

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處



President Tsai meets with UK parliamentary delegation.

IN THE NEWSLETTER

Key events featured in this issue include a UK parliamentary delegation's visit to Taiwan, President Tsai's statements on Taiwan terminating diplomatic ties with the Solomon Islands and Kiribati, President Tsai vowing to strengthen Taiwan's transnational drug-fighting efforts at an international forum, Taiwan's Foreign Minister calling on the UN to allow the country's participation in *City AM*, Taiwan's call to participate in ICAO highlighted in *Asian Affairs*, Representative Lin attending a reception commemorating Central American Independence, the Mayor of Taichung City visiting the UK, Representative Lin attending a workshop commemorating the 20th anniversary of the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies, the TRO hosting a closing ceremony for a programme promoting Taiwan-UK civil service cooperation, Taiwanese album art culture being celebrated in London Design Festival debut, the TRO hosting a London forum for interdisciplinary media production and technology and a Taiwanese delegation attending the UK-Taiwan Higher Education Forum.

UK parliamentary delegation visits Taiwan to boost bilateral cooperation

From 15-21 September, a delegation of UK parliamentarians visited Taiwan in an effort to strengthen bilateral cooperation on various fields. The 6 member delegation was

composed of House of Lords Deputy Speaker Lord Rogan and his British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Co-Chair Nigel Evans MP, Baroness Redfern, Lord Rennard and Lady Rennard as well as Baroness Scott of Bybrook.

On 19 September, President Tsai met with the delegation at the Presidential Office in Taipei. During the meeting, the president stressed the many reciprocal visits by high-level Taiwan and UK officials over the past few years, as well as the regular dialogue mechanisms between the two countries, including the annual vice-ministerial level Trade Talks, the Taiwan-UK Renewable Energy Roundtable, a railroad industry forum and the Taiwan-UK Smart City Forum. Emphasising that the two sides can forge even closer trade and investment ties by signing a free trade agreement or bilateral investment agreement, President Tsai also pointed out that Taiwan and the UK are devoted to protecting democratic values and are indispensable partners in the international community. “As we face severe oppression by China, Taiwan has never forsaken participation in international affairs,” she said, adding that Taiwan “will never waver in our commitment to cooperating with the UK, and other like-minded countries, to contribute to the international community.” The president concluded by thanking the APPG for its long-term support for Taiwan’s international participation and expressing hope that Taiwan and the UK can work together to identify more opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

President Tsai issues statements on Taiwan terminating diplomatic ties with the Solomon Islands and Kiribati



On 16 September, President Tsai issued a statement on the termination of Taiwan’s diplomatic relations with the Solomon Islands, condemning the government’s decision to establish diplomatic relations with China. Pointing out that China has continually used financial and political pressure to suppress Taiwan’s international space over the past few years, the president stated that Taiwan has responded to these actions with the sternest condemnation as not only a threat to Taiwan, but also a brazen challenge and detriment to

the international order. “Taiwan’s attitude towards its diplomatic allies has been one of sincere friendship; However, in the face of China’s interference and suppression, Taiwan will not stand to be threatened, nor will we be subjected to ceaseless demands,” President Tsai stressed.

In addition, President Tsai emphasised that by luring away Taiwan’s diplomatic allies and stepping up pressure over the past few years, China has sought to damage the morale of the Taiwanese people and force Taiwan to accept “one country, two systems”. “I am confident that the 23 million people of Taiwan have this to say in response: not a chance,” she stated.

On 20 September, the president issued another statement on the termination of Taiwan’s diplomatic ties with Kiribati, expressing regret over the Kiribati government’s decision. The president pointed out that Kiribati government’s choice to leave the true friend that they had in Taiwan to act as China’s pawn is a major mistake, adding that China has chosen this time to strike a series of blows against Taiwan because only slightly more than 100 days remain until the presidential elections.

President Tsai vows to strengthen Taiwan’s transnational drug-fighting efforts at international forum



On 4 September, President Tsai stressed the government’s commitment to strengthening transnational drug-fighting efforts at the 2019 International Forum on Police Cooperation: Combating Transnational Drug Crimes. In her opening remarks, the president said the government will continue signing agreements in key areas such as mutual judicial assistance and police cooperation so as to bolster the efficiency of the international security net. President Tsai also pointed out that Taiwan can achieve significant advances in law enforcement by sharing its related practices and procedures via police liaison officers stationed abroad. According to President Tsai, tackling drug crime is a top policy

priority for her administration, citing the recent launch of the Drug Prevention Fund (DPF) to subsidise programmes spanning addiction treatment, rehabilitation and youth drug awareness.

