



Photo by Theeratsak Saksriatavee



Empowering Women

In Taipei last November, Taiwan for the first time hosted the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Council of Women (ICW), a Paris-headquartered women's rights organization established in 1888 that enjoys consultative status with the United Nations. Among those in attendance at the gathering was ICW President Kim Jung-sook from South Korea. In her opening remarks, she praised gender-related legislation in Taiwan and the election of President Tsai Ing-wen in January last year as the nation's first female head of state, a fact that "speaks loudly of the progress taking place in [Taiwan] and bodes very well for continued movement toward gender equality."

In her address at the ICW meeting, Tsai echoed Kim's comments, presenting her election to the nation's highest office as evidence of women's growing participation in Taiwan's public affairs. This trend, she added, can also be seen in the number of female legislators who took office in February last year.

Women belonging to five political parties currently hold 43 of the nation's 113 legislative seats, an increase from the previous total of 38. According to Yang Fang-wan, president of the National Alliance of Taiwan Women's Associations (NATWA), the people of Taiwan should take pride in the high proportion of female legislators. "In the past, women were a true minority in politics," she said. "Their significantly increased presence in the public sphere is itself an indicator of progress toward equality." The NATWA, established in 2001, comprises more than 50 nongovernmental organizations devoted to gender issues.

Thanks to the government's gender mainstreaming efforts, gender-specific information now abounds, including valuable figures concerning both men and women in terms of education, employment and entrepreneurship. Statistics released by the Ministry of Finance in January reveal that 36.1 percent of the nation's 1.33 million for-profit enterprises were headed by women at the end of 2015, representing a slight increase from 35.6 percent in 2010.

In the service sector, including accommodations and food service, women in leadership roles accounted for more than 45 percent. Meanwhile, women's labor participation rose from 45.3 percent in 1995 to 50.7 percent in 2015, according to official data. The most recent government data also reveal more than 90 percent of women aged 25 to 29 are gainfully employed.

Excerpt from Taiwan Review. The entire article will appear in the next issue of Taiwan info.



VP Chen gives interview to French Catholic daily La Croix

The government attaches great importance to maintaining the freedom and equality of religion in Taiwan, Chen said. Although there are few Catholics in Taiwan, the fact that a practicing Catholic can be elected vice president signifies the diversity of religion in Taiwan and the fact that the country does a great job of separating church and state, he added.

Chen, a devout Catholic, was made a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in 2010 and a Knight of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great in 2013.

In terms of cross-strait relations, the vice president called on mainland China to enter into exchanges and communication with Taiwan, and not take any negative or confrontational measures against the country so as to develop cross-strait relations in a positive manner.

Maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait is a common goal and responsibility of both sides, Chen said, adding that this outcome can be looked forward to only if both sides are willing to work hard. According to the vice president, since taking office May 20, 2016, President Tsai Ing-wen has maintained regional peace and cross-strait stability as one of her top policy priorities. To this end, the government will continue demonstrating maximum goodwill in striving for peaceful relations be-

tween Taiwan and mainland China based on the Republic of China (Taiwan) Constitution,

the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, the people's will and consensus in Taiwan, he said.

On Taiwan-U.S. ties, Chen said they are of equal importance to cross-strait relations, and he looks forward to working with the administration of

President Donald Trump in further consolidating the bilateral relationship. Many of the officials in the Trump administration are very friendly towards Taiwan and have publicly stated their support, he added, citing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's recent statement of support and continuing commitment to Taiwan.

The government is also very thankful for all of the assistance and support that past U.S. administrations have provided, and is confident it can further strengthen two-way ties based on the existing foundation, the vice president said.

Concerning the economy, the vice president said the government is implementing root-and-branch reforms under its New Model for Economic Development, while strengthening the country's regional and global linkages, as well as participating in multilateral and bilateral economic cooperation and free trade talks.





According to Chen, although boosting trade with the European Union, Japan and the United States is of the utmost importance, so is implementing the people-centric New Southbound Policy and finding opportunities for Taiwan to play a more active role in the regional economy, security and trade. The policy seeks to deepen Taiwan's agricultural, business, cultural, educational, trade and tourism links with the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, six South Asian countries, Australia and New

Zealand. The government is also transitioning toward innovation-based economic development characterized by diversified relationships and greater inflows of foreign capital and talent, the vice president said.

Regarding the debate on same sex marriage in Taiwan, Chen said it is important to keep up serious and real dialogue between the for and the against, adding that Taiwan is a free and democratic country and everyone's fundamental rights have to be protected.

