiwanese indigenous dance troupe Tjimur Dance Theatre was invited to take part in the Brighton Festival 2019 on 24 and 25 May at the Theatre Royal and performed their critically-acclaimed piece “Varhung: Heart to Heart”. The performance received a rapturous response from audiences and was described by critics as expressing an “eloquent, universal resonance”.

Tjimur Dance Theatre previously performed the show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2018, where it was the only Asian act to be nominated for the prestigious Total Theatre Awards. The performance was lauded by critics, including a five-star review from *Broadway Baby* which described it as “a mesmerising experience of exquisitely melded indigenous and contemporary dance.”

## **First Annual Taiwan-Scotland Meeting promotes bilateral cooperation across the sciences**



On 25 May, the first Annual Taiwan-Scotland Meeting was held at the University of Edinburgh by the TRO Division of Science and Technology to traverse interdisciplinary exchanges, integrate different age groups, promote the government policies and recruit talents. Around 60 participants from academia, industry and government attended the event to participate in various interdisciplinary activities. Co-organised by the Taiwan Scotland Association, the workshop opened with remarks by the Director General of the Edinburgh Office Jason C.C. Lien and was presided over by Director of the TRO Science and Technology Professor Jiun-Huei Protty Wu.

The meeting included 10 talks, including 5 keynote speeches, about natural sciences, medicine, biotechnology, material science, entrepreneurship, social enterprise, design, literature and other such topics. The event also featured a series of interactive workshops which involved group discussions and brainstorming on mentorship, critical decisions, bottlenecks and dreams. The meeting received positive feedback and strong online support.

#### Taiwan in the news:

- [Economic minister affirms Taiwan's position in semiconductor industry](#)
- [Hundreds of Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr in Taiwan's capital](#)
- [Taiwan recurve women's team win gold at Archery World Cup](#)
- [Taipei hospital completes technology transfer for cancer drug](#)
- [Taiwan researchers working on method to predict, slow ALS progression](#)

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