



The Foreign Relations
Yearbook 2023
R.O.C.
(Taiwan)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Preface

Preface

On Taiwan's National Day in 2023, President Tsai Ing-wen delivered an address entitled "A calm and confident Taiwan: Moving our country forward, making the world a better place." During her speech, President Tsai described Taiwan as having become a "Taiwan of the world." She said that in terms of geostrategy, the development of global democracy, and international supply chain systems, Taiwan was the most reliable, effective, and safest partner for the world. And reflecting on drastic postpandemic changes around the globe, she reiterated that Taiwan—standing on the front line of democracy against authoritarianism—was staunchly committed to safeguarding democracy and peace. She stressed that Taiwan had spared no effort to foster close and cordial partnerships with other democracies and had become a stabilizing force both regionally and globally.

In 2023, China continued to dispatch military aircraft and vessels to intimidate Taiwan, raising tensions across the Taiwan Strait. It increasingly resorted to gray-zone tactics and applied hybrid pressure against Taiwan in the form of incursions, economic coercion, diplomatic suppression, and cognitive warfare, seeking to deplete our national strength and divide our society in an attempt to gain victory without going to war. Yet despite China's growing threat, the 23 million people of Taiwan have stayed calm and remain determined to protect their free and democratic way of life, believing that they are the ones to decide Taiwan's future. Taiwan's democratic resilience has won worldwide acclaim, attesting to its pivotal role in regional and global stability and prosperity.

Preserving peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is a matter of global consensus. Its importance, as well as opposition to any unilateral change to the status quo by China, was reaffirmed at Group of Seven (G7) and European Union (EU) leaders' summits and by the leaders of the United States, Japan, European nations, and numerous other countries at various international events. Worldwide support and concrete actions demonstrating concern over the Taiwan Strait situation have given rise to a collective deterrence against any reckless military maneuvers that China might take.

Since the pandemic, Taiwan has proactively implemented head-of-state diplomacy, promoted mutual high-level visits with allies, completed bilateral

cooperation agreements, and consolidated diplomatic ties in a spirit that advances mutual assistance for mutual benefit. In 2023, several heads of state and government of diplomatic allies led delegations to Taiwan and signed bilateral cooperation accords. These included Paraguayan President Mario Abdo Benítez, Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei, Eswatini Prime Minister Cleopas Dlamini, Saint Christopher and Nevis Governor-General Marcella Liburd, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Governor-General Susan Dougan. In March, President Tsai made visits to Guatemala and Belize under the theme of “Meeting Democratic Partners, Fostering Shared Prosperity.” In September, she traveled to Eswatini for a visit entitled “Celebrating Enduring Friendship, Advancing Sustainable Cooperation.” In August, Vice President Lai Ching-te served as special presidential envoy in attending the inauguration of Paraguayan President Santiago Peña. These visits highlighted Taiwan’s robust diplomatic relations with its allies.

Ties between Taiwan and the United States remained rock-solid. The US administration and Congress have consistently shown bipartisan support for Taiwan. President Tsai met with House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy during a transit stop in the United States on her return from Guatemala and Belize. At the invitation of the Biden administration, Taiwan once again attended the Summit for Democracy. The first agreement under the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, signed in June, was the most extensive and comprehensive trade agreement to be reached between the two countries since 1979. Prominent members of the Senate and House of Representatives armed services, foreign affairs, appropriations, and other committees led bipartisan delegations to Taiwan. The US Congress adopted several Taiwan-friendly resolutions, while the House of Representatives passed the Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act in March and the Taiwan International Solidarity Act in July.

The US government continues to honor its security commitments to Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances. In December, the Biden administration announced its 12th arms sale package to Taiwan and signed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, enabling Taiwan to strengthen its self-defense capabilities and stand up against authoritarian aggression.

Taiwan’s relations with Europe are developing rapidly. In May, President Tsai was invited for the fourth time to deliver a virtual address on Taiwan’s democratic

experience at the Copenhagen Democracy Summit. Taiwan also shared its yearslong experience of countering authoritarian threats at the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China annual summit in Prague, the 2023 European Values Summit, the Bratislava Forum, and other important democratic events, receiving a warm response. In June, the European Council summit openly acknowledged for the first time that the 27 EU members shared a common concern over the situation across the Taiwan Strait. In August, announcing its 2024-2030 Military Programming Law, France became the first country to enact legislation calling for the defense of freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait. On December 13, the European Parliament (EP) set a single-day record for Taiwan-related resolutions when it passed three on EU relations with China, the United States, and Japan and a fourth on EU-Taiwan trade and investment ties. Meanwhile, EP delegations visited Taiwan for the third consecutive year.

Numerous high-level European officials also visited Taiwan. These highly significant delegations were headed by such prominent political leaders as Czech Chamber of Deputies Speaker Markéta Pekarová Adamová, German Federal Minister for Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger, UK House of Commons member and former Prime Minister Liz Truss, and Lithuania Seimas Speaker Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen. Furthermore, in November, Taiwan and the United Kingdom signed the Enhanced Trade Partnership arrangement, paving the way for deeper economic and trade links. Taiwan also signed a scientific and technological cooperation agreement with Germany—the first such accord with a European country. Meanwhile, an overseas mission established in Milan was the third new Taiwanese office to be opened in Europe in recent years. These developments highlighted substantial progress in Taiwan’s cordial relations with Europe.

Taiwan enjoys a close and robust friendship with Japan. As the holder of the G7 presidency in 2023, Japan reaffirmed that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait constituted an indispensable element of international security and prosperity. Furthermore, all sectors of Japan reiterated support for Taiwan’s accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Health Assembly (WHA). Key Japanese political figures and members of the House of Representatives leading delegations to Taiwan included former Japanese Prime

Minister and current Vice President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Taro Aso, Chair of the Japan-ROC Diet Members' Consultative Council Keiji Furuya, Director of the LDP Youth Division Norikazu Suzuki, and Nobuyuki Baba of the Japan Innovation Party.

A varied range of actors across the globe extended unprecedented support for Taiwan's involvement in international organizations. More than 70 national governments and civil society organizations issued more than 6,000 posts and statements endorsing Taiwan's bids to participate in WHO and the WHA. In addition to the staunch backing of diplomatic allies, support from like-minded countries also grew in magnitude. The US House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs approved bills advocating Taiwan's international participation, while the European Parliament and regional chapters of the Formosa Club also voiced support through diverse avenues.

Taiwan continued to implement capacity-building projects under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework in cooperation with more than 100 countries in Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, and South Asia. These made substantive contributions in such domains as public health, law enforcement, humanitarian assistance, women's empowerment, and information security. Since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, Taiwan has also provided humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine. In 2023, a budget of NT\$1.8 billion was allocated for this purpose. Our government has also sought to integrate civil society resources and worked with democratic allies to launch projects that support people's livelihoods and reconstruction in Ukraine. To date, Taiwan's government and civil society have donated more than US\$110 million in assistance. These efforts show how the democratic community is working in solidarity to resist the hostile ambitions and expansion of authoritarian countries.

To amplify messaging and visibility around the world, MOFA used press interviews; newspaper op-eds and letters; its Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram accounts; and a diverse range of other channels to publicize Taiwan's successes in advancing political freedom and democracy, economic prosperity and innovation, and social openness and diversity, as well as its desire and efforts to actively contribute to the global community. MOFA has enthusiastically responded to the high level of international media focus on Taiwan Strait issues and done its utmost to preserve cross-strait peace and stability and global security and prosperity.

Looking to the future, we will pursue the innovative values-based diplomacy introduced by President Lai, forging stronger international linkages while upholding the ideals of democracy, peace, and prosperity. We will combine Taiwan's democratic resilience, industrial competitiveness, and social vitality so as to enhance Taiwan's value. And we will shift from consolidating diplomatic ties to bolstering allies' prosperity while continuing to deepen collaboration with like-minded partners. As an international force for good, Taiwan will play its part in joint efforts to uphold the rules-based international order, protecting a free and open Indo-Pacific and making vital contributions to global peace and prosperity.

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Lin Chia-Lung

December 2024

Foreword

Foreword

1. In line with the 2030 Bilingual Policy, in 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) translated the 2019 Foreign Relations Yearbook into English and published it online. Likewise, the digital English version of the 2023 Foreign Relations Yearbook is being made available in 2025.
2. The sections of this yearbook are divided into three primary parts: main text, photographs of diplomatic events, and appendices. The main text encompasses a number of topics, including foreign policy guidelines and programs, as well as foreign relations. The full-color photographs presented here have been carefully curated and captioned to highlight important diplomatic work. The appendix collects six diplomatic documents, including statements related to Taiwan foreign policy made by the President, the Premier of the Executive Yuan, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
3. The national designations, personal names, and specialized terms that appear in this yearbook follow official guidelines and general convention. Regarding personal names, in the absence of established English names or translations, phonetic transliteration is used and names are presented given name first, followed by surname. The Republic of China (Taiwan) is referred to either as “Taiwan” or the “Republic of China (R.O.C.),” depending on context. Where names of international events, organizations, institutions or agencies appear for the first time in a chapter, they are presented in full, while subsequent references within the same chapter are abbreviated.
4. This yearbook focuses on diplomatic affairs and activities in 2023. Events that occurred outside of 2023 may be added where needed to provide context and clarity.

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Portraits of Top Leadership and Foreign Service Officers



President Tsai Ing-wen



Vice President Lai Ching-te



**Premier Su Tseng-chang
(Until January 31, 2023)**



**Premier Chen Chien-jen
(Since January 31, 2023)**



**Minister of Foreign Affairs
Jaushieh Joseph Wu**



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Tsai Ming-yen

(Until January 31, 2023)



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Roy Chun Lee

(Since February 3, 2023)



**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Tien Chung-kwang**



**Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
Alexander Tah-ray Yui**

(Until September 5, 2023)



Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

Remus Li-kuo Chen

(Since September 5, 2023)

Chapter 1

Photographs of High-level Diplomatic Engagement



President Tsai Ing-wen welcomes Paraguayan President Mario Abdo Benítez. (February 16, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (center) attends a state banquet hosted by Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei (left) and receives a decoration conferred by him in Guatemala during her trip themed “Meeting Democratic Partners, Fostering Shared Prosperity.” (March 31, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (right) receives Saint Lucia Minister of External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation, and Diaspora Affairs Alva Baptiste (center). (March 14, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (seventh right) receives a British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group delegation led by Chair Bob Stewart (eighth right). (March 20, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen confers the Order of Brilliant Star with Special Grand Cordon on US Ambassador Robert O'Brien, Chairman of the Global Taiwan Institute's Task Force on US-Taiwan Relations and former White House National Security Advisor. (March 21, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (seventh right) receives a Czech delegation led by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Markéta Pekarová Adamová (eighth right). (March 27, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (second left) and Belizean Prime Minister John Briceño (second right) witness the signing of a framework agreement on technical cooperation by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (left) and Belizean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration Eamon Courtenay (right). (April 3, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen meets with US House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library while transiting in Los Angeles after a trip to Guatemala and Belize. (April 6, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (front row, center) meets with a US delegation led by Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs Michael McCaul (front row, third left). (April 8, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen receives Marshall Islands Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Kitlang Kabua. (April 13, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen receives Vice-President of the French Senate and Chair of the Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group Alain Richard. (April 28, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (right) receives former UK Prime Minister and member of the House of Commons Liz Truss. (May 19, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (third left) receives Tuvaluan Minister of Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs Simon Kofe and Mrs. Kofe (second left and left). (June 2, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (center) receives a delegation from the cross-party European Parliament-Taiwan Friendship Group led by Vice-Chair of the EP Subcommittee on Security and Defence Rasa Juknevičienė (sixth left). (June 21, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (sixth left) receives a US delegation led by Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services Mike Rogers (seventh left). (June 28, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (center) receives member of the Japanese House of Representatives and Chairman of the Japan-ROC Diet Members' Consultative Council Keiji Furuya (fourth left). (July 5, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (right) receives Mrs. Akie Abe (left), widow of former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe. (July 19, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen receives member of the Japanese House of Representatives, former Japanese Prime Minister, and Vice President of the Liberal Democratic Party Taro Aso. (August 8, 2023)



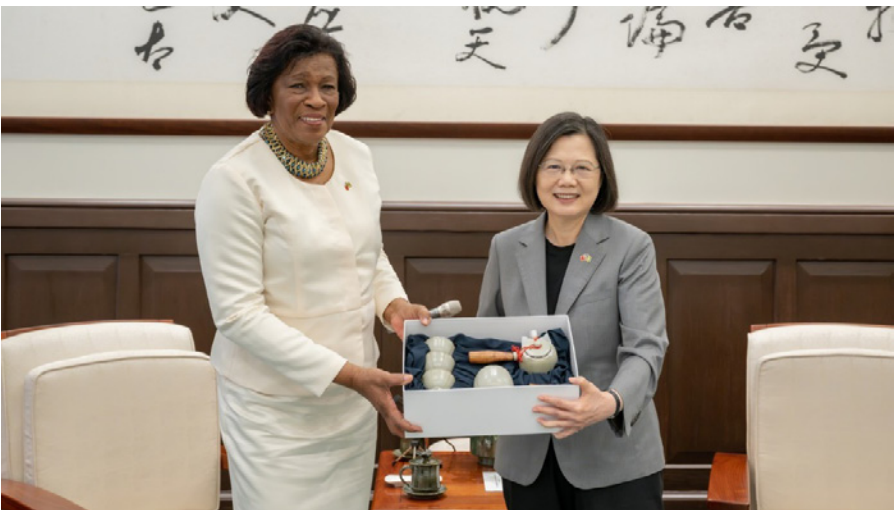
During a visit to Eswatini, President Tsai Ing-wen (sixth left) joins King Mswati III (sixth right) to witness the signing of three bilateral cooperation agreements: an MOU on the Women's Business Start-Up Microfinance Revolving Fund; an MOU between the Overseas Investment and Development Corporation and the Eswatini National Petroleum Company; and a sister-city accord between Kaohsiung City and Mbabane City. (September 5, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen receives Governor Katie Hobbs of the US state of Arizona. (September 19, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen receives Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham of the US state of New Mexico. (September 21, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen meets with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Governor-General Susan Dougan. (October 9, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen receives member of the House of Representatives and former Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison. (October 10, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen meets with Saint Christopher and Nevis Governor-General Marcella Liburd. (October 10, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (ninth right) receives a US delegation led by Governor Greg Gianforte of the US state of Montana (ninth left). (October 31, 2023)



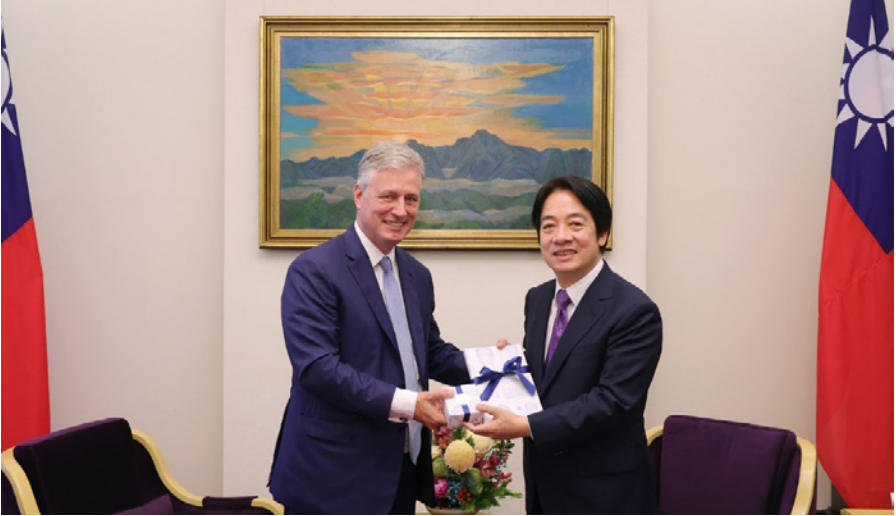
President Tsai Ing-wen (sixth right) receives a delegation of permanent representatives of Taiwan's diplomatic allies to the United Nations led by Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Inga Rhonda King (sixth left). (November 16, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (center) receives Second Vice Chair of the Norwegian Parliament Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense and leader of the Liberal Party Guri Melby (fourth left). (November 22, 2023)



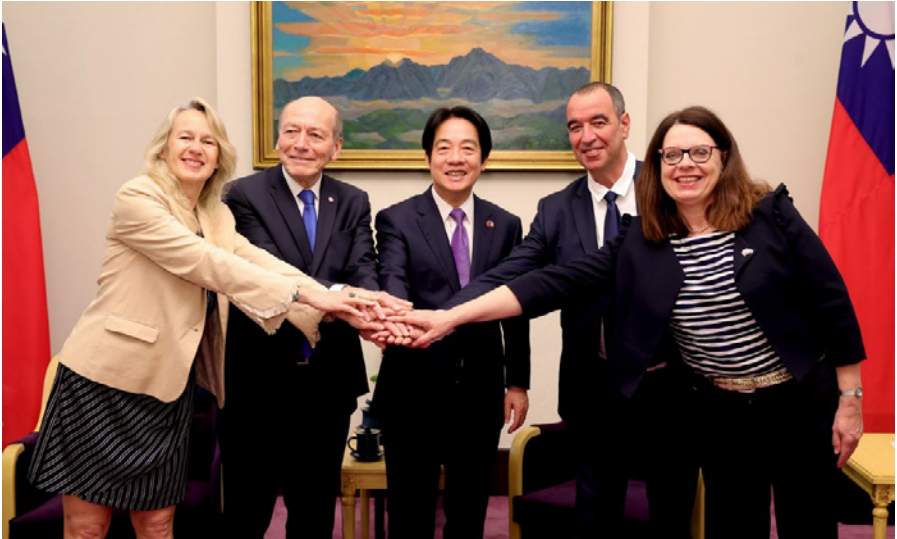
President Tsai Ing-wen (center) receives Palauan Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Mason Whipps (second right), Senator T. J. Remengesau (right), and House of Delegates members Frutoso Tellei (left) and Warren Umetaro (second left). (November 30, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te receives US Ambassador Robert O'Brien, Chairman of the Global Taiwan Institute's Task Force on US-Taiwan Relations and former White House National Security Advisor. (March 20, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te receives member of the Canadian House of Commons John McKay. (April 11, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te (center) receives a French National Assembly delegation led by Chair of the France-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Eric Bothorel (second right). (April 18, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te (eighth right) receives a Formosa Club delegation from Latin America led by member of the Argentinian Chamber of Deputies Rubén Horacio Manzi (ninth left). (April 26, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te receives former President and current member of the Japanese House of Councillors Akiko Santo. (May 4, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te (center) meets with Saint Christopher and Nevis Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Hanely (right). (May 9, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te (ninth right) receives a cross-party Japanese delegation led by member of the House of Representatives Seiji Maehara (eighth left) and comprising members of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, the Japan Innovation Party, and the Democratic Party for the People. (July 3, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te, serving as special presidential envoy, leads a delegation to attend the inauguration of Paraguayan President Santiago Peña. (August 16, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te attends a reception hosted by the Legislative Yuan to welcome member of the Japanese House of Representatives and Chairman of the Japan-ROC Diet Members' Consultative Council Keiji Furuya and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the council's founding. (October 9, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te (fifth right) receives a Lithuanian delegation led by Seimas Speaker Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen (fifth left). (October 23, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (sixth left) hosts a welcome banquet for an Eswatini delegation led by Prime Minister Cleopas Dlamini (seventh right). (March 6, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (seventh left) poses with a delegation from the Global Taiwan Institute's Task Force on US-Taiwan Relations led by Ambassador and former White House National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien (eighth right) before hosting a welcome banquet for the guests. (March 22, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (fourth left) hosts a welcome banquet for a Czech delegation led by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Markéta Pekarová Adamová (fourth right). (March 28, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (fourth left) hosts a welcome banquet for a French delegation led by Senate Vice-President and Chair of the Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group Alain Richard (third left). (April 24, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu welcomes former UK Prime Minister and member of the House of Commons Liz Truss. (May 18, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu welcomes a Polish delegation led by Deputy Chair of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Committee Barbara Bartuś. (June 20, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (center) hosts a welcome banquet for a Canadian House of Commons delegation led by Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada Melissa Lantsman (seventh right). (July 5, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (seventh left) hosts a welcome banquet for a Japanese delegation led by member of the House of Representatives and member of the Democratic Party for the People Seiji Maehara (eighth left). (July 3, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu and Mrs. Wu (third and fourth left) pose for a photo with Paraguayan President-elect Santiago Peña and Mrs. Peña (third and fourth right). (July 12, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (center) signs a joint statement on combating climate change with representatives of Taiwan's Pacific allies during their visit to Taiwan. (July 19, 2023)



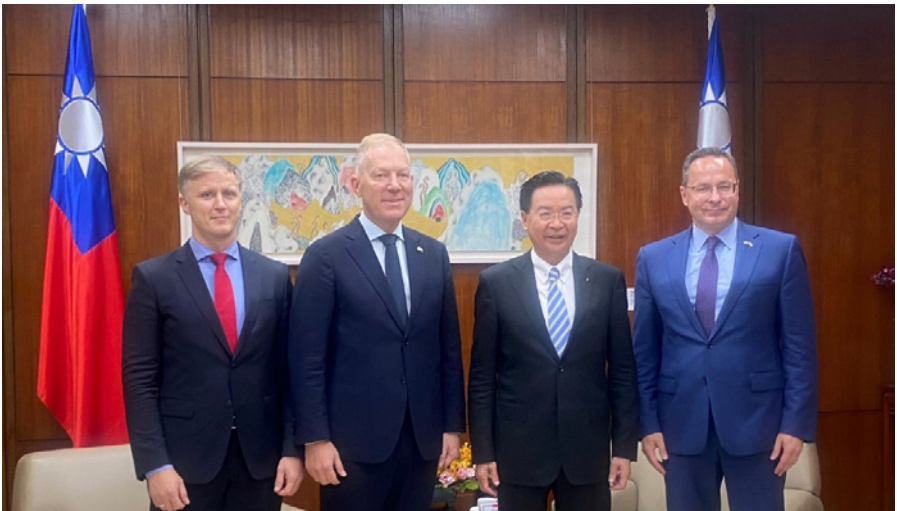
Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (fifth right) poses for a photo with a cross-party Australian parliamentary delegation after conferring the Friendship Medal of Diplomacy on member of the House of Representatives and Cochair of the Parliamentary Taiwan Friendship Group of Australia Graham Perrett (fifth left). (September 27, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (fifth left) welcomes a delegation from the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs led by Vice-Chair Urmas Paet (fourth left). (July 26, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu meets with Somaliland Minister of Trade and Tourism Mohamoud Hassan Saad. (August 2, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (second right) meets with Chairman of the Estonian Riigikogu Foreign Affairs Committee Marko Mihkelson (second left), Chairman of the Latvian Saeima Foreign Affairs Committee Rihards Kols (left), and Chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas Foreign Affairs Committee Žygmantas Pavilionis (right). (August 11, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (center) receives a delegation of permanent representatives of Taiwan's diplomatic allies to the United Nations Office in Geneva led by Permanent Representative of Eswatini Vuyile Dumisani Dlamini (fourth right). (August 15, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (sixth right) poses for a photo with a high-level delegation from the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank, led by former Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė (seventh left). (August 21, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (right) hosts a welcome banquet for Saint Lucia Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre (center) and Minister of External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs Alva Baptiste (left). (September 17, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (left), serving as special presidential envoy, and Saint Christopher and Nevis Minister of Foreign Affairs Denzil Douglas (right) sign the Agreement on Diplomatic Staff Training Cooperation at a ceremony witnessed by Saint Christopher and Nevis Prime Minister Terrance Drew (center). (September 18, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu hosts a welcome banquet for a US delegation led by Chair of the American Institute in Taiwan Laura Rosenberger (left). (October 17, 2023)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu (fifth right) receives a delegation of permanent representatives of Taiwan's diplomatic allies to the United Nations led by Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Inga Rhonda King (fifth left). (November 15, 2023)



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee accepts the Silver Seal of the Polish city of Poznań conferred by Poznań Mayor Jacek Jaśkowiak. (March 29, 2023)



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee (center) announces a cooperation initiative with Lithuania to support Ukraine's reconstruction during a visit to Lithuania. (June 1, 2023)



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee (fifth right) poses for a photo with a US delegation led by Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Laurie Locascio (seventh left). (September 19, 2023)



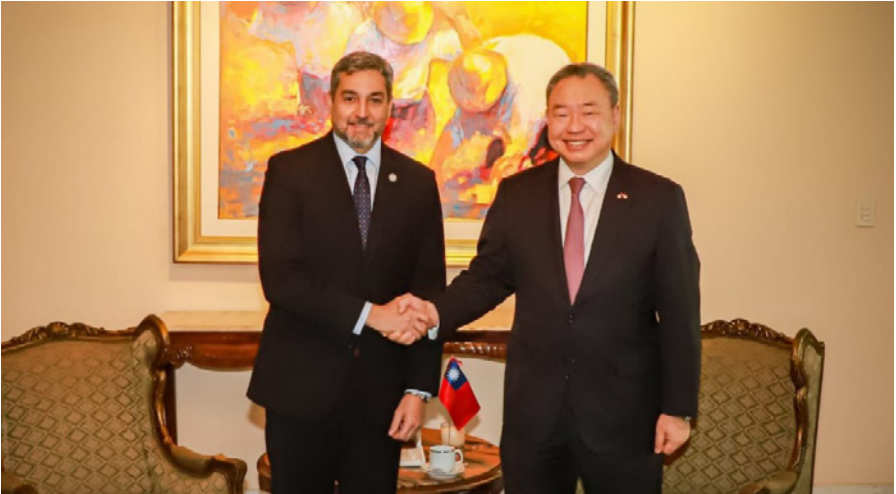
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang (second left) calls on Tuvaluan Prime Minister Kausea Natano (second right). (February 23, 2023)



During a visit to the Marshall Islands, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang (fifth right), as special presidential envoy, hosts a reception to celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations and poses for a photo with President David Kabua and the first lady (fourth and third right), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Kitlang Kabua (right), and ROC (Taiwan) Ambassador Steve C. C. Hsia and Mrs. Hsia (fifth and fourth left). (May 1, 2023)



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang (fourth right) poses for a photo with Palauan President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. (third right) while in the Cook Islands as head of a delegation to the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum. (November 9, 2023)



Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui poses for a photo with President Mario Abdo Benítez while leading a delegation to Paraguay. (May 18, 2023)



Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Remus Li-kuo Chen (sixth left) hosts a welcome banquet for members of the Formosa Club from English-speaking diplomatic allies. (October 31, 2023)

Chapter 2

Foreign Policy Guidelines, Objectives, and Strategies

Chapter 2 Foreign Policy Guidelines, Objectives, and Strategies

I. Foreign Policy Guidelines

1. Upholding the universal values of peace, freedom, democracy, and human rights, and employing forward thinking and creativity to realize the principles of steadfast diplomacy and mutual assistance for mutual benefit to strengthen relations with diplomatic allies and deepen substantive ties with other like-minded nations.
2. Safeguarding Taiwan's membership and interests in international organizations of which it is already a member, seeking participation in important functional international organizations of which Taiwan is not yet a member, and using pragmatism and creativity to overcome obstacles while leveraging the support of diplomatic allies and like-minded countries to deepen Taiwan's participation in the activities of the international community.
3. Consolidating domestic and international resources to strengthen international cooperation in areas such as freedom and democracy, humanitarian aid, healthcare and public health, disaster mitigation and prevention, digital governance, sustainable development, gender equality, food security, and crime prevention; forming public-private partnerships with like-minded countries and key international and domestic non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and contributing to regional and global communities.
4. Enhancing strategic communication and policy research at think tanks in order to better grasp global security conditions; actively participating in regional cooperation mechanisms and standing with other interested nations to maintain peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

II. Policy Goals and Strategies

1. Reinforcing ties with diplomatic allies

- (1) Continuing to promote mutual visits and exchanges between high-level officials and key figures from Taiwan and diplomatic allies in order to

deepen relationships between them.

- (2) Adhering to the principle of mutual assistance for mutual benefit, catering to the economic and social development needs of Taiwan's diplomatic allies, and introducing industry and market dynamics to drive bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

2. Strengthening substantive ties with countries without formal diplomatic relations

- (1) Facilitating mutual visits between R.O.C. dignitaries and their counterparts in countries without formal diplomatic relations to enhance substantive bilateral ties.
- (2) Negotiating and signing bilateral agreements and seeking participation in important regional economic integration mechanisms, like the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), to establish a foundation for substantive exchanges between Taiwan and countries without formal diplomatic relations, progressively expand areas of cooperation, and comprehensively strengthen substantive bilateral ties.
- (3) Enhancing cooperation and exchanges between Taiwan and like-minded countries and the international community to promote bilateral sustainable development.

3. Further advancing the New Southbound Policy, strengthening relations with New Southbound countries for mutual benefit

- (1) Building on the strong existing foundation by continuing to make progress on ongoing efforts and cooperative projects.
- (2) Strengthening policy linkage with the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy, and enhancing the conceptual policy linkage proposed by Japan, Australia, India, and other nations in the Indo-Pacific region.

4. Substantively participating in intergovernmental organizations and enhancing the degree and extent of Taiwan's engagement with them

- (1) Actively contributing to international organizations in which Taiwan holds

formal membership, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and seeking candidacy for positions in key decision-making institutions, so as to safeguard Taiwan's membership and right to participate.

- (2) Establishing and leveraging diverse channels of communication to seek support from other countries for Taiwan's participation in intergovernmental organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), so as to solidify and advance Taiwan's international rights and interests.

5. Assisting domestic NGOs with international participation and increasing their contributions to the international community

- (1) Supporting the active participation of domestic NGOs in international conferences and events and facilitating the presence of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in Taiwan, thereby strengthening the international connections of Taiwan's NGOs and expanding their contributions to the international community.
- (2) Enhancing the participation of domestic NGOs in international cooperation, care, and assistance, and promoting foreign aid programs to provide humanitarian aid in countries and regions in need.

6. Leveraging Taiwan's soft power to promote public diplomacy and strengthen international communication, with the goal of garnering public support and enhancing Taiwan's image

- (1) Capitalizing on Taiwan's strengths in new communication technologies while using resource integration and targeted international campaigns to maximize the effectiveness of Taiwan's publicity efforts, creating a favorable international space and shaping a positive image of Taiwan.
- (2) Generating further publicity for Taiwan's foreign policy goals and achievements by increasing integration of publicity methods employed by traditional, emerging social media, and other channels of information dissemination.

- (3) Issuing press releases, providing background information, responding to media inquiries, and holding press briefings to communicate major foreign policies and address issues of international concern.
- (4) Carrying out publicity campaigns both at home and abroad centered on the universal values of democracy, human rights, and rule of law to raise public awareness of and support for Taiwan's diplomatic affairs; to encourage outstanding young people to pursue fundamental research on emerging issues in international law and other legal issues related to foreign affairs to serve as a basis for applications of international law such as assertion of Taiwan's sovereignty and advocacy for its international participation; and to foster ongoing relations with the international community and expand the breadth and depth of Taiwan's participation in international activities.

7. Effectively utilizing diplomatic resources to enhance efficiency and quality of public services

- (1) Improving the convenience and safety of overseas travel for Taiwanese citizens.
- (2) Streamlining visa processes and refining visa application procedures for foreign nationals coming to Taiwan.
- (3) Improving the quality of document authentication services.

8. Appropriately allocating budgetary resources to improve the working environment at overseas embassies and missions and to enhance the daily lives of diplomatic and consular personnel

- (1) Continuing to purchase properties to serve as overseas offices and dormitories in order to provide space for joint overseas offices and increase the proportion of overseas dormitories that are owned rather than rented in order to reduce expenditures on rental fees.
- (2) Administering the Zhiyuan New Village Revitalization Project to address the issue of outdated dormitories for diplomatic personnel on assignment and construct a diplomatic archive management center that meets modern standards.

Chapter 3

Foreign Relations

Chapter 3 Foreign Relations

Section 1 Overview of Foreign Relations

Item 1 Taiwan's Relations with Asia-Pacific Countries

I. Introduction

The Asia-Pacific region encompasses 37 independent countries across Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Oceania, including the R.O.C. (Taiwan). In the region, Taiwan has formal diplomatic relations, marked by the establishment of mutual embassies, with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Tuvalu, and Nauru, as well as close, substantive ties and mutual representative offices with Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The Asia-Pacific region encompasses nations with distinct ethnic, historical, cultural, religious, and social characteristics, and particularly in recent years has been a focal point in international politics, economics, and diplomacy. Taiwan is fully committed to strengthening its friendships with diplomatic allies in the Asia-Pacific region, enhancing relations with like-minded, friendly nations, and continuing to advance the New Southbound Policy and its four pillars: promoting economic collaboration, conducting people-to-people exchanges, enhancing resource sharing, and forging regional links. Taiwan aspires to leverage its soft power to foster new models conducive to mutual cooperation; ensure peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region; contribute to the regional economic integration agenda; and strengthen regional cooperation.

This year, Taiwan continued to advance its engagement in the Asia-Pacific region with several notable achievements.

1. Strengthening ties with Pacific diplomatic allies:

Vice President of Palau J. Uduch Sengebau Senior visited Taiwan from February 22 to 25. Former and current Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the

Marshall Islands, Kitlang Kabua and Jack Ading, visited from April 12 to 18 and December 16 to 21, respectively. Tuvalu's Minister for Justice, Communication, and Foreign Affairs Simon Kofe visited from May 31 to June 5. Taiwan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang led the Tuvalu Business Delegation to Tuvalu from February 18 to 27, served as President Tsai Ing-wen's special envoy to the Marshall Islands from April 29 to May 3, and led a delegation to Palau from June 3 to 7 to attend the inaugural Belay Omal Marathon. Taiwan continued to deepen cooperation with Pacific allies in areas such as infrastructure, climate change adaptation, food security, healthcare, women's empowerment, and clean energy to support the economic and social development of its diplomatic allies and improve their living standards.

2. Promoting the New Southbound Policy and Strengthening Regional Cooperation with Friendly Nations:

- (1) Taiwan hosted the 7th Yushan Forum in October, inviting several prominent international political figures, including former Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison, former US Ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft, former Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo, United States Senior Official for APEC Matt Murray, Chairman of the Japan-ROC Diet Members' Consultative Council Keiji Furuya, and Indian parliamentarian Sujeet Kumar. Their participation received widespread recognition and media coverage, helping to further Taiwan's international dialogue and exchange.
- (2) On March 29, the New Zealand Parliament established the country's first All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taiwan, with participation from four major political parties—the ACT Party, National Party, New Zealand First Party, and Green Party—and a total of 26 members of Parliament, marking a milestone in promoting Taiwan-New Zealand interparliamentary exchanges.
- (3) Since the 2021 US-ROK Summit, South Korea has continued to highlight the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait in its international discourse. In 2023, it reiterated this position during the Camp David US-Japan-Korea Trilateral Summit on August 18 and the Downing

Street Accord on November 24.

- (4) A bipartisan delegation of eight Australian parliamentarians visited Taiwan from September 25 to 28, demonstrating robust cross-party support for Taiwan in the Australian Parliament.
- (5) The Formosa Club in the Indo-Pacific Region, established in May 2021, made its first visit to Taiwan from November 20 to 22. The delegation consisted of 11 ministers and parliamentarians from Palau, Nauru, South Korea, New Zealand, and the Philippines, expressing their strong support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).
- (6) The Japanese government reiterated the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait at numerous major international venues, including the G7 Summit, Camp David US-Japan-Korea Trilateral Summit, Japan-EU Summit, and Japan-China Summit. These statements were also included in Japan's recent Diplomatic Bluebook and Defense of Japan white papers, helping maintain international attention on the Taiwan Strait situation. As the 2023 G7 chair, Japan also played an active role in issuing three joint G7 foreign ministers' statements supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations. High-level bilateral exchanges between Taiwan and Japan also saw new progress this year: a total of 116 Japanese Diet members visited Taiwan; Vice Premier Cheng Wen-tsan visited Japan in June, marking the first such visit by a Taiwanese vice premier in 29 years; and former Prime Minister and current Vice President of the Liberal Democratic Party Taro Aso led a delegation to Taiwan in August, representing the highest-ranking LDP official to visit Taiwan since the severance of diplomatic relations in 1972. Aso delivered a keynote address at the opening of the Ketagalan Forum, openly voicing support for Taiwan.

II. Relations with Individual Countries

1. Relations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands on November 20, 1998, and opened an embassy in Majuro on December 5 of the same year. The Republic of the Marshall Islands sent representatives to establish an embassy in Taiwan in July 1999 and appointed an ambassador in May 2002.
- (2) Agriculture, fisheries, and technical cooperation:
 - A. Taiwan and the Marshall Islands completed the exchange of documents to revise the agreement of cooperation on agricultural technology on March 22, 2022, officially extending the operations of the Taiwan Technical Mission in the Marshall Islands to the outer island areas. Other collaborations include livestock and horticulture skill enhancement courses, jointly organized with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce of the Marshall Islands, to foster extension personnel and enhance the effectiveness of agricultural technology promotion in the outer islands, as well as school gardens, mobile nutritious food trucks, and cooking demonstrations to raise awareness about nutrition and healthy eating.
 - B. The Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) in the Marshall Islands promoted the Taiwan Farm-to-School Program for School Lunches and the Expansion of Arable Land at Laura Farm programs. In collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, the Mission expanded farming areas in November 2022, significantly increasing crop yields and supplying local hospitals, schools, and other institutions, thereby improving food security.
 - C. Taiwan and the Marshall Islands also signed a fisheries cooperation agreement and a volunteer work agreement. Through various vocational training programs, Taiwan assists the Marshall Islands in capacity building, technology transfers, and creating local employment opportunities.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Over the years, Taiwan has assisted

the Marshall Islands in enhancing its educational capacity through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MOFA) Taiwan Scholarship Program and the International Cooperation and Development Fund's (hereinafter TaiwanICDF) International Higher Education Scholarship Program. This year, 12 students from the Marshall Islands were sponsored to study in Taiwan under the Taiwan Scholarship Program. Currently, approximately 60 Marshallese students are receiving higher education in Taiwan.

(4) Medical cooperation:

- A. Taiwan and the Marshall Islands maintain close medical cooperation. The two governments signed the Agreement on Health Cooperation between the Department of Health of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in 2004, and a memorandum of understanding between R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the Taiwan Health Center in the Marshall Islands in 2008. Both sides continue to share experiences in medical services and public health, building a strong and mutually beneficial partnership.
- B. The Taiwan Health Center operates out of Majuro Hospital. A Taiwanese public health nurse is stationed at the hospital to assist the Marshallese health authorities in implementing public health policies and promoting health education. In addition, Taiwan sends short-term mobile medical missions each year and one or two short-term physicians each month to the Marshall Islands to provide high-quality medical care and training, as well as to assist the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) in training local medical professionals. In 2023, Taiwan donated solar energy storage equipment, oxygen generation systems, and other medical equipment and supplies to Majuro Hospital.
- C. Medical personnel training: In 2023, Taiwan organized five training sessions for chronic disease personnel, five for tuberculosis control, and three for surgical nursing, completing training for 172 participants. Since the establishment of the special medical program at I-Shou University in 2013, 13 medical students from the Marshall Islands have

graduated and returned home to serve.

- (5) Technical exchanges: The Taiwan Digital Opportunity Center opened in the Marshall Islands on December 21, 2022, to deepen capacity-building cooperation between the two countries in the ICT field and help bridge the digital divide.
- (6) Women's empowerment: In 2023, Taiwan and the Republic of the Marshall Islands continued implementing the Women Business Start-up Microfinance Revolving Fund, providing low-interest microloans to support women in starting businesses and advancing economic empowerment.
- (7) Clean energy: To support the Marshall Islands' green energy initiatives, Taiwan assisted in the construction of solar energy storage facilities for government use. In 2023, Taiwan completed a solar-powered parking lot with energy storage capabilities at Majuro Hospital.
- (8) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. A visit from Taiwan was made by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang.
 - B. Visits to Taiwan were made by President David Kabua, former President and current Senator Hilda Heine, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Kitlang Kabua, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Jack Ading, Senator and Irijlaplap Michael Kabua, Senator Tony Aiseia, and Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce John Silk.

2. Relations with the Republic of Palau

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Palau on December 29, 1999. The Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) in Palau was established on February 17, 2000. Palau opened an embassy in Taiwan on October 4, 2001.
- (2) Cultural and educational relations: Under the Taiwan Scholarship Program, TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarship Program, and Naval Academy Scholarship Program, Taiwan offers scholarships to outstanding students recommended by the Palauan government. Palau also nominates outstanding candidates from various fields to attend seminars

and training courses in Taiwan.

- (3) Agricultural and fisheries cooperation: Since 1985, Taiwan has dispatched a technical mission to Palau to promote agricultural cooperation projects. In 2023, Taiwan implemented the Horticulture and Nutrition Enhancement Project, and continued the Poultry and Livestock Project and Aquaculture Project, which assist Palau in developing commercial-scale agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture. These projects aim to help Palau achieve self-sufficiency by providing its people with stable, balanced, and diverse sources of healthy food.
- (4) Medical cooperation: Taipei Municipal Wanfang Hospital and Shin Kong Wu Ho-Su Memorial Hospital signed sister hospital agreements with the Belau National Hospital (BNH). In August 2016, both parties signed a long-term memorandum of understanding to implement the Taiwan Medical Project. In addition, E-Da Hospital, Taiwan Adventist Hospital, Mackay Memorial Hospital, and Ministry of Health and Welfare Shuang Ho Hospital signed medical referral MOUs with Palau. In 2023, Shin Kong Hospital dispatched a multidisciplinary clinical medical team to Palau to provide medical support for the Belau Omal Marathon. Medical staff were stationed in Palau for a total of 10 months in the year, offering timely care and assistance.
- (5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Wu Tsung-tsong, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang, Deputy Minister of the Council of Indigenous Peoples Qucung Qalavangan, and Legislative Yuan Members Chao Tien-lin, Ho Chih-wei, and Chiu Chen-yuan.
 - B. Visits to Taiwan were made by Vice President and Justice Minister J. Uduch Sengebau Senior, Minister of Finance Kaleb Udui, Jr., Minister of State Gustav Aitaro, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs Mason Whipps, Senator TJ Remengesau, and Delegates Frutoso Tellei and Warren Umetaro.

3. Relations with Tuvalu

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with Tuvalu on September 19, 1979. The Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) was initially co-accredited to the Kingdom of Tonga, and subsequently to the Solomon Islands. In December 1998, a liaison office was established in Tuvalu, and an ambassador has been officially stationed there since April 2004. Tuvalu opened an embassy in Taiwan in March 2013.
- (2) Agricultural cooperation: Taiwan continued to send agricultural technical missions to Funafuti and the outer island of Vaitupu in order to promote its Happy Friendship Farm, Wonderful Garden, and Vaitupu Hope Garden horticultural projects. In 2023, Taiwan also supported the establishment of the Half-Acre Farm initiative across Tuvalu's outer islands, with Nui Island becoming the first outer island to implement this model.
- (3) Medical cooperation: Taiwan launched the Taiwan Medical Program in Tuvalu. The program is spearheaded by Chung Shan Medical University Hospital, which has a project coordinator stationed in Tuvalu to assist the government in enhancing the nation's medical capabilities. In March, May, and August 2023, medical teams from Chung Shan Medical University Hospital visited Tuvalu to provide specialist outpatient services. Taiwan continued to assist Tuvalu in maintaining its health information system, conducting remote specialist consultations, delivering online medical training, and implementing initiatives such as the national oral health care program for Tuvaluan schoolchildren, dengue fever screening, and health education campaigns for schools and the general public. Topics included the prevention of chronic diseases, dengue fever, typhoid, and the importance of brushing teeth and hand-washing for students.
- (4) Technological cooperation: Since 2010, Taiwan has launched annual energy cooperation projects in Tuvalu, including donating solar-powered home appliances and street lights, which have greatly benefited the daily lives of Tuvaluans. Taiwan continued to provide aid to assist Tuvalu in establishing a nationwide 4G network, enhancing the efficiency of national telecommunications and improving cybersecurity. In 2023, Taiwan launched a new project to equip all classrooms in Tuvalu with air

- conditioning.
- (5) **Capacity-building:** Together, the Tuvalu Atoll Science Technology Training Institute, established with the assistance of Taiwan, and the Taiwan Digital Opportunity Center provide occupational training for Tuvaluans. Outstanding students from Tuvalu are selected to apply for the Taiwan Scholarship Program and the TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarship Program. Exceptional candidates from various fields are also nominated to attend various symposiums and training programs organized by the TaiwanICDF. Additionally, through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), Building Economic Inclusion via the Blue Economy Program, and the development and humanitarian assistance cooperation between the TaiwanICDF and the United States Agency for International Development, Taiwan assisted Tuvalu in strengthening the professional capacity building of Tuvaluan officials across various departments and enhancing women’s economic empowerment.
 - (6) **Infrastructure:** In September 2023, Taiwan and Tuvalu held a ground-breaking ceremony for the planned site of Tuvalu’s new Parliament building. A geotechnical drilling survey was completed and the results were reported.
 - (7) **Other cooperations:** The Taiwan and Tuvalu Center on Marine Science and Engineering was officially inaugurated in August 2023, marking the start of bilateral cooperation in marine science and engineering. Taiwan also contributed to the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project to support Tuvalu’s efforts in strengthening its resilience to climate change.
 - (8) **Mutual visits by dignitaries:**
 - A. A visit from Taiwan was made by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang.
 - B. Visits to Taiwan were made by Governor-General Tofiga Vaevalu Falani, Speaker of the Parliament Samuelu Teo, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Kofe.

4. Relations with the Commonwealth of Australia

(1) Background:

- A. The Australian government approved the establishing of Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices in Canberra, Sydney, and Melbourne on January 22, 1991. On April 30 of the same year, a new Representative Office was formally established in Canberra, and the Sydney and Melbourne offices were renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia. In 2005, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brisbane was established. Australia set up the Australian Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei on October 30, 1981. It was renamed the Australian Office in Taipei in May 2012. Substantive relations between the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and Australia have continued to grow stronger.
- B. In 2023, the Labor government of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese—in joint statements issued with like-minded countries—continued to express its support for enhancing Taiwan-Australia relations, Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations, and the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, including during the Australia-France Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations on January 30, Australia-UK Ministerial Consultations on February 2, Australia-United States Joint Leaders’ Meeting on May 20, United States-Japan-Australia Trilateral Defense Ministers’ Meeting on June 3, Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations on July 29, and France-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations on December 4.
- C. In May, Australia’s Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly expressed support for Taiwan’s participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA). Since formally becoming a GCTF partner at the end of 2021, Australia has actively co-hosted GCTF events with Taiwan, the US, and Japan in 2023 to support regional capacity-building.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. Bilateral trade between Taiwan and Australia reached US\$23.3 billion in 2023. Taiwan was Australia’s 7th-largest trading partner, with exports to Australia reaching US\$5.79 billion and imports totaling

US\$17.5 billion. Australia was Taiwan's 8th-largest trading partner, 13th-largest export market, and 5th-largest source of imports.

B. Major bilateral meetings in 2023 included the 18th Taiwan-Australia Agricultural Working Group Meeting in May, the 28th Taiwan-Australia Joint Energy and Minerals, Trade and Investment Cooperation Consultations in July, the 36th Taiwan-Australia Joint Business Councils Meeting in August, and the 27th Taiwan-Australia Annual Economic and Trade Conference in November.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

A. Cultural exchanges: Minister of the Council of Indigenous Peoples Icyang Parod led a delegation to Sydney and Perth to attend the handover ceremony of the World Indigenous Tourism Summit and officially announced Taiwan as the host of the 3rd Summit in 2024.

B. Educational exchanges: Taiwan assisted the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in organizing a study program for recipients of the New Colombo Plan in Taiwan. Taiwan also collaborated with Australian National University (ANU) on the Taiwan Studies Project, offering Taiwanese Hokkien and Taiwan civics and politics courses, as well as hosting the Taiwan Update seminar, as well as launching PhD scholarship programs hosted by Taiwan's Ministry of Education in ANU and University of Sydney. Additionally, 35 Australian students were sponsored to study Mandarin in Taiwan under the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program. Macquarie University also led a short-term Mandarin study group to National Cheng Kung University.

(4) Working holidays: Taiwan and Australia signed an MOU on working holiday visas in July 2004 with many young Taiwanese adults taking advantage of the opportunity to visit and work in Australia. The Australian government issued 15,528 working holiday visas to young Taiwanese in 2022-2023.

(5) Technological cooperation: In February, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia facilitated a visit to Taiwan by officials from the New South Wales (NSW) government, where representatives from the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer signed a memorandum of

cooperation with Taiwan's National Applied Research Laboratories. In June, Taiwan and NSW co-hosted the NSW and Taiwan: Semiconductor Sector Outlook and Collaboration seminar. In October, Minister without Portfolio and Minister of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Wu Tsung-tsong led a delegation to Australia, where he met with Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic and other Australian officials and research institute representatives. This year, four new institutions—University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, University of Adelaide, and Macquarie University—were added to the NSTC's list of approved overseas research institutions for recommendation.

- (6) Think tank exchanges: In February, Senior Fellow at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney Ashley Townshend visited Taiwan. In April, former Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop and Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute John Lee led a delegation of scholars to Taiwan. In May, former Deputy Secretary for Strategy at the Department of Defence and co-founder of the Australian Strategic Analysis Institute Peter Jennings visited Taiwan with a think tank delegation. In June, the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) organized the Taiwan-Australia NextGen Policy Forum in Canberra. In July, Council Member of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) and Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University Lavina Lee visited Taiwan and participated as a panelist in the Ketagalan Forum. In October, former Prime Minister Scott Morrison visited Taiwan as a federal MP to attend the National Day celebrations and speak at the Yushan Forum. In December, AIIA sent its AIIANextGen Network delegation to Taiwan.
- (7) Media exposure: Representative Douglas Yu-tien Hsu gave interviews to major Australian media outlets, including ABC News, The Australian, Daily Telegraph, The Sydney Morning Herald, SBS, and the Australian Financial Review, to call for support for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and Taiwan's international participation.
- (8) Overseas community affairs: Deputy Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) Ruan Jhao-syong visited Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Sydney in March. OCAC Minister Hsu Chia-ching visited Melbourne and Perth from June to July. In September, Examination

Yuan Member Wu Hsin-hsing led the 2023 Cultural Goodwill Mission on National Day to Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane to engage with overseas Taiwanese communities.

(9) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Examination Yuan Member Wu Hsin-hsing, Vice President of the Control Yuan Lee Hung-chun, Minister without Portfolio and Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Wu Tsung-tsong, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching, Minister of the Council of Indigenous Peoples Icyang Parod, and Deputy Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Ruan Jhao-syong.

B. Visits to Taiwan were made by former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, former Prime Minister and current federal MP Scott Morrison, Senators Catryna Bilyk, Claire Chandler, and Matt O’Sullivan, and members of the House of Representatives Josh Wilson, Paul Fletcher, Graham Perrett, David Smith, and Daniel Mulino.

5. Relations with Brunei Darussalam

(1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Far Eastern Trade and Cultural Center in Brunei Darussalam in Bandar Seri Begawan on June 27, 1978. The center was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brunei Darussalam on July 1, 1996. It closed temporarily on April 17, 2006, but resumed operations on March 1, 2007. Brunei set up its Brunei Darussalam Trade and Tourism Office in Taipei on October 8, 2002.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

A. Bilateral trade amounted to US\$295.43 million in 2023, with exports reaching US\$12.74 million and imports reaching US\$282.69 million.

B. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brunei Darussalam facilitated efforts by Brunei’s largest department store, Hua Ho, and its oldest, First Emporium, to expand imports of Taiwanese products, including ponkan oranges, snacks, and consumer goods. The Office also coordinated the procurement of over 64 metric tons of fruits and vegetables across 10 shipments by Bruneian fruit importer S&W.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. In October, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brunei Darussalam organized a performance tour in Brunei by Taiwan's renowned Diabolo Dance Theatre as part of cultural exchange efforts.
 - B. The Longtan Philharmonic Orchestra was invited to perform at the National Day reception hosted by the Office.
 - C. The Office invited the Bruneian government to nominate participants for various seminars and training courses organized by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the TaiwanICDF.
 - D. The Office donated teaching equipment to the Chung Hwa School Tutong, and provided operational support to Chung Hwa School Labi, Pai Yuek School Temburong, and Chung Hwa School Kiudang to assist in the promotion of Mandarin education.
- (4) Medical cooperation: Under the Ministry of Health and Welfare's One Country, One Center initiative, the China Medical University Hospital delegation visited Brunei to conduct health seminars and meet with representatives from Darussalam Enterprise (DARE) and local medical institutions. The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral exchanges and cooperation in healthcare and the medical industry. The Office also invited Brunei's Ministry of Health and public hospitals to nominate personnel for training at the Taiwan International Healthcare Training Center.
- (5) Human resource development cooperation: Bruneian government departments, higher education institutions, and enterprises were invited to nominate participants for various seminars and training courses organized by the GCTF, APEC, and TaiwanICDF.
- (6) Tourism: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brunei Darussalam successfully negotiated with Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) to resume direct flights between Taiwan and Brunei starting January 1, 2023. The Office also assisted Taiwanese travel agencies in leveraging the direct flights and Brunei's 14-day visa-free entry policy to promote two-way tourism and cooperation.

6. Relations with the Republic of Fiji

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Trade Mission of the R.O.C. to Fiji in Suva on May 15, 1971. The mission was renamed East Asian Trade Center on February 29, 1976, reverted back to the Trade Mission of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) to Fiji on December 21, 1987, and was renamed Taipei Trade Office in Fiji on August 1, 2019. On December 1, 1997, the Fiji government established the Fiji Trade and Tourism Representative Office in Taiwan. The office was decommissioned in May 2017.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to US\$34.59 million in 2023, with Taiwan exports reaching US\$32.51 million and imports reaching US\$2.07 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Taiwan provides one to two scholarships each year under the TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarship Program and the Ministry of Education's Taiwan Scholarship Program to Fijian students to pursue bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees in Taiwan. In addition, the Taiwan/R.O.C.-PIF Scholarship Programme provides scholarships to students from Pacific Island countries to study locally or in Taiwan.
- (4) Agriculture and fisheries cooperation:
 - A. Agricultural cooperation: Agricultural cooperation: In 1978, Taiwan sent a technical mission to Fiji. Currently, agricultural cooperation is based on the Agreement on Technical Cooperation, signed on August 23, 2013. In 2023, Taiwan continued to plan and establish two smart agriculture demonstration farms in Nausori.
 - B. Fisheries cooperation:
 - a. In September 2017, the TaiwanICDF sent a specialist to assist the Fijian Ministry of Fisheries in developing aquaculture strategies and techniques. Taiwan and Fiji signed a memorandum of understanding on fisheries cooperation on September 26, 2018, and have continued to jointly combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing to safeguard marine ecosystems and promote sustainable fisheries. In 2023, the Taiwan Technical Mission to Fiji continued to implement

the second four-year phase of the aquaculture project launched in the previous year, including fry breeding for fish and shrimp, the introduction of new species (rabbitfish, milkfish, and grouper), and related training workshops to expand the aquaculture sector.

- b. On August 18, Representative to Fiji Joseph Chow and Fijian Minister for Fisheries Kalaveti Ravu jointly presided over a shrimp fry release ceremony at a newly constructed pond in the indigenous community of Vunitogoloa.

(5) Medical cooperation:

- A. On March 10, the Taipei Trade Office in Fiji and Cathay General Hospital donated medical equipment valued at approximately US\$100,000 to Labasa Hospital on Vanua Levu to support the establishment of a dialysis center and improve care for chronic disease patients.
- B. On June 23, Representative Chow donated funds on behalf of the Taiwanese government to support the expansion of shared washroom facilities for Saint Paul's primary and secondary schools.
- C. From August 5 to 12, a medical team was dispatched by Mackay Memorial Hospital to oversee a Taiwan-Fiji medical cooperation project at Nadi Hospital. Another team was dispatched to Nadi Hospital from October 30 to November 3 to further medical cooperation. The missions included training and knowledge exchanges with Nadi Hospital staff and Fiji National University medical students.

(6) Other cooperations:

- A. On June 29, Representative to Fiji Joseph Chow, on behalf of the Taiwanese government, co-hosted the handover ceremony for Taiwan's development assistance at the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) alongside PIF Deputy Secretary General Filimon Manoni. The funding supports regional development and scholarship programs under the cooperation agreement for 2022 to 2024 signed by the government of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the PIF Secretariat.
- B. On July 19, Assistant Minister for the Office of the Prime Minister Sakiusa Tubuna participated in the Pacific Climate Change Forum, co-

hosted by the Taiwanese government and the Taiwan Sustainability Energy Research Foundation.

- C. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang led a delegation to the Cook Islands and attended the 28th Taiwan/Republic of China-Forum Countries Dialogue organized by the PIF Secretariat on November 10.

7. Relations with the Republic of India

- (1) Background: In September 1995, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in New Delhi and renamed it the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India in February 2012. The Economic and Cultural Center in Chennai was set up in the same year. In July 1995, India established the India Taipei Association in Taiwan.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. India is Taiwan's 16th-largest trading partner. In 2023, bilateral trade amounted to approximately US\$8.22 billion, with Taiwan exporting around US\$6.01 billion to India and importing approximately US\$2.21 billion. India is Taiwan's 12th-largest export market.
 - B. Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs and India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry have established a bilateral economic and trade dialogue platform covering trade, industry, and small and medium enterprises. Additionally, organizations, including the Chinese National Federation of Industries, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), and the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA), collaborated with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to host several important events in 2023, including the 20th Taiwan-India Joint Business Councils Meeting, the 2nd Taiwan-India CEO Roundtable, and the 6th Taiwan-India Industrial Collaboration Summit.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. As of the end of 2023, Taiwan established Taiwan Education Centers with 31 schools in India, where Mandarin language teachers are stationed to provide in-person Mandarin courses. Additionally, Taiwan

has signed cooperation agreements with 55 primary and secondary schools in India to implement the Ministry of Education's International Education 2.0 policy for primary and secondary schools.

B. The Ministry of Education's Taiwan Scholarship Program and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program have attracted Indian students to pursue further studies in Taiwan. In 2023, the number of Indian students studying in Taiwan totaled 3,069.

(4) Technological cooperation:

A. On April 18, 2007, Taiwan and India signed an MOU on science and technology exchanges. This year, the 12th meeting of the India-Taiwan Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology hosted by Taiwan was concluded on December 6. To date, both countries have co-funded 115 bilateral research projects and co-organized 27 bilateral academic seminars in fields including artificial intelligence and renewable energy.

B. On July 26, 2019, Taiwan's Ministry of Science and Technology signed a cooperation memorandum with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), under India's Ministry of Education, to promote bilateral cooperation and exchange in the humanities and social sciences. By the end of 2023, a total of eight joint research projects had been funded under this initiative.

(5) Visits from dignitaries: A visit to Taiwan was made by Secretary for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Rajesh Kumar Singh.

8. Relations with the Republic of Indonesia

(1) Background: On July 4, 1972, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce in Jakarta, which was renamed the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Indonesia on January 19, 1990. The Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Surabaya was established and officially commenced operations in December 2015. The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce in Taipei was established in Taipei on June 1, 1971, and renamed the Indonesian Economic and Trade Office to Taipei in January 1995.

- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. Bilateral trade amounted to US\$10.42 billion in 2023, with exports reaching US\$3.01 billion and imports reaching US\$7.4 billion.
 - B. Taiwan invested approximately US\$195 million across 803 projects in Indonesia in 2023. According to Taiwan's Investment Commission of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Indonesian investment in Taiwan during the same period amounted to approximately US\$2.57 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. In 2023, the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Jakarta, Indonesia, supervised 54 Study in Taiwan information sessions held by the Taiwan Education Centers at Universitas Negeri Jakarta and Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, with a total of 4,464 participants. Currently, there are 16,725 Indonesian students studying in Taiwan, making Indonesia the 2nd-largest source of foreign students in Taiwan.
 - B. The Office organized Taiwan Higher Education Fairs in March across Jakarta, Surabaya, and Yogyakarta, featuring 35 participating institutions. In August, additional fairs were held in Jakarta, Bekasi, and Medan, attracting 16,000 visitors and featuring 108 representatives from 46 Taiwanese institutions.
 - C. Taiwan's Ministry of Education continued its partnership with Universitas Indonesia through the Taiwan Studies Program and collaborated with Universitas Pancasila to host lectures and promote Mandarin education.
 - D. Taiwan actively engaged with Indonesia's Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards Vocational Edition (IISMAVO) to provide opportunities for university and college students to study abroad. In 2023, Taiwan was selected as a partner, with two Taiwanese institutions hosting 36 university students and 10 institutions hosting 86 vocational students from Indonesia.
 - E. The Ministry of Education launched the Taiwan-Indonesia International Talent Circulation Base (INTACT Base) and held its inauguration on December 13. Three bases were established by Cheng Shiu University, Chaoyang University of Technology, and Hsing Wu University in

Jakarta, Surabaya, and Bangka, respectively, to provide study abroad counseling and Mandarin language instruction.

(4) Agricultural cooperation:

- A. Taiwan partnered with Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture and the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment Affairs to implement the Karawang Vegetable and Fruits Marketing System Enhancement Project in West Java, the North Sumatra Garlic and Shallot Production and Marketing Guidance Project in North Sumatra, and the South Sulawesi Superior Rice Seed Expansion Project with Hasanuddin University.
- B. In 2019, Taiwan and Indonesia signed the Arrangement for Implementing the Indonesian Young Farmer Internship Program in Taiwan, which arranged for young Indonesian farmers to intern in Taiwan. In December 2022, the agreement was renewed. The second batch of 53 young farmers was selected to intern in Taiwan the same year, followed by a third batch of 99 young farmers in 2023.
- C. Taiwan's Youth Agricultural Ambassador Delegation visited Indonesia and engaged in dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture and Indonesian Millennial Farmer Ambassadors.

(5) Labor cooperation:

- A. According to statistics released by the Ministry of Labor, as of the end of December 2023, there were 272,855 Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan, accounting for roughly 36.22% of the total number of foreign workers and making them the largest group of foreign workers in the country.
- B. Taiwan and Indonesia signed memoranda of understanding on the recruitment, introduction, and protection of Indonesian workers in 2004, 2011, and 2018. Negotiations are currently underway to renew and update the MOUs.
- C. From August 9 to 10, Director-General of Taiwan's Workforce Development Agency Tsai Meng-liang and Director-General of Manpower Placement and Extension of Job Opportunity of the Ministry of Manpower Suhartono co-chaired the working-level meeting of the

10th Taiwan-Indonesia Labor Conference in Bali—the first in-person bilateral labor meeting held since the pandemic.

(6) Media exposure:

- A. In 2023, the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Jakarta, Indonesia, achieved significant media coverage for various initiatives, including 52 articles about the Women’s Empowerment Diplomacy Project in March, 52 articles about the Taiwan’s Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan’s submission for participation in the WHO in May, 44 articles about Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu’s submission for participation in the United Nations (UN) in September, 40 articles about the Commissioner of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of the National Police Agency Chou Yu-wei’s submission for participation in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and 40 articles about Minister of Environment Shieu Fuh-sheng’s submission for participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November.
- B. On December 22, CNN Indonesia interviewed Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu for his analysis of US-China tensions, cross-strait dynamics, and Taiwan’s international position on US-China-Taiwan relations and other international issues, which was aired as a two-part special on Asia Frontline on January 10 and 12, 2024.
- C. Radio Free Asia interviewed Representative to Indonesia Chen Chung on August 10, with the interview later broadcast via RFA’s YouTube platform on September 22.

(7) Overseas community affairs:

- A. The Overseas Community Affairs Council annually selects cultural arts teachers to teach cultural courses in Jakarta, Pontianak, and Medan. In addition, Mandarin language teachers were sent to Jakarta, Bandung, and other cities to organize training workshops for Mandarin language teachers.
- B. There are currently nine Taiwanese business organizations in Jakarta, Surabaya, Bandung, and other regions, collectively forming the Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce. Other Taiwanese organizations

include the Indonesian Chinese Traders Federation and the Timor Leste Taiwan Chamber of Commerce (TLTCC).

- C. There are 22 Taiwanese alumni organizations, with 10 college associations when divided by region, and 15 at National Taiwan University, National Cheng Kung University, and National Cheng Chi University, among others. Other broader alumni federations have also been established, including the Indonesian Federation of Taiwan Alumni Associations.
- (8) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. A visit was made from Taiwan by Legislator Chiang Chi-chen.
 - B. Visits were made to Taiwan by members of Indonesia's Regional Representative Council (DPD), including Richard Pasaribu, Muhammad Hilmy, Nanang Sulaiman, and Filep Wamafma.

9. Relations with Japan

(1) Background:

- A. In December 1972, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and Japan established the Association of East Asian Relations and the Interchange Association, respectively, as channels to maintain substantive ties. Taiwan set up offices in Tokyo and Osaka (with a branch in Fukuoka), while Japan established offices in Taipei and Kaohsiung. In 1992, the Association of East Asian Relations in Tokyo was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan, with branches set up in Yokohama, Naha, and Sapporo. The Association of East Asian Relations in Osaka was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Osaka, with a branch in Fukuoka. Today, Taiwan has six offices in Japan. In 2017, the Association of East Asian Relations was renamed the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association, and the Interchange Association was renamed the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association.
- B. The Japanese government continuously emphasized the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait at joint forums with the United States, United Kingdom, NATO, Ukraine, Europe, ASEAN, South Korea, France, and China, as well as during the G7 Summit. In

addition, the Japan Defense White Paper reiterated that “stability in the Taiwan Strait is critical to Japan’s national security and the stability of the international community.”

- C. In 2023, the Japanese government repeatedly reiterated its support for Taiwan’s participation in the WHA as an observer and continues to emphasize Taiwan’s bid to regain WHA observer status in its Diplomatic Bluebook. G7 Foreign Ministers declared support for Taiwan’s participation in the WHO. Additionally, a total of 43 prefectural assemblies in Japan passed resolutions supporting Taiwan’s participation in the WHA.
- D. Parliamentary exchanges:
 - a. In 2023, several Japanese Diet members visited Taiwan, including a cross-party delegation from the Constitutional Democratic Party, Nippon Ishin no Kai (Japan Innovation Party), and Democratic Party for the People in July, a parliamentary delegation from the Japan Innovation Party’s Taiwan Friendship Discussion Group in August, former Prime Minister Aso Taro, who attended the 2023 Ketagalan Forum – Indo-Pacific Security Dialogue, and a delegation taking part in the 2023 the R.O.C. (Taiwan) National Day Celebration in October.
 - b. In 2023, several Taiwan legislators visited Japan, including legislators in a delegation led by Legislative Yuan Vice President Tsai Chi-chang in March, one led by Legislative Yuan President You Si-kun in July, and another led by Deputy Chairman of the Japan-Taiwan Inter-parliamentary Amity Association Chen Jiau-hua in August.
- E. Local exchanges:
 - a. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan and its administrative branches continued to actively promote local exchanges between Taiwan and Japan. As of 2023, there are a total of 172 alliances between local governments and councils of Taiwan and Japan. In 2023, 21 agreements were reached, including a new cooperation agreement between Taipei City and Kasama

City (Ibaraki Prefecture) and an agreement to promote tourism, local products, and economic exchanges between Tainan City and Yamaguchi Prefecture.

