

# The Republic of China at a Glance



2013-2014

Taiwan

Published by Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Republic of China (Taiwan)



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# ROC Snapshot

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Official name	Republic of China
National Flag	
National Flower	
Area (Taiwan and associated islands)	36,193.6 square kilometers
Population	23.36 million (October 2013)
Ethnicity	More than 95 percent Han Chinese (including Holo, Hakka and other groups that originated in mainland China); 2 percent indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples
Government	Multiparty democracy
President	Ma Ying-jeou
Special municipalities	Taipei City, New Taipei City, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung
National currency	New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$ or TWD)
Official language	Mandarin (Chinese)
Dialects and other languages	Holo (Taiwanese), Hakka, Austronesian languages
Major religions	Buddhism, Taoism, I-Kuan Tao, Chinese folk religion, Christianity, Islam

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# National Anthem

Dr. Sun Yat-sen 孫中山

Music by Cheng Mao-yun 程懋筠  
Accompaniment by Huang Tzu 黃自

三民主義，吾黨所宗，以建民國，以進大同，咨爾多士，為民前鋒，夙夜匪懈，主義是從，矢勤矢勇，必信必忠，一心一德，貫徹始終！

San - min - zhu - yi, wu dang suo zong, yi jian min  
San - min - zhu - yi, our aim shall be; to found a free  
guo, yi jin da tong. Zi er duo shi, wei min qian feng, su  
land, world peace be our stand. Lead on, com-rades, van - guards ye are; hold  
ye fei xie, zhu yi shi cong. Shi qin shi yong, bi xin bi  
fast your aim, by sun and star. Be ear-nest and brave, your coun-try to  
zhong, yi xin yi de, guan che shi zhong.  
save; one heart, one soul, one mind, one goal

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# Natural Taiwan



Xiaoliuqiu, which lies about 12 kilometers off Taiwan's southwest coast, is the country's only outlying island formed entirely of coral.  
(Hong Jhih-ren, courtesy of Tourism Bureau)

## Geography and Climate

The Republic of China, popularly known as Taiwan, is situated in the West Pacific between Japan and the Philippines. Its jurisdiction extends to the

archipelagoes of Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, as well as numerous other islets. The total area of Taiwan proper and its outlying islands is 36,193.6 square kilometers. At about the size of the Netherlands, but with a population of some 23 million, Taiwan is more populous than three-quarters of the world's nations.

Taiwan proper, measuring 395 kilometers from north to south and 144 kilometers from east to west at its widest, has more than its share of natural splendor. Mountain ranges with many peaks reaching over 3,000 meters—including East Asia's highest, Jade Mountain (Yushan)—and forested

foothills occupy more than half of its area.

Other physiographical regions include volcanic mountains, tablelands, coastal



plains and basins. The Diaoyutai Islands, which lie northeast of Taiwan, and a number of islands in the South China Sea including those in the Dongsha, Nansha, Xisha and Zhongsha island groups, are also an inherent part of the ROC's territory.

Sitting in the path of warm ocean currents off the east coast of Asia, Taiwan proper is uniquely blessed with a wide range of climatic zones from tropical to temperate. This, in combination with fertile soil and

**A Formosan blue magpie rests  
on the branch of a blooming  
tung oil tree.**

(Courtesy of Hakka Affairs Council)



abundant rainfall, makes it an agricultural paradise, where virtually any kind of fruit or vegetable can be cultivated. It also makes the island a recreational wonderland. In the winter, one can watch the snow fall on the slopes of Hehuan Mountain in Nantou County and then travel a mere 200 kilometers to balmy Pingtung County to enjoy skin diving at coral reefs along the island's southern tip.

The smaller islands, meanwhile, have their own unique natural features, such as the basaltic pillars on the Penghu Islands and the marine hot springs along the shores of Green Island and Guishan Island.

## Flora and Fauna

Taiwan's tropical-to-temperate spectrum of climatic zones and wide range of topographies have endowed the island with a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Some 120 species of mammals, 670 species of birds, 141 species of reptiles, 65 species of amphibians, 400 species of butterflies and 3,100 species of fish are known to inhabit Taiwan. The island's plant life comprises 674 species of ferns, 4,596 species of angiosperms and 34 species of gymnosperms.

To protect the ecosystems in which these plants and animals reside, the government has reserved about 20 percent of the nation's land area as protected areas, comprising eight national parks and one national nature park, 21



A sunrise view from the top of Hehuan Mountain in Nantou County, central Taiwan. Hehuan's highest peak reaches 3,417 meters.

(Kuo Chi-nan, courtesy of Tourism Bureau)

nature reserves for special ecosystems, six forest reserve areas, 18 wildlife refuges and 35 major wildlife habitats.

Among the most famous Taiwanese species of fauna is the Formosan landlocked salmon. The fish is believed to have become trapped in the frigid mountain waters of central Taiwan during the last Ice Age when ocean levels dropped dramatically and the salmon could no longer migrate back and forth between fresh water and salt water. To protect the endangered species, the Formosan Landlocked Salmon Refuge was established in the upper reaches of the Dajia River in Shei-pa National Park.

## National Parks

**National Parks of Taiwan:** [np.cpami.gov.tw](http://np.cpami.gov.tw)

**Kenting National Park:** [www.ktnp.gov.tw](http://www.ktnp.gov.tw)

**Yushan (Jade Mountain) National Park:**

[www.ysnp.gov.tw](http://www.ysnp.gov.tw)

**Yangmingshan National Park:** [www.ymsnp.gov.tw](http://www.ymsnp.gov.tw)

**Taroko National Park:** [www.taroko.gov.tw](http://www.taroko.gov.tw)

**Shei-pa National Park:** [www.spnp.gov.tw](http://www.spnp.gov.tw)

**Kinmen National Park:** [www.kmnp.gov.tw](http://www.kmnp.gov.tw)

**Dongsha Atoll National Park:** [dongsha.cpami.gov.tw](http://dongsha.cpami.gov.tw)

**Taijiang National Park:** [www.tjnp.gov.tw](http://www.tjnp.gov.tw)

**Shoushan National Nature Park:** [snnp.cpami.gov.tw](http://snnp.cpami.gov.tw)

# People



Visitors gaze from windows that overlook colorful ceramic figures at Bantou Village in Xingang Township, Chiayi County, southern Taiwan. (Cheng Yuan-ching)

While Taiwan may be described as a predominantly Han Chinese society with more than 95 percent of the population claiming Han ancestry, its heritage is actually much more complex than such

a generalization implies.

