



Photo: Theerasak Saksritauwee



## FORBES RANKS PRESIDENT TSAI 15TH IN MOST POWERFUL WOMEN LIST

**President Tsai Ing-wen ranked 15th on The World's 100 Most Powerful Women in 2017 list released Nov. 1 by Forbes magazine.**

Named among the top 20 for the second consecutive year, Tsai moved up two spots from the 2016 edition. Leading the rankings was German Chancellor Angela Merkel, followed by U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Co-Chair Melinda Gates, Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg and General Motors Chairperson and CEO Mary Barra, in that order.

Based on the 2017 list, Forbes also compiled a ranking of the world's most powerful women politicians, with Tsai in third behind the German and British leaders and ahead of Chilean President Michelle Bachelet in fourth and EU High Repre-

sentative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini in fifth. Other prominent figures on the list included Queen Elizabeth II in eighth, Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi in 11th and former U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in 20th.

According to the New York-based publication, Tsai – Taiwan's first female leader – shattered precedent in December last year by engaging in a telephone conversation with then-U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, the first between the leaders of Taiwan and the U.S. since 1979. During the call, they shared their views on significant issues including the need to boost



*President Tsai Ing-wen ranks 15th among the 100 most powerful women in the world in the latest rankings released Nov by U.S.-based Forbes magazine (Courtesy of the office of the President)*

economic development and strengthen national defense so citizens can enjoy better lives and increased security.

Forbes also highlighted Tsai's five-plus-two innovative industries initiative, a comprehensive economic revitalization program targeting the five emerging and high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national defense, smart machinery and Internet of Things, as well as the promotion of two core concepts: the circular economy and a new paradigm for agricultural development. According to the magazine, the initiative seems to be paying off, with cross-strait trade up as of July this year. The latest statistics from the Bureau of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Economic Affairs show that Taiwan's total trade for the first eight months of 2017 increased 13.1 percent year on year to US\$371.24 billion.

*Source: Taiwan Today*

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## EPA chief reaffirms Taiwan's renewables commitment in interview with Deutsche Welle

**Taiwan is committed to complying with the goals of the Paris Agreement under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change through reducing fossil fuel use and fostering renewable energy generation, Environmental Protection Administration Minister Lee Ying-yuan said Nov. 13 in a TV interview with Germany's Deutsche Welle.**

Though the country is not a signatory to the accord, Taiwan is playing its part in global efforts to tackle climate change by transforming the nation's power generation structure within the next decade, Lee said.

According to the minister, the government aims to reduce the proportion of energy produced using coal from 45.5 percent to 30 percent by 2025. Power from renewables and natural gas will be increased from about 5 percent to 20 percent, and around 20 per-

cent to 50 percent, respectively, in the same period. Lee said these restructuring efforts are expected to lower the nation's carbon emissions from energy generation by some 40 percent while eliminating nuclear power. The government is also working to reduce greenhouse gases from the industrial sector through the introduction of a cap-and-trade system by 2020, he added.

In preparation for establishment of this system, the government has begun issuing certificates to companies that have installed renewable power generation technologies. Participating firms are awarded one certificate for every 1,000 kilowatt-hours of green energy produced, with a total 2,544 issued as of June, according to the National Renewable Energy Certification Center under the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Lee said new carbon reduction measures

*Source: Taiwan Today*



*EPA Minister Lee Ying-yuan addresses Taiwan's commitment to renewable energy during a Nov. 13 interview with Germany-based international news network Deutsche Welle. (Courtesy of EPA)*

will be introduced in consultation with industries so as to support economic growth and sustainable development. The government will also tailor renewable energy programs to local needs and strengths, he said, citing related measures in central Taiwan to harness abundant wind power resources.

Regional specialization of renewable projects will upgrade power transmission, the minister said, adding that Taiwan also plans

to boost energy efficiency on the demand side through the introduction of smart grid technology.

The approximately five-minute interview was broadcast in English on DW, a Bonn-based international news network. It followed a brief report on the structure of Taiwan's energy sector, the challenges the nation faces due to climate change and its efforts to embrace renewables.