- b. On November 18, the 9th Summit on Taiwan-Japan Exchanges was held in Sendai City and attended by 203 local council members from across Japan. The Sendai Declaration was issued during the summit, urging the Japanese government to actively support Taiwan's participation in international organizations and promote the formulation of a basic law for governing Taiwan-Japan relations.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. Bilateral trade amounted to US\$75.76 billion in 2023, with imports reaching US\$44.32 billion and exports reaching US\$31.44 billion. Japan is Taiwan's 3rd-largest trading partner, and Taiwan is Japan's 4th largest trading partner.
- B. In 2023, Taiwan invested in 45 projects in Japan, amounting to approximately US\$215 million. Japanese investment in Taiwan comprised 216 projects worth roughly US\$620 million, with total bilateral investment reaching approximately US\$835 million.
- C. According to trade statistics released by the Ministry of Finance of Japan, in 2023, Taiwan was Japan's 5th largest source of imports and its 4th largest export market.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. Arts: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan facilitated the return of Huang Tu-shui's plaster bust of Teijiro Yamamoto and the unveiling of a bronze replica to mark centennial ties between Taiwan and Japan. This occasion also led to a sister-city agreement between Sado City and Kaohsiung City.
- B. Film, media, and music: Taiwan hosted seven film screening and salon events, collaborated with the Tokyo International Film Festival to feature four Taiwanese films, and published the Taiwan Film Guide 2023.
- C. Literary exchanges: In partnership with Kinokuniya, the Office organized the Taiwan Book Fair and three literary salons featuring

Taiwanese authors with works published in Japanese.

D. Higher education cooperation:

- a. Taiwan Studies Project: The Office continued to jointly launch the Taiwan Studies Project with Osaka University, Kyushu University, and Waseda University, offering courses about Taiwan, organizing workshops and seminars, and establishing academic hubs for Taiwan studies in Japan.
- b. Educational forums: The Office co-hosted the Taiwan-Japan Primary and Secondary Education Forum with the National Teachers Federation of Japan on June 25, with 80 primary and secondary school teachers from both countries participating. On February 14, the Office co-organized the Taiwan-Japan High School Study Tour Seminar with the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, inviting nearly 100 high school representatives from Taiwan to attend. On July 25, the Office invited President of the University of Tsukuba and Chairman of the Japan Association of National Universities Kyosuke Nagata to lead a delegation of representatives from 26 Japanese universities to Taiwan to participate in the 2023 Taiwan-Japan University Presidents' Forum, held at National Chi Nan University.
- c. Educational exchange agreements: The Office facilitated the signing of educational exchange agreements between the Senior High School Principals Association of the R.O.C. and the National Association of Upper Secondary School Principals of Japan; between National Central University and the University of Tsukuba; between National Hsinchu Senior High School and Seijo Gakuen High School in Tokyo; and between National Chiayi Girls' Senior High School and Jumonji Gakuen High School in Tokyo.
- d. Youth exchanges: The Office co-organized a study and exchange program with the Japan Science and Technology Agency, bringing a group of 27 gifted science students from Taiwan to Japan for academic and cultural exchange. It also co-hosted a program with the Minato City Board of Education in Tokyo for elementary school

students to learn about Taiwan, and jointly organized Taiwan-Japan youth exchange activities with the Kasama City Hall in Ibaraki Prefecture and Shinjo City Hall in Yamagata Prefecture.

(4) Technological and medical cooperation:

- A. On September 29, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan co-hosted the 2023 Next Generation Young Talent Science and Technology Workshop - Future Emerging Technology and Talent together with National Central University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Tokyo Electron Co., Ltd. The forum was opened with remarks by Representative Frank Chang-ting Hsieh, and speakers included Executive Director of the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Izuru Hanaki, President of National Central University Chou Ching-yang, Vice President of the University of Tokyo Hiroaki Aihara, and Director-general of the Institute of Innovative Research at Tokyo Tech Naoto Ohtake.
- B. The Office facilitated the successful selection of Japan's National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition as a partner institution under Taiwan's National Science and Technology Council's Task-Oriented International Research Program. In total, nine leading Japanese research institutions joined Taiwanese scientific projects in 2023.
- C. The Office arranged a visit to Japan by Academia Sinica President James C. Liao from August 3 to 10, during which he met with Executive Director for the Technology Strategy Center of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization, Kikuo Kishimoto.
- D. The 34th Sino-Japanese Modern Engineering and Technology Symposium was held in Taiwan from November 19 to 24. Ahead of the event, the Taiwan Association for Science and Technology hosted a pre-departure briefing and networking event on November 10 in Tokyo, with remarks delivered by Representative Frank Chang-ting Hsieh.

(5) Agricultural and fisheries cooperation:

- A. In 2023, Taiwan's exports of agricultural and fishery products to Japan

amounted to approximately US\$720 million, making Japan Taiwan's 2nd-largest export market. Taiwan's imports of agricultural and fishery products from Japan amounted to approximately US\$1.02 billion, making Japan Taiwan's 4th-largest import market.

- B. In addition to convening the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Committee and Preparatory Meeting in Tokyo from March 13 to 15, the two sides convened an experts' meeting on November 23 to 24 to discuss fishing regulations north of the Yaeyama Islands. A bilateral meeting on fisheries science and research was also held in Taitung from June 26 to 28, where issues regarding tuna, eel, and saury were discussed. From October 30 to November 3, the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare visited Taiwan for an on-site inspection related to grouper aquaculture.
 - C. Taiwan continued to request Japan's support for its accession to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and sought cooperation within other regional fisheries management organizations, such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), to safeguard the operational rights and interests of Taiwan's distant-water fishing fleet.
- (6) Media exposure:
- A. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan arranged for journalists from Japan's Sankei Shimbun and Tokyo Shimbun to participate in a Political and Economic Press Corp and a National Day Press Corp hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - B. The Office gave interviews on the presidential election and national security to several media outlets, including NHK, Nippon TV, TV Asahi, Kyodo News, and Yomiuri Shimbun.
 - C. The Office arranged with Japan's mainstream media outlets, including Nikkei, Mainichi Shimbun, Sankei Shimbun, and Tokyo Shimbun, to publish op-eds on Taiwan's intent in participating in international organizations, such as the WHO, UN, INTERPOL, and UNFCCC, and its condemnation of Chinese oppression. Additionally, Representative to Japan Frank Chang-ting Hsieh gave interviews to Japanese print and

broadcast media to convey policies of Taiwan.

- (7) Tourism: In 2023, the total number of outbound visitors to Japan was 4,225,804, and the total number of inbound visitors from Japan was 928,235.
- (8) Overseas community affairs:
 - A. There are approximately 40 Taiwanese community organizations within the consular district, including associations, schools, business chambers, and religious or family-based groups. These groups held over 120 events, such as board meetings, study sessions, National Day celebrations, and youth entrepreneur activities.
 - B. Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching visited Japan in February to attend the 78th anniversary reunion of the Taiwanese Association in Japan. She also visited the Tokyo Chinese School, the Association of R.O.C. Nationals in Tokyo, and met with leaders of the All Japan Taiwanese Union and honorary community liaisons within the consular district.
- (9) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Vice Premier Cheng Wen-tsan, Legislative Yuan President You Si-kun, Legislative Yuan Vice President Tsai Chi-chang, Academia Sinica President Liao Jun-chi, Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua, Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching, Minister of the National Development Council Kung Ming-hsin, and Taiwan-Japan Relations Association Chairman Su Jia-chyuan.
 - B. Visits to Taiwan were made by 116 Japanese dignitaries, including House Representatives Taro Aso, Akira Amari, Seishiro Eto, Keiji Furuya, Kazunori Tanaka, Koichi Hagiuda, Yasushi Kaneko, Shinji Inoue, Shinsuke Okuno, Kosaburo Nishime, Minoru Kihara, Keisuke Suzuki, Hajime Sasaki, Seiji Maehara, Shu Watanabe, Hirofumi Ryu, and Nobuyuki Baba; House Councillors Akiko Santo, Hirofumi Takinami, and Seishi Baba; and Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Chairman Mitsuo Ohashi.

10. Relations with the Republic of Korea

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Republic of Korea signed the New Relations Framework Agreement in July 1993, subsequently setting up the Korean Mission in Taipei and the Taipei Mission in Korea in November 1993 and January 1994, respectively. In January 2005, an office was established in Busan.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to US\$44.55 billion in 2023, with exports reaching US\$24.37 billion and imports reaching US\$20.18 billion. Taiwan is South Korea's 6th-largest trading partner and South Korea is Taiwan's 5th-largest trading partner.
- (3) Cultural and educational exchanges:
 - A. In 2023, the number of Taiwanese students studying at various levels in South Korea was 2,063, while the number of South Korean students studying in Taiwan was 2,774. The Ministry of Education provided scholarships for six South Korean students under the Taiwan Scholarship Program and 10 students under the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program to study in Taiwan. South Korean universities offered scholarships to 14 Taiwanese students under the Korean Universities' Korean Language Learning Reciprocal Scholarships to study in South Korea. The Ministry of Education also collaborated with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology to jointly implement a co-funded and co-named doctoral scholarship program.
 - B. Taiwan's Ministry of Education subsidized the organization of study tours by schools at all levels in South Korea to Taiwan for Mandarin language programs. It also continued its partnership with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies through the Taiwan Studies Project to promote Taiwan studies in Korea and strengthen academic exchanges between scholars in South Korea and Taiwan.
- (4) Tourism: In 2023, a total of 954,693 Taiwanese citizens traveled to South Korea, and 744,727 South Korean citizens visited Taiwan. In addition, the Kaohsiung-Gimpo flight route was launched.
- (5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by former Vice President Annette Lu, Minister of Finance Chuang Tsui-yun, Deputy Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Ruan Jhao-syong, Taipei City Mayor Chiang Wan-an, Chairman of the R.O.C. Korea Parliamentary Friendship Association and Legislative Yuan Member Lin Te-fu, and Legislative Yuan Members Lo Ming-tsai, Lee De-wei, Lu Yu-ling, Hung Meng-kai, Chang Yu-mei, and Chen Jiau-hua.
- B. A visit to Taiwan was made by National Assembly Member Ji Seong-ho.

11. Relations with Malaysia

- (1) Background: On August 3, 1974, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Far East Trade and Tour Centre in Malaysia. It was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in Malaysia on September 22, 1988, and later renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia on August 17, 1992. In March 1987, Malaysia opened the Malaysian Friendship and Trade Centre in Taipei.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to US\$24.85 billion in 2023, with exports reaching US\$15.16 billion and imports reaching US\$9.68 billion. Taiwan is Malaysia's 5th-largest trading partner, and Malaysia is Taiwan's 8th-largest trading partner. As of the end of 2023, Taiwan's total investment in Malaysia reached US\$14.7 billion.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. Malaysia has approximately 6.9 million citizens of Chinese descent. Currently, 1,301 Mandarin-language primary schools and 62 independent Mandarin-language secondary schools are in operation in Malaysia. In 2023, 10,457 Malaysian students pursued higher education studies in Taiwan, with roughly 100,000 Malaysian alumni year-to-date. Approximately 90 Taiwanese students studied at higher education institutions in Malaysia in 2023.
 - B. This year, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office collaborated with mainstream Malaysian arts and cultural institutions to implement nine

projects across 57 events, attracting a total of 12,418 participants.

- (4) Medical cooperation: In 2023, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Taiwan continued to promote its Medical Cooperation and Industry Chain Development Project 2.0 under the New Southbound Policy with the inclusion of Malaysia. Chang Gung Memorial Hospital and China Medical University Hospital were entrusted to implement the cooperation plan in Malaysia.
- (5) Tourism: In 2023, a total of 245,139 Taiwanese citizens visited Malaysia, and 463,292 Malaysian citizens visited Taiwan.
- (6) Overseas community affairs: There are approximately 1,700 Taiwanese businesses operating in Malaysia, represented by the Taipei Investors' Association in Malaysia (TIAM), an alliance of seven standing committees, including the Kuala Lumpur Standing Committee and the Penang Standing Committee.

12. Relations with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

- (1) Background: The TaiwanICDF office was set up in Yangon in 2014. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) government later established the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Myanmar on March 28, 2016. The Myanmar Trade Office was set up in Taipei in 2015.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to approximately US\$213 million in 2023, with exports reaching approximately US\$133 million and imports reaching approximately US\$80 million. According to statistics released by the Department of Investment Review, Ministry of Economic Affairs, as of the end of 2023, 50 investment projects were initiated by Taiwanese businesses in Myanmar, amounting to US\$493 million, and 33 investment projects were initiated in Taiwan by Burmese businesses, amounting to US\$6 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: The Taiwan Alumni Association in Myanmar was established to attract outstanding Burmese students to study in Taiwan, promote Taiwan's high-quality higher education, and strengthen higher education cooperation between Taiwan and Myanmar.
- (4) Medical cooperation:

- A. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Myanmar assisted the Ling Jiou Mountain Charity Foundation and Taoyuan General Hospital, Ministry of Health and Welfare, in donating four ultrasound machines to the Myanmar Liver Foundation. It also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of intent between Taoyuan General Hospital and the foundation, facilitating NGO-level medical cooperation between Taiwan and Myanmar.
 - B. The Office continued its cooperation with Shin Kong Wu Ho-Su Memorial Hospital, promoting Taiwan-Myanmar medical exchanges. As of the end of 2023, more than 50 Burmese physicians have completed clinical training in Taiwan. The hospital has also signed memorandums of understanding with over 20 hospitals and clinics in Myanmar, organized free clinics in Myanmar, and hosted both online and in-person medical forums.
- (5) Humanitarian assistance: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Myanmar continued working with Myanmar's Ministry of Immigration and Population, Police Force, and international NGOs to assist Taiwanese nationals stranded in Myanmar due to job scams in returning home. As of the end of December 2023, a total of more than 80 repatriation cases had been handled.
- (6) A visit to Taiwan was made by former Minister of Agriculture Tin Htut Oo.

13. Relations with New Zealand

- (1) Background:
- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the East Asian Trade Center in Auckland in May 1973. The center was relocated to the capital city of Wellington in July 1981, and a branch was established in Auckland in the same year. New Zealand set up the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taiwan in 1987. The East Asian Trade Center was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in November 1991.
 - B. New Zealand continued to express its support for Taiwan's participation in the WHA during the 76th World Health Assembly.

- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. Bilateral trade amounted to approximately US\$1.53 billion in 2023, with exports reaching US\$460 million and imports US\$1.07 billion.
 - B. The Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC) came into effect on December 1, 2013, bringing significant positive benefits to the economic and trade relations between Taiwan and New Zealand. Currently, five sub-committees have been established, covering food safety inspection and quarantine measures for animals and plants, technical trade barriers, indigenous cooperation, trade and labor, and trade and environment. These sub-committees are gradually establishing broader and more regular exchange and cooperation mechanisms.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Taiwan offers scholarships under the Taiwan Scholarship Program and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program to outstanding young New Zealanders to pursue degrees or study Mandarin in Taiwan. In 2023, one student was awarded scholarships under the Taiwan Scholarship Program, and seven under the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program.
- (4) Tourism: In 2023, a total of 28,597 Taiwanese tourists visited New Zealand, and 17,636 New Zealand tourists visited Taiwan.
- (5) Indigenous exchanges: According to Chapter 19 of ANZTEC, a special chapter on indigenous cooperation, the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Taiwan and New Zealand's Ministry of Māori Development take turns hosting annual coordination meetings for the special chapter. They collaborate on issues related to the economy, tourism, and education, among others. This year, Taiwan's Council of Indigenous Peoples held the 10th Anniversary Seminar of the ANZTEC in Taiwan to review the outcomes of bilateral exchanges under this special chapter over the past decade.
- (6) Visits to Taiwan were made by Parliamentarians Brooke van Velden, James McDowall, Tim van de Molen, and Ingrid Leary; former MP and founder of the Taiwan Friendship Group Simon O'Connor; and former

Minister of Trade Tim Groser.

14. Relations with the Independent State of Papua New Guinea

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up a trade mission in Papua New Guinea on February 12, 1990. The mission was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Papua New Guinea on May 17, 2018. On May 20, 1990, the Office of the Honorary Representative of Papua New Guinea was established in Taipei. The office was renamed the Honorary Consulate-General of Papua New Guinea in August 1994. The appointment was suspended in August 2014. The Papua New Guinea Trade Office in Taiwan was set up in Taipei on December 31, 2015. On April 20, 2023, Papua New Guinea announced the closure of its Trade Office in Taiwan due to financial difficulties faced by its government.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. Bilateral trade amounted to US\$1.16 billion in 2023, with exports of US\$169.18 million and imports of US\$99.45 billion.
 - B. The Taiwan Tuna Purse Seiners Association has a purse seine fishing agreement with the National Fisheries Authority of Papua New Guinea. In 2023, Taiwan distant water fishing operators paid over US\$20 million in fishing fees to Papua New Guinea.
- (3) Agricultural cooperation: The TaiwanICDF established a trade mission in Papua New Guinea in 1990. The Rice Seeds Production Project in Papua New Guinea commenced in 2023. The project completed the renovation of two rice seed storage warehouses, established two seed testing laboratories, produced over 60 metric tons of rice seeds, and held multiple training workshops.
- (4) Medical cooperation: In 2023, Changhua Christian Hospital assisted Port Moresby General Hospital in training urology and orthopedic specialists, as well as arranging for department heads from the University of Papua New Guinea School of Medicine and Health Sciences to receive training in Taiwan, helping to improve the quality of care at the national hospital in the capital area. In addition, CCH sent medical teams to visit Port Moresby General Hospital in July and October to discuss advancing a

memorandum of understanding on cancer treatment cooperation.

- (5) Humanitarian assistance:
 - A. On October 9, Representative to Papua New Guinea Ben Wang co-hosted a ceremony with the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea Archbishop Fermin Sosa Rodriguez to donate rice to Catholic middle schools in the Central Province, and assist underprivileged students.
 - B. On October 17, Representative Wang was invited to attend a medical equipment donation ceremony held by the visiting Changhua Christian Hospital team at Port Moresby General Hospital.

15. Relations with the Republic of the Philippines

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Pacific Economic and Cultural Center in Manila on July 28, 1975. The center was later renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines on March 7, 1990. The Philippines established the Asian Exchange Center in Taipei on March 16, 1976, which was renamed the Manila Economic and Cultural Office on December 20, 1989.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to US\$7.41 billion in 2023, with exports of US\$5.06 billion and imports of US\$2.35 billion. Taiwan has invested in around 600 companies in the Philippines, with a cumulative investment of approximately US\$2.47 billion to date.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, 3,755 Filipino students were studying in Taiwan. Taiwan provided scholarships to nine Filipino students under the TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarship Program, 18 under the Ministry of Education's Taiwan Scholarship Program, and 46 under the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship. There are currently 453 valid bilateral university-level MOUs between Taiwan and the Philippines. Additionally, the Ministry of Education of Taiwan commissioned National Sun Yat-sen University to set up a Taiwan Education Center in the Philippines to promote Taiwan's higher education system and Mandarin learning. To date, the Ministry has recruited 45 Filipino English teachers under the Taiwan Foreign English Teacher Program.

- (4) Agricultural and fisheries cooperation: The Philippine Department of Agriculture approved the import of fresh pork and breeding pigs from Taiwan on January 3 and 20, 2023, respectively. Taiwan, in turn, began importing eggs for human consumption from the Philippines under a special arrangement starting March 31. In addition, Taiwan's Council of Agriculture hosted 49 young Filipino farmers under the Philippine Young Farmer Internship Program in Taiwan this year, bringing the total number trained since 2021 to 126. The TaiwanICDF Demonstration Farm in the Philippines, established by Taiwan's Technical Mission, officially opened on December 15. It serves as a platform for promoting Taiwan's advanced agricultural production technologies and domestically manufactured small- to medium-sized farm machinery in the Philippines.
- (5) Medical cooperation: Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital, the coordinator of One Country, One Center Project in the Philippines under the New Southbound Policy of Taiwan, continued its close collaboration with partner hospitals in the Philippines to share advanced medical technologies.
- (6) Tourism: In 2023, 194,851 Taiwanese tourists visited the Philippines, while 350,487 Filipino tourists visited Taiwan.
- (7) Labor cooperation: As of the end of 2023, there were approximately 149,400 Filipino workers in Taiwan.
- (8) Overseas community affairs: The Philippines has a population of roughly 1.5 million people of Chinese descent, largely residing in metropolitan areas, such as Manila, Cebu, and Davao. There are around 20,000 overseas Taiwanese residing in the Philippines, and approximately 7,000 Taiwanese businesspeople currently living or operating there.

16. Relations with the Republic of Singapore

- (1) Background: The Trade Mission of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) was set up in Singapore on March 6, 1969, and renamed the Taipei Representative Office in Singapore on September 30, 1990. The Singapore Trade Representative Office in Taipei was set up on August 1, 1979, and renamed the Singapore Trade Office in Taipei on September 30, 1990.

- (2) Economic and trade relations:
- A. Bilateral trade amounted to US\$39.27 billion in 2023, with exports reaching US\$29.74 billion and imports reaching US\$9.53 billion. Taiwan is Singapore's 4th-largest trading partner, and Singapore is Taiwan's 6th-largest trading partner.
 - B. Taiwan's investment in Singapore amounted to approximately US\$2.44 billion, accounting for 46.6% of Taiwan's total investment in ASEAN. Singapore's investment in Taiwan totaled approximately US\$2.28 billion, making up 90.5% of ASEAN's total investment in Taiwan.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
- A. This year, the R.O.C.-Singapore Student Exchange Program resumed. 60 high school students from each side visited five high schools in the other country in July and November, respectively.
 - B. The Taipei Representative Office in Singapore continued to facilitate the Ministry of Education's Taiwan Scholarship Program and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Taiwan Fellowship Program, to recommend outstanding Singaporean youths and scholars to study and conduct research in Taiwan, thereby strengthening Taiwan-friendly ties.
 - C. This year, the Office continued to co-organize cultural events with Singaporean institutions, including the Singapore Chinese Film Festival, World Book Day Reading Session, and the World School Children's Art Exhibition. It also assisted the National Center for Traditional Arts – GuoGuang Opera Company and the National Taiwan College of Performing Arts in performing in Singapore.
 - D. The Office hosted Taiwan-Singapore literary salons, and supported lecture events by Taiwanese art groups and artists, such as Diabolo Dance Theatre, Song Kun Performing Art Group, and pianist Rueibin Chen at the Representative's residence, enhancing collaboration opportunities between Taiwanese cultural professionals and relevant Singaporean organizations.
- (4) Tourism: In 2023, 316,175 Singaporean tourists visited Taiwan, while

463,893 Taiwanese tourists visited Singapore.

- (5) Visits from Taiwan were made by Taipei City Mayor Chiang Wan-an, New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-ih, Tainan City Mayor Huang Wei-che, and Legislative Yuan Members Chuang Jui-hsiung, Tang Hui-jen, Sandy Yu, Wu Chi-ming, Wu Yu-chin, Lo Mei-ling, Chen Hsiu-pao, Lin Ching-yi, and Wu I-ding.

17. Relations with the Kingdom of Thailand

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up an office in Bangkok, named the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand, and Thailand set up offices in Taipei, the Thailand Trade and Economic Office on September 10, 1975.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to approximately US\$16.24 billion in 2023, with exports reaching approximately US\$10.86 billion and imports reaching approximately US\$5.38 billion, making Taiwan Thailand's 5th-largest trading partner. Additionally, Taiwanese companies invested in 94 projects in Thailand in 2023, with a total investment amount of approximately US\$1.31 billion, making Taiwan Thailand's 5th-largest source of foreign investment. Thai companies invested in 29 projects in Taiwan in the same period, with a total investment amount of approximately US\$121 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand assisted Taiwanese architects Michael Lin and Lin Sheng-feng, and firms MAYU Architects and AMBi Studio in co-organizing the Infinity Ground - Thailand and Taiwan Contemporary Architecture Exhibition with the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage on July 18. With assistance from the Office and the Ministry of Culture, multiple Taiwanese artists participated in the Thailand Biennale 2023.
 - B. In 2023, 18 outstanding Thai students received scholarships under the Taiwan Scholarship Program and 33 students received scholarships under the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program to study in Taiwan. Additionally, two Mandarin teaching assistants and 22 Mandarin

language teachers were assigned to teach Mandarin at various levels in Thai schools. The 2023 Taiwan Higher Education Fair was held from August 26 to 27, with 32 Taiwanese universities and colleges participating, and nearly 2,800 attendees.

- (4) Agriculture and fisheries cooperation: On June 27, the 8th meeting of Thailand-Taiwan Agricultural Cooperation was held in Chiang Mai, with Taiwan's Department of International Affairs Director Lin Chia-jung and Thailand's Director of the Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs Vanida Khumnirdpetch discussing cooperation topics. Additionally, on June 21 in Taipei, the two countries signed an implementation arrangement on fisheries cooperation between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand and the Thailand Trade and Economic Office.
- (5) Medical cooperation: In line with the One Country, One Center Project under the New Southbound Policy of Taiwan, Changhua Christian Hospital hosted the 2023 Taiwan-Thailand Smart Healthcare Conference in Bangkok on September 11, enhancing bilateral medical cooperation and exchange between the two countries.
- (6) Labor cooperation: Taiwan's Workforce Development Agency and Thailand's Department of Employment jointly hosted the 22nd Thai-Taiwan Joint Consultation Committee Meeting in Taipei on May 30, in which important labor cooperation issues were discussed.
- (7) Media exposure:
 - A. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand invited Thai mainstream media to run articles promoting Taiwan participation in major international organizations, such as the UN, WHO, INTERPOL, and UNFCCC COP27. These articles were published in Thairath, MGR Online, and Prachatai, among others.
 - B. The Office co-produced a four-part special video series with Thai PBS, covering important topics, such as cross-strait tensions, the threat posed by China, Taiwan's national defense awareness, military strength, and strategic significance.
- (8) Overseas community affairs:
 - A. On August 4, the International Soroptimist Thailand Chapter 8 held

a wheelchair donation event at Rama IV Hospital in Bangkok. The event was co-hosted by members of Chapter 8, Overseas Chinese Association of Thailand, and Zonta Club of Taichung III. Deputy Representative to Thailand Hsu Wei-min attended the event.

- B. On March 29, the 27th Maesalong Games opened in Mae Salong, Chiang Rai. Representative to Thailand Chuang Suo-hang and Secretary General of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Chang Liang-min attended the event, which drew over 5,000 overseas compatriots, teachers, and students.
- (9) Visits from Taiwan were made by Chair of the Taiwan–Thailand Parliamentary Friendship Association Chao Tien-lin, and Legislative Yuan Members Liu Chien-kuo, Chen Ying, Ho Hsin-chun, Tang Hui-jen, Lai Hui-yuan, Wang Mei-hui, Lo Mei-ling, Chen Hsiu-pao, Tsai Shih-ying, Liao Wan-ju, Wu Sz-huai, Wen Yu-hsia, Sandy Yu, Lee De-wei, and Chiu Chen-yuan.

18. Relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vietnam in Hanoi and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Ho Chi Minh City in 1992. Vietnam established the Vietnam Economic Cultural Office in Taiwan in 1993.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to US\$23.15 billion in 2023, with exports reaching US\$18.42 billion and imports reaching US\$4.73 billion, making Taiwan Vietnam's 5th-largest trading partner. Additionally, Taiwan investments in Vietnam totaled US\$39.3 billion in 2023, making Taiwan Vietnam's 4th-largest source of foreign investment.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
- A. In 2023, the Taiwanese government provided grants to 32 students under the Taiwan Scholarship Program and 16 students under the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program to study in Taiwan. Additionally, three Mandarin language teachers were assigned to teach Mandarin at various universities in Vietnam and a fourth

teacher was assigned to Laos. In 2023, the number of Vietnamese students studying in Taiwan reached 27,491. Vietnam has been the largest source country of international students in Taiwan for several consecutive years.

- B. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vietnam organized a series of events to showcase Taiwanese tea art. The Office also co-hosted a book launch event with Vietnam's Nha Nam Publishing Company for Taiwanese writer Kevin Chen's novel *Ghost Town*.
- (4) Tourism:
- A. Taiwan and Vietnam jointly held the 10th Taiwan-Vietnam Tourism Cooperation Conference on November 27 to discuss strengthening bilateral exchanges and reached various cooperation agreements.
 - B. In 2023, 853,859 Taiwanese tourists visited Vietnam, making Vietnam Taiwan's 4th-largest travel destination; Vietnamese visits to Taiwan totaled 382,529.
- (5) Immigration cooperation: Taiwan invited Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security Immigration Department to Taiwan to participate in the 8th Taiwan-Vietnam Immigration Affairs Meeting, where both sides agreed to continue strengthening efforts against human trafficking and to prevent illegal immigration.

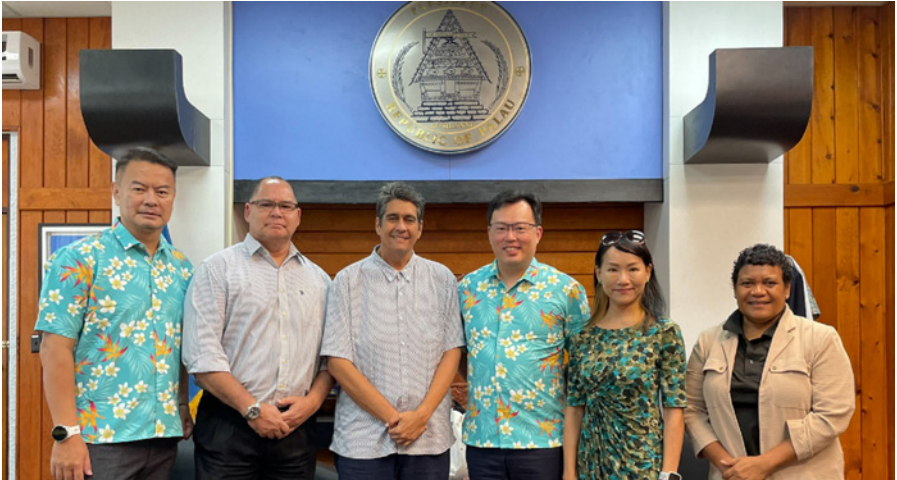
**Photographs of
Diplomatic Events
Asia-Pacific**



Special Envoy and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang (eighth from left) leads a delegation to visit the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He is accompanied by Taiwan Ambassador to the Marshall Islands Steve C.C. Hsia (seventh from left) in paying a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands David Kabua (ninth from right). (May 1, 2023)



Taiwan Ambassador to the Marshall Islands Steve C.C. Hsia and spouse (center, right) attend the coronation ceremony and birthday banquet of former President of the Marshall Islands Christopher Loeak (left), who was crowned as Irojlaplap. (November 11, 2023)



Taiwan Ambassador to Palau Jessica Chienyi Lee (second from right) accompanies Director-General of the Sports Administration under the Ministry of Education Cheng Shih-chung (third from right) in paying a courtesy call on President of Palau Surangel S. Whippis, Jr. (third from left). (June 30, 2023)



Taiwan Ambassador to Palau Jessica Chienyi Lee (second from right) welcomes Legislative Yuan members Ho Chih-wei (third from right) and Chiu Chen-yuan (fourth from right) at Palau International Airport, alongside Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Mason Whippis (fourth from left) and Speaker of the House of Delegates of Palau Mario Gulibert (third from left). (August 23, 2023)



The Ministry of Public Works of Tuvalu hosts the inauguration ceremony for the Taiwan and Tuvalu Center on Marine Science and Engineering. The ribbon-cutting is conducted jointly by Taiwan Ambassador to Tuvalu Andrew Tung-heng Lin (third from left), Prime Minister Kausea Natano (fifth from left), Minister of Public Works Ampelosa Tehulu (fourth from left), and representatives from Taiwan's National Sun Yat-sen University. (August 31, 2023)



Taiwan Ambassador to Tuvalu Andrew Tung-heng Lin (third from left) presides over the groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the geotechnical drilling for the new Tuvalu Parliament building funded by Taiwan. (September 20, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Australia Elliott Charng (front row, third from left) attends the 18th Taiwan-Australia Agricultural Working Group Meeting, co-chaired by Department of International Affairs Director Lin Chia-jung (front row, fourth from left) and Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Assistant Secretary for Trade, Market Access and International Division Laura Timmins (front row, third from right). (May 2, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Australia Douglas Yu-tien Hsu (sixth from right) accompanies Minister without Portfolio and Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Wu Tsung-tsong (fifth from right) and delegation for meetings at Australia's Department of Industry, Science and Resources. (October 25, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brisbane Edward Tao (front row, second from right) is invited to attend the Taiwan-Queensland Investment and Trade Roundtable organized by Trade and Investment Queensland. He is joined by Queensland Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment Cameron Dick (front row, third from right), Trade and Investment Queensland CEO Justin McGowan (back row, fourth from right), and representatives from Taiwanese enterprises. (April 13, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brisbane William Fan (fourth from left) hosts the 2023 Queensland Parliament Friends of Taiwan luncheon. He is joined by Legislative Assembly Member and Chairman of the Parliament Friends of Taiwan in Queensland James Martin (second from right), Minister for Treaty and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Leanne Enoch (fifth from left), and Legislative Assembly Member Jon Krause (first from left), among others. (June 15, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Melbourne Ray Ming-Tse Lu (back row, second from right), Co-chairs of the Victoria Parliament Friends of Taiwan Natalie Hutchins (front row, fourth from left) and Brad Rowswell (back row, fourth from left), and Co-chair of the South Australian Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Tung Ngo (front row, fifth from left) attend the launch reception of the Australia Taiwan Club. (October 4, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Melbourne Ray Ming-Tse Lu (seventh from right), Victoria State Senator Trung Luu (fourth from right), Deputy Leader of the Victorian Liberal Party in Victoria David Southwick (fifth from right), and Member of the Australian Parliament in Victoria Keith Wolahan (sixth from right) attend the opening ceremony of the 2023 Melbourne Taiwan Festival. (October 22, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Sydney Jeffrey Cheng-wei Wu pays a courtesy call on former Prime Minister of Australia John Howard. (September 13, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Sydney Jeffrey Cheng-wei Wu and spouse (front row, fifth and sixth from right) host the Reception in Celebration of the 2023 National Day of the R.O.C. (Taiwan), posing for a group photo with federal and New South Wales dignitaries. (October 5, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Brunei Vanessa Yea-ping Shih (front row, seventh from left) poses for a group photo with guests attending the Celebration of the 112nd National Day of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) reception hosted by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brunei. (October 5, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Brunei Vanessa Yea-ping Shih (center, in dark jacket) takes a group photo with VIP guests following a performance by Taiwan's Diabolo Dance Theatre in Bandar Seri Begawan. (October 22, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Fiji Joseph Chow co-hosts handover ceremony for development assistance provided by the R.O.C. (Taiwan) at the 2022-2024 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) alongside PIF Deputy Secretary General Filimon Manoni. (June 29, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Fiji Joseph Chow (far left) and Fiji Minister for Fisheries Kalaveti Ravu (third from right) attend the shrimp fry stocking ceremony at a newly constructed aquaculture pond for indigenous farmers in Vunitogoloa, Fiji. (August 18, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to India Baushuan Ger (front row, second from right) and Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-Chyi (front row, third from right) attend the 2023 Taiwan-India Industrial Collaboration Summit. They are joined by India's Secretary for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Rajesh Kumar Singh (front row, second from left) and Director-General of the India Taipei Association Manharsinh Laxmanbhai Yadav (front row, far left). (October 26, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to India Baushuan Ger (front row, fourth from right) accompanies Deputy Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Minn-tsong Lin (front row, fourth from left) and delegation members at the annual Taiwan-India Bilateral Science and Technology Conference hosted by India's Ministry of Science and Technology. They are joined by India's Science and Technology Secretary Abhay Karandikar (front row, center). (December 6, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in Chennai Richard Chen (fifth from right) represents the government of Taiwan in donating 1,000 metric tons of rice to Sri Lanka. The donation is received by Sri Lankan Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Jeevan Thondaman (fourth from right). (May 15, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in Chennai Richard Chen (front row, left) attends the signing ceremony for the establishment of a Taiwan Education Center at Saintgits College of Engineering in Kottayam, Kerala, India. (November 8, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in Mumbai Chang Chun-yu (third from left) attends the opening ceremony of the Taiwan Expo held in Mumbai. He is joined by TAITRA Chairman James Chih-Fang Huang (fifth from left) and Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra G. Fadnavis (fourth from left). (October 5, 2023)



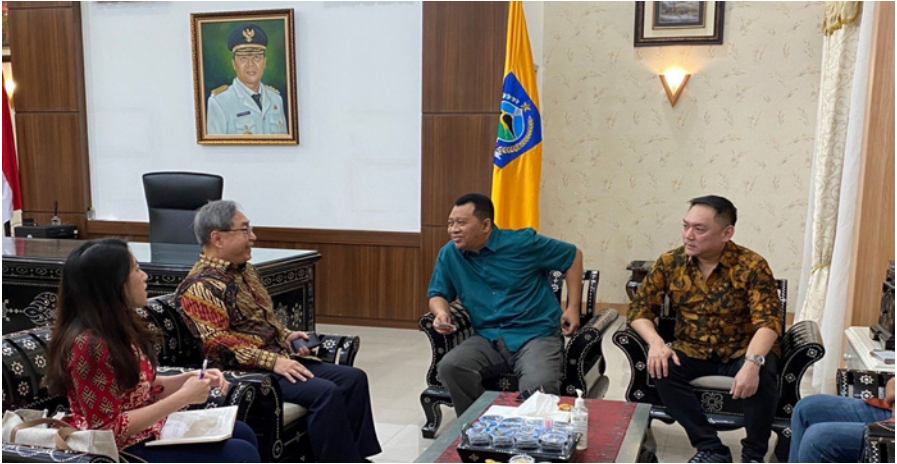
Taiwan Representative to Indonesia John Chung Chen (front row, fourth from right) and spouse (front row, fifth from right) attend the inauguration ceremony of five preschools in Cianjur, West Java, renovated with foreign aid from Taiwan. (August 23, 2023)



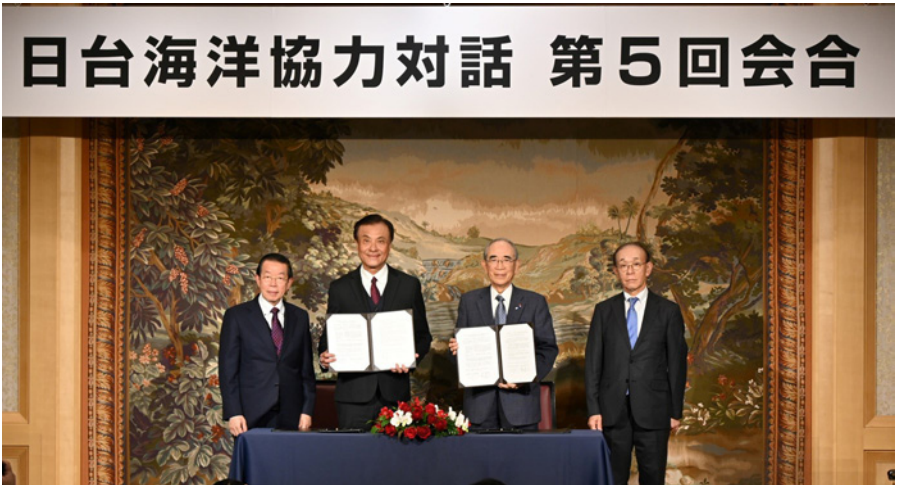
Taiwan Representative to Indonesia John Chung Chen (eighth from left) accompanies Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching (seventh from right) at a dinner hosted by the Indonesian overseas community in honor of the minister's visit. (December 18, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Surabaya Isaac Chiu gives an interview to Indonesian TV station Jawa Pos TV's program Update Bisnis. (May 16, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Surabaya Isaac Chiu (second from left) meets with Governor of West Nusa Tenggara Province H. Zulkieflimansyah (second from right). (August 28, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Japan Frank Chang-ting Hsieh (first from left), Chairman of the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association Jia-chyuan Su (second from left), and Chairman of the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Mitsuo Ohashi (second from right) attend the 5th Taiwan-Japan Marine Affairs Cooperation Dialogue in Tokyo, witnessing the signing of an MOU on marine waste management cooperation. (January 13, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Japan Frank Chang-ting Hsieh (first from left), Minister of Economic Affairs Mei-hua Wang (second from left), TAITRA Chairman James Chih-fang Huang (center), and Chairman of the Japan-ROC Diet Members' Consultative Council Keiji Furuya (second from right) attend the 2023 Taiwan Expo in Tokyo. (November 9, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Japan Frank Chang-ting Hsieh (second from right), Chairman of the Taiwan–Japan Relations Association Jia-chyuan Su (first from left), and Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Osaka Ying-chieh Hung (first from right) take a group photo with Governor of Ehime Prefecture Tokihiro Nakamura (second from left). (August 4, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Osaka Ying-chieh Hung (third from left) attends the opening ceremony of the Taiwan Pavilion at Tourism Expo Japan. (October 26, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Fukuoka Bruce Ming-chun Chen (front row, first from left) accompanies Minister of National Development Council Ming-hsin Kung (front row, second from right) in a meeting with Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture Ikuo Kabashima (front row, second from left). (September 18, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Fukuoka Bruce Ming-chun Chen (front row, fifth from left) attends the Taiwan–Japan Strategic Dialogue hosted by the Taiwan International Strategic Study Society and the Security Strategy Research Institute of Japan, joined by Chairman of the Taiwan International Strategic Study Society Ming-hsien Wen (front row, fourth from left) and President of the Security Strategy Research Institute of Japan Susumu Takai (front row, third from left). (November 23, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Yokohama Shu-ling Chang (front row, center, in red) assists in mango promotion at the Taiwan Festival held by the Yokohama Overseas Chinese School. (July 18, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Yokohama Shu-ling Chang (first from right) and Mayor of Shizuoka City Takahashi Nanba (first from left) witness the signing of a friendship agreement between Chairman of the Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation Shao-lien Chao (second from right) and Shizuoka Railway President Toshiki Kawai (second from left). (September 15, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Sapporo Shinn-shyh Nien (right) witnesses the signing of a friendship exchange agreement between Mayor of Changhua City Shih-hsien Lin (center) and Mayor of Yoichi Town in Hokkaido Keisuke Saito (left). (July 21, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Sapporo Shinn-shyh Nien (front row, seventh from the left) witnesses the signing of a friendship exchange agreement between Town Mayor of Ji'an Township, Hualien County, Shu-chen Yu (front row, eighth from left), and Mayor of Kushiro Town, Hokkaido, Sigeru Komatsu (front row, seventh from right). (November 22, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Naha Ruei-feng Wang (left) attends the welcoming ceremony for the deity Yue Lao of Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple and the opening of the Taiwan Cultural Hall in Okinawa City, Okinawa Prefecture. (August 28, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Naha Rueifeng Wang (second from right) and Director of the Okinawa Prefectural Library Takeshi Miyagi (center) attend the Taiwan Study Abroad Fair co-hosted by the Representative Office in Naha and the Japan-Taiwan Education Center at the Okinawa Prefectural Library. (December 9, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Korea Liang Kuang-chung (back row, seventh from left) meets with members of the Trade, Industry, Energy, SMEs and Startups Committee of the National Assembly of South Korea, including Yang Hyang-ja (back row, sixth from right), Kim Jung-ho (back row, sixth from left), and Kim Sung-whan (back row, fifth from left), along with delegates from the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women. (June 16, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Korea Liang Kuang-chung (center) witnesses the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Taipei Computer Association and Korea Agency for Infrastructure Technology Advancement. (September 7, 2023)



Director of the Taiwan Mission in Korea (Busan Office) Kuo Cheng-kai (first from right), Executive Vice President of Taiwan International Ports Corporation and CEO of the Port of Kaohsiung Wang Chin-jung (center), and Vice President of Busan Port Authority Koo Ja-rim (second from left) witness the signing of a sister port agreement between the Port of Kaohsiung and Busan Port. (August 29, 2023)



Director of the Taiwan Mission in Korea (Busan Office) Kuo Cheng-kai (fourth from left), Director-General of the Taiwan Tourism Administration Chou Yung-hui (fifth from right), Director of Gwangju Tourism Organization Park Chan-joon (first from left), and President of the Busan Tourism Association Lee Tac-sup (third from right) attend the opening ceremony of the Taiwan Tourism Administration Office in Busan. (November 13, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Malaysia Phoebe Yeh (sixth from right) and US Ambassador to Malaysia Brian D. McFeeters (fifth from right) co-host the Taiwan–US Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) workshop titled “Enabling the Digital Ecosystem: A GCTF-Affiliated Expert Workshop on the Foundations of the Digital Economy.” (May 11, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Malaysia Phoebe Yeh (fourth from right), President of the SME Association of Malaysia Chen Fang-hsin (second from left), Member of the Kedah State Legislative Assembly for Guar Chempedak Ku Abdul Rahman bin Ku Ismail (third from left), Chairman of TAITRA James Chih-fang Huang (fourth from left), and MATRADE Deputy CEO Sharimahton Mat Saleh (third from right) jointly launch the Taiwan Expo 2023 in Malaysia. (August 24, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Myanmar Chou Chung-hsing (front row, left) witnesses the signing of a memorandum of understanding on medical cooperation between Shin Kong Wu Ho-Su Memorial Hospital and the GI and Liver Foundation of Myanmar. (March 17, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Myanmar Chou Chung-hsing (eighth from right) attends the Confucius Day ceremony and Teachers' Day celebration at Myitkyina Yu Cheng Chinese High School. (September 28, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to New Zealand Joanne Ou (front row, third from right) accompanies Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Zheng-qi (front row, fourth from right) at the 30th Joint Conference of the Taiwan-New Zealand and New Zealand-Taiwan Business Councils. (September 14, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to New Zealand Joanne Ou (third from left) joins two co-chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taiwan: Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee and National Party and Member of Parliament Tim van de Molen (second from left) and Member of Parliament for the Labour Party Ingrid Leary (second from right), as well as former Speaker of the House Adrian Rurawhe (third from right), at a welcome event hosted by the New Zealand Parliament's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taiwan. (December 12, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Auckland Kendra Chen (front row, eighth from left) attends a rally organized by the Taiwanese in New Zealand Association supporting Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO. (April 29, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Auckland Kendra Chen (right) meets with Commission Chair of the Tauranga City Council Anne Tolley to promote Taiwan mangoes. (May 31, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Papua New Guinea Ben Wang (third from right) witnesses a donation ceremony of medical equipment by the Changhua Christian Hospital medical mission team to Port Moresby General Hospital. University of Papua New Guinea President Trakapi Tefuarani (fourth from left) accepts the donation. (July 4, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Papua New Guinea Ben Wang (second from right) and Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea Archbishop Fermin Sosa Rodriguez (center) co-host a rice donation ceremony to a Catholic middle school in Central Province. (October 9, 2023)



The third group of 49 young Filipino farmers participating in the Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan poses for a photo at the send-off ceremony with Taiwan Representative to the Philippines Wallace Chow (middle row, seventh from right), Chairperson and Representative of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office and Philippine Representative to Taiwan Silvestre H. Bello III (middle row, sixth from right), and Director of the Agricultural Training Institute of the Philippine Department of Agriculture Remelyn R. Recoter (middle row, eighth from right). (August 11, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to the Philippines Wallace Chow (sixth from right), Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation and Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lien Yu-ping (center), Secretary-General of Taiwan's International Cooperation Development Foundation Charles Chao-cheng Li (sixth from left), and Undersecretary of the Philippine Department of Agriculture Roger V. Navarro (first from right) jointly preside over the opening ceremony of the TaiwanICDF Demonstration Farm in the Philippines established by Taiwan's Technical Mission. (December 15, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Singapore Tung Chen-yuan (front row, fifth from left) attends Asia Tech x Singapore and visits the Taiwan exhibitors' booths. (June 7, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Singapore Tung Chen-yuan (left) attends the Kaohsiung fruit promotion event 2023 Taiwan Winter & Autumn Produce Fair. (July 21, 2023)



Deputy Representative to Thailand Hsueh Shu-mei (fifth from left), TAITRA Chairman James Chih-fang Huang (sixth from right), and Secretary General of the Thailand Board of Investment Narit Therdsteerasukdi (sixth from left) attend the opening ceremony of the Taiwan Expo 2023 Thailand. (July 22, 2023)



Deputy Representative to Thailand Hsueh Shu-mei (first from left) accompanies Secretary-General to the President Lin Chia-lung (sixth from left) and Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries Kriengkrai Thiennukul (fifth from right) to the opening of the Taiwan–Thailand Industrial Collaboration Forum. (September 12, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Vietnam Richard Shih (third from right) attends the 30th anniversary banquet of the Hanoi Chapter of the Council of Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce in Vietnam, joined by Secretary General of the Vietnam–Taiwan Affairs Committee Duy Hải Trần (first from left) and Director-General of the Foreign Investment Agency under the Ministry of Planning and Investment Nhất Hoàng Đỗ (third from left). (May 28, 2023)



Taiwan Representative to Vietnam Richard Shih (fifth from left) attends the 10th Taiwan–Vietnam Tourism Cooperation Conference, posing with Director-General of the Tourism Administration of Taiwan’s Ministry of Transportation and Communications Chou Yung-hui (center) and Director-General of the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism Trùng Khánh Nguyễn (sixth from left). (November 27, 2023)

Item 2 Taiwan's relations with West Asian countries

I. Introduction

The West Asia region includes countries of the Middle East, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Afghanistan, Georgia, Mongolia, and Pakistan. The region covers an area of more than 30 million square kilometers with a population of more than 750 million. The Middle East comprises 14 countries, namely Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, as well as Palestine. The CIS comprises nine member states, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and one associate state, Turkmenistan.

The R.O.C. (Taiwan) maintains substantive ties with ten West Asian countries, namely Bahrain, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Mongolia, Oman, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates, and has representative offices or branches in these countries. Israel, Jordan, Mongolia, Oman, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye have representative offices in Taiwan.

In 2023, Taiwan engaged in the following important events in West Asia:

1. On February 6, a powerful earthquake struck near the border between Türkiye and Syria. In response, Taiwan immediately announced a humanitarian aid contribution of US\$2 million to support Türkiye's disaster relief efforts. Taiwan also dispatched two contingents comprising 130 personnel and five rescue dogs as part of the Taiwan international search and rescue team. These contingents traveled to Türkiye via chartered and commercial flights to assist in rescue operations. President Tsai Ing-wen, Vice President Lai Ching-te, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu visited the Turkish Trade Office in Taipei to express condolences. In addition, after the Executive Yuan authorized the Ministry of Health and Welfare to open a special disaster relief account, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated fundraising efforts, which resulted in donations totaling approximately NT\$1.18 billion from various sectors of society. In cooperation with the Turkish government and NGOs, these funds have been used to promote various relief programs, focusing on post-disaster relief, education, health care, food safety, and disaster

preparedness capacity building.

2. On March 24, Mongolia added Taiwan to the list of countries eligible for E-Visa, simplifying the visa application process and facilitating business and tourism travel for Taiwanese nationals.
3. On May 3, the Agreement on a Working Holiday Scheme between Taiwan and Israel was signed in two separate locations. This agreement aims to promote youth exchange between the two sides.
4. On May 23, the Taiwan Trade Center, Riyadh officially opened at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center in Saudi Arabia. James C. F. Huang, Chairman of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), attended the inauguration ceremony and led a delegation of ten leading Taiwanese companies under the banner of the 2023 Taiwan Flagship Delegation to the Middle East. The delegation met with major Saudi businesses to deepen bilateral trade and investment cooperation.
5. Following the outbreak of the conflict between Israel and Hamas on October 7, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Tel Aviv arranged a charter flight on October 20 to assist nine Taiwanese nationals and overseas compatriots to leave Israel. In addition, the office facilitated the departure of one Taiwanese national and three family members aboard a Japanese evacuation flight on November 2.
6. From November 5 to 10, the BPW Taiwan delegation visited Bahrain to participate in the BPW Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2023. During the event, BPW Taiwan was honored with the Most Outstanding Country Award 2023 for the East Asia Sub-Region. Additionally, Herlin Chien, a member of the delegation, was elected BPW International Regional Coordinator Asia-Pacific. She will begin her term in 2025, serving 27 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

II. Relations with Individual Countries

1. Relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain

- (1) Background: The Trade Mission of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) was set up in Bahrain on April 15, 1977. It was renamed the Trade Mission of Taiwan to the Kingdom of Bahrain on January 28, 2005, and then the Taipei Trade Office in the Kingdom of Bahrain in July 2017.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, bilateral trade between Taiwan and the Kingdom of Bahrain reached approximately US\$165 million. Taiwan exports to Bahrain reached US\$42.08 million. Imports from Bahrain to Taiwan reached US\$123 million.
 - B. In November, President of BPW Taiwan, Guo Shou-zhen, led a delegation to Bahrain to attend the BPW Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2023. During the conference, BPW Taiwan was honored with the Most Outstanding Country Award 2023 for the East Asia Sub-Region.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: A Bahraini scholar was awarded the Taiwan Fellowship and was assigned by Ahlia University to conduct research at the Graduate Institute of Journalism, National Taiwan University. During the fellowship period, the scholar also delivered an academic lecture at National Chengchi University.
- (4) Agriculture and fisheries cooperation: Taiwan and Bahrain signed the Agreement of Agricultural Technical Cooperation between the Government of the R.O.C. and the Government of the State of Bahrain in February 1987. Presently, Taiwan's technical advisors assist Bahrain with the improvement of its agriculture and fishery practices. In addition, in order to enhance cooperation and exchanges in vocational training and research, Taiwan has provided a number of slots for Bahrainis to study in Taiwan in 2023.
- (5) Medical cooperation: Hsu Ching-chi, president of the Taiwan Medical Tourism Development Association, led a delegation to Bahrain in January to evaluate the local healthcare investment environment.

(6) Media exposure:

- A. The Taipei Trade Office in the Kingdom of Bahrain facilitated the production of the Taiwan-Bahrain agricultural technical cooperation documentary *A Letter to the King: Salted Papaya*. The film was selected as part of the Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Pitch program and aired on Taiwan Plus in February 2023.
- B. In November, the Bahraini English-language media outlet *The Daily Tribune* published an op-ed by the Minister of Environment, Shieu Fuh-sheng, on the initiative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

(7) Sport exchanges:

- A. Chinese Taipei Football Association Vice President Wang Sheau-Shiun and Legislator Liu Shyh-fang, who also serves as Chairwoman of the Kaohsiung Football Association, visited Bahrain from January 31 to February 2 to attend the Asian Football Confederation Executive Committee meeting.
- B. Taiwan's men's volleyball team participated in the 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship in Bahrain from May 11 to 22.
- C. The Chinese Taipei Paralympic badminton team were in Bahrain from May 15-24 to take part in the Bahrain Para Badminton International 2023.

2. Relations with the State of Israel

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Tel Aviv on March 29, 1993, and Israel established the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei in July of the same year. On September 11, 1995, the two countries agreed to rename their offices the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Tel Aviv and the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, respectively.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to US\$2.51 billion in 2023, with exports from Taiwan reaching US\$1.01 billion and imports from Israel totaling US\$1.5 billion.
- (3) Academic and technology exchanges:

- A. Taiwan collaborated with prestigious institutions, including Tel Aviv University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University, and the University of Haifa, on six scientific research projects in the fields of digital medicine, aquaculture, and marine biology.
- B. From May 6 to 14, a delegation of seven representatives from Taiwan's three major science parks visited Israel, including Hsinchu Science Park Bureau Director-General Wayne Wang, Central Taiwan Science Park Bureau Director-General Hsu Maw-shin, and Southern Taiwan Science Park Deputy Director-General Cheng Hsiu-jung. In addition, Ehud Keinan, President-elect of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), was invited to serve as a science advisor to Taiwan's Executive Yuan and visited Taiwan from December 13 to 15 to attend the advisory meeting.
- C. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Tel Aviv facilitated a collaboration between Israeli cybersecurity company Check Point and Taiwan's Asia Silicon Valley Development Agency to hold the Check Point Workshop on IoT Security in Taiwan in August. In addition, Check Point launched the Check Point Secure Academy, an international cybersecurity education and training program in Taiwan. On August 22, the company announced the launch of a campus-based professional cybersecurity education initiative in partnership with the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology.
- D. One recipient of the Taiwan Scholarship began a two-year master's program at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University in September, studying in the International Program in Inter-Asia Cultural Studies.

3. Relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

- (1) Background: On May 15, 1977, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Far East Commercial Office in Jordan, which was renamed the Commercial Office of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) on April 16, 1992, and further renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on April 7, 2018. Jordan established the Jordanian Commercial Office in Taiwan on November 25, 1977.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to US\$293.1

million, with Taiwan exports reaching roughly US\$220.99 million and imports reaching approximately US\$72.11 million. Currently, six Taiwanese manufacturers have factories in Jordan: three garment processors/exporters, one textile restorer, one LED manufacturer, and one educational equipment importer. In total, the companies employ around 6,300 workers.

(3) Business events:

- A. The Institute for Information Industry (III) held a virtual meeting in September with Jordanian company JoEagle to discuss future collaboration on promoting the Middle East ICT Trade Promotion Project. The meeting included sharing information on relevant government tenders and projects in which Jordan could participate, as well as an overview of the development of Jordan's ICT sector.
- B. Jordanian companies, such as Grassia, participated in the West Asia matchmaking session organized by TAITRA in September.
- C. TAITRA organized the 2023 Middle East and Türkiye Auto Parts, ICT, and Sustainable Energy Delegation to Jordan in October. A total of 17 Taiwanese companies participated in 107 business matchmaking meetings, generating an estimated business value of US\$2.89 million.

(4) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. In 2023, the Ministry of Education awarded three Taiwan Scholarships and three Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to students from Jordan to pursue bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, as well as Mandarin language studies in Taiwan. In addition, the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) also opens scholarship applications annually to Jordanian students for pursuing degree programs in Taiwan.
- B. With the support of Taiwan's Ministry of Culture, the exhibition Contemporary Taiwan Photography was co-organized by IDOLONSTUDIO (Union of European Asian Artists) and Darat Al Tasweer of Jordan. The exhibition was held in September in Amman, Jordan, and featured the works of three Taiwanese artists.
- C. The TaiwanICDF sent one Taiwanese teacher to Jordan in May to

teach Mandarin language courses with traditional script and to promote Taiwanese culture at Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Amman Baccalaureate School, and the Jordan Tour Guide Association.

D. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Jordan participated in the Eaha Cultural Center International City Day Festival in May as well as the Cultural Festival at the Princess Sumaya University for Technology, where Taiwanese tourism as well as culinary and technology products were promoted to the Jordanian public.

(5) Humanitarian assistance:

A. Taiwan has been working with government-led humanitarian assistance agencies and charitable organizations in Jordan to promote humanitarian aid collaborations to Syrian refugees and vulnerable populations in Jordan. This includes vocational training for rural women, improvements to community centers and gathering spaces in underprivileged communities in Amman, assistance for victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance, child safety and protection, aid for victims affected by the Israel-Palestine conflict, and humanitarian relief for Syrian victims of the Türkiye-Syria earthquake. In addition, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) government collaborates closely with charitable organizations, such as the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF) and the Tzu Chi Foundation, providing necessary administrative assistance and participating in donation drives.

B. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Jordan partnered with local nonprofit organizations to help rural Jordanian women showcase their handmade crafts at the 2023 Creative Expo Taiwan in September, helping to promote Jordanian cultural and creative products in Taiwan.

C. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Jordan witnessed a donation ceremony in November where Taiwan's Pu-Hsien Educational Foundation and Cao Zhong Zhi Foundation donated wheelchairs and walkers to relevant Jordanian government agencies or civil society organizations.

4. Relations with the State of Kuwait

(1) Background:

A. The Commercial Office of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) in the State of Kuwait was set up on April 23, 1986, and was later renamed the Taipei Commercial Representative Office in the State of Kuwait on August 26, 1996.

B. TAITRA established the Taiwan Trade Center, Kuwait in 2012. In October 2020, its operations were placed under the management of the Taiwan Trade Center, Dubai. The Institute for Information Industry (III) set up a liaison office at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in 2015.

(2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade amounted to US\$4.85 billion in 2023, with Taiwan exports reaching US\$4.69 billion and imports reaching US\$157 million. In 2023, the Taipei Commercial Representative Office in the State of Kuwait assisted Taiwan's Plum-Monix Industry Co., Ltd. in participating in a major petrochemical materials tender issued by the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), facilitating potential business cooperation.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

A. National Taiwan University (NTU) and National Chengchi University (NCCU) signed sister school agreements with Kuwait University, under which Kuwait University offers students from NTU and NCCU scholarships to study Arabic in Kuwait each year. Eight students from Taiwan studied in Kuwait University in 2023.

B. In October, Professor Abdullah Alhajeri from the Department of History at Kuwait University was awarded the 2024 Taiwan Fellowship to conduct research and serve as a visiting professor at National Taiwan University.

(4) Technological cooperation:

A. In March, Chang Gung University of Taiwan and Kuwait University co-hosted a keynote lecture titled Smart Computing: Past, Present, and Future Trends, aimed at facilitating academic and scientific cooperation

between Taiwan and Kuwait.

- B. In August, the Taipei Commercial Representative Office in the State of Kuwait facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Taiwan Architecture & Building Center and Hi-Prof of Kuwait.
 - C. In October, Synology Inc. of Taiwan co-hosted a technology seminar with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) of Kuwait to promote cooperation in the technology sector.
- (5) Media exposure:
- A. In March, Representative to the State of Kuwait Tan Kuo-ting attended a blood donation campaign co-organized by Kuwait’s Central Blood Bank and Kuwaiti key opinion leader Abdulkarim Al-Hendal to promote the message of “Taiwan Can Help”.
 - B. Abdulkarim Al-Hendal, a key opinion leader in Kuwait, has repeatedly supported the promotion of Taiwan Tourism Bureau videos on Instagram and X platforms. In addition, he has supported the promotion of Taiwan’s participation in various international organizations through publicity campaigns.
- (6) Sport exchanges:
- A. Representative to the State of Kuwait Tan Kuo-ting attended the opening ceremony of the Asian Shotgun Cup 2023 in Kuwait (trap event) in February, where he met with the President of the Kuwait Shooting Federation (KSF), Duaji Al-Otaibi. Taiwan’s athlete Yang Kun-pi won the gold medal in the men’s shotgun trap event.
 - B. Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC) Vice President Kuo Chung-hsing and President of the Chinese Taipei Shooting Association Chen Shi-kui visited Kuwait in September to attend the 38th Executive Committee Meeting and the 2023 General Assembly of the Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC).

5. Relations with Mongolia

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar on September 1, 2002, and

Mongolia established the Ulaanbaatar Trade and Economic Representative Office in Taipei on February 17, 2003.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. Bilateral trade amounted to US\$33.3 million in 2023, with Taiwan exports of US\$5.65 million and imports of US\$27.65 million.
- B. On April 5, the Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar, in cooperation with the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI), co-hosted the Taiwan-Mongolia Tourism Business Seminar. The event was attended by 60 Mongolian travel agencies and 10 Taiwanese travel agencies.
- C. The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) held its 65th Session of the Governing Body in Ulaanbaatar from May 24 to 26. The delegation from Taiwan was led by APO Director Hsu Sheng-hsiung. During the session, the Governing Body approved the appointment of Hsu as APO Chair for the 2023-2024 term.
- D. The Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA) and the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) have hosted the Joint Meeting between the CIECA and MNCCI annually in Taipei and Ulaanbaatar since 2002, alternating between the two cities. In 2023, the 19th Joint Meeting between CIECA and MNCCI was held from September 26 to 29.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) government and public and private universities offer annually a number of scholarships to Mongolian students to learn Mandarin or study in Taiwan. Taiwan also holds education fairs to promote study opportunities. In 2023, 647 Mongolian students studied in Taiwan. Additionally, the Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar organized multiple seminars on pursuing an education in Taiwan.
- B. From May 23 to 30, the Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar, in collaboration with the Arts Council of Mongolia (ACM) and the Goethe-Institut Mongolei, co-hosted the 8th Ulaanbaatar International Media Art Festival 2023 and the Spotlight

Taiwan Project. Renowned Taiwanese artist Chiu Chieh-sen was invited to curate the event.

- C. From July 4 to 14, renowned Taiwanese artist Cheang Shu-lea participated in the Lost Rivers Sound Motion Vision 10-Day Lab organized by the Mongolian Contemporary Art Support Association (MCASA).
 - D. On November 1, renowned Taiwanese marimba soloist Lin Wei-chen participated in a joint concert organized by the Percussion Ensemble of the Mongolian Conservatory.
- (4) Medical cooperation and exchanges: In 2023, the Taipei Hospital of the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the National Gerontology Center (NGC) of Mongolia signed an MOU; the National Taiwan University Hospital signed an MOU on bilateral cooperation with 10 hospitals, including the First Central Hospital of Mongolia.
 - (5) Agricultural cooperation: The Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar, the Tse-Xin Organic Agriculture Foundation (TOAF), the Nature Infinity Foundation in Mongolia, the Mongolian National Forest Agency, the Mongolian National Garden Park, Business and Innovation Agency of Ulaanbaatar Municipality, and the Government of Galuut sum of Bayankhongor Province jointly held the Taiwan Tree Planter Donation Ceremony. The cooperation initiative aims to promote tree planting.
 - (6) Sport exchanges: President Lin Hong-dow of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee led the national delegation to Mongolia on August 22 to participate in the Ulaanbaatar East Asian Youth Games 2023.
 - (7) Humanitarian cooperation and exchanges:
 - A. The Taoyuan Chang Gung Memorial Hospital and Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital of the Chang Gung Medical Foundation, together with the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, organized a medical mission to Mongolia on August 27. In collaboration with the National Center for Maternal and Child Health of Mongolia, the team provided free corrective surgeries for 20 children born with a cleft lip or palate.

- B. The Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar supported the Cao Zhong Zhi Foundation and the Pu-Hsien Educational Foundation in their humanitarian efforts in Mongolia. On May 22 and June 12, the foundations donated wheelchairs and other medical equipment to organizations serving people with disabilities in Mongolia.
 - C. The Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar assisted the State Dental Center of Mongolia in organizing the Tooth Brushing Championship on October 16, October 23, October 30, and November 6 in Ömnögovi Province, Uvurkhangaï Province, Erdenet City, and Töv Province, respectively.
 - D. The National Defense Medical Center volunteer medical team traveled to Mongolia on July 17 to conduct a free clinic program in cooperation with the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF) Mongolia Branch, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, and local hospitals in Uvs Province.
- (8) Media exposure: The Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar invited Mongolian media outlets UB Post, Udriin Sonin, ikon.mn, gogo.mn, and news.mn to publish articles highlighting Taiwan's efforts to participate in international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the UNFCCC.