The successive waves of Chinese immigrants that began arriving in the 17th century belonged to a variety of subgroups with mutually unintelligible languages and different customs. Today in Taiwan, however, distinctions between them have become blurred as a result of extensive intermarriage and the universal use of the Mandarin Chinese language. Taiwan proper has been a melting pot not only of diverse Han subgroups, but also of indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples and immigrants from all over the world. Recent years, for example, have seen an influx of new arrivals from Southeast Asia.



There is a growing appreciation in Taiwan for the cultural legacies of the 14 officially

recognized Austronesian-speaking subgroups, which constitute a little more than 2 percent of the population. Both public and private organizations are making efforts to revitalize their languages and cultures, as illustrated by the launching of Taiwan Indigenous Television and the passage of the Indigenous Peoples Basic Act.

This convergence and interplay of currents of humanity in Taiwan have helped transform it into an open-hearted, forward-looking society that has incorporated diverse elements of civilization from around the world in a distinctive and harmonious manner.

## Population Profile

**Population:** 23,361,147 (October 2013)

**Crude birth rate:** 0.99 percent

**Crude death rate:** 0.66 percent

**Life expectancy:** 79.51 years

*Male:* 76.43 years

*Female:* 82.82 years

**Population structure (by age):**

**0-14 years:** 14.36 percent

**15-64 years:** 74.2 percent

**65 and above:** 11.43 percent



The Amis—pictured here in Matai'an, Hualien County, eastern Taiwan—are Taiwan's largest indigenous group and reside mainly in valleys and littoral areas along the east coast. (Hsueh Chi-kuang)

# History



The Confucian Temple in Tainan City, southern Taiwan. The temple was built in the 17th century and is now a national heritage site protected by the Cultural Heritage Preservation Act. (Chang Su-ching)

The Republic of China was founded in 1912 on the Chinese mainland. At that time, Taiwan was under Japanese colonial rule as a result of the 1895 Treaty of Shimonoseki, by



which the Qing court ceded Taiwan to Japan. The ROC government began exercising jurisdiction over Taiwan in 1945 after Japan surrendered at the end of World War II.

The ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949 after its defeat in the Chinese Civil War. Since then, the ROC has continued to exercise effective jurisdiction over the main island of Taiwan and a number of outlying islands, leaving Taiwan and the Chinese mainland each under the rule of a different government. The authorities in Beijing have never exercised

sovereignty over Taiwan or other islands administered by the ROC government in Taipei.

## Timeline of Recorded History

The following timeline focuses on Taiwan's recorded history dating from about 400 years ago, although it has been home to Malayo-Polynesian peoples for many millennia.

- 
- 1544** It is commonly believed that Portuguese sailors passing Taiwan record the island's name for the Europeans as *Ilha Formosa* (Beautiful Island). Taiwan continues to experience visits by small numbers of mainland Chinese merchants, fishermen and pirates.
- 
- 1624** The Dutch East India Company establishes a base in Tayoan, in southwest Taiwan, employing mainland Chinese laborers to work on its rice and sugarcane plantations.
- 
- 1626** Spanish adventurers establish bases in northern Taiwan, but are ousted by the Dutch in 1642.
- 
- 1662** Fleeing the Manchurian invasion of Ming dynasty (1368-1644) China, Ming loyalists under Zheng Cheng-gong (Koxinga) drive out the Dutch from Taiwan and rule the island in the name of the Ming dynasty.
- 
- 1683** Qing dynasty (1644-1912) forces take control of Taiwan's western and northern coastal areas.
- 
- 1885** Taiwan is declared a province of the Qing Empire.
-

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**1895** Following defeat in the First Sino-Japanese War, the Qing government signs the Treaty of Shimonoseki, by which it cedes sovereignty over Taiwan to Japan, which rules the island until the end of World War II in 1945.

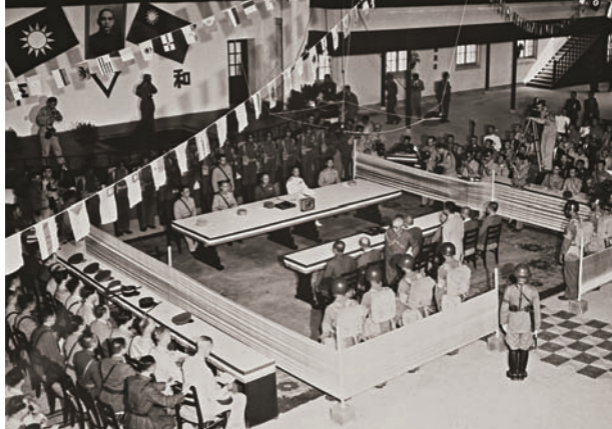
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**1911** Chinese revolutionaries overthrow the Qing  
– Empire and establish the Republic of China on  
**1912** the mainland.

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Chihkan Tower was built in 1653 by the Dutch in today's Tainan City, southern Taiwan. Statues in the foreground depict Ming dynasty loyalist Zheng Cheng-gong negotiating the departure of the Dutch from Taiwan in 1662.  
(Chang Su-ching)





Republic of China Army Commander-in-Chief He Ying-qin accepts Japan's unconditional surrender in 1945 in Nanjing, mainland China. (File photo)

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**1943** During World War II, ROC leader Chiang Kai-shek meets with U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Cairo. After the conclusion of the conference, the Cairo Declaration is released, stating that Taiwan and its associated islands should be restored to the Republic of China.

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**1945** The ROC, United Kingdom and United States jointly issue the Potsdam Proclamation, calling for Japan's unconditional surrender and the carrying-out of the Cairo Declaration. After World War II, ROC government representatives accept the surrender of Japanese forces in Taiwan, and Taiwan is restored to the ROC.

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**1947** The ROC Constitution is promulgated in Nanjing on the mainland on January 1 and is scheduled to take effect on December 25. In March and the following months, ROC troops dispatched from the mainland suppress a large-scale uprising of Taiwan residents sparked by the February 28 Incident.

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**1948** As civil war rages in China between the Kuomintang (KMT)-led ROC government and Chinese Communist Party rebels, the Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion are enacted, overriding the Constitution and greatly expanding presidential powers.

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**1949** The ROC central government relocates to Taipei, followed by 1.2 million people from mainland China. Thereafter, Taiwan and the Chinese mainland are each ruled by a separate government. However, the ROC government on Taiwan, acting on the basis of the ROC Constitution, has never, even today, forsaken its sovereignty over the mainland. October 25 sees the Battle of Kuningtou, in which the ROC armed forces defeat the Communists on the northwestern coast of the Kinmen Island. Martial law is declared in Taiwan and continues to be in force until 1987.

