



Photo: Kardos Dorota



GOING FOR GOLD

A record 350-plus local athletes are gearing up to take on the best in the world as they go for gold at the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade, the biggest global sporting event ever staged in Taiwan. But the pressure of delivering the goods in front of stands packed with raucous countrymen looms large as an X-factor in the students' performance at the Aug. 19-30 games.

Lee Shan-lung, a coach of Taiwan's taekwondo poomsae, or forms, team, said competing on home soil offers an overwhelming advantage. "But the flip side is large crowds have sky-high expectations and this can prove too much for some athletes." According to the Ministry of Education's Sports Administration, the country's best medal chances are in the compulsory sports of athletics, table tennis, taekwondo and tennis, as well as the optional ones of archery, badminton, baseball, golf, roller sports, weightlifting and wushu.

Double Olympic gold weightlifter Hsu Shu-ching is expected to continue her winning ways, as is women's badminton singles world No. 1 Tai Tzu-ying. The latter's decision to represent Taiwan at the games instead of entering the Badminton World Federation World Championships taking place at the same time in Glasgow earned her glowing praise from all corners of society.

The Sports Administration said Taiwan is aiming to finish fifth in the rankings at the Universiade – another record result for the country at the games. Since



debuting in the biennial event 30 years ago in Zagreb, capital of the then Yugoslav republic Croatia, Taiwan has bagged 175 medals – 46 golds, 51 silvers and 78 bronzes. Taiwan's best showing to date in terms of rankings was at the 2009 edition in Belgrade, Serbia, where it finished seventh with 17 medals – seven golds, five silvers and five bronzes. But the 2015 games in Gwangju was the scene of the country's biggest-ever medal haul, with local athletes winning 36 medals – six golds, 12 silvers and 18 bronzes.

As an added incentive for members of the national team to achieve athletic glory, the Sports Administration has increased by 50 percent subsidies for gold, silver and bronze medalists to NT\$900,000 (US\$29,800), \$450,000 (US\$14,900) and \$225,000 (US\$7,450), respectively. In addition, Rotary Club of Taipei Tunghua – a local branch of the U.S.-based nonprofit – has pledged to present Taiwan medal winners in track and field events with bonuses of up to NT\$1 million (US\$33,110).

Source: Taiwan Review

U.S. CONGRESSMAN INTRODUCES BILL TO HELP TAIWAN PARTICIPATE IN WHO



U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho (R-FL), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, has introduced a bill that seeks to help Taiwan participate in World Health Organization (WHO) meetings, according to a statement by his office.

The draft bill is focused on improving the U.S. strategy for promoting Taiwan's participation in the WHO, the statement said. It instructs the Secretary of State to report on the State Department's

efforts to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly (WHA), following any meetings of the assembly for which Taiwan was not granted such status. "With an ever grow-



Text: Focus Taiwan, Photo: Courtesy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ing and increasingly connected global population, it is important that we not let geopolitics get in the way of public health," Yoho said in the statement.

Taiwan has proven to be an important participant in the effort to identify, study, and combat global health crises, he said. Despite this, China this year succeeded in preventing Taiwan from participating in the WHA, as Beijing ratcheted up the pressure on Taiwan's international space, he said.

"China's shortsighted attempts to restrict Taiwan's contributions to global health endanger us all, as diseases know no borders," Yoho said. Yoho also urged Beijing to "accept the role Taiwan has played in improving global health."

The bipartisan bill is being sponsored by Ed Royce (R-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Eliot Engel (D-NY), ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Brad Sherman (D-CA), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific; and Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Steve Chabot (R-OH), according to the statement. "Taiwan has contributed greatly to international

efforts to prevent epidemics and provide critical humanitarian aid," Royce was quoted as saying in the statement. "The wrongful decision this year by the World Health Assembly to exclude Taiwan should not be allowed to happen again." Taiwan had hoped to attend this year's WHA in Geneva from May 22-31 as an observer, as it had done in the past eight years, but it did not receive an invitation from the WHO because of China's opposition.

Taiwan first attended the WHA meeting as an observer in 2009, a year after former President Ma Ying-jeou came to power and began pursuing a more conciliatory policy toward Beijing. Taiwan had taken part in every WHA meeting since then, until this year.

Taiwan's exclusion this year was widely seen as part of China's efforts to clamp down on Taiwan's international participation, a strategy that has become more aggressive since President Tsai Ing-wen of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), who is less conciliatory toward China, came to power in May 2016.

PRESIDENT TSAI MEETS DELEGATION FROM **SIEMENS AG**, GERMANY

On the morning of July 26, President Tsai Ing-wen met with a delegation from the German conglomerate Siemens AG. She expressed hope that Taiwan and Siemens AG would continue to enhance exchanges and cooperation on new energy and smart machinery, and also penetrate emerging international markets to create another win-win situation.

