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# TAIWAN INFO

## Policy platform of President-elect Tsai at a glance

A series of policy initiatives aimed at boosting the competitiveness and sustainability of Taiwan’s various sectors has been announced by President-elect Tsai Ing-wen. The initiatives cover biomedical, smart machinery, agriculture, semiconductor and Internet of Things sectors, as well as long-term care services. Below is a brief outline of Tsai’s policy directions:

### Biomedicine

The biomedical component includes reforms for 31 items covered under amendments to the Act for the Development of Biotech and New Pharmaceuticals Industry, Fundamental Science and Technology Act and Pharmaceutical Affairs Act. This raft of changes is prioritized for review in the current legislature, which commenced sittings Feb. 19 in Taipei. It is hoped that these bills will be green-lighted by year-end. And one of the major goals is to boost production value.

### Smart machinery

Given more than 160,000 employees in the machinery-related sector in central Taiwan, Tsai wants to turn Greater Taichung into a global smart machinery hub by pooling resources of the academic, public and private

sectors. A Taichung-based policymaking advisory panel is to be formed to accelerate industry. Comprising central and local government officials, the panel will offer support to the precision and machine tool sectors in such fields as international cooperation, land acquisition, marketing, R&D and talent recruitment.



### Agriculture

The initiatives include an agricultural land bank, farmers’ insurance scheme, labor brokerage system and new trading model. The bank enables the reassigning to young farmers of surplus or underused land, while the brokerage system assists in addressing labor shortages. But it is the trading model that represents the greatest opportunity for achieving short- to mid-term improvements in the agricultural sector. Tsai said the sec-

Text: Taipei Representative Office in Hungary, Taiwan Today, Image: Huang Chung-hsin



tor needs to further improve the quality of high-yield products and encourage innovative marketing strategies to increase global visibility. Another suggestion by Tsai involves implementing a globally accepted food labeling system.

### **Semiconductor**

The president-elect has noted that semiconductors are key to Taiwan's economic transformation and her administration will take a central role in assisting cross-industry collaborations to give Taiwan a distinct and unified presence in the international marketplace. The incoming government is expected to strengthen youth science education and provide subsidies for employer-backed IC-relevant doctoral degrees. A national investment bank and beefed-up investment funding are two other initiatives in the pipeline.

According to statistics from Hsinchu-based Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association, the total production value of Taiwan's semiconductor sector topped NT\$2.3 trillion (US\$70 billion) last year, ranking it No. 2 in the world.

### **Internet of Things**

The IoT concept has been widely embraced by Tsai and his team. Tsai believes that because of Taiwan's forte in information and

communications technology and the quick response time of Taiwan's small and medium-sized businesses, the nation has great potential in becoming an important global innovative base. In addition to encouraging local companies to work with international players in the field, the government would push for necessary amendments to relevant laws and regulations to facilitate IoT development.

### **Long-term care services**

Tsai recently announced a proposal to partially fund Taiwan's long-term care system through an annual allocation of NT\$30 billion (US\$901.4 million) from tax revenues, plus a yearly commitment of NT\$3 billion from the regular government budget. As more than 20 percent of Taiwan's population will be aged 65 or over by 2025, the government needs to enhance measures to provide comprehensive coverage for the nation's aging population. Tsai also proposed the establishment of a national aging and health research center.

In June 2015, the ROC government enacted the Long-Term Care Services Act ensuring the quality of care and support, developing universal, diversified and affordable services, and guaranteeing the dignity and interests of recipients and care providers.

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## **China's Beijing-Taipei high-speed rail plan wishful thinking: Taiwan officials**

A proposal by China to construct a high-speed rail line that would link Beijing and Taipei is out of the question, Hsia Li-yan, minister of Mainland Affairs Council, said March 8 in Taipei.

The plan is implausible, not only in terms of technology, but also politically, he

said, responding to questions raised during a legislative interpellation session. "This is a matter that involves Taiwan, and they [China] do not have a unilateral say," Hsia said, adding that it's wishful thinking on Beijing's part. The project was mentioned in a draft of China's 2016-2020 national de-



velopment plan that was released March 6 in Beijing.