6. Relations with the Sultanate of Oman

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Trade Mission of the R.O.C., Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on January 11, 1977, and officially opened it on March 31 of the same year. It was renamed the Representative Office, Far East Trade Service, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on September 6, 1979 and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Muscat, Oman, on July 1, 1991. Oman established the Commercial Office of the Sultanate of Oman Commercial Office in Taipei on October 1, 1991.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade amounted to US\$2.55 billion, with Taiwan’s exports to Oman amounting to US\$75.46 million and imports from Oman amounting to US\$2.43 billion.
 - B. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Muscat, Oman facilitated a Taiwan investment delegation of eight Taiwanese companies, including Mastertrans and China Motor Corporation, to visit Oman from April 30 to May 4.
 - C. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Muscat, Oman, assisted the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) Branch in North Al Batinah Governorate in the organization of a 22-member business delegation to visit Taiwan from September 4 to 8.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
- A. A 30-member production team from Taiwan’s Mr. Player television program visited Oman from November 5 to 9 to film a special episode supporting Oman’s tourism promotion and marketing initiatives.
 - B. Taiwan’s performing arts group U Theatre was invited to perform for the first time at the Royal Opera House Muscat on March 17.
 - C. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Muscat, Oman hosted a Taiwan-Oman friendship event to foster continued bilateral exchanges among individuals from industry, government, and academia.
- (4) Agriculture and fisheries cooperation: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Muscat, Oman, together with the Oman Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Wealth & Water Resources (MAFWR) and the Taiwanese company CYANCEBIO Inc. held a virtual meeting on February 26 to discuss a business visit to Oman, potential cooperation, and plans for a joint venture to establish a facility locally.
- (5) Technological cooperation: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Muscat, Oman, in cooperation with Sultan Qaboos University, Sohar University, the University of Nizwa, the German University of Technology in Oman, and the newspaper Al Roya hosted a solar energy workshop and a hydrogen energy workshop from October 21 to 25.
- (6) Medical cooperation: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Muscat, Oman co-hosted a craniofacial reconstruction medical seminar on March

11 in collaboration with Khoula Hospital, a public hospital under Oman's Ministry of Health, and the Omani Craniofacial and Cleft Society. Representatives from Taiwan's Show Chwan Memorial Hospital visited Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital in Oman on November 2 for a medical exchange.

7. Relations with the Russian Federation

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Representative Office in Moscow for the Taipei-Moscow Economic and Cultural Coordination Commission on July 12, 1993. Russia established the Moscow-Taipei Coordination Commission on Economic and Cultural Cooperation (MTC) on December 15, 1996.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Following the outbreak of the Russian-Ukraine war, international sanctions were imposed on Russia. Taiwan implemented export controls on Russia starting April 6, 2022. In 2023, total bilateral trade between Taiwan and Russia reached US\$5.06 billion. Exports from Taiwan amounted to US\$793 million, and imports amounted to US\$4.27 billion, down 12.53%.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Due to the ongoing conflict, cultural and educational exchanges between Taiwan and Russia have slowed, though some momentum remains. In 2023, the number of Taiwanese students studying in Russia has decreased to 60. Conversely, 17 Russian students and two scholars have applied for the Taiwan Scholarship and Taiwan Fellowship to pursue studies in Taiwan. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Representative Office in Moscow for the Taipei-Moscow Economic and Cultural Coordination Commission. To commemorate this milestone, a screening of the Taiwanese film *On Happiness Road* was held, attracting approximately 200 participants from Russia's arts and cultural sectors, media, as well as university faculty and students.
- (4) Media exposure: Russian media outlets have published multiple articles on Taiwan's efforts to participate in international organizations. Notably, the Russian daily newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* and the online media outlet

Smart Power Journal have reported Taiwan's initiatives to join the WHA, the UN, INTERPOL, and the UNFCCC.

- (5) Technological cooperation: Taiwan cooperated with institutions, such as the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Science Foundation, in 57 bilateral research projects in 2023. Several Russian experts and scholars were invited to Taiwan to participate in research projects and conferences, while Taiwanese scholars and civil organizations also led delegations to visit Russia.

8. Relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- (1) Background: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jeddah Office, were established on February 13, 1991. The two offices commenced operations that same day. Saudi Arabia established the Saudi Arabian Trade Office in Taipei on October 14, 1992. The Jeddah office was merged with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on July 28, 2017.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume amounted to approximately US\$10.14 billion; Taiwan's exports reached US\$999 million, and imports totaled approximately US\$9.14 billion. Saudi Arabia is Taiwan's biggest supplier of crude oil.
 - B. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia focused on Taiwan's economic and trade policies while aligning with Saudi Arabia's Saudi Vision 2030 initiative to promote industrial cooperation between the two countries. In 2023, the office facilitated visits to Saudi Arabia by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), the Taiwan Taichung-Saudi Friendship Association, and various Taiwanese companies to enhance mutual understanding of industry developments and explore future cooperation opportunities.

9. Relations with the Republic of Türkiye

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Ankara, Türkiye, on August 21, 1989. It was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Mission in Ankara on November 16, 1993. Türkiye established the Turkish Trade Mission in Taipei on November 12, 1993. It was renamed the Turkish Trade Office in Taipei in 1994.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Türkiye reached approximately US\$1.82 billion. Taiwan's exports accounted for US\$1.47 billion, while imports from Türkiye amounted to US\$348 million.
 - B. In March, Türkiye's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry assisted Taiwan's Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan, to update quarantine and health certificates for eggs imported to Taiwan.
 - C. The Taiwan Wind Energy Association and a Turkish energy association - the Energy Industrialists and Businesspeople Association (ENSİA) - signed a memorandum of understanding in March to strengthen wind energy cooperation between the two countries.
 - D. In March, TAITRA organized the 2023 Taiwan Flagship Delegation to the Middle East to visit Türkiye and hosted Taiwan Tech Day 2023.
 - E. In June, the Taiwan Transportation Vehicle Manufacturers Association signed a memorandum of understanding with the Türkiye Electric and Hybrid Vehicles Association (TEHAD) to enhance bilateral cooperation and business opportunities in the vehicle manufacturing sector.
 - F. In September, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) organized a delegation to visit Taiwan and attend the 2023 Semicon Taiwan. During the visit, the delegation met with several Taiwanese institutions, including the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI). Later that same month, on September 29, ITRI conducted a reciprocal visit to Türkiye.
 - G. In October, the Taiwan Aerospace Industry Association and SAHA Istanbul Defence & Aerospace Cluster held the 2023 Taiwan-Türkiye

Aerospace Industry Cooperation Meeting.

- (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, Taiwan provided Taiwan Scholarships and Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to 30 Turkish students to pursue advanced studies or study Mandarin in Taiwan. Taiwan also offered the Taiwan Fellowship to three scholars from Türkiye to conduct research in Taiwan.
- (4) Humanitarian assistance:
- A. On February 6, a series of powerful earthquakes exceeding magnitude 7 struck Kahramanmaraş Province in southern Türkiye, causing severe casualties and damage in nearby provinces and northwestern Syria. To support disaster relief efforts, Representative Huang Chih-yang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Mission in Ankara signed several cooperation agreements with the local government and NGOs, as detailed below:
- a. Between March and June, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Mission in Ankara signed three cooperation agreements with İbrahim Kavlak, General Coordinator of the Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization (SGDD-ASAM), a Turkish NGO. These agreements aimed to support earthquake relief and recovery efforts in Türkiye following the devastating earthquakes in early February. The three initiatives include: the Provision of Humanitarian Assistance to the Earthquake Victims in Türkiye project, the Facilitating the Provision of Health Services for the Earthquake Survivors in Hatay project, and the Facilitating the Access to Education for the Children Affected by the Earthquakes project.
 - b. On March 30, the Mission signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with Sherine Ibrahim, representative of CARE Türkiye, to jointly implement an emergency relief project for the victims of the earthquakes in Türkiye.
 - c. On April 6, the Mission signed a cooperation agreement with Alper Küçük, Director General for International Affairs & Migration Services of the Turkish Red Crescent (Türk Kızılay), to provide

funding for hot meals, food boxes, mobile shower units, and laundry facilities.

- d. On June 7, the Mission and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality announced their collaboration in the Mobile Kitchen Project and signed a cooperation agreement to provide hot food to disaster victims. Ankara Mayor Mansur Yavaş attended the signing ceremony.
 - e. On September 18, the Mission signed a Cooperation Agreement for the Joint Initiative for Earthquake Recovery and Resilience with Yusuf Çelebi, President of the Turkish Disabled People's Association (Türkiye Sakatlar Konfederasyonu). As part of the agreement, prosthetic limbs and assistive devices were donated to disabled survivors of the earthquake, helping them regain self-sufficiency.
 - f. In October, the Mission partnered with the Şahinbey Municipality of Gaziantep Province in Türkiye's earthquake zone and CARE Türkiye to donate 40 tons of rice to support vulnerable groups in Türkiye.
- B. To support the educational rights of Ukrainian refugee children who have relocated to Türkiye due to the Russia-Ukraine war, Huang Chih-yang, Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Mission in Ankara, and İbrahim Kavlak, General Coordinator of the Association for Social Development and Aid Mobilization (SGDD-ASAM), signed the Re-connect to School cooperation agreement on January 17.

10. Relations with the United Arab Emirates

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Honorary Consulate of the R.O.C. in Dubai, UAE, in May 1979. The consulate was renamed the Honorary Consulate-General of the R.O.C. in Dubai, UAE, in July 1980, Commercial Office of the R.O.C. in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in May 1988, and most recently the Commercial Office of Taipei, Dubai, UAE, in May 2017.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade between Taiwan and the UAE reached US\$5.12 billion. Exports from Taiwan amounted to US\$1.55 billion, while imports reached US\$3.56 billion.
 - B. In 2023, Taiwanese companies attended or sent representatives to participate in various exhibitions, including Automechanika Dubai 2023 and the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX).
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Under an exchange student agreement with Ajman University, Taiwan's Chung Hua University selected Taiwanese students for internships in the UAE.
- (4) Sport exchanges: Academic and athletic teams from Taiwan achieved outstanding results in various competitions held in the UAE. At the 10th Fujairah Open 2023, Taiwan won four silver and three bronze medals. In the 2023 Badminton Asia Championships, Taiwan won one gold medal. At the 34th International Biology Olympiad 2023, Taiwan earned both a gold and a silver medal. In chess, the team placed third in the U-16 Open Category at the 25th Asian Youth Chess Championship. Taiwan also earned first place in the overall rankings at the 2023 WorldSkills Asia competition. Lastly, at the 5th Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International 2023, athletes claimed one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.

Photographs of Diplomatic Events West Asia



Representative to Bahrain Sun Shyi-ren (second from right), Legislator and Chairwoman of the Kaohsiung Football Association Liu Shyh-fang (fourth from right), former Member of Parliament and former Vice Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry Othman Sharif Alrayes (fourth from left), and Chinese Taipei Football Association Vice President Wang Sheau-Shiun (third from left) pose for a group photo. (February 2, 2023)



Representative to Bahrain Bob L.J. Chen (fifth from right) and Sheikha Hind Al Khalifa (seventh from right), President of the Bahrain International Federation of Business and Professional Women, welcome the visiting delegation from BPW Taiwan at Bahrain International Airport. (November 5, 2023)



Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang delivers a speech at the main plenary of Israel's international cybersecurity conference, Cyber Week 2023. (June 26, 2023)



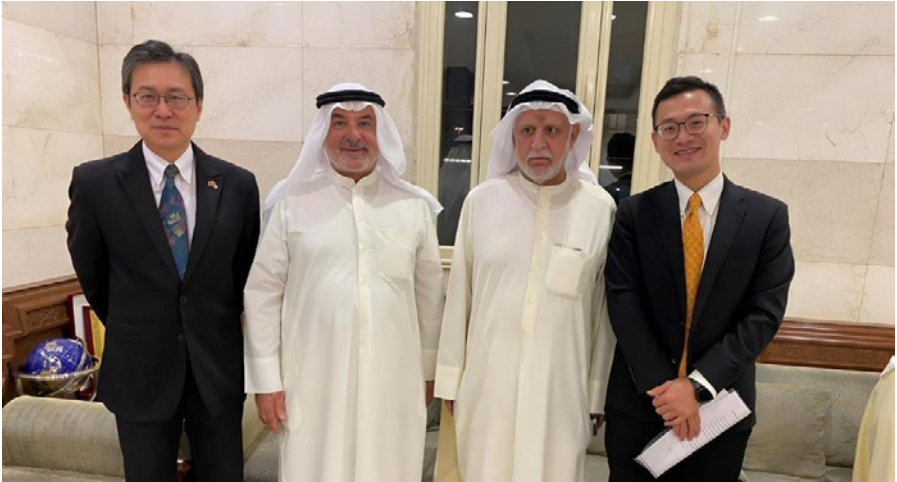
Representative to Israel Abby Ya-ping Lee (second from left) poses for a photo with Taiwanese indigenous artist Yosifu (second from right) and Tzvika Brot, Mayor of Bat Yam, Israel (right), at the commemorative art exhibition celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of reciprocal representative offices between Taiwan and Israel. (June 14, 2023)



Representative to Jordan Yang Syin-yi (left) presents a donation of wheelchairs and walkers on behalf of the Pu-Hsien Educational Foundation and the Cao Zhong Zhi Foundation, which is received by Ahmed Alhowayan (second from right), Assistant Secretary General of Jordan's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. (February 15, 2023)



Representative to Jordan Yang Syin-yi signs a bilateral memorandum of cooperation with Kieren Barnes, Country Director for Syria at Mercy Corps, to support the reconstruction of homes for victims in the earthquake-affected areas of northwestern Syria. (March 2, 2023)



Representative to Kuwait Tan Kuo-ting (left) meets former Member of Parliament Saleh Ashour (second from left). (January 15, 2023)



Representative to Kuwait Tan Kuo-ting (third from right) is pictured with distinguished guests at the celebration of the 112th National Day of the R.O.C. (Taiwan). (October 8, 2023)



Representative to Mongolia Lo Chin-ru (center), Batulzii Batchuluun (left), Head of the Business and Innovation Agency of Ulaanbaatar Municipality, and Chen Li-yi (right), Planting Supervisor of the Tse-Xin Organic Agriculture Foundation (TOAF), are pictured together at the Taiwan Tree Planter Donation Ceremony, hosted by the Business and Innovation Agency of Ulaanbaatar. (May 26, 2023)



Representative to Mongolia Lo Chin-ru (front row, center) witnesses the signing of an MOU for the 2023 NTUH-HOPE Taiwan–Mongolia International Medical Exchange Project between Professor Hsu Ron-bin (front row, second from right), Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at the National Taiwan University Hospital, and Dr. Khishijargal Batsukh (front row, second from left), Director of the First Central Hospital of Mongolia. (September 13, 2023)



Representative to Oman Wu Ching-chuan (ninth from right) leads a Taiwanese business delegation in a meeting with Mohammed Al-Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah (seventh from left). (May 1, 2023)



Dr. Chen Chia-ching (fourth from right), Chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Chang Bing Show Chwan Memorial Hospital, leads a delegation to Oman for an exchange visit with Dr. Dilip Abdul Khadar (third from left), Specialist in the Medical Services Department of Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital, and other representatives. (November 2, 2023)



Representative to Russia Keng Chung-yung (third from right) hosts the 112th National Day of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) celebration, joined by Viktor Kurilov (second from left), Representative of the Moscow-Taipei Coordination Commission on Economic and Cultural Cooperation (MTC), along with other distinguished guests. (October 9, 2023)



Representative to Russia Keng Chung-yung, accompanied by staff, visits Kaluga Oblast and tours Kaluga Flower Holding LLC to explore opportunities for Taiwan–Russia cooperation in the floral industry and to promote Taiwanese orchids. (October 24, 2023)



Representative to Saudi Arabia Teng Sheng-ping meets with Yousef bin Abdullah Al-Benyan, Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia, to exchange views on enhancing cultural and educational cooperation between Taiwan and Saudi Arabia. (May 29, 2023)



Representative to Saudi Arabia Teng Sheng-ping and Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Mantas Adomėnas pose for a photo during the ministerial meeting of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS in Saudi Arabia. (June 8, 2023)



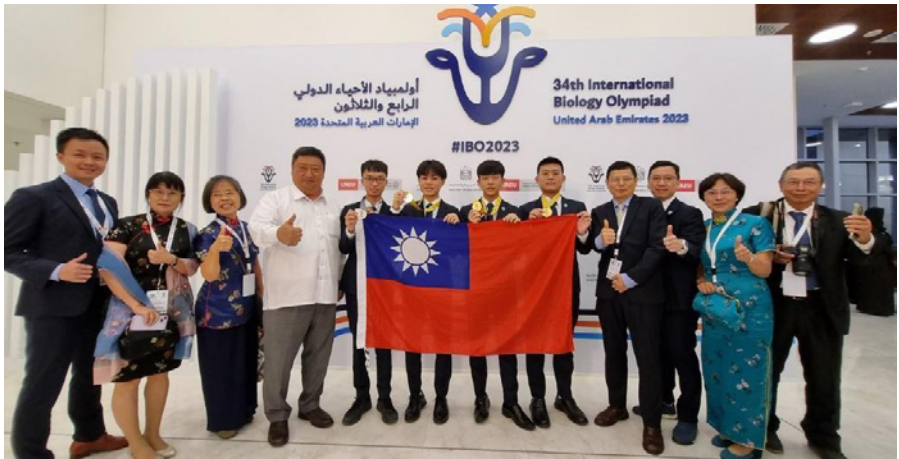
Before departing from Istanbul Airport, Taiwan's international search and rescue team, which was dispatched to Türkiye after the devastating earthquake on February 6, receives a warm round of applause from local citizens. (February 14, 2023)



Representative to Türkiye Huang Chih-yang attends the launch ceremony of the "Istanbul Green City Action Plan," co-hosted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, on behalf of Taiwan as a primary sponsor of the initiative. He also delivers remarks at the event. Following the ceremony, Representative Huang poses for a photo with Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu (right). (November 1, 2023)



Chang Chih-ping (center, wearing a blue shirt and giving a thumbs-up), Director General of the Commercial Office of Taipei, Dubai, UAE, joins members of the overseas Taiwanese community for a photo with Taiwan's gold medalist Tai Tzu-ying (center, wearing an orange headband) following her participation in the 2023 Badminton Asia Championships. (April 30, 2023)



Director General of the Commercial Office of Taipei, Dubai, UAE Chang Chih-ping (fourth from left) poses for a photo with Taiwan's delegation to the 34th International Biology Olympiad 2023. (July 10, 2023)

Item 3 Taiwan's relations with African countries

I. Introduction

Africa is home to 55 countries. Taiwan and the Kingdom of Eswatini each maintain embassies within the other's territories, and Eswatini has further designated an honorary consul in Taipei. In addition, Taiwan has representative offices in Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Somaliland, and South Africa; in South Africa, there is a second representative office in Capetown in addition to the one in the capital. Furthermore, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) has established Taiwan Trade Centers in South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, and Kenya to facilitate economic and trade relations with African countries. Nigeria, Somaliland, and South Africa have representative offices in Taiwan.

In 2023, Taiwan engaged in the following important events in Africa:

1. At the invitation of King Mswati III, President Tsai Ing-wen led a delegation to Eswatini in September to celebrate the 55th anniversary of its independence as well as the king's 55th birthday. Together, they witnessed the signing of three documents relating to cooperation between Taiwan and Eswatini, demonstrating to the people of Eswatini Taiwan's commitment to aiding Eswatini's economic and social development, and deepening and strengthening the ties of friendship between Taiwan and Eswatini. Eswatini Prime Minister Cleopas Dlamini and Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku led delegations to Taiwan in March and June, respectively.
2. Somaliland Minister of Commerce, Industries and Tourism Mohamoud Hassan Saad led a delegation to Taiwan in July. On July 31, he and Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua jointly signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Business and Trade Relations between Taiwan and Somaliland, marking the first signing of an agreement on trade between the two nations, and deepening bilateral economic and investment relations.
3. Chairman of the Ivorian Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises M. Kanigui Ouattara led a party of three on a visit to Taiwan from November 5 to 9, 2023 in order to engage in economic and trade exchanges.

II. Relations with Individual Countries

1. Relations with the Kingdom of Eswatini

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Swaziland on September 6, 1968, the day Swaziland became independent, and opened an embassy in the capital Mbabane on November 21 the same year. The Embassy of the Kingdom of Swaziland in the R.O.C. (Taiwan) officially opened in Taipei on January 26, 2000. The Kingdom of Swaziland changed its name to the Kingdom of Eswatini on April 19, 2018.
- B. To mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and Eswatini, King Mswati III of Eswatini issued an invitation to President Tsai Ing-wen, who led a delegation to Eswatini from September 5 to 7 to celebrate King Mswati's 55th birthday as well as 55 years of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and Eswatini, highlighting 55 years of friendship between the two.
- C. In 2023, Eswatini supported Taiwan's participation in international organizations and conventions including the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); furthermore, King Mswati III personally spoke on behalf of Taiwan at the UN General Assembly.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. Bilateral trade between Taiwan and Eswatini in 2023 amounted to US\$8.85 million, with US\$5.784 million in exports from Taiwan to Eswatini and US\$3.066 million in imports.
- B. On May 23, 2023, Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua and Eswatini Minister of Economic Planning and Development Thambo Gina convened the 25th Economic and Technical Cooperation Conference in Taiwan to enhance joint economic and technical projects between Taiwan and Eswatini.

- (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, 37 young students from Eswatini received MOFA Taiwan Scholarships or TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarships. Every year, organizations including TaiwanICDF and the International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training organize a variety of short-term study programs to give government officials and others from Eswatini the opportunity to visit and learn in Taiwan.
- (4) Agriculture and fisheries cooperation: In accordance with the Agreement of Agricultural Technical Cooperation between the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Kingdom of Eswatini, Taiwan dispatched a technical mission to Eswatini to carry out the Emerging Fruit Tree Production, Marketing and Capacity Building Project (Phase II), the Pig Industry Enhancement Project (Phase II), and the Eswatini Aquaculture Project, and sent Taiwanese technical specialists to Eswatini to assist in training and selecting 13 officials to receive training in Taiwan. In addition, Taiwan invited the World Vegetable Center to implement the Taiwan-Africa Vegetable Initiative (Phase I) in Eswatini, with the goal of promoting traditional vegetables to improve food security and increase incomes.
- (5) Medical cooperation: Taiwan has established the Taiwan Medical Mission in Eswatini to provide medical and public health services, while a team of instructors trains medical interns to enter medicine as a profession. Taiwan has also implemented the Project to Improve Early Diagnosis, Treatment, and Care of Cancer and the Maternal and Infant Health Care Improvement Project in the Kingdom of Eswatini (Phase 2). In addition to providing regular outpatient medical services, in 2023, the medical mission also provided substantive assistance on the ground by organizing skill enhancement seminars for local medical personnel and holding charity clinics in remote areas. Taiwan continues to strengthen ties with Eswatini through medical and public health work, while Eswatini continues to speak on behalf of Taiwan at the World Health Assembly (WHA).
- (6) Other bilateral cooperation: Joint projects implemented in 2023 to advance economic and social development in Eswatini included the Technical and Vocational Skills Certification Enhancement Project, the Capacity Building Project for Microfinance Ecosystem Focusing on Grassroots Women, the Women's Microenterprise Monitoring and Capacity Building Project,

the Ngwenya Mine Tourism Development Project, the Rural Potable Water Supply Scheme and Sanitation Systems Development Project, the Youth Entrepreneurship Capacity Building Program, the Ntondozi Clinic Construction Project (Phase I), and programs to buy computers for nine remote schools and construct computer classrooms for six remote schools.

- (7) Overseas community affairs: Just over 70 Taiwanese nationals reside in Eswatini, most of them in the commercial hub of Manzini, the capital Mbabane, or the Matsapha Industrial Site, which is home to a cluster of garment factories owned by Taiwanese manufacturers. Most of them are engaged in garment manufacturing, sundry goods, or food and dining. Major overseas community organizations include the Chinese Association in Eswatini and the Eswatini Golf Association.
- (8) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by President Tsai Ing-wen, National Security Bureau Director-General Ming-Yen Tsai, Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching, Kaohsiung Mayor Chen Chi-mai, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee.
 - B. Visits from Eswatini were made by Prime Minister Cleopas Dlamini, Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku, Minister of Economic Planning and Development Thambo Gina, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development Principal Secretary Thabsile Mlangeni, Army Commander Mashikilisane Fakudze, Ministry of Agriculture Principal Secretary Sydney Simelane, and Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Khanyagweze Mabuza.

2. Relations with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) and Côte d'Ivoire maintained formal diplomatic relations from July 20, 1963 to March 3, 1983. Thereafter, Taiwan operated in Côte d'Ivoire through the Far East Trade Service Inc. (Bureau Economique de Taiwan). The Trade Service suspended operations in 2017 and reopened in 2022 as the Bureau de Représentation de Taipei en Côte d'Ivoire in order to promote cooperation between Taiwan and Côte d'Ivoire in economics and trade, agriculture, vocational training,

education, and public health, and to provide Taiwanese nationals abroad with better protection and other services.

- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. Bilateral trade between Taiwan and Côte d'Ivoire in 2023 amounted to US\$29.49 million, with US\$29.33 million in exports from Taiwan to Côte d'Ivoire and around US\$160,000 in imports.
 - B. On June 2, 2023, the Bureau de Représentation held a trade fair in Abidjan.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: One student was awarded the MOFA Taiwan Scholarship in 2023, while 10 government officials and professionals in various fields from Côte d'Ivoire came to Taiwan to attend TaiwanICDF workshops and other international conferences.
- (4) Overseas community affairs: Around 30 Taiwanese nationals currently reside in Côte d'Ivoire, mostly businesspeople with many years of experience in the country. The Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce have been established in Côte d'Ivoire.

3. Relations with the Federal Republic of Nigeria

- (1) Background: The Trade Mission of the R.O.C. (Taiwan), Lagos, Federal Republic of Nigeria, was established on February 21, 1991, and formally opened in the capital city of Lagos on May 18, 1991. Subsequently, on September 1, 2001, the Trade Mission was relocated to Abuja alongside other nations' embassies following the city's designation as the new capital of Nigeria. In December 2017, the Mission returned to Lagos, Nigeria's most prominent commercial hub, and was renamed the Taipei Trade Office in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Nigeria Trade Office in Taiwan, R.O.C. was established in Taipei City in November 1992 and moved to Banqiao District, New Taipei City, in March 2018.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. Bilateral trade between Taiwan and Nigeria in 2023 amounted to US\$395.06 million, with US\$186.49 million in exports from Taiwan to Nigeria and US\$285.7 million in imports.
 - B. Taiwan organized an international trade fair in Nigeria held both online

and in person, and arranged 45 bilateral business info sessions; more than 120 Nigerian buyers were invited to participate in online and in-person business-matching sessions. In addition, the Trade Office invited Edo State Governor Godwin Obaseki to Taiwan to attend the 2023 Smart City Summit & Expo; invited the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture to Taiwan for 2023 Africa Business Day and the Taiwan-Africa CEO Forum; and organized and appeared at an expo in Lagos for food packaging machinery. In addition, the Trade Office deepened bilateral economic cooperation by accomplishing the signing of MOUs between the Taipei Computer Association and the Nigeria International Trade Facilitation Association and the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industries; holding more than 20 business-matching events; and facilitating the extension of a relending agreement between the Export-Import Bank of R.O.C. and the Nigerian Export-Import Bank.

- C. From May 31 to June 11, 2023, the Trade Office and TAITRA organized the Trade Delegation to Northwestern Africa to facilitate the expansion of sales by Taiwanese businesses to Nigeria. In addition, assistance was given to the Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce in Nigeria (TCCN) to actively seek out bilateral business opportunities to sell on the Nigerian market.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Every year, Taiwan invites Nigerian government agencies to recommend officials to attend professional workshops held by TaiwanICDF on subjects like economics and trade, technology, agriculture, and medicine. In addition, in 2023, the Trade Office offered the MOFA Taiwan Fellowship and the MOE Taiwan Scholarship and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship to Nigerian professionals, scholars, and students interested in applying to study in Taiwan.
- (4) Overseas community affairs: There are 40 Taiwanese nationals residing in Nigeria. More than 30 Taiwanese companies have invested a total of around US\$200 million in Nigeria, mostly in import and export trade, as well as in factories, warehouses, and logistics.

4. Relations with the Republic of Somaliland

- (1) Background: On February 26, 2020, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and Somaliland signed the Bilateral Protocol (Agreements and Conventions) by and between the Government of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Government of the Republic of Somaliland. The Taiwan Representative Office was established in Somaliland on August 17 of the same year, and the Somaliland Representative Office was established in Taipei on September 9.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: On March 15, 2023, MOEA and the Somaliland Ministry of Energy and Minerals held the first Taiwan-Somaliland Joint Working Group on Energy and Mineral Resources Cooperation Meeting. On July 31, 2023, MOEA and the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Business and Trade Relations between Taiwan and Somaliland and nominated outstanding manufacturers, like Somtuna, to come to Taiwan for Africa Business Day and the Taiwan-Africa CEO Forum.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, 25 students from Somaliland received the MOFA Taiwan Scholarship, the MOE Taiwan Scholarship or Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, or the TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarship to study in Taiwan. In addition, TaiwanICDF held short-term workshops on a number of topics, giving government officials and others from Somaliland the opportunity to come to Taiwan.
- (4) Medical cooperation: The Taiwan Medical Mission in the Republic of Somaliland engaged in clinical treatment, education and training, public health cooperation, medical referrals, and free clinics. The Maternal and Infant Health Care Improvement Project put Somaliland's first handbook for mothers into use, selected instructors to receive training in Taiwan, and provided crucial medical supplies, while the Health Information Management Efficiency Enhancement Project officially went into operation first at Hargeisa Group Hospital and then at Borama Regional Hospital.
- (5) Agricultural cooperation: The Taiwan Technical Mission in Somaliland assisted in the establishment of a demonstration farm in the Arabsiyo region intended to increase vegetable quality and yield, carry out technology transfer, and do promotional work.

- (6) ICT cooperation: The Somaliland Innovation Zone, established with the assistance of Taiwan, held 33 training courses that were attended by more than 600 men and women from the public and private sectors, including officials from the Somaliland President's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Defence.
- (7) Humanitarian assistance: Taiwan donated US\$2 million and 300 metric tons of rice to drought-affected areas, while the Representative Office aided NGOs, including the Pu-Hsien Educational Foundation, the Cao Zhong Zhi Foundation, Step30, and Taiwanese-American charitable organization the SimplyHelp Foundation, in donating humanitarian supplies to Somaliland.
- (8) Visits to Taiwan were made by Minister of Trade and Tourism Mohamoud Hassan Saad and former Minister of Foreign Affairs Edna Adan Ismail, founder and president of Edna Adan University and Edna Adan Maternity Hospital.

5. Relations with the Republic of South Africa

- (1) Background: On January 1, 1998, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Liaison Office in the Republic of South Africa and the Taipei Liaison Office in Cape Town. On the same day, South Africa established the Liaison Office of South Africa in Taipei.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Bilateral trade between Taiwan and South Africa in 2023 amounted to US\$1.806 billion, with US\$553 million in exports from Taiwan to South Africa and US\$1.253 billion in imports; around 450 Taiwanese companies invested a total of US\$2 billion in South Africa.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, the Liaison Office provided 11 MOE Taiwan Scholarships and nine Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to students from South Africa and other countries under its jurisdiction, as well as 35 slots to attend various workshops and short-term training programs, with the goal of encouraging bilateral exchanges on culture, education, and vocational training. In addition, it facilitated two instances of academic cooperation and exchange between schools in Taiwan and South Africa.

- (4) Humanitarian assistance:
 - A. Representative to South Africa Oliver Liao, along with overseas community organizations, NGOs, and legislators, held 10 humanitarian aid events at which humanitarian supplies were donated to underprivileged South African families.
 - B. On July 23, 2023, Representative Liao attended an event held by Tzu Chi South Africa to distribute donated humanitarian supplies to 800 underprivileged local families.
- (5) Overseas community affairs:
 - A. Around 8,000 Taiwanese nationals reside in South Africa, of whom around 2,000 belong to conventional overseas compatriot organizations. On July 8, 2023, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching gave remarks at the third board meeting of the 29th Africa Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce; on July 9, she attended the Amity Conference of Overseas Compatriots in Africa, where she also spoke.
 - B. From September 9 to 10, 2023, Formosa Circus Art performed in Bloemfontein and Ladybrand in Free State province, South Africa as the OCAC Taiwanese Culture Goodwill Mission of the National Day. Around a thousand people attended, including overseas community organizations based in South Africa as well as other South Africans.

Photographs of Diplomatic Events Africa



Together, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini Jeremy H. S. Liang and King Mswati III of Eswatini cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the Taiwan Pavilion at the Eswatini International Trade Fair 2023. (September 2, 2023)



President Tsai Ing-wen (fourth from left), Queen Mother of Eswatini Ntombi Tfwala (fifth from left), Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini Jeremy H. S. Liang (first from right), Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua (fifth from right), Kaohsiung Mayor Chen Chi-mai (fourth from right), and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee (second from right) pose for a group photo. (September 7, 2023)



Representative to Nigeria Liu Yih-ping and his wife (second from right, second from left) preside over the 2023 National Day reception. With them are former Nigerian Representative to Taiwan Luke A. C. Ozohili and his wife (first from right, first from left). (October 4, 2023)



Representative to Nigeria Liu Yih-ping and his wife (front row, fourth and fifth from left) in attendance at the Taiwan Friendship Association Nigeria (TFAN)'s annual meeting of members. (November 11, 2023)



On behalf of Taiwan, Representative to Somaliland Lou Chen-hwa (third from left) donates humanitarian aid in the form of 300 tons of rice, accepted by Somaliland Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority Faisal Ali Sh. Mohamed (third from right). Ali Abdi Abdulahi, Governor of Sahil (second from right), and Abdishakur Mohamoud, Mayor of Berbera (second from left) are also present. (September 4, 2023)



Representative to Somaliland Lou Chen-hwa (back row, fourth from right) presides over the closing ceremony of the Somaliland Innovation Zone. With him are Somaliland Minister of Information and Communication Technology Abdiweli Sheikh Abdillahi (back row, fourth from left) and Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority Faisal Ali Sh. Mohamed (back row, second from left). (September 12, 2023)



Representative to South Africa Oliver Liao meets with Bismark Tyobeka, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of South Africa's North-West University. (June 13, 2023)



Representative to South Africa Oliver Liao hosts the 2023 National Day reception. (October 9, 2023)



Lily Chen (second from right), Director-General of the Taipei Liaison Office in Capetown, hosts the 2023 National Day reception, accompanied by Elita de Klerk (third from right), former First Lady of South Africa, and other guests. (October 4, 2023)



Director-General of the Taipei Liaison Office in Capetown Lily Chen and Tyrone Pretorius, Rector of the University of the Western Cape, witness the signing of an MOU on cooperation between the University of the Western Cape, National Penghu University of Science and Technology, and Ming Chuan University. (October 5, 2023)

Item 4 Taiwan's relations with European countries

I. Introduction

The Department of European Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees matters in 43 countries, as well as Taiwan's engagement with the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The R.O.C. (Taiwan) maintains diplomatic relations with the Holy See and has substantive bilateral cooperation and ties with the other countries. Taiwan has 30 embassies, missions, and representative offices in Europe, including the Taipei Representative Office in Italy-Milan Office, which officially opened on October 16, 2023. In addition to the Embassy of the Holy See, the following 18 countries have established representative offices in Taiwan: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

In 2023, Taiwan's relations with the European Union and individual European countries have continued to deepen, marked by frequent high-level exchanges. In June, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu visited Europe to attend the European Values Summit 2023 in the Czech Republic, where he delivered a speech alongside Czech President Petr Pavel. In November, he was invited to Lithuania to participate in the Future of Democracy: High-Level Forum on Defending Against Authoritarianism, and also visited Latvia and Estonia, opening a new chapter in Taiwan's friendship with the three Baltic states. In addition, Germany's Federal Minister of Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger visited Taiwan in March, marking the first visit by a German cabinet-level official in 26 years. In May, former UK Prime Minister and current Member of Parliament Liz Truss visited Taiwan, becoming the first former British prime minister to do so since Margaret Thatcher's visit 27 years ago. In terms of parliamentary exchanges, several senior lawmakers visited Taiwan throughout the year, including Czech Chamber of Deputies Speaker Markéta Pekarová Adamová; Alain Richard, Chair of the French Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group; Olivier Cadic, Vice Chair of the French Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces; Els Van Hoof, Chair of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives Foreign Affairs

Committee; Norwegian Member of Parliament Guri Melby; Pavel Fischer, Chair of the Czech Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, along with his spouse; and Andrey Kovatchev, First Vice-Chair of the European Parliament’s Taiwan Friendship Group. In 2023, European countries have significantly increased both the frequency and scale of their support for Taiwan. In addition to reiterating the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait at various multilateral and bilateral high-level forums—including the G7 Summit, the NATO Summit, the France-Japan and France-Australia 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations, and the 36th UK-France Summit—European nations and the European Parliament have adopted a total of 35 resolutions, motions, or statements in support of Taiwan. These measures advocate for strengthening bilateral relations and endorsing Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the international community, including:

1. In March, the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office released the Integrated Review Refresh 2023, which expressed strong concern over the situation in the Taiwan Strait.
2. In June, the European Council conclusions for the first time included a statement opposing any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait by force or coercion, reflecting a growing consensus among all 27 EU member states on the importance of peace and stability in the region.
3. In July, the German government released its China Strategy, which referenced Taiwan 13 times.
4. In August, the French government promulgated the 2024–2030 Military Programming Law (*loi de programmation militaire*, LPM), becoming the first major power in the world to legislate the defense of freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait.
5. On September 19, during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Czech President Petr Pavel expressed concern over the situation in the Taiwan Strait. He condemned China’s military actions, which have escalated tensions in the region, and criticized its unfriendly behavior toward partners in the South China Sea.
6. In December 2023, the European Parliament adopted texts on EU-China relations, EU-US relations, and EU-Japan relations, all of which

emphasize opposition to China's distortion of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 and reiterated ongoing concern for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. This reflects the growing attention European countries place on cross-Strait security.

In terms of substantive cooperation in trade, economy, and technology, Taiwan signed 28 agreements or MOUs with European countries in 2023, including: 1. Taiwan and the UK signed the UK–Taiwan Enhanced Trade Partnership Arrangement. 2. Taiwan and the Czech Republic signed the Business Opportunities Enhancement Program (BOEP). 3. Taiwan and Germany signed agreements on the German–Taiwanese Dialogue Platform (DTDP) and the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Arrangement (STA), marking the first time Taiwan has signed a science and technology cooperation agreement with a European country. 4. Taiwan and France signed the Taiwan-France Science and Technology Cooperation Convention (STC). As part of efforts to advance the signing of a Taiwan-EU bilateral investment agreement (BIA), Taiwan has continued to deepen bilateral economic and trade dialogues with European partners. In 2023, key engagements included the Third Session of the Taiwan-Slovak Commission on Economic Cooperation in June, the Germany-Taiwan Economic Policy Consultations, the Taiwan-Germany Joint Business Council Meeting, the Sweden-Taiwan Trade Talks, and the Taiwan-Sweden Joint Business Council Meeting held in September. Furthermore, the launch of the Taipei-Prague direct flight route in July has further strengthened substantive exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and the European Union. Furthermore, the launch of the Taipei–Prague direct flight route in July has further strengthened substantive exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and the European Union.

The Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship and the Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Scholarship Program have played a significant role in advancing talent exchange and industrial cooperation between Taiwan and Europe. In 2023, 495 scholarship recipients came to Taiwan to study under the Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, National Taiwan University and the Taiwan Semiconductor Research Institute (TSRI) under the National Institute of Applied Research, organized two sessions of the Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Short-term Training Program in August and December.

These programs attracted 150 outstanding participants from five countries - the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania and Italy - further strengthening bilateral cooperation in semiconductor talent development.

In light of the ongoing stalemate in the Russia-Ukraine war, and to demonstrate the spirit of unity and mutual assistance among democratic nations, Taiwan has allocated a budget of 1.8 billion New Taiwan Dollars in 2023 to continue providing humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine. This support includes assisting with the construction of the Obolon Bridge connecting Kyiv, helping build air raid shelters and a children's sports school in Bucha, collaborating with the Slovak government to support the reconstruction of medical and educational facilities in the Chernihiv region of Ukraine, partnering with the Lithuanian government to rebuild kindergartens for Ukrainian children, and working with the Czech government on the construction of mobile water treatment facilities and gas-fired co-generation power plants in Ukraine.

II. Relations with Individual Countries

1. Relations with the Holy See

(1) Background:

- A. On October 23, 1942, diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the R.O.C. were established. Subsequently, on July 4, 1943, the R.O.C. set up a legation at the Holy See, which was elevated to the status of embassy on June 12, 1959. The Holy See opened a legation in the R.O.C. on July 4, 1946, and later elevated it to the status of embassy on December 24, 1966.
- B. Former Vice President Chen Chien-jen, serving as Special Envoy of President Tsai Ing-wen, visited the Vatican from January 4 to 5 to attend the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. During his visit, he participated in the Patronal Feast of the Holy Three Kings presided over by Cardinal Luis Tagle, Pro-prefect for the Section of Evangelization of the Dicastery for Evangelization. Former Vice President Chen also engaged in exchanges with senior Holy See officials, including Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences

Cardinal Peter Turkson.

(2) Cultural relations:

- A. On March 10, Premier Chen Chien-jen attended the opening ceremony for the exhibition titled Splendors of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana and Rare Books from the Ming and Qing Imperial Libraries held in Taiwan. Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani, librarian and archivist of the Vatican Apostolic Library and the Vatican Apostolic Archive, visited Taiwan to attend the event.
- B. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the pontificate of Pope Francis on March 13, and to strengthen Taiwan–Holy See relations while enhancing Taiwan’s international profile, the Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) to the Holy See invited renowned Taiwanese artist Tseng Ying-tung to hold the special exhibition 5 Loaves & 2 Fish at the embassy on March 14. Distinguished guests included Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education; Sister Alessandra Smerilli, Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development; Father Lucio Adrian Ruiz, Secretary of the Secretariat for Communications; and Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani, librarian and archivist of the Vatican Apostolic Library and the Vatican Apostolic Archive.
- C. The “5 Loaves & 2 Fish” special exhibition was restaged at the Art Gallery of Fu Jen Catholic University on October 18. Distinguished guests in attendance included Premier Chen Chien-jen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Lee Chun, Rev. Monsignor Stefano Mazzotti, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Apostolic Nunciature, Rev. Frank Budenholzer, Member of Fu Jen Catholic University’s Board of Trustees, and Dr. Chiang Han-sun, President of Fu Jen Catholic University.

(3) Humanitarian assistance:

- A. In response to Pope Francis’ encyclicals *Laudato si’* and *Fratelli tutti*, the Embassy has actively engaged in humanitarian assistance efforts to support the Pope’s concern for marginalized communities. Emphasizing the spirit of “Taiwan can help, Taiwan is helping,” the Embassy has collaborated with organizations, such as Caritas Rome,

the Divine Word Missionaries' St. Joseph Center, and the Tzu Chi Italia, to provide aid to Ukrainian refugees and disadvantaged groups in Italy.

- B. On December 1, the Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) to the Holy See donated funds to the Camillian Sisters for their spiritual formation and training center in Lucca, Italy. The center is dedicated to training sisters to care for society's vulnerable populations, including the poor, the critically ill, and the terminally ill.
 - C. On December 13, the Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) to the Holy See donated funds to support a job training and employment assistance program for underprivileged communities in Spain, implemented by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. The donation was accepted on behalf of the Order by the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and Minister of Foreign Affairs Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo.
- (4) Multifaceted exchanges:
- A. On March 17, the Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) to the Holy See, in collaboration with the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue of the Holy See, welcomed a 100-member delegation from the United Association of Humanistic Buddhism, Chunghua for a visit focused on interfaith exchange. During the visit, the delegation had an audience with Pope Francis and engaged in dialogue with officials from the Dicastery.
 - B. The 2023 BLIA Europe Fellowship Meeting was held in Rome on June 16. Through arrangements made by the Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) to the Holy See, members of the Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) also engaged in exchanges with officials from the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue of the Holy See.
 - C. On September 4, National Policy Advisor Mr. Tang Wen-wan and the Chairman of Taiwan I-Kuan Tao Association (IKT) Wang Bao-tzong led a 22-member delegation to the Vatican. The delegation met with Secretary Msgr. Indunil Kodithuwakku and Under-Secretary Fr. Paulin Kubuya of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, marking a new milestone in the exchange between I-Kuan Tao and the Catholic

Church.

- (5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by former Vice President Chen Chien-jen, Deputy Minister of Culture Sue Wang, and Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Chiayi Norbert Pu Ying-hsiung (Pasuya Poicong Ü).
 - B. Visits to Taiwan were made by Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani, librarian and archivist of the Vatican Apostolic Library and the Vatican Apostolic Archive, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences Cardinal Peter Turkson, and President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences Professor Joachim von Braun.

2. Relations with the European Union

- (1) Background:
 - A. On March 10, 2003, the European Commission established the European Economic and Trade Office (EETO) in Taipei. Subsequently, on June 20, 2005, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) restructured the Taipei Representative Office in Belgium as the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium. The Representative Office oversees all matters relating to the EU, Belgium, and Luxembourg.
 - B. On March 18, the Renew Europe Group of the European Parliament hosted a high-level seminar titled EU-Taiwan: Partners in a Changing World at the European Parliament. Vice Presidents Dita Charanzová and Nicola Beer of the European Parliament each delivered remarks. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee was invited as the keynote speaker, presenting an overview of the current state of EU-Taiwan cooperation and prospects for future collaboration.
 - C. On April 18, the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg held a key debate on the need for a coherent strategy for EU-China relations. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell were in attendance. During the session, leaders and members of the European Parliament's major political groups

unanimously emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

- D. On June 22, the EU and the United States jointly convened the fifth high-level meeting of the EU-US Dialogue on China and the fourth meeting of the EU-US High-Level Consultations on the Indo-Pacific. Both sides underscored the critical importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining the status quo and expressing opposition to any unilateral actions that could undermine peace and stability in the region. Furthermore, the conclusions of the European Council meeting on June 30 highlighted concerns over the situation in the Taiwan Strait and emphasized the importance of preserving peace and stability in the region.
 - E. The EU-China summit took place in Beijing on December 6. Following the summit, European Council President Charles Michel, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and the Council each issued a press release expressing concern over the situation in the Taiwan Strait and voicing opposition to any unilateral attempts to alter the status quo. Notably, during the press conference, President Michel stated for the first time that he firmly believes the Chinese side fully understands that any unilateral change to the status quo in the Taiwan Strait would have serious consequences.
 - F. On December 13, the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg adopted texts on EU-China relations, EU-US relations, and EU-Japan relations. All call for the preservation of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and oppose any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force. The texts also express support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant international organizations. Notably, the report on EU-China relations for the first time explicitly condemns China's distortion of UN Resolution 2758, which has been used to obstruct the participation of Taiwanese passport holders in UN activities.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade between Taiwan and the 27 EU member

states reached approximately US\$73.83 billion. Taiwan's exports amounted to approximately US\$36.82 billion, while imports from Europe totaled approximately US\$37.08 billion. In 2023, Taiwan invested US\$4.96 billion in EU member states, bringing the cumulative investment from 1952 to 2023 to approximately US\$13.55 billion. Meanwhile, EU member states invested approximately US\$3.21 billion in Taiwan in 2023, with a cumulative total of approximately US\$58.17 billion.

B. On December 13, the European Parliament plenary sitting in Strasbourg adopted a resolution on EU-Taiwan trade and investment relations. The resolution underscores that Taiwan is a reliable and like-minded partner of the European Union, and affirms that the importance of bilateral economic and trade relations is in line with the EU's economic security strategy. It calls on the EU to further strengthen trade and investment cooperation with Taiwan through a formal bilateral agreement.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

A. Between 2006 and 2023, 141 recipients of the Ministry of Education's EU Scholarship program have been admitted to joint master's programs under the EU's Erasmus+ Programme.

B. In 2023, 20 EU officials visited Taiwan to study political economy and Mandarin language and culture. The group included 11 participants in a political economy research delegation and nine participants in a Mandarin language and culture study program.

(4) Medical cooperation:

A. The Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium assisted the Food and Drug Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare in joining the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF). Taiwan was approved as an affiliate member.

B. Taiwan's production quality of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) has been officially recognized by the European Union. On November 10, Taiwan was successfully added to the EU's list of third countries authorized to export APIs to the European market.

C. With the support of the Taipei Representative Office in the EU

and Belgium, the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) approved the application for associate membership submitted by the Food and Drug Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare during its annual meeting held in Melbourne from November 13 to 16.

- (5) Technological cooperation: The Low-Carbon and Sustainable Urban Governance Technical Study Delegation to Europe, organized by Taiwan's Ministry of Environment, visited Brussels in September. During the visit, the delegation engaged in exchanges with officials from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action, Directorate-General for Environment, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, as well as the government of Flanders region in Belgium, focusing on issues related to low-carbon emissions and sustainable governance.
- (6) Human rights cooperation: Taiwan and the European Union held the sixth European Union–Taiwan Human Rights Consultations in Brussels in June. The two sides reviewed recent developments in human rights developments, policies, and initiatives, and reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- (7) Think tank exchanges:
 - A. In May, the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium, in cooperation with the Brussels Office of the German Marshall Fund, co-hosted an online seminar titled The EU CHIPS Act and the Potential for EU-Taiwan Cooperation on Semiconductor Supply Chains. The event featured Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee as a speaker.
 - B. In June, the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium co-hosted a seminar with the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) titled Capture the Flag: Taiwan's Experience – From Defending Itself from Overseas Digital Attacks to Strengthening Democracy. The keynote address was delivered by Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang.
 - C. In November, the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium,

in cooperation with the U.S. Mission to the European Union and the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) at Brussels School of Governance (BSoG) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), co-hosted an overseas session of the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) titled Fair and Free, but How Secure? Foreign Interference and Elections.

- (8) Labor cooperation: Minister of Labor Hsu Ming-chun led a delegation to Brussels in June to attend the fifth Taiwan-EU Labor Consultation. The event opened with remarks from Minister Hsu, Representative Remus Likuo Chen of the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium, and Joost Korte, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The consultation focused on key issues such as dignified labor in the global supply chains.
- (9) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jauhsieh Joseph Wu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee, Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Chen Chern-chyi.
 - B. Visits from the EU were made by Maive Rute, Deputy Director-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), and Urmas Paet, Vice Chair of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and former Foreign Minister of Estonia.

3. Relations with the Republic of Austria

- (1) Background: On August 11, 1973, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Institute of Chinese Culture in Vienna, which also managed Taiwan's affairs with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The institute was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Austria in July 1993. Austria, in turn, established the Austrian Trade Delegation Taipei Office in Taiwan on December 13, 1980, which was renamed the Austrian Commercial Office on August 28, 1995.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Austria reached US\$1.51 billion, with exports from Taiwan at

US\$572 million and imports from Austria at US\$946 million.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Austria assisted the Vereinigung der Taiwanese in Österreich (Association of Taiwanese in Austria) in organizing a screening of the film *Untold Herstory* in Vienna. The event featured a discussion with the film's director, Zero Chou, and extended invitations to a broad range of Austrian stakeholders. The screening aimed to enhance understanding in Austria of Taiwan's democratic transition.
- B. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Austria assisted the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research in jointly implementing the Taiwan and Austria Higher Education Science and Research Seed Funding Memorandum of Understanding, and signed a new memorandum of understanding on higher education cooperation in November. In addition, the University of Vienna continues to implement the Taiwan Research Program and the Mandarin Language Teacher Program to promote Taiwan studies and the use of traditional Chinese characters.

(4) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by President of the Judicial Yuan and Chief Justice Hsu Tzong-li, Justice Hwang Jau-yuan, and Secretary-General of Legislative Yuan Lin Chih-chia.
- B. Visits from Austria were made by Members of Parliament Carmen Jeitler-Cincelli, Andreas Minnich, Peter Weidinger, Corinna Scharzenberger, and Fiona Fiedler.

4. Relations with the Kingdom of Belgium

(1) Background:

- A. On November 5, 1971, the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Cultural Center was established in Belgium. It was subsequently renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on January 23, 1990; the Taipei Representative Office in Belgium on November 1, 1995; and the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium on June 20, 2005.

Meanwhile, in August 1979, Belgium established the Belgium Trade Association Taipei, which later adopted the name Belgium Office Taipei in June 2004.

- B. On April 27, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan and the government of Flanders in Belgium held a cooperation consultation meeting in Taiwan to review progress in existing areas of collaboration, including investment, education, science, healthcare, sustainable energy, and labor. The meeting also explored ways to expand bilateral exchanges and cooperation.
 - C. Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hadja Labib, on behalf of the Belgian government, publicly expressed support for Taiwan's participation as an observer in the World Health Assembly (WHA) for the third consecutive year.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Belgium reached US\$3.46 billion, with exports from Taiwan at US\$2.64 billion and imports at US\$818.02 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
- A. The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with National Chengchi University and the Université catholique de Louvain (KU Leuven) in Belgium, has jointly implemented a Taiwan Studies Project for 2021 to 2024. The project features in-person lectures and a faculty exchange initiative between the two institutions.
 - B. In cooperation with Ghent University in Belgium, the University of Göttingen in Germany, the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, and the University of Tartu in Estonia, the Ministry of Education has implemented a Taiwan Studies Project for the period of 2022-2026.
 - C. On May 3, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Université catholique de Louvain (KU Leuven) in Belgium, co-hosted a Taiwan Studies Lecture Series workshop titled *Social Life and Governance in/ after the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Comparison between Taiwan and the EU*.
 - D. On June 26, the Ministry of Education of Taiwan and the Department of Education and Training of the Flemish Community of Belgium held

the Taiwan–Flanders Digital Education Policy Exchange Meeting at the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium, facilitating discussions on digital learning policies.

(4) Technological cooperation:

- A. The Institute of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health (ILOSH) of the Ministry of Labor in Taiwan and the Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA) of KU Leuven co-hosted the second Taiwan-Belgium Labor Policy Conference in May. The opening remarks were delivered by Lee Chun-yi, the Deputy Minister of Labor, and Emmanuel Gerard, the Director of HIVA at KU Leuven.
- B. Wim Adriaens, Director-General of the Flemish Employment Services and Vocational Training Agency (VDAB) of Belgium, led a four-member delegation to Taiwan in July to engage in exchanges on vocational training, educational cooperation, and skills competitions.

(5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister without Portfolio Lo Ping-cheng and Administrative Deputy Minister of Transportation and Communications Chi Wen-jong.
- B. Visits from Belgium were made by Julien Uyttendaele, Member of the Federal Parliament of Belgium and the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region; Philippe Courard, Member of the Federal Parliament of Belgium and the Parliament of Wallonia; Els Van Hoof, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives and Co-Chair of the Belgium-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group; Georges Dallemagne, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Co-Chair of the Belgium-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group; Wouter De Vriendt, Member of the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committees, and Group Leader of Ecolo-Groen; Özlem Özen, Chair of the Constitution and Institutional Renewal Committee; Koen Metsu, Vice Chair of the Interior, Security, Migration and Administrative Affairs Committee; Darya Safai, Member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees, and Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Social Emancipation; Jasper Pillen, Vice Chair of the

Defense Committee and Vice Chairman of Open VLD; and Goedele Liekens, Member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

5. Relations with the Republic of Bulgaria

- (1) Background: Matters relating to Bulgaria are overseen by the Taipei Representative Office in Greece. The Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) set up the Taiwan Trade Center, Sofia in 2005. The Bulgarian–Taiwanese Board, established in 2015, aims to strengthen bilateral private-sector exchanges.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade between Taiwan and Bulgaria reached US\$283 million, with exports from Taiwan at US\$163 million and imports from Bulgaria at US\$120 million.

6. Relations with the Republic of Croatia

- (1) Background: Matters relating to Croatia are overseen by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Austria.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade between Taiwan and Croatia reached US\$68.31 million, with exports from Taiwan at US\$51.79 million and imports at US\$16.52 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: The Faculty of Political Science at the University of Zagreb offers a course titled the R.O.C. (Taiwan) Lecture Series. The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy arranged for Taiwanese scholars to deliver lectures to provide insight into Taiwan’s political and economic development.
- (4) Media exposure: In May, Croatia’s *Poslovni dnevnik* published an op-ed by Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan titled *Taiwan Offers Sustainable Healthcare Development in the Post-Pandemic Era* (U post-pandemijskom dobu Tajvan nudi održivi razvoj zdravstva). Additionally, in September, the newspaper published an op-ed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu calling on the international community to support Taiwan’s participation in the United Nations (UN).

7. Relations with the Czech Republic

- (1) Background: On August 7, 1991, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Prague. On November 18, 1993, the Czech Republic set up the Czech Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade volume amounted to US\$1.21 billion, with Taiwan's exports accounting for US\$659 million and imports from the Czech Republic amounting to US\$559 million. On December 22, Representative Ke Liang-ruey of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Prague and Representative David Steinke of the Czech Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei signed, via videoconference, an MOU on the Business Opportunities Enhancement Program (BOEP). The MOU aims to establish a platform to promote trade, technology, and cultural exchanges between Taiwan and the Czech Republic. The Czech government will establish a Czech Center in Taiwan to further deepen bilateral ties.
- (3) Humanitarian assistance: On November 10, Representative Ke Liang-ruey of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Prague and Representative David Steinke of the Czech Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei signed, via videoconference, an MOU on establishing a partnership to promote the capacity building of key infrastructure for Ukraine's reconstruction.
- (4) Technological cooperation:
 - A. Since 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has offered 28 places under the Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Scholarship to visiting students and degree-seeking students from the Czech Republic.
 - B. Chairperson of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Wu Tsung-tsong, together with Czech Republic Senate President Miloš Vystrčil, and Czech Parliament Chamber of Deputies Speaker Markéta Pekarová Adamová, witnessed the launch ceremony of the Supply Chain Resilience Center established through the collaboration between National Chengchi University and Charles University in Prague on November 25.
- (5) Cultural and educational relations: Taiwan's Ministry of Education offered seven Taiwan Scholarships and ten Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to students from the Czech Republic. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education,

Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic offers annual scholarship programs and Slavic-language research scholarships to 35 Taiwanese students.

(6) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by President of the Judicial Yuan and Chief Justice Hsu Tzong-li, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Culture Shih Che, Minister of National Development Council Kung Ming-hsin, Chairperson of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Wu Tsung-tsong, and Secretary-General of Legislative Yuan Lin Chih-chia.
- B. Visits from the Czech Republic were made by Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Innovation Jana Havlikova, Chair of the Czech Senate's Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee Pavel Fischer, Czech Parliament Chamber of Deputies Speaker Markéta Pekarová Adamová, Czech Chamber of Deputies Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Marek Ženíšek, Chairperson of the Committee on Security Pavel Žáček, and Chairman of the Czech Republic-Taiwan Parliamentary Platform Marek Benda.

8. Relations with the Kingdom of Denmark

(1) Background:

- A. In 1980, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Free China Information Office and the Far East Trade Office in Denmark. The two offices were consolidated on August 7, 1991 into the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Denmark, later renamed the Taipei Representative Office in Denmark on February 15, 1995. Denmark established the Trade Council of Denmark in Taipei on October 28, 1983.
- B. The Taipei Representative Office in Denmark, in cooperation with the Alliance of Democracies Foundation, once again facilitated President Tsai Ing-wen's online participation in the sixth Copenhagen Democracy Summit on May 15, where President Tsai delivered a speech.
- C. On May 24, the Taipei Representative Office secured the agreement of Formosa Club Co-Chair Michael Jensen to jointly issue a letter to

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, expressing support for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA).

- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade volume amounted to US\$1.03 billion, with exports from Taiwan totaling US\$351.48 million and imports from Denmark of US\$687.65 million.
- (3) The Ministry of Education provided the Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to eight students from Denmark.

9. Relations with the Republic of Estonia

- (1) Background: Matters relating to Estonia are overseen by the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade amounted to US\$97.33 million, with exports from Taiwan at US\$52.75 million and imports at US\$44.76 million.
- (3) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Secretary General of the Control Yuan Ju Fu-meei, Deputy Minister of National Development Council Kao Shien-quey, and Legislator Lim Tshiong-tso.
 - B. Visits from Estonia were made by EU Parliamentarian and former Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs and former Foreign Minister Urmas Paet, and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu Marko Mihkelson.

10. Relations with the Republic of Finland

- (1) Background: On April 19, 1990, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Trade and Cultural Office in Finland. The office was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on December 1, 1992, and subsequently became the Taipei Representative Office in Finland on December 1, 2004. On February 1, 1991, Finland established the Office of Finnish Industry and Transport, which was subsequently renamed

the Finland Trade Center on July 1, 1995. It was later renamed Finpro Taiwan, Finland's Trade and Innovation Office in October 2014; and Finland Trade Center in Taiwan on January 1, 2019.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Finland amounted to US\$664 million, with Taiwan's exports totaling US\$304 million and imports from Finland amounting to approximately US\$360 million.

B. The 10th Finland-Taiwan Business Forum was held on September 29 in Helsinki, Finland. Taiwan's delegation of industry representatives was led by President Cho Cheng-hong of the Institute for Information Industry (III). Representative Janet Chang of the Taipei Representative Office in Finland delivered remarks at the opening ceremony. During the forum, President Cho and Risto Vuohelainen, Executive Director of the Global Growth Service Area at Business Finland, signed a joint declaration affirming the commitment to continued exchanges and cooperation.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

A. Eight Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship recipients from Finland came to study in Taiwan in 2023.

B. The Taipei Representative Office in Finland, in cooperation with the University of Helsinki, organized three Spotlight Taiwan Project events between March and September, attracting hundreds of in-person and online participants.

(4) Technological cooperation:

A. Deputy Minister of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Minn-tsong Lin led a delegation to Finland in June, during which they visited IQM Quantum Computers. In return, Juha Vartiainen, Co-founder and Chief Global Affairs Officer of IQM, visited Taiwan in December and paid a courtesy call on Wu Tsung-tsong, Minister without Portfolio and Minister of the National Science and Technology Council.

B. In June, the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

and the Academy of Finland (AKA) jointly launched for the first time the NSTC-AKA Bilateral Cooperation Programme, a two-year initiative that co-funds short-term reciprocal exchanges of PhD-level researchers participating in bilateral projects.

- (5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister of Civil Service Protection and Training Commission Hao Pei-chih and Deputy Minister of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Minn-tsong Lin
 - B. Visits from Finland were made by Chair of the Finnish Parliamentary Taiwan Friendship Group Mikko Kärnä and Parliament Member Tom Packalén.

11. Relations with the French Republic

- (1) Background: On August 12, 1972, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Association pour la Promotion des échanges Commerciaux et Touristiques avec Taïwan in Paris. Subsequently, the MOEA set up the Centre asiatique pour la promotion économique et commerciale on May 2, 1977. The two organizations merged to form the Bureau de Représentation de Taipei en France on May 15, 1995. On December 14, 2020, the Bureau Annexe d'Aix-en-Provence was established. France established the Association française pour le développement économique avec l'Asie in 1978 and subsequently established the Association française pour le développement culturel et scientifique en Asie in 1980. The visa section was established in 1985, and the Association française pour le développement culturel et scientifique en Asie was renamed the Bureau français de Taipei (BFT). In 1993, the Association française pour le développement économique avec l'Asie, the visa section, and the Bureau français de Taipei (BFT) began a joint-office operation and are collectively referred to as the BFT.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and France was US\$6.08 billion, with exports from Taiwan of US\$1.8 billion and imports from France of US\$4.28 billion.

- B. According to statistics from the Department of Investment and Review of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan has made 64 investments in France, amounting to about US\$720 million. About 30 Taiwanese companies, including HTC, Acer and ASUS, have invested in France. In 2024, ProLogium Technology announced its investment in solid-state battery production in Dunkirk, France. French investment in Taiwan has reached a cumulative total of 767 cases, valued at approximately US\$1.56 billion, with more than 178 French companies setting up operations in Taiwan, including Decathlon, Carrefour and Alcatel.
- C. The 11th Taiwan-France Economic Dialogue was held in Taipei in January, followed by the 30th Industrial Cooperation Consultation Meeting (ICCM) and the 27th Taiwan-France Economic Cooperation Conference in Paris in September. These meetings served to promote the expansion of trade and deepen industrial cooperation between the two sides.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
- A. Cultural:
- a. The Bureau de Représentation de Taipei en France organized exhibitions and performances in various fields, such as visual arts, performing arts, and literary publishing, for eight European countries, including France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco, Andorra, and Liechtenstein.
 - b. On September 18, Minister of Culture Shih Che and Perpetual Secretary Bernard Stirn of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences jointly hosted the 26th Taiwan-France Cultural Award.
 - c. In 2023, the Bureau de Représentation de Taipei en France organized 22 cultural promotion projects, holding a total of 270 exhibitions and performances. These events attracted 2,918,817 visitors and were covered in 337 reports by both Taiwanese and international media.
- B. Educational:
- a. 65 higher education institutions in Taiwan, including National

Taiwan University, signed a total of 894 academic exchange agreements with their French counterparts.

- b. In 2023, Taiwan awarded 25 Huayu Enrichment Scholarships and five Taiwan Scholarships to French students. Similarly, the government of France provides annual la Bourse France Excellence Eiffel and the Bourses Joseph Fourier scholarships to Taiwanese students pursuing master's and doctoral degrees. A total of 1,737 French students are studying in Taiwan in 2023. Meanwhile, 385 Taiwanese students are enrolled in higher education institutions across France.
- c. Since 2008, Taiwan and the government of France have engaged in an exchange of Mandarin- and French-language teaching assistants. In 2023, 21 Mandarin and 21 French teaching assistants were sent to France and Taiwan, respectively. In 2023, the Ministry of Education cooperates with six French institutions, including the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco), Rennes 2 University, and Université de Lille, to support the deployment of six Mandarin teachers from Taiwan to teach in France as part of the regular subsidy program. In addition, since 2007, Taiwan has conducted the annual Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL) and the Children's Chinese Competency Certification (CCCC) in Paris and Léon. The cumulative number of test takers has reached 5,529 over the years.
- d. Taiwan and the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in France signed a first-ever memorandum of understanding to establish the Taiwan Studies Program in 2017. With the support of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), EHESS offers lecture courses and seminars on Taiwan studies. The second phase of the project runs for three years from 2021 to 2024.
- e. On March 14, the Ministries of Education of Taiwan and France jointly convened the first Séminaire de contact, which brought together 183 schools and local education authorities from Taiwan

and more than 60 schools and local education authorities from France.

(4) Technological cooperation:

- A. The Ministry of Science and Technology has established bilateral research cooperation agreements with various French institutions, including the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR), the National Research Agency (ANR), the French Academy of Sciences (ADS), and the French Office in Taipei. This promotes scientific research cooperation between Taiwan and France.
- B. On November 22, Representative to France Wu Chih-chung, Minister without Portfolio and Minister of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Wu Tsung-tsong, President of the French Academy of Sciences Alain Fischer, and French Representative to Taiwan Franck Paris jointly presided over the 25th Franco-Taiwanese Grand Prix Scientifique at the Fondation Simone et Cino Del Duca. The award was presented to Professor Wu Yuh-renn, Director of the Graduate Institute of Photonics and Optoelectronics at National Taiwan University, and Dr. Marcel Filoche, CNRS Research Director at the Institut Langevin of the École Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielles (ESPCI) in Paris.

(5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua, Minister of Labor Hsu Ming-chun, Minister of Culture Shih Che, Minister of National Development Council Kung Ming-hsin, Minister without Portfolio and Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Wu Tsung-tsong, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching, Deputy Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Chern Yi-juang, Deputy Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC) Ruan Jhao-syong, National Palace Museum Deputy Director Yu Pei-chin, Legislative Yuan Vice President Tsai Chi-chang, Legislators Michelle Lin Chu-yin, Chiu Yi-ying, Chuang Ching-cheng, Tsai Shih-ying, Chiang Chi-chen, Lo Chih-cheng, Liao Wan-ju, Chen I-hsin, Wu Sz-

huai, Chiu Chen-yuan, Wen Yu-hsia, Lee De-wei, Sandy Yu, Chen Ying, and Chiu Chih-wei.