President Tsai pointed out that Siemens AG has long been a pioneer in the electrical and electronics industries, basic industries, and smart cities. She expressed confidence that

Taiwan and Siemens will have many opportunities for cooperation on various fronts. For example, Taiwan is currently developing new energy sources with the hope of making



renewable energy, including solar and off-shore wind power, 20% of our total energy mix by the year 2025.



The president said that the Taiwan government looks forward to Siemens AG participating in the transformation of our energy sector. The company is planning to relocate its regional operations center for offshore wind power to Taiwan by the end of this year. It will work with Taiwanese enterprises to consolidate a domestic industry chain for offshore wind turbines so that both sides

can explore international markets together. Turning to the smart machinery industry, the president noted that the government set up a Smart Machinery Promotion Office in February of this year. That office will continue to integrate government and private sector resources to bring Taiwan's machinery industry into the Industry 4.0 era of innovation and smart technologies. In the past, that industry has closely cooperated with Siemens AG in the smart manufacturing sector. President Tsai stated that Siemens AG established its Taiwan office back in 1970, and over the past half-century, we have grown together and become good partners. She hoped Siemens AG will continue to develop new cooperative plans with Taiwan enterprises. By combining our complementary and compatible industrial strengths, the president remarked, the two sides can penetrate emerging international markets, and create another win-win situation.

Source: Office of the President

Father's Day in Taiwan



Courtesy of Chunghwa Post

Lots of countries around the world celebrate Father's Day on the third Sunday in June. However, Taiwan celebrates father's day on August 8. Why is this date? What is the origin of this date? The reason is that: eighth/eighth (8th day of the 8th month) in Mandarin pronounces as "pa-pa", which means "father". Although father's day is

not a national holiday, it's celebrated by most of the families. The way to celebrate this "holiday" is the same as the rest of the world. However, in Taiwan, some stores or restaurants offer customers a special discount to celebrate the occasion, maybe you could guess? The answer is 88% of the original price of the products or services.



A FOREST LIBRARY THAT CAN BREATHE



Source: Taipei Public Library

Sun, air and water are the 3 essential elements of life. Have you ever imagined what it would look like when these were featured by architects in a building?

A library integrated with the environment, ecology, history and culture.

An eco-balanced architectural design.

Taipei Public Library, the Beitou branch lies in Beitou park which is exceptionally rich in ecological resources and next to the hot spring museum. The park and the museum were both built about a hundred years ago with a lot of big old trees all around. This building is like a ship sailing in a green sea

carrying treasures of knowledge and people who enjoy reading. On entering this library, we can see large windows and beautiful green scenery outside. Reading in the relaxed atmosphere becomes a pleasure and an enjoyment. If you want to know this library more, please click [here](#).





SELF-DRIVING BUS SET FOR TESTING IN TAIPEI

A self-driving bus will be put through its paces Aug. 1-5 in Taipei as part of local government efforts to spur the metropolis's smart city development and further enhance the quality of life for residents.



*Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je is experiencing a self-driving bus
(Courtesy of Taipei City Government)*

Manufactured by France-headquartered Ligier Group, the battery-powered EZIO driverless vehicle can carry a maximum of 12 passengers, reach speeds of up to 40 kph and operate for 14 hours on a single charge. It will run from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. along the designated bus lane on Xinyi Road between Dunhua South and Fuxing South roads.

Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je said July 27 that the bus is a strong step in the right direction when it comes to solving the city's and country's transportation challenges using innovative solutions.

Self-driving vehicle programs are key planks in Taipei's smart city development strategy, Ko said, adding that they underscore the value of the local government's open-minded approach to formulating viable transportation policies for the 21st century. But the mayor said a great deal

needs to be accomplished before such services are greenlighted and underway, citing regulatory amendments and requisite infrastructure development.

According to Taipei City Government's Department of Information Technology, the first three days of testing will be dedicated to gathering data for adjusting the existing transportation system and route planning. The final two are reserved for focus groups, with the vehicle restricted to a top speed of 20 kph so as to ensure safety.