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**1952** The Treaty of Peace is signed between the ROC and Japan at the Taipei Guest House, formally ending the state of war between the two sides, reiterating Japan's position in renouncing all claims to Taiwan, Penghu and the Nansha (Spratly) and Xisha (Paracel) islands. Article 4 of the treaty states, "It is recognized that all treaties, conventions and agreements concluded before December 9, 1941, between China and Japan have become null and void as a consequence of the war." Those treaties include the Treaty of Shimonoseki ceding Taiwan to Japan. In other words, the Treaty of Shimonoseki becomes null and void as a result of war. The ROC regains sovereignty over Taiwan as the latter is returned to the ROC—the successor state of the Qing dynasty—Taiwan's rightful owner, while inhabitants of Taiwan and Penghu shall be ROC nationals.

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**1954** The ROC-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty is signed in Washington.

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**1958** August 23 sees the start of an artillery duel between the ROC garrison on the Kinmen Islands and the mainland Chinese forces, lasting more than 40 days.

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**1964** A treaty of amity is signed with the Republic of Korea.

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**1969** The Chinese National Committee of the International Press Institute is established in Taipei.

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**1971** The ROC withdraws from the United Nations in anticipation of a General Assembly vote to give the China seat to the authorities in Beijing.

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**1979** Democracy activists demonstrating in the southern city of Kaohsiung are arrested and imprisoned following what is known as the Kaohsiung Incident, which eventually led to the formation and development of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in 1986.

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**1987** Martial-law rule, in effect since 1949, ends and bans on the formation of new political parties and new news publications are lifted. Democratization goes into high gear. Cross-strait people-to-people exchanges begin.

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**1991** The Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion are abolished. From this year through 2005, the ROC Constitution undergoes seven rounds of revision. The ROC becomes a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

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**1992** Government-authorized representatives from across the Taiwan Strait meet for the first time in Hong Kong, and via subsequent communication reach an understanding that there exists one China, but subject to different political definitions. This is later referred to as the 1992 consensus.

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**1995** National Health Insurance program begins.

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- 1996** The ROC holds its first-ever direct presidential election, with the KMT's Lee Teng-hui and running mate Lien Chan garnering 54 percent of the vote.
- 
- 2000** Chen Shui-bian and Annette Hsiu-lien Lu of the DPP are elected president and vice president with 39 percent of the vote in a five-way race, ending the KMT's more than 50-year rule and marking the first transfer of ROC government executive power in Taiwan between political parties.
- 
- 2002** The ROC becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- 
- 2003** The Legislative Yuan passes the Referendum Act, providing a legal basis for ROC citizens to vote directly on issues of local or national importance.
- 
- 2004** The first national referendum is held in conjunction with the third direct presidential election, in which Chen and Lu are re-elected with a slight majority.
- 
- 2005** The Legislative Yuan passes a constitutional amendment package, halving the number of its seats from 225 to 113 and introducing the "single-seat-district, two ballot" system for legislative elections.
- 
- 2008** Ma Ying-jeou and Vincent C. Siew of the KMT are elected president and vice president of the ROC, garnering 58 percent of the vote and marking the second transfer of ROC government executive power in Taiwan between political parties.
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**2009** The ROC attends the World Health Assembly as an observer, marking its first participation in an activity of the United Nations since withdrawing in 1971.

President Ma Ying-jeou signs the instruments of ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Taiwan accedes to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement.

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**2010** The ROC inks the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement with mainland China to normalize economic and trade relations across the Taiwan Strait.

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**2011** The ROC celebrates its centennial in Taiwan.

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**2012** Incumbent Ma Ying-jeou and his new running mate Wu Den-yih, representing the KMT, win the election for president and vice president with 51.6 percent of the vote.

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**2013** The ROC signs an agreement on economic cooperation with New Zealand and an agreement on economic partnership with Singapore. The ROC attends the 38th session of the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly as the guest of the council's president.

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# Political System



The Office of the President towers above temporary structures erected for National Day celebrations, which take place on October 10 each year.  
(Courtesy of Office of the President)

The people of Taiwan cherish human rights, which comprise an integral part of everyday life from gender empowerment to comprehensive national health insurance. Legislation to enhance the people's



welfare, promote social equality and safeguard labor rights is a manifestation of the government's staunch commitment to protect the rights and interests of the people.

For example, in 2012, Taiwan implemented the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with the aim of advancing gender equality and pushing for nondiscrimination between the sexes. That same year, the government released the ROC's first *National Report on Human Rights*, which was drafted in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in the United Nations' stipulated format. The

report received high praise from a panel of 10 overseas experts who traveled to Taiwan to review the document in early 2013.

## Levels of Government

The national government comprises the presidency and five major branches, or yuans. The local governments at present include those of five special municipalities, 14 counties and three autonomous municipalities with the same hierarchical status as counties. All heads of local governments are popularly elected to terms of four years.

Special municipalities are top-level administrative entities that fall under the direct jurisdiction of the central government. The status carries with it access to greater funding and the opportunity to set up additional agencies and employ more civil servants. The five special municipalities are New Taipei, Kaohsiung, Taichung, Taipei, and Tainan cities in order of population.

## The Presidency

The president is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, represents the nation in foreign relations, and is empowered to appoint heads of four branches of the government, including the premier, who leads the Executive Yuan. The president and vice president are directly elected, serve terms of four years and may be re-elected for one additional term.

## Five Branches of Government

The heads of ministries, commissions and agencies under the Executive Yuan are appointed by the premier and form the Executive Yuan Council,



**The Executive Yuan building in Taipei. The executive branch of the Republic of China government comprises members of the Cabinet and is headed by the premier. (Huang Chung-hsin)**

commonly referred to as the Cabinet. The premier bears the overall responsibility for formulating and implementing policies and must report regularly to the Legislative Yuan (Legislature). To improve administrative effectiveness, the Executive Yuan is undergoing restructuring to reduce the number of Cabinet-level organizations from 37 to 29. After the reorganization, which commenced at the start of 2012 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2014, the Executive Yuan will consist of 14 ministries, eight councils, three independent agencies and four other organizations.

Besides reviewing and enacting legislation, the Legislature conducts hearings on policy matters, examines budgetary bills and monitors government operations. The

Examination Yuan is responsible for managing the civil service system, the Judicial Yuan operates the nation's court system, and the Control Yuan is empowered to impeach and censure officials and audit government agencies.

Under the Constitution, neither the president's appointment of the premier nor the premier's appointment of ministers is subject to legislative confirmation. Presidential appointment of the members of the Control Yuan and the Examination Yuan, as well as justices of the Judicial Yuan, must be confirmed by the Legislature, however. Legislators elect the head of the Legislature, or speaker, from among their ranks.

