



## **PRESIDENT TSAI CALLS FOR BREAK- THROUGH IN CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS**

**President Tsai Ing-wen said Oct. 26 that a breakthrough in cross-strait relations should be made so as to cement long-term peace and prosperity for the benefit of the people of Taiwan and mainland China.**

Since taking office in May last year, Tsai said she has ensured the government extended maximum goodwill and safeguarded the stable development of cross-strait ties. This commitment will not change, nor will there be a return to the old path of confrontation or a yielding to pressure, she added.

The president made the comments at a forum in Taipei City marking the 30th anniversary of the opening of cross-strait exchanges. Organized by the Mainland Affairs Council, the one-day event was attended by senior government officials and representatives of local foundations and think tanks.

According to Tsai, following the government's decision to lift the ban on Republic of China (Taiwan) nationals visiting mainland China in 1987, people-to-people exchanges created opportunities for facilitating mutual understanding in such areas as academia, culture and economy.

To date, more than 2.4 million visits to Taiwan have been made by people on the other side of the strait, underscoring the value of communication in transforming the cross-strait relationship from one defined by hostility to peace, she added.

In building on this foundation, the president said the ruling parties of Taiwan



President Tsai Ing-wen calls for a breakthrough in cross-strait relations during her address at a MAC-organized forum Oct. 26 in Taipei City. (Photo: Courtesy of the Office of the President)

and mainland China should drop historical baggage and expand dialogue. This would lead to enhanced mutual understanding, trust and the better management of various challenges and issues in cross-strait ties, she added.

According to Tsai, this approach also benefits the international community as regional peace and security are key factors impacting the development of countries and territories and the well-being of their peoples. Taiwan and mainland China have an obligation to adopt new modes of thinking and cross-strait interaction for the benefit of all, she said.

Source: Taiwan Today

---

## Tea Tasting in Taipei -- Savor a Sip in Dadaocheng

In 1860, an open trading port was established at Tamsui , and Dadaocheng, just up the river, was connected to the outside world. Foreigners brought in new ideas and products, and local people started to explore the globe with wide eyes, discovering new business opportunities in the process.

This is how the Dadaocheng tea trade started, and from 1869 to 1895, the industry was at its peak. Crates of tea were stacked high on the dock and stayed there only as long as it took the longshoremen to load them onto ships. At that time, Dadaocheng exceeded all other ports in Taiwan in volume of tea exported, which placed it at the head of the most important distribution channel in the country.

### THE TEA TRADE BRINGS HONOR TO TAIWAN

When referring to the Dadaocheng tea trade, one can never omit two main characters: John Dodd and Lee Chun-sheng . After the port of Tamsui opened, foreign businessmen came to Taiwan seeking goods, and among them was English businessman, John Dodd

who first ventured into the northern mountains in search of camphor. But he noticed that the soil, climate and environment there were highly suitable for tea cultivation, so he hired Lee, who had worked in the Xiamen , China tea business to be his comprador, and together they started a new tea enterprise in northern Taiwan. In order to get local farmers to grow tea on a mass scale, Dodd imported oolong seedlings from the renowned tea county, Anxi in the Chinese province of Fujian , and sold them on credit. He also offered the planters horticultural advice. Later on, when he wanted to improve the tea's quality, he invested in special production equipment, hired tea masters from Fujian, and produced high-class oolong tea in Dadaocheng. In 1869, Dodd loaded almost 130,000 kilos onto two big sailboats and shipped them to New York, where the tea was a big hit and launched the Taiwanese market in the West. Formosa Tea soon became known the world over, attracting other foreign businessmen to come set up shop in Dadaocheng.

Article: Wang Rui-fen, Photos: Wang Tea, Gao Chuan-qi, Source : Taipei City Government



## *Old photos demonstrate the tea trading in Dadaocheng*



**THE SCENT OF TEA FILLED THE DADAOCHENG AIR**  
Situated alongside the Tamsui River, Guide Street was built by two rich Taiwanese entrepreneurs, Lee Chun-sheng and Lin Wei-yuan. It became known as a tea street, and was famous for its western-style buildings. Many foreigners settled here, but the western architecture was home to rich Formosans as well. With tea shops popping up everywhere, the air was always redolent with a delicate bouquet whenever tea was being produced, and that made Dadaocheng the most fragrant district in Taipei! After a few decades of ac-



tive tea trading, Dadaocheng had made its name and business expanded rapidly. The neighborhood around Dihua Street, Ganzhou Street, and Minsheng West Road became the place for tea merchants to gather. At its peak, there were over 200 tea shops in the neighborhood, and this spectacular tea emporium carried on through the Japanese era. Today, the glory days are over, but there are still many old businesses producing tea leaves of the highest quality, and passing the culture of Taiwanese tea on to the next generation.



