

**TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK**

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President Tsai Ing-wen stresses Taiwan's cooperation in combating the outbreak of coronavirus.

**IN THE NEWSLETTER**

Key events featured in this issue include President Tsai highlighting Taiwan's cooperation in the fight against COVID-19, Taiwan donating 10 million face masks to US, Europe and diplomatic allies, MOFA urging the WHO to take a neutral, professional stance in facilitating Taiwan's full participation and contributions, Representative Lin highlighting the success of Taiwan's response to COVID-19 in a letter to *The Economist*, *The Economist* calling for Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO, Taiwan thanking US President Donald Trump for signing the TAIPEI Act into law, legendary Taiwanese choreographer Lin Hwai-min's talk at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London, the TRO distributing face masks to Taiwanese students in the UK and the Chief Architect of Taichung Intelligence Operations Centre speaking at an event on designing digital cities.

**President Tsai highlights Taiwan's cooperation in fight against COVID-19**

On 1 April, President Tsai Ing-wen delivered a speech highlighting Taiwan's cooperation to combat the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The president stressed that the entire nation has worked together to bring the domestic outbreak under control, and Taiwan's efforts have received both attention and praise from the international community. The president cited Taiwan's transformation from an importer to the world's second-largest producer of face masks, which is already providing an ample supply to domestic demand. President Tsai pointed out conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic in each country affect all

other countries. “We cannot stop the spread of COVID-19 simply by preventing an outbreak within Taiwan,” she said, adding that all members of the international community must pool their capabilities and work together to overcome this challenge.

The president highlighted Taiwan’s cooperation with many nations on rapid testing, vaccines, pharmaceutical R&D, and the country’s proactive efforts to produce materials needed to stop the spread of COVID-19. President Tsai cited discussions on prevention strategies and sharing research results with the US, EU, and Czech Republic as well as cooperative exchanges of epidemic prevention materials with Australia and the US. She added that for diplomatic allies, Taiwan will also provide assistance so that they can acquire the medical supplies they need by purchasing them locally. The president stressed Taiwan is willing to assist the international community in three areas: face masks, pharmaceuticals, and technologies. “We will donate 10 million face masks...to support medical workers in countries where the COVID-19 outbreak is particularly severe,” she stated. In terms of pharmaceuticals, the president said the government has asked firms to increase quinine production to give other countries in need of appropriate support. As for technological support, the president stressed that Taiwan will share its domestic electronic quarantine system that utilises big data analytics to aid in contact-tracing.

“We want everyone to not only see that ‘Taiwan can help,’ but that ‘Taiwan is helping’,” President Tsai stated, adding that “we want to show that Taiwan is indispensable to collective global efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.” The president stressed that because Taiwan has kept the domestic outbreak well under control and prepared adequate supplies of necessary materials, it has the ability to cooperate with other countries and provide humanitarian aid. She concluded by encouraging countries around the globe to unite, show solidarity, provide mutual assistance, and work together to fight the coronavirus. “Taiwan is willing to exert its influence in this battle and join hands with the international community so that we can overcome this challenge together.”

## Taiwan donates 10 million face masks to US, Europe and diplomatic allies in wake of coronavirus outbreak



On 1 April, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced Taiwan will donate 10 million face masks to the US, EU member states and other European nations, and diplomatic allies to support medical personnel in containing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Under the initiative, Taiwan will donate seven million face masks to EU member states as well as the UK and Switzerland, and hold consultations with the EU and individual European countries to establish reciprocal partnerships against COVID-19 such as complementary supply chains for related equipment.

MOFA stressed that “Taiwan can help!” is not just a slogan, adding that Taiwan can in fact make a real difference through concrete action. MOFA also emphasised progress in strengthening international epidemic prevention and containment cooperation. In terms of technical cooperation, the US, EU, Czech Republic, Canada and others have held talks with Taiwan’s Academia Sinica and leading Taiwanese vaccine manufacturers. Taiwan has also established cooperative partnerships, including collaborating with Australia for the exchange of materials to combat COVID-19.