## Political Parties

Given the key role of the presidency in the overall functioning of the ROC government, the term “ruling party” denotes which political party occupies the Office of the President. The Kuomintang (KMT)—or Nationalist Party—held the presidency in Taiwan for more than five decades before the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. The KMT regained power by winning the 2008 race and held on again in 2012. The DPP remains the main opposition party.

In the January 2012 legislative elections, the KMT gained 57 percent of the seats in the Legislature to the DPP's 35 percent. Other major parties that

have a presence in the Legislature include the Non-Partisan Solidarity Union, the People First Party and the Taiwan Solidarity Union.

## The ROC Constitution

The ROC Constitution, promulgated on January 1, 1947, did not begin to serve its intended purpose as the foundation for democratic governance and rule of law until after 1987, when martial law was lifted in Taiwan. Since then, it has undergone seven rounds of revision—in 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2005—in order to make it more relevant to the country's current condition.

One of the important consequences of these amendments is that since 1991 the ROC government has acknowledged that its jurisdiction extends only to the areas it controls. The ROC president and legislators, therefore, are elected by and accountable to the people of those areas only.

In accordance with constitutional amendments promulgated in June 2005, the number of seats in the Legislative Yuan was halved from 225 to 113 and legislators' terms were increased from three to four years. Under the new legislative election system, each electoral district elects just one seat. Each voter casts two ballots, however: one for the district and the other for at-large seats. The power to ratify constitutional amendments is now exercised by ROC citizens through referenda.

# Foreign Affairs



President Ma Ying-jeou, left, shakes hands with Paraguayan President-elect Horacio Cartes on August 14, 2013 in Asuncion. Ma visited the South American nation and four countries in the Caribbean from August 12 to August 21, 2013.

(Courtesy of Office of the President)

The ROC is a sovereign and independent state that maintains its own national defense and conducts its own foreign affairs. As enshrined in the ROC Constitution, the country aims to “cultivate good-



neighborliness with other nations, and respect treaties of the Charter of the United Nations ... promote international cooperation, protect international justice and ensure world peace.” The ultimate goal of the country’s foreign policy is to ensure a favorable environment for the nation’s preservation and long-term development.

To increase the ROC’s participation in the world community, since mid-2008 the government has adopted an approach based on the principles of dignity, pragmatism and flexibility known as “viable diplomacy” to broaden the country’s cooperation with other nations and

pursue meaningful participation in U.N. specialized agencies.

The ROC currently has diplomatic relations with 22 countries and substantive ties with many others. It has full membership in 33 intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and their subsidiary bodies, including the World Trade Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank. It also enjoys observer or other status in 20 IGOs and their subsidiary bodies, including the World Health Assembly, the supreme decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Although the ROC is still unable to participate in numerous key international organizations or establish formal diplomatic ties with many nations, it is fully committed to fulfilling its international obligations and contributing to the world community. It cooperates closely with other governments to combat terrorism and crime; strives to act in conformance with international covenants on human rights; and provides technical as well as humanitarian aid to countries in need through various programs funded by its International Cooperation and Development Fund and private sector. In the wake of economic improvements and democratic transformation, nongovernmental organizations have also played a key role in enabling Taiwan to exert soft power in the international arena.

Members of one of the first groups of Taiwanese tourists to travel to the United States under the U.S. Visa Waiver program, to which the ROC was admitted in 2012 (Jimmy Lin)



The outcome of such efforts has been encouraging. In September 2013, the ROC received an invitation to attend the triennial assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a U.N. specialized agency. The United States, European nations and other major countries have backed Taiwan's participation in agencies such as the ICAO and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as expanded participation in the WHO. Meanwhile, as of October 2013, 134 countries and territories had

accorded visa-free or landing visa privileges to ROC nationals. Notably, among the 37 countries included in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, Taiwan is the only one that does not maintain diplomatic relations with the United States, indicating the otherwise close

ROC President Ma Ying-jeou addresses participants at the East China Sea Peace Forum held in Taipei on August 5, 2013. The date marked the first anniversary of the announcement of the East China Sea Peace Initiative, which was proposed by the ROC to urge parties involved in sovereignty disputes over the Diaoyutai Islands to shelve their differences and work together to explore and develop the area's natural resources.

(Courtesy of Office of the President)



relationship between the two sides. The ROC had also inked working holiday agreements with nine countries by March 2013.

In August 2012, the ROC proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative, which urges parties involved in sovereignty disputes over the Diaoyutai Islands to shelve their differences and work together to explore and develop the area's natural resources. It envisions the formulation of an East China Sea Code of Conduct that would help foster regional peace and stability. A result of the peace initiative came on April 10, 2013, when Taiwan signed a fisheries agreement with Japan after 17 rounds of negotiations since 1996, further safeguarding the fishing rights of Taiwanese vessels in the waters surrounding the Diaoyutais.

The ROC will continue to act as a peacemaker, provide humanitarian aid, promote cultural ties, create new technologies and business opportunities, and maintain its role as a standard-bearer of Chinese culture.

# Cross-strait Relations



Tourists from mainland China review pictures they have taken of the unique rock formations at Yehliu Geopark on Taiwan's northern coast. (Hsueh Chi-kuang)

Since the ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949, it has exercised jurisdiction over Taiwan proper, the Penghu Islands, Kinmen, Matsu and a number of smaller islands, while the Chinese mainland has

been under the control of the authorities in Beijing. Beginning with the acceleration of Taiwan's democratization in the late 1980s, many restrictions concerning economic exchanges with the Chinese mainland have been lifted. These days, Taiwan is one of the biggest investors in mainland China, and more than 1 million Taiwanese managerial and technical experts and their families live and work there.

President Ma Ying-jeou, since taking office in 2008, has worked to strengthen the ROC's contributions to regional peace and stability by cultivating closer and more amicable relations with mainland China under the principle of "putting Taiwan first for the benefit of the people."

Taipei and Beijing have since

focused on issues of immediate, practical importance to both sides and put aside thorny political issues.



二零一三年六月 上海



Lin Join-sane, seated left, chairman of the Taipei-based Straits Exchange Foundation, and Chen Deming, seated right, chairman of the Beijing-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, sign the Cross-Strait Trade in Services Agreement on June 21, 2013 in Shanghai.  
(Courtesy of Straits Exchange Foundation)

In June 2008, institutionalized talks between Taiwan's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation and the mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits resumed after a 10-year hiatus. By June 2013, nine rounds of negotiations had been held alternately on either side of the strait, producing 19 formal agreements and two consensuses. Areas and issues covered include direct transportation, food safety, financial cooperation, joint crime-fighting and mutual judicial assistance, industry standards, fishery and agricultural collaboration, protection of intellectual property rights, medical care cooperation, nuclear energy safety, investment protection, customs cooperation and trade in services. In addition, four memoranda of understanding had been signed for cross-strait cooperation on financial supervision and currency clearing.

