

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處

President Tsai **strongly protests** accusations that Taiwan is instigating racist attacks.

For years, Taiwan has been excluded from international organizations, and we know better than anyone else what it feels like to be **discriminated against and isolated**.

If Director-General Tedros could **withstand pressure from China** and come to Taiwan to see our efforts to fight COVID-19 for himself, he would see that the Taiwanese people are the true victims of **unfair treatment**.



(Original sources: Twitter and Facebook)

President Tsai Ing-wen protests WHO Director-General Tedros's accusations against Taiwan.

IN THE NEWSLETTER

Key events featured in this issue include:

- President Tsai and MOFA strongly protesting the WHO Director-General's accusations, calling for professionalism and Taiwan's participation
- Vice President Chen interview with *BBC* about Taiwan Model to fight coronavirus
- UK press voicing support for Taiwan's WHO membership
- UK and EU thanking Taiwan for donation of face masks
- Representative Lin highlighting Taiwan's leading role in fighting coronavirus in *Monocle 24* interview
- UK press praising Taiwan's handling of COVID-19 and donation of face masks
- Taiwanese Cinema being showcased online ahead of postponed London Film Festival

President Tsai and MOFA strongly protest WHO Director-General's accusations, call for professionalism and Taiwan's participation

On 9 April, President Tsai Ing-wen and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly protested false accusations from the World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who accused the government of Taiwan of encouraging the Taiwanese people to discredit him. In a statement on Twitter and Facebook, the president stressed Taiwan has always opposed all forms of discrimination, adding that after years of exclusion from international organisations, Taiwan knows better than anyone else what it

feels like to be discriminated against and isolated. She pointed out that if the Director-General could withstand pressure from China and come to Taiwan to see its efforts to fight COVID-19 for himself, he would be able to see that the Taiwanese people are the true victims of unfair treatment. "I believe that the WHO will only truly be complete if Taiwan is included," she stated. The same day, MOFA also published a statement expressing profound regret and strong protest regarding this false accusations. MOFA stressed that Dr. Tedros's unwarranted charges, made without any attempt at verification, are contrary to the facts and have caused serious damage to the government and people of Taiwan. MOFA called on the Director-General to put aside all political discrimination, maintain neutrality and professionalism, invite Taiwan to fully participate in the WHO.

On 15 April, MOFA issued a response to the WHO Secretariat's 13-point statement regarding Taiwan's engagement with the body. MOFA pointed out that the WHO has failed to uphold the principles of professionalism and neutrality and arrange for Taiwan's comprehensive and unimpeded participation. MOFA also drew attention to Taiwan's participation remains extremely limited. "Taiwan is not only prevented from obtaining firsthand information concerning the disease in a timely manner, but also faces hurdles in sharing its Taiwan Model on epidemic prevention with other countries," MOFA stated, adding that from 2009 to 2019, Taiwan applied to take part in 187 WHO technical meetings but only received invitations to 57 of these, meaning that 70 percent of applications were rejected. MOFA concluded by urging the WHO to engage in direct communication with the Taiwan government, invite Taiwan to attend the World Health Assembly as an observer, and facilitate its participation in all WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities, including those concerning epidemic prevention and containment.

On 16 April, MOFA issued a statement regarding the WHO's press conference the previous day in which it responded to Taiwan's efforts to participate by erroneously citing UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1 as well as misleadingly claiming that Taiwan and WHO share good and extensive interactions. The ministry pointed out that the UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1 only address the right to represent China and do not refer to Taiwan as part of China, and they do not deal with the issue of Taiwan's participation in the UN nor authorise China to represent Taiwan in the UN system. MOFA once again urged the WHO Secretariat to bear in mind the noble goal of Health for All, maintain a position of neutrality and professionalism, live up to its status as the leading international public health organisation, and not become complicit in suppressing the health rights of the 23 million people of Taiwan.