Following MOFA’s announcement on 1 April, the British Office Taipei (BOT) issued a statement on Facebook expressing the UK’s gratitude: “We are very grateful for Taiwan’s generous offer of surgical masks to the UK among other countries.” That same day, Taiwan’s donation was also highlighted in an article by *The Financial Times* titled “Taiwan to donate 10m masks to Europe and US”. A few days prior on 27 March, upon news of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s positive diagnosis of coronavirus, President Tsai Ing-wen expressed Taiwan’s support for the PM’s recovery, tweeting “All of us here in Taiwan are wishing you a swift, smooth recovery. Let’s keep working to beat this virus.”

Taiwan’s donation of medical face masks to the UK arrived and was safely handed over on 13 April at the designated location, NHS Supply Chain at Daventry.

# MOFA urges WHO to take neutral, professional stance in facilitating Taiwan's full participation and contributions



The screenshot shows the MOFA website's 'News and Events' section. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the MOFA logo and links for 'ABOUT MOFA', 'PRESS ROOM', 'POLICIES & ISSUES', 'EMBASSIES & MISSIONS', and 'GOVERNMENT INFORMATION'. The main content area features the title 'MOFA calls on WHO to take neutral, professional stance facilitating Taiwan's full participation and contributions', the date 'March 30, 2020', and the press release number '080'. The text of the press release is partially visible, starting with 'The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) took notice when the World Health Organization Secretariat issued a statement on March 29 recognizing the success of Taiwan's epidemic prevention and containment measures...'

On 30 March, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) issued a response to the World Health Organization (WHO) Secretariat's statement dated 29 March and called on the global health body to take a neutral, professional stance in facilitating Taiwan's full participation and contributions. While noting the WHO's recognition of Taiwan's successful epidemic prevention and containment measures as well as the importance of the country in the global fight against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), MOFA expressed regret that the WHO statement failed to present the full facts and called on the WHO Secretariat to continue to reevaluate the unfair restrictions it has imposed on Taiwan.

Regarding Taiwan's information sharing with the WHO, MOFA pointed out that while Taiwan's International Health Regulations (IHR) Contact Point allows it to glean information from the IHR's Event Information Site (EIS), the information provided by Taiwan to the WHO through this conduit is not then shared by the organisation with other members. MOFA stressed that Taiwan has from the very start shared information about COVID-19 promptly with the WHO Focal Point, but the WHO Secretariat has yet to include the information on the EIS website or the WHO's daily Situation Reports. The Ministry stressed that, as a result, health agencies of other nations cannot get information through WHO data on the epidemic in Taiwan, or its prevention policies or border quarantine measures.

Regarding exchanges through the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET), MOFA stated that although Taiwan does participate in TEPHINET, which is not a WHO programme, Taiwan is still unable to participate in WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). This means Taiwan can only obtain information indirectly through TEPHINET, and moreover, the country has no access to timely information through GOARN. "This cannot be represented as Taiwan's participating in GOARN, nor does it give WHO grounds to claim it is cooperating with Taiwan," the Ministry stated. Regarding Taiwan's participation in WHO forums and technical meetings, MOFA emphasised that while WHO agreed to allow Taiwan to arrange

for Taiwanese experts to attend the WHO's Global Research and Innovation Forum in Geneva, their participation was limited to videoconferencing. This prevented Taiwanese experts from directly interacting with other countries' representatives and engaging in exchanges about the development of the COVID-19 outbreak, and other relevant topics. MOFA also pointed out that from 2009—2019, Taiwan was only invited to 57 of the 187 WHO technical meetings it had applied to attend, representing a very high rejection rate of 70 per cent and a clear indicator that the WHO continues to restrict Taiwan for political reasons.

MOFA highlighted the growing wave of support for Taiwan's inclusion in WHO among Taiwan's diplomatic allies and like-minded nations, adding that the country's successful efforts to keep COVID-19 in check have earned praise and commendation from the international community, and recognition through more than 450 news reports in over 40 countries. MOFA expressed gratitude to the international community for its staunch support. MOFA once again called on the WHO Secretariat to cast aside political considerations, abide by the WHO Charter's call to work for the highest attainable standard of human health, and bring Taiwan fully into its meetings, mechanisms, and activities, particularly those concerning COVID-19.