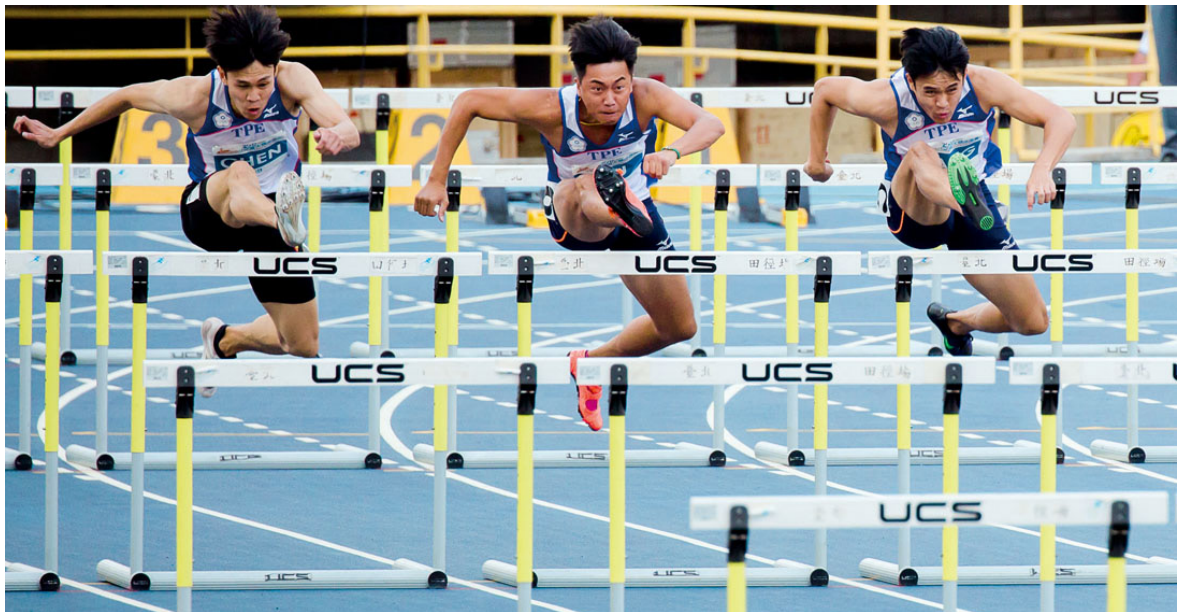
The bus, which moves autonomously via a GPS tracking system and six light-detecting and ranging sensors, was successfully tested earlier this month at Taipei-based National Taiwan University's downtown Shuiyuan Campus. It is expected to provide shuttle services during the Eco Mobility World Festival running Oct. 1-31 in Kaohsiung City, southern Taiwan.



COUNTDOWN TO *Universiade*

Taiwan Review
by Oscar Chung

Taipei City stands ready to host the 2017 Summer Universiade and take the best of Taiwan to the world.



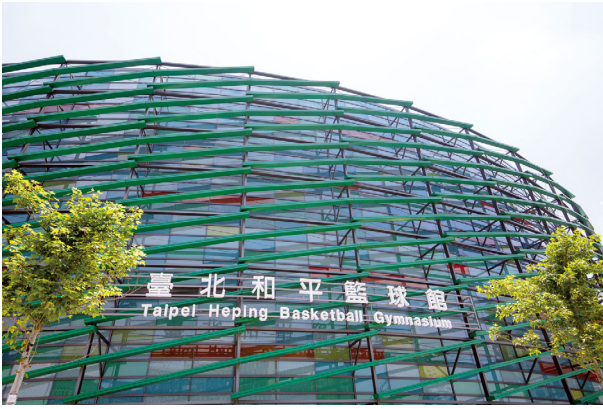
Taiwan hurdlers compete in the third leg of the Asian Grand Prix series in April at Taipei Stadium. The 20,000-seat outdoor facility is the venue for track and field events at the Aug. 19-30 Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade. (Photo by Chin Hung-hao)

The atmosphere at Songshan Cultural and Creative Park in downtown Taipei was electric as the thronging crowd awaited the unveiling April 19 of the official torch, mother flame lantern and torch-bearer uniforms for the 2017 Summer Universiade – the biggest global sporting event ever staged in Taiwan.

Locally designed and manufactured for the August 19-30 games, the three items epitomize the country's rising international reputation as a hotbed of creativity and innovation. They also highlight the commitment of all segments of Taiwan

society in pulling together to make the student sporting extravaganza a resounding success.

Taiwan has long eyed the Universiade. Kaohsiung threw its hat in the ring for the biennial games in 2001, following this up with bids for the 2007 and 2011 events. Not to be outdone by the southern Taiwan metropolis, Taipei entered the race for the 2005 competition, finally clinching gold six years later when it was chosen over South American rival Brasilia as host city for the 29th edition by the International University Sports Federation (FISU).



Taipei Heping Basketball Gymnasium is one of two facilities specially constructed for the games.