Vice President Chen interviewed by *BBC* about Taiwan Model to fight coronavirus



(Original source: *BBC*)

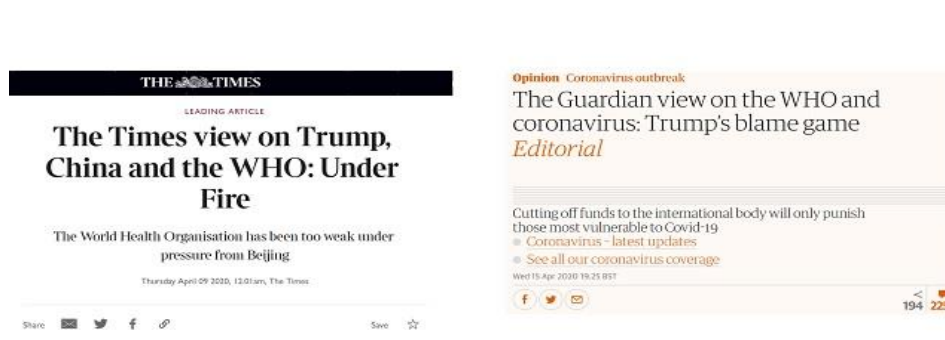
On the morning of 8 April, Taiwan Vice President Dr Chen Chien-jen, an epidemiologist by training, shared the country's experience in containing the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as well as illustrated Taiwan's efforts to cooperate internationally to fight the pandemic in a videoconference interview with *BBC's* *Newsday* programme. He began by expressing his wish that Prime Minister Boris Johnson get well soon and all the best for the people of the United Kingdom. Vice President Chen stressed the situation in Taiwan is quite good, with confirmed COVID-19 cases at 376 by 7 April, most of which were imported. In response to questions about what other countries can learn from Taiwan's approach, the vice president highlighted the importance of taking very quick actions. The VP cited measures to combat the virus implemented by President Tsai Ing-wen, including holding a National Security Council meeting to coordinate and integrate all multi-ministry efforts, quickly announcing travel alerts, optimising border quarantine, reinforcing 14-day home quarantine, upgrading the country's healthcare system for infectious disease, ensuring the adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical materials, promoting health education and communication as well as accelerating the development of rapid diagnostic antivirus [test kits] and vaccines.

Vice President Chen highlighted how Taiwan's previous experience with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) helped the country combat the spread of COVID-19. The vice president pointed out that after the SARS outbreak, Taiwan already had a comprehensive review and made amendments to its Communicable Disease Control Act, established a command system for communicable disease control, strengthened border quarantine capacity, set up a diversified communicable disease monitoring system, reinforced monitoring of densely populated institutions, implemented nosocomial infection prevention control policies and formulated response plans for emerging infectious diseases and conducted drills. "Prudent action, rapid response, and early deployment are very essential for this, and for a very good control of this pandemic," the vice president stated.

The vice president also echoed President Tsai's message on 4 April that Taiwan can help

and Taiwan is helping, adding that out of humanitarian concern, Taiwan cannot stand by while other countries are in need of help. Vice President Chen highlighted Taiwan's efforts to bolster cooperation with all countries and willingness to provide assistance to the international community in the areas of face masks, pharmaceuticals, and technologies. He cited Taiwan's recent donation of 10 million face masks to support medical personnel in countries most severely affected by the disease, including the UK, as well as Taiwan's assistance to the UK government in procuring critical materials and resources to contain the pandemic and protect frontline medical staff and citizens in the UK. In addition to Taiwan's cooperation with the US in the fight against COVID-19, the vice president stressed Taiwan would also like to collaborate with the UK to improve the containment of the pandemic, and also to protect all the people in the world.