## WEIRD, WONDERFUL TAIWAN SIGHTS MAKE LONELY PLANET SECRET MARVELS BOOK

Two attractions in Taichung City and Yilan County, respectively, are among the 360 weird and wonderful sights featured in recently released “Secret Marvels of the World,” a guidebook for adventurous travelers produced by Australia-based Lonely Planet Publications Pty. Ltd.

Rainbow Military Dependents’ Village in Taichung, central Taiwan, makes the book on the strength of its vividly decorated buildings and roads. Constructed by the ROC government following its relocation to Taiwan from mainland China in 1949, the facility had largely emptied of its occupants over the years and fallen prey to decay and neglect.

But former ROC army soldier Huang Yong-fu, the village’s sole resident, had other ideas. He set about breathing life into the once-bustling facility by using it as a canvas for his brightly colored paintings employing simplistic, almost childlike styles. These efforts to

revivify the village are paying dividends, with large numbers of tourists making a beeline for the facility, according to Lonely Planet.

Taichung City Government said Oct. 25 that the village’s inclusion in the book underscores its reputation as a rich and zesty example of urban art highly regarded by visitors from home and abroad, especially those from Japan and the U.K.

The village has welcomed 3,000 to 5,000 tourists per day for a total 1 million visits, the local government said, adding that a renovation project completed in June is expected to further boost the facility’s appeal and

Source: Taiwan Today



Rainbow Military Dependents’ Village in Taichung City, central Taiwan, is one of two local weird and wonderful sights featured in guidebook “Secret Marvels of the World” by Lonely Planet. (Courtesy of TCG)

preserve its unique historic heritage. Equally impressive is Beneficial Microbes Museum in Yilan, northeastern Taiwan. Since its establishment in 2011, BMM has functioned as a tourism factory and raised public awareness of the benefits of microorganisms through a variety of displays and hands-on activities.

Published in August, the first edition of the 304-page book includes such attractions as the grassless golf course in Coober Pedy, Australia; catacombs of Paris, France; earthquake-created Lake Kaindy high in the Tian Shan mountains, Kazakhstan; and abandoned, sand-engulfed mining town Kolmanskop in Namibia.



## BBC 100 WOMEN LIST INCLUDES TAIWAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

**Taiwan social entrepreneur Lin Nien-tzu – founder of Nepal-based Dharti Mata Sustainable Workshop – is featured in this year’s BBC 100 Women, a list compiled by the British broadcaster of the most influential and inspirational women in the world.**

The 34-year-old established the workshop in rural Patalekheta village of Kavrepalanchok District in 2013 with the goal of helping Nepalese women break the stigma around periods. It produces clean and affordable cloth sanitary pads, providing locals with skills training and job opportunities. Lin set up the workshop after visiting rural Nepalese villages and learning about the discrimination suffered by women during menstruation. In April, the South Asian country enacted a law criminalizing the practice of banishing women to huts during their periods. According to Lin, the workshop strives to tackle the lack of knowledge about feminine hygiene in villages. The facility also aims to empower women in marginalized communities by encouraging them to address social stigmas and enter the workforce, she said. The BBC’s annual 100 women project is now in its fifth year. For 2017, participants are taking part in the 100 Women

*"Connect the inner and the outer world as oneness,  
follow the natural flow of divine heart,  
embrace the beauty of feminine cycle,  
stay grounded with Mother Earth,  
then you can transform impossible into possible".*

*/Lin Nien-tzu, Facebook/*

Challenge, a platform for sharing experiences and devising innovative methods to tackle four major issues – the glass ceiling, female illiteracy, sexual harassment and sexism in sport. In September, the broadcaster identified 60 women, 15 for each group, with the further 40 spots to be filled by women who have developed solutions in the key issue areas. On Oct. 13, the BBC named a first batch of 20 additions to the list, including Lin, with the final group to be selected later in the year.