- B. Visits from France were made by Vice-President of the French Senate and Chairman of the French Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group Alain Richard; Senator and member of the Taiwan Friendship Group Alexandra Borchio-Fontimp; Senator and member of the Taiwan Friendship Group Valérie Boyer; Senator and member of the Taiwan Friendship Group Brigitte Devésá; Vice Chairman of the French Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces André Gattolin; Senator and Vice Chair of the Taiwan Friendship Group André Vallini; Senator and member of the Taiwan Friendship Group Étienne Blanc; Senator and member of the Taiwan Friendship Group Annick Jacquemet; Vice-President of the French Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Committee Olivier Cadic; Chair of the National Assembly Taiwan Friendship Group Éric Bothorel; Vice-President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly and Vice Chair of the Taiwan Friendship Group Mireille Clapot; Vice Chair of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs Michel Herbillon; Member of the National Assembly and member of the Taiwan Friendship Group Constance Le Grip; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) Didier Samuel; and President of Grenoble-Alpes Métropole Christophe Ferrari.

12. Relations with the Federal Republic of Germany

(1) Background:

- A. On October 20, 1980, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Bonn, the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), which was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Federal Republic of Germany on September 23, 1992, and the Taipei Representative Office in the Federal Republic of Germany on July 1, 1997. The office moved to Berlin on October 4, 1999. The Taiwan Cultural Hall (Taiwan Kultursaal) was established under the Representative Office

on December 4, 2017. Taiwan also has offices in Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Munich, as well as the Bonn-based Science and Technology Division of the Taipei Representative Office in Germany. The Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) has set up Taiwan Trade Centers in Düsseldorf and Munich. In addition to the German Institute Taipei, which serves as Germany's official representative office in Taiwan, Germany has also established the German Trade Office Taipei (AHK Taiwan), the Goethe-Institute Taipei, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD Taiwan), and the Taipei European School Germany Section (Deutsche Schule Taipei).

- B. On July 13, the German government released its first-ever China Strategy, emphasizing that Germany supports democratic Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations within the framework of the EU's one-China policy. The strategy also stressed that any change in the status quo in the Taiwan Strait must be achieved peacefully and by mutual agreement, and warned that military escalation would harm the interests of both Germany and the EU.
 - C. The Deutsch-Taiwanische Dialogplattform, an initiative proposed by the German Federal Foreign Office, was officially established on December 5. Professor Ku Chung-hua, National Policy Advisor of Taiwan, and Reinhard Bütikofer, Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China, serve as co-chairs of the forum. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock issued a press release to underscore the German government's recognition and support for the initiative.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade between Taiwan and Germany reached approximately US\$22.03 billion. Taiwan's exports to Germany amounted to approximately US\$8.14 billion, while imports from Germany totaled approximately US\$13.89 billion. Germany is Taiwan's eighth largest overall trading partner and the largest in Europe. There are about 250 Taiwanese companies in Germany and about 250 German companies in Taiwan.

- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Taiwan awarded three Taiwan Scholarships and 26 Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to students from Germany. There are 2,868 Taiwanese students studying in Germany and 1,421 German students studying abroad or learning Mandarin in Taiwan.
- (4) Technological and environmental cooperation:
 - A. On March 21, Representative to Germany Shieh Jhy-wey and the German Institute Taipei Director General Jörg Polster signed the Germany-Taiwan Scientific and Technological Cooperation Arrangement. The agreement prioritizes collaboration in the fields of semiconductors, hydrogen energy, lithium batteries, and artificial intelligence. The signing was jointly witnessed by Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Wu Tsung-tsong and German Federal Minister of Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger.
 - B. On April 18, Sebastian Gemkow, Saxon State Minister for Science, Culture and Tourism, together with Ursula M. Staudinger, Rector of the Technical University of Dresden, visited Taiwan and signed the Germany–Taiwan Scientific and Technological Cooperation Arrangement (STA) with President Lin Faa-Jeng of the National Applied Research Laboratories (NARLabs).
 - C. In September, the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture, and Tourism (SMWK) established a representative office in Taiwan to facilitate the training of Saxon semiconductor talent in Taiwan.
 - D. The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) jointly implemented ten exchange programs for technology researchers, four DAAD/NSTC- Sandwich- Scholarship Programmes, and sent ten personnel from Taiwan to Germany for summer research and study.
 - E. In 2023, the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) conducted three projects under the third phase of the Taiwan-Germany Joint Research Program on Lithium Battery Technology, with a duration of three years.

- F. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation once again recommended one German scholar for the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Research Fellowship Program for German researchers.
- (5) Think tank cooperation:
- A. The Taipei office of the German think tank Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) held its official opening reception on March 21. Attendees included German Federal Minister of Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger and FNF Chairman Karl-Heinz Paqué. Representative to Germany Shieh Jhy-wei and Director General Jörg Polster of the German Institute Taipei were also in attendance. Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang delivered virtual remarks at the event.
- B. German Member of the European Parliament Reinhard Bütikofer, Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China, hosted the 2nd Berlin Taiwan Conference from November 13 to 14. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee was invited to deliver a keynote address via videoconference.
- C. The Taipei Representative Office in Germany and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) co-hosted a closed-door expert roundtable on November 17. Chen Ming-chi, CEO of the Institute for National Defense and Security Research, served as a discussant. Opening remarks were delivered by Representative to Germany Shieh Jhy-wei and Member of the Bundestag Marcus Faber, who serves on the Defense Committee and represents the Free Democratic Party (FDP). The event was attended by over 20 participants, including members of the German Bundestag, think tank experts, foreign and defense policy advisors, and officials from the German Federal Foreign Office, including Dirk Schattschneider, Under Secretary (ret.) for Management, Federal Ministry of Education and Research.
- (6) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister without Portfolio Lo Bing-

Cheng, Minister of Justice Tsai Ching-hsiang, Minister for Personnel Administration Su Chun-jung, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi, the Ill-gotten Party Assets Settlement Committee Chairman Lin Feng-cheng, NSTC Deputy Chen Tzong-chyuan, and Legislative Yuan Member Chao Tien-lin.

- B. Visits from Germany were made by Federal Minister of Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger, Commissioner for Social Innovation Zarah Bruhn, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport Oliver Luksic, Member of the German Bundestag and Chairwoman of the German Bundestag Committee on Defense Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, and Member of the German Bundestag and Deputy Chair of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) and First Parliamentary Secretary of the FDP parliamentary group Johannes Vogel.

13. Relations with the Hellenic Republic

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Far East Center in Athens on January 6, 1973. It was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Greece on December 28, 1990, and the Taipei Representative Office in Greece on April 11, 2003.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Greece amounted to US\$259 million. Taiwan's exports to Greece totaled US\$212 million, while imports from Greece totaled US\$47 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Representative to Greece Kuo Shih-nan was invited to deliver speeches at Webster University Athens in March and at the Hellenic American University in October.
- (4) Sport exchanges: On June 16, Lin Hong-dow, President of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee (CTOC), signed an MOU with Isidoros Kouvelos, President of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) of Greece, to enhance bilateral cooperation and exchanges in the field of sports. President Kouvelos subsequently led a delegation to Taiwan on

October 18 to attend the 46th NOA Session.

14. Relations with Hungary

- (1) Background: On April 2, 1990, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Trade Office in Hungary, which was subsequently renamed the Taipei Representative Office, Budapest, Hungary, on January 6, 1996. Hungary established the Hungarian Trade Office Taipei on July 26, 1998.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Hungary amounted to US\$1.03 billion. Taiwan's exports to Hungary were US\$619.59 million, while imports from Hungary totaled US\$412.62 million.
 - B. The Taipei Computer Association and the Budapest Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BKIK) signed an MOU on cooperation in June. Additionally, the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce, Taiwan (CNAIC), and the Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists (MGYOSZ) signed a separate MOU in September through an off-site arrangement.
 - C. In 2023, Robert Ouyoung, Vice Chairman of the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA) and Chairman of ANKO Food Machine Co., Ltd., led a business delegation to Hungary in June to co-chair the 16th Hungary–Taiwan Joint Business Council Meeting with the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
 - D. The Budapest Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BKIK) organized a business delegation to Taiwan to attend the 2023 Smart City Summit & Expo and Net Zero City Expo in March. In return, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) and the Institute for Information Industry (III) organized three delegations to Hungary in April and November, including an investment and trade promotion delegation, a hand tool and fastener trade mission, and a business delegation, to conduct trade and economic cooperation activities.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. The Taipei Representative Office, Budapest, Hungary organized six

events, including seminars and presentations on Taiwan's national development, in collaboration with the business school branches of Corvinus University, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, and Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Approximately 300 participants attended the events.

- B. In November, the Taipei Representative Office Budapest, Hungary, assisted Soochow University in partnering with the Central Library of Eötvös Loránd University to organize a Taiwan Literature Exhibition at the library.
- (4) Public diplomacy:
- A. The Taiwan Alumni Association (TAA) of Hungary organized three Taiwanese film screenings in February. Additionally, on September 8, the association co-hosted a screening of *Untold Herstory* with the Jade Mountain Mandarin School of Hungary and invited the film's executive producer, Pasuya Yao, to Hungary for an in-person discussion with the audience.
 - B. The Taipei Representative Office Budapest, Hungary assisted Világjáró, Hungary's largest travel magazine, in publishing a Taiwan-themed special issue in March to promote tourism destinations in southern Taiwan.
 - C. The General Association of Chinese Culture, in collaboration with the Paper Windmill Theatre, presented a charity performance for Ukrainian refugees in Hungary in June. In partnership with the Hungarian Museum of Trade and Tourism, they also organized a Taiwan Day event featuring a special performance of *Norza: The Adventure to the Dragon Palace*.
 - D. Minister without Portfolio Lo Bing-Cheng was invited to deliver a keynote address via pre-recorded video at the two-day Budapest Forum, held from October 11 to 12. Taiwan's Representative to Hungary Liu Shih-chung and Doublethink Lab CEO Wu Min-hsuan also participated in panel discussions.
 - E. The Taipei Representative Office Budapest, Hungary, co-hosted a Taiwan Documentary Film Festival with Palantir Film Foundation

(PFF) from December 1 to 2.

(5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by the Ill-gotten Party Assets Settlement Committee Chairman Lin Feng-cheng and Taipei City Councilor Tai Hsi-chin.
- B. A visit from Hungary was made by Deputy Mayor of Budapest Gábor Kerpel-Fronius.

15. Relations with Ireland

- (1) Background: On July 12, 1988, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Free China Center in Dublin, later renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Ireland on May 2, 1991, and the Taipei Representative Office in Ireland on August 18, 1995. In August 1989, Ireland set up the Institute for Trade and Investment of Ireland in Taiwan, which ceased operations in January 2012.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, the bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Ireland amounted to US\$1.68 billion, with Taiwan's exports totaling US\$854 million, and imports from Ireland of US\$835 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. On January 25, Representative to Ireland Yang Tzu-pao was invited to attend the Lunar New Year celebration in Dublin, featuring a themed presentation entitled "Tales of Taiwan Tea." The event was organized by the Taiwan Centre for Mandarin Learning in Ireland and the Dublin School of Mandarin Chinese, with support from the Taipei Representative Office in Ireland and the Overseas Community Affairs Council. Representative Yang also delivered a keynote speech.
 - B. On January 27, Representative Yang was invited to attend the Holiday World Show Dublin 2023, where he held a cordial conversation with Jack Chambers, Minister of State at the Department of Transport of Ireland, who officiated the opening ceremony.
 - C. On March 30, Representative Yang attended the opening night screening of the 7th East Asia Film Festival Ireland, helping promote Taiwan's cinematic works.

- D. On May 16, the Taipei Representative Office in Ireland organized the 2023 International Tour of Taiwan National Cuisines – Taiwan Balanced Food Festival in Dublin. Attendees included John McGuinness, Chair of the Ireland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Society, Irish Senator Gerry Horkan, and officials from the Embassy of the United States of America in Dublin, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Dublin, and the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to Ireland.
 - E. On July 10, the Taipei Representative Office in Ireland co-hosted the 2nd Translation Slam with the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation at Trinity College Dublin. The event featured a Hakka-language poem titled *Daylight* (天光) composed by Taiwanese Hakka poet Tseng Gui-hai.
 - F. The representative office recommended five recipients for the Ministry of Education’s Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program (HES) and one recipient for the Taiwan Scholarship.
- (4) Think Tank Cooperation: In February, the Taipei Representative Office in Ireland facilitated visits to Taiwan by several prominent Irish scholars, including Dan O’Brien, Chief Economist at the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA); Donnacha Ó Beacháin, Professor at the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University; and Alexander Dukalskis, Associate Professor at the School of Politics and International Relations and Director of the UCD Centre for Asia-Pacific Research, University College Dublin.
- (5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Legislator Ching-Min Chen.
 - B. Visits from Ireland were made by Senators Seán Kyne and Martin Conway, as well as Members of Parliament John McGuinness, Brendan Smith, and Cathal Berry.

16. Relations with the Italian Republic

- (1) Background:
 - A. On August 7, 1990, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei

Cultural and Economic Association in Rome, Italy, which officially began operations on April 15, 1991. The office was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Italy on June 14, 1995, and the Taipei Representative Office in Italy (Ufficio di Rappresentanza di Taipei in Italia) on May 4, 1996. The Taipei Representative Office in Milan was established in 2023. The Italian Association of Foreign Trade established the Italian Trade and Economic Center in Taiwan in September 1989. Subsequently, it was merged into the Italian Economic, Trade, and Cultural Promotion Office in 1995.

- B. The Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament introduced one pro-Taiwan bill and two parliamentary interpellations, including: a. The passage of a resolution promoting a working holiday scheme with Taiwan; b. An interpellation calling for Italy to develop an Indo-Pacific strategy focused on peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and c. An interpellation supporting Taiwan's participation in the WHO and the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA).
- C. Vice President of the Senate of the Republic Gian Marco Centinaio and Senator Elena Murelli visited Taiwan in June, marking the highest-level visit to Taiwan by members of the Italian Parliament to date.
- D. In 2023, 51 members of both houses of the Italian Parliament jointly signed a letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in support of Taiwan's participation in WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Additionally, Lucio Malan, Chair of the Italy-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group, along with Vice Chairs Adriano Paroli and Silvana Andreina Comaroli, co-signed a letter to Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi, President of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), urging support for Taiwan's participation in the organization.
- E. In September, the Italian Chamber of Deputies officially established the Indo-Pacific Committee. Chair Paolo Formentini emphasized that the creation of the committee marks the importance of freedom of navigation and open economic engagement in the Indo-Pacific region

for Italy, and stressed that upholding freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait is vital under international order and law.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. In 2023, the bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Italy amounted to US\$5.79 billion, with Taiwan's exports at US\$2.41 billion and imports from Italy at US\$3.38 billion. In 2023, Taiwanese businesses invested US\$193 million in Italy.
- B. From October 17 to 19, Italy hosted an Italy pavilion at the Taipei Innovative Textile Application Show (TITAS), seeking to explore collaboration opportunities in textile machinery between the two sides.
- C. On November 29, the 7th Meeting of the Taiwan-Italy Joint Business Council was held in Milan. The event focused on smart machinery and green technologies and was co-chaired by Chu Chih-Yaung (Jimmy), Vice Chair of the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA) and Chairman of the Fair Friend Group (FFG), and Barbara Beltrame, Vice President for International Affairs of Confindustria. Remarks were delivered by Amedeo Teti, Head of the Investment Attraction Unit under the Department for Business Policies at the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Representative Yun-Chung Tsai of the Taipei Representative Office in Italy, and Davide Giglio, Representative of the Italian Economic, Trade, and Cultural Promotion Office in Taipei.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. In 2023, the Taipei Representative Office in Italy organized 74 cultural events, including the double solo engraving exhibition "Immediati Dintorni" in Rome (March), the solo exhibition of Taiwanese performance artists at the Museum of Oriental Art, Turin (MAO) in May, the book tour for new Italian translations of Taiwanese literature in October, the promotion of Taiwanese literary documentaries in November, and Taiwan's participation in the Lucca Comics & Games.
- B. The representative office also assisted Taiwanese delegations in participating in the 60th Bologna Children's Book Fair (March), the

18th International Architecture Exhibition (Biennale Architettura 2023) (May), and the 25th Far East Film Festival (FEFF) in Udine.

- C. Taiwan's Judges Academy and the Faculty of Law at Sapienza University of Rome signed an academic cooperation agreement. The NTU College of Law signed a student exchange agreement with the Faculty of Law at Sapienza University of Rome.
- (4) Media exposure:
- A. On November 9, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee gave an exclusive interview to RAI (Radiotelevisione Italiana), emphasizing China's continued intimidation tactics and attempts to divide Taiwanese society in order to achieve its objectives without resorting to war.
- B. In 2023, Representative Yun-Chung Tsai gave 14 interviews to major domestic and international media outlets, including *Il Foglio* and *Le Formiche*, to explain Taiwan's current political and economic situation, its response to China's threats, and the progress of Taiwan-Italy relations.
- (5) Overseas community affairs: The Taipei Representative Office in Italy assisted the Taiwan Culture Association in Italy (ATI Intercultura) and the Association of Taiwanese in Italy (ATI) to establish new Taiwan Centers for Mandarin Learning in both Rome and Siena.
- (6) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister without Portfolio Lo Bing-Cheng, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Chia-ching Hsu, and Deputy Minister of Culture Sue Wang.
- B. Visits from Italy were made by Vice President of the Senate Gian Marco Centinaio, Senator Elena Murelli, former NATO Deputy Secretary General Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo, and Director of the NATO Defense College Foundation Alessandro Politi.

17. Relations with the Republic of Latvia

- (1) Background: On January 29, 1992, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the

Consulate General of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) in Riga. The Consulate General was renamed the Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia in November 1995.

- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Latvia was approximately US\$77.96 million, with Taiwan's exports at US\$66.80 million and imports from Latvia at US\$11.16 million.
- (3) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. A visit from Taiwan was made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu.
 - B. A visit from Latvia was made by Imants Lieģis, diplomatic adviser to the defense minister, former defense minister, and former ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to France.

18. Relations with the Republic of Lithuania

- (1) Background:
 - A. On November 18, 2021, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania. On November 7, 2022, Lithuania established the Lithuanian Trade Representative Office in Taiwan.
 - B. In October, Speaker of the Seimas Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen led a Lithuanian business delegation to Taiwan, accompanied by the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Finance Vaida Markevičienė. She is the first Lithuanian Speaker of Parliament to visit Taiwan. In November, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu visited Lithuania and delivered a speech at the high-level Future of Democracy Forum hosted by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - C. On May 23, Minister of Health Arūnas Dulkys expressed support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) in his statement at the World Health Assembly (WHA) and held a ministerial-level meeting with the Taiwanese delegation. This marked the first time a Lithuanian Minister of Health had publicly supported Taiwan at the WHA.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. In 2023, the total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Lithuania was approximately US\$151.5 million, with Taiwan's exports at US\$111.9 million, and imports from Lithuania at roughly US\$39.60 million.
- B. ITRI and Lithuania's designated partner Teltonika launched a €14 million semiconductor cooperation project to strengthen the resilience of bilateral supply chains.
- C. On February 20, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi and Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation Karolis Žemaitis co-chaired the 2nd Deputy Ministerial-Level Taiwan-Lithuania Economic Dialogue and signed an MOU on Laser Cooperation. On September 11, the Ultrafast Laser Technology Research & Innovation Center was inaugurated at the ITRI Southern Campus in Lioujia, Tainan, by the MOEA in collaboration with TEEMA, TAMI, and the Lithuanian Laser Association, and with participation from 14 Lithuanian laser companies.
- D. On June 16, Deputy Minister of the Council of Agriculture Tu Wen-jane and Vice Minister of Agriculture Vytenis Tomkus held the first Taiwan-Lithuania Agricultural Working Group Meeting, during which the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania and the Lithuanian Trade Representative Office in Taiwan signed an MOU on agricultural cooperation.
- E. Deputy Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Chern Yi-juang led a delegation from the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) to participate in Life Sciences Baltics 2023 held in Lithuania in September. At the event, Taiwan established its largest-ever national pavilion.
- F. On October 25, Deputy Minister of Finance Juan Ching-ha and Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Finance Vaida Markevičienė jointly announced, in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu and Speaker of the Seimas Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, that the two sides had reached a consensus on an agreement to avoid double taxation on income and capital gains, to be concluded between

the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania and the Lithuanian Trade Representative Office in Taiwan.

- (3) Educational and Technological cooperation:
 - A. In 2023, Taiwan provided scholarships to a total of 75 Lithuanian students, including 29 Taiwan-Europe Linking Scholarships, six Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Scholarships, 10 Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, and one Taiwan Scholarship.
 - B. On February 2, Chairperson of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Wu Tsung-tsong held a Bilateral Scientific Cooperation Meeting with Vice Minister of Education, Science and Sport Gintautas Jakštas.
 - C. On September 22, the NSTC, the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Lithuania co-hosted the Joint Lithuanian–Latvian–Taiwanese Tripartite Cooperation Programme in the Fields of Science and Technologies in Lithuania. At the event, Deputy Minister of the NSTC Chen Yi-chuan and Chair of the Research Council of Lithuania Gintaras Valinčius signed the “Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technological Cooperation”.
 - D. In September, Director General of the NSTC Department of Life Sciences Young, Tai-Horng and Chair Gintaras Valinčius jointly convened the Taiwan-Lithuania Joint Biotechnology Research Symposium at the Research Council of Lithuania.
- (4) Public health cooperation: On October 25, Representative Eric Jiun-yaw Huang and Representative of the Lithuanian Trade Office Paulius Lukauskas signed the Taiwan-Lithuania MOU on Medical and Health Cooperation, witnessed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jausieh Joseph Wu and Speaker of the Seimas Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen.
- (5) Cultural exchanges:
 - A. In cooperation with the Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) Centre of Asian Studies, the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania implemented the Spotlight Taiwan Project, organizing lectures, photography exhibitions, film screenings, and symposia throughout

the year to promote Taiwan-related culture.

- B. In November, Lithuania’s Asia Art Center hosted the Taiwanese Documentary Film Festival, screening nine Taiwanese films.
 - C. Taiwanese performing arts groups—the Rom Shing Hakka Opera Troupe, Shinehouse Theatre, and A Moving Sound—performed in Lithuania.
- (6) Humanitarian assistance: On June 1, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee participated in the High-Level Panel of Frontline Democracies held at the Lithuanian Parliament, where he announced that Taiwan and Lithuania would cooperate on postwar reconstruction assistance for Ukraine. Panelists included Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation Erika Kuročkinė and Vice Minister of Education, Science and Sport Gintautas Jakštas. The Kindergarten Ruta in Irpin, Ukraine, a project jointly funded by Taiwan and Lithuania, was completed and inaugurated in August.
- (7) Media exposure: In 2023, over 78 reports were published in Lithuanian and international media featuring interviews with Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, Deputy Minister Roy Chun Lee, and Representative Eric Jiun-yaw Huang, covering Taiwan’s response to external threats, its domestic situation, and Taiwan-Lithuania relations. During Minister Wu’s visit to Lithuania, he appeared on Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT) and was interviewed by the Editor-in-Chief of ELTA News Agency.
- (8) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Chia-ching Hsu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee, Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Wang Pi-sheng, and Deputy Minister of the NSTC Chen Yi-chuan.
 - B. Visits from Lithuania were made by Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation Karolis Žemaitis; Vice Minister of Agriculture Vytenis

Tomkus; Vice Minister of Education, Science and Sport Gintautas Jakštas; Vice-Minister of Finance Vaida Markevičienė, Speaker of the Seimas Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Chairman of the Seimas National Security and Defence Committee Laurynas Kasčiūnas, and former President Dalia Grybauskaitė.

19. Relations with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

- (1) Background:
 - A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Center in Luxembourg on June 10, 1975. The center was later renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Luxembourg on July 13, 1992. The office was closed on October 25, 2002. Luxembourg established the Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office in Taipei on October 13, 2009.
 - B. On May 23, Ambassador Marc Bichler, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations Office in Geneva, spoke on behalf of the Luxembourg government at the World Health Assembly (WHA) plenary session for the second consecutive year, expressing support for Taiwan's participation in technical meetings of the World Health Organization (WHO) as an observer.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Luxembourg amounted to US\$62.44 million, with exports from Taiwan of US\$25.32 million and imports from Luxembourg of US\$37.12 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: For the third consecutive year, the Ministry of Education of Taiwan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth of Luxembourg, dispatched one Mandarin teaching assistant to the International School Edward Steichen.
- (4) Medical cooperation:
 - A. On October 18, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Taiwan and the Ministry of Health and Social Security of Luxembourg held the "Development and Application of Digital Health Database" virtual meeting.
 - B. On August 12, First Government Counsellor Romain Martin of the

Ministry of Higher Education and Research of Luxembourg, and President of the Board of Directors Gregor Baertz of the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH), began a five-day visit to Taiwan. Their visit included exchanges with the NTU Graduate School of Advanced Technology, the Center of Intelligent Healthcare at National Taiwan University Hospital, and the Digital Medicine and Smart Healthcare Research Center at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU).

20. Relations with the Kingdom of the Netherlands

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Centre in the Netherlands on February 2, 1978. The center was subsequently renamed the Far East Trade Office on August 24, 1979, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on July 24, 1990, and, lastly, the Taipei Representative Office in the Netherlands on July 12, 1996. On January 9, 1981, the Netherlands established the Netherlands Council for Trade Promotion, which was renamed the Netherlands Trade and Investment Office on November 1, 1990, and the Netherlands Office in Taipei on April 27, 2020.
- B. On February 14, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands Rudmer Heerema led a cross-party delegation to formally receive Legislators Chiu Chih-wei, Hsu Chih-chieh, and Tsai Shih-ying during their visit to the Dutch Parliament.
- C. The House of Representatives of the Netherlands passed three pro-Taiwan parliamentary motions: On April 20, a motion calling upon the Government to help ensure that the EU, the United States, and other Western allies adopt a united position on China's oppression of Taiwan, in order to facilitate common and effective cooperation to reduce tensions in the Taiwan Strait and maintain the status quo. On July 6, a motion urging the Dutch government to strengthen cybersecurity cooperation with Taiwan. On July 6, a motion calling

for preparations in the event of China disrupting the status quo across the Taiwan Strait.

- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade volume amounted to US\$20.38 billion, with exports from Taiwan of US\$12.92 billion and imports from the Netherlands of US\$7.45 billion. In 2023, Taiwan accumulated 812 investments in the Netherlands, amounting to US\$38.31 billion, while the Netherlands accumulated a total of 227 investments in Taiwan, amounting to US\$4.32 billion.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. On September 14, Minister of Culture Shih Che led a delegation to the Netherlands and announced that the 2024 Taipei International Book Exhibition would feature the Netherlands as the theme country. The Ministry of Culture also sponsored the Taiwan Special Focus at the Cinemasia Film Festival. The Taipei Representative Office in the Netherlands assisted with the participation of the Taiwanese documentary *Invisible Nation* at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA). Additionally, the representative office co-hosted a seminar “Exploring the unseen past: Taiwan and the Netherlands” in December celebrating the 400 years of history between Taiwan and the Netherlands.
 - B. The Taipei Representative Office in the Netherlands established a Chinese Language Center at the Taiwan Business Families Association in the South Netherlands. Taiwan provided one Taiwan Scholarship and five Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to Dutch students pursuing degree programs and Mandarin studies in Taiwan.
- (4) Technological cooperation:
 - A. From September 4 to 8, Director General for Business Policy & Innovation at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Erwin Nijssen led a delegation to Taiwan to participate in the 2023 SEMICON Taiwan.
 - B. On October 30, the Taipei Representative Office in the Netherlands, in cooperation with the National Biotechnology Research Park (NBRP), Nangang, Utrecht Science Park, the Taiwan Globalization Network

(TGN), and the Taiwan Business Association in the Netherlands (TBA), co-organized the 12th Taiwan Business Day and signed the “Memorandum of Understanding Between Biomedical Translation Research Center, Academia Sinica, Stichting Utrecht Science Park, Stichting Incubator Utrecht, ROM Utrecht Region”.

- (5) Bilateral exchanges: In June, Representative to the Netherlands Chen Hsing-hsing and Mayor of Amstelveen Tjapko Poppens co-hosted the opening ceremony of the Netherlands-Taiwan Dragon Boat Festival. In October, the Mayor of The Hague Jan van Zanen attended and delivered remarks at the National Day reception, and Representative Chen Hsing-hsing participated in the Amstelveen International Business Day in November.
- (6) Mutual visits by dignitaries: Visits from Taiwan were made by Minister without Portfolio Lin Wan-i, Minister of Justice Tsai Ching-hsiang, Minister of Culture Shih Che, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching, and Legislators Chiu Chih-wei, Hsu Chih-chieh, and Tsai Shih-ying.

21. Relations with the Kingdom of Norway

- (1) Background:
 - A. Matters relating to Norway are overseen by the Taipei Mission in Sweden.
 - B. On April 3, Erling Rimestad, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, expressed public support for Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) during an interview with Aftenposten, Norway’s largest printed newspaper.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume amounted to approximately US\$532.92 million, with exports from Taiwan at approximately US\$199.65 million and imports from Norway at approximately US\$333.27 million.
 - B. On November 11, Dr. Chung-Hsien Chen, Director of the Energy Technology Division, Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic

Affairs, led a delegation to Oslo, Norway, to participate in the International Energy Forum (IEF). On November 15, the Metal Industries Research & Development Centre (MIRDC) and Norwegian company AKVA Group signed an MOU on subsea operations and maintenance applications for offshore wind farms. On November 16, the Taipei Mission in Sweden facilitated the delegation's engagement with the Norwegian Energy Partners (NORWEP), culminating in the first-ever Norway-Taiwan Offshore Wind Forum held in Stavanger.

(3) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Legislator Freddy Lim.
- B. Visits from Norway were made by Second Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, Parliament of Norway Guri Melby.

22. Relations with the Republic of Poland

(1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Poland on December 17, 1992. The office was renamed the Taipei Representative Office in Poland in 2018. On November 2, 1995, Poland established the Warsaw Trade Office in Taipei, which was renamed the Polish Office in Taipei in 2018.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade amounted to US\$1.82 billion, with exports from Taiwan of US\$1.42 billion and imports from Poland of US\$406 million.
- B. In June, Deputy Economic Minister Chen Chern-chyi led a delegation to Poland. On June 20, he co-chaired the 11th Taiwan-Poland Economic Consultations in Warsaw with the Polish Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Technology Grzegorz Piechowiak. During the event, both sides signed an MOU on the Establishment of the TW-PL Working Group on Cooperation in Hydrogen Energy Field.
- C. The Minister of the National Development Council Kung Ming-hsin visited Poland in July. During his visit, he and Poland's Deputy

Minister of Economic Development and Technology witnessed the signing of an MOU and Master Telecom Service Agreement (MTSA) between EXATEL and Chunghwa Telecom.

- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland continued to provide reciprocal scholarships. The Ministry of Education also dispatched 10 Mandarin instructors to Polish universities to promote traditional Chinese characters.
 - B. In September, Deputy Minister of Education Lio Mon-Chi led a delegation to Poland. On September 20, he signed the Toruń Declaration at Nicolaus Copernicus University in the presence of Representative Sharon Shang-Nian Wu. The following day, Deputy Minister Liu held discussions with the Polish Deputy Minister of Education Science Tomasz Rzymkowski.
- (4) Humanitarian assistance: Taiwan continued its cooperation with the Polish Government and NGOs, including the Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM), to assist Ukraine and support Ukrainian refugees in Poland:
 - A. On July 29, Representative Bob L. J. Chen signed a cooperation agreement with Wojtek Wilk, President of PCPM, to jointly implement aid projects focused on rebuilding hospitals and schools in Ukraine.
 - B. In October, Representative Sharon Shang-Nian Wu attended the opening ceremony of the Children's Home in Krakow, a project sponsored by Taiwan to provide continued education and care for Ukrainian orphans.
- (5) Scientific cooperation: In July, James C. Liao, President of Academia Sinica, visited Poland, where he met with Marek Konarzewski, President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and representatives of the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR).
- (6) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Deputy Secretary General of the National Security Council of Taiwan Hsu Szu-chien, Minister of the

National Development Council Kung Ming-hsin, Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching, President of Academia Sinica James C. Liao, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi, Deputy Minister of Education Lio Mon-Chi, and Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Wang Pi-sheng.

- B. Visits from Poland were made by Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Polish Parliament Barbara Bartuś, as well as Members of Parliament Mieczysław Kasprzak, Joanna Senyszyn, Bartłomiej Dorywalski, Maria Małgorzata Janyska, Andrzej Kryj, Krzysztof Truskolaski, and Robert Warwas.

23. Relations with the Portuguese Republic

- (1) Background: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in Portugal was established on July 1, 1992.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade volume amounted to US\$776 million, with exports from Taiwan of US\$567 million and imports from Portugal of US\$209 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Taiwan provided one Taiwan Scholarship and one Huayu Enrichment Scholarship to Portuguese students pursuing studies in Taiwan.
- (4) Technological cooperation:
 - A. The MOEA Small and Medium Enterprise Administration commissioned the Institute for Information Industry (III) to host the Growing Global Go G Camp. Eight startup teams participated in the Web Summit Lisbon held from November 13 to 16, 2023. During the event, Representative to Portugal Tsung-Che Chang visited the exhibition and was invited to speak at three major events involving the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce and the Portuguese Industrial Association (AIP). He also promoted Taiwan's image and introduced measures, such as the Taiwan Employment Gold Card.
 - B. On October 13 and 17, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in Portugal assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in sponsoring two

Portuguese environmental organizations, the *Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente (GEOTA)* and the Portuguese Association for Environmental Education (ASPEA), to promote wetland conservation projects.

- (5) Media exposure:
 - A. Representative to Portugal Tsung-Che Chang gave exclusive interviews to Expresso and CNN Portugal, highlighting Taiwan's political and economic landscape, technological development, and trade advantages.
 - B. From March 1 to 5, Representative Chang attended the Lisbon Travel Market, where he was interviewed by Globo TV at the event site, promoting Taiwan's tourism and cultural soft power.

24. Relations with Romania

- (1) Background: Matters relating to Romania are overseen by the Taipei Representative Office, Bratislava.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade volume amounted to US\$458 million, with exports from Taiwan of US\$302 million and imports from Romania of US\$156 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: Taiwan provided one Taiwan Scholarship, four Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, and three Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarships to Romanian students.

25. Relations with the Slovak Republic

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Representative Office, Bratislava, on August 1, 2003. Slovakia established the Slovak Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei on September 1 of the same year.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Slovakia amounted to approximately US\$468 million, with Taiwan's exports at around US\$154 million and imports from Slovakia at approximately US\$314 million. The Central and Eastern Europe Investment Fund

completed two major investments in Slovakia this year, including €8 million in Photoneo, a high-tech 3D scanning systems company, and €3 million in Sensoneo, a provider of smart city waste management solutions.

B. The Third Session of the Taiwanese-Slovak Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in Taiwan in June. Deputy Minister of Economy of Slovakia Peter Švec led a delegation of 26 representatives from the public, private, and academic sectors to participate. The event was attended by Minister of the National Development Council Kung Ming-hsin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee, and Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Cheng-chi, all of whom delivered remarks. Both sides signed the Protocol of the Third Session of the Taiwanese-Slovak Commission on Economic Cooperation, along with eight MOUs covering semiconductors, economy and trade, technology, and education.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

A. Taiwan provided one Taiwan Scholarship, four Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, 48 Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarships, 12 Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Scholarships for master's and doctoral programs, and 33 short-term training slots to Slovak students.

B. The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic allows Taiwanese researchers and students to pursue studies in the Slovak Republic.

C. Yuanpei University of Medical Technology and Yuan Ze University visited Slovakia to meet with representatives from Slovak Medical University in Bratislava (SMU) and Comenius University to enhance bilateral research and academic exchanges. Jozef Tancer, Vice-rector for International Relations of Comenius University, led a delegation to Taiwan to participate in the Global Youth Trends Forum and visited partner universities, including National Tsing Hua University and National Chengchi University.

D. Taiwan collaborated with Slovak think tanks GLOBSEC and the Central European Institute of Asian Studies to co-organize nine

seminars throughout the year.

- (4) Humanitarian assistance:
 - A. On May 2, Representative to Slovakia David Nan-Yang Lee signed an agreement with the Slovak NGO Ukraine-Slovakia Initiative, providing US\$150,000 to support Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia.
 - B. On August 1, Representative Lee represented the Taiwanese government at the Slovak Prime Minister's Office in a signing ceremony with Open Society Foundations and the Pontis Foundation to formalize a cooperation agreement on Ukrainian reconstruction. Taiwan pledged US\$5 million to jointly support Ukraine's rebuilding efforts alongside Slovakia. The signing was witnessed by Elena Kohutikova, chairwoman of the Council of Advisors to the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic.
- (5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan included Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee and Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Wang Pi-sheng.
 - B. A visit from Slovakia was made by Deputy Minister of Economy of Slovakia Peter Švec.

26. Relations with the Republic of Slovenia

- (1) Background: Matters relating to Slovenia are overseen by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Austria.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Slovenia amounted to approximately US\$189 million, with Taiwan's exports at around US\$135 million and imports from Slovenia at approximately US\$54 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: The University of Ljubljana continued to host the Taiwan Study Center and offer elective courses focused on Taiwan. In 2023, the center further promoted Taiwanese culture through the Spotlight Taiwan project. The Ministry of Education appointed a Mandarin instructor to the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Ljubljana to teach traditional Chinese characters and Taiwan studies.

- (4) Media exposure: In 2023, the Slovenian newspaper Delo published three articles from Taiwan: an article on the World Health Organization (WHO) from the Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan in May, a special article calling on the international community to support Taiwan's participation in the United Nations (UN) from the Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu in August, and an article on United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from the Minister of the Environment Shieu Fuh-sheng in November.

27. Relations with the Kingdom of Spain

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Sun Yat-sen Center in Spain in August 1973. The center was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Spain, in January 1991. On March 25, 1974, Spain set up the Cervantes Center for the Promotion of Commerce and Culture in Taiwan, which was renamed the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan in March 1982.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Spain amounted to approximately US\$2.31 billion, with Taiwan's exports at around US\$1.39 billion and imports from Spain at approximately US\$920.79 million.
 - B. Promoted participation in the first Program for Taiwan-Spain Collaboration on Innovation R&D, and facilitated the visit of Director of the Spanish Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) Javier Ponce to Taiwan on November 1 to meet with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Taipei Computer Association (TCA).
 - C. The Taipei Representative Office in Spain, in collaboration with the Madrid Chamber of Commerce, organized the Spain-Taiwan Smart City Summit & B2B Matchmaking. On November 6, the Taipei Computer Association (TCA) delegation visited the Madrid City Council and the Digital Agency of the Community of Madrid.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. Taiwan provided three Taiwan Scholarships, four one-year Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, and 14 six-month Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to Spanish students pursuing degree programs and Mandarin studies in Taiwan.
 - B. The Taipei Representative Office in Spain organized the following cultural activities:
 - a. Held the 2023 Taiwan Art Week in Madrid from February 22 to 26, featuring works by artists Chang Teng-yuan, Hsieh Jung-wei, Wu Wei-ting, and Chen Szu-ying.
 - b. In early June, invited writer Tu Miao-yi to hold a book signing and lecture for the Spanish translation of her novel Black Ghost at the Madrid Book Fair.
 - c. Facilitated the participation of Taiwanese musicians Liliun and Chunyuan at the Day Pro stage of the 2023 Primavera Sound Barcelona in June.
 - d. Co-hosted the Edward Yang: Four Taiwanese Stories retrospective with the Filmoteca de Catalunya from September 12 to 24.
 - e. Participated in the 17th L.E.V. Festival from September 22 to 25, which was held at MATADERO, Madrid, featuring works by NAXS Corp and XTRUX.
 - f. Facilitated the participation of HUNG DANCE at the MASDANZA, The International Contemporary Dance Festival of the Canary Islands in October.
 - g. Supported performances by LEE\WAKULYA and Cloud Gate Dance Theatre in Spain in November.
- (4) Media exposure:
- A. The Taipei Representative Office in Spain facilitated a total of 14 interviews for Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu with major Spanish media outlets, including ABC (newspaper), Agencia EFE, and El Mundo, as well as joint international media interviews.
 - B. Both Former Representative to Spain Liu Der-li and Current Representative Chang Chun-fei participated in 52 interviews across

22 media outlets, including El Mundo, Trece TV, and Radio Nacional de España (RNE) to provide insights into Taiwan's political and economic status, as well as its international participation initiatives.

- C. The Taipei Representative Office in Spain facilitated the publication of 12 op-eds by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan, Minister of the Environment Shieu Fuh-sheng, and Director-General of the National Police Agency's Criminal Investigation Bureau Chou Yu-wei in both Spanish and English editions of major Spanish media outlets.
 - D. The office also arranged for nine articles authored by Representative Liu and Representative Chang on Taiwan's international participation to be published in Spain's ABC (newspaper), La Razón, and The Diplomat.
 - E. Additionally, the office collaborated with Toros TV to produce and broadcast a special series on Taiwan's international initiatives.
 - F. The Taipei Representative Office in Spain also supported the TVBS Insight People team in producing a special series on Taiwan's diplomatic efforts in Spain.
- (5) Overseas community affairs: Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching led a delegation to visit the Taiwanese community in Spain from April 12 to 14.
- (6) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by the Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching.
 - B. Visits from Spain were made by President of the Spanish Congress of Deputies Health and Consumer Commission Deputy Rosa Romero Sánchez, Spokesperson Iván Espinosa, Second Vice Chair of the Anti-Corruption Committee Jaime de Olano, Second Vice Chair of the Interior Committee Ricardo Tarno, Member of the Education and Ecological Transition Committees José Ángel Alonso, and Spokesperson for the Energy Committee Juan Diego Requena.

28. Relations with the Kingdom of Sweden

(1) Background:

- A. In September 1981, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taipei Trade, Tourism, and Information Office, which was later renamed the Taipei Mission in Sweden in 1994. In December 1982, Sweden set up the Swedish Industries Trade Representative Office, later renamed the Swedish Trade and Investment Council in July 1991.
- B. Prime Minister of Sweden Ulf Kristersson expressed concerns over rising tensions in the Taiwan Strait during his speech at the 27th Stockholm China Forum on May 30. He reiterated these concerns in his September 12th policy address to the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag), emphasizing that China's military threats against Taiwan are unacceptable.
- C. A cross-party group of Swedish parliamentarians, including Deputy Speaker of the Riksdag Kerstin Lundgren, Chair of the Swedish-Taiwanese Parliamentarian Association (STPA) Boriana Åberg, Vice Chair of the STPA Mathias Tegnér, Deputy for the Committee on European Union Affairs Markus Wiechel, Chair of the Committee on Industry and Trade Tobias Andersson, and Members of Parliament Joar Forssell, Nima Gholam Ali Pour, Björn Söder, Maria Stockhaus, and Staffan Eklöf, submitted 22 pro-Taiwan parliamentary interpellations in 2023.
- D. Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström consistently reiterated Sweden's support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHA during parliamentary interpellations, stating that Taiwan's involvement aligns with EU and Swedish interests. Minister for Health Care Acko Ankarberg Johansson also spoke at the WHA on May 22, advocating for global inclusivity in healthcare and expressing support for Taiwan.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Sweden amounted to approximately US\$1.69 billion, with Taiwan's exports at around US\$732.83 million and imports from Sweden at approximately US\$955.96 million.

- B. Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi and State Secretary to the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Håkan Jevrell co-chaired the Sweden-Taiwan Trade Talks in Stockholm on September 26.
 - C. On the same day, the Taiwan-Sweden Joint Business Council Meeting was held, witnessed by Deputy Minister Chen Chern-chyi and State Secretary Håkan Jevrell. Both sides signed an MOU on Cooperation in the Sustainable Textile Industry.
- (3) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi and Deputy Minister of Digital Affairs Ning Yeh.
 - B. Visits from Sweden were made by Deputy for the Committee on European Union Affairs Markus Wiechel, Chair of the Committee on Industry and Trade Tobias Andersson, Vice Chair of the Swedish-Taiwanese Parliamentarian Association (STPA) Mathias Tegnér, and Members of Parliament Sara Gille, Rasmus Giertz, Johan Hultberg, Åsa Eriksson, Eva Lindh, Stefan Olsson, Anna af Sillén, Ann-Charlotte Hammar Johnsson, Eric Palmqvist, Lili André, Marianne Fundahn, and Monica Haider.

29. Relations with the Swiss Confederation

- (1) Background: In 1973, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Far Eastern Service Center in Switzerland, and the Sun Yat-sen Culture Center in June 1979. The former was later renamed the Taipei Trade Office on January 1, 1992, and the latter renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on November 28, 1990. On December 16, 1997, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) set up the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Geneva. The Taipei Trade Office was merged with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office on October 1, 2007. Switzerland established the Trade Office of Swiss Industries on November 20, 1982.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Switzerland

amounted to approximately US\$2.82 billion, with Taiwan's exports at around US\$725 million and imports from Switzerland at approximately US\$2.1 billion.

- B. In March, the Swiss Hydrogen Association (Hydropole) led a delegation to Taiwan to participate in the 2023 Smart City Summit & Expo. On March 30, the association, in cooperation with the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA), co-organized the Taiwan-Switzerland Joint Business Council Meeting and Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Forum. The event facilitated exchanges with the Taiwan Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Partnership and the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI).
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
- A. Representative to Switzerland Wei-feng Huang was invited to participate in the Asia Days event hosted by the University of St. Gallen and also delivered a speech at the "Cybersecurity Management Challenges Symposium 2023" held by Franklin University Switzerland.
 - B. The Taipei Representative Office in Switzerland was invited to co-organize four seminars with the University of Zurich, Franklin University Switzerland, the Swiss Foreign Policy Association and Swiss Democracy Foundation.
 - C. Taiwan provided four Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to Swiss students pursuing studies in Taiwan.
- (4) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by President of Academia Sinica James C. Liao, Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan, Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Shih Chung-liang, and Legislators Cheng Cheng-chien and Lai Hsiang-ling.
 - B. Visits from Switzerland were made by Co-Chair of the Switzerland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Fabian Molina, Co-Chair of the Switzerland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Nicolas Walder, and Swiss National Council Members Yves Nidegger, Mustafa Atici, and Leonore Porchet.

30. Relations with Ukraine

(1) Background:

- A. In March 2007, TAITRA established the Taiwan Trade Center in Kyiv. As of 2023, all matters related to Ukraine are now overseen by the Taipei Representative Office in Poland.
- B. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan strongly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine and provided humanitarian assistance. In March 2023, Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held a bilateral meeting in Kyiv. Following the talks, they issued the Joint Statement on Special Global Partnership between Japan and Ukraine, which strongly condemned Russia and emphasized the importance of peace in the Taiwan Strait for the security and prosperity of the international community. The statement marked the first time the Ukrainian government publicly addressed the Taiwan Strait issue.

- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Ukraine amounted to approximately US\$103.44 million, with Taiwan's exports at around US\$63.73 million and imports from Ukraine at approximately US\$39.71 million.
- (3) Humanitarian Aid: In 2023, the Taiwanese government allocated NT\$1.8 billion to assist local governments in Ukraine with the reconstruction of bridges, hospitals, churches, schools, and other infrastructure projects. Taiwan also collaborated with Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia to jointly support Ukraine's national reconstruction efforts. Additionally, Taiwan utilized international multilateral platforms of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), contributing to the Ukraine Recovery and Reconstruction Guarantee Facility (URGF) and the International Chernobyl Cooperation Account (ICCA) to assist with Ukraine's recovery and rebuilding initiatives.

31. Relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Free China Information Office in the UK in June 1950. The office was renamed the Free Chinese Center in September 1963 and later became the Taipei Representative Office in the UK on April 15, 1992. The Taipei Representative Office in the UK, Edinburgh Office, was set up on April 25, 1998. The UK set up the Anglo-Taiwan Trade Committee in February 1976, which was renamed the British Trade and Cultural Office on October 15, 1993, and British Office Taipei on May 26, 2015.
- B. In March, the UK Government released the Integrated Review Refresh 2023, marking the first time Taiwan was explicitly mentioned. The report emphasized the UK's firm opposition to any unilateral changes to the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and reaffirmed its support for peace and stability in the region. On April 25, UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverly delivered the UK's annual foreign policy speech, reiterating that unilateral actions to alter the status quo in the Taiwan Strait are unacceptable and expressing the UK's support for peaceful resolution of cross-strait differences. Additionally, the UK, alongside the United States, Australia, Sweden, Poland, Japan, and South Korea, issued joint statements or signed agreements reaffirming that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait are crucial for global security and prosperity, urging a peaceful resolution to the Taiwan Strait issue.
- C. On October 24, the UK House of Commons Defence Committee published the report titled "UK Defence and the Indo-Pacific" as part of the UK Government's "whole of government Indo-Pacific tilt" strategy, initiated in 2021. The report stated that Taiwan is effectively an independent country and recommended that the UK Government support Taiwan's self-determination, protect Taiwan from Chinese military threats, and strengthen high-level visits, economic cooperation, and support for Taiwan's participation in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and the United Kingdom amounted to approximately US\$6.35 billion, with Taiwan's exports at around US\$3.63 billion and imports from the United Kingdom at approximately US\$2.73 billion.
- B. On July 26, Minister without Portfolio and Chief Trade Negotiator John Deng and Minister of State at the Department for Business and Trade Nigel Huddleston jointly announced the formal launch of the UK-Taiwan Enhanced Trade Partnership, aiming to deepen cooperation in investment, energy and net-zero carbon emissions, and digital trade. Subsequently, on November 8, Representative to the UK Kelly W. Hsieh and British Office in Taipei Representative John Dennis, representing the Office of Trade Negotiations, Executive Yuan and the Department for Business and Trade, respectively, signed the UK-Taiwan Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) Arrangement via video conference.
- C. On November 6, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi and Minister of State at the Department for Business and Trade Nigel Huddleston co-chaired the 26th UK-Taiwan Trade Talks in London.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. The United Kingdom is Taiwan's largest destination for studying abroad in Europe, with approximately 12,000 Taiwanese students studying there annually. Taiwan provided approximately 80 Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarships to British students to pursue Mandarin studies or participate in exchange programs in Taiwan.
- B. In 2023, Taiwan and the United Kingdom collaborated on 14 cultural and artistic projects, hosting approximately 126 events throughout the year.

- (4) Medical cooperation: On May 18, Director General of the MOHW National Health Insurance Administration Chung-Liang Shih and Taiwan Center for Drug Evaluation CEO Shyr-Yi Lin signed a cooperation agreement with the UK National Institute for Health and

Care Excellence (NICE) to enhance information exchange and personnel training. Subsequently, on July 7, Representative to the UK Kelly W. Hsieh and British Office in Taipei Representative John Dennis signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation between Taiwan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, establishing a solid foundation for Taiwan-UK health cooperation.

- (5) Technological cooperation:
 - A. The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) has signed memoranda of understanding with the Royal Society and the British Academy. In 2023, approximately 15 joint projects were co-funded.
 - B. Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, Deputy Minister Huai-Jen Lee, NSTC Minister Tsung-Tsong Wu, and Director General of the Taiwan Space Agency Wu Jong-shinn also made visits to the UK.
- (6) International participation: At the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA) on May 22, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care Will Quince publicly expressed support for Taiwan's participation as an observer and meaningful engagement in all related technical meetings. The UK also co-signed joint communiqués at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in April and the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting in May, as well as the 2023 AUKMIN Joint Statement with Australia, clearly supporting Taiwan's involvement in the WHA and WHO technical meetings. Furthermore, the British Office in Taipei, along with the representative offices of the United States, Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and Lithuania, issued a joint statement ahead of the WHA to express strong support for Taiwan. Pro-Taiwan UK parliamentarians also joined members of the Formosa Club in Europe to co-sign a letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, advocating for Taiwan's observer status at the WHA and meaningful participation in WHO mechanisms and activities.
- (7) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Former President Ma Ying-jeou, President of the Examination Yuan Huang Jong-tsun, Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, Deputy Minister of Digital Affairs Huai-

Jen Lee, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi, Chairperson of the National Science and Technology Council Tsung-Tsong Wu, President of the Taiwan-UK Inter-Parliamentary Amity Association Chiang Chi-chen, and Legislator Tsai Shih-ying.

- B. Visits from the UK were made by Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for Business and Trade Julia Sutcliffe, UK Trade Envoy to Taiwan and Deputy Speaker Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Former Prime Minister Liz Truss, and Chair of the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Bob Stewart.

Photographs of Diplomatic Events Europe



Premier Chen Chien-jen (second from right), Director of the National Palace Museum Hsiao Tsung-huang (center), and Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani (second from left), Librarian and Archivist of the Vatican Apostolic Library and the Apostolic Archive, inaugurate the exhibition *Splendors of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana and Rare Books from the Ming and Qing Imperial Libraries*. (March 10, 2023)



The Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) to the Holy See hosts the 5 Loaves & 2 Fish special exhibition to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the pope's pontificate. Ambassador to the Holy See Matthew S. M. Lee (third from left), Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education (fourth from right), Bishop of Tainan Bosco Lin Chi-nan (fifth from left), and artist Tseng Ying-tung (third from right) attend the event. (March 14, 2023)



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee (sixth from right) and Representative to the EU and Belgium Remus Li-Kuo Chen (first from left) attend the inaugural Unity Summit of the Formosa Club, hosted by Michael Gahler, Chair of the European Parliament-Taiwan Friendship Group (center). (May 24, 2023)



Representative to the EU and Belgium Alexander Tah-ray Yui (third from right) hosts the 2023 National Day reception in Luxembourg and poses for a photo with Members of Parliament Claude Wiseler (sixth from right), Paul Galles (fifth from right), Charles Margue (seventh from right), Sven Clement (fourth from right), and Fernand Kartheiser (first from right). (October 2, 2023)



Representative to Austria Katherine Chang (second from right) attends the 2023 EBRD TFP Trade Finance Forum held in Vienna by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and poses for a photo with Head of Financial Institutions at EBRD Francis Malige (first from left) and Head of EBRD's Trade Facilitation Programme Rudolf Putz (second from right). (October 4, 2023)



Representative to Austria Katherine Chang (center) introduces Taiwan at the Austrian Parliament and poses for a photo with Members of Parliament Corinna Scharzenberger (first from left), Georg Bürstmayr (second from left), and Ewa Ernst-Dziedzic (third from left). (November 22, 2023)



China Airlines launches its first direct flight from Taipei to Prague. Representative to the Czech Republic Ke Liang-ruey (fifth from left), Czech Republic Senate President Miloš Vystrčil (fourth from right), and Vice President of the Senate Jiří Oberfalzer (second from left) attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony. (July 19, 2023)



Representative to the Czech Republic Ke Liang-ruey (first from left) and Minister of Culture Shih Che (second from right) pose for a photo at the Czech Senate with Senate President Miloš Vystrčil (first from right) and First Deputy President of the Czech Senate Jiří Drahoš (second from left). (September 14, 2023)



Representative to Denmark Frank Shying-jow Lee and his spouse (front row, second and fifth from left) host the Taiwan-Denmark Association Summer Party. Attendees include Taiwan-Denmark Association Chair Svend E. Hovmand (front row, fifth from right) and Taiwan Friendship Association Chair Pia Kjærsgaard (front row, sixth from right). (August 25, 2023)



Representative to Denmark Frank Shying-jow Lee and his spouse (second and first from left) host the 2023 National Day reception, posing for a photo with Taiwan-Denmark Association Chair Svend E. Hovmand (first from right) and Taiwan Friendship Association Chair Pia Kjærsgaard (second from right). (September 28, 2023)



Representative to Finland Janet Chang (fifth from left) attends the 10th Finland-Taiwan Business Forum held by Business Finland. She poses for a photo with Deputy Director General of the Department for Asia and Oceania at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland Juha Niemi (fourth from right) and Executive Director of the Global Growth Service Area at Business Finland Risto Vuohelainen (fifth from right). (September 29, 2023)



Representative to Finland Janet Chang (center) hosts the 2023 National Day reception, posing with Atte Harjanne, First Vice Chair of the Finland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group (left), and Veijo Niemi, Second Vice Chair of the Finland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group (right). (October 3, 2023)



Representative to France Wu Chih-chung (second from left) hosts the 2023 National Day reception, posing with Chairman of the French Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group Alain Richard (first from left) and Chair of the National Assembly Taiwan Friendship Group Eric Bothorel (second from right). (October 4, 2023)



Representative to France Wu Chih-chung (first from right) attends the honorary doctorate conferment ceremony for National Taiwan University President Wen-Chang Chen (second from right) at the University of Grenoble Alpes (UGA). He poses with UGA President Yassine Lakhnech (first from left) and Vice President for International Relations Redouane Borsali (second from left). (October 12, 2023)



Director General of the Taipei Representative Office in Provence Cheng-hong Shen (third from left) attends the sister city agreement signing ceremony between Mayor of Béziers Robert Ménard (second from right) and Mayor of Tainan Huang Wei-che (third from right), held via video conference. (November 3, 2023)



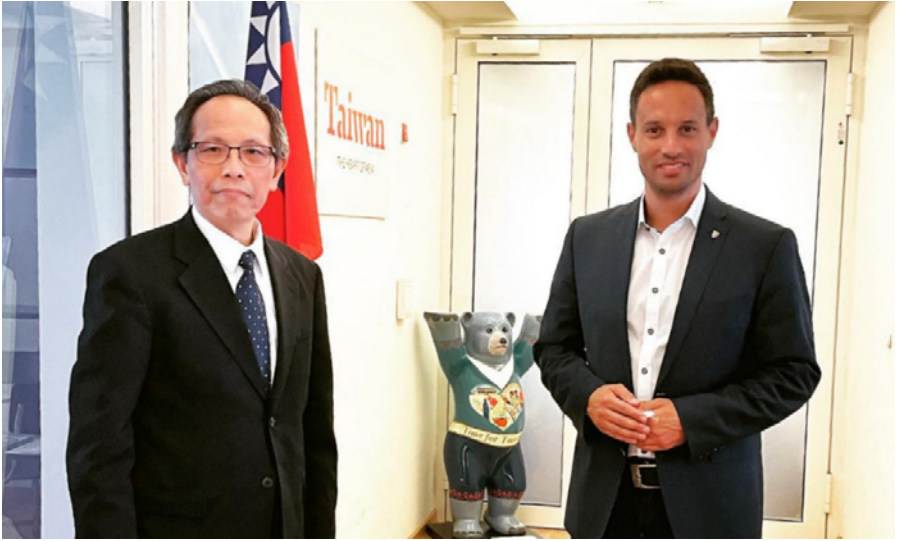
Director General of the Taipei Representative Office in Provence Cheng-hong Shen and his spouse (center, first from right) host the 2023 National Day reception, posing with First Deputy Mayor of Marseille Michèle Rubirola (left). (October 6, 2023)



Representative to Germany Shieh Jhy-wey (second from left) and German Institute Taipei Director General Jörg Polster (second from right) sign the Germany-Taiwan Scientific and Technological Cooperation Arrangement in Taipei, witnessed by Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Wu Tsung-tsong (first from left) and German Federal Minister of Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger (first from right). (March 21, 2023)



Representative to Germany Shieh Jhy-wey (left) accompanies Minister of Justice Tsai Ching-hsiang (right) during a visit with Federal Minister of Justice Marco Buschmann (center), marking the first meeting between the justice ministers of Taiwan and Germany. (July 4, 2023)



Director General of the Taipei Representative Office in Frankfurt Jui-kun Huang meets with Social Democratic Party (SDP) Hessen State Parliament Member Oliver Ulloth, posing for a commemorative photo. (April 26, 2023)



Director General of the Taipei Representative Office in Frankfurt Jui-kun Huang (center) poses for a photo with Peter Heidt, Human Rights Policy Spokesperson for the Free Democratic Party (FDP) in the German Parliament (right). (December 21, 2023)



Director of the Taipei Representative Office in Hamburg Yu-shun Chen (fourth from right) attends the inaugural meeting of the Hamburg-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group, posing for a photo with Chair Jenny Jasberg (fourth from left) and other group members. (April 4, 2023)



Director of the Taipei Representative Office in Hamburg Yu-shun Chen (fifth from right) accompanies Representative to Germany Shieh Jhy-wey (fifth from left) to attend a lecture by Chair of the Lower Saxony Parliamentary Friendship Group for Taiwan Stefan Birkner (third from right). (June 22, 2023)



Director of the Taipei Representative Office in Munich Ian-tsing Joseph Dieu is invited to attend the monthly meeting of the Peutinger Collegium Association and poses for a photo with Chief of Staff of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Joachim Ruehle. (February 14, 2023)



Director of the Taipei Representative Office in Munich Ian-tsing Joseph Dieu attends a panel discussion hosted by the Munich Security Conference Youth Center and serves as the keynote speaker. (February 18, 2023)



Representative to Greece Kuo Shih-nan attends the opening ceremony of the Smart Lighting and Energy Efficiency System at the Bonsist Sports Complex, a collaborative project between the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) and the Taiwan Environmental Information Association (TEIA). He also represents the association in the exchange of a memorandum of understanding with UNWE President Dimitar Dimitrov. (June 29, 2023)



Representative to Greece Kuo Shih-nan is interviewed by NEWS247 journalist Panos Kodonas during the 2023 National Day reception. (October 9, 2023)



Representative to Hungary Liu Shih-chung (sixth from right) invites Chair of the Hungary-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Association István Tiba (seventh from left), cross-party parliamentarians, and Mayor of Gyöngyös György Hiesz (second from right) to visit the Giant Bicycle factory in Gyöngyös. (February 21, 2023)



Representative to Hungary Liu Shih-chung is interviewed by Hir TV at the Taiwan Dox Documentary Film Festival in Hungary. (December 1, 2023)



Representative to Ireland Yang Tzu-pao hosts the 2023 National Day reception and poses for a photo with Chair of the Ireland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Society John McGuinness. (October 3, 2023)



Representative to Ireland Yang Tzu-pao attends the European Youth Parliament Annual Meeting held by the Technological University Dublin and delivers a speech. (October 23, 2023)



Representative to Italy Yun-Chung Tsai (sixth from right) and Deputy Minister of Culture Sue Wang (sixth from left) co-host the opening ceremony of the Taiwan Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition (Biennale Architettura 2023) in Venice, posing with Venice City Government officials and former member of the Chamber of Deputies Alex Bazzaro (second from right). (May 18, 2023)



The 7th Meeting of the Taiwan-Italy Joint Business Council is held in Milan, Italy, co-chaired by Chairman of the Fair Friend Group (FFG) Jimmy Chu (third from right) and Vice President for International Affairs of Confindustria Barbara Beltrame (third from left). Representative to Italy Yun-Chung Tsai (second from left) delivers a speech at the event, which focuses on smart manufacturing and green technology. (November 29, 2023)



Representative to Italy Yun-Chung Tsai (first from left), Director of the Milan Office Tsan-Nan Lin (second from right), Vice President of the Italian Senate Gian Marco Centinaio (first from right), and Vice Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies Paolo Formentini (second from left) attend the unveiling ceremony of the Milan Office. (October 16, 2023)



Director of the Milan Office Tsan-Nan Lin (second from left) meets with Deputy Mayor of Turin Michela Favaro (second from right). (November 3, 2023)



Representative to Latvia Andrew H.C. Lee meets with New Conservative Party leader and former Minister of Welfare Gatis Eglītis. (March 27, 2023)



Representative to Latvia Andrew H.C. Lee meets with former Prime Minister of Estonia and Member of the European Parliament Andrus Ansip. (October 13, 2023)



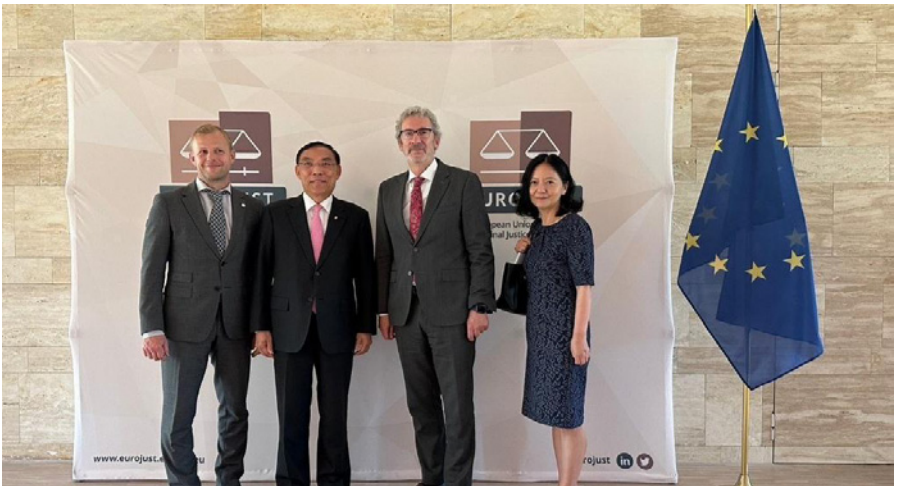
Representative to Lithuania Huang Jiun-yaw (first from left) attends the reception for the strategic economic cooperation achievements hosted by Teltonika, SoliTek, and Oxipit in Lithuania, posing with Speaker of the Parliament Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen (third from left) and Minister of Economy and Innovation Aušrinė Armonaitė (second from left). (January 18, 2023)



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee (third from right) attends the High-Level Panel of Frontline Democracies held at the Lithuanian Parliament, where he announces Taiwan's cooperation with Lithuania to support Ukraine's reconstruction. Representative to Lithuania Huang Jiun-yaw (first from left), Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation Erika Kuročkina (fourth from left), Vice Minister of Education, Science and Sport Gintautas Jakštas (second from right), Chair of the Lithuania-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Matas Maldeikis (third from left), and Chair of the Italian Senate European Union Policies Committee Giulio Terzi (first from right) participate in the panel discussion. (June 1, 2023)



Representative to the Netherlands Chen Hsing-hsing (first from left) accompanies Legislator Chiu Chih-wei (fourth from left), Legislator Hsu Chih-chieh (second from left), and Legislator Tsai Shih-ying (third from left) during a meeting with Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Dutch House of Representatives Rudmer Heerema (fifth from left). (February 14, 2023)



Representative to the Netherlands Chen Hsing-hsing (first from right) accompanies Minister of Justice Tsai Ching-hsiang (second from left) during a visit to Eurojust, where they meet with Chair of the Board on Relations with Partners José de la Mata (second from right). (July 7, 2023)



Representative to Poland Sharon S. N. Wu (right) signs a memorandum of understanding with Oleksandr Khomiak, CEO of the Ukrainian NGO NO Labels (left), witnessed by Ukrainian Member of Parliament Alyona Shkrum (center). (November 14, 2023)



Representative to Poland Sharon S. N. Wu (center) signs a Donation Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Chair of the Union of Polish Metropolises and Mayor of Białystok Tadeusz Truskolaski (left) and Board Member of the Union of Polish Metropolises and Mayor of Poznań Jacek Jaškowiak (right) to establish the Polish Cities for Ukraine-Taiwan Grant Fund. (December 20, 2023)



Representative to Portugal Tsung-Che Chang briefs Paulo Rios de Oliveira, Chair of the Portugal-Taiwan Friendship Group (first from right), along with other parliamentarians, on Taiwan-Portugal relations and key issues. (February 2, 2023)



Representative to Portugal Tsung-Che Chang is interviewed by Globo TV at the Taiwan Pavilion during the Lisbon Travel Market. (March 4, 2023)



Representative to Slovakia Lee Nan-yang pays a courtesy visit to President of Slovakia Zuzana Čaputová. (January 26, 2023)



Representative to Slovakia Lee Nan-yang (second from right) hosts the 2023 National Day Reception, joined by Former Prime Minister of Slovakia Iveta Radičová (third from right), Deputy Speaker of the Slovak Parliament Gábor Grendel (first from left), Member of the European Parliament Miriam Lexmann (fourth from right), and Chair of the Romania-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Constantin Damov (second from left). (October 7, 2023)



Representative to Spain Liu Der-li (front row, fifth from left) is invited to attend the inauguration ceremony of Francisco Miralles, Mayor of Villacarrillo, and takes a commemorative photo with city officials. (June 17, 2023)



Representative Chang Chun-fei (tenth from left) hosts the 2023 National Day Reception, joined by Co-Chair of the Formosa Club Spain Eloy Suárez (ninth from left) and Vice Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish Congress of Deputies Carlos Rojas (sixth from right). (October 4, 2023)



Representative to Sweden Ruey-Sheng Gu (front row, fourth from right) is invited to speak at the Annual General Meeting of the Swedish-Taiwanese Parliamentary Association (STPA), taking a commemorative photo with Chair of the STPA Boriana Åberg (front row, fifth from right) and other members of parliament. (February 14, 2023)



Representative to Sweden Ruey-Sheng Gu (third from left) hosts the 2023 National Day Reception in Oslo, Norway, attended by Chair of the Norwegian Parliament's Taiwan Friendship Group Tor-Andre Johnsen (seated directly across from Representative Gu), Senior Parliamentarian Carl Hagen (fifth from left), and Former Mayor of Oslo Michael Tetzschner (first from left). (October 11, 2023)



Representative to Switzerland Wei-feng Huang (fourth from right) joins members of the Legislative Yuan's supervisory delegation attending the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA), including Legislator Cheng Cheng-chien (fifth from left) and Legislator Lai Hsiang-ling (third from left). Also pictured is Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan (sixth from right), who leads the working delegation to visit the Swiss Federal Assembly. They are joined by Swiss National Council Member Lukas Reimann (third from right). (May 24, 2023)



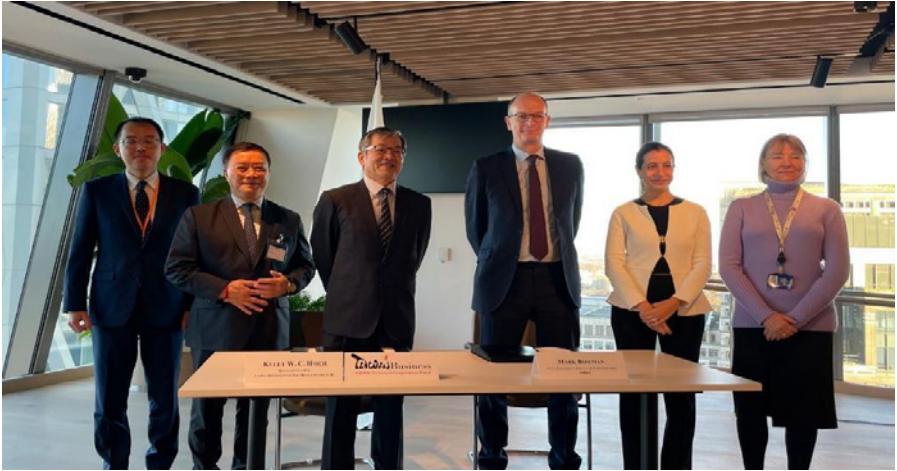
Representative to Switzerland Huang Wei-feng (center) hosts the 2023 National Day Reception, joined by Co-Chairs of the Switzerland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Nicolas Walder (second from right) and Marco Chiesa (first from right), Director General of the Taipei Representative Office in Geneva Nicole Ying-chun Su (second from left), and Minister Frank Ming Cheng Lin (first from left) of the Permanent Mission of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu to the World Trade Organization (WTO). (October 9, 2023)



Director General of the Taipei Representative Office in Geneva Nicole Ying-chun Su (fifth from right) accompanies Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Shih Chung-liang (center) during a meeting with Loyce Pace, Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the US Department of Health and Human Services (fifth from left), and Bathsbeba Crocker, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva (fourth from left). (February 2, 2023)



Director General of the Taipei Representative Office in Geneva Nicole Ying-chun Su (sixth from right) poses with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Marshall Islands Kitlang Kabua (seventh from right) and members of the Marshall Islands delegation during their visit to Geneva. (March 1, 2023)



Representative to the United Kingdom Kelly W. Hsieh (third from left) and Mark Bowman, Vice President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) (third from right), sign the TaiwanBusiness-EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund (TWTC) Contribution Agreement and pose for a photo. (November 28, 2023)



Representative to the United Kingdom Kelly W. Hsieh (fourth from right) hosts the Taiwan Season event at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, posing with Edinburgh Lord Provost Robert Aldridge (third from right) and Taiwanese performing artists. (August 14, 2023)



Director of the Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh Chia-chang (C.C.) Chang (front row, fourth from left) hosts the 2023 National Day Reception, joined by Edinburgh City Council Leader Cammy Day (front row, fifth from left) and City Councillor Jason Rust (front row, fifth from right). (October 4, 2023)



Director of the Taipei Representative Office in Edinburgh Chia-chang (C.C.) Chang (third from right) engages in discussions with Co-Chairs of the Scottish Parliament Taiwan Friendship Group, Member of the Scottish Parliament Jamie Greene (second from left) and Member of the Scottish Parliament Rhoda Grant (first from left). (November 22, 2023)

Item 5 Taiwan's relations with North American countries

I. Introduction

The United States and Canada, located in North America, both maintain mutual representative offices in Taiwan. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) maintains representative offices in Washington, D.C. and Ottawa, the capitals of the US and Canada. Another 15 economic and cultural offices are located in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Guam, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle in the US and in Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal in Canada.