Most significant among the accords is the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) concluded in June 2010, which aims to normalize trade and economic relations between Taiwan and the mainland. The pact calls for the progressive elimination or reduction of tariffs on most goods as well as the opening of the service sector to investment and competition. An agreement on trade in services was signed in June 2013, while negotiations on trade in goods and on dispute resolution were ongoing as of that time. ECFA has boosted Taiwan's efforts to ink trade pacts with other countries such as the conclusion of an economic cooperation agreement with New Zealand in July 2013 and an economic partnership agreement with Singapore in November the same year.

Civil exchanges across the strait have also increased as bilateral relations have warmed. By the end of July 2013, mainland Chinese tourists had made more than 6.7 million visits to Taiwan since the two sides agreed to allow tour groups from mainland China in July 2008 and individual tourists in June 2011. In August 2013, the Civil Aeronautics Administration announced up to 670 direct cross-strait flights per week would be allowed between 10 airports in Taiwan and 54 airports in mainland China. Pertinent restrictions have also been lifted to allow mainland Chinese students to pursue degrees at Taiwan's universities. All of these developments underscore a change of attitude of authorities in both Taipei and Beijing that is conducive to fostering cooperation and building trust.

# Economy



Computex Taipei, the largest annual computer trade show held in Asia, draws the attendance of the world's best-known brands in the information and communications technology sector. (Huang Chung-hsin)

Taiwan occupies an important position in the global economy. It is a top player in the world's information and communications technology (ICT) industry as well as a major supplier of goods across the industrial



spectrum. According to the World Trade Organization, it was the 17th-largest exporter and 18th-largest importer of merchandise in 2012. It also remained the fourth-largest holder of foreign exchange reserves at the end of 2012. Taiwan's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita reached US\$20,423 in 2012, ranking it close to that of Malta and Portugal. In terms of nominal GDP, Taiwan ranks close to Argentina, Austria, Belgium and South Africa, while Taiwan's GDP per capita expressed as purchasing power parity ranks close to that of Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom.

After weathering the global financial crisis through 2009, Taiwan's export-oriented economy took another hit in the second half of 2011 attributable to the Eurozone debt crisis

and financial deleveraging in developed countries, with Taiwan's GDP growing 1.48 percent in 2012. The nation's overall exports and imports slipped by 2.32 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively, over the previous year. Preliminary statistics indicate that in 2013 Taiwan's overall exports rose slightly by 0.7 percent and its imports were down by 0.1 percent.

Despite the slight growth of Taiwan's economy, authoritative annual surveys of the world's economies—including those conducted by the World Economic Forum, Business Environment Risk Intelligence and the Economist Intelligence Unit—have ranked Taiwan among the world's top nations year after year with respect to long-term growth and technological development. Results for 2013 were no exception (see table “Global Survey Rankings”).

Small and medium-sized enterprises, accounting for nearly 98 percent of all enterprises in Taiwan, play a critical role in the nation's economy. Their efficiency in asset utilization, strong innovation capacity and increased R&D spending have facilitated faster growth than larger enterprises in both capital and labor productivity over recent years.

As in previous years, the ICT and electronics industries were among the economy's best performers in 2012. Important sectors include integrated circuits, optoelectronics, computers and peripherals, telecommunications, precision machinery and

biotechnology. The lion's share of high-tech revenues was generated by companies located in the Hsinchu Science Park, Southern Taiwan Science Park and Central Taiwan Science Park. According to the National Science Council, the combined revenues of these three science parks amounted to US\$67.67 billion in 2012.

To foster the country's sustainable economic development, the Executive Yuan unveiled a massive economic stimulus plan (the Economic Power-Up Plan) in September 2012 to strengthen the country's responses to external influences like the European debt crisis and to improve prospects for long-term growth. To achieve these goals, the plan focuses on five initiatives: promoting innovative and diverse industries, developing new export markets, cultivating industry talent, spurring investments and public construction, and enhancing government efficacy.

There have already been encouraging results. For example, to encourage overseas Taiwanese-owned operations to invest back home, the Cabinet-level Council for Economic Planning and Development launched a program in early November 2012 under which qualified enterprises are entitled to apply for low-interest loans from a NT\$10 billion (US\$333.3 million) fund. The scheme will run until the end of 2014. Businesses also benefit from loosened regulations on the employment of foreign workers as well as from reduced tariffs on machinery imported specifically for use in their new facilities in Taiwan.

The ROC and the United States resumed talks under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) in March 2013, and both sides agreed on many plans for future action. Signed in 1994 as a framework for ROC-U.S. dialogue on trade issues, TIFA served as the basis for bilateral trade talks until 2007, when they were suspended largely due to a controversy over U.S. beef exports to Taiwan. The resumption of talks represents a new stage in the ROC-U.S. economic relationship and is expected to further discussion of trade issues of concern to both sides.

Also in March, the Cabinet outlined its free economic pilot zone (FEPZ) project aimed at liberalizing trade through regulatory easing on flows of capital, goods, information and talent. The FEPZ initiative will leverage Taiwan's advantages in human resources, ICT, as well as its pivotal location in Asia and special economic ties with mainland China to develop high value-added economic activity.

In July 2013, the ROC signed the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC). The high-quality economic cooperation pact is Taiwan's first with a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Aside from eliminating tariffs, the deal will also expand access for trade in services, and boost cultural exchanges between the two sides. Of note,

the agreement includes sections on environmental protection, intellectual property and labor rights. In November the same year, a similar pact, the Agreement between Singapore and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Partnership (ASTEP), was signed between the ROC and Singapore. It is Taiwan's first such accord with a trading partner in Southeast Asia. ASTEP also goes beyond World Trade Organization requirements.