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## NEW CULTURAL HEIGHTS

**Chiayi in southern Taiwan is fostering sustainable tourism development by highlighting its diverse historical assets and unique intangible heritage.**

Located in Chiayi County's Taibao City, the Southern Branch of the National Palace Museum (NPM) is the most significant recent addition to Taiwan's cultural landscape. Opening its doors in December 2015 following over a decade of planning and construction, the institution had received more than 2.2 million visitors by the end of August. This influx is invigorat-

ing the arts and tourism environments of Chiayi, while expanding awareness of the region's historic sites and intangible heritage. "Our aim is to promote the museum's priceless treasures and local culture on the world stage," said Lu Ching-rong, chief curator of NPM's Department of Southern Branch.

Founded in 1965, NPM manages a collection of almost 700,000 antiqui-



Source: Taiwan Review

ties ranging from calligraphy, embroidery, jade and lacquer pieces to books, bronzes, ceramics and paintings. These items span some 7,000 years from the Neolithic to modern era. While the museum's headquarters in Taipei City focuses on displaying Chinese cultural treas-

ures, the Southern Branch was built to showcase artifacts from diverse Asian civilizations.



Exhibitions such as *The Far-Reaching Fragrance of Tea* at the Southern Branch utilize the latest multimedia effects to create more authentic viewing atmospheres. (Photo by Jimmy Lin)

Of the Taibao facility's five permanent exhibitions, four explore cultural evolution across the continent. These comprise a multimedia introduction to Asian art as well as collections of



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)

artifacts on the art and culture of tea, Buddhist art and textiles. In contrast to these macro-level examinations of Asian cultural development, the fifth permanent exhibition zeroes in on the history of Chiayi. Assembled using a multimedia approach, it spotlights the region's arts, culture and religious customs through

animated films, antique maps, artifacts and historical documents.

### WORLD-CLASS RESOURCES

Prior to the museum's launch, Chiayi City and County, which are administered separately, were best known to local and international visitors as



*Alishan Forest Railway, constructed to transport lumber in 1912 during the Japanese colonial era (1895-1945), is one of the world's great narrow-gauge train lines. (Photo courtesy of Chiayi County Government)*

gateways to the famed scenic area atop Alishan. The mountain region, one of Taiwan's foremost tourist destinations, is celebrated for its stunning views, towering forests and unique rail line. The latter, constructed to transport lumber in 1912 during Japanese colonial rule (1895-1945), is the highest

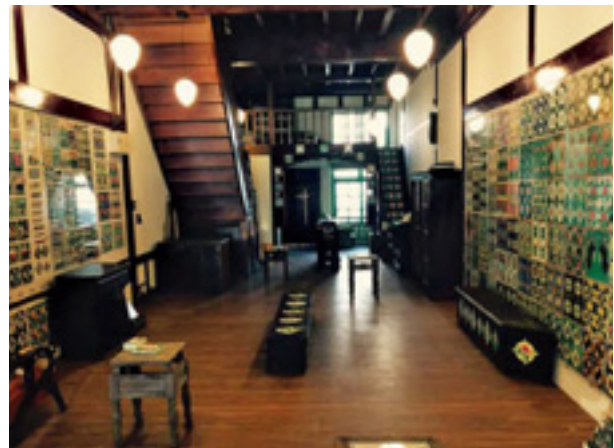


*Dashiye Cultural Festival is a major religious ritual held in Chiayi County's Minxiong Township to pray for peace and prosperity during the Mid-Summer Ghost Festival. (Photo courtesy of Chiayi County Government)*

narrow-gauge railway in Asia. It winds from 30 meters to 2,451 meters above sea level through tropical, temperate and alpine vegetation.