The substantive cooperative relations between Taiwan and the United States have continued to grow steadily, building on the solid foundation established by the Taiwan Relations Act. In recent years, Taiwan and the US have enhanced cooperation on political, security, economic, regional and global issues, moving towards a comprehensive partnership. The Biden administration places great emphasis on its steadfast commitment to Taiwan. Beyond actively underscoring the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait through both bilateral and multilateral channels, it was also the first US administration to utilize presidential drawdown authority and provided Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for military aid to support Taiwan in acquiring defense equipment. Additionally, it maintains a policy of regularizing arms sales to Taiwan. Also, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act were signed into law, both of which included pro-Taiwan provisions.

Both the President and Vice President of Taiwan received high-level hospitality from the United States during their transit stops, following the principles of convenience, safety, comfort, and dignity. The US Congress continued to demonstrate strong bipartisan support for Taiwan through various concrete actions.

On the state level, visits from the US were made by the Governor of Virginia Glenn Youngkin, the Governor of Michigan Gretchen Whitmer, the Governor of Arizona Katie Hobbs, the Governor of New Mexico Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Governor of New Jersey Phil Murphy, and the Governor of Montana Greg

Gianforte. During their visits, several governors announced the establishment of state representative offices in Taiwan and signed multiple memoranda of understanding, highlighting the close partnership between Taiwan and the United States in various fields.

The number of US state offices in Taiwan continued to grow, with Arizona, North Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio, and Washington either completing or announcing the opening of representative offices in Taiwan, demonstrating ongoing robust exchanges.

On June 1, 2023, Taiwan and the United States signed the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement, underscoring their commitment as each other's key trading partner. The 4th Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue (EPPD) took place in December, focusing on key topics such as economic coercion, supply chains and investment, energy transition, sustainability, and security.

In the realm of education, the third high-level dialogue of the US-Taiwan Education Initiative was held. The two sides reviewed the progress of Mandarin language collaboration and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening international educational cooperation.

The Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), jointly established by Taiwan and the United States in 2015, has recently included Japan and Australia as official partners. In 2023, Taiwan hosted five GCTF international workshops, with a total of 604 participants, co-hosted with the United Kingdom, Canada, and Saint Lucia. Additionally, GCTF expanded its reach by organizing eight overseas workshops in Southeast Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Europe, continuing to deepen its commitment to capacity building on issues of mutual concerns.

In recent years, Taiwan-Canada relations have made significant progress in political, economic, security, and technological sectors. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has repeatedly emphasized the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait at international forums. In June, September, and November, Canadian naval vessels joined US ships in transiting the Taiwan Strait. In terms of economic relations, Taiwan and Canada officially launched negotiations on the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Arrangement (FIPA) on February 7, 2023. The arrangement was signed on December 22 and came into effect on

December 29. Additionally, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Montreal officially opened on December 4, further broadening Taiwan’s engagement with Canada.

II. Relations with Individual Countries

1. Relations with Canada

(1) Background:

- A. On January 8, 1991, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Toronto, was established, followed by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Ottawa, on July 9, 1992. On August 3, 1993, the main diplomatic mission in Canada was moved from Toronto to Ottawa and renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada (TECO in Canada). Additionally, offices were set up in Vancouver and Toronto in 1991 and 1994, respectively. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Montreal officially opened on December 4, 2023. The Canadian Trade Office in Taipei was established on October 25, 1986.
- B. The Government of Canada has consistently supported Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has publicly expressed support for Taiwan’s participation as an observer at the World Health Assembly (WHA) for three consecutive years. The Canadian government has also voiced support for Taiwan during the general discussions at the WHA. Additionally, on February 22, Canada assisted Taiwan in becoming an observer at the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC), allowing Taiwan to participate in discussions on safeguarding internet freedom and fundamental human rights.
- C. The Canadian House of Commons Special Committee on Canada-China Relations released a report on March 30 titled “Canada and Taiwan: A Strong Relationship in Turbulent Times,” presenting 18 policy recommendations. These include urging the government to support “the future of Taiwan must only be the decision of the people of Taiwan,” “Taiwan’s meaningful participation in multilateral

organizations,” “strongly consider the benefits of diplomatic visits to Taiwan,” and “publicly call on the People’s Republic of China to refrain from escalating its military threats.” This marks the first comprehensive report addressing Taiwan from the Canadian Parliament.

- D. Taiwan and Canada signed the MOU on Health Cooperation between Taiwan and Canada on May 9 to promote institutionalized cooperation between their respective health departments in the field of public health. The MOU aims to enhance the resilience of both sides in responding to public health incidents and joint contribution to global public health initiatives, highlighting the Taiwan-Canada partnership.
 - E. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Montreal officially opened on December 4, with the inauguration attended by several political leaders, including Hon. Judy Sgro, Chair of the Standing Committee on International Trade and Chair of the Canada-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
- A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Canada amounted to approximately US\$4.63 billion, with Taiwan’s exports at around US\$2.63 billion and imports from Canada at approximately US\$2 billion.
 - B. On December 22, Taiwan and Canada signed the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Arrangement (FIPA), marking a milestone in bilateral economic and trade relations since the signing of the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income in 2016. This agreement is also the first investment arrangement Canada has signed under its revised model for international investment agreements, updated in 2021.
 - C. During the 19th Canada-Taiwan Economic Consultations (CTEC) held on December 6, both sides mutually recognized the Collaborative Framework on Supply Chains Resilience. The framework focuses on projects in critical mineral value chains, clean fuels and renewable energy, green and resilient transportation, advanced manufacturing,

research and development, talent cultivation, and innovation.

- D. On August 4, the Taiwan Indigenous Economic and Trade Promotion Association and the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council of Manitoba signed an MOU on Economic, Cultural, Educational, and Health Cooperation, establishing a long-term cooperative mechanism.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. The Ministry of Education continues to implement the Taiwan Studies Lectureship Agreements with the University of Toronto, McGill University, and the University of Ottawa.
- B. Taiwan provided Taiwan Scholarships and Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to 21 Canadian students pursuing degree programs and Mandarin studies in Taiwan. Additionally, there are currently around 4,930 Taiwanese students studying at all levels of education in Canada, and 457 Canadian students studying in Taiwan.

(4) Technological cooperation:

- A. The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), and relevant research institutions in Taiwan continue to maintain cooperative relationships with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Communications Research Centre (CRC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Genetics, the Terry Fox Research Institute, and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR).
- B. The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) renewed the NRC-NSTC S&T Cooperation MOU in September, continuing bilateral scientific research cooperation between Taiwan and Canada. Additionally, the Department of Science Education and International Cooperation of NSTC signed a Taiwan-Canada Science Cooperation MOU with the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) in September. Moreover, Taiwan's National Applied Research Laboratories (NARL) signed Globalink Research Award and Globalink Research

Internship Cooperation MOUs with Mitacs, a Canadian platform for talent cultivation and exchange, to enhance global research talent development.

(5) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

A. Visits from Taiwan were made by President of the Control Yuan and Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission Chen Chu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi, President of the Taiwan-Canada Inter-Parliamentary Amity Association Chen Ting-fei, and Legislators Tsai Shih-ying, Chen Ming-wen, Chen Ou-po, Liu Shyh-fang, Michelle Lin Chu-yin, Chung Chia-pin, and Chen Ching-min.

B. Visits from Canada were made by Senator and Deputy Whip of the Conservative Party Leonidas Housakos; Senator and Deputy Leader of the Progressive Senate Group Pierre Dalphond; Senator David Richards; Senator Marilou McPhedran; Associate Deputy Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Francis Bilodeau; Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party Melissa Lantsman; Senator and Co-Chair of the Canada-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Michael MacDonald; MP and Chair of the Committee on National Defence John McKay; MP and Chair of the Special Committee on the Canada–People’s Republic of China Relationship Ken Hardie; MP and Vice Chair of the Special Committee on the Canada–People’s Republic of China Relationship Michael Chong; MP and Vice Chair of the Special Committee on the Canada–People’s Republic of China Relationship Heather McPherson; MP and Vice Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development Stéphane Bergeron; MP and Vice Chair of the Committee on National Defense James Bezan; MP and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development Garnett Genuis; MP and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on International Trade Kyle Seeback; MP and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs Marie-Hélène Gaudreau; MP and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs Marilène Gill; MP Michael Cooper; MP Michael Barrett; as well as

Members of Parliament Chandra Arya, Cheryl Gallant, Randeep Sarai, Raquel Dancho, and Lindsay Mathysen; and President of the National Research Council of Canada Iain Stewart.

2. Relations with the United States of America

(1) Background:

- A. Reiterating the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait: The Biden administration has consistently reaffirmed that the US’s Taiwan policy remains unchanged and that it will continue to support Taiwan, opposing any unilateral attempts to alter the status quo. The Biden administration has also actively collaborated with like-minded countries to express concerns over peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. The notion that “peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait are indispensable to the security and prosperity of the international community” has been repeatedly included in joint statements from high-level meetings between the United States and its like-minded partners. In 2023, over 20 related statements were issued, including during the US-Japan Summit, the US-South Korea Summit, and the G7 Summit.
- B. Strengthening Taiwan-US partnership and resisting China’s coercion:
 - a. During her transit through the US in April as part of her “Meeting Democratic Partners, Fostering Shared Prosperity” trip, President Tsai Ing-wen met with Speaker of the US House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California. She also participated in a bipartisan leadership meeting with a total of 19 US Congressional members. Following the meeting, President Tsai and Speaker McCarthy issued a joint public statement. In New York, she separately met with House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, as well as Senators Dan Sullivan, Joni Ernst, and Mark Kelly.
 - b. Legislative Yuan Speaker You Si-kun, along with Legislators Chen Ting-fei, Chiu Chen-yuan, and Chiu Hsiang-chih, visited the United States in May. During the visit, they held meetings with Honorary

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and bipartisan members of both the House and the Senate.

- c. In September, the US House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on “Defense Cooperation with Taiwan,” marking the committee’s first full hearing focused on Taiwan.
- C. International participation, strengthening diplomatic ties, and deepening relations with third parties:
- a. The Biden administration continues to support Taiwan’s participation in international organizations through concrete and public actions. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra have both publicly expressed support for Taiwan’s participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA). Additionally, the US continues to engage with Taiwan through the US-Taiwan Bilateral Meetings on International Organizations, discussing strategies to promote Taiwan’s participation in international organizations.
 - b. The Biden administration has also taken concrete steps to help Taiwan solidify its diplomatic partnerships, including co-hosting Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) events and collaborating with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC). The United States continues to assist Taiwan in deepening its relations with European countries. High-ranking US officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, have publicly expressed support for the development of relations between Lithuania and Taiwan, while also voicing concern over China’s coercive measures against Lithuania. Furthermore, the Joint Statement from the US-Czech Republic Strategic Dialogue also mentioned Taiwan, emphasizing a commitment to deepening support and cooperation with Taiwan and other democratic partners in the Indo-Pacific region.
- D. Legislative measures to strengthen Taiwan’s security resilience: The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024

includes several provisions aimed at enhancing Taiwan’s security. These measures involve establishing training, guidance, and organizational capacity-building programs for Taiwan’s military, reinforcing the implementation and oversight of the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act, and strengthening Taiwan-US military cybersecurity cooperation. Additionally, the act grants temporary emergency authorization for expedited arms procurement for Taiwan, similar to measures extended to Ukraine. It also mandates reporting on the delivery status of Harpoon missiles to Taiwan and requires an independent study on the economic impact of a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

- E. Strengthening global and regional cooperation: This year, the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) organized 15 workshops in Taiwan and abroad. Taiwan also actively participated in the Summit for Democracy, hosted by President Joe Biden. Taiwan was invited to join the second Summit for Democracy in March, alongside 72 other countries, as a signatory to the Declaration of the Summit for Democracy. Control Yuan President Chen Chu delivered a pre-recorded national statement, and Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang gave an opening speech via a pre-recorded video at the “Advancing Democracy and Internet Freedom in a Digital Age” forum.
 - F. On December 12, Representative to US Alexander Tah-ray Yui and AIT Managing Director Ingrid Larson signed the Third Funding Arrangement Regarding Stabilization Assistance in Certain Areas of Syria to support the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS’s stabilization work in Syria.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
- A. In 2023, bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and the United States amounted to approximately US\$116.94 billion, with Taiwan’s exports at around US\$76.24 billion and imports from the United States at approximately US\$40.69 billion. Taiwan is the 8th largest trading partner of the United States, while the United States is Taiwan’s second largest trading partner. In May, Taiwan organized a delegation to attend the SelectUSA Investment Summit.

- B. On June 1, Representative to the US Hsiao Bi-khim signed the first agreement under the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade with AIT/W Managing Director Ingrid D. Larson at AIT/W. Minister without Portfolio John Deng, US Deputy Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi, and AIT Chairperson Laura Rosenberger witnessed the signing. From August 14 to 18, the United States and Taiwan held an in-person negotiation session in Washington, D.C. on the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade. Taiwan's delegation was led by Deputy Chief Negotiator Yang Jen-ni from the Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN), accompanied by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The US delegation included Assistant Trade Representative Terry McCartin and representatives from AIT/W, with discussions focusing on agriculture, labor, and environmental issues.
- C. In August, President Biden signed the Implementation Act for the First Agreement under the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, supporting the signing of the first agreement and guaranteeing a durable legal framework for future agreements under the initiative.
- D. Support for a US-Taiwan Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) continued to gain momentum across various sectors in the US. The Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee introduced the Taiwan Tax Agreement Act of 2023 and the Taiwan Tax Treaty Authorization Act of 2023 in October. In late November, the Taiwan Tax Treaty Authorization Act of 2023 passed the House Ways and Means Committee without opposition.
- E. The Fourth U.S.-Taiwan Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue (EPPD) was held on December 8 in a hybrid format in Taipei and Washington, D.C. The dialogue was co-chaired by Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua and US Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Jose W. Fernandez, who participated virtually. Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi led the Taiwanese delegation to Washington, D.C., while Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee, representatives from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance

participated online. During the meeting, both sides held in-depth discussions on issues of shared concerns, including economic coercion, supply chains and investment, sustainability, and security.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. Since 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with the US Department of State to facilitate three overseas language education exchange programs sponsored by the US government: the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y), and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The Ministry of Education additionally sponsors the Gilman Scholarship to increase the number of recipients.
- B. Taiwan continues to promote the Huayu BEST Program with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs providing funding to 21 US universities, and the Ministry of Education, supporting 21 universities in Taiwan to partner with 52 US universities.
- C. Under the US-Taiwan Education Initiative, signed in 2020, Taiwan and the US have expanded comprehensive educational cooperation. On February 22, the Third US-Taiwan Education Initiative High-Level Dialogue was held in a hybrid format. The US delegation was led by Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink and Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Education Sheila Nix, with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Camille Dawson attending in person. Taiwan's delegation was led by Deputy Secretary-General of the National Security Council Hsu Szu-chien, along with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee, Administrative Deputy Minister Alexander Tah-ray Yui, Deputy Minister of Education Liu Meng-chi, Deputy Minister of the National Development Council Shih Ke-ho, and Deputy Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Lu Yuan-jung.
- D. Deputy Minister of Education Liu Meng-chi led a delegation to Washington, D.C. from May 23 to June 1 to attend the 75th National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA) Annual Conference & Expo. During his visit, he met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of

State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ethan Rosenzweig; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Camille Dawson; and AIT Chairperson Laura Rosenberger.

(4) Agriculture and fisheries cooperation:

A. Agricultural trade: Bilateral agricultural trade between Taiwan and the US accounts for 20% to 30% of Taiwan's total global agricultural trade. Over the years, the US has been Taiwan's largest export market for agricultural products, with imports in 2023 amounting to approximately US\$3.93 billion and exports at about US\$900 million. Taiwan is the seventh largest export market for US agricultural products.

B. Agricultural cooperation:

a. On March 6, the 2023 Bilateral Cooperation Meeting on Agricultural Science and Technology was held in Taiwan, co-chaired by acting Agriculture Minister Chen Junne-jih and Administrator of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service Simon Liu. Both sides agreed to continue deepening cooperation in four areas: net zero agricultural emissions, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, resilient forestry, and talent cultivation and exchanges.

b. The 8th Annual US-Taiwan Technical Meeting on Rice took place in Washington, D.C. on May 10, with participation from the Agriculture and Food Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, the US Rice Federation, and representatives from both the Taiwan and US rice industries. The two sides exchanged information on Taiwan and US rice production and sales, and discussed technical issues related to rice trade.

c. On August 28, the US-Taiwan Organic Equivalence Arrangement Working Group Meeting was held online, co-hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Agency and the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The meeting reviewed trading and import/export clearance procedures and discussed future cooperation mechanisms.

d. The 30th Session of the AIT-TECRO Sanitary, Phytosanitary, and Agricultural Standards Working Group Consultations was held in

Washington, D.C. from September 11 to 17. The discussions covered important issues such as the export of Taiwan heat-treated processed pork products and pineapples to the United States, as well as the import of US table-stock potatoes to Taiwan.

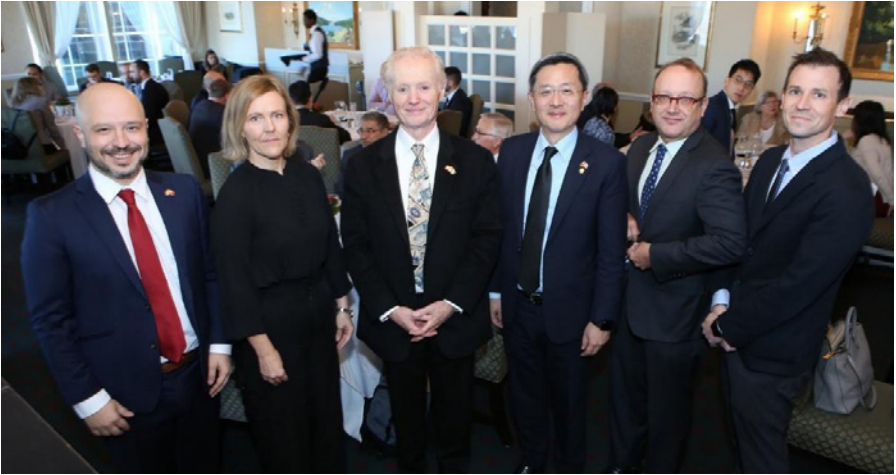
- C. Fisheries cooperation: The US National Five-Year Strategy for Combating IUU Fishing Partner Relations Meeting and Taiwan-US Fisheries Consultations were held in Taipei on July 12 and 13, respectively, and organized by the Ministry of Agriculture's Fisheries Agency in collaboration with the US State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The discussions focused on cross-disciplinary topics such as marine conservation and fisheries sustainability policies, combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, high seas boarding and inspection, and labor rights protection in fisheries.
- (5) Technological cooperation:
- A. Important exchanges:
 - a. The inaugural Science and Technology Cooperation Dialogue (STC-D) between Taiwan and the US was held on May 22 in Taiwan. A delegation consisting of 13 officials from science and technology organizations, led by acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) Jason Donovan, this delegation consists of members from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST). During the STC-D, officials explored semiconductor research and applications, medical supply chain resilience, cancer research, environmental modeling and research, and other issues. Between May 18 and 25, Taiwan and US scholars also co-hosted seven scientific conferences with nearly 400 attendees, including nearly 40 scholars and experts visiting from the US.

- b. The 38th TECRO-AIT JSC Meeting on Civil Nuclear Cooperation took place between December 4 and 6 in Taiwan. The US delegation consisted of 14 government officials from the State Department, Department of Energy, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The two sides engaged in exchanges and discussions on topics such as nuclear energy regulations. The Taiwan delegation was composed of representatives from the Nuclear Safety Commission, National Atomic Research Institute, National Tsing Hua University, and Taiwan Power Company.
 - B. Important agreements: TECRO and AIT/W signed an MOU on the Establishment of a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Working Group in January and the Global Navigation Satellite System Radio Occultation/Reflected Signal Processing and Related Application Research Technical Cooperation Agreement in August.
- (6) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by President Tsai Ing-wen, Vice President Lai Ching-te, President of the Legislative Yuan You Si-kun, former Premier Su Tseng-chang, Minister Without Portfolio John Deng, Minister Without Portfolio Lo Ping-cheng, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Finance Chuang Tsui-yun, Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua, Minister of Transportation and Communications Wang Kwo-tsai, Minister of Agriculture Chen Chi-chung, Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan, Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang, Minister of the National Development Council Kung Ming-hsin, Minister of the National Science and Technology Council Tsung-Tsong Wu, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching, and Minister of the Council of Indigenous Peoples Icyang Parod, Chairperson of the Fair Trade Commission Lee May, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang, Deputy Minister of Finance Juan Ching-hwa, Deputy Minister of Education Lio Mon-chi, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Chen Chern-chyi, Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Lee Li-feng, Deputy Minister of Digital Affairs Chiueh Herming, Deputy Minister

of the National Science and Technology Council Chern Yi-juang, Vice Chairperson of the Fair Trade Commission Chen Chih-min, and Legislators Tsai Shih-ying, Chen Ting-fei, Liu Shyh-fang, Michelle Lin Chu-yin, Chen I-hsin, Chiang Chi-chen, Ho Chih-wei, Cheng Cheng-chien, Chiu Chen-yuan, and Chiu Hsiang-chih.

- B. Visits to Taiwan were made by US Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ambassador Matt Murray; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Camille Dawson; Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Laurie Locascio; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Commerce Kelly Kryc; Senators Todd Young, John Hoeven, and Mark Kelly; Representatives Mike Gallagher, Ro Khanna, Tony Gonzales, Jake Auchincloss, Jonathan Jackson, Ken Calvert, Tom Cole, David Joyce, Ed Case, Mike Garcia, Steve Womack, Michael McCaul, Young Kim, French Hill, Michael Lawler, Nathaniel Moran, Ami Bera, Madeleine Dean, Guy Reschenthaler, Mike Rogers, Adam Smith, Joe Courtney, John Garamendi, Jill Tokuda, David Rouzer, Gary Palmer, James Moylean, Cory Mills, Kevin Hern, Burgess Owens, Mike Flood, Mike Collins, Russel Fry, Keith Self, Alex Mooney, Michael Cloud, Rob Wittman, Carlos Gimenez, Jen Kiggans, and Brian Fitzpatrick; Governor of Virginia Glenn Youngkin; Governor of Michigan Gretchen Whitmer; Governor of Arizona Katie Hobbs; Governor of New Mexico Michelle Lujan Grisham; Governor of New Jersey Phil Murphy; Governor of Montana Greg Gianforte; and Senate President and Lieutenant Governor of West Virginia Craig Blair.

Photographs of Diplomatic Events North America



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Roy Chun Lee (third from right) delivers a speech at a Macdonald-Laurier Institute panel discussion in Canada and poses in a group photo with Director of the Transatlantic Program Balkan Devlen (first from left), Director of the Foreign Affairs, National Security and Defence Program Jonathan Berkshire Miller (first from right), Managing Director of MLI Brian Lee Crowley (third from left), Director of Strategic Assessments at the Department of National Defense, Kerry Lynn Nankivell (second from left) and Chair of Taiwan Studies at the University of Ottawa Scott Simon (second from right). (November 20, 2023)



Representative to Canada Harry Ho-jen Tseng (third from right) attends the 19th CTEC co-hosted by Deputy Minister Chen Chern-chyi (center) and Assistant Deputy Minister of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) Weldon Epp (third from left) in Ottawa. (December 6, 2023)



TECO Toronto Director General Jin-Ling Chen (front row, fourth from right) hosts the annual Taiwan Night. Senator Victor Oh (front row, first from left), MP and Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence John McKay (second row, fourth from left), and Member of Parliament Jean Yip (front row, fourth from left), along with other dignitaries, attend the event. (February 24, 2023)



TECO Toronto Director General Jin-Ling Chen (fifth from left) attends the WHO for Taiwan, Taiwan in WHA event hosted by the overseas community in support of Taiwan's participation in the WHA. She poses for a group photo with MP and Chair of the Canada-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Judy Sgro (fifth from right), MP and Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence John McKay (fourth from left), MP and Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party Melissa Lantsman (third from right), MP Michael Cooper (fourth from right), and Toronto City Councillor Lily Cheng (first from right). (May 13, 2023)



TECO Vancouver Director General Angela Liu (front row, fifth from right), BC Minister of State for Trade Jagrup Brar (back row, third from left), and Distinguished Fellow Hugh Stephens at APF Canada (front row, fourth from right) at the “Unlocking Opportunities: Strengthening BC-Taiwan Trade Relations” panel organized by TECO Vancouver and the Vancouver and Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. (September 12, 2023)



TECO Vancouver Director General Angela Liu (11th from left) hosts the 2023 National Day reception and poses for a group photo with MPs Parm Bains (10th from left), Kerry-Lynne Findlay (eighth from left), Michael Cooper (ninth from left), and Jenny Kwan (10th from right). (October 6, 2023)



Representative to Canada Harry Ho-jen Tseng (fourth from right) and TECO Montreal Director General Rita Chen (third from left) host the inaugural ceremony of TECO Montreal and take a group photo with MPs Denis Trudel (first from left), Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay (first from right), Pierre Paul-Hus (second from left), Chair of the Taiwan-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group and Chair of the Standing Committee on International Trade Judy Sgro (third from right), and Member of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly Dominic Cardy (second from right). (December 4, 2023)



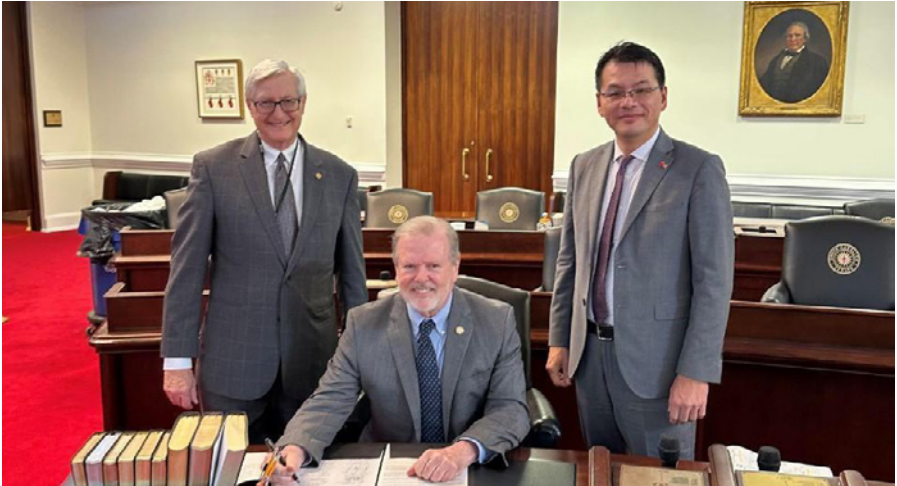
Representative to US Bi-khim Hsiao (second from left) and AIT/W Managing Director Ingrid Larson (center) sign the first agreement under the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade. Minister without Portfolio John Deng (first from left), Deputy US Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi (second from right), and AIT Chair Laura Rosenberger (first from right) witness the signing. (June 1, 2023)



Representative to US Alexander Tah-ray Yui (left) and AIT/W Managing Director Ingrid Larson (right) sign the Third Funding Arrangement Regarding Stabilization Assistance in Certain Areas of Syria to support the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS's stabilization work in Syria. (December 12, 2023)



TECO Atlanta Director General Elliot Yi-lung Wang (second from right) speaks on invitation at the Alabama State Senate and bear witness with President Pro Tempore of the Alabama State Senate Greg Reed (first from left), Senator Andrew Jones (second from left), and Representative Corey Harbison (first from right) as the Alabama State Senate and House of Representatives pass a Taiwan-friendly resolution. (May 10, 2023)



TECO Atlanta Director-General Elliot Yi-lung Wang (right) witnesses North Carolina Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger (center) sign a Taiwan-friendly statement. (June 20, 2023)



Representative to US Bi-khim Hsiao (back row, fourth from left), TECO Boston Director General Jonathan C.Y. Sun (back row, second from right), Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives Ronald Mariano (back row, fifth from left), and other representatives witness the Massachusetts House of Representatives pass a Taiwan-friendly resolution. (July 13, 2023)



TECO Boston Director General Charles Liao (center) hosts the 2023 National Day reception and poses for a group photo with Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives Sherman Packard (center, first from right), Speaker Pro Tempore of the Rhode Island House of Representatives Brian Patrick Kennedy (center, first from left), and other distinguished guests. (October 9, 2023)



Representative to US Bi-khim Hsiao (third from right) and TECO Chicago Director General Johnson Chiang (first from left) attend a forum organized by the Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue University on invitation and poses for a group photo with the Governor of Indiana Eric Holcomb (third from left) and President of the National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Chi-hung Lin (second from right). (June 15, 2023)



Representative to US Bi-khim Hsiao (second from left) and TECO Chicago Director General Dennis Yen-feng Lei (first from right) witness the Chicago City Council establish its Taiwan Friendship Caucus. (September 14, 2023)



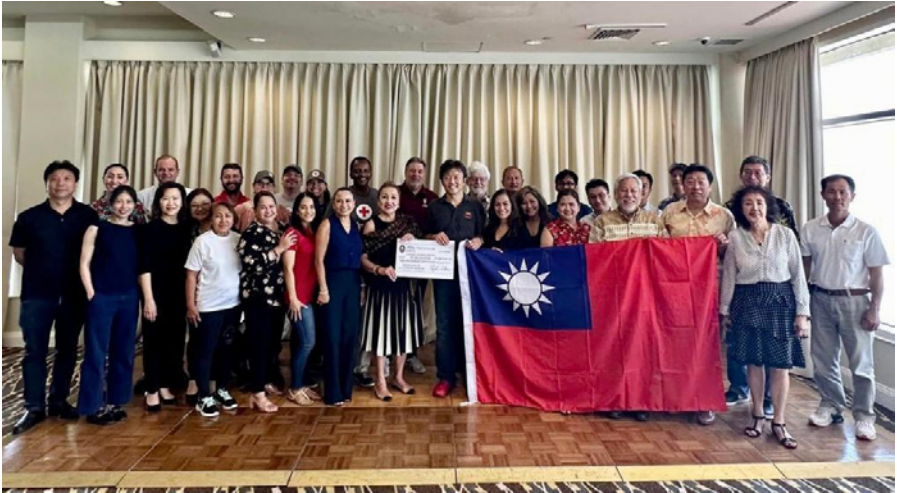
TECO Denver Director General Bill Shih-chang Huang meets with North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum. (March 29, 2023)



Governor of Colorado Jared Polis gifts a certificate in celebration of Taiwan's National Day to TECO Denver Director General Bill Shih-chang Huang. (October 12, 2023)



TECO Guam, the Office of the Governor of Guam, and the Consulate General of Palau in Guam host a donation ceremony to donate tablet computers to Palauan students at the University of Guam. TECO Guam Director General Paul Chen (second from right), Governor of Guam Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero (fifth from left), and the Vice President and Minister of Justice of Palau, J. Uduch Sengebau Senior (third from right) attend and witness the event. (January 30, 2023)



TECO Guam Director General Paul Chen (front row, seventh from right) donates US\$200,000 to the Typhoon Mawar disaster relief funds on behalf of the Taiwanese government to assist in rebuilding efforts for victims in Guam. Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross Guam Chapter Chita Blaise (front row, eighth from left) accepts the donation on behalf of the organization. (June 2, 2023)



TECO Honolulu Director General Richard Lin (front row, center) speaks at the Navy League of the US Honolulu Council on invitation and poses for a group photo with US Navy League Pacific Region President Larry Osborn (front row, first from left), and others. (March 31, 2023)



TECO Honolulu Director General Richard Lin (fifth from right) donates US\$500,000 on behalf of the Taiwanese government to assist in post-wildfire reconstruction efforts on Maui. Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke accepts the donation on behalf of the state as Hawaii State Senator Chris Lee (back row, first from left) and Representative Adrian Tam (front row, second from left) bear witness. (August 23, 2023)



TECO Houston Director General Robert Fu-wen Lo (fifth from right) witnesses the establishment of the bipartisan Taiwan-Texas Friendship Caucus in the Texas State Legislature and the passing of a Taiwan-friendly resolution and poses for a group photo with State Representative Jacey Jetton (third from right) and other pro-Taiwan legislators. (June 8, 2023)



TECO Houston Director General Yvonne Hsiao meets with Texas Governor Greg Abbott. (September 12, 2023)



TECO Los Angeles Director General Louis M. Huang (front row, eighth from left) hosts the Lunar New Year's celebration for the Taiwanese community in Los Angeles. (January 29, 2023)



TECO Los Angeles Director General Amino C.Y. Chi meets with newly elected Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs. (April 25, 2023)



TECO Miami Director General Charles Chou meets with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. (May 8, 2023)



TECO Miami Director General Charles Chou (right) visits the US Virgin Islands to receive a certificate from Governor Albert Bryan Jr. (left), who announces December 8 as Taiwan Day in the US Virgin Islands. (December 8, 2023)



TECO New York and the Connecticut General Assembly organize a tea party to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the sister–state relationship between Taiwan and Connecticut and the establishment of the Connecticut General Assembly’s Taiwan Friendship Caucus. TECO New York Director General James K. J. Lee (second from right) attends, along with Deputy Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives Larry Butler (third from left), Assistant Deputy Speaker Kevin Ryan (center), and State Senator Tony Hwang (third from right). (May 30, 2023)



TECO New York hosts a Taiwan Friendship Night reception, where Representative to US Bi-khim Hsiao (second from right), TECO New York Director General James K. J. Lee (sixth from left), Palau President Surangel Whipps, Jr. (sixth from right), and Tuvalu Foreign Minister Panapasi Nelesone (fifth from right) pose for a photo with other distinguished guests. (September 21, 2023)



TECO San Francisco Director General Ming-chi Lai attends the California Chamber of Commerce Consular Corps reception on invitation and poses for a photo with California Governor Gavin Newsom. (May 18, 2023)



Representative to US Bi-khim Hsiao (front row, sixth from right), TECO San Francisco Director General Ming-chi Lai (front row, fourth from right), and community leaders welcome Taiwan's APEC Leader's Representative Morris Chang and his wife (front row, sixth and fifth from left) to San Francisco. (November 14, 2023)



TECO Seattle Director General Daniel Kuo-ching Chen (second row, third from left) poses for a photo with members of the Consular Association of Washington. (January 10, 2023)



TECO Seattle Director General Daniel Kuo-ching Chen (first from left) attends a Taiwan-US Trade and Technology Relations conference, co-organized by TECO Seattle and the National Bureau of Asian Research, where Ministry of Economic Affairs Minister Wang Mei-hua (second from right) is invited as a speaker. Also pictured is Washington State Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck (center) and National Bureau of Asian Research President Roy Kamphausen (first from right). (August 14, 2023)

Item 6 Taiwan's relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries

I. Introduction

The Latin America and the Caribbean region encompasses 33 countries. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) has formal diplomatic relations, marked by the establishment of mutual embassies, with Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and operates a consulate general in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. Taiwan also has representative offices in seven countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru. In addition, an office is maintained in São Paulo, Brazil. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Peru have trade offices in Taiwan.

To bolster diplomatic ties, Taiwan and its diplomatic allies in Latin America and the Caribbean engage in frequent visits. Several high-level government officials, including the President of Guatemala Alejandro Giammattei, former President of Paraguay Mario Abdo Benítez and his wife, current President of Paraguay Santiago Peña and his wife, Governor-General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Susan Dougan, Governor-General of Saint Christopher and Nevis (Saint Kitts and Nevis) Marcella Liburd visited Taiwan. In March, President Tsai Ing-wen led a delegation to Guatemala and Belize during the “Meeting Democratic Partners, Fostering Shared Prosperity” trip. In August, Vice President Lai Ching-te led a delegation to Paraguay for President Peña’s inauguration. In September, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, as President Tsai Ing-wen’s special envoy, led a delegation to Saint Kitts and Nevis to participate in celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the federation’s independence and the 40th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations.

Bilateral cooperation between Taiwan and diplomatic allies in Latin America and the Caribbean has continued to find success. Under the key project - Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin American and the Caribbean in the Post COVID-19 Era project, Taiwan has launched a series of localized technical assistance for women’s employment and entrepreneurship and financial services and credit guarantees, offering women favorable employment or entrepreneurship conditions. Additionally, Taiwan hosted the “Empower Women! Empower LAC!”

Forum in February and welcomed several prominent political figures, including President of Paraguay Mario Abdo Benítez and his wife, First Lady of Belize and Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children Rossana Briceño, to Taiwan to witness the successful outcomes of Taiwan's foreign aid. The event was highly regarded by diplomatic allies.

II. Relations with Individual Countries

1. Relations with Belize

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with Belize on October 11, 1989, and subsequently set up an embassy on October 25 of that year. The Embassy of Belize in Taiwan was set up on September 21, 1992. In March 2023, President Tsai Ing-wen led a delegation to Belize. The bilateral cooperation projects between Taiwan and Belize have been implemented as planned, benefiting Belize's economic development and the well-being of its people.
- B. The Belizean government actively showcased results of the mutually beneficial Taiwan-Belize partnership to the international community and strongly voiced support for Taiwan in various international arenas, such as:
 - a. Belizean Health and Wellness Minister Kevin Bernard wrote to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to state that Belize supports Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly as an observer and reiterated Belize's staunch support for Taiwan's participation in all WHO activities during the WHA plenary discussions on May 23 and 24, 2023.
 - b. Belizean Prime Minister John Briceño voiced support for Taiwan during the UN's 2023 SDG Summit on September 18, 2023, emphasizing that Taiwan and other partners are supporting Belize's pursuit of the SDGs. During the General Debate of the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2023, Belizean Foreign Affairs Minister Eamon Courtenay also called for Taiwan's full inclusion in the

international system.

- c. Belizean Police Commissioner Chester Williams wrote to INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock expressing Belize’s support for Taiwan’s participation as an observer at INTERPOL’s 2023 General Assembly.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. Bilateral trade amounted to approximately US\$9.92 million in 2023, with Taiwan exports reaching US\$7.48 million and imports reaching US\$2.44 million.
- B. On September 30, 2020, Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Meihua and Minister of State at Ministry of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce Tracy Panton signed the Taiwan-Belize Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) on behalf of their respective governments. The agreement, which officially took effect on January 15, 2022, is helping to deepen bilateral trade relations and strengthen investment promotion cooperation. In October 2023, the Belizean Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise fulfilled the tax-exempt export quota of cane sugar to Taiwan, with Taiwan importing eight cargo containers of cane sugar in 2023.
- C. The 2023 Taiwan Coffee and Cacao Mission visited Belize from April 2 to 5. The Embassy of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) in Belize and TAITRA hosted the Taiwan Expo 2023 in Belize City from November 15 to 17.
- D. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy, TAITRA, and Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) invited 30 Belizean companies to participate in major Taiwanese trade shows, such as the Giftionery & Cultural Creative Taipei, Kaohsiung Food Show, Taipei International Food Show, and Taichung Int’l Tea, Coffee and Bakery Show, by sending their products.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. In 2023, Taiwan provided 21 Taiwan Scholarships and 45 International Higher Education Scholarships from the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) to Belizean students for pursuing undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees in Taiwan. As of 2023, a

total of 579 Belizean scholarship recipients have studied in Taiwan.

- B. Seminars and training courses: In 2023, 31 Belizean government officials and experts visited Taiwan on invitation to participate in various short-term training courses and seminars, including the MOFA National Development Program; International Workshop on Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Anti-Corruption under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) and the Seminar on Knowledge-based Economy and City Competitiveness: Net Zero and Sustainable Development Program; and the TaiwanICDF Workshop: Digital Transformation of SMEs.
 - C. Youth exchange: The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport led a delegation to Taiwan from November 9 to 12 to attend the Global Youth Trends Forum hosted by the Ministry of Education (MOE).
- (4) Bilateral cooperation:
- A. Humanitarian aid and infrastructure development:
 - a. In 2023, Taiwan and Belize continued to cooperate on three significant projects: the National Healthy Start Feeding Program (Year 2), the Digi Wifi in Schools Solution (Year 2), and Orange Walk Town-San Estevan Village Road Upgrading Project (Phases 2 & 3).
 - b. In March 2022, Belizean Prime Minister John Briceño visited Taiwan. During his visit, the Taiwan government agreed to assist Belize in building a general hospital in San Pedro Town on Ambergris Caye. The Taiwanese and Belizean governments signed the cooperation agreement in January 2023. Between March 29 and April 7, President Tsai visited Belize during the “Meeting Democratic Partners, Fostering Shared Prosperity” trip. During her visit, a ceremony celebrating Taiwan donations to the hospital was also hosted.
 - c. On April 3, during her visit to Belize, President Tsai and Belizean Prime Minister Briceño witnessed Taiwan’s donation of 5,000 laptop computers to assist Belize with enhancing digital skills in remote areas.

- d. During her visit to Belize, the Taiwanese government agreed to fund two projects for constructing low-income houses and renovating the National Assembly Building, with public donation ceremonies for the two projects held in November and December, respectively.
 - e. Other cooperation: TaiwanICDF and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is co-funding the Belizean government's Credit Program for Safeguarding the Productive Sectors and Women MSMEs. In April, TaiwanICDF completed the signing ceremony for the loan and donation agreement with the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the responsible Belizean agency.
- B. Agriculture and livestock cooperation:
- a. Signed in 2020, the Agreement Between the Government of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Government of Belize on the Cooperation in Breeding Sheep and Goat Production and Guidance System Enhancement Project continued to be implemented in 2023, achieving such goals as improving sheep and goat quality, promoting the consumption of sheep and goat products, and enhancing the quality of sheep and goat products.
 - b. In 2022, Taiwan and Belize signed the Regional Project for the Prevention and Control of Fusarium TR4 of Banana in Central America agreement to help enhance Belize's ability to diagnose banana diseases.
- C. ICT cooperation: In 2023, the Taiwanese and Belizean government continued to implement the "Digital Inclusion Program" signed in 2022. This project involves establishing five digital labs and providing education and training for ICT talents to enhance internet connectivity and e-government services in rural areas of Belize, improve digital literacy, and create a community-friendly network environment.
- D. Women empowerment: In 2023, the Taiwanese and Belizean government continued to implement the Enhancing the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the COVID-19 Post-Pandemic Era: Technical Assistance for Women Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Financial Inclusion program signed

in 2021. This project aims to support Belizean women and small and medium-sized enterprises in coping with the impacts of the pandemic, while promoting post-pandemic economic recovery and social stability. The Achievement Exhibition of Women's Empowerment Program was held to showcase the program's achievements during President Tsai Ing-wen's visit in April.

- E. Other: On April 3, President Tsai Ing-wen and Belizean Prime Minister Briceño witnessed Foreign Affairs Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu and Belizean Foreign Affairs Minister Eamon Courtenay sign the Technical Cooperation Framework Agreement between Taiwan and Belize, providing a consistent legal basis for various technical cooperations between the two countries. Additionally, Taiwan and Belize signed an MOU for the Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Initiative (CORVI) Project on August 11, hosted an online project kick-off meeting on August 14, and convened the first in-person working meeting at Belize at the end of September.
- (5) Medical cooperation:
- A. The four-year agreement for the Project for Strengthening Medical Imaging Systems, signed on November 18, 2019, came to a successful conclusion on November 17, 2023, and Taiwan has successfully helped Belize fully digitalize its medical imaging services in public hospitals.
 - B. Taiwan and Belize signed a four-year agreement for the Project for Strengthening Metabolic Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Systems in Belize on October 30, 2023 and hosted a kick-off ceremony at Belize's Ministry of Health and Wellness on December 14, 2023.
 - C. A medical team from the Far Eastern Memorial Hospital visited Belize from October 15 to 21, 2023 to offer free clinical services.
 - D. Chi Mei Medical Center and the Belizean Ministry of Health and Wellness signed a letter of intent to cooperate in the training of medical personnel. From November 2022 to May 2024, three Belizean nurses participated in infectious disease control and prevention training. In December 2023, six Belizean nurses arrived for perioperative nursing training. They are expected to finish training in May 2025.

(6) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by President Tsai Ing-wen and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui.
- B. Visits to Taiwan were made by First Lady of Belize and Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children Rossana Briceño; Minister of National Defence and Border Security Florencio Marin Jr. and his wife; Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security Dario Tapia; Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance Christopher Coye; Minister of Youth, Sports and Transport Rodwell Ferguson; Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Orlando Habet; Minister of State at the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Ramon Cervantes; Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Kendrick Williams; Minister of Health and Wellness Kevin Bernard; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government Ramiro Ramirez.

2. Relations with the Republic of Guatemala

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with Guatemala on June 15, 1933, and opened a consulate general in Guatemala City. It was reclassified as a legation on December 22, 1954, and upgraded to an embassy on September 22, 1960. Guatemala established a legation in Taiwan on December 22, 1954, and upgraded it to an embassy on September 1, 1960.
- B. Guatemala has shown support for Taiwan at several international forums, including:
 - a. Guatemalan Deputy Minister of Health Edwin Montúfar voiced support for Taiwan at the WHA, thanking Taiwan for medical assistance to Guatemala that has benefited the health and wellbeing of the Guatemalan people. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario

Búcaro wrote to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to praise Taiwan's success against the COVID-19 pandemic and support Taiwan's bid for participation.

- b. Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei voiced support for Taiwan at the 78th United Nations General Assembly, recognizing Taiwan's contributions in science, technology, health, and development and urging the UN to ensure peace and safety across the Taiwan Strait. The President also instructed the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the UN to write a joint letter with other diplomatic allies of Taiwan, supporting Taiwan's participation in the UN to the UN Secretary-General.
 - c. Director General of the National Civil Police Adal Rodríguez wrote to INTERPOL President Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi to express support for Taiwan's bid to participate, emphasizing that the exclusion of Taiwan from INTERPOL creates a breach in the global security network.
 - d. Guatemalan Deputy Minister of Climate Change at the Ministry of Climate and Natural Resources Marco Ochoa voiced support for Taiwan at the 28th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the 28th Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP28). Additionally, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Búcaro wrote to UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, highlighting Taiwan's long-term support of Guatemala against climate change and Taiwan's role as a loyal partner.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Guatemala was approximately US\$379 million, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$233 million and imports from Guatemala of US\$146 million. According to statistics compiled by the Economic Counsellor Office of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy in Guatemala, as of December 2023, Taiwan had eight active investment projects in Guatemala, with a cumulative investment amount of US\$22.87 million.
 - B. Director General of Customs Administration Peng Ying-Wei

and Superintendent of Tax Administration of the Republic of Guatemala (SAT) Marco Díaz signed an MOU between the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Superintendency of Tax Administration of the Republic of Guatemala for Technical Cooperation in Customs Matters via virtual conference in October to provide technical assistance; create safe, effective, and compliant communication channels; and take joint action for better border controls to facilitate international trade. The Free Trade Agreement between the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Republic of Guatemala took effect in December 2023, raising the tariff-free quota of Guatemalan sugar exports to Taiwan from 125,000 to 155,000 metric tons.

- (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, Taiwan provided 28 Taiwan Scholarships and 10 TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarships to Guatemalan students. Taiwan sponsored a one-year Mandarin language course at the College of Foreign Languages, National University of San Carlos. The TaiwanICDF dispatched Mandarin language teachers to implement a Mandarin language teaching program for Rafael Landívar University students, students from Guatemala's Technical Institute for Training and Productivity (INTECAP), Guatemalan military school cadets, children of Taiwanese expatriates, and to assist with basic Mandarin courses at the R.O.C. Elementary School in Guatemala City.
- (4) Technical cooperation: Taiwan has promoted technological cooperation with Guatemala for over 50 years. Current projects in 2023 include the Corn Production Resilience Strengthening Project, Regional project for the Prevention and Control of Fusarium TR4 of Banana in Central America, Bamboo Industries Project, Early Warning and Disaster Management System Project, Project for the Promotion of Medical Technology for Improvement of Maternal-Neonatal Health in Guatemala (Phase 2), Overseas Investment & Development Corp., Overseas Professional Mandarin Teaching Project, and Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post COVID-19 Era project.
- (5) Medical cooperation: Under the framework of the MOU on bilateral

cooperation between Taiwan and Guatemala, Taiwan assisted in the construction of the National Hospital of Chimaltenango, the neonatal building of San Juan de Dios Hospital. The National Hospital of Chimaltenango was handed over in April 2023. The neonatal building of San Juan de Dios Hospital is expected to be handed over in the first half of 2024. Taiwan also assisted with the renovation of the adult emergency room and pediatric endoscopy unit at San Juan de Dios Hospital, as well as the reconstruction project at the Regional Hospital of Escuintla. The reconstruction of the Regional Hospital of Escuintla and the pediatric endoscopy unit at San Juan de Dios Hospital was completed and put into service at the end of 2023, while the renovation of the adult emergency room at San Juan de Dios Hospital is expected to be completed in the first half of 2024.

- (6) Technological cooperation: Taiwan is working with Guatemala to implement the Project to Modernize and Strengthen the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Project to Strengthen the Data Center of the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aiming to enhance institutional modernization and information security and protection within the Ministry.
- (7) Other cooperation: On March 31, 2023, Taiwan and Guatemala signed a basic Taiwan-Guatemala cooperation agreement, which will simplify administrative processes for future collaborations between the two governments.
- (8) Humanitarian assistance:
 - A. Ambassador to Guatemala Tsao Li-jei and the Guatemalan Minister of Social Development Héctor Caná signed a cooperation agreement, with the Taiwanese government pledging a donation of 1,000 metric tons white rice to Guatemala.
 - B. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy facilitated the donation of wheelchairs, assistive devices, textiles, and daily necessities to the Secretariat of Social Works of the President's Wife of the Republic of Guatemala (SOSEP). The donation was made by the Pu-Hsein Educational Foundation, Wu Thun-chih Foundation for Charity, and the SimplyHelp

Foundation to assist underprivileged communities in Guatemala.

(9) Overseas community affairs:

- A. Around 800 Taiwanese expatriates reside in Guatemala. Over 600 Taiwan nationals have taken up residence in Guatemala, engaging in the following sectors: manufacturing, business service sector, agriculture, and construction.
- B. Overseas community organizations: Organizations in Guatemala include the Overseas Chinese Association, Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce, World Kwong Tong Community Association, Lions Clubs International, Tzu Chi Guatemala, Golf Club, Lions Clubs International of the New Generation of Chinese, and Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

(10) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by President Tsai Ing-wen and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui.
- B. Visits to Taiwan were made by President Alejandro Giammattei; President of the Congress Shirley Joanna Rivera; Foreign Minister Mario Búcaro; Finance Minister Edwin Oswaldo Martínez; Agriculture, Livestock and Food Minister Edgar René de León; Economy Minister Janio Moacyr Rosales; and Vice Minister of the Economy Fernando Antonio Escalante.

3. Relations with the Republic of Haiti

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Haiti on April 25, 1956. On July 2 of the same year, the Minister to Cuba was appointed as the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Haiti with residence in Havana. The legation was established on May 30, 1960, with the Minister to Cuba serving concurrently as the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Haiti with residence in Havana. On September 7, 1965, the legation was upgraded to an embassy. Haiti established an embassy in Taiwan on August 16, 1981.

- B. Taiwan and Haiti have made contributions in public health and medicine, sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance. In addition to signing the national Rice Production Enhancement Project implementation agreement with the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture, Taiwan has also signed an agreement with Food For the Poor (FFTP), Haiti to donate 8,800 metric tons in 2023 and sponsored Economic and Social Assistance Funds (FAES) of Haiti (Le Fonds d'Assistance Économique et Sociale, FAES) KORE PEP program, offering humanitarian assistance to Haitians and improving food security.
 - C. Haiti has shown support for Taiwan's participation in international organizations on several occasions, including:
 - a. Haitian Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Victor Geneus wrote to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on May 12, 2023 and Haitian Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Justin Viard spoke at the WHA plenary discussions on May 23, 2023, both in support of Taiwan's participation in WHA as an observer.
 - b. Haitian Environment Minister James Cadet voiced support for Taiwan at the UNFCCC COP28 High-Level Segment held on December 9, 2023, recognizing Taiwan's support in assisting Haiti with its climate adaptation plan, demonstrating Taiwan's contributions in addressing climate change.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Haiti was approximately US\$25.21 million, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$17.57 million and imports from Haiti of approximately US\$7.64 million.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, Taiwan provided 20 Taiwan Scholarships and two TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarships to Haitian students to study in Taiwan. Taiwan also dispatched Mandarin language teachers to promote traditional Chinese character education at the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the Michèle Tardieu Library in Pétiön-Ville. Additionally, Taiwan continues to sponsor the Artisanat en Fête craft fair to promote Haiti's crafts and cultural creative industries.

- (4) Agricultural, fisheries, and technical cooperation: In 2023, the Haiti Vegetable and Fruit Cultivation Development Project and three sub-projects under the Rice Production Enhancement Project were implemented in the northern, central, and southern regions of Haiti. Additionally, the Taiwan Foundation for Disaster Relief helped farmers increase profit margins and facilitate social stability.
- (5) Women empowerment: Taiwan continued to implement the Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post COVID-19 Era Project/Haiti. Under the project, Taiwan supports Haitian women by helping them develop specialized skills and enhancing their employment opportunities, thereby bolstering Haiti's economy.
- (6) Medical cooperation: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy in Haiti implemented several projects to assist the Haitian government in enhancing public health, medical response capabilities, and the quality of healthcare to the people of Haiti. These projects included the OFATMA Hospital Construction Project in Port-de-Paix and the Saint-Pierre Hospital Construction Project.
- (7) Green energy cooperation: The Embassy continues to implement the project to strengthen Haiti's electric grid system and the solar-powered water pumps systems project for irrigation (Le Projet de Systèmes de Pompage de l'Eau par le Solaire Photovoltaïque) to assist farmers and local communities in improving access to irrigation and domestic water supplies. The Embassy is also helping the Haitian Foreign Affairs Building and OFATMA Hospital install solar power systems.
- (8) Humanitarian assistance:
 - A. Taiwan collaborated with FFTP Haiti to distribute 8,800 metric tons of rice, assisting vulnerable populations. Taiwan also strengthened cooperation with Haiti's penitentiaries to improve prison treatment.
 - B. Ambassador to Haiti Ku Wen-jiann donated 190 boxes of charitable goods on behalf of the SimplyHelp Foundation and 1.05 metric tons of rice on behalf of the Tzu Chi Foundation to local charities for underprivileged communities.
 - C. Ambassador to Haiti Ku Wen-jiann and Agriculture Minister Brédy

Charlot signed implementation agreements for three sub-projects under the National Rice Production Enhancement Project and the Haiti Vegetable and Fruit Cultivation Development Project to increase agricultural yields and diversity in Haiti.

- D. Taiwan sponsored the Economic and Social Assistance Funds (FAES) for three KORE PEP programs, distributing hot food and daily necessity packs to help Haiti's vulnerable communities.

4. Relations with the Republic of Paraguay

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with Paraguay on July 12, 1957, and set up an embassy on November 19, 1959. On December 12, 1988, a consulate general was established in Ciudad Stroessner, which was renamed the Consulate General in Ciudad del Este in February 1989 following the change of the city's name. Paraguay established its embassy in Taiwan in September 1976.
- B. In his inauguration speech on August 15, Paraguayan President Peña stated that "our relationship with the R.O.C. (Taiwan) is an example of the friendly and cooperative spirit Paraguay cherishes with nations it has great affections for and regards not only as allies but also as brothers." Taiwan supported President Peña in his political priorities in areas such as public safety, education, public health and medicine, and job creation through bilateral cooperation projects.
- C. Paraguay has shown support for Taiwan at several international forums, including:
 - a. Paraguayan Foreign Affairs Minister Julio Arriola wrote to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to declare support for Taiwan's participation in the WHA as an observer.
 - b. Paraguayan President Santiago Peña spoke at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly, supporting the inclusion of R.O.C. (Taiwan) into the UN system.
 - c. Paraguayan Foreign Affairs Minister Rubén Ramírez wrote to INTERPOL President Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi to declare support

for Taiwan's participation in INTERPOL as an observer. Head of the INTERPOL department in Paraguay Juan Pereira also voiced support for Taiwan at the INTERPOL General Assembly, supporting Taiwan's access to I 24/7, INTERPOL's global police communications system.

- d. President Peña voiced support for Taiwan at the World Climate Action Summit on December 1, 2023. Foreign Affairs Minister Rubén Ramírez also wrote to UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell to declare support for Taiwan's participation in the UNFCCC as an observer.

(2) Economic and trade relations:

- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Paraguay was approximately US\$252.46 million, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$23.27 million and imports from Paraguay of approximately US\$229.19 million.
- B. To support economic development and job creation in Paraguay, Taiwan launched the Paraguay Project to Strengthen Capacity to Support Development of MSMEs and the Women's Economic Empowerment Guarantee Project (Paraguay). In addition, Taiwan promotes exchanges between Taiwan and Paraguay's various industrial sectors under the framework of the Economic Cooperation Agreement Between the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Republic of Paraguay to attract Taiwanese businesses to invest in Paraguay and generate business opportunities.
- C. Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua led a delegation to Paraguay in August and co-chaired the 22nd Paraguay-R.O.C. Economic Cooperation Conference with Paraguayan Minister of Industry and Commerce Javier Giménez, strengthening bilateral economic and trade cooperation. Taiwan opened its market to Paraguayan pork in November 2022 and has since become Paraguay's largest pork export destination, accounting for 72% of its total pork exports.

(3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, Taiwan provided 53 Ministry

of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Taiwan Scholarships, MOE Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, and TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarships to Paraguayan students to study in Taiwan. The Taiwan–Paraguay Polytechnic University (Universidad Politécnica Taiwán Paraguay) held its fifth entrance examination on February 3.

- (4) Sport exchanges: Taiwanese youth table tennis player Chen Chia-I and coach Lin Chia-huei traveled to Paraguay for the WTT Youth Contender Asuncion 2023 between May 16 to 19, 2023. Chen took the U17 Girls title and placed second in the U19 Girls category.
- (5) Technical cooperation: In 2023, Taiwan and Paraguay conducted the following technical projects: the Surubi Fingerling Breeding and Cultivation Project, Health Information Management Efficiency Enhancement Project (Phase II), Project to Strengthen Capacity to Support Development of MSMEs, the Project to Strengthen Capacity for Commercial Production of Orchids, and Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post COVID-19 Era Project/Paraguay.
- (6) Medical cooperation: To help Paraguay enhance the efficacy of its public health system, the Technical Mission in Paraguay continued to roll out digitalization nationwide public health management system through the Health Information Management Efficiency Enhancement Project in Paraguay.
- (7) Humanitarian assistance: The Cao Zhong-zhi Foundation donated wheelchairs and assistive devices to the Saraki Foundation (Fundación Saraki), a Paraguayan NGO dedicated to the welfare of persons with disabilities. The Taiwanese government also funded the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) for its Data for Disaster Risk Reduction project in Paraguay. The project supports personnel training and provides flood relief supplies to Paraguay's National Emergency Secretariat.
- (8) Other cooperation: To assist Paraguay with combatting crime, the Taiwanese government donated 600 high-performance police motorcycles to the LINCE, Paraguay's special police force.
- (9) Overseas community affairs: Approximately 4,500 overseas compatriots

live in Paraguay, most of whom are from Taiwan and are primarily engaged in business. Compatriots have set up more than 30 different associations, according to their industry and interests. Aside from actively cooperating with overseas communities, they also frequently hold charity events.

(10) Mutual visits by dignitaries:

- A. Visits from Taiwan were made by Vice President Lai Ching-te, Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua, Minister of the Overseas Community Affairs Council Hsu Chia-ching, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui, Vice Chief of the General Staff (Executive) Gen. Cheng Jung-feng of the Ministry of National Defense, R.O.C.-Paraguay Parliamentary Friendship Association, and Legislators Wen Yu-hsia, Wu Sz-huai, Yeh Yu-lan, and Lee De-wei.
- B. Visits to Taiwan were made by President Mario Abdo Benítez, President Santiago Peña, Secretary General of the Presidency Lea Giménez, Minister of Industry and Commerce Luis Castiglioni, Minister of Foreign Affairs Rubén Ramírez, Minister of Economy and Finance Carlos Fernández Valdovinos, Minister of Industry and Commerce Javier GIMÉNEZ, Senators Blas Llano and Fernando Alberto Silva Facetti, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Paraguay Carlos María López López, and Chamber of Deputies Member Guadalupe Aveiro.

5. Relations with the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established diplomatic relations with the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis (Saint Kitts and Nevis) on October 9, 1983, and set up an embassy on August 5, 1984. Saint Kitts and Nevis established an embassy in Taiwan on January 28, 2008.
- B. Saint Kitts and Nevis has shown support for Taiwan at several international forums, including:
 - a. When attending the 76th WHA, Permanent Secretary of Health Sharon Archibald voiced support for Taiwan at the plenary

discussions on May 24, reiterating Saint Kitts and Nevis' support for Taiwan's participation as an observer in WHA meetings, activities, and mechanisms.

- b. Prime Minister Terrance Drew voiced support for Taiwan at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly on September 23, urging for the UN's inclusion of Taiwan and highlighting Taiwan's contributions.
 - c. When attending the 91st INTERPOL General Assembly, Assistant Commissioner of Police of the Royal Saint Christopher and Nevis Police Force McCarta Browne voiced support for Taiwan on two occasions - November 28 and 29, 2023 - stating that INTERPOL should welcome all countries and backing Taiwan's participation in the organization.
 - d. Prime Minister Terrance Drew voiced support for Taiwan at the UNFCCC COP28 World Climate Action Summit on December 2, urging for the international community's inclusion of Taiwan and highlighting Taiwan's contributions.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Saint Kitts and Nevis was approximately US\$581,000, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$546,000 and imports from Saint Kitts and Nevis of approximately US\$35,000.
 - (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, Taiwan provided scholarships for 18 outstanding students from Saint Kitts and Nevis to study in Taiwan and learn Mandarin. Grants were also provided to 179 outstanding elementary and middle school students under the Human Resources Development Project. TaiwanICDF dispatched Mandarin teachers to offer Mandarin courses and recruited Overseas Volunteers to serve in St. Kitts and Nevis.
 - (4) Medical cooperation: Taiwan continues to cooperate with Saint Kitts and Nevis on the Capacity Building Project for the Prevention and Control of Metabolic Chronic Diseases to help Saint Kitts and Nevis formulate a preventative strategy against chronic diseases, improve care capacity at medical institutions, and raise health awareness in local communities.

