

Newsletter (Issue 030/ 2024)

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1	<p data-bbox="345 646 1446 730">US and Japan congratulated Taiwan’s New President and Vice President after the inauguration</p> <div data-bbox="345 772 643 1108"></div> <p data-bbox="667 772 1463 1035">1. <u>United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken</u> on May 20 issued a press statement congratulating President Lai Ching-te on his inauguration, expressing <u>hope of working with President Lai to advance the shared interests of two countries and to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.</u></p> <div data-bbox="345 1119 643 1434"></div> <p data-bbox="667 1140 1463 1360">2. <u>Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan Yoshimasa Hayashi</u> congratulated President Lai and Vice President Hsiao on their inauguration during a press conference on May 20. He <u>stated that Taiwan and Japan are important partners that share close economic and trade, people-to-people ties.</u></p>
2	<p data-bbox="443 1461 1357 1497">Latvia and Estonia support Taiwan’s participation in WHO&WHA</p> <div data-bbox="345 1539 675 1749"></div> <p data-bbox="699 1539 1463 1770">1. <u>Latvia’s Minister for Health Mr. Hosams Abu Meri</u> called upon WHO to remain committed to the principle of <u>“One Health”</u> and urged all parties to step up their efforts to facilitate the inclusiveness of WHO at the WHA General Discussion on May 28 in Geneva.</p> <div data-bbox="345 1759 675 1969"></div> <p data-bbox="699 1801 1463 1980">2. <u>Estonia’s Minister of Health Ms. Riina Sikkut</u> at the WHA General Discussion on May 28 <u>called on WHO to facilitate meaningful participation of partners including Taiwan for the benefit of global health,</u> and said Taiwan has</p>

the will, expertise, and valuable experience to advance global health policy.

3. Chairperson of Latvia-Taiwan Parliamentary Ms. Ingrīda Circene with 18 parliamentarians of the Saeima co-signed the Formosa Club’s joint letter addressed to WHO Director-General in favor of Taiwan’s bid to join the WHA on May 13. Chairperson of Estonia-Taiwan Support Group Mr. Kristo Enn Vaga together with 35 parliamentarians of the Riigikogu also joined the co-signing to back up Taiwan’s inclusion in WHO.
4. Chairperson Rihards Kols of Latvian Saeima Foreign Affairs Committee on May 9 sent a letter to WHO Director-General on behalf of the committee for the first time in support of Taiwan’s participation in this year’s WHA.
5. President of the Latvian Medical Association (LMA) Dr. Ilze Aizsilniece once again extended LMA’s support of Taiwan’s participation in the WHO/WHA by issuing a letter to WHO Director-General on April 17, emphasizing the importance of Taiwan’s cooperation in life-saving global healthcare initiatives.

3

Like-minded countries speak up for Taiwan’s bid to join the WHA

On May 28, like-minded countries such as France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Japan, Canada, the Czech Republic, the United States, New Zealand, Lithuania, Estonia and Luxembourg spoke up for Taiwan’s bid to the WHA during the General Discussion. U.S. Health Secretary Xavier Becerra made a powerful statement in support of Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHA and WHO.

The United States with Japan also solemnly refuted China's fallacious interpretation of UNGA Resolution 2758, emphasizing that the resolution did not exclude Taiwan from meaningful participation in the UN system.

4

China launches an unprecedented military drills around Taiwan immediately after Taiwan’s new President inauguration

China military exercises around Taiwan



China launched a two-day military drills called “Joint Sword-2024A” around Taiwan on May 23-24, further escalating tensions in the region. During the drills, **Beijing sent 111 military aircraft and 53 naval vessels around Taiwan.** The Chinese government also released a “3D simulation animation” indicating that the Chinese PLA has deployed its army, navy, air force, and rocket force for the drills surrounding Taiwan. In response, like-minded countries around the world raised serious security concern over the

issue.

