



Photo by Huang Chung-hsin



## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

**The government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) reiterates its position that Taiwan is a member of the international community, and as such, its people are entitled to enjoy the same rights to good health as everyone else on Earth. There is no reason why Taiwan should be excluded from the World Health Organization (WHO). The truth of this principle is self-evident.**

The government expressed May 12 deep regret and displeasure over remarks by a World Health Organization official citing an absence of cross-strait understanding as a reason for not inviting Taiwan to attend as an observer at the World Health Assembly taking place later from May 22-31 in Geneva.

The Office of the President called “once again upon the WHO to duly recognize Taiwan as a link in the global disease control system ... and to face up to the common claim of countries in every region and international health bodies.”

According to the ROC (Taiwan) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, political obstruction has resulted in a high rate of rejection to Taiwan’s applications to attend

technical meetings of the WHA, creating grave difficulties in Taiwan’s efforts to coordinate with the international community on disease prevention.

The ministry also called on the WHO to recognize the justice and importance of Taiwan’s participation in the World Health Assembly, the WHO’s decision-making body, so there is no gap in the global disease prevention network and all parties can work together for the advancement of human health worldwide.

*Please visit [Leave no one behind](#), and share [the video](#) of Taiwan’s humanitarian efforts.*

Source: Taipei Representative Office in Hungary



## Global recipients of Taiwan scholarships honored in Taipei

**A total of 13 beneficiaries of the Taiwan Scholarship and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program were honored by the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs May 8 in Taipei for outstanding performances during their stay in the country.**

At a farewell party attended by nearly 200 scholarship recipients from 56 countries in their final semester of study in Taiwan, the 13 graduating students were recognized for surpassing their peers in the categories of charitable service, competitive spirit, intellectual achievement, overall performance and social achievement.

“The program is a wonderful platform for promoting mutual understanding, boosting relations and facilitating friendship between Taiwan and its diplomatic allies and other partner states,” MOFA Deputy Minister Wu Chih-chung said during the ceremony.

Over the years the initiative has paid handsome dividends by contributing to major developments in the recipients’ home countries, Wu said, adding that he encourages them to maintain close contact with Taiwan’s representative offices so that the friendship can continue long into the future. Echoing Wu’s remarks, Yang Min-ling, director-general of the MOE’s Department of International and Cross-Strait Education, said she expects the graduating class to become cultural ambassadors for Taiwan and share their wonderful experiences in their home countries.

Among the individuals recognized during the event, Noel Ivan Ulloa was

singled out for his intellectual achievements. The Nicaraguan national is set to receive his master’s degree next month in remote sensing science and technology from Taoyuan City-based National Central University (NCU) in northern Taiwan.

Ulloa, who made up his mind while in college to pursue advanced studies at NCU, said the scholarship program enabled him to observe the changes in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve of his home country and study the damage done to the rainforest. The aspiring scholar said he wishes to continue his academic pursuits by enrolling in a doctoral program in Taiwan and use his research to bring attention to the gravity of deforestation.



*MOFA Deputy Minister Wu Chih-hung (center) and recipients of Taiwan scholarships who were commended for their outstanding performances in various areas while studying in the nation pose during a farewell party May 8 in Taipei*

*Source: Taiwan Today, Photo: Courtesy of Shih Hsin University*



Another student, Marko Podstavek from Slovakia, was honored for his overall scholastic performance.

An undergraduate majoring in diplomacy at Taipei-based National Chengchi University, Podstavek said he pays very close attention to Taiwan's social and civic movements, and is committed to promoting the culture of the Eastern European country in Taiwan. Established in 2004, the program en-

courages outstanding students from countries around the world, especially ROC diplomatic allies, to study Mandarin or undertake degree programs in Taiwan.

The graduating class of 2017 comprises 1,140 program participants, up 10.3 percent from the year before to a record high, bringing the total number to more than 10,000 from over 100 countries, according to the MOE.

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## Countdown to Computex Taipei begins

**Computex Taipei, set to run May 30 to June 3 at Taipei World Trade Center, will attract more than 1,600 firms from home and abroad to showcase their latest offerings at the largest information and communication technology trade show in Asia, according to co-organizer Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA).**

During a news conference May 4 in Taipei, TAITRA President and CEO Walter M. S. Yeh said the annual event continues to capture the attention of the worldwide tech community, with more than 40,000 foreign buyers expected to attend.

Following on from last year's focus on building global technology ecosystems,

the 2017 show will be arranged around five themes: Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Business Solutions, Gaming and Virtual Reality, Innovations and Startups and Internet of Things Applications.