- (5) Agricultural and technical cooperation: In 2023, Taiwan and Saint Kitts and Nevis launched the Saint Kitts and Nevis Layer Chicken Industry Sustainable Development Project. The project leverages Taiwan's technical capabilities and experience in the layer chicken industry to assist Saint Kitts and Nevis in expanding its layer chicken industry in the post-pandemic era and to strengthen food security.
- (6) Technological cooperation: Taiwan continues to cooperate with Saint Kitts and Nevis on several projects, including the Digital Identity Authentication Project, the Renewable Energy Policy Consultant-dispatching Project, and Pinney's Beach Park Project.
- (7) Environmental cooperation: Taiwan and Saint Kitts and Nevis continue to cooperate on the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Project, assisting Saint Kitts and Nevis in establishing public awareness of resource recycling and a nationwide recycling system.
- (8) Women empowerment: Taiwan and Saint Kitts and Nevis continue to implement the Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women Project in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post COVID-19 Era Project/St. Kitts and Nevis.
- (9) Mutual visits by dignitaries:
 - A. A visit from Taiwan was made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu.
 - B. Visits to Taiwan were made by Governor-General Dame Marcella Althea Liburd, Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Hanley, Minister of Information and Communication Konris Maynard, Minister of Agriculture Samal Duggins, and Senator with Ministerial Responsibility for Health of the Nevis Island Administration Jahnel Nisbett.

6. Relations with Saint Lucia

- (1) Background:
 - A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) and Saint Lucia established diplomatic relations in May 1984. Relations were then severed in June 1997. The two countries resumed diplomatic relations in April 2007, and Taiwan

reestablished its embassy in Saint Lucia the same year. In 2015, Saint Lucia established its embassy in Taiwan, its first diplomatic mission in Asia.

- B. Saint Lucia has shown support for Taiwan at several international forums, including:
- a. Health Minister Moses Jn. Baptiste voiced support for Taiwan at the WHA on May 23. Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre and External Affairs Minister Alva Baptiste wrote to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, urging to include Taiwan's bid in the WHO agenda.
 - b. Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre voiced support for Taiwan's participation in the international community at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly on September 22, 2023. The Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the UN also signed a joint letter, with other diplomatic allies of Taiwan, supporting Taiwan's participation in the UN.
 - c. External Affairs Minister Alva R. Baptiste wrote to INTERPOL President Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi, urging support for Taiwan's participation in INTERPOL. Public Service Minister Virginia Albert-Poyotte publicly released a video of herself urging INTERPOL to invite Taiwan to INTERPOL's 2023 General Assembly as an observer.
 - d. Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre voiced support for Taiwan at the UNFCCC COP28 World Climate Action Summit on December 3, 2023. Education and Sustainable Development Minister Shawn A. Edward wrote to UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell to declare support for Taiwan's participation in the UNFCCC.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Saint Lucia was approximately US\$1.27 million, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$840,000 and imports from Saint Lucia of approximately US\$430,000.
 - B. On November 3, 2023, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy in Saint Lucia

and the Saint Lucian Ministry of Commerce co-organized the opening ceremony of the 16th Taiwan-Saint Lucia Partnership Trade Show. Prominent political figures included acting Governor-General Cyril Errol Melchiades Charles, Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre, appointed Senate President Alvina Reynolds, and Speaker of the House of Assembly Claudius Francis.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. In 2023, Taiwan provided 19 Taiwan Scholarships, 12 TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarships, and eight I-Shou University Medical Scholarships to Saint Lucian students to study in Taiwan.
- B. Taiwan continues to promote Mandarin language teaching programs in Saint Lucia. Mandarin courses have been offered at the Ministry of Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, and Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. Mandarin Pioneer Program has also been offered at two secondary schools in Saint Lucia. Approximately 300 students participate in these courses every year. Additionally, Taiwan dispatches Mandarin language teachers to assist Saint Lucia's Ministry of Education in editing Mandarin language curricula for primary and secondary schools, as well as organizing Mandarin proficiency tests and competitions.

(4) Agricultural and technical cooperation:

- A. In 2023, Taiwan and Saint Lucia continued to implement the five-year Project for Enhancing the Efficiency of Production–Distribution Supply Chain in Fruit and Vegetable Sector in St. Lucia (Phase II). This project aims to improve Saint Lucia's food self-sufficiency, enhance food security, strengthen supply chain efficiency, reduce imports, and address the challenges of climate change through capacity building and strengthening production and distribution systems.
- B. In 2023, three four-year projects were launched. These projects include the Capacity Building Project for the Prevention and Control of Metabolic Chronic Diseases in St. Lucia, Community Business Revitalization Project, and the Application of Information and

Communication Technology (ICT) in Digital Capacity Building Project in Saint Lucia. The Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Youth and Women Project in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post COVID-19 Era Project/St. Lucia also continued to be implemented in 2023.

- (5) Medical cooperation: In 2023, five teachers were selected to come to Taiwan to receive training designed by Cathay General Hospital on the prevention and control of metabolic chronic diseases.
- (6) Judicial and security cooperation: In August 2023, Minister of Justice Tsai Ching-hsiang and Saint Lucian Minister of External Affairs Alva R. Baptiste signed the Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of Saint Lucia and the Government of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) virtually, demonstrating the outcomes of judicial cooperation between Taiwan and Saint Lucia.
- (7) Humanitarian assistance:
 - A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy in Saint Lucia donated charitable goods to Saint Lucia on behalf of the SimplyHelp Foundation. Saint Lucian Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Joachim Henry accepted the donation on behalf of Saint Lucia.
 - B. The Embassy donated wheelchairs and assistive devices on behalf of the Cao Zhong Zhi Foundation. Saint Lucian Minister of Health Moses Jn. Baptiste accepted the donation on behalf of Saint Lucia.
- (8) Cultural exchanges:
 - A. In May, the Embassy invited Sizhukong Jazz Band plucked string instrumentalist Chen Chung Ching to host a workshop on jazz techniques and intercultural exchanges at the 2023 Saint Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival.
 - B. The Embassy hosted two Taiwan Movie Festivals, once in June and once in October, making and offering Taiwanese cuisine on-site for distinguished guests.
 - C. In September, the Embassy received 40 youth ambassadors, selected from college students in Taiwan, as part of the International Youth Ambassadors Exchange Program. Received by acting Governor-

General Charles, the youth ambassadors attended a youth forum opened by Prime Minister Pierre, strengthening ties between Taiwan and Saint Lucia.

- D. The Embassy organized a Bamboo Works workshop, inviting Taiwanese bamboo artist Lee Ya Ching to Saint Lucia and cooperating with bamboo craftsmen and artists in Saint Lucia.
- (9) Visits by dignitaries: Visits to Taiwan were made by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism Ernest Hilaire, Minister of External Affairs Alva R. Baptiste, Minister for Youth Development and Sports Kenson Casimir, Minister for Public Service Virginia Albert-Poyotte, Deputy Speaker of the Lower House Jeremiah Norbert, and Senators Lisa Jawahir and Dominic Fedee.

7. Relations with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

(1) Background:

- A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Saint Vincent) established diplomatic relations on August 15, 1981. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy in Saint Vincent began operations on March 24, 1983. Saint Vincent established its embassy in Taiwan on August 8, 2019.
- B. Saint Vincent has shown support for Taiwan at several international forums, including:
 - a. Health Minister St. Clair Prince voiced support for Taiwan at the WHA on May 23, 2023, highlighting Taiwan as a loyal partner to Saint Vincent, expressing conviction that Taiwan can contribute to the international community, and urging the world to accept help from Taiwan.
 - b. Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves voiced support for Taiwan at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly on September 23, praising Taiwan as a responsible member of the international community, urging the UN to include Taiwan, and highlighting the importance of peace in the Taiwan Strait to the world.
 - c. Assistant Commissioner of Police of the Royal Saint Vincent and

the Grenadines Police Force Christopher Benjamin voiced support for Taiwan at the INTERPOL General Assembly on November 29, 2023, requesting INTERPOL to give Taiwan access to the I 24/7 communications system and observer status in the organization.

- (2) Economic and trade relations: According to customs statistics from the Saint Vincent Ministry of Finance, bilateral trade amounted to US\$356,000 in 2023, with exports from Taiwan reaching approximately US\$259,000 and imports from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaching approximately US\$97,000.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. In 2023, Taiwan provided 24 Taiwan Scholarships and nine TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarships to students from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Approximately 120 students from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are currently studying in Taiwan. Taiwan also sends Mandarin-language teachers to reside and teach Mandarin in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
 - B. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides grants to outstanding students under the Human Resources Development Project. Approximately 500 students are awarded grants each year, benefitting over 8,000 students since 2008.
- (4) Agricultural and technical cooperation:
 - A. In 2023, the Taiwan Technical Mission in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continued to implement the Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women Project in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post COVID-19 Era Project/St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Public Health Emergency Response System Enhancement Project in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; donated two fully-equipped ambulances; and launched the Enhancing Public Safety with Intelligent Video Analytics Project for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Project, Improving Vegetable Cultivation Management and Post-harvest Handling Project, and Improving Livestock Rearing Project. Additionally, Mandarin teachers are stationed at community colleges

and Saint Vincent Girls' High School to teach Mandarin as part of technical cooperation initiatives.

- B. TaiwanICDF and the International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training organized several training programs, including The Seminar on Geographical Information System and Land Management – Net Zero and Sustainable Development, and invited government officials from Saint Vincent to Taiwan to receive training.
- (5) Humanitarian assistance: The Embassy, on behalf of the SimplyHelp Foundation, has made multiple donations, including folding tables and chairs, food, personal items, medical supplies, and pandemic materials, to assist Vincentians affected by the pandemic and volcanic eruption. Taiwan's Wu Thun-Chih Foundation for Charity and Public Welfare, the Cao Zhong Zhi Foundation, and business leaders have also provided humanitarian donations to Saint Vincent.
- (6) Other cooperations: National Road Rehabilitation Project, Kingstown Port Modernisation Project, and Supportive Education and Training Programme (SET).
- (7) Visits by dignitaries: Visits to Taiwan were made by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Regional Integration and the Diaspora Keisal Peters; Minister of Agriculture Saboto Caesar; Minister of Tourism Carlos James; Minister of Health St. Clair Prince; and Minister of Urban Development Benarva Browne.

8. Relations with the Argentine Republic

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Taiwan Trade Office in Argentina on January 6, 1973, which was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Argentina on January 26, 1996. Argentina established the Argentina Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan on July 9, 1992.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Argentina was approximately US\$367 million, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$180 million and imports from Argentina

approximately US\$187 million.

- B. In 2023, TECO Argentina facilitated the following MOUs between Taiwan associations and Argentinian agencies:
 - a. On March 29, 2023, the Taipei Computer Association signed an MOU with the Chamber of the Argentine Software Industry (Cámara de la Industria Argentina del Software).
 - b. On March 31, the Institute for Information Industry signed an MOU with the Chamber of the Argentine Software Industry (Cámara de la Industria Argentina del Software).
 - c. On October 24, the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association signed an MOU with the Argentine Chamber of Commerce (Cámara Argentina de Comercio).
 - d. On October 25, the Importers and Exporters Association of Taipei signed an MOU with ProMendoza, the trade and investment promotion agency for Mendoza province.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. In 2023, Taiwan provided MOE Taiwan Scholarships and Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to 19 Argentinian students to study in Taiwan.
 - B. In 2023, TECO Argentina initiated collaboration with think tanks and academic institutions, including the Argentine Council for International Relations and the University of CEMA, and co-hosted academic conferences.
- (4) Overseas community affairs:
 - A. Approximately 10,000 Taiwanese expatriates reside in Argentina, mostly concentrated in the capital city of Buenos Aires and Buenos Aires province. There are currently about 30 Taiwanese expatriate associations, most of which are concentrated in the capital region.
 - B. TECO Argentina hosted the International Tour of Taiwan Gourmet Cuisines, organizing three cooking sessions to strengthen culinary and cultural exchanges between Taiwan and Argentina. In 2023, TECO Argentina also assisted the 2023 Taiwanese Goodwill Cultural Mission of the National Day of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) - Diabolo Dance Theatre -

with their grand performance in Argentina.

- (5) Visits by dignitaries: A visit to Taiwan was made by First Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies Omar De Marchi.

9. Relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Far East Trade Center in São Paulo on July 14, 1975, which was renamed the Taipei Business Center in Brazil on February 15, 1980. On January 10, 1992, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brazil was established in Brasília. Meanwhile, the Taipei Business Center in São Paulo and the business center in Rio de Janeiro, established in June 1980, were renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in São Paulo and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Rio de Janeiro, respectively. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Rio de Janeiro was closed on February 20, 2002. The Commercial Office of Brazil to Taipei was established on March 27, 1990.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Brazil was approximately US\$3.9 billion, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$1.2 billion and imports from Brazil approximately US\$2.7 billion.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. Scholarships: In 2023, Taiwan provided seven Brazilian students with scholarships, including Taiwan Scholarships, Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, and TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarships, to study in Taiwan. Additionally, MOFA provided a Taiwan Fellowship to one Brazilian scholar to conduct research in Taiwan.
 - B. Training programs: The TaiwanICDF, the International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training, and the National Development Course invited 11 Brazilians to train in Taiwan.
- (4) Humanitarian assistance:
 - A. In April, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Brazil donated food baskets to Deputy Fernanda Pessoa to assist with relief efforts helping victims of torrential rain in the state of Ceará.

- B. In June, TECO donated food baskets to the state of Sergipe to provide relief to food crisis victims.
 - C. In June, TECO donated food baskets to Minas Gerais to support Deputy Junio Amaral's poverty alleviation project.
 - D. In September, TECO donated US\$5,000 to Deputy Ubiratan Sanderson to assist with repairs at an orphanage.
 - E. In December, TECO donated US\$20,000 to the Sergipe State Government's Secretariat of Agrarian Development to purchase food baskets for drought victims.
 - F. In December, TECO sponsored Deputy Paulo Fernando's project to eliminate poverty on Christmas. Funds were used to purchase food baskets for underprivileged families during the holiday season.
- (5) Overseas community affairs: Approximately 72,000 Taiwanese expatriates reside in Brazil, with most concentrated in the cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. There are over 60 various expatriate associations in Brazil, including business, social, leisure, charitable, religious, and hometown associations.

10. Relations with the Republic of Chile

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Far East Trade Office in Chile on September 30, 1975, which was renamed the Taipei Commercial Office in Chile on December 22, 1990, and further renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Chile on June 26, 1992. Chile established the Chilean Trade Office in Taiwan on September 22, 1989.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
- A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Chile was approximately US\$1.5 billion, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$178 million and imports from Chile approximately US\$1.32 billion.
 - B. From September 6 to 9, TECO Chile assisted TAITRA in organizing the Taiwan Trade Mission to Latin America 2023, inviting 53 Chilean buyers to engage in 105 trade meetings with Taiwanese companies.

- C. On October 17, TECO Chile assisted TAITRA in organizing the 2023 Latin America Business Day to facilitate economic and trade exchanges between Taiwan and Chile.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
- A. Academic cooperations:
 - a. TECO Chile established partnerships with renowned academic institutions, such as the University of Chile, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, and Universidad del Desarrollo, as well as think tanks, including Espacio Público, Libertad y Desarrollo, Chile Pacific Foundation, and the National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies, promoting bilateral cooperation and exchanges through scholarships, forums, and seminars.
 - b. On March 13, Representative Silvia Yu Chi Liu was invited to attend the 10th anniversary celebration of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), a collaborative astronomical observatory in Chile supported by international teams, including Taiwan's Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics.
 - c. TECO Chile facilitated the signing of an MOU on academic cooperations between National Taipei University of Technology and the Autonomous University of Chile in southern Chile.
 - B. Arts exchanges:
 - a. In February, Representative Liu signed cultural cooperation agreements with Mayor of Independencia in Santiago Gonzalo Durán and the Skansen Foundation (Fundación Skansen), respectively.
 - b. In February, TECO Chile co-hosted the Taiwan Film and Documentary Festival with the municipality of La Pintana.
 - c. In November, TECO Chile assisted the Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra with its visit to Valdivia, on the city's invitation, promoting cultural exchange.
 - C. Sport promotion: In September, President of the International

Tchoukball Federation and Chair of the Taiwan branch Huang Ching-cheng, visited Chile and collaborated with TECO Chile to establish the Chilean branch of the Tchoukball Federation, promoting bilateral sports exchange between Taiwan and Chile.

- (4) Humanitarian assistance: In April, TECO Chile and the overseas community in Chile co-organized an aid program providing supplies for forest fire relief in central and southern Chile. TECO Chile also partnered with members of the Chilean Senate and Chamber of Deputies, the Municipality of Independencia in Santiago, and various NGOs to carry out a range of social welfare initiatives.
- (5) Overseas community affairs: Approximately 1,500 Taiwanese expatriates reside in Chile, mostly in Santiago and the northern city of Iquique. In August, TECO Chile help the overseas community organize the 2023 International Tour of Taiwan Gourmet Cuisines.
- (6) Visits by dignitaries: Visits to Taiwan were made by Vice President of the Chilean Olympic Committee Aquiles Gómez and General Secretary Jaime Agliati.

11. Relations with the Republic of Colombia

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Far East Commercial Office in Colombia on June 14, 1980. It started offering services to the public with the Barranquilla Office of the Far East Commercial Office in Colombia on August 26 of the same year. On November 27, 1990, the two offices were renamed the Taipei Commercial Office in Bogotá, Colombia, and the Taipei Commercial Office in Barranquilla, Colombia, respectively. The Taipei Commercial Office in Barranquilla, Colombia was closed on July 1, 1991. On May 7, 1993, Colombia set up a commercial office in Taiwan, which was closed in December 2002.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Colombia was approximately US\$544 million, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$248 million and imports from Colombia approximately US\$296 million.

B. Economic and trade exchanges:

- a. TECO Colombia facilitated a visit to Taiwan by Chief Coordinator of Emergency and Security Integration Systems at the Medellín City Department of Security and Coexistence Luis Enrique Castro Arias and a delegation from the National Private Security and Surveillance Alliance in March. The delegation attended the 2023 Smart City Summit & Expo, fostering opportunities for smart city industry cooperation and exchanges.
- b. In August, TECO Colombia hosted the 2023 Latin America Trade Mission, organizing 42 virtual meetings for seven Taiwanese companies to enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation between Taiwan and Colombia.
- c. In October, TECO Colombia assisted the Global Organization of Smart Cities (GO Smart) in signing an MOU with the ProBogotá Foundation for Bogotá's inclusion in Taiwan's GO Smart network and strengthening collaboration and exchanges on topics, such as urban transport and public safety.
- d. In October, TECO Colombia assisted TAITRA in organizing the virtual 2023 Latin America Business Day to attract investments and expand sales channels.

(3) Cultural and educational relations:

- A. In 2023, Taiwan's MOE provided four Taiwan Scholarships, two Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, and one TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarship to outstanding Colombian students.
- B. TECO Colombia recommended eight Colombian specialists for training seminars organized by TaiwanICDF and the International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training.
- C. TECO Colombia facilitated the participation of the Ocean Conservation Administration, Ocean Affairs Council in the 41st International Sea Turtle Symposium held in Cartagena, Colombia in March.

(4) Sport exchanges:

- A. In June, Taiwan's archery team participated in the Medellin 2023 Archery World Cup Stage 3.
 - B. In August, Taiwan's cycling team participated in the 2023 UCI Junior Track World Championships held in Cali, Colombia.
 - C. In September, Taiwan's artistic skating team participated in the 2023 Artistic Skating World Championship held in Ibagué, Colombia.
- (5) Social welfare cooperation: TECO Colombia organized the small-scale community development and year-end toy donation programs for disadvantaged children in remote areas of Nariño Department; a laptop donation program with Fundación Fun-Hogar in Itagüí, Antioquia Department; community development, education, and welfare projects in Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca Departments; a year-end Christmas goods donation program for underprivileged communities in Bogotá; and a relief supplies program for impoverished individuals and the homeless.
- (6) Overseas community affairs: Approximately 300 Taiwanese expatriates reside in Colombia, mainly concentrated in the capital city of Bogotá, the second-largest city, Medellín, and the third-largest city, Cali. In August, the International Tour of Taiwan Gourmet Cuisines, organized by the Overseas Community Affairs Council, traveled to Colombia to offer cooking lessons and promote Taiwan's cuisine and culture.

12. Relations with the Republic of Ecuador

- (1) Background:
- A. The Trade Office of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) was established in Ecuador on April 12, 1977 and renamed the Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador in March 2017.
 - B. Vice President of the National Assembly Darwin Pereira and over 10 members of the National Assembly across various parties wrote to the WHO, UNFCCC, and INTERPOL in 2023 in support of Taiwan's participation in international organizations. Four medical associations, including the Medical Associations of Ecuador, wrote to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to declare support

for Taiwan's participation in the WHA.

- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Ecuador was approximately US\$360 million, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$270 million and imports from Ecuador approximately US\$90 million.
 - B. The Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador attended the 2023 Ecuatextil, FIGRAMPACK 2023, opening ceremony for the 2024 XPOTEX preparations, Ecuador Oil & Power 2023, 50th anniversary of the Chamber of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Pichincha, and 117th anniversary of the Chamber of Commerce of Quito, strengthening economic and trade relations between Taiwan and Ecuador.
 - C. In August, the Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador hosted the Taiwan Trade Mission to Latin America 2023 and organized business matchmaking sessions for over 1,000 attendees.
 - D. The Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador arranged visits from Ecuadorians to Taiwan for the 2023 Smart City Summit & Expo, 2023 Taipei Cycle, and 2023 Taiwan International Orchid Show, among others. The Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador also facilitated Ecuadorian key opinion leader Galo Arellano's visit to Taiwan, during which Arellano visited the Taipei World Trade Center and produced a video introducing Taiwan.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations:
 - A. Academic exchanges:
 - a. The Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador continued to maintain academic cooperations with over a dozen universities in Ecuador, including the Central University of Ecuador, University of San Francisco de Quito, and the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador.
 - b. In 2023, Taiwan provided four MOE Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, two MOE Taiwan Scholarships, and one TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarship to Ecuadorian students.

- c. The Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador facilitated National University of Loja's participation in the 2023 Taiwan Innotech Expo Invention Award. The team received a bronze in the competition.
- B. Cultural exchanges:
- a. Representative Augusto Hung-Ta Liao was interviewed by newspapers as well as TV and radio stations, such as El Universo, Gamavisión, Telesucesos, and Radio Sucesos. During the interviews, Representative Liao introduced Taiwan, Taiwan-Ecuador economic and trade relations, cultural exchanges, and the international situation.
 - b. The Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador hosted photography exhibitions in Quito and Ambato, highlighting the beauty of Taiwan's indigenous peoples in February and March, respectively; a Taiwan Film Exhibition in April; and the International Tour of Taiwan Gourmet Cuisines in September.
 - c. The Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador facilitated Ecuadorian student participation in Taiwan's World School Children's Art Exhibition. The students received nearly 20 awards, ranging from gold and bronze to honorable mention.
 - d. In September, the Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador received a request from the Telerama TV station to air the Taiwanese drama *The New World*.
- (4) Humanitarian assistance: The Taipei Commercial Office in Ecuador collaborated with two Vice Presidents of the National Assembly Eckenner Recalde and Darwin Pereira as well as dozens of members of the National Assembly and local government leaders to implement social welfare programs. These programs included donations of internet equipment to impoverished students in remote areas to bridge the digital gap, donations of wheelchairs to persons with disabilities and elderly persons to enhance their mobility, and food baskets and cleaning supplies for victims of earthquakes and natural disasters in Ecuador.
- (5) Overseas community affairs: Approximately 500 Taiwanese expatriates

reside in Ecuador with 14 associations, primarily in Quito, Guayaquil, and Machala.

13. Relations with the United Mexican States

- (1) Background:
 - A. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Far East Trade Service Center in Mexico on April 19, 1989, which was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Mexico on July 14, 1993. Mexico established the Mexican Trade Services Documentation and Cultural Office in Taiwan in June 1991.
 - B. The Mexican Medical Association wrote to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to declare support for Taiwan's participation at the 76th WHA in 2023 as an observer; 140 Deputies petitioned the WHO in the name of the Formosa Club; and the Mexican Nurses Association wrote, for the second consecutive year, to WHO Director-General, urging the WHO to invite Taiwan to the WHA.
- (2) Economic and trade relations: Mexico is Taiwan's largest trade partner in Latin America. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Mexico was approximately US\$6.36 billion, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$4.74 billion and imports from Mexico approximately US\$1.61 billion. According to statistics from the Mexican Secretariat of Economy, from 1999 to 2023, a total of 258 Taiwanese businesses invested a total of US\$1.52 billion in Mexico.
- (3) Cultural and educational relations: In 2023, Taiwan provided 31 Huayu Enrichment Scholarships, 10 Taiwan Scholarships, and one TaiwanICDF International Higher Education Scholarship to Mexican students to study in Taiwan.
- (4) Humanitarian assistance:
 - A. In January, Representative Armando Cheng and Senator Nadia Navarro co-hosted a donation ceremony in Puebla City for Taiwan donations of schoolbags and school supplies to underprivileged elementary school students and relief packages and blankets.

- B. In January, President of the International College of Surgeons Dr. Kwan Aij-lie led a team of volunteers to Mexico for a touring free clinic.
- C. In February, Representative Armando Cheng and Chair of the Health Committee of the Chamber of Deputies Emmanuel Reyes co-hosted a donation ceremony in Valle de Santiago for Taiwan donations of relief packages and blankets.
- D. In March, Representative Armando Cheng and Deputy María Teresa Castellco-hosted a donation ceremony for Taiwan donations of information equipment to the local community.
- E. In April, Representative Armando Cheng and Deputy Cecilia Márquez co-hosted a donation ceremony in Zapopan City for Taiwan donations of computer equipment, information equipment, and assistive devices to underprivileged communities.
- F. In August, Representative Armando Cheng and Deputy Antolín Guerrero co-hosted a donation ceremony in Valles City for Taiwan donations of information equipment and assistive devices.
- G. In October, Representative Armando Cheng and Deputy Roberto Rubio co-hosted a donation ceremony for Taiwan donations of computer equipment to under-resourced local high schools in Chanal City and Veracruz City.
- H. In October, Representative Armando Cheng and Chair of the Mexico-Taiwan Friendship Group in the Chamber of Deputies Elvia Martínez co-hosted a donation ceremony for donations of information equipment to under-resourced local schools in Ameca City.
- I. In November, Representative Armando Cheng and Deputy Bennelly Hernández co-hosted a donation ceremony for Taiwan donations of tablet computers to underprivileged students.
- J. In December, Representative Armando Cheng and Deputy Saúl Hernández co-hosted a donation ceremony for Taiwan donations of wheelchairs and hearing aids to local persons with disabilities in Tezontepec de Aldama City.
- K. In December, Representative Armando Cheng and President of the

Ecologist Green Party of Mexico/Chair of Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Chamber of Deputies Karen Castrejón co-hosted a donation ceremony for Taiwan donations of food baskets and relief supplies to victims of Hurricane Otis.

- (5) Overseas community affairs: The approximately 1,500 Taiwanese expatriates residing in Mexico are mainly involved in business and are spread across major cities. There are five expatriate associations: the Chamber of Commerce of Taiwan in Mexico City, the Association of Taiwanese People in Mexico, the Taiwanese Compatriots Association of Solidarity and Help in Mexico, the Chamber of Commerce of Taiwan in Juárez City, and the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce in Baja California. There are also three schools for overseas expatriates: Institute of Chinese Language and Culture in Mexico, Wen Cheng Cultural Language Center, and Han Lin Language Center.

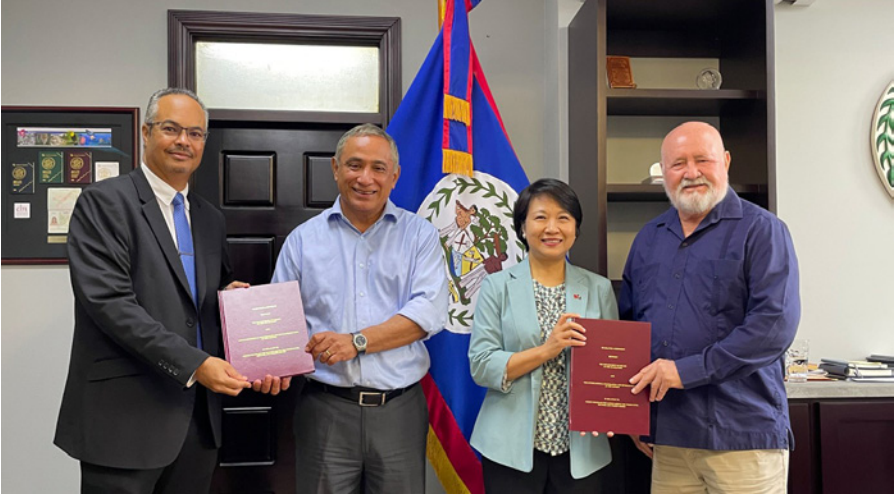
14. Relations with Republic of Peru

- (1) Background: The R.O.C. (Taiwan) established the Far East Trade Center in Peru on January 1, 1978, which was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Peru in November 1990. Peru established the Commercial Office of Peru in Taiwan in May 1994.
- (2) Economic and trade relations:
 - A. In 2023, total bilateral trade volume between Taiwan and Peru was approximately US\$655 million, with exports from Taiwan of approximately US\$271 million and imports from Peru approximately US\$384 million.
 - B. Economic and trade exchanges:
 - a. TECO Peru supported TAITRA in organizing Taiwan Trade Mission to Latin America 2023 to Peru from March 22 to 25, 2023 and invited 180 Peruvian buyers to engage in over 300 business discussions with the Mission.
 - b. On March 23, Representative Francisca Yu-Tsz Chang accepted an interview from El Peruano, sharing Taiwan-Peru economic and trade relations and the benefits of Taiwan joining the

- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to Peru.
- c. On July 6, 2023, Representative Chang attended, on invitation, the 21st SMEs Conference: Opportunities and Challenges to SMEs under the CPTPP as a keynote speaker and distinguished guest.
 - d. TECO Peru invited a delegation led by President of the National Chamber of Commerce of Peru Jesús Salazar to visit Taiwan from August 22 to 26, 2023.
 - e. TECO Peru invited President of the Lima Chamber of Commerce Rosa Bueno to visit Taiwan from September 23 to 28, 2023 and attend the 16th Taiwan-Peru Joint Business Councils Meeting convened by the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association (CIECA), Taiwan.
 - f. TECO Peru assisted TAITRA with setting up a Taiwan Pavilion and bringing a business delegation assembled by TAITRA to EXPOALIMENTARIA 2023.
- (3) Bilateral agreements: On September 28, 2023, TECO Peru facilitated the signing of an MOU between the Importers and Exporters Association of Taipei and Lima Chamber of Commerce, deepening bilateral cooperations and exchanges.
- (4) Cultural and educational relations:
- A. In 2023, Taiwan provided seven Peruvian students with MOFA Taiwan Scholarships and Huayu Enrichment Scholarships to study in Taiwan.
 - B. The Syumuy Pehu International Indigenous Culture and Arts Group of New Taipei City visited Peru and performed at the city government's culture center in Lima on July 11, 2023.
- (5) Sport exchanges:
- A. From April 11 to 22, Taiwan's national shooting team participated in the 2023 ISSF Shooting World Cup - Rifle/Pistol held in Lima, Peru.
 - B. From July 31 to August 6, Taiwan's national table tennis team participated in the WTT Contender LIMA 2023.

- C. From August 27 to 31, Chair of the International Tchoukball Federation's Taiwan branch Huang Chin-Cheng visited Peru to promote tchoukball.
- (6) Social welfare cooperation: In 2023, TECO Peru organized 17 projects including food assistance programs in the Lima Metropolitan Area, social welfare resources programs in San Martín province, and classroom renovation projects in Piura and Lambayeque provinces.
 - (7) Overseas community affairs: Approximately 300 Taiwanese expatriates reside in Peru, mainly in Lima, Cusco, and Arequipa.
 - (8) Visits by dignitaries: A visit to Taiwan was made by special advisor Vicente Li Sotelo to the President of the Democratic Party "We Are Peru" (Somos Perú).

Photographs of Diplomatic Events Latin America and the Caribbean



Ambassador to Belize Lily Li-Wen Hsu (second from right) and Belizean Prime Minister John Briceño (second from left) witness TaiwanICDF and Belize's Development Finance Corporation sign a loan and grant agreement to fund the Credit Program for Safeguarding the Productive Sectors and Women MSMEs. (April 19, 2023)



Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Tah-ray Yui (center) and Ambassador to Belize Lily Li-Wen Hsu (second from left) pay an official visit to Belizean Prime Minister John Briceño (second from right) and CEO of the Office of Prime Minister Narda Garcia (first from right). (June 15, 2023)



Ambassador to Guatemala Tsao Li-je (sixth from right) and Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei (seventh from left) co-host an exhibition showcasing achievements of the women’s empowerment project and the signing ceremony of a cooperation agreement with Thread Bank (Banco de Hilos). (June 23, 2023)



Ambassador to Guatemala Tsao Li-je (third from left) hosts the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the transfer of the maternity and children’s hospital attachment to the San Juan de Dios Hospital, posing for a group photo with Guatemala Presidential Secretariat’s hospital coordinator Pablo Ramirez (second from right) and Health Minister Hugo Monroy (first from left). (October 4, 2023)



Ambassador to Haiti Ku Wen-jiann (fourth from left), Haiti Prime Minister Ariel Henry (second from right), and Minister for the Status of Women and Women’s Rights Sofia Loreus (first from right, in dark suit) attend the National Day for Haitian Women event. (April 3, 2023)



Ambassador to Haiti Ku Wen-jiann (center), President of the Haiti Association of Industries of Haiti Wilhelm Lemke (third from left), Minister of Education and Vocational Training Nesmy Manigat (second from left) co-host a graduation ceremony for the Garment Technology Training Center (CFTV) at the Caracol Industrial Park (PIC). (July 12, 2023)



Ambassador to Paraguay José Chih-Cheng Han (front row, sixth from left) and Paraguay President Mario Abdo Benítez (front row, fifth from right) host the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Tres Bocas Crossing sponsored by Taiwan. (April 10, 2023)



Ambassador to Paraguay José Chih-Cheng Han (fourth from right) donates 600 high-performance police motorcycles to LINCE, Paraguay's special police force, on behalf of the Taiwanese government. Paraguay President Santiago Peña (center) is in attendance to witness the event. (December 15, 2023)



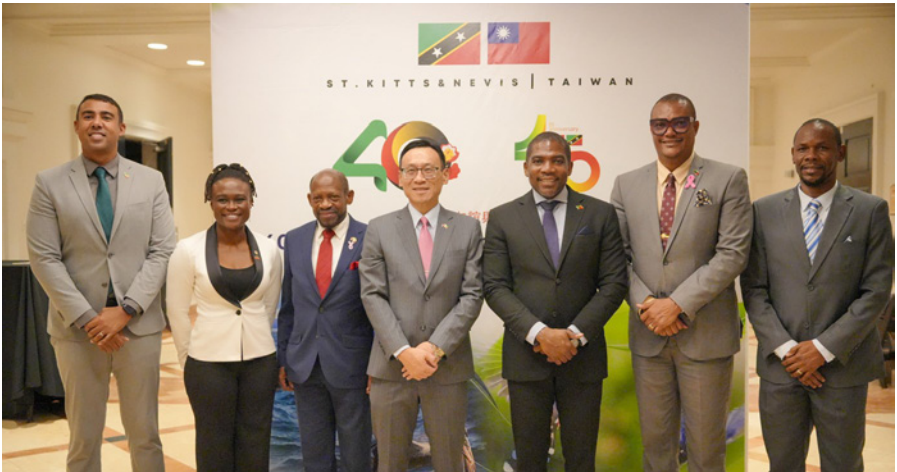
Consul General in Ciudad del Este Chang Chun-Pin (back row, sixth from left), Chief Secretary of Hernandarias Hugo Benítez (back row, sixth from right), and Taiwan Puede Ayudar CEO Kuo Feng-wen (back row, fourth from left), and others leaders in the overseas community, donate wheelchairs, blankets, and socks. (July 20, 2023)



Consul General in Ciudad del Este Chang Chun-Pin (second from left) and Alto Paraná Governor Cesar Landy Torres (second from right) donate 20 wheelchairs and a batch of toys. (December 11, 2023)



Ambassador to Saint Kitts and Nevis Michael C. H. Lin and Saint Kitts and Nevis Agriculture Minister Samal Duggins sign the Saint Kitts and Nevis Layer Chicken Industry Sustainable Development Project implementation agreement. (June 16, 2023)



During the celebration of the 2023 National Day and 40th Anniversary of Taiwan-Saint Kitts and Nevis Relations hosted by the R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy to Saint Kitts and Nevis, Ambassador to Saint Kitts and Nevis Michael C. H. Lin (fourth from left), Saint Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Terrance Drew (third from right), Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Hanley (second from right), Minister of Foreign Affairs Denzil Douglas (third from left), and Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Garth Wilkin (first from left) pose for a group photo. (October 9, 2023)



Ambassador to Saint Lucia Peter Chia-Yen Chen (second from left) and Saint Lucia Health Minister Moses Jn. Baptiste (first from left) sign the MOU for the Capacity Building Project for the Prevention and Control of Metabolic Chronic Diseases. (March 2, 2023)



Ambassador to Saint Lucia Peter Chia-Yen Chen (second from left) and his wife (first from left), acting Governor-General Cyril Errol Melchiades Charles (fourth from left) and his wife (third from left), and Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre (fifth from left) attend the 16th Taiwan-Saint Lucia Partnership Trade Show and pose for a group photo with attending Taiwan business representatives. (November 2, 2023)



Ambassador to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Fiona Huei-Chun Fan (left), Saint Vincent Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves (center), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Works Montgomery Daniel (right) attend the signing ceremony where Taiwan's Overseas Engineering & Construction undertakes the National Road Rehabilitation Project. (September 12, 2023)



Ambassador Fiona Huei-Chun Fan (front row, sixth from left) hosts the 2023 National Day reception and poses for a group photo with prominent political figures, including Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves (front row, fifth from right) and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Keisal Peters (front row, second from right). (October 19, 2023)



Representative to Argentina Florencia Miao-hung Hsie (first from left) attends an academic conference co-hosted by TECO Argentina and Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI). Participants include Director of CARI's Asian Affairs Committee Jorge Eduardo Malena (second from left) and Tamkang University Professor Kung Kwo-wei (second from right). (September 4, 2023)



Representative to Argentina Florencia Miao-hung Hsie (front row, fifth from left) poses for a group photo with representatives from 11 businesses participating in business matching sessions of TAITRA's Taiwan Trade Mission to Latin America 2023. In attendance is Deputy and former Member of the Chamber of Deputies' Commerce Committee Karina Bachey (front row, fourth from left), Chief Economist of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services Matías Wilson (front row, third from left), and former Argentina Representative to Taiwan Carlos Algorañaz (front row, first from left). (September 5, 2023)



Representative to Brazil Diego Wen Yao-jen (fourth from left) announces the establishment of the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women's Brazil chapter in the Noble Hall in the Palace of the National Congress, with several Brazilian deputies bearing witness. (July 5, 2023)



Representative to Brazil Benito Liao (center) and his wife (right) pay an official visit to the Metropolitan Archbishop of Brasilia Dom Paulo Cezar Costa (left). (December 1, 2023)



TECO São Paulo Director-General Luís K. J. Fong attends, on invitation, the inauguration of São Paulo Governor Tarcísio de Freitas and poses together. (January 1, 2023)



TECO São Paulo Director General Luís K. J. Fong (fourth from left) donates 300 food baskets on behalf of Taiwan to the Archdiocese of Belém do Pará, with Metropolitan Archbishop of São Paulo Dom Odilo Pedro Scherer (fifth from right) in attendance. (December 12, 2023)



Representative to Chile Silvia Yu Chi Liu (left) and Deputy Carolina Marzan (right), Chair of the Chile-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group co-host the group's annual luncheon. (March 20, 2023)



Representative to Chile Silvia Yu Chi Liu (front row, second from left) hosts the inauguration of the Taiwan Alumni Association in Chile. (December 20, 2023)



Representative to Colombia Veronica C. Y. Kuei (second from right) donates supplies to care for newborns of underprivileged households under the My Cradle project in the Bolívar Department. (March 24, 2023)



Representative to Colombia Veronica C. Y. Kuei (center) hosts the 2023 National Day celebration and poses with Second Vice President in the House of Representatives Juan Espinal (first from left), who also delivers remarks, and senator and coordinator of the Colombia-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Jose Luis Perez (first from right). (October 10, 2023)



Representative to Ecuador Jaime Chuang attends a business matching session held for Taiwan Trade Mission to Latin America 2023 in the Ecuador capital of Quito. (March 20, 2023)



Representative to Ecuador Augusto Hung-Ta Liao is interviewed by Ecuadorian TV station Gamavisión and discusses Taiwan's participation in the UNFCCC and INTERPOL. (November 14, 2023)



Representative to Mexico Armando Cheng (second from right) and Foreign Affairs Police Captain Jennyfer Rodríguez Vielma (second from left) co-host a donation ceremony for police supplies. (February 13, 2023)



Representative to Mexico Armando Cheng (front row, sixth from left), Deputy Karen Castrejón (front row, fifth from left), together with President of the Ecologist Green Party of Mexico and Chair of Environment and Natural Resources Committee of House of Representatives Karen Castrejón (front row, fifth from left) and Deputy Luis Palacios (front row, seventh from left) hand out food and relief supplies to the victims of a natural disaster in Acapulco, Mexico. (December 9, 2023)



At the invitation of the Chair of the Peruvian Congress Committee on Women and Family Lucinda Vásquez (fourth from left), Representative to Peru Francisca Yu-Tsz Chang (first from right) attends a ceremony honoring outstanding women, where they are joined by President of the Congress José Williams Zapata (fourth from right). (March 8, 2023)



Representative to Peru Francisca Yu-Tsz Chang (left) and Vice President of the Andean Parliament Leslye Lazo Villón (right) donate wheelchairs to the Cayetano Heredia National Hospital. (November 7, 2023)

Section 2 International Organizations, Conferences and Activities

I. Campaign for UN Participation

Since Taiwan withdrew from the United Nations in 1971, the political, economic, and social landscape of Taiwan has continued to develop. Along with the progress of democratization and the maturing of civil society, there has been a growing focus among the people of Taiwan to pursue stronger engagement in the international community. To advocate for international recognition of Taiwan's aspirations and needs for greater international participation, and to enhance the alignment of various issues and policy directions with international standards for contributing to the global community, Taiwan has endeavored unabated since 1993 to gain recognition and support from the international community for Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations system.

Following the approach of steadfast diplomacy, which aims to advance mutual assistance for mutual benefit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively demonstrates Taiwan's willingness, capacity, and potential contributions to participate in the UN system, and urges the UN to recognize the importance and necessity of Taiwan's inclusion and to secure international support for Taiwan's campaign for participation in the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This year, Taiwan's campaign for UN participation has four core appeals. (1) The UN should take action to address the unjustified exclusion of Taiwan's 23 million people from the UN system, resulting from the misinterpretation of the UNGA Resolution 2758. (2) The UN's discriminatory policy against Taiwan passport holders and journalists should be immediately rectified. (3) The UN should actively facilitate peace, stability, and security in the Taiwan Strait and its adjacent areas. (4) Taiwan should be afforded the right to meaningfully participate in meetings, mechanisms, and activities related to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and thus make greater contributions.

Heads of state, heads of government, or foreign ministers of Taiwan's 12 diplomatic allies spoke on behalf of Taiwan during the UN General Debate and

high-level meetings, voicing concern over peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and the region, urging the UN to end its misinterpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758, respond positively to Taiwan's call for meaningful participation in the UN, and include Taiwan. In addition, 11 diplomatic allies jointly or individually wrote to UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

In addition, Czech President Petr Pavel publicly expressed concern over the situation in the Taiwan Strait during the UN General Debate and condemned China for escalating regional tensions. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during a meeting with Chinese Vice President Han Zheng at the UN General Assembly, again emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, on behalf of the Group of Seven (G7) foreign ministers and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, issued a chair's statement reaffirming that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait are indispensable to international security and prosperity and expressing support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations. Dutch Foreign Minister Hanke Bruins Slot, responding to a parliamentary inquiry, likewise conveyed support for Taiwan's international participation.

To ensure understanding of UNGA Resolution 2758 among European audiences, Taiwan collaborated with scholars from think tanks in Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Poland, Greece, Denmark, and Italy to host seminars and publish articles rebutting China's misinterpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and to support Taiwan's participation in the UN. President Tsai Ing-wen, once again invited to deliver a prerecorded keynote address at the annual Concordia Summit in New York, directly addressed the UN community on the importance of Taiwan's security and international participation. Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan and Minister of Digital Affairs Audrey Tang also traveled to New York to attend the Concordia Summit and share Taiwan's successful experiences in universal health coverage and digital democracy. Representative to the US Bihxim Hsiao engaged in a dialogue with Daniel Russel, former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and Vice President of the Asia Society Policy Institute, on peace and security in the Taiwan Strait and Taiwan's efforts to participate in the UN. Taiwan, together with the US, Japan, and Australia, also co-hosted an international conference under the Global Cooperation and Training

Framework (GCTF) in New York during the UN General Assembly, sharing Taiwan's initiatives to promote the SDGs and the concrete achievements it has made in assisting other countries.

II. Campaign for WHO Participation

The vision of the World Health Organization (WHO) is to create a world in which all peoples attain the highest possible level of health. WHO provides health assistance and technical services and raises awareness concerning various diseases and environmental health to help governments across the world improve the quality of their people's health. The R.O.C. was a founding member of WHO until May 1972 when the World Health Assembly (WHA), WHO's decision-making body, passed WHA Resolution 25.1, thereby excluding Taiwan from WHO. To safeguard the rights of the people of Taiwan and facilitate collaboration with the global health network led by WHO, Taiwan has been promoting its participation in the WHO since 1997. After sustained efforts by the government and civil society, WHO, in January 2009, incorporated Taiwan into the International Health Regulations (IHR) mechanism. On April 28, 2009, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan wrote to Minister of Health and Welfare Yeh Ching-chuan, inviting Taiwan to attend the 62nd WHA as "Chinese Taipei" in an observer capacity, and Taiwan was subsequently invited to the WHA for eight consecutive years.

This year, to further demonstrate the government's commitment to global health cooperation and the welfare of the people of Taiwan, Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan led a delegation to Geneva to convey Taiwan's appeal for WHA participation. During the visit, the delegation attended diplomatic receptions, convened an international press conference, took part in the WHO "Walk the Talk" event, participated in professional forums and overseas community activities, and gave media interviews. Bilateral talks with like-minded countries, such as the US and Lithuania, were also conducted to discuss ways to enhance health cooperation, thereby demonstrating Taiwan's commitment to contributing to the right to health through concrete actions. This year, Taiwan's campaign received backing at the WHO and other venues from senior government officials, legislators, and influential allies from nearly 100 countries worldwide.

Taiwan urged diplomatic allies to write to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, requesting that the proposal to invite Taiwan to participate

in the World Health Assembly as an observer be included in the agenda for the 76th WHA. The proposal was discussed at the May WHA, where Belize, Nauru, Eswatini, and the Marshall Islands—four of Taiwan’s diplomatic allies, voiced support for Taiwan in both the General Committee and the plenary session, refuting China’s fallacies and emphasizing that UNGA Resolution 2758 and WHA Resolution 25.1 do not authorize China to represent Taiwan in the UN system. In the WHA plenary, 13 like-minded countries voiced support for Taiwan: the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, and Luxembourg continued to speak on Taiwan’s behalf; Estonia mentioned Taiwan explicitly for the first time; and New Zealand and Latvia - by highlighting inclusivity, the avoidance of politicization, and the principle - echoed Taiwan’s bid for meaningful participation in WHO and the WHA.

Like-minded countries have also actively supported Taiwan in various multilateral and bilateral fora. For the third consecutive year, G7—comprising Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the US, and the United Kingdom—together with the European Union, advocated for Taiwan’s participation in WHO and the WHA in their Foreign Ministers’ Communiqué, and the G7 Health Ministers’ Communiqué has likewise voiced support for Taiwan for the second consecutive year. The Joint Statement of the 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministers’ Meeting between the United Kingdom and Australia, the Joint Statement of the 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministers’ Meeting between France and Australia, and the Joint Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the United States and Lithuania all endorsed Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib, Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billström, and Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Erling Rimestad all publicly expressed their support for Taiwan. In addition, the representative offices in Taiwan of eight countries—the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Lithuania—issued a joint press release backing Taiwan.

Legislative bodies and transnational parliamentary organizations around the world have also demonstrated their support for Taiwan by passing resolutions, sending letters, and taking other actions. The Belize House of Representatives and the Parliament of St. Kitts and Nevis adopted resolutions in support of Taiwan,

and the US House Foreign Affairs Committee, ahead of the WHA, passed the Taiwan International Solidarity Act to counter China's malicious distortion of UNGA Resolution 2758 to block Taiwan's international participation. The German Bundestag, for the second consecutive year, adopted a resolution supporting Taiwan's participation in the WHA and WHO as an observer, and the Czech Senate, for the third time, passed a resolution endorsing Taiwan's participation in WHO and other international organizations. The European Parliament, the Central American Parliament, and over a thousand parliamentarians within various regional Formosa Club assemblies have individually or jointly written letters to express their support.

Taiwan will continue to pursue equal and dignified participation in the WHA and urges the WHO and related parties to recognize Taiwan's long-term contributions to global public health, pandemic prevention, and the right to health, as well as Taiwan's medical partnerships with WHO member countries, and to facilitate Taiwan's professional, pragmatic, and constructive engagement in the WHA and to gradually expand Taiwan's involvement in WHO mechanisms, meetings, and activities.

III. Campaign for ICAO Participation

As a member of the international community, Taiwan has a responsibility to ensure global and regional aviation safety and is willing to contribute to the development of global civil aviation and the well-being of humanity. Taiwan has jurisdiction over the Taipei Flight Information Region (Taipei FIR), which manages heavy air traffic in East Asia, and plays a crucial part of the global aviation network. However, Taiwan has been excluded from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), making it difficult to participate in ICAO meetings, activities, and mechanisms.

In 2013, Taiwan attended the 38th ICAO Assembly held at ICAO headquarters in Montreal, Canada as a guest of the ICAO Council President Roberto Kobeh González under the name "Chinese Taipei." The Taiwan delegation was led by Jean Shen, then Director-General of the Civil Aviation Administration of Taiwan.

In 2016, 2019, and 2022, Taiwan sent delegations to Montreal, Canada for the ICAO Assemblies despite not receiving an invitation. The delegations were sent to demonstrate our resolve to be a part of the ICAO and to explain to the international

community the necessity of Taiwan's participation in the ICAO. Because this year did not coincide with ICAO's triennial Assembly schedule, Taiwan did not launch a large-scale joint campaign, but nonetheless continued to seek international support for its participation in ICAO. In April of this year, the US House of Representatives passed the Taiwan International Solidarity Act, which included language supporting Taiwan's participation in ICAO; the parliaments of Belize and St. Kitts and Nevis and the Czech Senate likewise adopted motions or resolutions endorsing Taiwan's participation in ICAO and other international organizations.

Taiwan will continue to follow the approach of steadfast diplomacy and mutual assistance for mutual benefit to maintain close cooperation with other countries and stakeholders as well as advocate for Taiwan's participation in the ICAO, including the assembly and its technical meetings, activities, and mechanisms.

IV. Campaign for INTERPOL Participation

The mission of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is to enable criminal police around the world to work together to prevent and fight crime. In 1961, Taiwan joined INTERPOL as the National Central Bureau of the R.O.C. In 1984, Taiwan was forced to withdraw from the organization after it yielded to the unreasonable conditions attached to China's accession, which denigrated our participation status.

As a member of the international community, Taiwan is willing and able to cooperate with other countries to combat the growing threats of terrorism and transnational crime through participation in international organizations such as INTERPOL. Therefore, Taiwan launched a campaign in 2016 to advocate for its participation in INTERPOL as an observer. Taiwan's appeals have gradually gained public support from like-minded countries. The international community has also shown increased support for Taiwan's campaign over the years.

The 91st INTERPOL General Assembly was held in November this year in Vienna, Austria, and support for Taiwan's participation surged markedly: government agencies, legislative bodies, transnational parliamentary organizations, and prominent individuals from over 60 countries publicly backed Taiwan's bid— Ten diplomatic allies issued letters and other expressions of support, and representatives from seven diplomatic allies spoke up for Taiwan over three

consecutive days at the Assembly, demonstrating that an increasing number of countries recognize the necessity of integrating Taiwan into the global effort against transnational crime.

Taiwan will continue to work with like-minded countries to amass support from the international community for the three following objectives: (1) participation in the General Assembly of INTERPOL as an observer; (2) access to the I-24/7 global police communications system; and (3) participation in INTERPOL meetings, mechanisms, and other events.

V. Taiwan's Membership in Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO)

While continuing the campaign for participation in the UN system, Taiwan also continues to leverage its political, economic, scientific, and technological strengths to bolster and deepen its existing memberships in intergovernmental organizations through flexible and pragmatic approaches in order to secure member status and rights. In addition, Taiwan continues to advocate for participation in and strengthen effective connections with other international organizations of which it is not a member.

Taiwan currently holds membership in 45 IGOs, multilateral mechanisms, or their subsidiary bodies, and participates as an associate member or observer in 29 intergovernmental organizations, conventions, multilateral mechanisms, or their subsidiary bodies, including this year newly joining the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC), the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA), and the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF). (Please refer to Appendix 5)

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- (1) Established in 1989 with its Secretariat located in Singapore, APEC currently has 21 member economies. In 2023, TSMC founder Dr. Morris Chang was designated to represent Taiwan at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) held in San Francisco from November 15 to 17. During the AELM, Dr. Chang also met with US Vice President Kamala Harris, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Director of the White House National Economic Council Lael Brainard, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida,

and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in bilateral meetings or side events.

- (2) In 2023, Taiwan agencies were awarded funding for 14 APEC project proposals, totaling over US\$1.14 million. Taiwan also hosted 29 APEC meetings or events, covering topics such as accelerating SMEs' green transformation through digital innovation, empowering women through new media capacity-building, and advancing sound energy governance initiatives.
 - (3) In 2023, representatives from Taiwan's ministries and agencies attended 17 high-level APEC meetings, including four Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM), the Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting (FCBDM), the Transportation Ministerial Meeting (TMM), the Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting (MRT), the Senior Finance Officials' Meeting (SFOM), the Senior Disaster Management Officials' Forum (SDMOF), the Food Security Ministerial Meeting (FSMM), the High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLMHE), the Energy Ministerial Meeting (EMM), the Women and the Economy Forum and High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy (WEF/HLPDWE), the Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting (SMEMM), the Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM), the Annual Ministerial Meeting (AMM), and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).
2. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs): Taiwan is a global leader in distant-water fishing, with fishing operations spanning three major oceans. Recognizing the need to conserve marine resources and combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the international community deems it necessary to include Taiwan in the international fisheries management system. Given Taiwan's unique international status, the concept of "fishing entity" was introduced to allow Taiwan to participate in negotiations on conventions of various Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). To date, Taiwan has joined seven RFMOs, including the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), Extended Commission of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the South

Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), and as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Taiwan is actively seeking further participation in RFMOs in order to contribute to the conservation and sustainable development of marine fisheries resources worldwide while safeguarding equal participation rights.

3. **International Agricultural Organizations:** Taiwan has strong capacity and successful experience in the development of agricultural technology, precision agriculture, rural development, and sustainable agriculture. Two international agricultural organizations, the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) and the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region (FFTC), are headquartered in Taiwan, underscoring international recognition for Taiwan's promotion of global agricultural cooperation. Through donations, international workshops and collaborative projects, Taiwan actively deepens professional engagement with international agricultural organizations, such as WorldVeg, FFTC, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), and the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). In 2023, Taiwan co-organized with the ICAC the 8th ICAC International Seminar in Taipei. In response to the United Nations' designation of October 7 as World Cotton Day, Taiwan also coordinated with the ICAC in organizing related celebratory events during the Taipei Innovative Textile Application Show (TITAS 2023). ICAC Executive Director Eric Trachtenberg was invited to Taiwan to join the festivities.
4. **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):** Founded in 1961 and headquartered in Paris, France, the OECD currently has 38 member states. The OECD is an important economic organization for the governments of developed countries to facilitate progress in economic and social welfare and provide assistance to developing countries. With more than 300 specialized committees and working groups, the OECD has considerable scale. Since its initial participation in the Dynamic Non-Member Economies (DNMEs) seminars in Paris in January 1989, Taiwan has been actively pursuing opportunities for substantive participation in the OECD. Taiwan is currently a

Participant (i.e., observer) in the Competition Committee, the Steel Committee, and the Fisheries Committee.

5. Regional Development Banks

- (1) Asian Development Bank (ADB): Established in 1966, the ADB is headquartered in Manila, and Taiwan is one of the founding members. In 1983, Taiwan became a donor country of the ADB's Asian Development Fund (ADF). Additionally, in 2022, Taiwan contributed to the ADB's Domestic Resource Mobilization Trust Fund (DRMTF) to help improve the tax administration efficiency of the ADB's developing member countries. In 2023, the ADB again sent a talent-recruitment delegation to Taiwan, following its previous visit in 2013.
- (2) Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): Established in 1959, the IDB is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1991, IDB has invited Taiwan to its annual Board of Governors meetings as an observer. In 2006, through the IDB Lab (formerly Multilateral Investment Fund), TaiwanICDF set up the Specialized Financial Intermediary Development Fund to provide financing for intermediary financial institutions to increase fiscal independence, small rural enterprises to take part in the formal financial system, and low-income populations to improve their residential properties. From 2022 through 2023, the TaiwanICDF continued its cooperation with the IDB to co-finance women's enterprise projects in Belize and to parallel finance of power-transmission systems in Paraguay.
- (3) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD): Established in 1991, the EBRD is headquartered in London. In 1991, Taiwan set up the Technical Cooperation Fund with EBRD to help facilitate economic and social development in recipient countries. Since then, Taiwan has been regularly invited to participate in the EBRD's annual meetings of the Board of Governors and related events as a special observer. In 2023, Taiwan and the EBRD collaborated on 13 technical cooperation projects and organized nine business-matching and technical study delegations, and facilitated the participation of nine Taiwanese diplomatic missions in EBRD project launch ceremonies and final presentations. In addition, together with donors including the European Union and Norway, Taiwan

joined the EBRD's newly established Ukraine Reconstruction Guarantee Facility (URGF) and the International Chernobyl Cooperation Account (ICCA) to support Ukraine, and co-hosted a Donor Day event with EBRD Vice President Mark Bowman at EBRD headquarters.

- (4) Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI): Established in 1960, the CABEI is headquartered in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. In 1992, Taiwan joined the CABEI as a non-regional member and is now the bank's largest shareholder. In July 2021, the CABEI opened its representative office in Taiwan which is also its first office in a non-regional member country. In November 2021, Taiwan and the CABEI signed an agreement to establish the Taiwan-CABEI Partnership Trust Fund. According to the agreement, Taiwan will contribute to the fund to implement the CABEI's technical cooperation and capacity-building projects in Central America. Such projects prioritize consultants and manufacturers from Taiwan, thereby expanding Taiwan's business ventures in the region.

6. Law Enforcement and Police Organizations

- (1) Asian/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG): Established in 1997, APG maintains its secretariat in Sydney, Australia. To deepen its engagement with the APG, Taiwan, as a founding member, has continued to contribute to APG-related projects since 2011, supporting capacity-building training programs for Pacific members to enhance their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing capability. In January 2022, Taiwan was elected the North Asia Representative of the APG Governance Committee, and was re-elected in 2023.
- (2) Egmont Group (EG): Established in 1995, EG maintains its secretariat in Ottawa, Canada. Taiwan joined the Egmont Group in 1998. Taiwan regularly participates in EG meetings and activities and uses the platform to forge bilateral anti-money laundering cooperation agreements and memoranda with other members. Taiwan also provides funding to EG to support its anti-money laundering capacity building programs.

7. Democracy Governance Organizations

- (1) Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB): Founded in 2011, A-WEB

maintains its secretariat in Incheon, South Korea. Taiwan joined A-WEB as a founding member in 2013. Taiwan participates regularly in its meetings and activities, and in 2022, was elected to serve on A-WEB's Oversight and Audit Committee.

- (2) Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA): Established in 1998, AAEA maintains its secretariat in Manila. Taiwan joined AAEA as a founding member in the same year, and has been an active participant ever since. In 2022, Taiwan was elected vice chair of AAEA.
8. Organizations on Emerging Issues: In response to the global rise of authoritarianism, the international community is placing increasing emphasis on emerging topics such as democratic governance, international privacy protection, information openness and freedom, religious freedom, and indigenous cooperation. Over the past two years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with relevant agencies, has successfully joined the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA), the Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules Forum (Global CBPR Forum), the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (IRFBA), the Asian Access to Information Alliance (AAIA), and the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC), and has actively participated in their meetings and activities.
9. Campaign for inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The UNFCCC COP28 was held in Dubai from November 30 to December 13. Taiwan was represented by Minister of the Environment Hsueh Fu-sheng, who led a delegation of public- and private-sector representatives attending as NGO observers. Upholding the principle of “professional, pragmatic, and contributory” engagement, the delegation successfully fulfilled all meeting objectives and yielded substantial outcomes. Key outcomes of Taiwan’s participation in COP28 include:
 - (1) Advocacy: Six heads of state or heads of government—Paraguayan President Santiago Peña Palacios, Palauan President Surangel Whipps, Jr., Saint Lucian Prime Minister Philip Joseph Pierre, Saint Christopher and Nevis Prime Minister Terrance Drew, Tuvaluan Prime Minister Kausea Natano, and Eswatinian Prime Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini—and ministers from Haiti, Belize, the Marshall Islands, Guatemala, and Nauru

used the climate summit and high-level meetings to speak up for Taiwan, representing a record high in both proportion and number. Furthermore, in spirited remarks made during the closing plenary session on December 13, German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock said that Taiwan and other countries were paying close attention to the outcomes of the meeting.

- (2) Twelve diplomatic allies and 42 national parliaments sent letters supporting Taiwan: In a show of substantial international support for Taiwan, 378 parliamentarians from 12 diplomatic allies and Formosa Clubs in Europe and in Latin America and the Caribbean sent letters of support to UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell and called on the international community to include Taiwan in negotiation processes and mechanisms relating to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
- (3) Bilateral dialogues: This year, the Taiwanese delegation held a total of 46 bilateral meetings with representatives of the executive or legislative branches of government of 35 like-minded countries, as well as two international organizations. These meetings yielded extensive exchanges on such diverse topics as climate change policy, 2050 net-zero emissions targets, carbon pricing, energy transition, and climate governance and helped publicize Taiwan's bid to participate in the UNFCCC.
- (4) Climate transition fund: Taiwan announced a US\$10 million contribution to establish a Climate Transition Fund with Pacific allies. This initiative not only aligns with the trend of developed countries assisting developing countries in climate adaptation but also underscores Taiwan's determination to contribute to the global climate agenda.
- (5) National pavilion and side events: Taiwan collaborated with Palau and Saint Christopher and Nevis, setting up national pavilions, jointly holding various side events, and underscoring bilateral climate partnerships and solid friendships. Taiwan also coordinated an unprecedented five side-events between five Taiwan NGOs and five diplomatic allies. The events covered net-zero transition, climate justice, climate change adaptation, climate finance, and other issues of current international concern. This underscored the constructive role that Taiwan's NGOs play in engaging

with other countries on climate change.

- (6) Diplomatic cruise reception and welcome reception: The Taiwanese delegation held a Palm Islands cruise reception for dignitaries from diplomatic allies and friendly nations for a joint study of the impact of climate change on marine ecology. The event featured the screening of the environmental education film *Melting Greenland* and an address by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, facilitating deeper exchanges on environmental and climate issues. The Commercial Office of Taipei in Dubai also hosted a welcome reception, at which participants from Taiwanese NGOs, media, private enterprises, and other sectors enjoyed lively interactions.
- (7) On-site publicity: Taiwan placed advertisements featuring the key visual for this year's participation campaign themed "Climate Action with Taiwan" at all 53 Dubai metro stations. Through the advertisements and a promotional vehicle, Taiwan declared to the international community its willingness and determination to promote climate action with other countries. Its efforts gained a warm response from various sectors participating in COP28.
- (8) Mainstream media and new media outreach: International press coverage of Taiwan's COP28 campaign included 109 reports featuring an op-ed by Minister of Environment Shieu Fuh-sheng, 74 letters to the editor from Taiwan's overseas missions and press interviews with heads of mission, and 15 friendly news reports. The promotional video *Green Action Taiwan!* was viewed a record 23.03 million times, receiving extensive coverage from Taiwanese media and widespread public commendation.

VI. Current Participation in International NGOs (INGOs)

1. In 2023, domestic civil associations submitted a total of 455 applications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for subsidies to engage in international activities. Of these, 349 met the criteria under the Directions for the Provision of Subsidies by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Civil Associations Engaged in International Exchanges and Activities and received funding, indicating that the R.O.C. (Taiwan) government has continued to lend support to civic groups

for international exchanges and activities as it seeks to strengthen partnerships between local NGOs and governments using a practical approach.

2. MOFA compiled a budget for the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy in accordance with relevant laws and regulations to support NGOs, international NGOs, think tanks, and political parties in democratic countries to build partnerships and connections with international groups supporting democracy.
3. Taiwan has actively attracted and assisted INGOs in establishing offices in Taiwan. Key achievements include facilitating the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) in setting up its Taiwan office and providing advisory services and administrative assistance to several INGOs planning to open offices here. The Ministry has also continued to strengthen collaboration between INGOs and domestic civil society groups, assisting the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and WFD in co-hosting the 2023 Parliamentary Openness and Monitoring Forum with Citizen Congress Watch (CCW) in March, and encouraging INGOs to participate in the 2023 China in The World (CITW) Summit organized by Doublethink Lab to jointly combat disinformation and malicious interference in Taiwan's democratic elections.
4. MOFA collaborated with Taiwan NGOs to implement the Women's Empowerment Diplomacy Program: To support the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), which returned to in-person meetings in New York, and in alignment with this year's theme "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls," Taiwan held two flagship events: Taiwan Night: Celebrating Women in Tech on March 7 and Taiwan Main Stage: Promoting Gender Equality in the Digital Age on March 9. The first, a technology-driven fashion show planned by up-and-coming Taiwanese designers, brought together diplomatic representatives and international NGO partners to showcase Taiwan's new wave of tech-savvy female talent. The second featured a keynote address by Palau Vice President J. Uduch Sengebau Senior and invited Chair of the National Science Council Chern Yi-juang, allied dignitaries, and NGO representatives for a dialogue on advancing gender equality in the digital era. In addition, Taiwan's NGOs and local governments organized 32 parallel sessions during CSW67 to showcase Taiwan's achievements in gender equality to the international community.

