



Photo: Kardos Dorika



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Taiwan INFO

ASIA-PACIFIC SECURITY DIALOGUE GETS UNDERWAY IN TAIPEI

The inaugural Asia-Pacific Security Dialogue kicked off Aug. 8 in Taipei City, bringing together around 30 senior officials, experts and scholars from across the region to discuss issues related to maritime capacity building and cooperation, security and regional economic integration.

During the event's opening, President Tsai Ing-wen said given Taiwan's central geographic location, it will always have a role in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and remains committed to this responsibility as a member of the global community.

This approach reflects the importance of democracy, freedom and the rule of law in Taiwan, Tsai said, adding that it is also based on the reality that growth and prosperity cannot take place in an unstable and insecure region. According to the president, Taiwan must play an even more active role in an interconnected world. It cannot sit idly on the sidelines while other

nations across the region increasingly look toward each other to build stronger ties, she said.

As part of the government's response to this challenge, it has rolled out a number of farsighted initiatives such as the New Southbound Policy, Tsai said. In keeping with the policy, Taiwan has expanded its capacity to cultivate the human resources needed to work with the countries targeted under the initiative, she added.

It is also willing to provide know-how to help these countries take advantage of new market opportunities, Tsai said, citing policies and measures aimed at cementing people-to-people exchanges.



At the same time, Taiwan remains committed to promoting trade and investment through bilateral and multilateral arrangements. Regarding regional security, Tsai said Taiwan stands ready to share its resources if the good order of the Asia-Pacific is threatened. She identified recent examples like the government helping implement economic sanctions on North Korea and stepping up investigations into shipments and money laundering involving the Northeast Asian country.



The role of Taiping Island – the largest naturally formed island in the Nansha (Spratlys) Islands in the South China Sea – is another one, the president said. The use of Taiping Island by Taiwan for research and humanitarian purposes also underscores the government’s commitment to resolving regional disputes and continuing to safeguard freedom of navigation and overflight in the area.

In terms of cross-strait relations, Tsai said the government is fully committed to maintaining the status quo and acknowledges the interest of the global community, as well as both sides of the Taiwan Strait, in peaceful and stable cross-strait relations. But this cannot be achieved by just one side alone as it takes goodwill and cooperation by both sides, the president said. She called for Taiwan and mainland China to develop a new model

Source: Taiwan Today, Photo: Courtesy of Taiwan Today

of interaction benefitting the stability and prosperity of both sides and the region as a whole. Organized by Taipei-headquartered nonprofit think tank Prospect Foundation, the one-day seminar also featured a keynote speech by former U.S. Vice President Richard B. Cheney, as well as a special roundtable on the prospects and challenges of Taiwan’s New Southbound Policy.

UNIVERSIADE COMMITTEE UNVEILS MEDALS, AWARD PARAPHERNALIA

The gold, silver and bronze medals as well as associated presentation materials for the upcoming 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade, the largest sporting event ever staged in Taiwan, were unveiled in Taipei City.

Created by award-winning local designers Chen Jun-liang and Huang Pao-chin, the medals as well as boxes, ribbons and trays all feature traditional Chinese characters for the

first time in Universiade history, according to the Taipei Universiade Organizing Committee. Jeng Fang-fann, commissioner of Taipei City Government’s Department of Sports,



said that the design and selected materials incorporate features from Taiwan and East Asia, highlighting the skill of Taiwan’s artisans.

On the medals themselves, the strokes that make up the Chinese character for the Taipei Universiade are elongated, symbolizing young athletes’ lifelong pursuit of excellence, the designers said. The reverse features the words “2017 Taipei

Universiade” in English and traditional Chinese characters encircled by the disassembled components of the event’s logo, a metaphor for cohesiveness and sportsmanship, they added.

The ribbons attached to the awards are yellow, blue and green for gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively. Red ribbons are

fastened to medals for billiards, the demonstration sport for this year’s Universiade.