UK press voices support for Taiwan's WHO membership



(Original sources: *The Times* and *The Guardian*)

Following *The Economist's* article "Let Taiwan into the World Health Organisation" on 26 March, *The Times* and *The Guardian* also expressed support for Taiwan's inclusion in the global health body. In an editorial titled "*The Times* view on Trump, China and the WHO: Under Fire" on 9 April, the paper highlighted Canada, US, Germany, Japan and the EU's support for Taiwanese involvement. However, *The Times* pointed out the WHO refuses to admit Taiwanese delegates to the World Health Assembly (WHA) and all emergency meetings about the pandemic. The paper also drew attention to the WHO Deputy Director-General Bruce Aylward's interview with Hong Kong broadcasting service RTHK in which he refused to answer a question about Taiwan's membership in the WHO.

In an editorial titled "Guardian view on the WHO and coronavirus: Trump's blame game", *The Guardian* highlighted China blocking Taiwan's membership of the body. The paper pointed out the WHO has treated Taiwan appallingly, thanks to its concern for relations with Beijing. The paper called on other countries to vigorously make the case for Taiwan's renewed attendance at the WHA as an observer as well as foster their own relationships with Taipei, individually and together. *The Guardian* concluded by stressing Taiwan's response to the virus has been exemplary, adding that others will benefit from its experience and information.

UK and EU thank Taiwan for donation of face masks



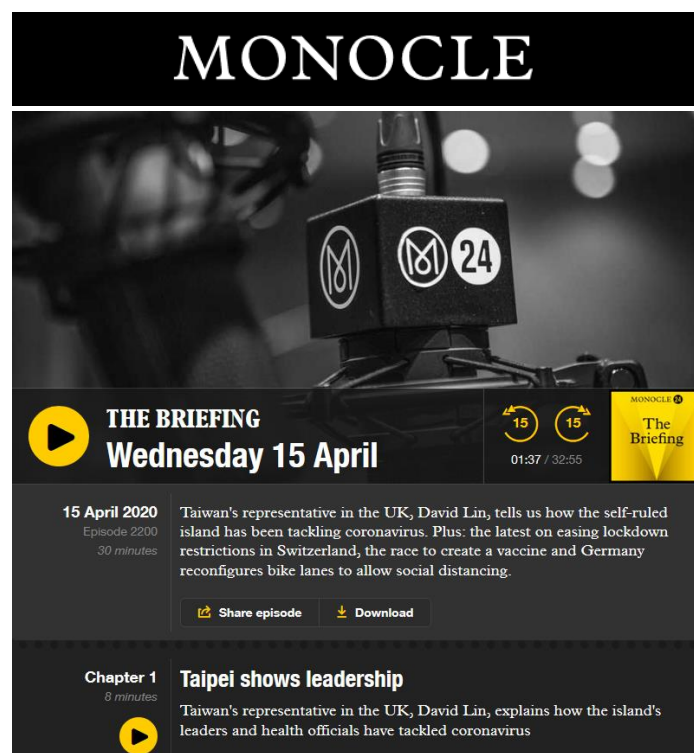
(Original sources: Twitter and Facebook)

In April, parliamentarians and officials from the UK and EU expressed their gratitude to Taiwan for its donation of face masks amid the coronavirus outbreak. In a video message posted on 13 April, Deputy Speaker of the UK House of Commons and British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Honourary President Nigel Evans MP thanked Taiwan's government and people for the donation of face masks to help those on the front-line in the NHS and other personnel. The Deputy Speaker said that every Thursday night the people of Britain come to their doorsteps to clap for the NHS and front-line services, and in this spirit, applauded the people and government of Taiwan to show his appreciation. Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords and APPG Co-Chair Lord Rogan and fellow Co-Chair Martin Vickers also conveyed their gratitude in video messages, stressing "we must all come together in this time of crisis" and that the friendship between the British people and the Taiwanese is strong and growing stronger. UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan Lord Faulkner of Worcester echoed this message on Twitter, stating "we look forward to continuing collaboration with Taiwan on equipment and exchange of experiences to tackle Covid-19. We shall get through this together." Minister of State for Trade Policy in the Department for International Trade (DIT) Greg Hands, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets Paul Scully and Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Asia Pacific Natalie Black also publicly thanked Taiwan for the donation.