During a legislative session March 7, Minister of Transportation and Communications Chen Jian-yu also stressed that China's proposal is a unilateral idea that has not been mentioned to Taiwan. Chen said such a project has never been discussed between the two sides nor has he ever re-

ceived any communication from China on the project.

"It's nothing but a unilateral and subjective idea of mainland China," Chen said. "No discussions have taken place between two sides, let alone consensus."

Such a project would involve major policy in Taiwan, not just his ministry, Chen said.

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## Taiwanese company develops new cancer drug for animals

**A new drug developed by a Taiwanese company to treat cancers in pets has passed double-blind trials and is set to be introduced into the international market, the company said March 3, 2016.**

The results of the double-blind trials proved that the drug TD-Bio, developed by Vetco Pharmaceutical, can be considered effective in the treatment of animal cancers, Vetco Chairman James Chen said at a press conference. Success was achieved after 10 years of research and clinical trials, and the company will now submit the double-blind trial report to the Council of Agriculture (COA) to apply for certification as a veterinary drug, he said.

Last year, TD-Bio was recognized by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as safe compared with other types of animal chemotherapy and it has a good chance of also obtaining FDA certification, Chen said. Vetco plans to put the drug on



the global market by the second half of the year, he said.

The double blind trials on TD-Bio were carried out by veterinarians at National Taiwan University Veterinary Hospital and the veterinary hospitals of National Chiayi University and National Pingtung University of Science and Technology from Jan. 19, 2015. The trials focused on treating dogs with tumors, according to Chen.



## Taiwan to spend NT\$5.76 billion in weapon systems development

Taiwan will allocate NT\$5.76 billion (US\$175 million) this year for research and development into home-grown weapon systems, the ROC Ministry of National Defense (MND) said March 9.



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The amount is 211 percent higher than last year's R&D budget, the MND said in a report on its plans for 2016 submitted to the Legislative Yuan's Foreign and National Defense Committee.

The funds will be used to continue implementing projects to develop and build ships, submarines and airplanes, and upgrade locally developed jet fighters and ar-

ROC Minister of National Defense Gao Guang-chi told legislators March 9 that the military recruited 18,550 fulltime soldiers in 2015, achieving 132.5 percent of the original target. The soldier retention rate was 73.2 percent, an increase of 11.8 percent from the year before.

Taiwan has been gradually shifting to an all-voluntary military with the number of soldiers increased from 26,260 in 2012 to 40,452 in 2015.

Image and frame text: Ministry of National Defense

mored CM-32 "Clouded Leopard" vehicles, the report said. The MND will also work with the Ministry of Science and Technology to carry out an academic cooperation project that will cost NT\$124.5 million and inject NT\$391.6 million into technology development plans, the report said.

The ministry noted that with tensions over sovereignty disputes in the East China Sea and South China Sea heightening amid Chinese belligerence, neighboring countries are increasing their defense budgets to buy weapons and are adjusting their military deployments at sea.

## Taiwan boat show sets course for local yacht sector growth

A record NT\$1 billion (US\$30.4 million)-plus in orders is expected to be clinched at Taiwan International Boat Show during its March 10-13 run at Kaohsiung Exhibition Center (KEC) in southern Taiwan.

Featuring 166 exhibitors from 10 countries and territories at 1,005 booths, this year's edition is the biggest indoor event of its kind in Asia and tops the size of the inaugural show in 2014. During the opening ceremony, ROC Vice President Wu Den-



Text: Taiwan Today, Image: www.boatshow.tw

yih said the scale of the event reflects the success of government efforts in fostering cross-sector collaboration in Taiwan.

The local yacht industry is the world's fourth largest for craft 80-foot or above, and is set to scale new heights going forward, he added. Echoing Wu's remarks, Vice President-elect Chen Chien-jen said Kaohsiung is spearheading the local shipbuilding business. The port city is home to 19 of 35 national pleasure boat-makers, accounting for over 80 percent of total output and 90 percent of exports, he added.