Organised by the National Police Agency under the Ministry of the Interior in conjunction with MOFA, the Mainland Affairs Council and other government agencies, the two-day event featured 350-plus experts and law enforcement officials from more than 30 countries and territories.

Taiwan Foreign Minister calls on UN to allow country's participation in London's *City AM*



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the City AM website with links for 'Latest News', 'Opinion', 'Podcast', and 'The Club'. The article title is 'Taiwan ready and able to be a part of UN family' by Joseph Wu, published on Monday 16 September 2019 at 1:00 am. Below the title is a social media sharing bar. The main image is a photograph of a large crowd of people at night, many holding up glowing lanterns, creating a warm, festive atmosphere.

Joseph Wu, Taiwan's Foreign Minister, argues it is time for the country to be welcomed into the United Nations

(Original Source: *City AM*)

Minister of Foreign Affairs Joseph Wu called on the UN to include Taiwan in an opinion piece titled "Taiwan ready and able to be a part of UN family" in London's *City AM* on 16 September, the eve of the global body's 74th general assembly. The minister stressed President Tsai's message that Taiwan's 23 million people have the right to participate in the UN system to which they remain cut off. The minister pointed out that although Taiwan, a full-fledged democracy, has made considerable progress in fulfilling UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it continues to be barred from participating in related meetings, mechanisms and activities due to political interference. Minister Wu stressed that this has seriously undermined the principle of partnership and the foundation of the SDGs, which requires the participation of all countries, stakeholders and people.

The foreign minister pointed out that the UN sits idly by whenever China seeks to impose its so-called "one China principle" on the global organisation. Minister Wu cited dozens of NGOs that were recently denied Consultative Status by the UN Economic and Social Council simply because a reference to Taiwan in their documents contradicted China's demands, Taiwan passport holders remaining blocked from entering UN premises for

public visits and meetings as well as Taiwanese journalists and media outlets being denied accreditation to cover UN meetings. “These practices are unjust and discriminatory, and contravene the principle of universality upon which the UN was founded,” the minister said. Minister Wu concluded that if the host of nations is serious about promoting inclusion and making development sustainable for all, it should open its doors to Taiwan.

Mayor of Taichung City visits UK to promote bilateral cooperation



Mayor of the Taichung City, Taiwan, Ms Lu Shioh-Yen, led a 14-member delegation to visit the UK from 2-5 September in an effort to strengthen bilateral cooperation. During her visit, Mayor Lu met with several UK officials and parliamentarians to exchange views, including the Deputy Director of International Climate Strategy at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Beth Child, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Ruth Bush, the Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to Taiwan, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, as well as Lord Northbrook, Lord Rennard and Lord Best.

Taiwanese delegation attends UK-Taiwan Higher Education Forum in London



On Friday 20 September, the inaugural UK-Taiwan Higher Education Forum took place at the Universities UK headquarters in central London. The Forum, which was co-organised by Universities UK International, the TRO Education Division and the Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (FICHET), consisted of 47 delegates from 17 national universities in Taiwan as well as senior representatives from 30 universities around the UK. The delegation, led by Dr Mon-Chi Lio, Deputy Minister of Education in Taiwan, was the largest ever higher education delegation to travel to the UK from Taiwan.

In addition to Deputy Minister Lio, speakers included Representative Lin, Professor Dame Janet Beer of Universities UK; Andrew Zerzan of the British Council as well as several Vice-Chancellors, University Presidents and Pro-Vice-Chancellors. There was a consensus amongst all participants that partnerships and exchanges between the UK and Taiwan, particularly in respect to research and study abroad, were key to the development of both countries. In this era of increasing internationalisation, universities must engage with their counterparts around the world in order to remain competitive.