PROVEN PEDIGREE

But it takes more than perseverance to stage a large-scale event such as the Universiade. Taipei ran a widely acclaimed Deaflympics in 2009, demonstrating it possessed the pedigree to put on the biggest multisport tournament in the world outside the Olympic Games. According to Taipei Universiade Organizing Committee (TUOC) under Taipei City Government, the games will be an even bigger challenge as they involve 7,700-plus athletes from 153 countries contesting 21 sports at competition venues in Taipei, Hsinchu City, Hsinchu County, New Taipei and Taoyuan cities.

TUOC spokesman Rony Yang said the Universiade is an outstanding opportunity to show how smoothly Taiwan's public and private sectors can coordinate and mobilize resources. "One of our first tasks after winning the bid was to carry out a facility inventory and quickly implement a renovation and construction program."

Of the 38 venues, all were renovated or upgraded and two specially constructed. Many of the former are situated on the campuses of educational institutions, while the latter – Taipei Heping Basketball Gymnasium and Taipei Tennis Center – was completed at a combined cost of NT\$4 billion (US\$132.5 million) in mid-June.

"We managed to get the majority of the venues ready by the end of April on schedule and around 120 days ahead of the opening ceremony," Yang said. "This allowed plenty of wiggle room to deal with any teething problems, and was four times the number set by the organiz-

ers of the Gwangju 2015 Summer Universiade in South Korea."

RAISING AWARENESS

With so many infrastructure plates spinning, it is to the credit of TUOC that it never took its eye off the ball when it came to devising and implementing a long-term public awareness campaign for the games. Incorporating distinctive local elements like flora and fauna, indigenous culture and traditional Chinese characters, the program produced the Universiade's iconic mascot brand Bravo, which is modeled on the endemic Formosan black bear.

As the countdown to the games continued, TUOC kept interest levels at fever pitch with a steady stream of headline-grabbing announcements. These included the launch in March of the games' official theme song "Embrace the World" and the decision the same month to inscribe traditional Chinese characters on the medals for the first time in the history of the event. The former is a collaboration between Taiwan indigenous Paiwan songwriter Utjung Tjakivalid and British producer Howie B, who has worked with such music industry luminaries as Bjork, Ry Cooder and U2, while the latter draws upon the expertise of Ming Chuan University in Taipei.

The following month saw the unveiling of the torch, mother flame lantern and torchbearer uniforms. The first two items, designed by Taipei-headquartered UID Create Ltd., employ traditional bamboo weaving-inspired patterns to convey the ideal of sportsmanship, as well as the traditional Chinese values of dignity and humility. Equally impressive is the third item by local fashion designer Jasper Huang. Featuring a reimagined Universiade logo expressed in a style reminiscent of traditional Chinese brush painting, the uniforms are made from S. Cafe yarn – a high-tech green fabric infused with microscopic particles of recycled coffee grounds – produced by New Taipei-based Singtex Industrial Co.



INHERENT STRENGTHS

Filmmaker Lo Ming-chung, who was commissioned by the Department of Cultural Affairs under Taipei City Government to document the painstaking processes behind the development of the torch and mother flame lantern, said the experience opened his eyes to the strength and vitality of Taiwan's designers and artisans. "I was truly touched by the innovative professionals in various sectors that jointly enhanced the visibility of the country's cultural and creative strength on the global stage in fashioning these items."

In addition to Taiwan's small and medium enterprises, bigger outfits like New Taipei-based Acer Inc., maker of advanced electronics, and Hsinchu City-headquartered MediaTek Inc., a leading global fabless semiconductor firm,



The Taipei Songshan Sports Center is set to host the water competition at the 2017 Summer Universiade.

are set to gain significant exposure as major sponsors at the Universiade. Acer and MediaTek teamed up with Taipei-based EasyCard Corp., which provides smart cards for passengers and integrated circuit ticketing systems for public transport in Taiwan, to produce



Taiwan taekwondo athletes practice at National Sports Training Center.

smartwatches as gifts for participating athletes. The device can be used to make payments on public transport, monitor a wearer's vital signs and serve as a fitness tracker. About 13,000 of the watches will be distributed at the games, a measure described in January at a news conference by Taipei City Mayor Ko Wen-je as "a good way to spotlight the nation's technology sectors and our impressive soft power."

FINAL STAGES

With the bulk of the organizational heavy lifting out of the way, TUOC is throwing its full weight behind the final stage of Universiade preparations: optimizing human resources utilization and coordination. At the heart of this undertaking is a more than 18,000-strong army of retirees, students and other members of society. By the end of April, TUOC had assigned each of the volunteers a specific role ranging from providing on-site medical support services for athletes and serving as stewards at venues to cleaning up the Athletes' Village in New Taipei's Linkou District.

Should you have any question, please contact us at taiwaninfo.hungary@gmail.com

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE, HUNGARY

1088 Budapest, Rákóczi Rd. 1-3./II.

tro.hu, roc-taiwan.org/hu_hu