Bamboo was used to craft the boxes for the medals as well as the trays that will be used to

carry them to the podium. According to the designers, the grain of the wood and upturned edges of the trays signify the spirit of advancement and pursuit of excellence.

In addition, TUOC also revealed bou-

quets featuring locally grown orchids and limited-edition dolls of Bravo, the Universiade mascot, which will be presented to winners in the collegiate sporting event.

Also known as the World University Games, the Universiade is an international sporting and cultural festival staged every two years in a different city worldwide.



Medals and associated items that will be presented to medal winners at the 2017 Summer Universiade are on display in Taipei City. (Courtesy of TUOC)

ROC REAFFIRMS SOUTH CHINA SEA SOVEREIGNTY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Aug. 7 the sovereignty of the Republic of China (Taiwan) over the South China Sea islands and said the country must be included in any talks on a dispute resolution mechanism.

The island groups and their surrounding waters in the South China Sea are an inherent part of ROC territory and the nation’s rights are unquestionable under international law

and the law of the sea, the MOFA said. As a member of the international community, the ROC is willing through equitable negotiations to work with all relevant parties in



promoting peace and stability in the South China Sea and to jointly conserve and develop resources in the region, it added. The ministry's remarks follow the adoption the day before in Manila of a framework for a code of conduct in the South China Sea by foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and mainland China. According to the MOFA, the government's stance is based on four principles and five actions relating to the South China Sea islands unveiled July 19, 2016, by President Tsai Ing-wen.

The four principles comprise resolving disputes peacefully in accordance with international law and the law of the sea; including Taiwan in any multilateral dispute settlement

mechanism; ensuring freedom of aviation and navigation in the region; and setting aside differences and resolving disputes through joint development. The five actions are developing Taiping Island – the largest naturally formed island in the Nansha (Spratly) Islands – into a base for providing humanitarian assistance and supplies; safeguarding the rights and safety of Taiwan fishermen operating in the South China Sea; enhancing multilateral dialogue with other relevant parties on collaboration and consensus; conducting scientific research on climate change, earthquakes, geology and meteorology; and encouraging local talents to study the law of the sea so as to strengthen the nation's ability to deal with issues pertaining to international law.

Text: Taiwan Today Photo: Courtesy of Maritime Patrol Directorate General (MPDG) of Coast Guard Administration

International Digital Government report ranks Taiwan 10th globally

Taiwan's 10th place ranking in the 2017 International Digital Government report highlights the success of the country's efforts to foster digital infrastructure development and promote e-services and open government data, according to the Cabinet-level National Development Council.

Compiled by Tokyo-based Waseda University in collaboration with the International Academy of Chief Information Officers (IAC), the annual survey released Aug assessed the implementation of digital government solutions in 65 countries and territories.

Taiwan excelled in the categories of government CIO and digital government promotion, placing fourth and seventh, respectively. The nation ranked fifth overall in the Asia-Pacific (New Zealand in seventh and South Korea in eighth), and outperforming



A trade show visitor tries a government-sponsored app enabling tourists to virtually explore the city's attractions, one of the e-services that helped Taiwan achieve a top 10 ranking in the International Digital Government (Courtesy of Taiwan Today)

Thailand in 21st, Hong Kong in 24th, Macau in 28th and mainland China in 44th. Singapore topped the global rankings, followed by Denmark, the U.S., Japan and Estonia, in that order. According to the NDC, recently enacted government policies to foster the digital infrastructure environment helped the nation maintain its strong 10th place ranking from the previous edition of the survey.

The council cited the nine-year DIGI plus program unveiled by the Executive Yuan in November 2016 as demonstrating the government's commitment to bolstering the nation's long-term digital infrastructure competitiveness. Running 2017-2025 with a budget of NT\$170 billion (US\$5.5 billion), the initiative seeks to enhance the digital economy through such measures as creating an innovation-friendly environment, cultivating talent and increasing access to online resources. Another key factor in the nation's top 10 performance was open government data policy, with the report praising the prog-

ress of efforts to promote e-democracy and information availability. The positive assessment in this category underscores growing international recognition of Taiwan's efforts to promote accountability and transparency through accessibility to government data, the NDC said.