Developments such as ANZTEC, ASTEP and the FEPZ are expected to assist the country's participation in regional economic integration such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

### Economic Profile (2012)

**GDP (nominal):** US\$475 billion (27th in the world)

**GDP per capita (nominal):**

US\$20,423 (38th in the world)

**GDP (PPP) per capita (by IMF):**

US\$38,357 (19th in the world)

**Services** accounted for 69.15 percent of GDP

**Industry** accounted for 28.95 percent of GDP

**Agriculture** accounted for 1.90 percent of GDP

### Trade and Investment Profile (2012)

**Bilateral trade volume:** US\$571.65 billion

**Exports:** US\$301.18 billion

**Imports:** US\$270.47 billion

**Trade balance:** US\$30.71 billion surplus

**Top export destinations:** Mainland China (including Hong Kong) 39.4 percent, ASEAN-6\* 18.5 percent, United States 10.95 percent, European Union 8.7 percent, Japan 6.3 percent, South Korea 3.93 percent

**Top import sources:** Japan 17.59 percent, mainland China (including Hong Kong) 16.11 percent,

## Global Survey Rankings

<b>Topic of Survey (Date of Publication)</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Countries Surveyed</b>
Investment climate (December 2013)	3	50
World Competitiveness Scoreboard (May 2013)	11	60
Networked Readiness Index 2013 (April 2013)	10	144
Global Competitiveness Index 2013-2014 (September 2013)	12	148
2014 Index of Economic Freedom (January 2014)	17	185
2012 Legatum Prosperity Index (October 2013)	22	142
Ease of Doing Business (June 2013)	16	189

ASEAN-6 11.60 percent, United States 8.73 percent, European Union 8.3 percent, South Korea 5.57 percent

**Foreign exchange reserves:** US\$416.81 billion (among the top five in the world as of December 2013)

**Registered outward investment:** US\$20.89 billion; top five destinations were mainland China (US\$12.79 billion), Singapore (US\$4.5 billion), Japan (US\$1.09 billion), Vietnam (US\$944 million) and Australia (US\$344 million).

#### Surveying Institution

Business Environment Risk Intelligence

International Institute for Management Development

World Economic Forum

World Economic Forum

Heritage Foundation & *The Wall Street Journal*

Legatum Institute

World Bank

**Registered inward investment:** US\$5.89 billion; top five sources were British territories in the Caribbean (US\$1.38 billion), the Netherlands (US\$1.19 billion), Japan (US\$414 million), the United States (US\$402 million) and Samoa (US\$377 million).

\*ASEAN-6: Six of the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

# Science and Technology



The passive tuned mass wind damper in Taipei 101, one of the world's tallest buildings. The device, which weighs 660 metric tons and has a diameter of 5.5 meters, helps to stabilize the 508-meter-tall building. (Cheng Yuan-ching)

In addition to making a significant impact on the world economy as a global player in the information and communications technology (ICT) industry, modern Taiwan continues to bolster



scientific and technological development in new fields, including biotechnology, nanotechnology, space science and disaster prevention. For example, Academia Sinica, the nation's foremost research institution, has recorded breakthroughs in the fields of medicine and astronomy, among others.

The success of Taiwan's high-tech enterprises is largely attributable to the government's generous funding for applied scientific development. With government support, the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), the National Applied Research Laboratories and the Institute

for Information Industry (III) all played important roles in jump-starting the nation's rise as a technological powerhouse by conducting research, supporting the establishment of

science parks, aiding the private sector with R&D and exploring new technologies.

ITRI has been instrumental in establishing several companies that have gone on to command prominent positions in the global marketplace, including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and United Microelectronics Corp., which are among the world's top custom integrated circuit chipmakers. The institute's award-winning achievements in 2012 include optical microstructure-based concentrator photovoltaic technology, atmospheric environment plasma coating technology, lignin-based polymer technology, thermoelectric material and module technology, A19 LED lightbulb technology and clamp-on voltage and current metering technology. With the first two technologies winning *The Wall Street Journal's* prestigious Technology Innovation Awards in the same year, ITRI also became the only institute in the world to receive such prestigious honors four years in a row.

In fact, Taiwan is a leader in green electronics and renewable energy thanks to such technological prowess, having developed a world-class reputation for the production of low-energy LED lighting and efficient solar energy cells.

The III strives to boost Taiwan's global competitiveness by developing the country's ICT infrastructure, and plays a key role in promoting ICT

in both the public and private sectors. To that end, the III serves as a think tank on ICT policy, conducts extensive research and provides training.

Taiwan's science parks are home to companies pursuing breakthroughs in fields such as ICT, biotechnology, precision machinery and nanotechnology. According to the *Global Competitiveness Report 2013-2014* released by the World Economic Forum, Taiwan ranked first among 148 countries surveyed in the "state of cluster development" index. It also ranked fifth in the category of technological infrastructure among the 60 top economies surveyed in the 2013 *World Competitiveness Yearbook*, which is compiled by the International Institute for Management Development.

In October 2010, the Cloud Computing Association in Taiwan was launched by some 100 top ICT companies with participation by the ITRI and the III. By consolidating the resources of hardware and software producers, the consortium aims to make Taiwan a major exporter of cloud computing services. Government agencies and universities are also active in efforts to develop cloud computing, capitalize on new industry growth opportunities, train personnel, and spur the commercialization of embedded computing solutions.

The biotech industry is expected to make dramatic strides in coming years, thanks

in part to the establishment of more than a dozen biotechnology parks around Taiwan. Related R&D has targeted environmental biotechnology, herbal medicines, pharmaceuticals and vaccines, among others. With government encouragement, the biotech industry is expected to see annual output value double to US\$8.7 billion over the period 2009-2013.

## Production Value & Global Share of Taiwan-made ICT Products & Services (2012)

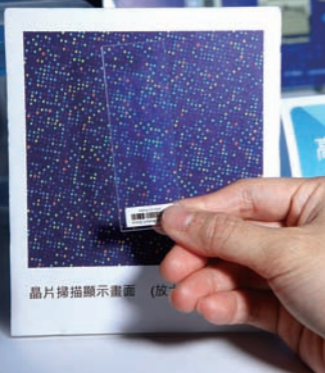
### No. 1 Worldwide

Category	Production Value	Global Share
	(US\$ million)	(%)
Custom IC fabrication	21,311	66.0
IC testing & packaging	13,024	50.9
Optical discs	1,015.8	58.4
Fiberglass cloth	660	29.2

### No. 2 Worldwide

Personal navigation devices	1,337	39.5
IC substrates	2,085	25.1
Large-sized TFT-LCD panels	20,810.3	22.4
Small & medium-sized TFT-LCD panels	5,419.1	20.8
Electro-deposited copper foil	930	20
IC design	12,470	17.7
TN/STN-LCD panels	252.7	16.5
OLED panels	219.1	5.8

Source: Industry & Technology Intelligence Services Project, Ministry of Economic Affairs



A biochip developed by the Biomedical Technology and Device Research Laboratories, which operate under the Industrial Technology and Research Institute (Huang Chung-hsin)

In the area of space science, Taiwan's currently in-service satellites FORMOSAT-2 and FORMOSAT-3 are making important contributions to atmospheric observations and assessment of environmental changes. FORMOSAT-2 is a remote sensing satellite that images the earth's surface daily for environmental monitoring and post-disaster assessment. FORMOSAT-3 is composed of six satellites—the Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere and Climate (COSMIC)—that provide atmospheric soundings for weather forecasting, space weather and climate research. These data make a positive contribution not only to Taiwan, but the global community. In addition, Taiwan's scientists are devoting efforts to earthquake precursor monitoring systems and typhoon flood early warning systems using the unique data from the FORMOSAT series satellites. All these efforts demonstrate Taiwan's commitment to scientific advancement for social well-being and sustainable development worldwide.