## Representative Lin highlights success of Taiwan's response to COVID-19 in letter to *The Economist*

### Letters to the editor

A selection of correspondence



#### Taiwan's response to covid-19

(Original source: *The Economist*)

On 26 March, Representative Lin highlighted the success of Taiwan's approach to the coronavirus outbreak in a letter to the editor of *The Economist* which was published under the title "Taiwan's response to COVID-19". Representative Lin pointed out that although countries are struggling to cope with the virus, China's approach is not the only way to suppress its spread. He highlighted that Taiwan has relatively few cases of the disease. "Learning the harsh lessons from the SARS crisis in 2003, the government of Taiwan acted swiftly and established a command centre in order to respond to the outbreak," Representative Lin said, citing Taiwan's health minister holding press conferences almost everyday, conducting tests on travellers from Wuhan in December and applying technology using big-data analysis to intensive health monitoring.

Representative Lin stressed that despite exclusion from the World Health Organization (WHO) due to pressure from China, Taiwan sent an early warning to the international health body about the risk of transmission of the coronavirus between humans at the end of December. "However, the warning was not shared with other countries by the WHO because of its relationship with China," he added. Representative Lin pointed out that the error ultimately delayed the global response to the pandemic. "The politics of pandemics, which exists inside the WHO as well as between states should be unacceptable to any country that cares about public health," he stated. Representative Lin stressed that the Chinese propaganda machine is trying to convince the world that its draconian response to the coronavirus is the only way to combat its spread; other countries are following its lead. "Taiwan proves that democracies can successfully fight the virus without an authoritarian response," he said, adding that given the nature of China's autocratic system, Taiwan should serve as a better democratic model for managing pandemics.

## The Economist calls for Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO

The  
Economist



Banyan

### Let Taiwan into the World Health Organisation

A champion against covid-19 is shut out of the body that fights the pandemic

(Original Source: *The Economist*)

*The Economist* published an article in its March 26<sup>th</sup> 2020 edition titled “Let Taiwan into the World Health Organisation” calling for the country’s inclusion in the global health body. The article points out that Taiwan, a champion against COVID-19, is shut out of the body that fights the pandemics. The piece highlights the effectiveness of Taiwan’s response to coronavirus compared to other countries, including Taiwan’s low number of cases of the disease, the expertise of Vice President Chen Chien-jen as a former epidemiologist and health minister and the establishment of Taiwan’s Central Epidemic Command Centre (CECC) in 2004 following the outbreak of SARS. The piece points out that in an emergency, the CECC’s mandate is to work across government departments to commandeer the resources it needs, citing that President Tsai triggered the CECC on 20 January 2020 and put the Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-chung in charge. The article emphasised Taiwan’s swift response, including screening inbound air passengers, energetic testing, rationing face masks as well as neighbourhood wardens enforcing quarantines and delivering food to those who cannot go out to get it. *The Economist* also highlighted Taiwan’s use of IT, such as the national databases and big data, to identify those most at risk of infection, as well as its laws to shut down disinformation campaigns about the virus on social media originating from China.

The article notes that while China’s initial cover-up eroded people’s trust in its response, Taiwan’s vigorous and timely action set a reassuring tone. For example, in late December Taiwanese health officials were boarding flights from Wuhan to check passengers for symptoms. “Taiwan’s performance is remarkable,” the piece states, adding that even more remarkable is that the country is not a member of the WHO, citing China’s obstruction. *The Economist* points out Taiwan wrote to the WHO in late December asking about human-to-human transmission in the virus outbreak in Wuhan, but the WHO did not reply. The article stresses that Taiwan’s fight against COVID-19 shows it can cope outside the WHO, but its exclusion causes wider damage. “Taiwan’s early understanding of the threat of the coronavirus could have given others advance warning,” the piece states, and “Taiwan’s inability to disseminate its findings cost lives.” The article concludes by urging the WHO to spare a word of praise for Taiwan and put an end to China’s unconscionable boycott of the country’s participation.

# Taiwan thanks US President Trump for signing TAIPEI Act into law



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## News & activities

### Office of the President thanks US President Trump for signing TAIPEI Act into law

2020-03-27

中文

The Office of the President expressed gratitude after US President Donald Trump signed the "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019" into law on March 26 (US Eastern Daylight Time).