APPG Vice-Chair Andrew Rosindell MP tweeted "this is a truly amazing and wonderful act of friendship by Taiwan towards the UK. A true friend indeed!" Fellow members of the House of Commons also took to Twitter to express their thanks, including Stephen Timms MP. In addition to parliamentarians, members of the British Office Taipei (BOT), including Representative Catherine Nettleton, Deputy Representative Andrew Pittam, also thanked Taiwan for its generous donation to the UK and expressed support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations, including the World Health Organization (WHO). Earlier on 6 April, House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Tom Tugendhat MP drew attention to Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO in an interview with *Sky News* and praised the country's early action to combat the virus. In addition to UK parliamentarians, President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen

expressed gratitude to Taiwan on Twitter, stressing “acts like this show that we are #StrongerTogether,” while EU Representative in Taiwan Filip Grzegorzewski posted a tweet thanking Taiwan for its swift delivery of masks to countries hardest hit by the pandemic.

Representative Lin highlights Taiwan’s leading role in fighting coronavirus in *Monocle 24* interview



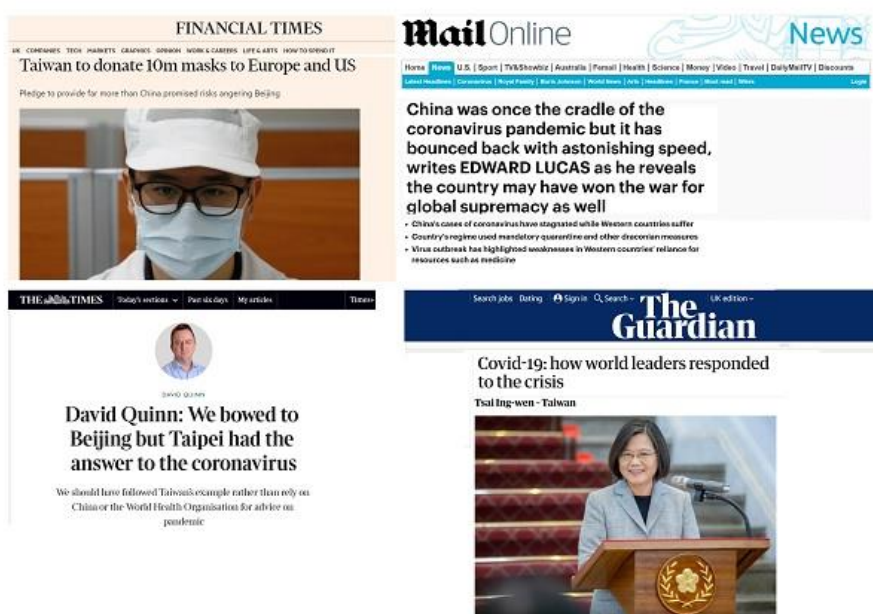
(Original source: *Monocle*)

On 15 April, Representative Lin highlighted Taiwan’s leading role in the fight against coronavirus during an interview titled “Taipei shows leadership” with *Monocle 24* Editor and presenter Andrew Tuck. When elaborating Taiwan’s actions to combat the spread of COVID-19 at the very beginning, Representative Lin stressed the importance of quick action, rapid response and early deployment in building an effective prevention system. He pointed out that Taiwan began checking passengers arriving from Wuhan for symptoms of fever or pneumonia as early as 31 December 2019, and then activated the Central Epidemic Command Centre on 20 January 2020 to coordinate and integrate measures taken by relevant government agencies. Commenting on Taiwan’s dealing with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003, Representative Lin emphasised this past experience helped Taiwan’s preparation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, adding that “the system is working very well, and we hope that we will continue to do that.”