Taiwan's IC industry records 8.2% output growth for 2016

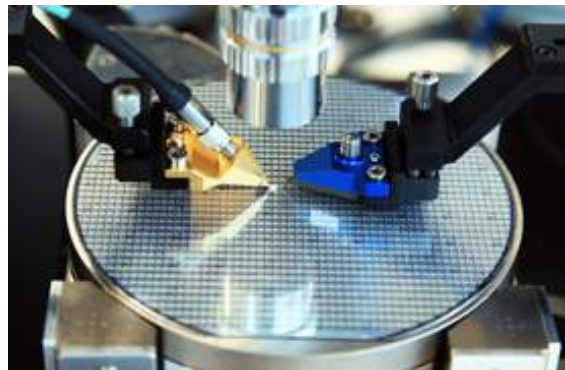
The production value of the local integrated circuit sector last year was NT\$2.45 trillion (US\$79.58 billion), an 8.2 percent annual growth, according to an industry report released February 20.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, the output value of the IC industry was NT\$644.2 billion, a 14.4 increase year-on-year but a decline of 2.3 percent from the previous quarter, according to statistics from the Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association and the Industrial Economics & Knowledge Center.

The IC design segment's output value last year amounted to NT\$653.1 billion, a 10.2 percent annual growth, while the IC manufacturing segment posted NT\$1.33 trillion in production

value last year, 8.3 percent higher than the previous year, the report said. In the fourth quarter of last year, the IC design segment registered NT\$159.8 billion in production value, representing a sequential fall of 10.4 percent and a 0.6 percent year-on-year decline, according to the report.

It said that in the last quarter of 2016, the IC manufacturing segment registered a 0.5 percent sequential output growth after posting NT\$360.6 billion in production value, up 23.2 percent from a year earlier.



Source: Focus Taiwan. Photo: Courtesy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs



Ecotourism

If you want to know how beautiful Taiwan really is, you have to come and see for yourself. You will be amazed at the diversity of ancient species this beautiful island has to offer. Come and explore its numerous mountains, forests, wetlands and oceans, and find an incredible collection of natural ecosystems. Taiwan lies off the southeast coast of the Asian Continent, where the tropical and subtropical zones come together. Surrounded by the sea and dominated by high mountains created by tectonic action over the eons, the country features a full range of climates from tropical to cool temperate. The variations in weather, geology, and elevation give Taiwan an unparalleled richness of flora and fauna, including many endemic species.



Coastal Regions

Taiwan is surrounded by oceans and therefore has a long coastline, which offers different sceneries wherever you go. The West Coast mainly consists of sand dunes, sand beaches, sand bars and lagoons, and its straight coastline is rather monotonous. The East Coast on the contrary presents a dramatic coastline of towering cliffs that almost directly descend into the deep sea. The coastal plains here

are very narrow. The rock formations at the North Coast alternate with beautiful bays and offer the most varied coastal landscape of Taiwan, while the South Coast mainly consists of coral reefs. The offshore islands of Taiwan also offer a great variety of geographical landscapes that are characteristic of the region, such as the basaltic rocks of the Penghu Islands, the granite rocks of Kinmen, and the marine erosions of Matzu.



Flora and Fauna

Taiwan harbors a great diversity of organic life, and some variations are rarely found elsewhere in the world. An example is the black forest similar to that in Germany, with vegetation going back 30



million to 60 million years, such as *Taxus sumatrana*, mangrove, Taiwan isoetes, and the rare high-altitude grass plains. The world's oldest amphibian, the Formosan salamander, can also be found here, as well as the Formosan black bear, the Mikado pheasant and the land-locked salmon. The beautiful azalea, cherry blossom and maple leaf are also subjects of admiration. If you want to experience this diverse animal and plant life, consider a visit to one of Taiwan's national scenic areas, national parks or forests, or nature reserves.

Taiwan's national parks, including Yang-ming Mountain (Yangmingshan), Taroko, Yu Mountain (Yushan), Shei-Pa, Kending (Kenting), Kinmen, Dongsha Atoll, and Taijiang, form the back garden of Taiwan and in themselves are natural treasure-houses. They provide shelter to unique animal and plant life, including insects, fish, and birds. The natural reserves form miniature ecosystems that not only provide a protected environment, but also offer a great alternative to recreational activities, environmental education and academic research.

Taiwan is a great place to watch the numerous species of butterflies and birds.

Butterflies

Some 17,000 different species of butterflies are known around the world; almost 400 can be seen in Taiwan, 50 of which are endemic to the island. There are many different sites for butterfly watching, including Doll Valley in Wulai near Taipei, Yangmingshan National Park, Mt. Jiaoban, and Mt. Lala along the Northern Cross-Island Highway, Qilan near Taipingshan (Taiping Mountain), Guguan, Li Mountain (Lishan), and Cuifeng along the Central Cross-Island Highway, Nanshan River and Huisun Forest near Puli, Shanlin River (Sunlinksea) in Nantou County, Butterfly Valley in Maolin near Kaohsiung, Shedding Park and Nanren Mountain (Nanrenshan) in Kending, and Butterfly Valley in Taitung.