Coordinated by Taiwan's overseas missions, NGOs, and INGOs, the campaign achieved a record-breaking social media reach of over 15 million.

5. MOFA encouraged Taiwan NGOs to host annual INGO meetings or major international conferences in Taiwan, also providing help with the execution of or attendance in such conferences overseas. For example, to promote regional democracy and freedom, MOFA assisted the Taiwan headquarters of the World League for Freedom and Democracy (WLFD) to organize the 2023 WLFD Annual Conference and the 64th Asian Pacific League for Freedom and Democracy (APLFD) Annual Meeting, as well as the 2023 World Freedom Day Celebrations. MOFA also helped APLFD with organizing the 2023 Asia Pacific Video Roundtable Conference.

In facilitating international medical and health exchanges, MOFA assisted the Taiwan Veterinary Medical Association in hosting the 38th World Veterinary Association Congress (WVAC); the Federation of Taiwan Pharmacists Associations in hosting the 29th Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations (FAPA); and the Taiwan Association of Family Medicine attend the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) World Conference 2023 in Australia. MOFA also facilitated the Taiwan Nurses Association in attending the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Congress 2023 in Canada, as well as signing an MOU with the Nursing Association of Paraguay to expand Taiwan's medical NGO visibility. Additionally, MOFA continued to assist the Taiwan Medical Association and the Taiwan Physical Therapy Association, as well as support the Taiwan Association of Family Medicine and the International College of Surgeons (ICS) in securing leadership roles within INGOs. Additionally, MOFA facilitated the Taiwan Medical Association in extending an invitation to the World Medical Association President Lujain Alqodmani and Secretary-General Otmar Kloiber to visit Taiwan in December.

In promoting sports exchanges, MOFA supported the Taiwan Sport Forward Association in hosting "Sports Diplomacy: Taiwan-U.S. Asia-Pacific Sports Gender Equality Exchange Platform International Forum."

In terms of social innovation and sustainable development, MOFA assisted Yilan Lane in hosting the 2023 Asia Pacific Social Innovation Summit to connect global social innovation communities and showcase Taiwan's

achievements; supported the Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy in staging the 2023 SDGs Asia Exhibition; and in hosting the 2023 Global Corporate Sustainability Forum (GCSF), where domestic and international participants from government, industry, academia, and research institutes exchanged insights under the theme “Accelerating Transition in Global Change.”

6. MOFA supported UN SDGs and assisted Taiwan NGOs and INGOs with international cooperation projects.

To promote good health and well-being, MOFA continued to support the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation in operating a 2023 flood-relief shelter in Pakistan and organizing the “Love Makes Whole” Cleft Lip and Palate Surgical Mission in Davao, Philippines; backed the SimplyHelp Foundation’s delivery of relief supplies to Taiwan’s diplomatic allies and friendly nations; assisted the Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation in conducting its 2023–2024 Central and South America Burn Rehabilitation Training Program; helped Good Neighbors Taiwan implement a youth mental health education program in Mongolia; and aided the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps in carrying out a medical outreach initiative along the Thailand–Myanmar border.

To promote the goal of Quality Education, MOFA continued to assist the Zhi-Shan Foundation Taiwan in implementing the 2023 China–Vietnam Elementary School Reading Promotion Program; supported the Pu-Hsien Educational Foundation and the Amitofo Care Centre in jointly conducting the Overseas Traditional Chinese Teaching Program in Malawi, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Namibia; and helped the Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID) implement the 2023 NGO Fellowship Program.

To promote gender equality, MOFA continued to assist the Garden of Hope Foundation in implementing the 2023 Asian Girls Empowerment Program, the 2023 Asian Women’s Shelter Network Program, and the 2023 Taiwan Gender Violence Services and Advocacy Professional Export Program, advancing women’s empowerment and the protection of women’s rights internationally.

7. MOFA organized talent cultivation programs to build the capacity of Taiwan NGOs and youths to be active around the world:
 - (1) NGO Leaders Forum

On November 17, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the 2023 NGO Leaders Forum under the theme “Allied by Universal Values: Strengthening Partnerships between Taiwan’s Government, NGOs and Global Civil Society.” The forum invited Liberato Bautista, President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO), and Denise Scotto, Vice President of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIFCJ), to be keynote speakers to share their experiences in domestic and international NGO cooperation. Two panel discussions were held, focusing on “Strengthening the Alliance for Democratic Values—Public-Private Cooperation against Authoritarian Expansion” and “Building Diverse Partnerships to Promote Social Inclusion and Youth Participation.” The event continued to provide a regular dialogue mechanism between the government and NGOs, reinforced public-private partnerships, and enhanced the international engagement capacity of Taiwan’s NGOs.

(2) MOFA NGO International Training Program

This year’s training program, titled “Public-Private Partnership: Demonstrating Taiwan Resilience” took place in December as two two-day sessions in Taipei and Kaohsiung, with approximately 200 representatives from NGOs, private enterprises, government agencies, and universities attending in person.

(3) Sending NGO leaders and young students abroad for INGO internship programs

In 2023, two NGO leaders and five young students were selected for internships with INGOs in the United Kingdom, Belgium, Japan, the United States, Kenya, and Thailand. These internships helped establish cooperative relationships with local INGOs, deepened bilateral NGO exchanges, and achieved very positive outcomes.

8. The International Youth Ambassadors Exchange Program

In 2023, under the theme “Youth Innovation: Taiwan and St. Lucia Take Action,” 36 outstanding university students were selected, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, four national vocational skills champions in culinary arts were chosen for the first time, forming a delegation of 40 Youth Ambassadors. From September 2 to 11, they visited Saint Lucia, where they

were received by Acting Governor-General Cyril Errol Melchiades Charles and participated in the Youth Forum inaugurated by Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre, exchanging insights on youth entrepreneurship and local revitalization with Saint Lucian students. They were also received by the Speaker of the House of Assembly and the President of the Senate to discuss youth participation in governance. At the Taiwan–St. Lucia Night, nearly 300 guests, including government officials and social dignitaries, attended a large-scale cultural performance, during which the culinary team presented creative dishes blending Taiwanese and Saint Lucian elements at a creative cuisine tasting event. Multiple Taiwan culture experience camps were also held at local primary and secondary schools to introduce Taiwanese culture and promote interaction with students. The visit of Taiwan’s Youth Ambassadors to Saint Lucia showcased our country’s rich cultural soft power and deepened the bond of friendship between Taiwan and Saint Lucia.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the 2023 NGO Leaders Forum. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang (center), Director-General of the Department of NGO International Affairs Constance Wang (first from right), Ambassador on Home Assignment of the Department of Policy Planning Chen Kang-i (first from left), President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO) Liberato Bautista (second from right), and Vice President of the International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIFCJ) Denise Scotto (second from left) pose for a group photo. (November 17, 2023)



Vice President Lai Ching-te (center), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tien Chung-kwang (front row, fourth from right), Director-General of the Department of NGO International Affairs Constance Wang (front row, second from right), and Director-General of the Public Diplomacy Coordination Council Jeff Y. J. Liu (front row, first from right) pose with the 2023 International Youth Ambassadors. (December 18, 2023)

Section 3 International Cooperation and Economic and Trade Activities

I. Taiwan's Efforts and Achievements in Continued Participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO)

1. Deepening Taiwan's participation in the WTO

- (1) Participating in negotiations on important trade issues: The Permanent Mission of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (hereafter, the "Permanent Mission") actively participates in WTO discussions, including multilateral, plurilateral, small group consultations, and bilateral dialogues. It promotes dialogue with key WTO members on issues related to the agricultural, industrial, and service industries as well as e-commerce, intellectual property, investment facilitation, MSMEs, and fishery subsidies. In addition, the Permanent Mission tracks the trends and positions of and maintains close contact with key members to facilitate policy formulation by relevant R.O.C. (Taiwan) ministries.
- (2) Completing Taiwan's fifth Trade Policy Review: Taiwan presented its key economic policies and performance over the past five years in Geneva, Switzerland. More than 20 WTO members spoke in support of Taiwan's sound economic performance and its contributions to the multilateral trading system. Like-minded members, including Canada, the EU, Australia, and the United Kingdom, also expressed support for Taiwan's democratic values and its full participation in the WTO.
- (3) Participating in sub-groups: The Permanent Mission has long participated in several negotiation subgroups, including the Friends of Systems (FoS) meetings, the Asian Group of Developing Members, the Informal Group of Developing Countries, the Group of Article XII (NB: newly joined group), the APEC Geneva Caucus, the G-10 (agriculture), and the Friends of the Third-Party Rights. Taiwan is also a signatory of the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions, aiming to proactively advocate for the interests of Taiwan as much as possible within the WTO

framework.

- (4) WTO positions: Secretary of the Permanent Mission Huang Po-feng served as Chair of the Committee on TRIMs and Secretary Wang Tang-kai served as Chair of the Committee on SPS Measures. These positions have allowed Taiwan to strengthen relations with major members such as the US, Japan, the EU, other international organizations, and officials of the WTO Secretariat.
- (5) Facilitating the expansion of industry opportunities
 - A. The Permanent Mission proactively engaged in dialogue and consultation with WTO members on a range of issues, including agriculture, e-commerce, fisheries, and SMEs. These efforts were aimed at creating avenues for economic and trade growth in Taiwan by reducing trade barriers, facilitating trade, and expanding business opportunities.
 - B. Regarding issues such as China's registration requirements for overseas food manufacturers, the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, India's import restrictions on tires and personal computers, and Australia's concerns over China's trade-blocking and restrictive measures, the Permanent Mission raised concerns and requested consultations at relevant WTO committees to safeguard Taiwan's trade interests.
- (6) Enhancing exchanges with the WTO Secretariat and key Member missions.
 - A. Through the WTO Chairs Program, WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and other senior WTO officials were invited to speak at the Fisheries Subsidies Seminar held in Taiwan.
 - B. Deputy representatives of the EU, Guatemala, and Poland to the WTO were invited to visit Taiwan to deepen exchanges and enhance their understanding of Taiwan's political and economic landscape.
- (7) Demonstrating Taiwan's support for the WTO system: Taiwan has contributed to the Advisory Centre on WTO Law, with Permanent Representative of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) to the WTO Lo Chang-fa serving as a member on its management committee, and established the Penglai

Scholarships for students from Taiwan and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Under the Penglai Scholarships, one student from Taiwan and one student from a Least Developed Country will be selected and given a full scholarship to enroll in WTI's Master of International Political Economy and Law program to cultivate legal professionals and foster friendly connections. Additionally, the Permanent Mission co-hosted a seminar on the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade with the WTI to enhance understanding of Taiwan's major trade developments.

2. Utilizing the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism

In 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Executive Yuan Office of Trade Negotiations continued to collaborate with the Permanent Mission of Taiwan. In the case of India-Tariff Treatment on Certain Goods in the Information and Communications Technology Sector (DS588), Taiwan prevailed in the panel ruling. However, due to the current paralysis of the Appellate Body, Taiwan negotiated with India to extend the adoption deadline of the panel report in order to preserve space for further negotiations and safeguard Taiwan's industrial interests.

II. Seeking Participation in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

1. The CPTPP, formerly known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), is a high-standard free trade agreement (FTA). On March 8, 2018, 11 countries, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam, signed the CPTPP in Chile. The CPTPP entered into force on December 30, 2018, following ratification by Mexico, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia. Subsequently, Vietnam, Peru, Malaysia, Chile, and Brunei also completed ratification.
2. Since the CPTPP entered into force, successive commission meetings have indicated that the agreement will move toward expanding its membership and have welcomed economies that are willing to join and committed to upholding the agreement's high standards to submit accession applications. The United Kingdom formally requested to accede to the CPTPP in early 2021. In July 2023, the CPTPP held its 7th Commission meeting in

New Zealand, where the Protocol of Accession for the United Kingdom was signed. It will officially enter into force once all member countries complete the necessary ratification procedures. During New Zealand's term as rotating chair this year, CPTPP members reiterated the three Auckland Principles for new members: preparedness to meet the Agreement's high standards, a demonstrated pattern of complying with trade commitments, and recognition that decisions are dependent on the consensus of the CPTPP membership.

3. Taiwan's pursuit of CPTPP membership is an important government policy that is critical to the country's long-term economic development. On September 22, 2021, Taiwan formally submitted its membership application to New Zealand, the depository country of the CPTPP. Since then, Taiwan has maintained close communication with all CPTPP member countries, employing various channels to garner support and build momentum. Taiwan will continue to promote its accession in accordance with the CPTPP's procedures and regulations for new members.

III. Implementing Flexible and Innovative Economic and Trade Diplomacy to Strengthen Ties with Allies and Substantive Cooperation with Other Countries

1. Promoting Taiwan's key industries to facilitate international industrial cooperation and business opportunities: In 2023, MOFA organized two rounds of corporate delegation visits to Taiwan by foreign diplomats under the themes of "Aerospace and Defense" and "Net-Zero Emissions," based on the 5+2 Industrial Transformation Plan and the Six Core Strategic Industries. The goal was to showcase Taiwan's industrial strengths and foster future opportunities for international industrial exchanges and cooperation.
2. Promoting public-private partnerships to establish mutually beneficial bilateral economic and trade relations: In 2023, MOFA focused on four targets - consolidate diplomatic ties, promote partnerships in Africa, strengthen economic and trade relations with friendly nations in Middle and Eastern Europe, and participate in regional economic integration, commissioning private associations to conduct 13 Taiwanese trade fairs

in allied countries, including five in Latin America (Expo MRA, Taiwan Expo in Belize, Saint Lucia-Taiwan Partnership Tradeshow, Taiwan Expo in St. Kitts and Nevis, and Expoalimentaria), four in Africa (Eswatini International Trade Fair, Uganda International Trade Fair, Propak West Africa, and SECUREX South Africa), two in Europe (MSV Brno and Life Sciences Baltics), one in Asia (Taiwan-Pacific Partnership Trade and Cultural Show), and one in North America (Collision Toronto), strengthening substantive economic and trade relations with various countries.

3. Responding to the expectations of diplomatic allies for enhanced economic and trade engagement and helping Taiwanese businesses tap into emerging markets: In response to diplomatic allies' interest in strengthening economic and trade ties with Taiwan, MOFA worked with domestic industry associations to hold the 2023 Saint Lucia Trade and Investment Promotion Seminar, Guatemala Trade and Investment Promotion Seminar, Promoción de Productos Cárnicos y Seminario sobre las Oportunidades de Comercio e Inversión en el Paraguay, Taiwan-Paraguay Industry Roundtable and Dinner. These events leveraged public-private sector resources to help Taiwanese businesses explore potential opportunities.
4. Expanding international engagement through industrial cooperation and gradually building momentum for regional economic integration: In 2023, MOFA collaborated with domestic industry associations to host ten bilateral economic joint meetings, business forums, and trade missions at home and abroad, including the 20th Taiwan-India Joint Business Councils Meeting, the Indonesia Investment Business Forum, and the Argentina Economic Cooperation and Trade Mission. Additionally, MOFA organized the Taiwan-Malaysia Semiconductor Industry Capacity Mapping Project and the 2023 Malaysia Economic Cooperation and Trade Mission with the aim of expanding industrial collaboration and creating a favorable environment for Taiwan's participation in regional economic integration.

IV. Taiwan's Approach to Developing and Implementing International Cooperation

1. Mutual assistance for mutual benefit: Since taking office, President

Tsai Ing-wen has, on state visits to diplomatic allies, explained the new foreign policy paradigm of “steadfast diplomacy” and “mutual assistance for mutual benefit.” This paradigm shift in international cooperation projects with diplomatic allies is a change from Taiwan’s previous focus on one-way foreign aid to a model of mutual cooperation that respects the priorities of other countries. This approach promotes two-way cooperation while upholding the principles of transparency and openness in funding. At the same time, it takes into account the development of industries and markets to ensure shared, sustainable prosperity for the people of both nations. On December 7, 2023, MOFA published Taiwan’s updated White Paper on International Cooperation and Development, which consolidates the nation’s longstanding efforts and achievements in promoting international cooperation and development under the principles of “steadfast diplomacy” and “mutual assistance for mutual benefit,” and highlights Taiwan’s unique model of foreign assistance.

2. Technical cooperation: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) to deploy 21 overseas technical missions and investment and trade service missions to implement 75 technical cooperation projects, one Overseas Professional Mandarin Teaching Project, one Taiwan Youth Overseas Service Project, and one TaiwanICDF University Youth Overseas Technical Assistance Internship Program. A total of 132 overseas specialists and Taiwan Youth Overseas Service personnel were deployed to 22 countries in the Asia-Pacific, West Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America to implement projects in the areas of agribusiness, animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, technical and vocational education, Mandarin-language teaching, information and communication technology, industry, trade and investment, environmental protection, and public health and medicine. In addition, the TaiwanICDF dispatched SME and trade experts and volunteers to provide short- to medium-term guidance and consultation services to diplomatic allies. Sixteen training classes were conducted in 2023, providing training to 339 participants from 66 countries. The TaiwanICDF also continued to offer scholarships for undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral programs at local partner

universities to help partner countries cultivate talents. In 2023, a total of 480 international students from 35 countries were enrolled in degree programs in Taiwan.

3. Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loans:

(1) In alignment with Taiwan's foreign aid policy and its own development strategy, the TaiwanICDF continued to utilize inclusive financing tools to support post-pandemic economic recovery and the economic empowerment of women in allied countries. It also expanded the scope of assistance in the Caribbean through new partnerships, providing inclusive financial services to 948 micro and small enterprises via 28 financial intermediaries over the year.

(2) Through partnerships that leverage the financial resources and networks of multilateral and bilateral institutions, the TaiwanICDF continued to support agricultural enterprises and distributors in Central Asia and Eastern Europe in their green transitions and competitiveness enhancements, assisted financial institutions in strengthening operations and promoting green lending, and helped the Lithuanian capital improve its green transportation systems. Additionally, the TaiwanICDF partnered with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on sovereign loan financing to help diplomatic allies upgrade their power transmission systems and provide productive loans for SMEs. It also collaborated with the IDB Lab on two projects to support women and micro and small enterprises in accessing emergency relief and start-up financing via financial intermediaries.

4. International Crisis and Humanitarian Aid: The TaiwanICDF partnered with World Vision to complete the second phase of the cash assistance subproject under the Maternal and Infant Health Care Improvement Project in the Kingdom of Eswatini. It also cooperated with the Good Neighbors organization on the "PSS Service Enhancement Project for Ukraine Refugee Children in Romania, with People in Need on the Early Recovery Project for Local Enterprise Affected by Earthquake in Türkiye, and with the ChildFund Alliance on the Improving Access to Basic Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Ten Health Care Facilities for Vulnerable Communities in

Garissa County, Kenya.

5. 23rd Taiwan Youth Overseas Service: In 2023, 64 servicemen with expertise in 22 fields, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, animal husbandry, public health, nursing, information, food processing, and filming, were deployed on technical missions to the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu, Palau, Nauru, Eswatini, Somaliland, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Belize, Guatemala, and Paraguay, and will be discharged between June and July of 2024.
6. Fifth TaiwanICDF University Youth Overseas Technical Assistance Internship Program: This is a collaborative program with nine universities in Taiwan, including National Chengchi University, National Chiayi University, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, National Taiwan University, Providence University, Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, National Dong Hwa University, and National Taipei University. In August 2023, the program sent 14 interns from the 5th TaiwanICDF University Youth Overseas Technical Assistance Internship Program to Palau, Nauru, Fiji, Eswatini, Belize, Guatemala, St. Lucia, Paraguay, and the Marshall Islands and will be expecting their return upon completion of the internship in January 2024.

V. Organizations Responsible for and the Current Status of Taiwan's International Cooperations

1. International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF)

MOFA commissions the TaiwanICDF to engage in international cooperation by deploying technical missions, organizing international education and training, and through other means. For related information, please refer to the two tables below:

(1) Technical mission statistics for 2023

Region	No. of Countries	Technical Missions			No. of Staff
		Technical Missions (incl. Investment and Trade Service Mission)	Projects	Preparatory Projects	No. of Deployed Personnel
Asia-Pacific	9	9	16	0	41
West Asia	4 ¹	2	5	0	6
Africa	2	2	11	0	17
The Caribbean	4	4	16	4	26
Central America	2	3 ²	10	4	17
South America	1	1	5	0	10
At-large ³	Overseas Professional Mandarin Teaching Project	0	1	0	15
	Taiwan Youth Overseas Service	0	1	0	64
	TaiwanICDF University Youth Overseas Internship Program	0	1	0	14
	Enhancing the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the COVID-19 Post-pandemic Era	0	1	0	3
Total	22	21	67	8	213

¹ TaiwanICDF does not have any technical missions in Jordan or Türkiye. The number of Mandarin teachers deployed to these two countries are, therefore, listed in this row.

² TaiwanICDF has two missions in Guatemala.

³ At-large missions include five commissioned projects for which TaiwanICDF has not dispatched personnel abroad and are, therefore, not listed in the table.

(2) Overview of Technical Missions Dispatched by TaiwanICDF

Region	Technical Missions	Date Established	Projects
Asia Pacific	Taiwan Technical Mission in the Republic of Indonesia	Nov. 1976	Karawang Horticulture Development Project (Indonesia)
			Production and Marketing of Garlic and Shallot Demonstration Project in North Sumatra (Indonesia)
			High Quality Rice Seed Development Project in South Sulawesi (Indonesia)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in Fiji	Sep. 1978	Guava and Dragon Fruit Production, Marketing Extension, and Capacity Building Project (Fiji)
			Aquaculture Project (Fiji; Phase II)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in Palau	May 1985	Horticulture Extension Project (Palau)
			Aquaculture Project (Palau)
			Animal Production Project (Palau)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in Papua New Guinea	Oct. 1990	Rice Seeds Production Project (Papua New Guinea)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in Marshall Islands	Aug. 1999	Enhancing Nutrition Balance Through Agricultural Production Project (Marshall Islands)
			Livestock Expansion Project (Marshall Islands)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in Tuvalu	Dec. 2003	Fruit and Vegetable Production and Nutrition Enhancement Project (Tuvalu)
Taiwan Technical Mission in Nauru	Mar. 2006	Dietary Diversity Extension Project (Nauru)	
Taiwan Technical Mission in Thailand	Jan. 2011	Social Marketing Promotion of Royal Project Foundation Products (Thailand)	
		Raising Capability on Horticultural Crop Cultivation in Thailand through the Application of Smart Farming Systems	
Taiwan Technical Mission in the Philippines	Dec. 2023	Agri-Cluster Consolidation and Cooperation Project in the Philippines	
West Asia	Taiwan Technical Mission in Saudi Arabia	Aug. 1980	Date Palm Cultivation and Tissue Culture Consultant Dispatch Project (Saudi Arabia)
			Marine Fish Research Consultant Dispatch Project (Saudi Arabia)
			Transport Technical Cooperation Consultant Dispatch Project (Saudi Arabia)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in Bahrain	Jun. 1987	Horticultural Crops Development Consultants Dispatch Project (Bahrain)
			Aquaculture Development Consultant Dispatch Project (Bahrain)

Africa	Taiwan Technical Mission in the Kingdom of Eswatini	Sep. 1969	Fruit Tree Production and Marketing Project (Eswatini; Phase II)
			Pig Industry Enhancement Project (Eswatini; Phase II)
			Capacity Building Project for Microfinance Focusing on Grassroots Women in Eswatini
			Women's Microenterprise Mentoring and Capacity Building Project in Eswatini
			Eswatini Technical and Vocational Skills Certification Enhancement Project
			Eswatini Aquaculture Project
	Taiwan Technical Mission in the Republic of Somaliland	Aug. 2020	Improving Production and Quality of Vegetables and Fruits in Somaliland
			Somaliland E-government Capability Enhancement Project
			Maternal and Infant Health Care Improvement Project in Somaliland
			Health Information Management Efficiency Enhancement Project in Somaliland

The Caribbean	Taiwan Technical Mission in St. Kitts and Nevis	Oct. 1984	St. Kitts and Nevis Layer Chicken Industry Sustainable Development Project
			Preliminary Preparation Phase of the Digital Identity Authentication Project (St. Kitts and Nevis)
			Capacity Building Project for the Prevention and Control of Chronic Metabolic Diseases (St. Kitts and Nevis)
			St. Kitts and Nevis Layer Chicken Industry Sustainable Development Project (Preparatory Phase)
			Renewable Energy Dispatch Special Project (St. Kitts and Nevis)
			Solid Waste Management and Recycling Project (St. Kitts and Nevis)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Mar. 1991	Enhancing Public Safety with Intelligent Video Analytics Project (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
			Improving Livestock Rearing Project (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
			Public Health Medical Emergency Response System Enhancement Project (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
			Improving Vegetable Cultivation Management and Post-harvest Handling Project (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in Haiti	May 1972	National Rice Seed Production Enhancement Project in Artibonite (Haiti)
			National Rice Seed Production Enhancement Project in North/North-East Haiti
			National Rice Seed Production Enhancement Project in South Haiti
			Haiti Vegetable and Fruit Cultivation Development Project
			National Rice Seed Production Enhancement Project in North/North-East Haiti (Preparatory Phase)
			National Rice Seed Production Enhancement Project in Artibonite (Haiti; Preparatory Phase)
			National Rice Seed Production Enhancement Project in South Haiti (Preparatory Phase)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in St. Lucia	Jul. 2007	Project for Enhancing the Efficiency of Production-Distribution Supply Chain in Fruit and Vegetable Sector (St. Lucia; Phase II)
			The Application of ICT in Digital Capacity Building Project (St. Lucia)
Local Specialty Industry Development Project (St. Lucia)			

Central America	Taiwan Technical Mission in Guatemala	Feb. 1973	Corn Production Resilience Strengthening Project (Guatemala; Preparatory Phase)
			Corn Production Resilience Strengthening Project (Guatemala)
			Bamboo Industry Sustainable Management and Strengthening Project (Guatemala; Preparatory Phase)
			Regional Project for the Prevention and Control of Fusarium TR4 of Banana in Central America (Guatemala)
			Project for the Promotion of Medical Technology for Improvement of Maternal-Neonatal Health (Guatemala; Preparatory Phase for Phase II)
			Project for the Promotion of Medical Technology for Improvement of Maternal-Neonatal Health (Phase II)
	Taiwan Technical Mission in Belize	Jan. 1991	Breeding Sheep and Goat Production and Guidance System Enhancement Project (Belize)
			Project for Strengthening Metabolic Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Systems (Belize)
			Project for Strengthening Medical Imaging Systems (Belize)
			Flood Warning Capacity Improvement for the Belize River Basin Project (Belize)
Taiwan Service Mission in Central America	Dec. 1999	Disaster Prevention and Early Warning System Project (Guatemala; Preparatory Phase)	
		Guatemala Financial Technician Dispatch Mission	
South America	Taiwan Technical Mission in Paraguay	April 1972	Paraguay Project to Strengthen Capacity to Support Development of MSMEs
			Paraguay Project to Strengthen Capacity for Commercial Production and Operation of Orchids
			Health Information Management Efficiency Enhancement Project in Paraguay (Phase II)
			Paraguay Surubi Fingerling Breeding and Cultivation Project
			Capacity-Building Project for the Diagnosis and Prevention of African Swine Fever (Paraguay)

Cross-Regional	Overseas Professional Mandarin Teaching Project
	Taiwan Youth Overseas Service
	TaiwanICDF University Youth Overseas Technical Assistance Internship Program
	2nd Development x Innovation x Sustainable Competition – Impact Frontier Lab (IF Lab)
	Training, Observation, and Further Education for Technical Personnel from Diplomatic Allies and Friendly Nations
	MOFA Expanded Scholarships for International Students Studying in Taiwan
	Cooperations and Exchanges with International Organizations and Friendly Nations
	Vocational Training Project for Latin America and the Caribbean
	Enhancing the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the COVID-19 Post-pandemic Era

2. Other Professional Agencies

In 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned professional institutions in Taiwan to organize a variety of advanced training programs for senior personnel from allied countries. The International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training was commissioned to conduct six training programs on the themes of Land Policy and Rural Development – Net Zero and Sustainable Development, Land Taxation and Valuation – Net Zero and Sustainable Development, Infrastructure Development and Planning – Net Zero and Sustainable Development, Agricultural Development and Foundations – Net Zero and Sustainable Development, Geographic Information Systems and Land Management – Net Zero and Sustainable Development, and Knowledge-based Economy and City Competitiveness – Net Zero and Sustainable Development. A total of 95 government officials and professionals from 33 allied countries participated in these programs in Taiwan. In addition, the Training Institute of the Ministry of Finance organized the 39th International Taxation Program, which brought nine tax officials from seven allied or friendly nations to Taiwan for training.

Section 4 Policy Planning and Evaluation

I. Introduction

The Department of Policy Planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the “Department”) is responsible for planning and evaluating the overall development of foreign policy. Its main responsibilities include drafting and overseeing annual policy guidelines, annual policy plans, mid- and long-term individual projects, and preliminary work evaluation. Additionally, the Department organizes international seminars on Indo-Pacific regional security, strategic security dialogues, coordinates policies on cross-border issues, such as international counter-terrorism and PRC affairs. It formulates, coordinates, supervises, and evaluates inter-departmental and cross-domain projects. Furthermore, the Department is responsible for conducting performance evaluations of foreign policy implementation, policy innovation, transformation and coordination, as well as administrative efficiency and service quality enhancements, supervision, and evaluation.

II. Overview of Work and Achievements

1. Policy planning

- (1) The Department drafts regular foreign policy reports for the Legislative Yuan and the Control Yuan, as well as special reports as requested by the Legislative Yuan.
- (2) Plan and promote foreign policy: The Department organized the Ketagalan Forum: 2023 Indo-Pacific Security Dialogue. The Department also delivered 20 presentations on Taiwan’s foreign policy to external audiences upon invitation.
- (3) Draft special reports and commission research: The Department compiled reports on the cross-strait situation, the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), the PRC’s influence, a dynamic assessment of Taiwan relations with diplomatic allies, Taiwan’s strategic position in the changing global landscape, major international diplomatic issues, and important seminars

attended. The Department commissioned a think tank to hold a symposium on “Prospects of China’s Belt and Road Initiative and Its Potential Impact on Taiwan: Assessment and Policy Recommendation.” The Department also provided assessments, opinions, and specific recommendations to be used as a reference for the formulation of foreign policy.

- (4) Support academic institutions for organizing conferences and promoting international academic exchanges: The Department supported domestic and international academic institutions and think tanks to organize 15 seminars or events on topics related to diplomacy, security, political and economic affairs, and cross-strait relations.
- (5) Promote academic diplomacy through overseas research by Taiwanese scholars: In 2023, the Department funded eight scholars and experts to engage in research residencies at academic institutions in the US, Japan, Germany, India, and New Zealand.

2. Strategic security

- (1) Conduct policy planning, analysis, and war-gaming for major MOFA political, military, and foreign affairs projects. Regularly coordinate with the Ministry of National Defense to enhance exchanges between the two ministries, thereby promoting national defense and foreign affairs.
- (2) Promote bilateral and multilateral strategic security dialogues based on diplomatic and strategic priorities, which contribute to enhancing the understanding of strategic planning of key countries. Explain the political, military, and security policies of Taiwan to the political and academic circles of those countries to gain international understanding and support, so as to establish substantive cooperation.
- (3) Participate in global counter-terrorism affairs and promote bilateral and multilateral security dialogues to demonstrate Taiwan’s commitment to international counter-terrorism efforts.
- (4) Promote high-level government officials’ participation in major international security conferences to publicize Taiwan’s foreign policy and to gain international support. For instance, Deputy Minister Roy Chun Lee delivered a keynote speech at the Berlin Security Conference. Co-

organize bilateral policy dialogue meetings with think tanks and academic institutions from major countries on diplomatic, security, and cross-strait relations issues to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with relevant foreign institutions.

3. Project planning

- (1) **Ambassador-at-large appointments:** Ambassadors-at-large are honorary positions appointed by the president. In 2023, a total of eight individuals were appointed as ambassadors-at-large: Steve H. S. Kuo (medical and public health), Wu Yung-tung (medical and public health), Eugene Chien (environmental sustainability), Chen Jen Ran (digital opportunities), Chi Cheng (sports and culture), Fonga Potal (indigenous affairs), Pusin Tali (religious freedom), Lin Chia-Lung (digital New Southbound Policy initiatives; resigned as ambassador-at-large in January 2023 to assume the position of secretary-general to the president). The government aims to leverage the prestige, experience, and expertise of ambassadors-at-large in their respective domains to help the government utilize its soft power, expand Taiwan's international footprint, and deepen substantive ties with other countries.
- (2) **Manage the MOFA Taiwan Scholarship Program:** In 2004, MOFA established the Taiwan Scholarship to support outstanding students from diplomatic allies and emerging countries to study for degrees in Taiwan. In 2023, a total of 236 scholarships were provided. In response to the needs of Taiwan's diplomatic allies and faced with rising global inflation, MOFA conducted a comprehensive review and enhancement of the Taiwan Scholarship Program. The ministry changed the Taiwan Scholarship Program Directions, increased scholarship funding, and introduced a new Academic Achievement Award for Outstanding Performance under the program. In addition, MOFA has commissioned TaiwanICDF since 2011 to organize the MOFA Expanded Scholarships for International Students Studying in Taiwan and I-Shou University since 2013 for the Post-baccalaureate Program for International Medical Students. In the 2023 academic year, a total of 11 students from diplomatic allies enrolled in the post-baccalaureate medical program at I-Shou University.

- (3) **Manage the Taiwan Fellowship:** In 2010, MOFA launched the Taiwan Fellowship to encourage foreign scholars to conduct research in Taiwan on social science issues related to Taiwan, cross-strait relations, the Indo-Pacific Region, etc. A total of 100 scholars were accepted for the Taiwan Fellowship in 2023 to engage in research residencies in Taiwan in 2024.
- (4) **Taiwan Alumni Association (TAA):** Since 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has instructed R.O.C. (Taiwan) embassies and overseas missions to assist in establishing TAAs in their respective locations, inviting individuals who have studied or conducted research in Taiwan on government scholarship or fellowship schemes to join and participate in various activities. As of the end of 2023, a total of 88 TAAs had been established worldwide. To further strengthen engagement and communication with alumni from around the world, MOFA launched TAA's official Facebook page and held an inaugural meeting in November 2023. The page facilitates interaction among alumni and provides updates on the latest developments in Taiwan.
- (5) **The Department coordinates and integrates gender equality efforts in MOFA, including convening MOFA Gender Equality Working Group meetings and handling Gender Equality Assessment of Government Agencies under the Executive Yuan.**

4. Policy Objectives, Plans, and Evaluation

- (1) **Draft annual policy objectives and plans:** In consideration of subjective and objective circumstances, the Department compiles annual policy objectives, policy plans, and MOFA evaluation plans (individual projects) classified as level 3 by the Executive Yuan. It also conducts regular evaluations, performance evaluations, and assessments of MOFA's annual policy objectives and individual projects (including mid-to-long-term individual projects approved by the Executive Yuan).
- (2) **Follow up on the implementation of diplomacy efforts and projects, managing and reporting progress each month.**
- (3) **Manage current important foreign policies and submit progress reports to the Office of the President and the Executive Yuan.**

- (4) Compile the foreign affairs section of the written policy report for the Executive Yuan to present to the Legislative Yuan when in session and compile MOFA's foreign posting report for presentation to the Executive Yuan.
- (5) Conduct performance assessments of MOFA departments: Assess the performance of each MOFA department based on its year-end report on the implementation outcome of its annual work projects, covering both political and administrative tasks, to serve as a reference for the Department's annual performance scores.



Former Prime Minister of Japan and Vice President of the Liberal Democratic Party, House of Representatives member Aso Taro delivers the keynote speech at the opening of the Ketagalan Forum: 2023 Indo-Pacific Security Dialogue. (August 8, 2023)



Deputy Minister Roy Chun Lee delivers a keynote speech at the Berlin Security Conference. (November 29, 2023)

Section 5 International Information Services and Public Diplomacy

Item 1 International Information Services Campaigns

I. Current Goals in International Information Services

The goal of international information services is to promote Taiwan's major policies in concert with overall diplomacy and use soft power to enhance Taiwan's national image, to sway international public opinion in Taiwan's favor, and to win recognition and support from the international community.

Current international information services campaigns highlight Taiwan's achievements in democracy, freedom, and economic development, and emphasize steadfast diplomacy and the New Southbound Policy. They capitalize on Taiwan's cultural soft power to reinforce Taiwan's position as an indispensable member of the international community. In light of the rapid and complex changes in the international landscape, these campaigns increasingly make use of social media platforms, like YouTube, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Threads, in addition to traditional communication channels, to ensure that Taiwan is seen, understood, and supported around the world.

II. Tangible Steps in International Information Services

1. International media interviews with the President: In November, President Tsai Ing-wen was interviewed via videoconference by The New York Times for its DealBook Summit. During the interview, she stressed her commitment to strengthening Taiwan's defense capabilities and social resilience. The interview was screened during the summit and additionally reported on by international media, including Bloomberg, Agence France-Presse, and Reuters.
2. International media interviews with the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu gave 76 interviews through international media outlets, press corps receptions, and international press conferences, leading to 409 reports in mainstream media outlets, including The New York Times (US), Fox News (US), Bloomberg News (US), Politico

(US), CNN (US), Bloomberg Businessweek (US), Foreign Policy (US), Global News (Canada), Der Spiegel (Germany), Handelsblatt (Germany), Telewizja Polska (Poland), Rzeczpospolita (Poland), Le Monde (France), France 24 (France), Agence France-Presse (France), ABC (Spain), The Daily Telegraph (UK), BBC (UK), Sky News (Australia), The Australian (Australia), Channel Nine (Australia), TVNZ (New Zealand), Al Jazeera (Qatar), CNN (Indonesia), CNN (India), The Philippine Star (Philippines), Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thailand), Kyodo News (Japan), and The Japan Times (Japan).

3. International information services by project:

(1) New Southbound Policy:

- A. MOFA New Southbound Policy Portal: In 2023, 6,165 news reports in Mandarin, English, Vietnamese, Thai, and Indonesian were published on the Portal, which received over 770,000 page views.
- B. Taiwan Today: A digital publication available in Vietnamese, Thai, and Indonesian. In 2023, it published 3,004 news reports to inform New Southbound Policy partner countries about the political and economic landscape of Taiwan.
- C. Taiwan Review: In 2023, eight reports on the New Southbound Policy were published in the English version of the bimonthly magazine Taiwan Review.
- D. Taiwan Panorama is available in six languages: English, Indonesian, Japanese, Mandarin, Thai, and Vietnamese. In 2023, it published 142 features on Southeast Asia and New Southbound Policy partner countries.
- E. MOFA sent Diabolo Dance Theatre to the Philippines and Brunei for seven performances in October 2023 around National Day, with the goal of promoting cultural exchange with New Southbound Policy countries. Over 2,500 people attended, and 40 news reports appeared in local media. This marked the first time that Taiwan held a large public event in Brunei, and made headlines on October 24 in the Borneo Bulletin, which is published by Brunei's official media.

(2) Campaign for Participation in International Organizations

- A. Campaign for the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA)
- a. During the campaign, 452 news reports were published by international media outlets. These included 239 reports on Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan's piece "Sustainable health development in the postpandemic era," 123 letters to the editor from, and interviews of, heads of overseas embassies and missions, 77 related reports by international media, and 13 articles produced by reporters visiting Taiwan as part of the MOFA-organized Political and Economic Press Corps I. These news items appeared in major international outlets including *The Diplomat* (US), *Newsweek* (US), *The Daily Telegraph* (UK), *The Guardian* (UK), *La Razón* (Spain), *European Business Review* (Belgium), *Lithuanian National Radio and Television* (Lithuania), *The Hindu* (India), *Business World* (Philippines), *The Daily Tribune* (Philippines), *Antara* (Indonesia), *Eswatini Observer* (Eswatini), *iPolitics* (Canada), *National Post* (Canada), *Lima Gris* (Peru), *The Jerusalem Post* (Israel), *Daily Sabah* (Türkiye), *The Post* (New Zealand), *Tokyo Shimbun* (Japan), *Yomiuri Shimbun* (Japan), *The Chosun Ilbo* (South Korea), and *Daily News* (Thailand). In addition, 331 articles on Taiwan's medical contributions were published on Taiwan's Leave No One Behind website, while 581 articles and photographs were made available in nine languages by the digital publication *Taiwan Today*.
 - b. MOFA produced and released the short video "The Doctor Is In," which received more than 13.32 million views worldwide. On new media platforms, MOFA published 90 related posts across the MOFA Facebook, X, and Instagram accounts and the Trending Taiwan Facebook account, with total reach/impressions exceeding 6.16 million.
- B. Campaign for the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)
- a. During the campaign, 485 news reports were published by international media outlets. These included 227 reports on Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu's piece "Unite for

Peace in the World and Taiwan’s Inclusion in the UN,” 169 letters to the editor from, and interviews of, heads of overseas embassies and missions, 83 reports sympathetic to Taiwan, and six articles produced by reporters visiting Taiwan as part of the Political and Economic Press Corps II. These news items appeared in major international outlets including The National Interest (US), The Daily Telegraph (UK), The Times (UK), The Hill Times (Canada), European Business Review (Belgium), Le Formiche (Italy), La Razón (Peru), The Statesman (India), Sankei Shimbun (Japan), The Chosun Ilbo (South Korea), The Philippine Star (Philippines), Australian Financial Review (Australia), and Eswatini Observer (Eswatini).

- b. The short promotional videos “To Equality” and “Global Peace with Taiwan” were posted in 12 languages to new media platforms including Facebook, X, Instagram, and the Trending Taiwan YouTube channel, garnering a total of over 31.92 million views worldwide. The MOFA Facebook, X, and Instagram accounts and the Trending Taiwan Facebook page published 37 related posts, with total impressions exceeding 2.67 million.
- C. Campaign for the 28th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- a. During the campaign, 246 news reports were published by international media outlets. These included 153 reports on Minister of Environment Shieu Fuh-sheng’s piece “Moving Towards a Net-Zero Future with the World,” 77 letters to the editor from, and interviews of, heads of overseas embassies and missions, and 16 related reports by international media outlets. These reports appeared in international media including EU Political Report, the International Institute for Sustainable Development’s Earth Negotiations Bulletin (Canada), The Korea Times (South Korea), La Nación (Paraguay), La Nación (Argentina), Folha de S. Paulo (Brazil), Nerikes Allehanda (Sweden), Indian Century (India), Khaosod (Thailand), The Irish Times (Ireland), Hospodárske noviny (Slovakia), Le Formiche

(Italy), European Business Review (Greece), Marshall Islands Journal (Marshall Islands), and Eswatini Observer (Eswatini). In addition, Taiwan Panorama published 97 reports in Mandarin, English, Japanese, Vietnamese, Thai, and Indonesian related to climate change, sustainability, and the environment.

- b. The short promotional video “Green Action Taiwan” was posted on new media platforms, including Facebook, X, YouTube, and Instagram, garnering 23.03 million views worldwide. The MOFA Facebook, X, and Instagram accounts and the Trending Taiwan Facebook page published 26 related posts, with total reach/impressions exceeding 1.26 million.

D. Campaign for the 91th INTERPOL General Assembly

- a. During the campaign, international media outlets published 223 news reports supporting Taiwan. These included 142 reports on Criminal Investigation Bureau Commissioner Chou Yew-woei’s piece “Jointly combating new forms of transnational crime through real-time cooperation,” 57 letters to the editor from, and interviews of, heads of overseas embassies and missions, and 24 related reports by international media outlets. These reports appeared in international media including The Diplomat (US), iPolitics (Canada), Politiken (Denmark), Limes (Italy), Giornale Diplomatico (Italy), The Diplomat in Spain (Spain), Brussels Morning (Belgium), Norrbottens-Kuriren (Sweden), Mainichi Shimbun (Japan), Hankook Ilbo (South Korea), and The Daily Chinese Herald (Australia).
- b. The Political and Economic Press Corps III met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu and Criminal Investigation Bureau Chief Administrator Wu Tung-wen, resulting in an article titled “The Stupid Reason Taiwan Is Kept Out of Interpol” by long-time political journalist Jim Geraghty, published in the US magazine National Review, as well as another article titled “Taiwan continues to seek deeper involvement in organisations” by EU journalist Martin Banks for the Bulgarian publication

Modern Diplomacy. A total of 24 related reports were published.

- c. MOFA's Facebook account shared "The Bracelet," a short film produced for the campaign by the Criminal Investigation Bureau. The film and related posts had a reach of over 620,000 people.

E. APEC 2023 United States

- a. The Taiwan delegation organized two international press conferences and eight press briefings, and provided news services for 18 journalists attached to the delegation, representing 11 domestic media outlets. It received coverage in 249 reports from domestic and international media outlets.
- b. The slogan "A Better Taiwan For A Better World," inspired by President Tsai Ing-wen's 2023 National Day speech, was selected for the international publicity campaign. Ads were published featuring imagery evoking key developments in Taiwan's industries such as 5G, clean energy, digital health, chip manufacturing, and digital transformation, as well as bilateral trade between Taiwan and the US.
- c. The MOFA Facebook, Instagram, and X accounts published 15 related posts, with a total reach of over 200,000.

(3) Marketing Taiwan and Driving Tourism

MOFA posted promotional videos on the Trending Taiwan YouTube channel to attract tourists to Taiwan. Five short videos were produced on tourism and travel, outdoor recreation, Hakka culture, hot springs and good food, and unique marathons. In addition, MOFA assisted the General Assembly of Chinese Culture in producing multilingual versions of the Time for Taiwan tourism marketing video series commissioned by the Executive Yuan, and aided overseas embassies and offices across the globe in using new media platforms to publicize them. The six short videos received more than 32.5 million views worldwide.

(4) Collecting International News Reports

MOFA collects news reports from media outlets around the world on a daily basis. In 2023, MOFA collated 10,539 global media reports and

248 updates on public opinion among the international community. In addition, MOFA completed eight analytical reports on major issues concerning Taiwan, including the Chinese spy balloon that transited the United States, President Tsai's diplomatic tour of democratic partner countries, the United States' increased restrictions on Chinese chips, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

III. Interviews with International Journalists and Services for International Correspondents in Taiwan

1. MOFA issued invitations to international media agencies, including the Tourism and Culture Press Corps, the Latin American Press Corps, the Indo-Pacific/Southeast Asia Press Corps, the International Press Group for Double Tenth National Day, and the Political and Economic Press Corps I-III. A total of 105 reporters from 64 countries were invited to Taiwan to visit government agencies, leading enterprises, and think tanks, as well as to attend a reception with Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, resulting in a total of 241 articles.
2. Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu and Deputy Minister Roy Chun Lee appeared at foreign press corps receptions attended by a total of 68 reporters, resulting in 46 news reports.
3. In terms of services to international media outlets, MOFA issued foreign press credentials and provided news services to international correspondents in Taiwan. MOFA also assisted correspondents from National Public Radio (US), Newsweek (US), CBS News (US), France 24 (France), TV5MONDE (France), Sipa Press (France), Berlingske (Denmark), EW (Netherlands), Global Voices, Aktualne.cz (Czech Republic), Nishinippon Shimbun (Japan), Nippon TV (Japan), Nippon News Network (Japan), Folha de S. Paulo (Brazil), and other major media outlets around the world with posting staff to Taiwan.

IV. Soft Power and International Information Services

1. With the Discovery Channel, MOFA co-produced the documentary series Taiwan Revealed: Smart Machinery and Food Masters: Taste of Taiwan,

which aired in nearly 20 different countries and areas in Taiwan and Southeast Asia beginning in June 2023, receiving over 14 million and 10 million impressions respectively on social media worldwide.

2. Under the #Taiwan National Soft Power & Digital Promotion Program, MOFA selected 22 overseas missions in the United States, Japan, Spain, and other places to work with local media and influencers to produce videos promoting a positive image of Taiwan's soft power from a local perspective through local media channels. As of the end of 2023, 59 videos have been produced and received over 18.04 million views through television and online channels.
3. MOFA produced the videos "To Mark the Anniversary of Russian Invasion of Ukraine" and "Taiwan Stands Up for Freedom" in Ukrainian and English to showcase Taiwan's admiration for Ukraine's courage and determination in resisting invasion by an authoritarian power, and express Taiwan's steadfast conviction that like-minded countries must stand together to defend the universal values of democracy and human rights.
4. MOFA assisted 15 overseas embassies and offices in nominating outstanding Taiwanese films to participate in key international film festivals and collaborated with festival organizers to screen Taiwanese films. A total of 87 Taiwanese films were screened to around 16,000 viewers, garnering 95 reports in print, TV, and radio and receiving over 2.15 million impressions on Internet and social media platforms like Facebook and X.
5. MOFA created ten new posters and ten new banners featuring Taiwan's landscape, culture, arts, and tech industry, for the use of MOFA and overseas embassies at a range of events and activities.

V. Improving the Quality and Efficacy of International Information Services

1. MOFA is responsible for compiling news articles and features for both print and digital publications in various languages to explain government policy, Taiwan foreign policy positions, and important topics requiring international information services. The publications include Taiwan

Today, a digital publication available in nine languages; Taiwan Review, an English-language bimonthly periodical; and Taiwan Hoy, a Spanish-language bimonthly periodical. In 2023, the three released a total of 12,268 reports, 15,368 Facebook posts, 11,702 X posts, and 28 Instagram posts. The Taiwan Today website, available in nine languages, posted nearly 12,000 reports and received almost 6.1 million page views.

2. MOFA compiled and printed “Taiwan at a Glance,” a pamphlet describing the current state of the nation, in 15 languages, namely English, French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Portuguese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Malay, Mongolian, and Hindi. MOFA also produced the multilingual MOFA calendar titled “National Treasures” in nine languages.
3. MOFA created the “Democratic Solidarity,” “Sustainable Innovation” and “Island of Diversity” print ads for National Day and contacted local media across the world through overseas embassies and offices to have them published.
4. Taiwan Panorama published 276 posts on Facebook in 2023, reaching over 14.31 million people and surpassing 100,000 followers. Its posts were shared by 93 overseas embassies and representative offices worldwide, and reposted 1,592 times. Taiwan Panorama also cooperated with the National Institutes of Applied Research under the National Science and Technology Council to offer its decades of reporting on a broad range of topics as training material for a national generative AI model. In addition, multilingual editions of Taiwan Panorama were promoted to international publishing companies and visitors at events such as the 2023 Taipei International Book Exhibition and SDG Asia to showcase Taiwan’s soft power.

VI. Innovative Media Exposure Approaches

1. MOFA used new media platforms, including MOFA’s Facebook (@mofa.gov.tw), X (@MOFA_Taiwan), Threads (@mofa_taiwan), and Instagram (@mofa_taiwan) accounts, as well as the Trending Taiwan YouTube (@TrendingTaiwan) and Facebook (@Trending Taiwan 潮台灣) accounts,

to amplify Taiwan's voice in the world. MOFA also assisted 105 overseas embassies and offices to maintain their Facebook pages, and coordinated with 90 overseas embassies and offices with X accounts to share MOFA posts.

2. MOFA created the Trending Taiwan YouTube channel in July 2015 and has since uploaded over 1,100 short videos. The channel has garnered more than 59 million views and over 50,000 subscribers. In January 2016, MOFA created the Trending Taiwan Facebook Fan Page and Twitter account to share information on a variety of issues relating to Taiwan. The former has acquired more than 54,000 followers, while the latter has over 10,000.
3. The MOFA Facebook Fan Page was created in July 2017 and has since published 2,100 posts, amassing over 270,000 followers and over 183 million hits.
4. MOFA's X account (@MOFA_Taiwan) was created in April 2018 and has since posted 6,761 times, received 324.39 million views, and amassed over 430,000 followers.
5. MOFA's Instagram account, created in July 2018, has published 1,273 posts and amassed over 90,000 followers.
6. MOFA's Threads account, created in July 2023, has amassed nearly 50,000 followers.
7. MOFA organized the 9th Trending Taiwan Short Film Competition and received over 223 innovative short films. Those selected were uploaded to online community platforms to showcase Taiwan's beauty and soft power to audiences in Taiwan and abroad.
8. In 2023, MOFA received a total of 43.26 million hits on its six major international information services websites, including the English-language Government Portal of the R.O.C. (Taiwan), the joint website for R.O.C. (Taiwan) embassies and missions abroad, the New Southbound Policy Portal, the Taiwan Today website (available in nine languages), the Taiwan Panorama website, and the Leave No One Behind website.

Item 2 Public Diplomacy

I. Communicating Taiwan's Foreign Policy and Positions

1. To effectively communicate the foreign policy and positions of Taiwan and to improve communication with the media, the Director General of the Public Diplomacy Coordination Council, who also serves as MOFA spokesperson, speaks on behalf of MOFA and responds to reporters' inquiries.
2. To increase public awareness of and support for Taiwan's diplomatic endeavors, MOFA issues timely statements, press releases, and background information. When necessary, MOFA also submits letters to the editor or contacts media outlets to correct erroneous reporting. In 2023, MOFA issued 427 statements and responses, 579 press releases, and 111 items of reference material in Mandarin and other languages.
3. MOFA regularly holds departmental press briefings, at which heads of departments report to the media and respond to press inquiries. For important issues and emergencies concerning foreign affairs, special press conferences are held, at which the minister, deputy or vice ministers, spokesperson, or relevant department heads explain MOFA's position and actions accurately, proactively, and promptly. In 2023, MOFA hosted 87 routine press briefings and 71 media events and international press conferences. Major events and press conferences are livestreamed on the official MOFA YouTube channel for the public to view in full in real time with sign language interpreting.
4. MOFA drafts speeches, remarks, and reference materials on major diplomatic issues for senior government officials, including the minister and deputy and vice ministers. These materials expound on the government's foreign policy and policy direction, strengthen its capacity to effectively publicize the principle, practice, and results of steadfast diplomacy, and boost public understanding of and support for the government's foreign policies both at home and abroad.

II. Enhancing Public Diplomacy with the Web, New Media, and Publications

1. MOFA maintains its website and social media pages on platforms, such as YouTube, to introduce Taiwan's foreign policy and soft power to the citizens of other nations. In addition to releasing a variety of explanations of policy, statements, press releases, reference materials, and publications in 2023, MOFA highlighted important issues and campaigns by establishing a dedicated website section titled Pray for Türkiye and Syria and continuing to update the Taiwan Stands with Ukraine, Safety Guidelines for Working Overseas, New Southbound Policy, and Leave No One Behind sections. YouTube was also used to livestream 46 international press conferences and share National Day and Lunar New Year videos produced by MOFA, enhancing global understanding of Taiwan and garnering more support abroad.
2. MOFA publishes Statements and Communiques and the MOFA Quarterly for its offices at home and abroad. The publications are also provided to other government agencies, civil society organizations, public and private universities, and secondary schools, as well as to public and private libraries in Taiwan and overseas. In addition, digital editions are made available on MOFA's website and Facebook page in order to further bolster their reach.
3. MOFA provides its overseas missions with literature and publications, updates on important laws, regulations, and policy measures, and promotional videos. In order to better promote Taiwan's achievements in freedom and democracy, economic development, humanitarian assistance, and the cultural and creative industries, MOFA also purchases books, videos, online information, cultural replicas, and related materials for its overseas missions. MOFA sent out 3,427 items of promotional material in 2023.

III. Other Public Diplomacy Projects

1. MOFA has collaborated with the Ministry of Education (MOE) since 2002 to hold English contests for the Teen Diplomatic Envoys program

and send winning teams abroad, encouraging senior and vocational high school students in Taiwan to develop an interest in the English language and international affairs, and increasing their understanding of Taiwan's foreign policy. Around 2,500 schools and more than 10,000 students have participated. 58 teams were selected from among them to visit European, North American, and New Southbound countries. The program resumed for its 20th year in 2023 after being suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of publicity events were held to mark the 20th anniversary of the program, including the Teen Diplomatic Envoys Homecoming event, a launch press conference, and a writing contest.

2. In line with the New Southbound Policy's principle of "people-centered, two-way exchanges," MOFA has cooperated with the Ministry of Agriculture since 2017 to select youths with professional and practical backgrounds in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and animal husbandry to visit New Southbound Policy partner countries to learn and make connections. Since the program began, 114 Young Agricultural Ambassadors have visited the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and India. In 2023, 24 outstanding youths were chosen to visit Indonesia and the Philippines in October and November. The governments and legislatures of both countries placed great weight on their visit, which also won the approval of local industry and academia. During their visit, they were the subject of many positive reports in the media, both at home and overseas, successfully advancing bilateral administrative and agricultural cooperation while they expanded their horizons and discovered new business opportunities.
3. The Working Holiday Scheme was launched in 2004. Since then, MOFA has signed working holiday agreements with 18 nations, namely New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Israel. Over 360,000 young people from Taiwan have participated in the program. Since the end of the pandemic, the number of participants has steadily increased. In response, MOFA assisted the Ministry of Education in holding an info session in Taipei in July 2023. In September, MOFA

also held the 14th interministerial coordination meeting on working holidays, bringing together the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Agriculture, Financial Supervisory Commission, Overseas Community Affairs Council, and other agencies to discuss plans to improve the Working Holiday Scheme. In addition, practical information is regularly uploaded to MOFA's Youth Taiwan website to help young people develop a better understanding of working holidays, as well as their rights and interests.

4. MOFA encourages and supports outstanding art troupes to tour overseas in order to promote Taiwan's soft power and expand cultural diplomacy. In addition, since 2013 MOFA has assisted the Ministry of Culture with the Spotlight Taiwan Project, with the goal of spreading Taiwan's unique, diverse culture and increasing civil diplomacy in the cultural realm. Under the project, overseas embassies and missions hold arts events that showcase Taiwan's culture to shape a positive image of Taiwan in the eyes of the local public.
5. To enhance public understanding of the current state of Taiwan's diplomatic affairs and increase recognition of and support for the government's foreign policy, MOFA receives groups of students from senior high and vocational schools, colleges, and universities. In 2023, there were 34 such events, with a total of 1,492 participants.

Section 6 Parliamentary Diplomacy

The Legislative Yuan serves an important supervisory role in the execution of Taiwan's foreign policy. In addition, we develop substantive relations with diplomatic allies and non-diplomatic allies through multiple channels, such as technology, economy and trade, culture, and education, and we establish various channels of communication with political parties of different countries, so that through liaison between legislators and members of parliaments of different nations, we can strengthen the depth and breadth of our diplomatic work. This is an important part of the pragmatic diplomacy championed by President Tsai Ing-wen.

The primary function of parliamentary diplomacy is to develop friendly bilateral relations through exchanges and understanding between representatives. The Office of Parliamentarian Affairs under MOFA is responsible for communications, contact, and coordination between the ministry and the Legislative Yuan's administrative sections and individual legislators, and for cooperating with relevant authorities to assist legislators in their parliamentary diplomacy efforts and facilitate exchanges with like-minded nations advocating for democracy, freedom, and human rights. Substantive exchanges between legislators and members of parliaments have grown increasingly frequent in recent years, further supporting diplomacy efforts by Taiwan.

A total of 551 foreign parliamentarians visited Taiwan, 266 of whom were from the Asia-Pacific region, six from West Asia, 146 from Europe, 66 from North America, and 67 from Latin America.

In 2023, MOFA actively supported the Legislative Yuan in engaging in parliamentary diplomacy and maintaining high levels of communication with our overseas missions to facilitate interactions and exchanges between R.O.C. (Taiwan) legislators visiting other countries and the members of parliaments in said countries. Throughout the year, MOFA facilitated 73 delegations and 155 legislators. These visits included high-level parliamentary officials advocating for Taiwan's participation in international organizations as well as attendance in international conferences advocating for democracy, freedom, and human rights. Specific examples include: (1) President of the Legislative Yuan You Si-kun gave a speech, on invitation, at the International Religious Freedom Summit (IRF Summit) held in Washington DC on February 1; (2) President of the Legislative Yuan You

Si-kun delivered a speech at the Hudson Institute - a DC think tank - and the Heritage Foundation during his May visit to the US with Legislators Chen Ting-fei, Chiu Chen-yuan, and Chiu Hsiang-chih to facilitate parliamentary diplomacy; (3) Legislators Chen Ching-min, Cheng Cheng-Chien, Lai Hsiang-ling, and Lai Hui-yuan organized delegations in May. The delegations traveled to Switzerland to supervise the Taiwanese government's campaign at the 76th WHA, and engage in parliamentary diplomacy; (4) The Legislative Yuan USA Caucus (LUC) visited Washington DC in July. Led by LUC Deputy Chairwoman Liu Shyh-Fang, the delegation consisted of Legislators Chen I-Hsin, Chiang Chi-chen, Tsai Shih-ying, Ho Chih-wei, and Cheng Cheng-chien, and sought to interact and engage with the US Congress and the executive branch; (5) Legislators Chang Hung-lu, Lai Hsiang-ling, Chen Jiau-hua, Tsai Shih-ying, Chen Ting-fei, Chen Ming-wen, and Chen Ou-po organized delegations in September. The delegations traveled to New York to supervise the Taiwanese government's campaign at the 78th UNGA and engage in parliamentary diplomacy; (6) Legislators Hung Sun-han, Wu I-ding, Wu Hsin-ying, and Chen Jiau-hua visited Dubai in December to supervise the Taiwanese government's campaign at the UNFCCC COP28.

I. Parliamentary Friendship Organizations and Activities by Region and Country

1. Asia Pacific

- (1) The Formosa Club in the Indo-Pacific Region, established on May 7, 2021, currently consists of 272 parliamentarians from 17 countries. 11 members of the Formosa Club - including the Chairman of the Palau Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and State Matters Mason Whipps, Nauru Minister for Climate Change Asterio Appi, South Korean MP Seong Ho Ji, New Zealand MP and Co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taiwan in the New Zealand Parliament Ingrid Leary, and Philippines Congressman and Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments Rufus B. Rodriguez - arrived in Taiwan on November 20 for a three-day visit to attend the second annual meeting of the Indo-Pacific Formosa Club.
- (2) The Australia-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group, established in

March 1992, consists of over 120 members, and is currently co-chaired by MP Graham Perrett (Australian Labor Party) and Scott Buchholz (Liberal Party of Australia). MP Perrett traveled to Taiwan on September 24 for a four-day visit.

- (3) The Indonesia Parliamentary Taiwan Caucus (IPTC) was established on June 28, 2016 and is currently co-chaired by Mardani Ali Sera.
- (4) The Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members' Consultative Council: Its predecessor, the Parliamentary Group for Taiwan, was established in 1973 by representatives of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party friendly to Taiwan. The group was merged with the New Frontier Party's Japan-R.O.C. Parliamentary Alliance on February 5, 1997 and expanded into the bipartisan Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members' Consultative Council. The Council is currently chaired by Representative Keiji Furuya and boasts over 270 members.
- (5) The Taiwan-Korean Parliamentary Friendship Group, established in 1996, consists of seven members, and is currently chaired by Cho Kyoung-tae.
- (6) The New Zealand Parliament established the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taiwan on March 29, 2023. The Group currently consists of 26 MPs and is co-chaired by Tim Van De Molen (National Party) and Ingrid Leary (Labour Party), both of whom traveled to Taiwan on November 19 for a six-day visit.
- (7) Taiwan-the Philippines Parliamentary Friendship Association: The association was reorganized on October 21, 2020 with former Deputy Speaker Rose Marie Arenas currently serving as honorary chairperson.

2. West Asia and Africa

- (1) The Formosa Club in Africa is a pan-African parliamentary platform established on November 3, 2020 and consists of 283 parliamentarians as of December 2023.
- (2) The Formosa Club in West Asia is a pan-West Asian parliamentary platform established in April 2021 and currently consists of 63 parliamentarians from 11 countries.

3. Europe

- (1) The European Parliament-Taiwan Friendship Group, established on June 12, 1991, is currently chaired by MEP Michael Gahler, and has over a hundred members. In 2023, the European Parliament passed six resolutions favorable to Taiwan, supporting strengthened partnerships between Taiwan and the EU and showing concern for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.
- (2) The Formosa Club, a pan-European parliamentary platform of friendship, now boasts approximately 250 members of parliament from 30 nations (including the European Parliament). In addition to the founding members of the European Parliament, the UK, Germany, and France, it has expanded to include members of parliaments from other European countries and Canada.
 - A. On May 24, members of the European Parliament and 30 co-chairs and members of the Formosa Club attended the Club's first Unity Summit in person or online. MOFA Deputy Minister Roy Chun Lee was invited to attend as a distinguished guest at the summit. A joint statement was adopted at the summit to call for the preservation of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, and strengthen Taiwan-EU cooperation.
 - B. On June 18, 12 parliamentarians including the European Parliament Vice-President Nicola Beer, Vice-Chair of the Security and Defence Subcommittee Rasa Juknevičienė, Belgium-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Co-chair Georges Dallemagne, Luxembourg Deputy Claude Wiseler, and Member of the UK House of Lords Baroness Brinton presented a certificate of recognition and joint letter to Taiwan's Foreign Affairs Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu, commending him for his outstanding contributions to strengthening Taiwan-EU and Taiwan-Belgium partnerships.
 - C. First Vice-Chair of the European Parliament-Taiwan Friendship Group Andrey Kovatchev led a delegation to Taiwan on October 30 for a six-day visit.
- (3) The Belgium-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group, established

in December 1993, is currently co-chaired by Julien Uyttendaele (Senate), Benoît Piedboeuf (Chamber of Representatives), Georges Dallemagne (Chamber of Representatives), Samuel Cogolati (Chamber of Representatives), Els Van Hoof (Chamber of Representatives), and Wouter Raskin (Chamber of Representatives). Senator Uyttendaele led a delegation of five to Taiwan on May 15 for a five-day visit and Senators Dallemagne and Els Van Hoof led a delegation of eight to Taiwan on October 15 for a six-day visit.

- (4) The Czech Republic-Taiwan Friendship Group, established on February 10, 1994, is currently chaired by Deputy Marek Benda. Member of the Czech Republic-Taiwan Friendship Group, Deputy Hayato Okamura and his wife, arrived in Taiwan on August 14 for a five-day visit.
- (5) The Danish Parliamentary Association for Friendship with Taiwan, established on April 27, 2004, is currently chaired by Pia Kjærsgaard.
- (6) The Estonia-Taiwan Support Group, established on September 8, 2003, is currently chaired by Kristo Enn Vaga, a member of the Riigikogu.
- (7) The Taiwan Friendship of Finnish Parliament was established in June 2004. The current chair MP Mikko Kärnä arrived in Taiwan on February 5 for a five-day visit with a four-person delegation.
- (8) The Taiwan-France Friendship Groups:
 - A. Senate: Groupe d'échanges et d'études Sénat-Taiwan was established on December 5, 1984, and is currently chaired by Senator Alain Richard. On April 24, a delegation of five, including Senator Richard, arrived in Taiwan for a five-day visit.
 - B. The National Assembly: Groupe d'études à vocation internationale sur les questions liées d'expansion de l'économie taïwanaise: Established on May 19, 1989, and currently chaired by Deputy Eric Bothorel. On April 17, the Groupe sent a delegation of four led by Deputy Bothorel to Taiwan for a four-day visit.
- (9) Parlamentarischer Freundkreis Berlin-Taipeh: Established as the Bonn-Taipei Parliamentary Friendship Group on February 29, 1992, it was given its current name on November 29, 1999, when the German capital moved to Berlin on October 4 of the same year. The group is currently chaired by

Klaus-Peter Willsch, a member of the Bundestag.