In addition to business matching, product launches and seminars on the latest market and technology trends, this





year's edition will feature the debut of Tesla Inc., the world's leading electric car producer, which will be demonstrating its autopilot system. U.S. computer tech giant Dell Inc. will be returning to the show after a decadelong absence to showcase its latest IoT solutions.

Another major highlight will be InnoVEX, a communication and exhibition platform launched at Computex in 2016 to promote technological exchanges among new business ventures from around the world. This initiative is ex-

pected to help establish the event as a front-runner in fostering creative entrepreneurship in the innovation-driven global economy, according to Yeh.

Running May 30 to June 1, the InnoVEX event will see 244 budding firms from 20 countries meet with business incubators and venture capitalists to present their concepts and products in fields spanning AI, cloud computing, health management, IoT, mobile technologies, virtual and augmented reality and wearable devices.

Source: Taiwan Today, Photo: www.computextaipei.com.tw

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## International scientific review to publish Taiwan case results



Source: Taiwan Today, Photo: Courtesy of Hualien District Agricultural Research and Extension Station

The results of an agrobiodiversity study conducted by the Hualien District Agricultural Research and Extension Station under the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture have been selected for publication by Tokyo-based International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), the research station announced May 9.

IPSI was established in 2010 by Japan's Ministry of the Environment and Tokyo-headquartered UN University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability. The international partnership annually publishes the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review, which this year includes 10 studies on socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes.





The Taiwan study aimed to identify local indicator species, which are organisms whose absence or abundance reflects an area's environmental conditions. These organisms can be used to determine the level of biodiversity in Hualien's rice paddies.

During the study, researchers identified three such species, namely *Micraspis discolor*, a type of ladybug, as well as *Tetragnatha maxillosa* and *Tetragnatha javana*, both classified under the *Tetragnatha* genus of spiders.

According to IPSI, the case studies to be published in the 2018 edition of the review were selected from submissions by the initiative's 202 member organizations. Each study relates to livelihood activities with biodiversity, socio-cultural and economic aspects. Authors of selected studies will be invited to a case study workshop in Tokyo this June.

The Hualien research station became a member of IPSI in July last year and is the first government organization in Taiwan to join the international partnership.

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## Taiwan Pavilion opens at Venice Biennale

**The Taiwan Pavilion at the 57th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale opened May 11, exhibiting the works of Taiwan performance artist Hsieh Teh-ching.**

Organized by Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), this year's Taiwan Pavilion consists of a solo exhibition by the Brooklyn-based Taiwan artist at the Palazzo delle Prigioni, a former prison that once housed legendary lover Giacomo Casanova.

Titled *Doing Time*, the pavilion is showcasing two out of five pieces from Hsieh's "One Year Performance" series completed in the early 1980s, along with photographs from three other short performances.



In the first one-year art project, Hsieh photographed himself next to a workers' time clock every hour for an entire year. According to the artist, "Time Clock Piece" is an exploration of human existence through the medium of time.

For the second selection from the one-year series, "Outdoor Piece," Hsieh remained outside on the streets of New York for a year without taking any shelter.

*Source: Taiwan Today, Photo: Courtesy of Taipei Fine Arts Museum*



TFAM said the performance questions the necessity of shelter, and “the artist’s fugitive-like state speaks both of the abjection and ingenuity found in the survival of those who have nothing.”

TFAM Director Lin Ping said that Hsieh’s works not only bear a visionary perspective, but also shed light on the rigid ways in which many people around the world live. Adrian Heathfield, curator of Doing

Time, said that the pairing of the two yearlong art pieces highlights the most pressing human issues of our time, such as poverty in a capitalistic society, migration and the law, how people interact with nature, and death.

Established in 1895, the Venice Biennale is one of the most prestigious cultural events in the world. Taiwan has been a participant since 1995.

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## Treating the World

**Taiwan is using its extensive medical expertise to improve global health.**

*By Oscar Chung  
Taiwan Review*

The fight against diseases such as dengue fever and Zika got a welcome boost in January when the government established a branch of the National Mosquito-Borne Diseases Control Research Center in southern Taiwan’s Tainan City. The new facility is equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories including several units of fully furnished housing in which researchers can study the behavior of mosquitos in typical living environments.

The Tainan branch is expected to help the institution take on a significant role in the global fight against disease, said Liao Ching-len, director of the center, which is operated by the National Health Research



*Participants simulate treating Ebola patients and attend lectures at a training camp organized in Taiwan in cooperation with the US government. (Photo courtesy of MOHW)*

Institutes, a non-profit foundation funded by the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW). “Our center is on the front lines of the fight against mosquito-borne diseases, working to benefit people at home and around the world,” he added.