According to organizer Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the 4.5-hectare purpose-built KEC has put Kaohsiung on the map as a top destination for



large-scale marine industry exhibitions in Asia. Based on the city's reputation as a hub for yacht manufacturing and operations, TAITRA said it plans to build the metrop-

olis into the most important for boat shows in the region. A total of 63 luxury yachts from Taiwan, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom is on display at the show. Ranging from 9 to 122 feet, the boats are inside the center and at Horizon City Marina, the first privately owned facility of its kind in Taiwan.

In addition, there are exhibitions on customized accessories, hardware and related technologies, as well as forums promoting maritime recreation and tourism. TAITRA projects overall attendance to outstrip the 2014 record of 70,000.

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## US seeking greater cooperation with Taiwan on women's issues

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**The United States is seeking greater cooperation with Taiwan in addressing issues related to women's economic and political participation, a visiting State Department official responsible for women's issues said March 11.**

Stephenie Foster, senior advisor in the US Secretary of State's Office of Global Women's Issues, said the purpose of her first visit to Taiwan is to attend a workshop titled "Enhancing Prosperity and Opportunities for Women in the Asia-Pacific Region," and to explore potential areas for cooperation between the two sides. "Women are important to economic development," she said at a news conference in Taipei, adding that

the workshop offered an opportunity for the two sides to learn from each other. The US government believes that investment in women and girls is the right, smart thing to do, she said, citing research showing that economies do better when women and girls have opportunities. The workshop is aimed at looking at issues such as decreasing the barriers women face in political and economic participation, she said.

Also in Taipei to attend the workshop and the news conference were Marjorie Margolies, president of Women's Campaign International, a US group promoting women's equality, and Valerie Biden Owens, executive vice president of Joe Slade White



and Company, a US media strategy firm.

Lauding the relatively high rate of women's participation in Taiwan, Margolies expressed hope that the March 11 workshop will be the starting point for more similar events in Taiwan to bring experts and NGOs from different countries to discuss women's issues. She hoped that over the next five years, Taiwan will be a hub for other countries to meet and discuss women's issues. Owens, sister of US Vice President Joe Biden, also stressed the importance of women's political participation. She served as a campaign manager for her brother during his election campaign. "It is the ballot box that will bring the greatest change to their lives," she said. Their visit to Taiwan came after Taiwan elected its first female president in January, Democratic Progressive Party Chairwoman Tsai Ing-wen, who will take office in May. Asked about the issue of female

presidents in public affairs, Margolies said that many countries in the world have had female presidents, adding that "leadership power is a real art."

The workshop was an initiative under the US-Taiwan Global Cooperation and Training Framework, through which the United States and Taiwan jointly engage regional partners on a broad range of transnational issues, said the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), which represents US interests in Taiwan in the absence of bilateral diplomatic ties.

The workshop brought together 16 participants from countries such as India, Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea, Myanmar, Vietnam, Peru, Chile and the Philippines to exchange ideas on how to enhance the role of women and share experiences in their countries, according to Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of the organizers.

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## Taiwan thanks US Congress for Interpol bid support

**Taiwan thanked US Congress for its support for Taiwan's participation in the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) as an observer, the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs said March 15.**

The House of Representatives on March 15 passed unanimously a bill that directs the US Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain Interpol observer status for Taiwan. Taiwan "is needlessly at risk because it is excluded from Interpol," Ed Royce, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said. "Regaining access to Interpol's law enforcement infrastructure will ensure that Taiwan can quickly obtain, and share, the latest intelligence on criminals

and global criminal activities." Royce said, urging US President Barack Obama to sign the bill into law as soon as possible. After having cleared the two chambers of the US Congress, the bill will now be sent to the White House for Obama to sign it into law.

The bill also asks the secretary of state to send a report to Congress within 90 days after the bill takes effect on the US strategy to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan in Interpol. The ROC (Taiwan) was a full member of Interpol starting in 1964 through its National Police Administration, but lost its membership in 1984, when the People's Republic of China applied to join the organization.