First released in 2005, the International Digital Government rankings are compiled by scholars from Waseda University and officials from IAC, an international association dedicated to fostering exchanges among CIOs. The report analyzes countries and territories across 10 main indicators: cybersecurity, digital government promotion, digital infrastructure, digital inclusion, government chief information officer, information and communication technology integration in government systems, national portal, online services, open data and the use of emerging ICT solutions like cloud computing and big data among government agencies.



MOE MULLS MEASURES FOR RECRUITING, RETAINING TOP ACADEMIC TALENTS

A NT\$5.6 billion (US\$185.1 million) per annum project for recruiting and retaining top-notch scholars is under consideration by the Ministry of Education as part of government efforts seeking to enhance the competitiveness and research capabilities of Taiwan's higher education sector.



MOE Minister Pan Wen-chung (third left) displays a chart detailing the proposed Yushan Project in Taipei City. (Courtesy of MOE)

Named Project Yushan after the highest mountain in Taiwan and East Asia at 3,952 meters, the initiative aims to recruit 500 academics from abroad and retain 500 from home. The so-called Yushan scholars, who must specialize in areas compatible with the country's development needs, will receive up to NT\$5 million in annual incentives on top of monthly salary for a period of three years.

MOE Minister Pan Wen-chung said the project is in response to similar undertakings adopted by neighboring Asian countries and territories like Hong Kong and Singapore. Deepening the academic talent pool is a critical step in turning out more graduates equipped with the tools to spur Taiwan's industrial transformation, he added. Under the initiative, local colleges and

universities can allocate between 5 percent and 20 percent of government subsidies toward providing more lucrative remuneration packages for new recruits and existing faculty members. Another measure involves bringing the salaries of Taiwan's 8,000 full professors at public institutions in line with global standards.

This is to be achieved through a 10 percent increase in research allowances, producing a 5 percent rise in average monthly salary to NT\$112,970. A total of NT\$550 million in additional research allowances will also be provided to scholars at private institutions, according to the MOE.

Set for fast-tracked Cabinet approval, the project is expected to commence in 2018 and benefit 19,000 academic and research professionals nationwide.



UNIVERSIADE'S MASCOT *Bravo* INSPIRES NPM EXHIBITION

A special exhibition of bear-themed artworks inspired by Bravo, the Formosan black bear mascot of the Aug.19-30 Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade, is underway at National Palace Museum as part of efforts to promote the largest global sporting event ever staged in Taiwan.



NPM Director Lin Jeng-yi (second left) and Taipei Deputy Mayor Chen Chin-jun (second right) give the thumbs-up Aug. 1 at the opening of "Bravo at the NPM." (Courtesy of NPM)

“Bravo at the NPM,” which runs until Oct. 31, comprises four pieces created between the Han (202 B.C. to 220 A.D.) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties: an ornately engraved and textured celadon, or greenware, bear lamp; a black-and-white jade sculpture portraying a boy and a bear holding hands and smiling; and two bear-shaped vessels fashioned from bronze and jade.

According to NPM, the pieces were selected on the strength of their artistic quality, exceptional craftsmanship and value as faithful representations of the bear’s beauty and power in traditional Chinese art.

The bear is a symbol of physical strength and is deeply rooted in Chinese philosophy, the NPM said, adding that this

makes it the perfect theme for an exhibition designed to honor the Universiade’s athletes while taking the facility to a broader international audience.

In addition to the four artworks, “A Closer Look at Chinese Painting: Selected Works from the Ages in the Museum Collection” is open until Sept. 25 at NPM. Including a selection of pieces featuring sporting activities in ancient China, the exhibition is expected to prove popular with art aficionados from home and abroad. The NPM said it anticipates the exhibitions will help attract a large number of visitors to the facility, and is rolling out a number of promotional measures during the games such as free admission for athletes and invited dignitaries.