TRO hosts London forum for interdisciplinary media production and technology



On 13 September, the TRO hosted a forum organised by its Science and Technology Division in London to promote interdisciplinary media culture and technology. The forum was opened by Representative Lin and led by TRO Science and Technology Director Professor Jiun-Huei Protty Wu. At the invitation of the TRO, four short talks were given by international producer Ms Ariel Liu, professor in visual communication design Ms Wan Ling Teng, animation and video director Ms Annlin Chao and multimedia engineering and industrial designer Mr Mick Lin. They shared various experiences and case studies in media production, animation, cutting-edge technology as well as the working environments in the UK and Taiwan. Around 60 people from academia and industry attended. The forum was followed by a successful banquet which was held for further networking.

Representative Lin attends workshop commemorating 20th anniversary of SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies



On 11 September, Representative Lin and TRO personnel attended the workshop “Taiwan in Transition: Challenges Facing Taiwan’s Economy and Changing Society”, co-organised by Taiwan’s Academia Sinica and National Cheng-chi university in celebration of the School of Oriental and African Studies(SOAS) Centre of Taiwan Studies’ 20th anniversary. The workshop featured talks from scholars at Taiwanese, British and American institutions, including National Chengchi University, University of Liverpool and University of Wyoming.

In his opening remarks, Representative Lin stressed that Taiwan’s economic fundamentals are sound, citing the economy’s positive growth for 12 consecutive quarters and ranking number 1 in the world for economic stability according to the World Economic Forum (WEF). Representative Lin also highlighted Taiwan’s becoming the first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage. The Taiwan Head of Missions in the UK emphasised that despite the economic and social pressures Taiwan faces, it is in a strong position to handle and adapt to these challenges in the years to come.

TRO hosts closing ceremony for programme promoting Taiwan-UK civil service cooperation



On 13 September, the TRO hosted a closing ceremony for a bilateral programme promoting Taiwan-UK civil service cooperation called the “Take-Off Programme for Senior Civil Service”. Under the programme jointly run by the Taiwan Civil Service Protection & Training Commission (CSPTC) and the UK Civil Service College (CSC), 18 Taiwanese senior officials visited British government agencies and departments, academic institutions in Oxford and Leeds as well as local authorities in northern England to strengthen mutual understanding between Taiwan and the UK’s civil services. During the closing ceremony, the 18 Taiwanese officials were presented a certificate of completion by former Minister of State for Trade and Investment and Cabinet Office Minister Lord Francis Maude, who oversaw major reforms in the UK Civil Service during his tenure.

In his remarks, Representative Lin stressed that as exchanges between Taiwan and the UK continue to grow, effective cooperation and communication between officials of all levels from Taiwan and the UK has become increasingly important. He concluded by expressing hope that cooperation between the CSC and CPTSC will continue to expand and that the Taiwanese officials will promote the Taiwan-UK relationship upon their return. Following Representative Lin’s speech, Lord Maude expressed his admiration for Taiwan’s achievements and emphasised that the relationship between the UK and Taiwan is “better than it has ever been.” The former minister also expressed hope that he can work more with the government of Taiwan in the future.

Taiwanese album art culture celebrated in London Design Festival debut



The exhibition “Sounds of Design: Taiwan’s Contemporary Album Art” which celebrated Taiwan’s vibrant record designs and packaging culture was held between 14-22 September as part of London Design Festival, allowing UK audiences to gain insight into Taiwan’s contemporary design industry. Featuring works by five innovative Graphic Designers, the exhibition showcased the unique and experimental spirit of Taiwanese designers, alongside the vast potential of Taiwan’s printing and manufacturing technology. To celebrate the launch, a series of talks were held on 13 and 14 September by Exhibition Curator Lin Wei-jhe and Golden Melody Award-winning Graphic Designer Aaron Nieh, where they discussed both contemporary trends in record design and how art can be used to create a connection between music and listeners. Established in 2003, London Design Festival demonstrates the city’s reputation as a global centre of design, and last year attracted over 588,000 visitors from more than 75 countries.

Taiwan in the news:

- [Winners of video contest to stay at Taiwan's Presidential Office](#)
- [iPhone 11 Pro series a hit in Taiwan on debut: telecom operators](#)
- [Taiwan lauds progress on greenhouse gas reduction as summit opens](#)
- [Taiwan's Chan sisters win women's doubles at Pan Pacific Open](#)
- [Taiwan weightlifter breaks world records, wins 2 golds](#)



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