# Education



Elementary school students in New Taipei City are all smiles during recess.  
(Chuang Kung-ju)

Education is strongly emphasized in the ROC and a large share of government expenditures is allocated for educational purposes. With an increasing portion of the public receiving higher education,

people with at least a college or university degree now account for 39.5 percent of Taiwan's population aged 15 and above, which is 14 percentage points more than a decade ago.



To offer young students a longer period of basic learning, the Ministry of Education (MOE) announced plans to extend universal education in Taiwan from nine to 12 years in April 2012. The new program, designed to ensure that students spend an additional three years at academically oriented senior high schools, vocational senior high schools or junior colleges, is expected to be implemented in 2014.

Every year in international competitions such as the International Science Olympiads, young people from Taiwan win

distinctions in physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology and informatics. Taiwan's successful high-tech sector continues to motivate the majority of university students to major in science and technology, but the last few years have seen a slight growth in interest in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

Taiwan's high-caliber human resources have contributed tremendously to enhancing economic prosperity and the quality of life. Beginning in 2013, the MOE incorporated the former Sports Affairs Council as part of the government's efforts to promote sports for all. Taipei will host the 2017 Summer Universiade, the second largest multi-sport competition after the Olympics.

Thirty universities offer 85 degree programs taught in English. Both government and university scholarships are available for international students. The Taiwan Scholarship Program, for instance, offers grants to students interested in Mandarin Chinese studies as well as those who wish to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees in diverse fields. Interested applicants may contact Taiwan's embassies and representative offices or visit the MOE's website at *english.moe.gov.tw*.



Young artists work on their paintings during a class at Fu-Hsin Trade and Arts School in New Taipei City. Vocational high schools such as Fu-Hsin offer an alternative for students who do not wish to attend academically oriented senior high schools. (Huang Chung-hsin)

## Education Profile (2012-2013)

**Literacy rate (age 15 or higher):** 98 percent (2012)

**Government outlays for education, science and culture:** 18.8 percent of central government budget (2013)

**Institutions of higher learning:** 162 (148 universities and colleges, 14 junior colleges)

**Students enrolled in institutions of higher learning:**

***Total:*** 1.36 million

***Master's programs:*** 183,094

***Doctoral programs:*** 32,731

# Culture



Visitors appreciate the calligraphy of Dong Yang-zi at the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts in southern Taiwan.  
(Huang Chung-hsin)

Taiwan is renowned for its fascinating blend of traditional and modern culture.

For a start, it is home to the National Palace Museum, famous for its collection of Chinese antiquities and one of the world's finest museums. Traditional architecture is another attraction, not only as seen in Taiwan's temples and historical residences, but also in the many old structures restored and repurposed as community centers, cafés, stores and other public spaces. In fact, many facets of traditional Chinese arts, crafts and customs are better preserved here than anywhere else in the world. Taiwan is one of the few places that still use traditional Chinese characters, for example, while calligraphy competitions and festivals are always popular events.



Traditional tenets of Buddhism,  
Confucianism and Taoism continue to

be well represented in everything from temple celebrations to literature to the visual and performing arts. In addition, visitors can discover the heritage of the country's Holo, Hakka and indigenous peoples. Taiwan also shares its cultural riches throughout the world via programs such as the Taiwan Academy resource centers.

At the same time, Taiwan's larger cities are thriving metropolises that offer 'round the clock entertainment options. There are widely regarded modern dance troupes as well as a vibrant music scene, which is hardly surprising as Taiwan is the world capital of Mandarin-language pop music. The local television and movie industries have seen a resurgence in recent years, while the country's booming cultural creative sector is evident in the many designer stores, markets and exhibitions that are growing in number every year.

From literary arts to folk festivals to the lively atmosphere of traditional night markets, Taiwan's traditions are closely intertwined with everyday life, forming a living culture in which the past adds vitality and depth to the present.



Dancers from Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan take the stage in *Nine Songs* (top), while actors from Ming Hwa Yuan Arts and Cultural Group perform the Taiwanese opera *Romance of the Fox Fairy* (above).

(Top: Jimmy Lin)

(Above: Hao Chen-tai)

# Mass Media



Demand has boomed for mobile apps such as *Tour Taiwan*, which was developed by the Tourism Bureau. (Chuang Kung-ju)

The diversity of Taiwan's media is reflected in the plethora of outlets and the intense competition within the industry. The vigorous press operates in a media environment that is one of the freest in Asia.



Most types of media are engaged in an industry-wide transition to digital forms of distribution. Print editions of magazines and newspapers, including the four major dailies, continue to lose ground to Internet competitors. Drawing on Taiwan's strengths in information and communications technologies, e-publishing is injecting fresh vitality into their development as well as that of the book industry, which releases over 40,000 new titles each year.

Terrestrial television switched from analog to digital broadcasting at the end of June 2012. Cable television service, available throughout all but the most mountainous areas of Taiwan, also provides digital programming.

## Media Profile

**Radio stations: 171**

**Terrestrial television stations: 5**

**Cable television system operators: 58**

**Satellite broadcasting program providers: 106**  
(280 channels)

**TV and radio program production and  
distribution companies: 11,091**

The 2012 Taipei International Book Exhibition held at the World Trade Center. The annual show attracts companies that publish books in Chinese and a number of other languages. (Chuang Kung-ju)



**Audio (compact disc, etc.) production companies: 12,227**

**Newspaper publishers: 2,311**

**Magazine publishers: 10,190**

**Book publishers: 16,133**

**News agencies: 2,336**



# Visiting Taiwan



A train zigzags through a misty forest as it climbs Ali Mountain in southern Taiwan.  
(Courtesy of Alishan National Scenic Area Administration)

With its unique fusion of cultures, breathtaking scenery, diverse cuisine, exciting city life and well-developed hospitality industry, Taiwan is the ideal destination for various types of travelers. Citizens of 43 countries are eligible for visa-exempt entry or landing visas for a period of 30 or 90 days.