Whereas once tourists typically made Alishan National Scenic Area the sole

stop on their Chiayi itinerary, the addition of the Southern Branch is encouraging more comprehensive explorations of the region. The recent tourism boost is benefiting attractions like Puzi Embroidery Cultural Museum as well as Bantaoyao, a studio dedicated to promoting traditional ceramic crafts. Also garnering increasing attention are historic places of worship like Shuixian Temple. Built in 1739, the national monument is decorated with exquisite pottery ornaments and intricate wooden sculptures of birds, flowers and mythical creatures like drag-



*Source : Taiwan Today*

*Traditional wooden buildings are reborn as cafes, restaurants and workshops under a repurposing program administered by Chiayi City Government. (Photo courtesy of Chiayi City Government)*

ons and phoenixes. To capitalize on the growing interest in the region, the Culture and Tourism Bureau last year established a dedicated website called Explore Chiayi detailing the county's cultural assets. Available in English, Japanese and traditional Chinese, the site lists arts and crafts studios, historic buildings and monuments, museums, scenic spots, a monthly events calendar, recommended itineraries as well as accommodation, dining and transportation information.



### ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITY

Among the unique facets of Chiayi City's architectural identity is the large number of traditional Japanese-style wooden houses. Kao Chi-jung) is a leading advocate for the preservation and adaptive reuse of these structures. The Chiayi native helped establish a template for such efforts when he spent more than NT\$600,000 (US\$20,000) restoring a house and turning it into a store selling souvenirs and traditional

toys. "These homes exude a relaxing ambience owing to their excellent ventilation and pleasant natural aromas," the 45-year-old said. Inspired by the success of Kao's store and other similar efforts, the city government in 2014 launched subsidy and public-private partnership schemes to foster the restoration of the wooden buildings. To date, more than 30 have been renovated and repurposed as cafes, restaurants, souvenir shops and workshops.

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## TAIWAN WELCOMES REGIONAL FTA DEVELOPMENTS

**The Republic of China (Taiwan) welcomed the Nov. 11 announcement by 11 Asia-Pacific economies that plans for a regional free trade agreement will move forward following the withdrawal of the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership in January this year, according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs.**

During a press conference held the same day on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting in Danang, Vietnam, economic and trade ministers from Japan and the host country said the other former parties to the TPP had reached a consensus on most of the terms of a multilateral trade accord.

The countries, which also comprise Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and Singapore, have also agreed to name the trade pact the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for TPP.

During his remarks at the APEC Ministerial Meeting Nov. 8, MOEA Minister Shen Jong-chin expressed the government's wish to participate in regional economic integration through bilateral agreements and multilateral frameworks. The country remains committed to working with its major partners to expand foreign trade and maximize trade liberaliza-

tion for mutual benefits, he added.

Toward this goal, the government has implemented a raft of adjustments to the country's trade and economic policies. These include amendments under legislative review to laws and regulations governing copyrights, patents, trademarks and pharmaceutical affairs, according to the ministry.

On the global front, no effort is being spared in canvassing support for Taiwan's participation through the activities of such major international organizations as APEC and the World Trade Organization, the MOEA added.

The 11 CPTPP member states accounted for 25.25 percent of Taiwan's foreign trade in 2016 and 13.6 percent of global gross domestic product, or US\$10 trillion in dollar terms, according to the MOEA. The ministry said it will work to implement related measures in response to the latest developments.



# A Utopia for Bibliophiles

## Reading in Old Houses

Article Mu Hua

Photos Shi Chuntai

Houses grow old, books wear out, and only readers' souls stay young and fresh. When interesting books meet storied old houses, the result is often a duet of essence and experience. Then, the physical world and the world of books are worth in-depth exploration.



**VVG CHAPTER – A SECRET SPACE IN THE BIG CITY**  
VVG Chapter is a secret alcove in the crowded city. With doors closed, fences and trees blocking prying eyes, this reading room in a renovated Japanese-style dorm is hidden away from the busy neighborhood around MRT Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station.

The verdant VVG Chapter is actually a library, and anyone over 15 years old can make a reservation to get in. From the 1920s to the 1940s, this building was a residence for government officials during the Japanese era. It is an elegant and classic wooden structure

with an interior that mixes both Japanese and western styles. Decorated with assorted memorabilia from Japan, France and Taiwan, it's the perfect blend of styles. According to the manager, Yang Shu-yu, VVG Chapter stocks over 4,000 titles, mainly design, art, architecture, and cook books. There's also a space for thematic displays fostering a "Conversation Between Taiwanese and Japanese Artists." New exhibits are presented on a bimonthly basis, and each time one opens, one Taiwanese and one Japanese artist will be invited to have a stimulating conversation.