On 27 March, the Office of the President expressed gratitude after US President Donald Trump signed the "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019" into law on 26 March. The recent legislation follows the US President's signing of the Taiwan Travel Act in March 2018, with both laws supporting Taiwan's diplomatic efforts. The Presidential Office stated the TAIPEI Act was sponsored in the US Senate by Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO; Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy) and in the House of Representatives by Congressman John Curtis (R-UT). The bill was passed by the House on 4 March and the Senate on 11 March, and was signed by President Trump on 26 March. "On behalf of the government and people of Taiwan, the Office of the President offered sincere thanks for the strong support that the US executive and legislative branches have lent to Taiwan in its effort to achieve international participation, take part in global diplomatic affairs, and develop international partnerships," spokesperson Huang stated.

The Presidential Office stressed that the US is Taiwan's most important international cooperation partner, adding that "Taiwan will continue to enhance cooperation and partnerships with the US and other like-minded nations based on shared commitment to values like freedom, democracy, and prosperity, so that Taiwan—a force for good in the world—will have more space to contribute to the international community."



## Legendary Taiwanese choreographer shares insights on illustrious career



From left to right: Melody Lin (Cellist), Dr Pin-chuan Chen (TRO Cultural Division Director), Brian Brady (Head of Laban Theatre, Trinity Laban), Judith Mackrell (Dance Critic), Lin Hwai-min (Founder of Cloud Gate), Representative Lin, Anthony Bowne (Principal, Trinity Laban)

On 20 February, founder of the iconic Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan Lin Hwai-min discussed his illustrious career at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Dance & Theatre in London. Joined in conversation by Senior Dance Critic Judith Mackrell, Lin Hwai-min shared insights on how the dance troupe he founded in 1973 went on to be regarded as the pinnacle of modern dance.

In a speech, Representative Lin praised Lin Hwai-min as a cultural ambassador for Taiwan, adding that thanks to his hard work, Cloud Gate has become one of Taiwan's major cultural exports. Principal of Trinity Laban Anthony Bowne also expressed great pleasure that Lin Hwai-min was able to visit and give a talk after receiving an Honorary Fellowship from the conservatoire in 2018.

From 26-29 February, the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan delighted London audiences with performances of their new show '13 Tongues and Dust', featuring choreography by Lin Hwai-min and new Artistic Director Cheng Tsung-lung. The performance received critical praise, with *The Times* hailing it "astoundingly good."

## TRO distributes face masks to Taiwanese students in the UK

From 25 to 31 March, the TRO assisted overseas Taiwanese students in the UK who remained in their university accommodation to obtain face masks during the coronavirus lockdown. After carrying out extensive consultations with students, the TRO Education Division helped establish a face-mask distribution scheme to address students' concerns

over the lack of masks during the pandemic. The Education Division ordered a large shipment of masks to post to students unable to acquire their own supplies due to travel restrictions and shortages in local shops. By the end of March, the TRO assisted 646 Taiwanese students to acquire face masks which were posted to their universities, including those without a Taiwanese Students' Association.

## Chief Architect of Taichung Intelligence Operations Centre speaks at Designing Digital Cities event



On 27 February, the chief architect for the design of the Taichung Intelligence Operations Centre (TIOC), Elizabeth de Portzamparc, participated as one of two keynote speakers at the Architecture Centre at Bristol event 'Designing Digital Cities'. The TIOC was built with a sustainable, high-tech design and is expected to open in 2025 as the biggest urban tower (262 meters in height) in Taichung, the largest city in central Taiwan. The event was partially sponsored by the TRO, with Director of Science and Technology Professor Jiun-Huei Protty Wu in attendance. Director Wu discussed the planning of smart cities and future collaboration with participants, including event chair Stephen Hilton, Mayor of West of England Tim Bowles, CEO of Digital Catapult Jeremy Silver, as well as TIOC architect and keynote speaker Elizabeth de Portzamparc.

### Taiwan in the news:

- [Tsai praised as decisive female leader in COVID-19 fight](#)
- [Taiwan shares end up over 200 points as tech stocks steam ahead](#)
- [Taiwan launches world's only baseball season amid COVID-19 \(updated\)](#)
- [Taiwanese, overseas musicians take part in relay of Bach classic](#)
- [Rapid diagnostic test for COVID-19 to go into production in July](#)



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