



Photo by Theerasak Saksritavee

TSAI: WE WILL ENDURE

President Tsai Ing-wen said June 13 that Taiwan will not give in to threats from China, after Panama announced earlier in the day that it was switching diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing.

Tsai said at a press conference that even though Taiwan has lost a diplomatic ally, “our refusal to engage in a diplomatic bidding war will not change. The fact that the Republic of China exists will not change. And Taiwan's value and standing in the international community will not change.”

“We are a sovereign country. This sovereignty cannot be challenged nor traded. China has continued to manipulate the ‘one China’ principle and pressure Taiwan's international space, threatening the rights of the Taiwanese people,” Tsai said. The president stressed that Taiwan’s “only choice is to stand together,” as “this is the most forceful way to demonstrate our

sovereignty. To accept Beijing's logic would be to succumb to threats and intimidation, and place limitations on our very own existence.” Tsai said the people of Taiwan want peace. “Taiwan's existence and international space are a vital cornerstone for regional peace and stability. We do not want to see China's misguided efforts and provocations lead cross-strait relations from peace towards confrontation,” she said.

“It is true that for a long period of time, Taiwan's international situation has been difficult,” the president said, acknowledging that pressure from the other side of the strait has never stopped. “But the less favorable our

Source: Office of the President, Focus Taiwan



situation is, the more resolute we must be in upholding our belief in freedom and democracy. We must stand together and ensure that Taiwan's 23 million citizens continue to determine our own destiny," Tsai said.

Earlier, the Office of the President released a statement noting that Taiwan, as a member of the internation-

al community, has a responsibility to maintain cross-strait peace and regional stability. It said Beijing's actions, however, "have challenged the status quo, driving cross-strait relations away from peace and towards confrontation. With this in mind, the government will reassess the cross-strait situation."

BAMBOO RAFT LAUNCHED TO EXPLORE 30,000-YEAR-OLD HISTORICAL SEA ROUTE

A traditional bamboo raft was launched in Taimali in Taitung County on June 5 as part of a Taiwan-Japan project to explore a sea route between Taiwan and Okinawa that may have been traveled 30,000 years ago.

Male and female rowers from Taiwan and Japan used paddles made in Yonaguni in Okinawa Prefecture to test the Amis style raft in waters off Taiwan's east coast. They plan to cross the Kuroshio Current and travel to Green Island 33 kilometers to the east in June and then to Yonaguni, 110 km to the east of Taiwan.

Under the project crafted by the National Museum of Prehistory in Taitung and Japan's National Museum of Nature and Science, archeologists of the two countries will study whether



Source: Focus Taiwan, Photo: Courtesy of National Museum of Prehistory

humans traveled between Taiwan and Okinawa, Japan on similar vessels in the Paleolithic Period. Lee Yu-fen, director of the Taiwanese museum, said



Taiwan has been a hub for migration in East Asia since ancient times, and the raft voyage will help scholars revisit how humans could have defied natural odds to explore the unknown. The museum said the raft's maker, Lawai, named it Ira, which in Amis means "there" – hoping it will "arrive at a faraway place." According to Japanese archaeologists, the early inhabitants of Japan most likely traveled tens of thousands of years ago from eastern Siberia to Hokkaido,

from the Korean Peninsula to Kyushu and Honshu, and from Taiwan to the Ryukyu Islands.

Stone tools that were found in Taitung's Changbin Township indicate a human presence there about 50,000 to 5,000 years ago in the late Paleolithic Period.

Lin said that since no human remains were found in Changbin, it is difficult to determine if the inhabitants made any sea voyages.

MOST TAIWANESE REJECT 'ONE-CHINA' AS PRECONDITION FOR TIES WITH BEIJING

Over 70 percent of Taiwanese reject China's insistence that "the two sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one China" as a political prerequisite for the development of cross-strait relations, according to a poll released on June 8 by the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC).

The poll found that 73.4 percent of respondents do not recognize China's adherence to the "one-China" principle as a political precondition and consider it an effort to treat Taiwan as a local government.