- (10) The Hungary-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Association was established on October 11, 2006, and is currently chaired by MP István Tiba.
- (11) The Ireland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Society was established on January 31, 2002, and is currently chaired by Teachta Dála John McGuinness. Chairman McGuinness invited Legislator Chen Ching-min to speak at the Irish Parliament on May 17 and led a delegation of five that arrived in Taiwan on June 27 for a five-day visit.
- (12) The Gruppo Interparlamentare di Amicizia Italia-Taiwan was established in June 1994 and is currently chaired by Senator Lucio Malan. Senate Vice-President Gian Marco Centinaio of the Italian Republic visited Taiwan from June 14 to 19 with Senator Elena Murelli, a member of the Gruppo.
- (13) Kosovo: The Kosovo-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group was established on December 20, 2021 and is currently co-chaired by MP Blerta Deliu-Kodra and MP Artan Abrashi. The co-chairs led a delegation of six that arrived in Taiwan on March 11 for a six-day visit.
- (14) The Group for Interparliamentary Relations with Taiwan (Latvia) was established on March 14, 1996, and is currently chaired by Deputy Ingrida Circene.
- (15) The Group for Interparliamentary Relations with Taiwan (Lithuania) was established in March 1997 and is currently chaired by Matas Maldeikis, a member of the Seimas. Deputy Head of the Group Dovilė Šakalienė and Chair of the Committee on National Security and Defense Laurynas Kasčiūnas led a delegation of nine that arrived in Taiwan on January 9 for a six-day visit.
- (16) The Taiwan Group in the Norwegian Parliament, established in June 1995, is currently convened by MP Tor-André Johnsen. Leader of the Norwegian Liberal Party Guri Melby arrived in Taiwan on November 20 for a six-day visit.
- (17) The Polish-Taiwanese Parliamentarians Group was established on July 17, 1997, and is currently chaired by Deputy Waldemar Andzel. Deputy

Chair Mieczyslaw Kasprzak, Deputy Chair Joanna Senyszyn, and Foreign Affairs Committee Deputy Chair Barbara Bartuś led a delegation of ten that arrived in Taiwan on June 18 for a five-day visit.

- (18) Grupo Parlamentar de Amizade Portugal Taiwan was established on April 1, 2004, and is currently chaired by Deputy Paulo Rios de Oliveira.
- (19) The Slovak-Taiwanese Parliamentary Friendship Group was established on December 14, 2005, and is currently chaired by MP Peter Osusky.
- (20) Asociación Independiente de Parlamentarios Amigos de Taiwán-España was established on November 19, 2008, and is currently chaired by Deputy Francisco Vañó Ferre.
- (21) The Swedish-Taiwanese Parliamentary Association was established on November 26, 1997, and is currently chaired by Boriana Åberg, a member of the Riksdag. Vice Chairman Mathias Tegnér led a delegation of five that arrived in Taiwan on August 20 for a seven-day visit.
- (22) The Parlamentarische Gruppe Schweiz-Taiwan was established in September 2017 and is currently co-chaired by National Council Members Fabian Molina and Nicolas Walder, who led a delegation of five that arrived in Taiwan on February 5 for a six-day visit.
- (23) The British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group is currently co-chaired by Lord Rogan and MP Bob Stewart. MP Stewart and Vice Chair MP Rob Butler led a delegation of six that arrived in Taiwan on March 19 for a six-day visit.

4. North America

- (1) The Canada-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group was established in December 1992, and is currently chaired by MP Judy Sgro and co-chaired by Senator Michael MacDonald. The group currently consists of 100 members. Senator MacDonald led a delegation of five that arrived in Taiwan on October 9 for a six-day visit.
- (2) The United States
 - A. The Senate Taiwan Caucus was established on September 17, 2003, and is currently co-chaired by Senators Robert Menendez and Thom Tillis. The caucus currently consists of 34 members.

- B. The Congressional Taiwan Caucus was established on April 9, 2002, and is currently co-chaired by Representatives Mario Díaz-Balart, Andy Barr, Gerald E. Connolly, and Ami Bera. The caucus currently consists of 227 members. Representatives Mike Gallagher, Michael McCaul, and Mike Rogers visited Taiwan this year as part of a 24-person delegation from the Caucus.

5. Latin America and the Caribbean

- (1) Formosa-Club Plataforma Interparlamentaria entre los Países Sudamericanos y los Estados Unidos Mexicanos (Formosa Club) was established on December 16, 2019 and later expanded and renamed Formosa Club Capítulo América Latina in November 2020. In May 2021, the Formosa Club in the Caribbean was established. On October 26, 2021, the Formosa Clubs of Latin America and the Caribbeans were combined and renamed Formosa Club-Plataforma Interparlamentaria de América Latina y del Caribe.
 - A. A delegation from the Formosa Club arrived in Taiwan on April 24 for a five-day visit. The delegation consisted of 11 parliamentarians from nine countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
 - B. A delegation of seven ministers and parliamentarians from four countries with diplomatic ties - St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Belize - arrived in Taiwan on October 30 for a five-day visit.
- (2) Foro de Presidentes y Presidentas de Poderes Legislativos de Centroamérica y la Cuenca del Caribe (FOPREL): The President of the Legislative Yuan of Taiwan was admitted as a permanent observer in December 1999.
- (3) Paraguay: Both the Senate and Chamber of Deputies have established Paraguay-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Committees, with Senator Antonio Barrios chairing the Senate Committee, and Deputy Rodrigo Daniel Gamarra Krayacich chairing the Committee in the Chamber of Deputies.
- (4) The Chile-Taiwan Parliamentary Working Group (Grupo de Trabajo

Chileno-Taiwanés), established on October 1, 2002 and later renamed Chile-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group (Grupo de Amistad Chile-Taiwán), consists of over 20 members. The Group is currently chaired by Deputy Carolina Marzán.

Section 7 Treaties, Agreements, and Legal Affairs

I. Overview of Treaties and Agreements

In 2023, Taiwan signed 24 treaties and agreements with the following countries: Japan, Eswatini, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Guatemala, Belize, Vietnam, the Marshall Islands, Canada, the United States, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the United Kingdom, as well as with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The scope of the treaties and agreements includes the environment; immigration affairs; economics and trade; foreign and consular affairs; justice; technical collaboration; development aid; tourism; food and medicine; agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and animal husbandry; anti-money laundering; and investments.

II. Research and Consultation on Treaties, Agreements, and Foreign Laws

In 2023, MOFA researched and gave opinions on 1,587 cases relating to treaties, agreements, and legal matters.

III. Foreign Affairs and Legal Affairs

1. In 2023, Taiwan processed a total of 207 cases involving judicial cooperation. These cases included requests by domestic judicial authorities to collect evidence abroad, as well as requests by foreign courts and other judicial authorities to entrust Taiwanese judicial authorities to collect evidence in Taiwan. MOFA and the Taipei Representative Office in Poland, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Taiwan Taichung District Prosecutors Office, and the Criminal Investigation Bureau of the National Police Agency, worked closely with the Polish government to successfully extradite a Taiwanese national wanted for fraud who had been residing in Poland. This marked Taiwan's first successful case of requesting a foreign government's assistance in extraditing a fugitive for trial in Taiwan.
2. Domestic and foreign judicial bodies and other authorities entrust MOFA with the serving of legal documents; MOFA also handles cases in which foreign courts and other judicial authorities entrust Taiwan's judicial agencies with the serving of legal documents. In 2023, MOFA handled a total of 20,181

cases involving the serving of legal documents. These included requests from Taiwan's courts and other government agencies for assistance in serving documents abroad, as well as requests from foreign courts and other judicial authorities for the serving of documents within Taiwan.

3. In 2023, MOFA assisted with 995 cases involving Taiwanese citizens abroad applying for loss of nationality, revocation of the loss of nationality, or document verification for acquisition of nationality or naturalization.

IV. Administrative Appeals Review Committee

In accordance with the Organizational Regulations for Administrative Appeals Review Committee of the Executive Yuan and Administrative Agencies at All Levels, MOFA set up the Appeals Review Committee (henceforth "Appeals Committee") to handle appeals. The director-general of the MOFA Department of Treaty and Legal Affairs serves as chairman of the Administrative Appeals Review Committee, while committee members are elected every two years. The Appeals Committee consists of 15 members (including the chairman), which includes ten legal scholars and experts and five heads and deputy heads of MOFA units. Most appeals are filed by a small number of applicants who object to an administrative action made by the Bureau of Consular Affairs, such as the denial of visas or passport renewals, or the withholding or revocation of passports. In 2023, 86 appeals have been filed to the Executive Yuan regarding overseas embassies and offices rejecting visa and passport renewal applications, refusing to accept documents for marriage verification, or detaining or canceling passports, all of which were reported to the Executive Yuan by the Appeals Committee.

V. Efforts to Defend Sovereignty over the South China Sea Islands and Maritime Rights and Interests in Surrounding Waters

On July 19, 2016, President Tsai Ing-wen put forth four principles and five actions pertaining to issues in the South China Sea. The principles are: disputes should be resolved by setting aside differences and promoting joint development; Taiwan should be included in multilateral mechanisms aimed at resolving disputes; states concerned have an obligation to uphold freedom of navigation and overflight in the region; and disputes should be settled peacefully

in accordance with international law and the law of the sea, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The government vows to defend fishing rights, seek multilateral consultations, facilitate scientific collaboration, carry out humanitarian assistance and rescue operations, and cultivate experts on the law of the sea. These efforts are intended to firmly defend Taiwan's territorial sovereignty in the South China Sea. The South China Sea Islands are a part of the territory of the R.O.C. (Taiwan), the government of which remains unwavering in its commitment to defend its sovereignty and rights over the South China Sea Islands and their relevant waters. In the future, the government will continue to consolidate sovereignty, protect fishing rights, actively settle disputes, and work hand in hand with states concerned to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

Appendix

1. Excerpts from President Tsai Ing-wen's statements on foreign policy

- (1) **President Tsai's response to Pope Francis's 2023 World Day of Peace message**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6433>
- (2) **President Tsai addresses opening of Empower Women! Empower LAC! Forum**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6442>
- (3) **President Tsai meets delegation led by US House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6457?SearchBy=tsai>
- (4) **President Tsai issues remarks after visit to Guatemala and Belize**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6489?SearchBy=tsai>
- (5) **President Tsai meets American Institute in Taiwan Chairperson Laura Rosenberger**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6497?SearchBy=tsai>
- (6) **President Tsai welcomes President Alejandro Giammattei of Republic of Guatemala with military honors**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6502?SearchBy=tsai>
- (7) **President Tsai meets delegation led by Vice-president of the French Senate Alain Richard**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6508?SearchBy=tsai>
- (8) **President Tsai meets former United States National Security Advisor John Bolton**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6510?SearchBy=tsai>
- (9) **President Tsai addresses Copenhagen Democracy Summit 2023**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6519?SearchBy=tsai>
- (10) **President Tsai meets former UK Prime Minister Elizabeth Truss**
<https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6522?SearchBy=tsai>
- (11) **President Tsai meets European parliamentary delegation**

- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6534?SearchBy=tsai>
- (12) President Tsai meets US delegation led by US House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6536?SearchBy=tsai>
- (13) President Tsai meets cross-party delegation from Japan's National Diet**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6540?SearchBy=tsai>
- (14) President Tsai meets President-elect Santiago Peña Palacios of the Republic of Paraguay**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6546?SearchBy=tsai>
- (15) President Tsai meets former Prime Minister Aso Taro of Japan**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6560?SearchBy=tsai>
- (16) President Tsai meets permanent representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva from Taiwan's diplomatic allies**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6576?SearchBy=tsai>
- (17) President Tsai receives credentials from new Marshall Islands Ambassador Anjanette Kattil**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6585?SearchBy=tsai>
- (18) President Tsai meets delegation led by US House Armed Services Committee Vice Chairman Rob Wittman**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6586?SearchBy=tsai>
- (19) President Tsai issues remarks after visit to the Kingdom of Eswatini**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6597?SearchBy=tsai>
- (20) President Tsai meets Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Governor-General Susan D. Dougan**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6614?SearchBy=tsai>
- (21) President Tsai meets Taiwan's delegation to 2023 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting**
- <https://english.president.gov.tw/NEWS/6649?SearchBy=tsai>

2. Excerpts from Premier Chen Chien-jen's statements on foreign policy

- (1) The Executive Yuan's 2024 directions for foreign policy are as follows:
 1. Uphold the fundamental values of peace, freedom, democracy, and human rights; through a forward-looking and innovative approach, implement the principles of steadfast diplomacy and mutual assistance for mutual benefit; devote utmost efforts to consolidate relations with diplomatic allies; and deepen substantive ties with like-minded nations with which Taiwan does not share diplomatic relations.
 2. Protect Taiwan's membership and related rights in international organizations; seek participation in other important specialized international organizations of which Taiwan is not a member; adopt pragmatic and creative approaches to achieve breakthroughs; and consolidate the support of like-minded countries to actively participate in the international community.
 3. Integrate the strengths of Taiwan's society with those of the global village to enhance international cooperation in such domains as democracy and human rights, humanitarian relief, medical care and public health, disaster mitigation and prevention, digital governance, sustainable development, gender equality, and food security; and establish public-private partnerships with like-minded nations and important nongovernmental organizations so as to contribute to both the region and the international community.

(Excerpts from the Executive Yuan's 2024 guidelines detailed by Premier Chen Chien-jen on March 30, 2023)

- (2) In his report to the Legislative Yuan, Premier Chen Chien-jen discusses diplomatic policy in a section entitled "A secure Taiwan with a global footing."

On January 26, the Cato Institute and Fraser Institute's 2022 Human Freedom Index rated Taiwan the freest nation within Asia and on February 2, the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2022 rated Taiwan highest in Asia for a second year running.

Taiwan's democracy is our most precious asset. Taiwan's persistence in defending freedom, the rule of law, human rights and other universal values, in addition to its fearless resolution in the face of totalitarian aggression, has been essential to enabling the nation to attract the international community's attention and win global recognition in recent years.

Taiwan-US ties have never been stronger, and Taiwan has achieved a series of important breakthroughs in our nation's relationship with Europe. Every year Taiwan hosts numerous heavyweight, increasingly high-level delegations from the United States, Japan, the European Union, and other European nations. A growing number of countries and international organizations are more frequently taking these and other concrete actions to demonstrate their strong support for Taiwan. The government will continue to push for a more rapid timetable for Taiwan-US trade talks and continue to foster ever-closer partnerships with like-minded democratic nations in order to jointly safeguard a free and open Indo-Pacific region and preserve the region's stability and prosperity.

(Excerpts from the oral report delivered by Premier Chen Chien-jen to the seventh session of the 10th Legislative Yuan on February 17, 2023)

- (3) In his report to the Legislative Yuan, Premier Chen Chien-jen discusses diplomatic policy in a section entitled "Protecting Taiwan's democracy."

Taiwan holds a critical position in international supply chains. Faced with China's hostile and aggressive ambitions to annex Taiwan, more and more nations around the world are realizing the important fact that peace in the Taiwan Strait is in the interests of the entire world. These nations have become willing to speak out on Taiwan's behalf in various international settings, and are keen to strengthen cooperation with Taiwan.

Since the beginning of this year, many international delegations have visited Taiwan, including from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Italy, Japan, and the European Parliament. Each delegation has expressed their deep concern over the shifting situation in the Taiwan Strait and supported the need for Taiwan to

bravely defend its freedom and democracy, while also actively deepening cooperation with likeminded international partners. Indeed, over the past two years, our government has announced the opening of representative offices in Montreal and Mumbai to enhance cooperative exchanges with Canada and India. Taiwan is also set to open a new representative office in the Italian city of Milan this October to strengthen substantive bilateral ties with Italy.

Economic and trade relations between Taiwan and the United States achieved an important and substantial breakthrough this year. On June 1, we signed the first agreement under the US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade, our largest-scale and most comprehensive pact with the United States since 1979, which was passed with unanimous consent by the Legislature. Taiwan and the United States have concluded early negotiating rounds on five topics including trade facilitation, which will serve as a foundation for talks on a further range of seven issues and bring us closer to the goal of signing a bilateral free trade agreement.

(Excerpts from the oral report delivered by Premier Chen Chien-jen to the eighth session of the 10th Legislative Yuan on September 26, 2023)

3. Excerpts from Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu's statements on foreign policy

(1) Report by Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan), at the Foreign and National Defense Committee of the Legislative Yuan on March 23, 2023

Major accomplishments in steadfast diplomacy since the last Legislative Yuan session:

- A. Despite China's continuous attempts to entice away and coerce Taiwan's allies, Taiwan is doing its utmost to maintain diplomatic alliances and underscore solid partnerships.

The government continues to promote frequent high-level mutual visits, while ensuring that antipandemic measures are in place. Saint Christopher and Nevis Prime Minister Terrance Drew; Nauru President Russ Joseph Kun and his wife; Saint Lucia Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre; Paraguay President Mario Abdo Benítez and his wife; Belize First Lady Rossana Briceño; and Eswatini Prime Minister Cleopas Siphon Dlamini were among the high-level officials of diplomatic allies who visited Taiwan since the last Legislative Yuan session. Last November, Vice President Lai Ching-te led a delegation to Palau and met with President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., and Vice President J. Uduch Sengebau Senior. Premier Chen Chien-jen traveled to the Holy See in January in the capacities of special presidential

Bilateral cooperation projects are proceeding smoothly. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the Taiwan-Marshall Islands Adaptation and Contingency Fund for Climate Change, which Taiwan helped establish, was submitted to and approved by the Executive Yuan this February. We also signed five cooperation agreements in total with three countries: Paraguay, Saint Lucia, and Belize. We participated in assistance programs that the United States and other like-minded countries introduced in our allies, concretely demonstrating that we definitely do not engage in pointless checkbook diplomacy competition with China. In January, Legislative Yuan

President You Si-kun and the parliamentary speaker of Tuvalu signed a joint statement for cooperation between the Legislative Yuan of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Parliament of Tuvalu. It calls for deeper postpandemic bilateral collaboration in such areas as economic recovery, climate change adaptation, and other domains.

We continue to assist allies in developing people's livelihoods and promoting postpandemic economic recovery. We are working with allied nations to promote bilateral cooperation projects that benefit the development of people's livelihoods. We introduced an initiative to assist in economic recovery and women's empowerment in Latin America and the Caribbean in the postpandemic era. Furthermore, we have expanded cooperative ties with 113 international partners, including global aid and financial institutions, as well as nongovernmental organizations. We are working with the United States to jointly implement the Building Economic Inclusion via the Blue Economy program to support postpandemic economic recovery and growth in Latin American and Pacific allies and enhance women's economic empowerment and gender equality. We are also providing postdisaster reconstruction assistance and humanitarian aid to allied partners. The outcomes of our efforts have received widespread support and acclaim in both our allies and the international community.

B. Diverse and rapid advances in the Taiwan-US partnership

The US administration continues to support Taiwan through concrete actions. The United States has brought together its allies at numerous bilateral and multilateral events to underscore the importance of preserving peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. Such major events included the Group of Seven (G7) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and President Joe Biden's meetings with the leaders of Australia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea during the East Asia Summit last November; the US-France summit and the 32nd Australia-US Ministerial Consultations last December; the US-Japan Security Consultative Committee (2+2) meeting and the US-Japan Summit Meeting in January this year; and the meeting between the US secretary of state and Lithuanian minister of foreign affairs in March. To date,

the Biden administration has announced nine arms sale packages to Taiwan. This continues the US policy of normalizing arms sales to Taiwan and reflects the United States' high regard for Taiwan's national defense needs and commitment to honoring its security pledges to Taiwan. Last November, Taiwan and the United States signed an MOU on development and humanitarian assistance cooperation, highlighting the fact that the two countries are further institutionalizing their robust partnership in promoting development and humanitarian assistance. In February, the US Departments of State, Commerce, and Agriculture sent a joint letter to state governors, mayors of major cities, and business leaders, encouraging them to bolster their interaction with Taiwan. This again demonstrates the US administration's friendly approach toward advancing its bilateral partnership with Taiwan.

The US Congress continues to take concrete actions to assist Taiwan, with bipartisan support provided by both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Since late October last year, a total of 20 members of the two chambers of Congress have visited Taiwan. Congress has also passed flagship bills that are friendly to Taiwan. Last year, it incorporated pro-Taiwan provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. These were signed into law by President Biden. With the completion of legislative procedures, they serve as a legal foundation and offer diverse policy tools for the Taiwan-US partnership across all domains. Furthermore, in late February, the House Financial Services Committee passed three pro-Taiwan bills, namely, the Taiwan Conflict Deterrence Act, PROTECT Taiwan Act, and Taiwan Non-Discrimination Act; and the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously approved the Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act. These developments point to Congress's strong backing for Taiwan-US relations and high regard for security across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan-US economic and trade relations continue to strengthen. The third Taiwan-US Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue was held in Taipei and Washington, DC, last December. Both sides

deemed the dialogue productive and successful. During the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade negotiations held in Taipei in January, the two sides reached consensus on some of the provisions. This demonstrates the keen interest in and momentum for deepening our bilateral economic and trade partnership. The Ministry will continue to coordinate with domestic economic and trade agencies to advance Taiwan-US economic cooperation through the 21st-Century Trade initiative; the Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue; the Technology Trade and Investment Collaboration framework; and other mechanisms and platforms.

Bilateral cooperation is expanding across all domains in breadth and depth. The third high-level dialogue on the Taiwan-US Education Initiative was held successfully in February. Our two countries continue to implement programs on Mandarin education, including the Gilman Scholarship funded by the US Department of State and two other official programs. Under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, we held an international seminar on sustainable oceans based on the rule of law in Tokyo, Japan, last October, as well as an overseas event in Israel for exchanges on industrial development in such fields as the digital economy, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.

Taiwan's relations with US local governments continue to take root. Last year, 42 resolutions backing Taiwan were passed by the Senate and/or the House of Representatives of 26 US states and the Guam Legislature. Since the beginning of this year, the Senate and/or House of Representatives of 14 US states have approved 16 resolutions supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations, the signing of a Taiwan-US bilateral trade agreement, and engagement with Taiwan on Mandarin education. Since last year, 26 US state legislatures have established Taiwan friendship caucuses, which now boast a total membership of more than 565 senators and representatives, underscoring the solid friendship between Taiwan and the United States. In addition, a number of US states have opened offices in Taiwan, elevating the level of engagement between Taiwan

and US local governments.

C. Continued comprehensive enhancement of Taiwan-Japan relations and development of bilateral exchanges and cooperation

Taiwan and Japan are further strengthening their comprehensive substantive partnership. The government of Japan has stressed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait at multiple important international events. It issued statements affirming this stance at the East Asia Summit, US-Japan Summit Meeting, and Japan-US-ROK summit last November; the US-Japan Summit Meeting this January; and the Japanese prime minister's meeting with the secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in February. Last December, the Japanese government revised three defense documents, including its National Security Strategy, to incorporate pro-Taiwan statements, such as affirmation that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait constitutes an indispensable component for the security and prosperity of the international community.

Taiwan and Japan enhance comprehensive cooperation through parliamentary exchanges. President You Si-kun and several other members of the Legislative Yuan, along with US and Japanese lawmakers and think tank researchers, participated in the second trilateral strategic dialogue held last November. The forum aimed to facilitate the establishment of a security communication channel among Taiwan, the United States, and Japan. Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the House of Councillors Seko Hiroshige visited Taiwan last December. That same month, the Taiwan-Japan Relationship Sustainability Forum was jointly held by the two countries. Representative and LDP Policy Research Council (PRC) Chair Koichi Hagiuda traveled to Taiwan to attend the event, marking the first visit to Taiwan by an LDP PRC chair in 19 years. Such developments point to the importance that Japan's governing party places on bilateral relations.

Taiwan and Japan bolster economic and trade relations and promote maritime affairs and fishery exchanges. The 46th Taiwan-

Japan Economic and Trade Conference between the heads of the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and the fifth meeting of the Taiwan-Japan Cooperation in Developing the ASEAN Market mechanism were convened in Tokyo in February, further cementing the close economic and trade relations between the two countries. The fifth bilateral dialogue on maritime affairs cooperation was held in January and the ninth meeting of the Taiwan-Japan Fishery Committee in March. These developments have strengthened bilateral cooperation in maritime affairs, as well as exchanges and dialogue on establishing orderly fishing operations at sea, such as affirmation that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait constitutes an indispensable component for the security and prosperity of the international community.

- D. Rapid development of Taiwan-Europe relations, speedy increase in scope of bilateral cooperation, and support for cross-strait security included in government policies of many countries

Taiwan and European nations continue to deepen exchanges through mutual contact and mutual visits. President Tsai Ing-wen spoke to Czech Republic President-elect Petr Pavel over the phone in January and congratulated him on his victory. In February, I extensively discussed comprehensive bilateral cooperation in a videoconference with Czech Chamber of Deputies Speaker Markéta Pekarová Adamová. When Speaker Adamová led a delegation to Taiwan at the end of March, I welcomed her on behalf of the government. Other visiting delegations included those from the German-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group and the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the German Bundestag last October; the United Kingdom House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee last November; senior parliamentarians from the Free Democratic Party on the German Bundestag Committees for Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid in January; and the Kosovo-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group in March. Chairman Anders Fogh Rasmussen led a delegation of the Alliance of Democracies Foundation, a Danish think tank, to visit Taiwan in January. We also

hosted a delegation from the European Parliament (EP) Committee on International Trade last December, the third EP delegation to make a formal visit since 2021, demonstrating once again the EP's staunch support for Taiwan.

European countries are voicing support for Taiwan at a quickly rising frequency and volume. European countries have reaffirmed the importance of cross-strait security at numerous multilateral and bilateral meetings. These include the G7 Summit, the EU-Japan Summit, the EU-Australia Leaders' Meeting, the third high-level meeting of the EU-US Dialogue on China, and the France-Japan Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting last year; as well as the France-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations, the Australia-UK Ministerial Meeting, and the 36th France-United Kingdom Summit this year. Meanwhile, the policy report entitled Integrated Review Refresh 2023: Responding to a more contested and volatile world, published by the UK government in March, mentioned Taiwan for the first time. It also expressed opposition to any unilateral change in the status quo across the Taiwan Strait and support for cross-strait peace and stability. Furthermore, the EP has passed 10 resolutions in support of Taiwan and its international participation since last year. For example, in September, it adopted a resolution on the situation across the Taiwan Strait, strongly condemning China for conducting military exercises in areas around Taiwan and reiterating the EP's opposition to any attempt to unilaterally change the cross-strait status quo and to any military threats. This January, the EP also voted to approve the annual implementation reports of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, calling for deepening partnerships with Taiwan. Members of the interparliamentary Formosa Club in Europe expressed concern over China's escalation of the situation across the Taiwan Strait and endorsed Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization. The Parliament of Wallonia, a region of Belgium, passed its first resolution backing Taiwan and called for greater cooperation with and international participation of Taiwan.

Efforts continue to be made to promote economic and trade connectivity and bilateral exchanges between Taiwan and Europe. We have been steadily promoting the signing of a bilateral investment agreement with the European Union. The Taiwan-EU Trade and Investment Dialogue was upgraded to the ministerial and director-general level last year, with the two sides reaching consensus on several items and agreeing to establish a platform for working-level discussions. In addition, to deepen economic and trade connectivity, Taiwan has continued to engage in bilateral trade talks with European countries. For instance, it held deputy ministerial-level trade talks with Sweden last November, with Finland last December, and with Lithuania in February. Since signing an air services arrangement in 2021, Taiwan and Germany have added new flight destinations in each other's countries. A ceremony for the first flight of the Taipei-Munich route was held last November. In addition, the Taipei-Milan route was launched in October, and the Taipei-Prague route will become operational in July. Last year, the Ministry introduced the European Valued Important Partnership program to continue forging stronger connections with our friends in Europe. The Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship program continues to encourage outstanding individuals from European countries to engage in educational exchanges in Taiwan.

The government of Taiwan has donated supplies to assist in Ukraine's reconstruction. During a reception hosted last October to celebrate the friendship between Taiwan and Ukraine, the Ministry announced that the government had allocated a budget of NT\$1.8 billion to assist in Ukraine's reconstruction. The Ministry donated US\$1 million for the procurement of power generation and heating equipment, as well as 95 tons of winter clothing and supplies, to help Ukrainians survive the harsh winter during the war. Taiwan also donated approximately US\$140,000 for the purchase of ICT equipment that would provide Internet access to 551 Ukrainian orphans living in Türkiye, helping fulfill their educational needs.

E. Coordinating with related ministries to comprehensively advance the

New Southbound Policy

Economic and trade exchanges grow steadily, and efforts continue to be made to enhance agricultural cooperation. Taiwan's trade with New Southbound Policy (NSP) partners totaled US\$180.267 billion last year, registering a record high since the policy's introduction and realizing annual growth rate of 20.7 percent. Taiwan and India signed an MOU for cooperation in traditional medicine last November to deepen bilateral economic and trade exchanges. The government is subsidizing the Taiwan-Southeast Asia Vegetable Germplasm Initiative, a three-year capacity-building project conducted by the World Vegetable Center for farmers and agricultural researchers in Southeast Asian nations. To help realize the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of zero hunger, as well as decent work and economic growth, Taiwan has implemented a number of agricultural cooperation projects. These include projects in Indonesia covering horticultural development in Karawang, high-quality rice seed production in South Sulawesi, and guidance on garlic and shallot production and marketing in North Sumatra.

Personnel exchanges and humanitarian assistance are being strengthened. Last December, Taiwan and Indonesia signed an agricultural internship agreement, allowing Indonesia to select 55 young farmers to receive training in Taiwan. In addition, under the Taiwan-Philippines MOU for disaster prevention, we arranged for 35 firemen from the Philippine Bureau of Fire Protection to participate in an intense program at the National Fire Agency's fire training facility in Zhushan, Nantou County. Meanwhile, we donated US\$100,000 to Indonesia for earthquake disaster relief efforts in Cianjur, West Java, and US\$400,000 to the Philippines in the wake of the destruction caused by Tropical Storm Nalgae.

F. Bolstering momentum for Taiwan's international participation

Owing to China's unwarranted interference, Taiwan has been unable to participate in the UN system. However, efforts have been made in many places around the world to show that Taiwan can help.

These have received international affirmation and recognition. As China's threats against Taiwan continue to escalate, administrative and legislative government branches, media, and public opinion in more and more countries have acknowledged that Taiwan's appeals to gain international participation are both appropriate and legitimate. International support for and affirmation of Taiwan's participation in the global arena have been rapidly gaining momentum year after year. The 152nd session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board took place in Geneva from January 30 to February 7 this year. Diplomatic allies, the United States, Japan, and other like-minded countries have continued to speak up and demonstrate in various ways firm support for Taiwan's participation in WHO. Last November, Taiwan organized a delegation to participate in the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Egypt. Diplomatic allies, parliamentarians from friendly countries, and more than 400 members of the Formosa Club chapters in Latin America and the Caribbean sent letters or spoke up in support of Taiwan's UNFCCC campaign. Our delegation held 40 high-level bilateral talks with diplomatic allies, like-minded countries, and international organization delegations and attended six side meetings.

Taiwan continues to exert international influence through its participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. President Tsai again appointed Morris Chang, founder of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, as the leader's representative to the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting last November. Representative Chang held meetings and discussions with over half of the APEC leaders and representatives, including US Vice President Kamala Harris, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Between late October of last year and March of this year, Taiwan attended the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting, APEC Ministerial Meeting, and three APEC Senior Officials' Meetings. During that same period, Taiwan hosted seven APEC meetings and events focusing on such topics as utilizing digital technology

to advance occupational safety and health in the digital age, as well as leveraging digital twin technology to enhance supply chain productivity for resilient economies. Furthermore, Taiwan donated US\$2.2 million to APEC last year in a concrete demonstration of our active participation in and contributions to the organization.

G. Taking proactive steps to make our voice heard internationally

The Ministry continues to employ a variety of approaches to speak out in the international community, including arranging interviews for President Tsai with international media. Since the last Legislative Yuan session, I have given nearly 30 interviews to international media outlets, which were extensively reported in print and electronic media. As of March this year, a total of 146 journalists representing 81 media outlets from 22 countries were registered with the Ministry. Eight international outlets have stationed journalists in Taiwan since last October. To promote a positive international image of Taiwan, the Ministry launched both Chinese and English versions of a video introducing Taiwan's national developments at the end of last year. Shorter versions of the video were also produced, in 10 languages. The Ministry's official Facebook account has attracted over 260,000 followers since its launch, and the Facebook accounts of 106 overseas missions have a combined total of approximately 920,000 followers. Meanwhile, our official Twitter account now has more than 410,000 followers and has attracted an accumulated total of more than 280 million visits by users. These avenues have helped the Ministry effectively raise Taiwan's international visibility.

H. Actively contributing to global issues and fulfilling our international responsibility as a constructive partner of the democratic camp

The government of Taiwan has participated actively in international humanitarian assistance efforts. It has also made substantive contributions to the international community by strengthening disaster relief, combating climate change, promoting sustainable development, and bolstering the security of democratic supply chains. Since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, our government and private sector

have donated a total of 27 tons of medical supplies and over 700 tons of humanitarian aid supplies to Ukraine, provided over US\$41 million in financial aid, assisted in resettling Ukrainian refugees, and launched a warmth-sending program by donating winter relief supplies and food and aiding Kyiv in purchasing power generators.

In response to the Türkiye-Syria earthquake that occurred last month, our government immediately dispatched a search and rescue team to disaster areas. The Ministry aided in setting up relief donation accounts and took the lead in donating US\$2 million on behalf of the government. We also provided US\$20 million to the government of Türkiye and international charities for joint assistance initiatives benefiting earthquake survivors in Türkiye and Syria. Taiwan will continue to participate in and make contributions to global issues of concern to help expand the international virtuous cycle.

(2) Report by Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan), at the Foreign and National Defense Committee of the Legislative Yuan on October 18, 2023

Major accomplishments in steadfast diplomacy since the last Legislative Yuan session:

A. Great efforts have been made to maintain diplomatic alliances and underscore solid partnerships.

Frequent mutual high-level visits: Eswatini Prime Minister Cleopas Siphos Dlamini and his wife, Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei, Paraguay President Santiago Peña Palacios (then president-elect) and his wife, Nauru President Russ Joseph Kun and his wife, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Governor-General Susan Dougan, and Saint Christopher and Nevis Governor-General Marcella Liburd were among the high-level officials of diplomatic allies to visit Taiwan since the last Legislative Yuan session. In March, President Tsai Ing-wen led a delegation to Guatemala and Belize on a trip entitled “Meeting Democratic Partners, Fostering Shared Prosperity.” In September, she traveled to Eswatini for a visit themed “Celebrating Enduring Friendship, Advancing Sustainable Cooperation” to

celebrate the 55th anniversary of Eswatini's independence and the 55th birthday of King Mswati III. Vice President Lai Ching-te led a delegation to Paraguay in August to attend the inauguration of President Peña. Serving as the president's special envoy, I visited Saint Christopher and Nevis in September to congratulate our ally on the 40th anniversary of its independence and to celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relations between our countries. Signing of bilateral cooperation agreements: In March, Taiwan signed a five-year Protocol on Cooperation with Eswatini covering 2023 to 2027, a Diplomatic Staff Training Cooperation Agreement with the Marshall Islands, and a basic cooperation pact with Guatemala. In April, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Adaptation and Contingency Fund for Climate Change with the Marshall Islands, a Framework Agreement on Technical Cooperation with Belize, an MOU on Expanding Education Cooperation Projects with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and an MOU on the Mutual Recognition of Organic Agriculture Production Systems with Paraguay. In May, we signed a Diplomatic Staff Training Cooperation Agreement and a technical cooperation accord with Tuvalu. In June, also with Tuvalu, we signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. In August, we signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters with Saint Lucia. In September, we signed an MOU regarding Women Business Start-up Microfinance Revolving Fund with Eswatini and an Agreement on Diplomatic Staff Training Cooperation with Saint Christopher and Nevis.

Smooth progress in bilateral cooperation projects: In May, Taiwan and the United States convened their first Pacific American Fund (PAF) Grants Review Board meeting in Fiji to award grants designed to assist 12 Pacific island states, including our four diplomatic allies, in strengthening climate change resilience. Bilateral cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean allies is also proceeding smoothly; several workshops have been held under the project for Assisting the Economic Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Post Covid-19 Era. The Ministry assisted the Taichung

Veterans General Hospital Mobile Medical Mission in organizing a health clinic in Nauru in June and conducting a Maritime and Port Authority Personnel Training Cooperation Project for Pacific allies in July. These cooperation programs have been widely commended by the governments and peoples of diplomatic allies.

B. Diverse and rapid advances in the Taiwan-US partnership

The US administration continues to support Taiwan through concrete actions: The United States has underscored the importance of preserving peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait at numerous bilateral and multilateral events. These have included the US-Canada leaders' summit in March; the Group of Seven (G7) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the US-ROK leaders' summit in April; the US-Philippines and US-Japan leaders' meetings and the G7 Summit in May; the US-Japan-Australia trilateral defense ministers' meeting and the fifth high-level meeting of the EU-US Dialogue on China in June; the US-Italy leaders' meeting in July; the US-Japan-ROK trilateral leaders' summit in August; and the East Asia Summit, the US state secretary's meetings with the German and Japanese foreign ministers, and the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in September. Since assuming office, the Biden administration has announced 11 arms sale packages to Taiwan. In July, it announced its first provision to Taiwan of US\$345 million of defense articles and services through a Presidential Drawdown Authority. Then, in August, it announced a grant of US\$80 million in Foreign Military Financing to Taiwan. With regard to US support for Taiwan's participation in international organizations, Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a statement in May entitled "Taiwan as an Observer in the World Health Assembly," strongly encouraging the World Health Organization (WHO) to invite Taiwan to participate as an observer at this year's World Health Assembly (WHA). This marked the third consecutive year that he has issued a statement backing Taiwan's observership in the WHA. Meanwhile, President Tsai and Vice President Lai were accorded high regard and high-level courtesies while transiting through the United States on their trips to Central American allies in March and Paraguay in August, respectively.

The US Congress continues to take concrete actions to assist Taiwan, with bipartisan support from both the Senate and the House of Representatives: Since late March, a total of 34 members of the two chambers of Congress have visited Taiwan. Congress has also passed flagship pro-Taiwan bills and called for Taiwan's participation in the United Nations system. This year, both the Senate and the House of Representatives again incorporated provisions that are strongly supportive of Taiwan in their respective versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, explicitly endorsing enhanced military cooperation and partnership between Taiwan and the United States. Moreover, Congress unanimously approved the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act, which was signed into law by President Joe Biden, thereby completing the legislative process. Taiwan-US economic and trade relations continue to strengthen: The first agreement under the Taiwan-US Initiative on 21st-Century Trade was signed in June, followed by a new round of negotiations in Washington, DC, in August. With various sectors in Taiwan and the United States expressing a positive stance toward promoting an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee in July released a discussion draft of legislation to provide related relief. In addition, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the Taiwan Tax Agreement Act in July and the Senate Finance Committee approved the US-Taiwan Expedited Double Tax Relief Act in September.

Taiwan's relations with US local governments continue to deepen: Since the beginning of this year, 52 resolutions backing Taiwan have been passed by 33 US state legislatures and the Guam Legislature, supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations and the signing of a Taiwan-US bilateral trade agreement, among other issues. To date, 26 US state legislatures have established Taiwan friendship caucuses, together boasting a total membership of more than 632 senators and representatives.

Bilateral cooperation is expanding across all domains in breadth

and depth: Three in-person events have been held since March under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), covering public health, anticorruption, and sustainable aviation. Together with the United States, Japan, and Australia, Taiwan also organized an international GCTF seminar in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September.

C. Continued comprehensive enhancement of Taiwan-Japan relations and development of bilateral exchanges and cooperation

Further strengthening of substantive partnership: The government of Japan has reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait at multiple major international events. It explicitly included content calling cross-strait peace and stability an important issue in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Communiqué, the G7 Leaders' Communiqué, and statements released at the Japan-EU summit, the US-Japan-ROK summit, the Japan-France foreign and defense ministers' meeting, and the ASEAN Summit, as well as in its Diplomatic Bluebook and the Defense of Japan 2023 annual white paper. It also repeated its stance at the Japan-China foreign ministers' meeting.

Enhancing comprehensive cooperation through parliamentary exchanges: Legislative Yuan President You Si-kun led a fact-finding mission to Japan's Yonaguni Island in July. Vice Premier Cheng Wen-tsan visited Japan in June to attend a Japan-Taiwan industrial bridging forum. Representative Taro Aso, former Japanese Prime Minister and current Vice President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), led a delegation to Taiwan in August, delivering an opening address at the Ketagalan Forum. Since March, a total of 111 members of the Japanese Diet have visited Taiwan, including a 43-member parliamentary delegation of the Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members' Consultative Council led by Chair and Representative Keiji Furuya to attend the National Day celebrations this month. Representative Norikazu Suzuki led an LDP Youth Division delegation to Taiwan for youth exchanges before joining a cross-party Legislative Yuan delegation on a trip to Palau for parliamentary exchanges between Taiwan, Japan, and Palau. This

further expanded parliamentary exchanges between Taiwan and Japan.

- D. Rapid development of Taiwan-Europe relations and speedy increase in the scope of bilateral cooperation; support for cross-strait security is being incorporated into government policies of many European countries.

Taiwan and European nations continue to deepen exchanges: On my visit to Europe in June, I attended and delivered a speech at the 2023 European Values Summit in Prague, where Czech President Petr Pavel was also a keynote speaker. In September, I delivered a prerecorded speech to the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China annual summit in Prague. In March, German Federal Minister for Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger visited Taiwan, the first ministerial-level official from Germany to do so in 26 years. Former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss visited in May, the first former UK prime minister to travel to Taiwan since Margaret Thatcher 27 years ago. Other delegations also visited, led respectively by Markéta Pekarová Adamová, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic; Alain Richard, Chair of the French Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group; Oliver Cadic, Vice President of the French Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces; Els Van Hoof, Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives; and Lord Faulkner, UK Trade Envoy to Taiwan. We also welcomed delegations representing parliamentary friendship groups from the European Parliament (EP) and the United Kingdom, Portugal, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Poland, Ireland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and other countries, as well as the foreign affairs committees of the EP and the French and Polish Senates.

European countries are voicing support for Taiwan at a rapidly rising frequency and volume: European countries have reaffirmed the importance of security across the Taiwan Strait at numerous multilateral and bilateral meetings. These include the G7 Summit, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit, the France-Japan foreign and defense ministers' meeting, the France-Australia foreign and defense ministers' meeting, and the 36th UK-France summit. The French

government announced the 2024-2030. Military Programming Law in August, making France the first major country to enact legislation calling for the defense of freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait. The Integrated Review Refresh 2023, published by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in March, expressed concern over the situation across the Taiwan Strait. The first-time publication of a Strategy on China by the German government in July contained 13 references to Taiwan. The importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait was further affirmed in the US-Italy summit joint statement, the UK-Italy summit MOU, the UK-Sweden joint statement, and the UK-Poland 2030 strategic partnership joint declaration. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, and 30 chairs and key members of parliamentary caucuses all stressed the importance of cross-strait peace and stability during a plenary session of the EP in April. The German Bundestag overwhelmingly adopted a resolution in May to back Taiwan's participation in WHO. The foreign affairs committees of the Slovak Parliament and the Czech Chamber of Deputies approved resolutions and the Polish-Taiwanese Parliamentarian Group issued a statement endorsing Taiwan's meaningful participation as an observer in UN-related international organizations.

Efforts continue to be made to promote economic, trade, and technological connectivity between Taiwan and Europe: Minister without Portfolio Deng Chen-chung, concurrently serving as chief negotiator at the Office of Trade Negotiations under the Executive Yuan, and UK Minister for International Trade Nigel Huddleston announced in July that official talks on a bilateral Enhanced Trade Partnership would be launched. In promoting the signing of a bilateral investment agreement with the European Union (EU), Taiwan has continued to hold bilateral trade talks with a number of European countries. These include the third session of the Taiwanese-Slovak Commission on Economic Cooperation held in June, as well as the Taiwan- Germany Joint Business Council (JBC) meeting and the

Taiwan-Sweden JBC meeting in September. Furthermore, Taiwan signed a scientific and technological cooperation agreement with Germany, the first-ever such accord with a European country. A direct flight route between Taipei and Prague became operational in July. The Czech government has since allowed R.O.C. (Taiwan) passport holders arriving on direct flights to enter through the automatic immigration clearance system, facilitating bilateral trade and technological exchanges between Taiwan and the EU.

Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship and Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Talent Incubation Program contributing to deeper talent exchanges and industrial cooperation: A total of 511 recipients of the Taiwan-Europe Connectivity Scholarship have arrived for studies in Taiwan this year. The Ministry, in collaboration with National Taiwan University, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, and the Taiwan Semiconductor Research Institute, organized the first short-term training program for Europeans in August. Seventy outstanding individuals from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, and Italy attended. In September, five Czech students were awarded the Taiwan-Europe Semiconductor Scholarship.

Taiwan has donated supplies to assist in Ukraine's reconstruction: The Russia-Ukraine war has inflicted heavy socioeconomic losses on Ukraine. In June, the Ministry announced a US\$5 million fund for reconstruction projects in Ukraine. We also donated more than 100 ambulances, fire trucks, and paratransit vehicles in cooperation with civic groups. In July, we signed an MOU to assist Ukraine with Bucha Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk, the Future for Ukraine Foundation, the Polish Center for International Aid, and Slovak charitable organizations.

E. Coordinating with related ministries to comprehensively advance the New Southbound Policy

The Ministry has done its utmost to integrate efforts by related government agencies in promoting the New Southbound Policy (NSP), broadening and deepening cooperation across all domains with major NSP partner countries. After seven years of efforts in implementing

the NSP, Taiwan's trade with NSP partners has increased more than 80 percent—a much higher rate than its trade with other areas over the same period. Taiwan has also enjoyed significant growth in exchanges with NSP partners in such domains as education, agriculture, healthcare, disaster prevention, investment, finance, and culture. Trade with the NSP region exceeded US\$180 billion in 2022, while Taiwanese investments made either from Taiwan or via a third country topped the US\$100 billion mark, creating millions of job opportunities in NSP partner countries. These countries have now surpassed China as the top destination for Taiwan's overseas investments.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Economic Affairs established the Taiwan-Australia Health and Biotechnology Partnership with the Australian Office in May. Taiwan and Thailand signed an Implementing Arrangement on Fisheries Cooperation in June. Personnel exchanges and humanitarian assistance are being strengthened: In August, 49 young farmers from the Philippines arrived for 11-month internships under the bilateral MOU for the Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan, which was signed in November 2020. Seventy college students from NSP partner countries have also been accepted for the second round of the New Southbound Policy Elite Study Program, held in cooperation with Taipei Medical University and three other universities. Taiwan donated US\$60,000 to Malaysia for flood relief in March. The Taiwan Technical Mission to the Philippines completed its first demonstration farm cooperation project in Tarlac Province in July.

F. Bolstering momentum for Taiwan's international participation

Owing to China's unwarranted interference, Taiwan is unable to participate in the UN system. However, international support for and affirmation of Taiwan's involvement in the global arena have been gaining momentum year after year. During the 76th WHA in May, 12 diplomatic allies submitted a proposal to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA as an observer. Belize, Nauru, Eswatini, and the Marshall Islands spoke up for Taiwan at the General Committee or the plenary session. Like-minded nations also extended unprecedented support

for Taiwan. Thirteen countries—namely, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Estonia, New Zealand, and Latvia—voiced support for Taiwan at the WHA plenary session. This was the first time that Estonia made a clear reference to Taiwan. For the third consecutive year, the G7 Foreign Ministers' Communiqué, jointly issued with the European Union, incorporated text backing Taiwan. For the second year running, the G7 Health Ministers' Communiqué explicitly endorsed Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHA and WHO technical meetings.

With China blatantly attempting to interfere in Taiwan's international participation by citing UNGA Resolution 2758, we continue to call on the global community to duly recognize that the resolution has been erroneously interpreted and that China is acting to obstruct Taiwan in the international arena with malicious intent and purpose. The US House of Representatives passed the Taiwan International Solidarity Act in July, emphasizing that the UNGA resolution addresses only the issue of China's representation at the UN and has nothing to do with Taiwan. During the UNGA in September, 12 diplomatic allies spoke up for Taiwan, while the chair of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, incorporating the endorsement of the EU high representative, issued a statement advocating for the first time Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations. Parliamentarians of the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Hungary, Ireland, Spain, Slovakia, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Brazil, and other countries expressed support for Taiwan through diverse channels, including laws, statements, questions to the executive branches of government, letters to the UN secretary-general, and social media posts. For the first time, alumni from Spain and 10 other nations who had studied in Taiwan sent open letters to the UN secretary-general or media outlets in support of Taiwan.

Taiwan continues to exert international influence through its participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Since March, it has attended 10 high-level meetings and two senior

officials' meetings, including a Transportation Ministerial Meeting and a Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting. Taiwan hosted 27 APEC meetings and events. Taiwan continues to push to participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In April, the US House of Representatives adopted the Upholding Sovereignty of Airspace Act, calling for ICAO to facilitate Taiwan's participation. The parliaments of Belize and Saint Christopher and Nevis and the Czech Senate adopted motions or resolutions backing Taiwan's participation in ICAO and other international organizations.

G. Taking proactive steps to make our voice heard internationally

The Ministry continues to employ a variety of approaches to speak out in the international community, including arranging interviews for President Tsai with international media. Since the last Legislative Yuan session, I have given 34 interviews to international media outlets, promoting Taiwan's cause and underscoring Taiwan's contributions to the world. A series of documentaries on Taiwan coproduced by the Ministry and the world-renowned Discovery Channel premiered in Taiwan on June 22 before being released in nearly 20 Asia-Pacific countries and territories from July 5. The Ministry's official Facebook account has attracted over 269,000 followers since its launch, with a total of more than 173 million views. The Facebook accounts of 104 overseas missions have a combined total of approximately 965,000 followers. Meanwhile, our official Twitter/X account now has over 415,000 followers and has attracted an accumulated total of more than 300 million views. Our Instagram account has over 91,000 followers, and our Threads account has accumulated 13,000 followers since its launch in July. Taiwan's publicity campaigns during the UNGA in September elicited widespread attention. My op-ed was published 227 times, up from 202 last year. Letters to the editor from the heads of Taiwan's overseas missions were published 162 times. Two short films produced to promote Taiwan's UN bid— To Equality and Global Peace with Taiwan—garnered 19.01 million and 12.91 million views online, respectively, a significant increase from the 10.23 million views of last year's film.

H. Actively contributing to global issues and fulfilling our international responsibility as a constructive partner of the democratic community

Taiwan and its four Pacific allies signed the Joint Statement on Combating Climate Change at the 2023 Pacific Climate Change Forum. Taiwan also actively assists other countries in responding to natural disasters. When Türkiye and Syria were struck by a massive earthquake in February, all sectors of Taiwan made generous contributions to the relief effort, with civil society donations to a dedicated Ministry of Health and Welfare account and government aid totaling US\$40.72 million. In September, the Ministry donated US\$500,000 to Morocco for post-earthquake reconstruction and US\$1 million to Libya for flood relief.

4. Statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- (1) The R.O.C. (Taiwan) has terminated diplomatic relations with the Republic of Honduras with immediate effect to uphold national dignity

March 26, 2023

Statement No. 1

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) solemnly issues the following statement: The governments of the Republic of Honduras and the People's Republic of China are currently engaged in negotiations to establish diplomatic relations. As communication between the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and the Republic of Honduras has not produced its desired outcome, the R.O.C. (Taiwan), in order to uphold national sovereignty and dignity, has decided to terminate diplomatic relations with the Republic of Honduras with immediate effect, end all bilateral cooperative projects, and recall the staff of its embassy, consulate general in San Pedro Sula, technical mission, and electricity mission. It has also demanded that Honduras close its embassy in Taiwan.

Honduran President Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento and her administration have always harbored illusions concerning China. Before the presidential elections in 2021, she had raised the issue of switching diplomatic recognition. Through Taiwan's efforts, Taiwan-Honduras relations remained stable during the initial period of her presidency. However, China never ceased its attempts to entice Honduras. MOFA and its embassy in Honduras remained abreast of related intelligence and responded appropriately. Meanwhile, the Castro administration demanded massive amounts of economic aid, totaling billions of US dollars, and weighed Taiwan's assistance proposals against those submitted by China. Based on the long-standing friendship between the two countries, Taiwan proposed assistance programs with the greatest sincerity and to the best of its capabilities. But Honduras continued to make willful and peremptory demands, even publicly releasing incorrect information, causing harm to the government of Taiwan.

For years, the government of Taiwan has implemented cooperation

programs in Honduras that benefit people's livelihoods and promote comprehensive national development. These programs cover a broad spectrum of domains, including medicine and healthcare, education, vocational training, energy, basic infrastructure, economy and trade, and women's empowerment. Whenever Honduras was struck by storms or flooding, Taiwan always promptly provided disaster relief and reconstruction assistance. Taiwan's technical mission has conducted numerous agricultural, fishery, and healthcare programs in Honduras over the years. In addition, the government of Taiwan stationed an electricity mission in Honduras to provide related technical consultations and assistance. The government of Taiwan expresses great sadness and regret that the Castro administration has disregarded Taiwan's long-standing assistance and friendship and engaged China in talks on establishing diplomatic relations.

MOFA reminds the international community that China frequently makes ostentatious commitments to lure Taiwan's diplomatic allies into switching diplomatic recognition. However, once China achieves its diplomatic objectives, it often fails to uphold its pledges, leaving some beneficiary countries mired in debt. MOFA urges countries across the globe to recognize the true nature of China's external aid, i.e., its actions do not align with its words.

MOFA also cautions the Beijing authorities that by repeatedly luring away Taiwan's diplomatic allies through false promises and reducing Taiwan's diplomatic space, they have seriously hurt the feelings of the people of Taiwan and have exacerbated the rift in cross-strait relations. MOFA emphasizes that the R.O.C. (Taiwan) is a sovereign and independent country and that neither the R.O.C. (Taiwan) nor the People's Republic of China is subordinate to the other. These are the facts as well as the status quo. Taiwan will not submit to the pressure and coercion of the Chinese authoritarian government. Instead, it will uphold the values of freedom and democracy and actively collaborate with allies and like-minded countries to jointly maintain regional peace and stability and ensure Taiwan's rightful international status.

- (2) The R.O.C. (Taiwan) officially withdraws from PARLACEN with immediate effect to uphold national dignity

August 22, 2023

No. 002

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) solemnly issues the following statement: On the morning of August 21, the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) forced through a proposal by the Nicaraguan parliamentary group to exclude Taiwan and include China. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) government protests this action in the strongest terms and, to uphold national sovereignty and dignity, has decided to officially withdraw from the PARLACEN with immediate effect.

In conformity with China's conspiracy to exclude Taiwan from the PARLACEN, the Nicaraguan parliamentary group and pro-China parliamentarians disregarded Taiwan's long-term contributions to the PARLACEN as well as to the integration and development of Central America. They did not hesitate to sow division within the PARLACEN and undermine democracy and harmony in the region, pressuring the PARLACEN to adopt the highly controversial proposal to exclude Taiwan and include China. MOFA strongly condemns Daniel Ortega's dictatorial regime for willingly serving as a Chinese pawn, erroneously citing United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 and manipulating the false narrative of the so-called "one China principle." This plot to deprive Taiwan of its rights and interests in the PARLACEN gravely harms the cooperation and friendship that the peoples of Taiwan and Central America have enjoyed for so many years, as well as highlighting China's relentless scheming to erode democracy in Central America and its expansionist ambitions in the region. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) government strongly denounces Nicaragua and China for their brazen actions aimed at damaging Taiwan's rights, interests, and status.

The founding principles of the PARLACEN seek to promote and expand cooperation among Central American nations, enhance the welfare of people in the region, consolidate political democracy, and advance regional integration and peace. The R.O.C. (Taiwan), on the basis of its support

for and affirmation of these ideals, became an extra-regional permanent observer of the PARLACEN in 1999. Working in cooperation with member states over the years, it has implemented numerous bilateral and regional projects that have furthered regional prosperity and development. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) has always been a loyal partner of the PARLACEN, promoting regional peace and integration.

MOFA reiterates that the R.O.C. (Taiwan) is a sovereign and independent country and that neither the R.O.C. (Taiwan) nor the People's Republic of China are subordinate to the other. These are facts and the status quo. China's unrelenting use of various tactics to suppress Taiwan's international participation and overt attempts to meddle in Taiwan's democratic elections will not gain China the affirmation of the global community, but they will bolster Taiwan's determination to proactively expand its international presence. Taiwan will never yield to China's rhetorical assaults or military intimidation. Taiwan will staunchly uphold the values of freedom and democracy, actively working with diplomatic allies and like-minded countries to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability, in addition to striving for Taiwan's rightful international space and status.

5. Treaties and agreements signed between the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and other countries and international organizations

NO	REGION	CATEGORY	SIGNATORY	NAME OF TREATY	DATE OF SIGNATURE/ DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE
1	Asia-Pacific	Environment	JAPAN	台湾日本関係協会と公益財団法人日本台湾交流協会との間の日台海洋廃棄物の処理に関する協力覚書	2023/01/13 2023/01/13
2	Asia-Pacific	Immigration Affairs	JAPAN	台湾日本関係協会と公益財団法人日本台湾交流協会との台日双方が相手側の空港において入境事前チェックを行うことに関する覚書	2023/01/17 / 2023/01/17
3	Africa	Economy and Trade	ESWATINI, KINGDOM OF	DECISION NO. 3 THE NEW TARIFF CONCESSIONS UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI	2023/02/14 2023/03/20 / 2024/1/12
4	Central and South America	Diplomatic and Consular Affairs	PARAGUAY, REPUBLIC OF	ACUERDO DE COOPERACIÓN SOBRE INTERCAMBIO Y FORMACIÓN DEL PERSONAL DIPLOMÁTICO ENTRE EL MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES DE LA REPÚBLICA DE CHINA (TAIWÁN) Y EL MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES DE LA REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY	2023/02/16 / 2023/02/16
5	Asia-Pacific	Judicial Affairs	KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MUTUAL LEGAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TAIPEI MISSION IN KOREA AND THE KOREAN MISSION IN TAIPEI	2023/02/24 / 2023/02/24
6	Asia-Pacific	Judicial Affairs	JAPAN	台湾日本関係協会と公益財団法人日本台湾交流協会との間の法務司法分野における交流と協力に関する覚書	2023/03/16 / 2023/03/16
7	Central and South America	Technical Cooperation	GUATEMALA, REPUBLIC OF	ACUERDO BÁSICO DE COOPERACIÓN ENTRE EL GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE CHINA (TAIWÁN) Y EL GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE GUATEMALA	2023/03/31 / 2024/01/05
8	Central and South America	Development Assistance and Cooperation	BELIZE	FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE	2023/04/03 / 2023/06/30
9	Asia-Pacific	Tourism	VIETNAM, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF	ANNEX EXTENSION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON TOURISM COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN VIETNAM AND THE VIETNAM ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN TAIPEI	2023/04/04 2023/04/24 / 2023/04/24

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NO	REGION	CATEGORY	SIGNATORY	NAME OF TREATY	DATE OF SIGNATURE/ DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE
10	Asia-Pacific	Diplomatic and Consular Affairs	MARSHALL ISLANDS, REPUBLIC OF	DIPLOMATIC STAFF TRAINING COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS	2023/04/13 / 2023/04/13
11	North America	Food and Drugs	CANADA	AMENDED ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN CANADA AND THE CANADIAN TRADE OFFICE IN TAIPEI REGARDING THE IMPORTATION OF BEEF FROM CANADA ASSOCIATION, TAIPEI ON MUTUAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF STANDARDIZATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT	2023/04/13 / 2023/06/15
12	Central and South America	Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry and Animal Husbandry	GUATEMALA, REPUBLIC OF	CANJE DE NOTAS DEL “CONVENIO DE COOPERACIÓN TÉCNICO-AGROPECUARIA ENTRE LA REPÚBLICA DE GUATEMALA Y LA REPÚBLICA DE CHINA (TAIWÁN)”	2023/04/24 2023/04/26 / 2023/07/01
13	Central and South America	Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry and Animal Husbandry	PARAGUAY, REPUBLIC OF	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS BETWEEN THE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AGENCY, COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE, EXECUTIVE YUAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE NATIONAL SERVICE FOR PLANT AND SEED QUALITY AND HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY	2023/04/25 / 2023/04/25
14	North America	Technical Cooperation	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION	2023/06/20 2023/06/21 / 2023/06/21
15	Asia-Pacific	Anti-Money Laundering	NAURU, REPUBLIC OF	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING DIVISION, INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT (FIU), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND BORDER CONTROL, REPUBLIC OF NAURU CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE EXCHANGE OF FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE RELATED TO MONEY LAUNDERING, ASSOCIATED PREDICATE OFFENCES AND TERRORISM FINANCING	2023/06/20 2023/08/07 / 2023/08/07
16	Central and South America	Technical Cooperation	GUATEMALA, REPUBLIC OF	ACUERDO DE COOPERACIÓN PARA IMPULSAR EL PROYECTO DE SISTEMA DE ALERTA TEMPRANA Y MANEJO DE DESASTRES EN GUATEMALA, ENTRE EL GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE CHINA (TAIWÁN) Y EL GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE GUATEMALA	2023/07/06 / 2023/12/13

Appendix 5 Treaties and agreements signed between the R.O.C. (Taiwan) and other countries and international organizations

NO	REGION	CATEGORY	SIGNATORY	NAME OF TREATY	DATE OF SIGNATURE/ DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE
17	North America	Technical Cooperation	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	AMENDMENT NO.8 TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AREAS OF WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	2023/07/13 / 2023/07/13
18	North America	Technical Cooperation	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	AMENDMENT NO.3 TO APPENDIX NO.6 TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AREAS OF WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	2023/07/13 / 2023/07/13
19	North America	Technical Cooperation	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	AMENDMENT NO.4 TO APPENDIX NO.8 TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AREAS OF WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	2023/07/13 / 2023/07/13
20	Central and South America	Diplomatic and Consular Affairs	SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER (SAINT KITTS) AND NEVIS ON DIPLOMATIC STAFF TRAINING COOPERATION	2023/9/18 / 2023/09/18
21	Central and South America	Economy and Trade	GUATEMALA, REPUBLIC OF	DECISION NO.16 EXPANSION OF THE EXPORT TARIFF QUOTA FOR RAW SUGAR AND REFINED SUGAR APPLICABLE TO GUATEMALA WITHIN THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA	2023/09/19 2023/10/15 / 2023/12/8
22	Asia-Pacific	Development Assistance and Cooperation	ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHINESE TAIPEI AND THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION SECRETARIAT CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE APEC SUPPORT FUND AND APEC POLICY SUPPORT UNIT	2023/10/05 / 2023/10/05
23	Europe	Economy and Trade	UNITED KINGDOM	AN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE BRITISH OFFICE TAIPEI ON ESTABLISHING AN ENHANCED TRADE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM	2023/11/08 / 2023/11/08
24	North America	Investment	CANADA	ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN CANADA AND THE CANADIAN TRADE OFFICE IN TAIPEI FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS	2023/12/22 / 2023/12/29

6. List of Taiwan's participation in international organizations

Intergovernmental organizations of which the R.O.C. (Taiwan) is a full member

	Year of Accession	Acronym	Year of Accession
1.	World Organisation for Animal Health	OIE	1954
2.	Asian Productivity Organization	APO	1961
3.	International Seed Testing Association	ISTA	1962
4.	International Cotton Advisory Committee	ICAC	1963
5.	Asian Development Bank	ADB	1966
6.	African-Asian Rural Development Organization	AARDO	1968
7.	Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region	FFTC	1970
8.	World Vegetable Center	WorldVeg	1971
9.	International Organization of Securities Commissions	IOSCO	1987
10.	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	APEC	1991
11.	Central American Bank for Economic Integration	CABEI	1992
12.	International Cospas-Sarsat Programme	Cospas-Sarsat	1992
13.	South East Asian Central Banks	SEACEN	1992
14.	International Association of Insurance Supervisors	IAIS	1994
15.	Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum	APLMF	1994
16.	Study Group on Asian Tax Administration and Research	SGATAR	1996
17.	Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering	APG	1997
18.	Association of Asian Election Authorities	AAEA	1998

	Year of Accession	Acronym	Year of Accession
19.	Egmont Group	EG	1998
20.	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions	APAARI	1999
21.	Global Harmonization Working Party	GHWP	1999
22.	International Transportation Safety Association	ITSA	2000
23.	International Competition Network	ICN	2002
24.	The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean	ISC	2002
25.	Extended Commission, Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	CCSBT-EC	2002
26.	World Trade Organization	WTO	2002
27.	Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, World Customs Organization (WCO)	WCO-TCCV	2002
28.	Technical Committee on Rules of Origin, World Customs Organization (WCO)	WCO-TCRO	2002
29.	Advisory Centre on WTO Law	ACWL	2004
30.	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	WCPFC	2004
31.	International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators	IFIAR	2008
32.	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	IATTC	2010
33.	International Council for Information Technology in Government Administration	ICA	2010
34.	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation	SPRFMO	2012
35.	Association of World Election Bodies	A-WEB	2013
36.	Asset Recovery Interagency Network-Asia Pacific	ARIN-AP	2014

Appendix 6 List of Taiwan's participation in international organizations

	Year of Accession	Acronym	Year of Accession
37.	Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS		2014
38.	North Pacific Fisheries Commission	NPFC	2015
39.	International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use	ICH	2018
40.	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	SIOFA	2019
41	Global Financial Innovation Network	GFIN	2019
42	International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation	ICCR	2020
43	Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement	IPETCA	2022
44	Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules Forum	Global CBPR Forum	2022
45	Asian Access to Information Alliance	AAIA	2022

Intergovernmental international organizations and conferences in which the R.O.C (Taiwan) participates using another status

	Year of Accession	Acronym	Year of Accession
1.	Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	Montreal Protocol	1990
2.	Inter-American Development Bank	IDB	1991
3.	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	EBRD	1991
4.	Pacific Islands Forum	PIF	1993
5.	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	CITES	1994
6.	Food Aid Committee	FAC	1995
7.	International Grains Council	IGC	1995
8.	Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale	OIML	1997
9.	Foro de Presidentes y Presidentas de Poderes Legislativos de Centroamérica y la Cuenca del Caribe	FOPREL	1999
10.	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	ICCAT	1999
11.	Global Biodiversity Information Facility	GBIF	2001
12.	Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana	SICA	2002
13.	Competition Committee, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	OECD-CC	2002
14.	Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures	CGPM	2002
15.	Kimberley Process	KP	2003
16.	Steel Committee, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	OECD-SC	2005

	Year of Accession	Acronym	Year of Accession
17.	Conferencia de las Fuerzas Armadas Centroamericanas	CFAC	2005
18.	Fisheries Committee, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	OECD-FC	2006
19.	Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee, World Customs Organization	WCO-RKC/ MC	2006
20.	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	UNFCCC	2009
21.	International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network	ICPEN	2009
22.	International Renewable Energy Agency	IRENA	2011
23.	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels	ACAP	2019
24.	Safer Skies Consultative Committee	SSCC	2022
25.	International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance	IRFBA	2022
26.	World Health Organization [Taiwan was included in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) of the WHO, and few Taiwan experts managed to take part in WHO technical meetings to a limited extent.]	WHO	2009
27.	Freedom Online Coalition	FOC	2023
28.	International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities	ICMRA	2023
29.	International Medical Device Regulators Forum	IMDRF	2023