On the subject of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Representative Lin pointed out the WHO did not respond to Taiwan’s notification of the possibility of human-to-human transmission of the coronavirus on 31 December 2019, with the global health body declaring the virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern some time later on 30 January 2020. Representative Lin also stressed the WHO’s exclusion of Taiwan due to China’s pressure and boycott, adding that such treatment is unfair and unjust to

the 24 million people of Taiwan because health is a fundamental human right, and health for all is the basic goal of the WHO. “There should be no loophole, Taiwan should be included, Taiwan should be incorporated in the international public health system,” Representative Lin stated. In response to questions about daily life in Taiwan following the global outbreak of coronavirus, Representative Lin emphasised that people are living normal lives with some travel restrictions for those coming from seriously affected areas. Representative Lin also reiterated President Tsai Ing-wen’s message of Taiwan’s willingness to cooperate with other countries in fighting the pandemic, citing the country’s recent donation of medical face masks to other countries, including the UK. “We are hoping we can play a very important part to coordinate and cooperate with other countries in fighting this pandemic.”

UK press praises Taiwan’s handling of COVID-19 and donation of face masks



(Original sources: *The Financial Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Times*, *Guardian*)

In April, many UK media outlets, including *The Financial Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Times* and *Guardian*, highlighted Taiwan’s effective approach to tackling coronavirus as well as its donation of 10 million face masks to countries hit hard by the outbreak. On 1 April, an article in *The Financial Times* titled “Taiwan to donate 10m masks to Europe and US” pointed out that seven million of the masks would go to the EU member countries as well as the UK and Switzerland, a pledge more than three times the amount China promised the EU. In addition to Taiwan’s donation of face masks, the article cited the Academia Sinica’s videoconference with officials from EU institutions to co-operate on development of a rapid diagnostic test and a vaccine, the signing of the Taiwan-US Joint Statement on a Partnership against Coronavirus on 18 March as well as Taiwan and Australia’s agreement to exchange materials to help fight the pandemic. The article also drew attention to Taiwan’s early and swift measures to combat the virus, such as banning exports and rationing domestic sales of medical masks, offering incentives and procurement guarantees for manufacturers of the equipment and ramping up new mask production capacity. On 4 April, a piece in *The Daily Mail* titled “China was once the cradle

of the coronavirus pandemic but it has bounced back with astonishing speed” stressed that Taiwan has conquered the coronavirus far more efficiently and humanely than the communist authorities on the mainland and gives real aid to other countries struggling with the pandemic. The article called for promoting contacts with Taiwan and those who stand up against bullying inside China.

On 5 April, an article in *The Times* titled “We bowed to Beijing but Taipei had the answer to the coronavirus” highlighted Taiwan as an example to be followed in handling the pandemic. The piece pointed out Taiwan’s early and immediate measures in response to the outbreak, such as screening passengers arriving from Wuhan from 31 December as well as implementing an emergency response plan which involved testing, contact-tracing and isolation of actual and possible cases. On 12 April, an article in *The Guardian* titled “Covid-19: how world leaders responded to the crisis” emphasised that Taiwan’s death toll remained low and its economy and schools continue to function largely as normal. The article lauded the government’s strategy in tackling the coronavirus, helped by the lessons learned during the SARS crisis in 2003 and supported by Vice President and former epidemiologist Chen Chien-jen, as “extremely proactive.”

Taiwanese Cinema showcased online ahead of postponed London Film Festival



A selection of Taiwanese LGBTQ films that were originally meant to be featured in the inaugural Queer East Film Festival are streaming online from 18 April until 17 May as part of the festivals ‘QE: HomeSexual’ Initiative. Festival Director Wang Yi said that Taiwan was chosen to be one of the focal points because the country became the first in Asia to recognise same-sex marriage in May 2019.

The Taiwanese films featured in the online event can be streamed for £2.99 each, with proceeds going to independent cinemas that were to partner with the festival. Visit <https://queereast.co/vod> to access the digital content.

Taiwan in the news:

- [Cheering fans allowed into Taiwan's pro baseball games](#)
- [Buddhist groups move religious ceremonies online amid COVID-19](#)
- [Taiwan unveils locally made ventilator prototype](#)
- [Bank gives employees cash, urges them to spend amid COVID-19](#)
- [Local theater groups launch joint search for talent](#)



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