Meanwhile, 83.9 percent thought China's ongoing efforts to limit Taiwan's international space have undermined Taiwan's rights and interests and 80.5 percent said that China should recognize the existence of the Republic of China, the official denomination of Taiwan, according to the poll. The poll also revealed that 89.4 percent support the government's proposal that the two sides should respect each

other and settle disagreement through communication and dialogue. It also indicated that 80.9 percent of those polled are in favor of maintaining a current peaceful and stable status quo in cross-strait relations.

When asked about the speed of development of cross-strait exchanges, 31.3 percent said it was just right, while 6.7 percent believe it is too fast and 45.0 percent too slow, according to the poll.

At the same time, 85.9 percent said they support the government's view that China should respect Taiwan's democratic system and public opinion in fostering cross-strait relations,



while 86.2 percent thought Taiwan and China should promote positive interactions and exchanges that seek to optimize the benefits to both sides.

Regarding China's detention of Taiwanese human rights advocate Lee Ming-che, 68.1 percent indicated that China has not provided evidence in Lee's case, did not inform Taiwan's government of developments and has refused to allow family visitation, all of which undermined the human rights of Taiwanese citizens.

Lee went missing after entering China via Macao on March 19 and was later confirmed to have been detained by the Chinese authorities on charges of subversion of state power. The survey, conducted from June 2-6 by National Chengchi University's Election Study Center commissioned by the MAC, collected 1,076 valid questionnaires by telephone, with a confidence level of 95 percent and a margin of error of plus or minus 2.99 percentage points.



Once wild animals are not caught for the purpose of making a profit, it is not illegal for indigenous people to hunt them, the Council of Agriculture and the Council of Indigenous

Indigenous people have legal right to hunt for food: ruling

Indigenous people in Taiwan can legally hunt to provide food for themselves and their families, according to an interpretation of the Wildlife Conservation Act published by the government on June 8.

Peoples said in their interpretation of the law. Wild animals may be caught as food for the hunters and their families or for sharing with others, in accordance with the traditional culture of the indigenous people, the two agencies said. The interpretation was issued to address a dispute over whether hunting for self-consumption was permitted under Article 21-1 of the Wildlife Conservation Act.

Source: Focus Taiwan, Photo: Huang Chung-hsin

Taipei Food Show 2017

The 27th Taipei International Food Show will be held from June 21 to 24 in Taipei's Nangang Exhibition Center. According to the organizer, Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), exhibitors from more than 36 countries will be present this year.

Last year, the event attracted 1,100 exhibitors with 2,148 booths, TAITRA said, adding that the number of visitors exceeded 67,000, among which more than 7,700 were from overseas. According to the event's website, Hungarian meat products and wine will be showcased as well. For admission information, please visit the [Food Taipei](http://www.foodtaipei.com.tw).



Source and photo: www.foodtaipei.com.tw

EXPORTS GROW FOR 8TH STRAIGHT MONTH AMID RISING DEMAND FROM SE ASIA

Taiwan's exports grew for the eighth consecutive month in May, increasing 8.4 percent year on year to US\$25.52 billion, according to the Bureau of Foreign Trade (BOFT) under the Ministry of Economic Affairs June 7.

Electronics components comprised 30.4 percent of shipments, followed by information and communications technology products at 10.5 percent, basic metals and related products at 10.1 percent, machinery at 8.5 percent, and plastic and rubber products at 7.7 percent, Ministry of Finance data showed. The

BOFT attributed the positive results to robust demand from emerging markets in Southeast Asia and the continued strength of the nation's semiconductor equipment exports. Bureau figures reveal exports to Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states rose 7 percent year on year in May.

Source: Taiwan Today



VINYL SPACES – A musical time machine

Taiwan Panorama

By Cathy Teng

Photos by Chuang Kung-ju

In this memorable scene from 1994's *The Shawshank Redemption*, not only were the prisoners moved by the incomparable singing, but in the words of Red (Morgan Freeman), as that music filled every corner of the prison, "It was like some beautiful bird flapped into our drab little cage and made those walls dissolve away, and for the briefest of moments, every last man in Shawshank felt free."



Manifesto Vinyl Club executive director Zooney Lee (right)

DONATE VINYL, SHARE THE SOUND

Located in Zhubei City, Hsinchu County, Manifesto Vinyl Club is dedicated to the sharing of music. The founder of Manifesto is a successful entrepreneur whose father is a longtime vinyl lover, but was getting old and rarely had the chance to listen to the collection of thousands of records that sat idle in their home.