Birds

Because of its warm and humid climate, Taiwan has extremely rich vegetation that attracts many birds. Located at the western edge of the Pacific Ocean, it



is also favored by migrating birds. Resident and migrating birds total some 440 species, and endemic birds such as the



black-faced spoonbill and *Sterna leucop-
tera* can be seen here. Sites for watching
these migrating birds include the Guan-
du swamplands in northern Taiwan, Yilan



swamplands, Dadu River in central Taiwan
and Gaopin River in southern Taiwan.
Other bird-watching sites are the Penghu
Islands, Matzu, Wulai, Mt. Hehuan, Xitou,
Ali Mountain (Alishan), Yangmingshan Na-

Marine Life

Taiwan's marine life and other oceanic resourc-
es are abundant and diverse. The clear waters
and warm climate of Kending and Green Is-



land, for example, provide the ideal environ-
ment for colorful and peculiarly shaped coral
reefs. These not only form the architecture of
the undersea world, but also provide the shelter
for all kinds of tropical fish. On Wang-an Island



tional Park, Yushan National Park, Shei-Pa
National Park, Taroko National Park, Kend-
ing National Park, Kinmen National Park,
Taijiang National Park, Northeast Coast
National Scenic Area, and East Coast and
the East Rift Valley National Scenic Areas.

in Penghu, as well as Lanyu in Taitung County,
you can even see green sea turtles coming to the
shore to lay its eggs. Along Taiwan's East Coast,
particularly off Yilan, Hualien, and Taitung,
more than 60 percent of all whale and dolphin
species that are found in Taiwan can be spotted.



Taiwan launches 1st landfill-based solar power plant

Taiwan's first landfill-based solar power plant was inaugurated February 17 in southern Taipei's Wenshan District, a milestone public-private sector development set to help slash greenhouse gasses and spur the development of renewable energy nationwide.

Situated on a three-hectare site occupied by Fude Landfill until 1994 and turned into an environmental park after 2003, Taipei Energy Hill boasts 8,000 photovoltaic panels and is one of the largest solar power facilities in the country. Construction, which began in September last year, was funded by Taipei-based electronics firm Tatung Co. The facility is ex-



pected to generate 2 million kilowatt-hours of electrical energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1,000 tonnes a year. All production will be sold to state-run utility Taiwan Power Co., with Taipei City Government receiving 10 percent of total sales – estimated at around NT\$1 million (US\$32,453) per annum. Taipei

Mayor Ko Wen-je said at the launch ceremony that cleaner, greener and safer power models like Taipei Energy Hill must be rolled out as

Taiwan strives for its nuclear-free homeland goal, adding that the 153,000 kWh of electrical energy produced since the facility commenced test operations January 10 augurs well for the future. The local government is a

leader in Taiwan when it comes to promoting the use of rooftop and ground-mounted solar arrays. Its efforts are in line with the central government's plan to increase renewable energy's share of the national power production total from the current 4 percent to 25 percent by 2025 while phasing out nuclear energy.

Source: Taiwan Today, Photo: Courtesy of Taipei City Government

“Discover Sustainable Orchids”

The Taiwan International Orchid Show 2017 (TIOS) will be held from March 4 to 13 in the southern city of Tainan. The event this year will use VR technology to help visitors better understand orchids and play the role of virtual orchid breeders, according to the or-



ganizers. Wu Tsung-jung, deputy mayor of Tainan, said since its debut 13 years ago, the TIOS has become one of the three main orchid shows and business forums in the world. For more information, please visit the **TIOS** website. News on the opening ceremony can be found [here](#).

Photo: TIOS Facebook



President pledges new body to deal with transitional justice

An independent institution will be established to handle issues related to "transitional justice" in Taiwan once a proposed bill is approved by the country's Legislature, President Tsai Ing-wen said on February 28.

Legislation to promote transitional justice will be prioritized during the current legislative session, which began on February 17 and will end in June, she said. The president made the statement during a ceremony to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the February 28 Incident, an uprising which led to a bloody crackdown by government troops in 1947. Tsai did not elaborate on the new institution but vowed to help achieve the "unfinished mission" of identifying the perpetrators of the crackdown that some have claimed wiped out a generation of young leaders in Taiwanese society.

In her speech, Tsai said more government documents will be identified and used to draft a national report on transitional justice, one section of which will be dedicated to the February 28 Incident. She dismissed critics who have said that Taiwan should look forward and focus on economic development. "The past will never go away unless we find out the truth," she said.

"While working to improve our economy is important, justice is also important," said the president. "A country that has both prosperity and justice is a goal worthy of our efforts."

Source: Focus Taiwan

Taiwan's eSports team wins League of Legends World Championships

Taiwanese eSports team Flash Wolves on February 27 beat European team G2 eSports in Katowice, Poland, to win the League of Legends (LoL) event, which is part of the Intel Extreme Masters (IEM) World Championship.

The IEM World Championship, a series of international esports tournaments in which teams from around the world compete, involves three games this year: LoL, StarCraft II and Counter-Strike: Global. Flash Wolves represented the Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau region in the LoL event.



LoL is a popular multi-player online game played by 27 million people every day, according to developer Riot Games Inc. After winning the game, Flash Wolves posted a photo of the team holding up the trophy on their Facebook page and thanked "everyone who supported us on this long journey."

Source: Focus Taiwan, Photo: Flash Wolves Facebook

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