Text: Taiwan Today



FRESH FROM THE OCEAN DEEP - ENJOY TAIPEI'S TASTY OYSTER DISHES

by Jiao Tong

Photos: Jiao Tong, Chic-Jen Yan

During my 10 odd years working for China Times, I often enjoyed the oysters at Budai Fresh Oyster Eatery) and Chen Ji Intestine & Oyster Noodle Eatery, both situated by Huajiang Bridge.

SAVORY WITH IRRESISTIBLE UMAMI

At Budai Fresh Oyster Eatery, food is served on metal dishes, and the oysters are bigger, fatter and fresher than the ones you'll find at other street food stands.



boiled oysters with sauce

Whether it's the oyster omelette, oyster soup, or boiled oysters with sauce, all are delectable! The way they make oyster soup is pretty standard for Taiwan – with ginger, basil, fried shallots, and celery for seasoning, but it is the juiciness of the oysters that makes the soup so tasty. Don't mention boiled oysters with sauce! The restaurant uses extra eggs to thicken their oyster omelettes instead of adding potato starch. I have always thought most oyster omelette eateries use too much potato

starch, which is the accepted practice, but I believe this ends up reducing the flavor.

Next door is Chen Ji Intestine & Oyster Noodle Eatery, which also provides juicy oysters and braised intestines with an intoxicating aroma and a chewy texture. The fairy Chang'e is painted on their sign outside, which is kind of an auditory pun since her name sounds like the words for intestine and oyster: "chang ke." Here, the intestine and oyster vermicelli is always scrumptious. The two main ingredients are cooked separately, but end up in the same bowl. This results in each one presenting its best taste qualities, yet the two blend together perfectly!

GOOD TASTE DELIVERED FROM THE PLACE OF ORIGIN

The main reason Dongshih Shun Ji makes such great seafood congee, oyster fried rice and oyster omelettes is the quality of their oysters. The seafood congee contains shrimp, fish, clams and squid – rich ingredients to bring a solid satisfaction at the end of the meal. Oyster fried rice is harder to make than other fried rice dishes, because an oyster releases its juice during the cooking, which makes it harder to control the moistness of the rice. All it takes is one tiny mishap and the result is a mushy slop! The owner of the eatery is from the town of Dongshih, Chiayi,



BUDAI FRESH OYSTER EATERY
198, Sec. 3, Heping W. Rd. (near Huajiang Bridge)

CHEN JI INTESTINE & OYSTER NOODLE EATERY
166, Sec. 3, Heping W. Rd.

DONGSHIH SHUN JI
104, Xichang St.



oyster fried rice

which produces tons of oysters, hence the store's name. All the oysters are delivered fresh from his hometown every day. At the front of the restaurant is the cooking stand where milkfish belly is lined up neatly alongside clams, shrimp, squid and oysters – all waiting to be put in the pan. The clank of cookware seem to herald the upcoming feast! Sometimes, I order sautéed milkfish

belly; it's a big piece, specially selected by the owner. There's a lot of fat in the belly, so it tastes and smells better sautéed or roasted rather than boiled in my opinion. I quite often cook it myself, sautéed with a little lemon zest added at the end. Of course, with my deep affection for fish heads, I often buy some of these to braise at home too. For my daughter, this is the taste that will always remind her of her Dad.



oyster soup

This article is an excerpt from Tastes of Taipei's Old City Areas, published by the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government. Its author Jiao Tong has spent more than a decade carrying out in-depth explorations and research into food. He has visited Monka, Dadaocheng and Dalongdong areas, spending nearly half a year sampling different foods and beverages at hundreds of eateries, and he ultimately selected 167 of them to take travelers on an exploration of Taipei's traditional cuisine.

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