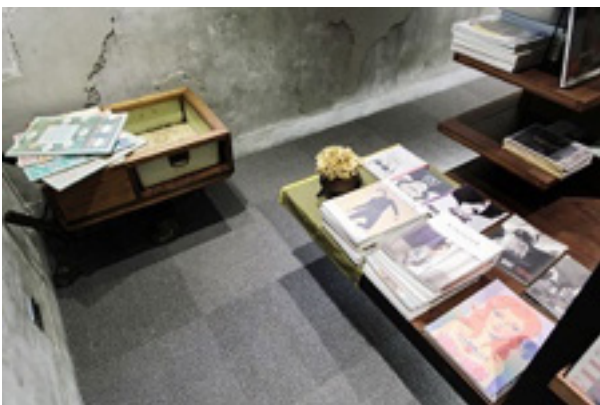
Source: Taipei City Government



With the aroma of cypress in the air, VVG Chapter is warm, bright and tranquil. You can read books, look at exhibits, have tea and snacks, or just sit quietly and watch the changing light and shadows. Enjoy one of life's sweet moments at VVG Chapter!

#### BOOKSTORE 1920S – RETURN TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS

At the most crowded corner on Dihua Street, the delightful little Bookstore 1920s sits quietly awaiting browsers. This iconic building in the Dadaocheng neighborhood was once the very first western pharmacy in Taiwan: Watson's. That building was destroyed by fire in 1998, but the original owner's descendants have rebuilt it and shown the world its beauty again. In the store, you can still see two dark old medicine cabinets – now displaying books yet somehow still whispering of the legacy and history of days past.



Bookstore 1920s considers itself as the “originator of time-space conversion,” stocking books of and about the 1920s exclusively. The store's collection preserves the most

cherished essence of the Twenties: the many cultures and intellectual movements that co-existed and sparked each other. Bookstore 1920s hopes that their selection of books will help readers break the boundaries of time and space, shine some light on those glorious days, and bring some of that spirit back to today's world.

Bookstore 1920s attracts different kinds of customers. Japanese tourists search for maps and photography books. We talked with a Japanese woman, married to a Taiwanese, who came looking for reference material for her thesis. Others, like visitors from Hong Kong and Mainland China are more interested in history books with a different perspective; while Taiwanese customers tend to prefer titles dealing with local culture and history. Sometimes, you might bump into a



neighborhood elder talking about the “good old days” – don't pass up a chance to chat as they represent genuine living history! The customers of the bookstore reflect Dadaocheng's past and present.

#### WALKINGBOOK – A HUNDRED WAYS OF READING

If Bookstore 1920s is like an open door then Walkingbook, tucked quietly 200 meters away on Yanping North Road is a sanctuary where people can linger and browse. Many people think of Walkingbook as just a restaurant, but what they don't realize is that the bookstore on the third floor is the real spiritual heart of the place. The name, Walkingbook, comes from a Chinese idiom: “The world is a book,





and those who do not travel read only one page.” This building used to be part of Daan Hospital, founded by Chiang Wei- Shui , the father of the Taiwan New Culture Movement. It also served as the main office of Taiwan MinPao , the only organ of free speech in the Japanese era, and thus it witnessed much of the important political and cultural progress of modern Taiwanese history. Visitors need to pay to enter Walkingbook – NT\$300 for eight hours or NT\$200 for four hours. The stock here is comprised of three main categories: books on Taiwan independence, graphic design magazines, and literary and art books. The volumes on Taiwanese independence top all the others, showing how much Walk-



ingbook cares about the values of self-determination and freedom.

The interior design at Walkingbook is as marvelous as the selection of books. Open the door and you enter a world of amazing designs in honor of Chiang Wei-Shui on the first and second floors. Going up to the third floor, you will discover a serene and refined space, which practically compels you to find your most comfortable position (standing, sitting, leaning or lying down) to explore the “100 ways of reading.” Let your mind and body center and clear – then you will enter the magic kingdom of the book you are about to read. This is an experience you won’t find elsewhere!

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