



Photo by Theerasak Saksriatavee



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Seamless Sky

No one will dispute the fact that aviation safety is an issue that transcends national borders, especially in today's world, when so many people all around the world rely so heavily on air travel.

While the Republic of China (Taiwan) is responsible for managing large volumes of air traffic in the Taipei Flight Information Region (Taipei FIR), it has not been able to properly participate in the meetings, mechanisms, and activities of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a global body that aims to achieve safe standards and practices, among other crucial navigation and security issues.

The ICAO, of which Hungary is a member, holds its Assembly every three years. This year, the 39th such assembly will be held from September 27 to October 7 in Montreal, Canada. For the first time, Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration was invited as a guest by the president of the ICAO Council to attend the last Assembly, held in 2013.

It is worth noting that the ROC was one of the original founding nations of the ICAO, and continued as a contributing member until it withdrew from the United Nations in 1971. Even though the country has been excluded from ICAO

discussions since then, it retains responsibility for Taipei FIR – a key air hub in the Asia-Pacific region.

Taipei FIR covers 180,000 square nautical miles and is adjacent to the four FIRs of Fukuoka, Manila, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. In 2015, Taipei FIR provided service to nearly 1.53 million controlled flights carrying 58 million travelers entering, leaving, or transiting through Taiwan. Every week, Taiwan has approximately 56 scheduled flights to and from Europe, 186 to and from the United States, 600 to and from Japan, and over 1,400 to and from China. Taiwan is connected to 135 cities around the globe via 301 scheduled passenger and freight routes. The exclusion of Taiwan from the ICAO means that the country does not have direct and timely access to important information on ICAO regulations and standards related to safety, management, security, and environmental protection. As a result, Taiwan has to resort to various secondary channels in order to keep up with relevant developments in the field.



Taiwan's meaningful participating in ICAO activities, however, would allow the country to better follow the latest developments on various issues and continue to contribute to the safety and development of global civil aviation. In addition, it can play a role in supporting advanced aviation technologies.

One example is the CNS/ATM, or communications, navigation, and surveillance air traffic management system, put into service by Taipei FIR in 2011, making Taiwan's the first Asian FIR to do so. The CNS/ATM system was designed to cope with worldwide growth

in air-traffic demand. While Taiwan has been able to enjoy the improved efficiencies of the system, few other countries have had such successes due to various technical problems. Taiwan's valuable experience can best be shared via meaningful ICAO participation.

We therefore urge the president of the ICAO Council to redress this deficiency in global air safety and once again invite Taiwan's participation in the 39th ICAO assembly in Montreal. The safety and security of the world's air transit travelers are simply too important to play politics.

Vibrant exchange

This summer has seen 19 groups from Taiwan, together consisting of almost 450 people, visiting Hungary to compete in sporting events or take part in cultural activities here. The intensity of this interaction attests to the vibrancy of people-to-people ties between the two countries, despite the fact that Taiwan is located 8,900 kilometers away.



Kaohsiung Children Choir

Kaohsiung Children's Choir at Laurea Mundi Budapest Festival of Choir Music in July



In June, teams from Taiwan took part in International Three Balls Day (shuttlecock) in Újszász and received a warm welcome from the city. This was followed by Taiwanese choirs joining the Laurea Mundi Budapest Festival of Choir Music, Grand Prix and Open Competition, and four traditional musical groups organizing a Taiwan Music Festival in Budapest.

Then came the handball season, with Taiwanese teams made up of different age groups competing in the Men's and Women's World Beach Handball

Championship, Youth Handball Festival Kaposvár, Cell-Cup 2016 Veszprém 20th Jubilee International Handball Festival, respectively.

Most recently, a folk dance group from Taiwan performed at the Gyöngy International Folk Festival alongside their peers from around Europe. Putting the finishing touch to this season of international friendship is an aboriginal children's choir, which took the stage at the Cantemus International Choir Festival 2016 in Nyíregyháza.



Taiwan's Puzangalan Choir, which is made up of children from the aboriginal Paiwan tribe, performs at Cantemus International Choir Festival in Nyíregyháza August 18.

Honwa Folk Dance Director Liu Ming-jen presents a traditional paper umbrella from Taiwan as a gift to Gyöngyös Mayor György Hiesz at the closing ceremony of International Folkdance Festival August 14.



Hsin Chuang Elementary School team members pose for a photo at Youth Handball Festival Kaposvár in mid July.



Puzangalan Choir at Zempléni Festival in Szerencs August 15



Team members of Jhanghe Junior High School smile for the camera at Youth Handball Festival Kaposvár in mid July.

Ambassador Tao Wen-lung of the Taipei Representative Office (center) receives a team banner from Eddie Hsieh, director of academic affairs at Longshan Junior High School, in Budapest August 13. The team played at Cell-Cup 2016 Veszprém Jubilee International Handball Festival from August 8 to 12.



Fusing Elementary School team members at Youth Handball Festival Kaposvár in mid July



Members of Tsing Yang Choir dressed up in costumes at Laurea Mundi Budapest Festival of Choir Music in July



Tsing Yang Choir



Ambassador Tao Wen-lung of the Taipei Representative Office (in black) poses with shuttlecock players from Taiwan at Three Balls Day in Újszáz.