1. US President Joe Biden reaffirmed that the United States was standing up for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait on May 25. US Department of State also issued a press statement expressing deep concern over the Chinese PLA's joint military drills in the Taiwan Strait and around Taiwan. It strongly urged Beijing to act with restraint, pointing out that using a normal, routine, and democratic transition as an excuse for military provocations risked escalation and eroded long-standing norms, and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. It also stressed that cross-strait peace and stability is critical for regional and global security and prosperity and a matter of international concern.
2. The European External Action Service (EEAS) released a statement on May 23 addressing China's Joint Sword-2024A military drills, stating that China's military activities around Taiwan had increased cross-strait tensions. The statement stressed that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait were important for regional and global security and prosperity, that the European Union had a direct interest in the preservation of the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, and that the EU opposed any unilateral actions that change the status quo by force or coercion. It called on all parties to exercise restraint and avoid any actions that could further escalate cross-strait tensions, which should be resolved through dialogue.
3. The 25 co-chairs of the Formosa Club in Europe, who represent members of the European Parliament, European national parliaments, and the Canadian Parliament, issued a joint statement on May 24 expressing grave concern regarding China's launch of a military drill around Taiwan on May 23. The statement added that, regrettably, only three days after Taiwan's new government took office, China blatantly launched the two-day Joint Sword-2024A military drills around Taiwan, escalating regional tensions.

5

**Taiwan tracks Chinese military aircraft 441 times and naval ships 254 times
in May**

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense (MND) tracked 21 Chinese military aircraft, 11 naval vessels, and 4 coast guard ships around Taiwan on May 27. Of the 21 People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, 10 entered the southwest and southeast sectors of Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ).

From May 1-30, Taiwan has tracked Chinese military aircraft 441 times and

	<u>naval/coast guard vessels 254 times.</u>
6	<p align="center">Taiwan semiconductor giant TSMC works on 7 new plants in 2024</p> <p>Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) is working on 7 new plants in 2024 based on strong demand from sectors like high-performance computing (HPC). Compared to the previous year, TSMC’s 3-nanometer chip production capacity is set to increase threefold during 2024. The sharp expansion was a result of demand from smartphones and HPC.</p> <p><u>TSMC’s international plans included the 4nm fab now under construction in Arizona, while a second facility will make even more advanced chips in 2028, and a third fab before the end of 2030 that will produce 2nm or more advanced process technologies. The new factory in Kumamoto, Japan, is scheduled to start production during the final quarter of 2024. The construction of a plant in Dresden, Germany, would begin by the end of the year, with production slated to start in 2027.</u></p>
7	<p align="center">Like-minded countries support the importance of cross-strait peace and stability</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The US Department of State on May 15 published a joint statement on the 51st session of <u>the United States-Portugal Standing Bilateral Commission</u>. According to the statement, the two sides <u>reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and stressed that cross-strait differences should be resolved exclusively by peaceful means.</u> 2. The US Department of State on May 21 issued a press statement on <u>the United States-Italy Consultation on the Indo-Pacific</u>. The statement noted that the two sides <u>discussed the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait</u>. During a congressional hearing that same day, <u>US Secretary of State Antony Blinken stressed that the United States is working with countries around the globe to preserve cross-strait peace and stability and ensure that China cannot unilaterally alter the status quo.</u>
8	<p align="center">UK reaffirms its support to freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait</p> <p>UK’s Secretary of State for Defence Grant Shapps attended the “First Sea Lord’s Sea Power Conference 2024” on May 15. In the conference, Secretary Shapps declared UK is ushering in the “New Golden Age” for UK naval shipbuilding, and emphasized the importance to work with like-minded countries. UK supports the freedom of navigation in the Taiwan Strait, and will continue its sanction against North Korea.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CzechInvest expands its foreign network with an office in Taiwan</p> <p><u>CzechInvest has recently announced the opening of its foreign office in Taiwan with the purpose of supporting cooperation between the island and Czechia. It is an important step toward strengthening mutual trade relations and the technological development of Czech companies.</u></p> <p><u>Both sides have strong potential for cooperation particularly in the area of semiconductors, which have a broad range of uses in the automotive industry, industrial applications, the energy sector and automation.</u> The new office in Taipei will further support such fields, put companies in contact with universities and provide them with all services and information needed for successful investments.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">40 markets in Taiwan join trial ban on free plastic bags</p> <p>Taiwan’s Ministry of the Environment (MOEVN) said 40 markets across Taiwan, including night markets and traditional daytime markets will participate in a July pilot program to reduce plastic bag usage. Stalls in these designated markets can no longer distribute free plastic bags. Those who want plastic bags will need to buy them for NT\$1 (US\$0.03).</p> <p>According to MOEVN data, 20 years of implementing such policies has been effective, as the number of plastic shopping bags has dropped from 20 billion per year to about 10 billion in 2022, a 50% reduction.</p>