Lin was included under Team Read, which focuses on female illiteracy, for her efforts to foster education and empowerment. Other prominent figures on the 2017 list include Michelle Bachelet, president of Chile, Amy Cuddy, a best-selling author and social psychologist at Harvard University, Mithali Raj, captain of India’s cricket team, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia, and NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson.



# TAIWAN RANKS 15TH IN WORLD BANK DOING BUSINESS REPORT

Taiwan ranked 15th among 190 economies in the Doing Business 2018 report released Oct. 31 by Washington-based World Bank.



*Taiwan ranks 15th among 190 economies in the Doing Business 2018 survey released Oct. 31 by Washington-based World Bank. (Photo: Huang Chung-hsin)*

While its score improved by 0.41 points to 80.07 out of 100, Taiwan slipped four places from the previous edition. New Zealand topped the global rankings, followed by Singapore and Denmark in that order.

Among the 10 categories used to assess an economy's business environment, Taiwan fared best in getting electricity, ranking third in the world with a score of 99.45. It also finished fourth in dealing with construction permits.

Taiwan, which placed fourth in Asia behind Singapore, South Korea and Hong Kong in that order, recorded impressive improvements in other categories. It jumped from 14th to 10th in enforcing contracts, 68th to 55th in trading across borders and 19th to 16th in starting a business.

The survey praised Taiwan's efforts over the past year, stating that it had made exporting easier by permitting different organizations to electronically issue certifi-

cates of origin. Similarly, the introduction of an electronic filing system strengthened its performance in enforcing contracts, it added.

In response, the Cabinet-level National Development Council said Nov. 1 that progress in these categories underscores the government's commitment to pursuing reforms aimed at enhancing Taiwan's business environment. First released in 2003, the annual World Bank survey evaluates economies across the categories of starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency. The report measures how regulations affect domestic small and medium enterprises based on standardized case scenarios located in the largest business city of each economy.



# *Intangible Beauty*

Oscar Chung  
*Taiwan Review*

**Nantou County's rich handicraft traditions arise from its vibrant cultural landscape.**



*The Shuili Snake Kiln Ceramics Cultural Park in central Taiwan's Nantou County preserves and promotes local pottery-making traditions. (Photo by Chin Hung-hao)*

On a morning in March, indigo dyeing artisan Tang Wen-chun takes a group of university design students on a tour of her studio at the National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute (NTCRI) in the central county of Nantou. As the visitors wander around her spacious workshop, Tang fields questions on her signature craft, explaining in an amiable and practiced manner how she imprints intricate indigo patterns on clothing, wallets and a variety of other goods. The group from National Yunlin University of Science and Technology in western Taiwan is one of dozens to have visited Tang's studio at the sprawling NTCRI compound. The institute in Nantou's Caotun Township is a mecca

for design and handicraft students. Tracing its origins back to 1954, the facility now operates under the Ministry of Culture (MOC). Besides residency studios, it hosts exhibition venues as well as training courses in disciplines ranging from bamboo weaving and ceramics to stone carving. According to NTCRI Director Hsu Keng-hsiu, the institute is Taiwan's foremost center for the promotion and preservation of traditional handicrafts. "We also work to expand knowledge of these crafts abroad by periodically inviting foreign artisans to collaborate with their Taiwan counterparts at our facility." In addition, NTCRI arranges for local artisans and design studios to attend overseas exhibitions.



Visitors enjoy a bike ride along the county's famed Sun Moon Lake. (Photo by Huang Chung-hsin)

### HANDICRAFT CAPITAL

“Nantou is the handicraft capital of Taiwan,” said Lin Rong-sen, director-general of the county government’s Cultural Bureau. According to the official, the county is primarily associated with three disciplines: bamboo weaving, lacquer art and pottery. Today, facilities including Tian Xing Kiln Ceramic Art Village in Jiji Township and Shuili Snake Kiln Ceramics Cultural Park in Shuili Township are helping preserve the county’s pottery-making traditions. These cultural parks offer tours of old kilns, introductions to traditional tools and production methods, and hands-on pottery sessions. They also host exhibitions of artworks by ceramists from around Taiwan.

### INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS

Nantou’s diverse handicraft expertise derives from the varied cultures that have influenced its development. The county is home to members of the Atayal, Bunun, Sediq and Thao, four of Taiwan’s 16 officially recognized indigenous tribes. In total, indigenous peoples comprise 5.7 percent of Nantou’s population.

One of the most prominent local groups involved in indigenous heritage promotion is the Bunun Cultural Association. Based in Sinyi Township, the organization is the other Nantou recipient of the MOC’s important preserver of traditional crafts and

performing arts designation. It is credited with keeping alive the Bunun custom of Pasibutbut, an eight-part polyphonic song typically performed in February to pray for a good millet harvest. Owing to the Bunun Cultural Association’s promotional activities, Pasibutbut has grown into one of the most widely known and celebrated indigenous traditions in Taiwan.

Efforts to preserve Thao culture have similarly achieved impressive results in recent years. The Thao is among the smallest indigenous tribes in Taiwan, with only about 200 members now residing in their traditional lands around Nantou’s Sun Moon Lake, one of the nation’s foremost scenic attractions. In 2015, the tribe’s Lusan festival, staged in summer in celebration of the Thao New Year, became the 18th and latest entry on the MOC’s list of important folk customs.

“Although our traditions are seriously threatened by booming tourism in our territory, inclusion on the list bolsters our conservation efforts,” said Hudun Lhkatanamarutaw, a board member of the Thao Culture and Development Association. “With this new designation, it’s easier to apply for government funding to preserve our culture.”

### HAKKA HERITAGE

Hakka residents, who account for some 16 percent of Nantou’s population, add further vitality to the county’s cultural landscape. “Located right in the center of Taiwan, Nantou was the primary destination for those who chose to relocate from communities established after the initial wave of Hakka immigration from southeastern mainland China,” explained Lin, the Cultural Bureau director-general.

To foster greater awareness of Hakka culture, the local government is preparing to launch the Six Star Hakka Communities project in the second half of this year.





This initiative will work to promote tourism to majority Hakka communities in six Nantou townships through a range of promotional measures and renovation projects. In Guoxing Township, for example, where Hakka people comprise nearly 80 percent of the population, efforts will be undertaken to transform the old street into a hub for design studios and cultural and creative enterprises.



in Yuli Township of eastern Taiwan's Hualien County. Stretching over 152 kilometers at the time of its completion, much of the trail has since become overgrown, though parts of it have been maintained.

Nantou's rich cultural heritage is also on display at the Chuping Archaeological Site in Renai Township. Located at an altitude of some 750 meters, this prehistoric settlement was discovered in 1980.

The local government is working with

#### SHOWCASING NANTOU'S UNIQUE HISTORICAL ASSETS

Though most widely celebrated for its natural beauty and intangible cultural heritage, Nantou County also possesses a variety of little-known yet unique historical assets. Foremost among these is the Batongguan Historical Trail, the only nationally designated historic site in the central county. Completed in 1875 during the Qing dynasty (1644-1911), the trail was built to boost interactions between authorities and indigenous tribes living in the mountains. Located in modern-day Yushan National Park, it was the first pathway traversing the Central Mountain Range, starting in Nantou's Zhushan Township and ending

several central government agencies to design an archaeological park at the site where excavated relics, currently stored at an academic institution in Taipei City, can be exhibited.

Such efforts to expand Nantou's cultural facilities have accelerated in recent years, with Yu-hsiu Museum of Art the most prominent recent addition. A private institution opened in January 2016, it is the first and only fine art museum in the county. "Its goal is to strengthen fine art education while helping Taiwan artists gain exposure overseas through exchange projects with foreign institutions," explained museum director Lee Chu-hsin.

---

Should you have any question, please contact us at [taiwaninfo.hungary@gmail.com](mailto:taiwaninfo.hungary@gmail.com)

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE, HUNGARY

1088 Budapest, Rákóczi Rd. 1-3./II.

[tro.hu](http://tro.hu), [roc-taiwan.org/hu\\_hu](http://roc-taiwan.org/hu_hu)