In addition to about 1,100 kilometers of conventional railway lines, Taiwan has a 345-kilometer high-speed rail system along its west coast. The high-speed trains allow travel between Taipei and Kaohsiung in 96 minutes. These two cities are also equipped with mass rapid transit systems that greatly facilitate metropolitan transportation.

## Major Festivals/Events

Month	Location	Festival/Event*
Feb.	New Taipei City	Pingxi International Sky Lantern Festival
Feb.	Tainan City	Tainan Yanshui Beehive Rockets Festival
Feb.	Nantou County	**Taiwan Lantern Festival
Mar.	Kaohsiung City	Songjiang Battle Array (folk performances)
Mar.	Taichung City	Mazu International Festival (religious pilgrimage)
Apr.	Islandwide	Hakka Tung Blossom Festival
May	New Taipei City	Fulong Sand Sculpture Art Festival
June	Penghu County	Penghu Fireworks Festival
June	Changhua County	Lukang Dragon Boat Festival
July	New Taipei City	Hohaiyan Rock Festival
Aug.	Keelung City	Keelung Ghost Festival
Sep.	Miaoli County	Sanyi International Woodcarving Art Festival
Sep.	Nantou County	Sun Moon Lake International Swimming Carnival
Oct.	Islandwide	Taiwan Hot Spring & Fine Cuisine Carnival
Nov.	Tainan City	Kunshen Wangye's Salt for Peace Festival (folk culture)
Nov.	Islandwide	Taiwan Cycling Festival

\*Only a few of the larger festivals/events are listed here. For more information, please visit the Tourism Bureau's website at [www.taiwan.net.tw](http://www.taiwan.net.tw).

\*\*The Taiwan Lantern Festival is held in a different city or county each year. It will be held in Nantou County in 2014.

## Major Tourist Attractions

### Northern Taiwan

**National Palace Museum:** [www.npm.gov.tw](http://www.npm.gov.tw)

**Taipei 101:** [www.taipei-101.com.tw](http://www.taipei-101.com.tw)

**Yingge Ceramics Museum:** [www.ceramics.ntpc.gov.tw](http://www.ceramics.ntpc.gov.tw)

**Shilin Night Market:** [www.taipeitravel.net](http://www.taipeitravel.net)

**National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall:**

[www.cksmh.gov.tw](http://www.cksmh.gov.tw)

**Lungshan Temple:** [www.lungshan.org.tw](http://www.lungshan.org.tw)

**Yangmingshan National Park:** [www.ymsnp.gov.tw](http://www.ymsnp.gov.tw)

**Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area:**

[www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw](http://www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw)

**North Coast and Guanyinshan National Scenic Area:**

[www.northguan-nsa.gov.tw](http://www.northguan-nsa.gov.tw)

### Central Taiwan

**Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area:** [www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw](http://www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw)

**Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village:** [www.nine.com.tw](http://www.nine.com.tw)

**Tri-Mountain National Scenic Area:** [www.trimt-nsa.gov.tw](http://www.trimt-nsa.gov.tw)

**National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute:**

[www.ntcri.gov.tw/en-us](http://www.ntcri.gov.tw/en-us)

**Lukang Township:** [www.lukang.gov.tw](http://www.lukang.gov.tw)

**National Museum of Natural Science:** [www.nmns.edu.tw](http://www.nmns.edu.tw)

**Yushan (Jade Mountain) National Park:** [www.ysnp.gov.tw](http://www.ysnp.gov.tw)

### Eastern Taiwan

**Taroko National Park:** [www.taroko.gov.tw](http://www.taroko.gov.tw)

**Taiwan Forest Recreation Areas:**

[recreation.forest.gov.tw](http://recreation.forest.gov.tw)



The popularity of beef noodles is such that Taipei City launched an international festival devoted to the dish in 2005.  
(Huang Chung-hsin)

### **East Coast National Scenic Area:**

*www.eastcoast-nsa.gov.tw*

### **East Rift Valley National Scenic Area:**

*www.erv-nsa.gov.tw*

### **Southern Taiwan**

**Kenting National Park:** *www.ktnp.gov.tw*

**Alishan (Mount Ali) National Scenic Area:**

*www.ali-nsa.net*

**Siraya National Park:** *www.siraya-nsa.gov.tw*

### **Outlying Taiwan**

**Penghu National Scenic Area:** *www.penghu-nsa.gov.tw*

**Matsu National Scenic Area:** *www.matsu-nsa.gov.tw*

**Green Island and Orchid Island:** *tour.taitung.gov.tw*

## Taiwan International Trade Shows

The Taiwan External Trade Development Council organizes trade shows throughout the year encompassing the entire spectrum of industries. Venues include the Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Halls in downtown Taipei and Nangang Exhibition Hall in suburban Taipei, the Greater Taichung International Expo Center in central Taiwan, and the Kaohsiung Arena and Kaohsiung Exhibition and Convention Center in southern Taiwan. For more details, please see [www.taitra.org.tw](http://www.taitra.org.tw) and [www.taipeitradeshows.com.tw](http://www.taipeitradeshows.com.tw).

## General Information for Visitors

The ROC government maintains numerous websites and hotlines to provide foreign nationals with information about traveling, living and working in Taiwan.

Website/Hotline	Languages
Taiwan Tourism Bureau <a href="http://www.taiwan.net.tw">www.taiwan.net.tw</a>	Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish
Travel Information Hotline 0800-011-765 (24 hours)	Mandarin, English, Japanese, Korean
Information for Foreigners <a href="http://iff.immigration.gov.tw">iff.immigration.gov.tw</a>	Chinese, English
International Community Service Hotline 0800-024-111 (24 hours)	Mandarin, English, Japanese

## Currency

National currency: New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$ or TWD)  
Exchange rate: NT\$29.77 per US\$1 (December 2013)

## Time Differential

All territories in same time zone, UTC + 8 hours (no seasonal adjustments)

## Credit Cards & Travelers' Checks

Major credit cards are widely accepted. Travelers' checks can be cashed at foreign exchange banks, hotels and tourist-oriented stores.

## Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Taiwan. A 10-percent service charge is often added to room rates and meals at hotels and restaurants.

## Electricity

AC 110 V / 60 Hz

## Visa Information

Bureau of Consular Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Phone: (+886-2) 2343-2888  
Website: [www.boca.gov.tw](http://www.boca.gov.tw)

## Customs Regulations

Customs Administration  
Ministry of Finance  
Phone: (+886-2) 2550-5500 ext. 2116  
Website: [web.customs.gov.tw](http://web.customs.gov.tw)



# The Republic of China at a Glance

2013-2014

Unique rock formations of Yehliu,  
northeastern Taiwan  
(Lin Bo-tung, courtesy of Tourism Bureau)

# Taiwan



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