According to the MOHW, such illnesses make up 17 percent of the world's infectious diseases and cause 750,000 deaths globally each year.

Taiwan has considerable health care expertise to share with the world and as such can make major contributions at international forums such as the World Health Assembly (WHA), which will be held May 22-31. In 1971, the Republic of China (Taiwan) withdrew from the United Nations and its specialized agencies, among them the World Health Organization (WHO). After campaigning for several years to gain observer status in the WHA, the supreme decision-making body of the WHO, Taiwan achieved its goal in 2009 and has since attended the annual conference.\*

“Many countries could learn from the development of health care in Taiwan, as we've succeeded in fighting numerous infectious diseases and accumulated rich experience in tackling noninfectious chronic ailments as well,” said Lin Shih-chia, executive director of the Foundation of Medical Professionals Alliance in Taiwan, a Taipei City-based nongovernmental organization (NGO) that has for decades been a proponent of the nation's full inclusion in the WHO. “Taiwan has many inspiring stories to tell about the development of its National Health Insurance program and excellent medical services,” she added.

### BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCE

Taiwan's geographic location presents the government with unique medic-

al challenges. “Situated in the world's most economically vibrant region, the nation is a major transfer hub for people and goods. Accordingly, it has a relatively high risk of being affected by infectious diseases,” MOHW Minister Chen Shih-chung said when explaining the need for Taiwan to be well-prepared for possible disease outbreaks.

The minister cited the occurrence of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, and newly emergent epidemic diseases in recent years as proof that illness knows no borders. He also said that countries around the world have reacted



*Collaboration between the research center and Paris-based Pasteur Institute is expected to help Taiwan make significant medical contributions in Southeast Asia. (Photo courtesy of National Mosquito-Borne Diseases Control Research Center)*

positively to Taiwan's disease-prevention methods, which have been honed over time as the nation has responded to health emergencies at home and abroad. More importantly, he added, the international community has realized that only through

global cooperation can the world overcome the severe threats posed by contagious diseases and ensure the health and well-being of all.

“Taiwan is always quick to report cases to the WHO, as in the first H7N9 case locally this year in February when a patient with the virus arrived from mainland China,” Chen noted. The Centers for Disease Control also passed the results of its research on the February case to the WHO, and uploaded information on the genetic sequence of the virus to a database operated by the Global In-



initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data, a nonprofit platform based in Germany.

### STRIVING TO HELP

Taiwan has developed into a medically advanced country, and as such is fulfilling its duties as a responsible global citizen by sending missions abroad to provide health care services to those in need. A notable government effort was the establishment of Taiwan International Health Action (TaiwanIHA) in March 2006. Co-founded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MOHW, TaiwanIHA is an international health aid organization that utilizes resources from the nation's public and private sectors.

TaiwanIHA's first project consisted of sending four experts to ROC diplomatic ally Burkina Faso to battle a major bird flu outbreak in the West African country. The organization's most recent missions include performing cataract surgeries in Sri Lanka, providing dental care in India and treating patients with craniofacial deformities in Vietnam and Indonesia.

Taiwan is also sharing its expertise with medical professionals from around the world. In 2015, the nation started working with the US government to host disease-fighting training programs in Taiwan. Five have taken place to date, with experts invited by the United States teaching health officials and technicians from a total of 18 Asian countries how to efficiently diagnose and battle Ebola, MERS, or Middle East respiratory syndrome, dengue fever, Zika and chikungunya. The camps also provide an opportunity for participants to build



Premier Lin Chuan, center, inspects equipment at the Tainan City branch of the National Mosquito-Borne Diseases Control Research Center during its inauguration in January. (Photo courtesy of National Mosquito-Borne Diseases Control Research Center)

an international network for monitoring diseases and responding to outbreaks in the region.

### LOOKING FORWARD

Building on this solid foundation, the government is now looking to expand its engagement in global health care initiatives, as evidenced by President Tsai Ing-wen's remarks as she introduced *Toward 2030: A Global Health Agenda* as the theme of the 2016 Global Health Forum in Taiwan. "One can imagine that, in the world of 2030, there will be a lot more cross-border movement of people and goods. This means communicable diseases will represent a bigger challenge. Accordingly, all nations bear a joint responsibility to share information and work hand in hand to fight against new types of communicable diseases," she said at the event, which featured 52 speakers from Taiwan as well as 30 other countries. "If Taiwan is not included in the global health system, a vital piece of the worldwide disease control puzzle will be missing."

*\*Taiwan has not received an invitation to take part in this year's WHA.*

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