Ambassador Tao (center) poses with coaches from Xinzhuang Junior High School and Haishan Senior High School in Budapest August 13. Teams from the two schools played at Cell-Cup 2016 Veszprém Jubilee International Handball Festival from August 8 to 12.



Team members from Da Jia High School and Nagykanizsa Izzó at Youth Handball Festival Kaposvár in mid July

Visiting Hungarian parliamentarians to strengthen ties with Taiwan

A delegation from the Hungarian Parliament is visiting Taiwan to improve exchanges with their counterparts in Taiwan and explore the feasibility of bilateral cooperation in the areas of economics and trade, according to a statement released August 28 by the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation, which arrived the same day, is composed of István Tiba, a member of the National Assembly of Hungary, as well as Mónika Bartos and

Máriusz Révész, two members of a Taiwan friendship group in the Hungarian parliament, according to the statement. The delegation's visit to Taiwan aims to



gain a further understanding of Taiwan's political, economic and social development and explore the possibility of cooperation with Taiwan in a wide range of areas, according to the ministry.

While in Taiwan, they will call on Legislative Speaker Su Jia-chyuan and Deputy Foreign Minister Wu Chih-chung and visit several central and local government agencies as well as Hsinchu Science Park, before departing on September 1. With nearly 30 members, the Taiwan friendship group

is one of a few large subgroups in the Hungarian parliament and supports increasing substantive exchanges and cooperation in various areas between the two countries, the statement said.

Taiwan and Hungary have signed several agreements to strengthen bilateral relations, including a memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation, a working holiday agreement to allow young adults to travel and work in each other's country, and an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation.

FocusTaiwan

Education ministry unveils measures to support New Southbound Policy

The Ministry of Education (MOE) unveiled August 25 a host of academic and talent cultivation policies designed to boost exchanges with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states and India as part of the government's New Southbound Policy, including a large-scale initiative to increase the number of students from these nations to study at local universities.

According to MOE Deputy Minister Chen Liang-gee, the government plans to allocate NT\$1 billion (US\$31.6 million) for the projects in the 2016 academic year, with more than 70 percent of this amount to be spent on attracting students from ASEAN and India. "Southeast Asian countries, a major source of the nation's new immigrants and foreign students, are geographically close to Taiwan and have experienced rapid economic and social development in recent years," Chen said. The remainder of the funds will be used to support various talent cultivation and academic exchange programs, including courses to help the children of new immigrants retain knowledge of their foreign-born parents' mother tongues and cultures, as well as projects to enable Taiwan's young people to attend major events

such as academic conferences, competitions and volunteer activities in Southeast Asia.

Under the New Southbound Policy, Taiwan is seeking to elevate the scope and diversity of its export economy and minimize overreliance on any single market. The initiative extends to South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand and encompasses inbound investment and tourism, as well as educational and cultural exchanges. Malaysia is the largest source of international students in Taiwan, followed in the Southeast Asian region by Indonesia and Vietnam, according to the MOE.

The new policies are expected to increase the number of students from ASEAN and India enrolled at Taiwan's colleges and universities from the current 28,000 to 58,000 in the 2019 academic year, the deputy minister said.

Taiwan Today



A major goal of the talent cultivation programs is to provide Taiwan businesses in fields such as biomedical technology, e-commerce and information engineering with the personnel required to expand their operations in ASEAN

member states and India. “Over past decades, Taiwan has developed deep connections with these countries, with millions of overseas compatriots living there, and such ties will continue to strengthen going forward,” Chen said.

President Tsai inspects Han Kuang military exercise

President Tsai Ing-wen, the first female commander-in-chief in the history of the Republic of China (Taiwan), urged all of the nation’s servicemen and women to innovate, adapt and improve as she inspected the Han Kuang No. 32 live-fire military exercise August 25 at the Joint Operations Training Base Command in southern Taiwan’s Pingtung County.

“I hope we can all make use of innovative thinking to build an upgraded military,” Tsai said while addressing the troops. “I have said many times before, and today, on the front line of this military exercise, I will say again, the honor of the armed forces is my honor. No matter what problems we may encounter, we will face them together.”

The president said the Ministry of National Defense has been tasked with devising a strategy by January 2017 to set a new course for the nation’s armed forces, one that will lead to a stronger military. Tsai, who was outfitted with a helmet and bullet-proof vest upon her arrival, spoke to the members of



the armed forces shortly after witnessing 27 unique defensive exercises. This year for the first time, the nation’s Apache and Black Hawk helicopters played a pivotal role in the exercise, with the Black Hawks demonstrating their heavy-lifting capabilities by transporting special operations assault vehicles. Apache helicopters fired volleys of rockets, which hit their targets with precision.

The Han Kuang exercise, which first took place in 1984, is designed to test joint combat readiness to repel an invasion by enemy forces. Personnel from each branch of the ROC military take part in the drill, which involves the use of live ammunition.

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