Thinking this a shame, he told his father he had a friend that wanted to buy the collection, paying for them on behalf of his actually invented "friend" to help his father out while also starting to realize his own dream of giving a second wind to second-hand vinyl. Vinyl records were the biggest music format of the 20th century, providing the

soundtracks to untold numbers of youths. But in the face of the implacable march of technology, vinyl began to fall from favor, piling up and gathering dust in various homes until some people began thinking of trying an experiment in sharing vinyl.

Manifesto Vinyl Club executive director Zooney Lee joined the effort in its early days in 2015. Starting from scratch, she sought out a dozen or so experts in vinyl and began to understand how incredibly precious vinyl could be in the market, especially given how easily records are scratched and damaged. Collectors will generally not lightly even lend out records unless it's to a like-minded friend, and this is a big part of why Manifesto hopes to share the sound of vinyl with more people.



THE CLASSIC SOUND OF VINYL

In addition to sharing music, another mission of Manifesto is to introduce the younger generations to vinyl. Many of those who grew up in the age of digital and streaming music can find the delicate nature of vinyl difficult



Domongo Chung left his old job to head back to his hometown with his wife and daughter and lead a cozy life surrounded by vinyl records.

to understand, from carefully extracting the album from its sleeve, through placing it on the turntable and wiping the dust off, to moving the tone arm and putting the stylus down. With digital formats, all you need to do is press a button, but while simple, digital audio lacks the warmth, purity, and sense of being right there that vinyl can bring.

The club not only lends out albums, but also provides a dedicated listening room and high-quality sound systems, helping visitors get the full, warm vinyl experience. Their digital lab, meanwhile, offers conversions from vinyl to digital, helping preserve musical classics.

In its effort to share the joy of vinyl and pass on family memories, Manifesto Vinyl Club has expanded to three more locations, all in the Greater Taipei area. Each has its own style and customers, and the original location in Zhubei provides each with its own particular collection, giving the people of Greater Taipei some special hideaways in which to rest, relax, and take in the music.

VINYL AND AN OLD HOME

In the hills of Meinong District, Kaohsiung, is a space rich in memory and dedicated to vinyl – Yellow and Black B&B. Yellow and Black's host, Domongo Chung, was previously a photographer for the Chinese-language Commonwealth Magazine. "We photographers tend to like contrasting visuals, and that kind of contrast can be found in the pairing of this old building with vinyl records," he says. The yellow and black of the name refer to bananas and vinyl records,

both of which have been big parts of Chung's life – when he was young, his grandfather provided for the family by growing rice, bananas, and tobacco.

With a laugh, Chung says that all of this is thanks to Eslite Bookstores' efforts to "revitalize" the vinyl market. Several years ago, he was browsing one of the bookstores and happened upon a vinyl copy of Chyi Chin's album *Wolf*, priced at NT\$7,800 (US\$260). Later, he saw vinyl editions of albums by



Traditional architecture and vinyl make for a striking contrast, and it is this pairing that makes Yellow and Black B&B a standout in Kaohsiung's Meinong District.



Choose an album and head for the listening room to immerse oneself in the charming sound of vinyl.

Teresa Teng selling online for more than NT\$20,000 each. This got him thinking about his mother's beloved collection of thousands of albums in the family's old tobacco barn. And so he got his grandfather to pass along the 80-plus-year-old building and gave it a makeover, combining the vastly different elements of vinyl records and traditional Taiwanese architecture to create a new landmark for Meinong.

A PLACE CALLED YOUTH

International tourists come for the old building. The Taiwanese guests, meanwhile, come from all around the island to revisit

their youths. Yellow and Black B&B boasts a comprehensive collection of over 5,000 vinyl albums from the golden age of Mandarin pop in Taiwan, from 1970 to 1990.

Chung himself is almost like a DJ, taking requests from his guests who come from all over Taiwan asking for songs that take them down memory lane. Since leaving his old job and returning to the family home, Chung has had more time to be with his family and watch his daughter grow, all accompanied by a vinyl soundtrack. The experience has shown him that the things that are most easily overlooked are also the most precious, teaching him to enjoy the little details in life.

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